

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
August 2011

VISION

To provide a rigorous and comprehensive education that will prepare our students for diverse post-secondary educational opportunities, a competitive workplace, and active civic participation.

MISSION

To help students gain knowledge and skills that build intellect, character, and a lifelong thirst for learning.

Centennial Year—2012

This new school year marks a major milestone in the history of public education in Exeter. In 1912 the site of Exeter High School was moved from its original location on Court Street to the site on Linden Street that is now the Tuck Learning Campus. The new “Tuck Building” was made possible by a generous donation from Edward S. Tuck and included classroom buildings that would serve the greater Exeter community. In 1918 the first addition to the building was added to include a gymnasium and a shop.

At the time, Exeter High School provided public education only to boys. Girls attended Robinson Female Seminary until 1956 when the schools combined

Ironically, the 1912 school was built the same year as Fenway Park in Boston. William Howard Taft was President of the United States and first class postage was two cents per ounce.

Throughout the coming year more information will be provided as SAU 16 celebrates the 100th Anniversary of this important date in local education history.

New Professional Staff Members

Summer months bring much excitement to schools because they provide an opportunity to meet many wonderful candidates for a wide variety of professional positions. For fall 2011 the following individuals are joining the SAU 16 community in these positions:

SAU Office—Carol Andre (Special Education Administrator); Amy Ransom (Business Administrator)

Brentwood—Rebecca Doucet (School Nurse); Robbin Ford (Special Education); Cherie Smeltzer (Media Specialist—60% time)

East Kingston—Cheryl Titone (Grade 4)

Stratham—Megan Rochford (Grade 2)

Main Street School, Exeter—Merilee Atwell (Special Education); Beth Cadorette (Assistant Principal); Ashley Taylor (Grade 1)

Lincoln Street School, Exeter—Mary Vogt (Special Education)

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham—Melinda Avellino (Guidance—50% time); William Furbush (Principal) Amy Gendreau (Long-Term Sub—Science); Heather Worthen (Special Education Administrator)

Exeter High School—Grace Laliberte (Special Education Administrator); Al Poirier (Science); Cynthia Young (World Language—60% time)

Seacoast School of Technology, Exeter—Patricia Bonaventura (Biotechnology—67% time); Josh Civiello (Recruitment and Retention Counselor)

NH Retirement System Rates Change Again

Two significant changes in the NH Retirement System began in July 2011. The first was a change in the EMPLOYEE contribution that directly impacts all full-time (i.e. minimum 35 hours per week, school-year and year-round) employees who began contributing 7% of their salary into the retirement system. This is an increase from the previous 5% that had been in place for over 40 years.

The second change was in the EMPLOYER contribution and has a more direct impact on each school district. Beginning in July, school districts had to pay 13.95% of each full-time teacher's and principal's salary and 11.09% of every other full-time employee's salary. When the Board of Trustees of the NH Retirement System met in July—once again—it revised these rates, effective August 1, 2011. For teachers and principals the rate will now be 11.30%; for all other employees the rate will be 8.80%. This will help to reduce the unanticipated burden placed on districts to deal with budget issues that arose after budgets were passed in March 2011.

School Begins

All schools within SAU will begin the 2011-2012 school year on August 29, 2011. The calendar for the entire school year is available on the SAU 16 website (www.sau16.org).

EHS Principal Search Process

In December 2010, EHS Principal Victor Sokul announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. He has served in this position since July 2005.

The search for a new principal will begin in October 2011 with anticipated completion by the end of February 2012. In late October interested community individuals, including students, parents, and staff members will be invited to apply to serve on one of the

various committees associated with this process. The Exeter Region Cooperative School Board will make the decision on committee member participation.

