Author: Maria Padian
School: Gardiner HS

Visit Reflection: “Students expressed learning from Maria how real events helped shape and inspire her writing process. Students were well-prepared with questions after all having read the book and were able to engage in a conversation with the author. Her description of the detailed research she did validated the time and effort that research requires. Not only did she share her research journey, but she included personal experiences from her own life and from her family to give a human face to an author. Since she was so open and honest, she created a tone for an exchange of ideas and a strong connection between her and the audience. Students liked being able to hear first hand how she was inspired to write her book and her writing process grit.
- Debra Butterfield, Teacher-Librarian, May 30, 2018