In Service of Our Country

As school begins, it is important to note and reflect upon the fact that since 2003 five EHS graduates have died in military service. These include:

Private First Class Andrew D. Stevens of Stratham who died on March 11, 2003
Senior Petty Officer Daniel Healy of Exeter who died on June 28, 2005
Major Brian Mescal of Exeter who died on January 9, 2009
Sargent Andrew Nicol of Kensington who died on August 8, 2010
Army Specialist Nicholas Bernier of East Kingston who died on June 25, 2011

Please pause to remember and pray for these young men and their families as we realize that the cost of our freedom is very high and directly impacts the entire SAU 16 community.

Did You Know?

Recent EHS graduate Cam Tufts scored the first two goals in New Hampshire's 3-0 ice hockey win again Vermont in the 19th Twin-State All-Star Hockey Classic played in July at the University of Vermont.

Another recent EHS graduate Sarah Mousseau was crowned as the 2011 Miss Stratham Fair. She will now compete in the Miss New Hampshire pageant.

EHS senior Hillary Holmes was selected in July as the New Hampshire *Union Leader's* Girls' Track and Field Athlete of the Year. As a student of the sport, Hillary won both the long jump and the triple jump at the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) Division I Track and Field Meet for the second consecutive season, and successfully defended her Meet of Champions triple-jump crown.

Champions for Children

Community members and school staff will continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of local individuals by nominating them for a local Champion for Children award. This award is given to those individuals who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating significant involvement in programs and/or services that directly benefit the students and families of School Administrative Unit 16. The local school board makes the final decision on each award selection. Since 2009 over forty local individuals have been honored in this way.

School Board Seats Available in March 2012

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2012. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Liz Bryan and Dianne Vosgien in Brentwood; Christina

Cassano Pelletier in East Kingston; Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell in Exeter; Cheryl Camacho in Kensington; James McIlroy in Newfields; Claire Ellis and Travis Thompson in Stratham; and Townley Chisholm (Exeter), Michael Grant (Newfields), and Patty Lovejoy (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these twelve positions will be available for (re)election.

Graduate School Courses Available in Exeter

Plymouth State University will continue to offer graduate level courses at the Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) in Exeter this fall: *Collaborative Leadership* will be available for those who are pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) degree; *Organizational Leadership in Schools* will be available for those who wish to pursue certification as a principal, curriculum administrator, or special education administrator. Registration may be completed directly at www.plymouth.edu.

Food Pantries Continue to Need Help

Community service efforts for the new school year will continue to focus on food pantries around the state. Many individuals and families struggle to make ends meet and often need to avail themselves of local food banks. The schools in SAU 16 will continue to find ways to gather food and funds to assist those who are struggling to meet some of the most basic of needs. Please encourage our respective communities to join this effort as much as possible.

Contract Negotiations

During the upcoming school year, eight collective bargaining groups within SAU 16 will be involved in contract negotiations with their respective school boards. When a settlement is reached between the school board and the association, the results are brought forward to the voters in the community. In March 2012 those registered voters who cast ballots will make the final determination about the proposed contract. In March 2011 less than 20% of registered voters participated in this process.

Negotiations with teacher associations will take place this year in Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Stratham, and the Exeter Region Cooperative School Districts. Negotiations with paraprofessional organizations will take place in Newfields and the Exeter Region Cooperative School Districts. Negotiations with administrators will take place in the Exeter Region Cooperative School District.

Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) Opportunities

The SPDC will continue to offer a wide variety of courses and workshops for teachers and community members this year. This includes opportunities to learn more about technology initiatives and teaching strategies that will strengthen programs for students. Information is updated regularly at the SAU 16 website (www.sau16.org).

Exeter Adult Education Programs

An extensive array of programs for high school completion and for personal enrichment is available through the Exeter Adult Education Program located at the Tuck Learning Campus. These opportunities are part of the numerous programs offered to local residents. Contact 775-8457 or www.sau16.org for more information.

2011 Annual Report

The most recent edition of the SAU 16 Annual Report is now available for information and distribution throughout our communities. It highlights events from the past school year and provides some statistical information and data to area residents and businesses, as well as to those individuals and families who may be considering moving into the area.

The report is distributed to school, libraries, and town offices and may also be available in various local business establishments and real estate offices.

Seacoast School of Technology (SST)

The Seacoast School of Technology (SST) in Exeter serves students from seven area high schools daily: Epping, Exeter, Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBeCS), Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional, and Winnacunnet. Some students who are enrolled in private schools, home schooled, or the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) also participate in the program. Students travel to the Linden Street location to participate in one of eleven career and technical educational courses that prepare them for further education and a career. For more information about SST, please access their website at <http://www.seacoasttech.com/> or at www.sau16.org.

Reflection

A positive school culture is essential for students and staff. Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Planning for the Future help to infuse a spirit of collegiality and success in schools. High expectations coupled with honest, open communication contribute to a positive school environment that must be modeled and lived each day. SAU 16 is committed to developing and sustaining these qualities and traits in its schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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September 2011

Eustis Service Award

In recognition of the 53 years of combined service that Joan and Dick Eustis dedicated to teaching, coaching, and administrative capacities, SAU 16 annually recognizes a district employee who has served students with the distinction that exemplifies an SAU 16 education.

For 2011 two individuals were selected to receive this prestigious award. Their names will be added to the plaque that is located in the SAU 16 Conference Room.

Ms. Anne DeMarco of Brentwood has been the Animal and Plant Science teacher at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) for the past 18 years. Her dedication and commitment to her students is impressive as she strives daily to have her students learn and experience as much as they can. Her program boasts the lowest attrition rate of any in the school and today many of the students who have completed this two-year program are in veterinarian school, own their own farms or work in landscaping.

In support of Ms. DeMarco's nomination, one student wrote: "After high school, I went to Jacksonville University where I studied biology and marine science. The passion for nature and the environment that I developed while in SST followed me after high school. Currently, I am a Peace Corps volunteer living in Kenya. I am in training to be a biology and physics teachers in a secondary girls' school. Joining SST was a wonderful first step for me and I will never forget the experience. My teacher, Ms. DeMarco, is the best teacher I ever had and she had a large part in helping me get where I am today."

Mrs. Margaret Ruggeri began her association with Kensington Elementary School (KES) as a parent of four girls. She was an active member of the PTO for many years and also volunteered much time in the classrooms and for after school and evening events.

Mrs. Ruggeri was hired as the Administrative Assistant in January 1983 and has served in that role for over 28 years. When anyone enters the main office at KES, Mrs. Ruggeri is there with a warm, friendly smile as she constantly creates a welcoming environment. She is extremely knowledgeable, competent, organized, and dedicated to students, parents, and staff. Her efforts, her attitude, and her ability to communicate with everyone are the primary reasons that the school functions as well as it does. It is clearly evident that Margaret Ruggeri loves the children and participates in many school events to see them present their learning or to simply watch them having fun together.

Past recipients include:

2004-2005—Mike Olson—Cooperative Middle School, Stratham
2005-2006—Sam Bruno—Seacoast School of Technology, Exeter
2006-2007—Walter Pierce—SAU 16
2007-2008—Angela Lennox—Exeter High School
2008-2009—Robert “Archie” Schroeder—Swasey Central School, Brentwood
2009-2010—Robert Schur—Cooperative Middle School, Stratham
2010-2011—Judy Lewis—Stratham Memorial School

Military Service Veterans

SAU 16 is proud to acknowledge and recognize its staff members who have served in the US Armed Forces. Their dedication is impressive and helps to reinforce the values associated with serving one’s country in this way.

Brentwood

Swasey Central School

Archie Schroeder – US Navy

East Kingston

East Kingston Elementary

Michael Benjamin – US Army

Jim McMahan – US Navy

Paula Rolfs – US Air Force

Exeter

Main Street School

Ernie Glover – US Navy

Lincoln Street School

Beverly Perriccio – US Air Force

Roger Reeser – US Army

Exeter Region Coop

Exeter High School

Donna Bergquist – US Army

Joe Daly – US Navy

Dan D’Amato – US Air Force

Mark Foley – US Navy

George Hammersla – US Army Medic

David Hartranft – US Navy

Harry Hobbs – US Marines

Dennis Magliozzi – US Coast Guard

Walter Petig – US Coast Guard

Vic Sokul – US Air Force; Major US National Guard

Seacoast School of Technology

Tom Lanctot – US Army

Norman Messa – US Navy

Gary Sinden – US Marines

Technology Department

JR Jones – US Air Force
John DePlanche – US Air Force
Brian Perry – US Air Force
Art Reardon – US Air Force

Maintenance/Operations Department

Richard Wendell – US Army

Kensington

Kensington Elementary

Lisa Roseberry – US Air Force
Ed Ruggeri – US Air Force Reserves

Stratham School District

Stratham Memorial

Mark Libby – US Navy
Bob McAlpine – US Navy

SAU Offices

Walter Pierce – US Navy

Brentwood Teachers Association Honored

The National Education Association-NH (NEA-NH) awarded its Small Local Association Award (given to a local of 50 or fewer members) to the Brentwood Teachers Association (BTA) at the annual NEA-NH leadership conference held on August 2 and 3, 2011. Led by newly elected co-presidents, Amy Wilson and Lisa Zack-Swasey, and negotiators Sheila Lane and Scott Fowler, this local is known for involving all its members in its activities. During contract negotiations the BTA became involved in the election of state senators and representatives. This small association hosted a meeting on legislative issues with Sen. Jack Barnes and Sen. Jeb Bradley, inviting members from larger local associations in surrounding towns, as well as local education leaders. During the past year, the BTA sponsored several community service events including a cross country meet for athletes from local elementary schools and a Red Cross Blood Drive. The BTA supported the local community by donating gift certificates for Christmas presents for the giving tree sponsored by the Brentwood Fire Department, awarding a college scholarship for a Brentwood senior graduating from Exeter High School, as well as making a monetary contribution toward the purchase of a Kindle available at the Mary Bartlett Library in honor of Swasey Central School volunteers.

September Enrollments

Student enrollments generally fluctuate during the school year and official records are maintained and provide annual comparisons of information available on October 1st each year. September enrollments show some minor variations from the 2010-2011 school year.

Exeter High School—1701
Cooperative Middle School—1376
East Kingston Elementary School—199
Main Street School, Exeter—508
Lincoln Street School, Exeter—518
Kensington Elementary School—189
Newfields Elementary School—134
Swasey Central School, Brentwood—396
Stratham Memorial School—654

Cost Per Pupil by District

Each year the State of New Hampshire receives information relative to the cost per pupil for the past school year. This actual cost includes all services provided to students. It encompasses staff salaries and benefits, books, supplies, facility upkeep and maintenance, and extracurricular activities. In order to maintain some level of consistency among school districts in the state, this figure does not include student transportation, food service, debt service, or out-of-district special education costs. These numbers are subject to change after review by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. Preliminary figures for 2010-2011:

Brentwood--\$13,008.90
East Kingston--\$12,351.73
Exeter--\$14,688.79
Exeter Region Cooperative----Not yet finalized
Kensington--\$13,669.04
Newfields--\$13,573.91
Stratham--\$13,544.50

Centennial Year Calendar—2012

The newly-formed Exeter Alumni Association is in the process of designing a 2012 Centennial Calendar that will feature pictures and information about the last one hundred years of public education in the Exeter area. One of the special features of this calendar is that it will be a “daily raffle calendar” as well as a keepsake memento of the Tuck building, Robinson Female Seminary, and the old and new Exeter High Schools. Calendars will be on sale soon for \$25 each and individuals will have 366 (leap year!) chances to win money and prizes. These calendars will make excellent holiday gifts and can be shared with alumni, staff, and friends of Exeter High School.

The Tuck wing of the “old” Exeter High School was built in 1912. The Centennial Calendar” will provide memories for many families. Reservation orders are being accepted now at Exeter High School by contacting Sandy Parks, Coordinator of Alumni Affairs, at 603-775-8647 or sparks@saul6.org.

EHS Principal Search Process

In December 2010, EHS Principal Victor Sokul announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. He has served in this position since July 2005.

The search for a new principal will begin in late October 2011 with anticipated completion by the end of February 2012. In early November interested community individuals, including students, parents, and staff members will be invited to apply to serve on one of the various committees associated with this process. The Exeter Region Cooperative School Board will make the decision on committee member participation.

Did You Know?

Exeter Adult Education Director Leslie Haslam recently completed an intensive two-year training program and is now a *Certified Manager in Program Implementation (CMPI)*. This certification is the first of its kind in the adult education and literacy field and signifies her as a member of an elite group of professional managers.

Swasey Central School teacher Paula Rushia was selected as a Finalist in the 2012 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year selection process.

Seacoast School of Technology (SST) welding instructor Jonathan Theberge was selected as the 2011 Educator of the Year by the New Hampshire chapter of the American Welding Society.

Helen Burnham, the Library Media Specialist at Lincoln Street School in Exeter, is the 2011-2012 President of the New Hampshire Educational Media Association

Jeanne Pierce, the Food Service Director for the Exeter and Exeter Region Cooperative School Districts, is the 2011-2012 President of the School Nutrition Association of New Hampshire. Her motto this year is "Stand Up for Change." Information about the association's activities is available at www.snanh.org.

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners from Christ Church Episcopal and St. Michael Parish in Exeter over 200 students from almost 90 families were presented with new backpacks, school supplies, clothes, and shoe gift cards to begin the new school year.

Outstanding Leadership Award

Ms. Kim Houghtaling, a teacher at the Cooperative Middle School and President of the Exeter Education Association (EEA) was honored this summer with the Christa McAuliffe Leadership Award from the National Education Association of New Hampshire (NEA-NH) for her outstanding work at the local and state levels. The Christa McAuliffe Leadership Award honors Christa's dedication to public education. While negotiating difficult contractual issues, Houghtaling worked to build cohesion within her local association, which includes five school buildings and two contracts. She also

assisted the paraprofessionals in her school district when their union underwent a leadership transition. Her genuine dedication to public education is reflected in the admiration she receives from students. While leading her local association, Houghtaling also completed her master's degree.

HealthierUS School Challenge Recipients

Only two schools in New Hampshire completed and were honored with voluntary national certification for participating in the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSCC) in 2011. Main Street School and Lincoln Street School in Exeter were recognized for creating healthier school environments through their promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. HUSCC schools work hard to make changes to their nutrition environment in order to improve the quality of foods served, provide students with nutrition education, and provide students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

Students at **Swasey Central School** in Brentwood will have access this year to the Rosetta Stone language program. This is an immersion style program that allows students to learn language naturally and to move at their own pace. Younger students will explore cultures and learn about languages while students in third, fourth, and fifth grades will have the opportunity to explore and learn specific languages. Classroom teachers and special educators have been trained in this process. Students will have additional time in the computer lab in order to access the program.

In similar fashion, **East Kingston Elementary School** students in grades three through five are now attending weekly foreign language classes under the direction of Technology Coordinator, Heather Reed, who is also a certified foreign language instructor. Ms. Reed is using a blended version of instruction that incorporates Rosetta Stone with face-to-face interaction that allows students to explore world cultures and languages. More than thirty different languages are available for student choice.

Through the efforts of the Stratham Police Department, the *Rachel's Challenge* program will be available to the **Cooperative Middle School** students this year. Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America. Powerful video/audio footage of Rachel's life and the Columbine tragedy holds students spell-bound during a one hour school presentation that motivates them to positive change in the way they treat others. *Rachel's Challenge* has its own Mission Statement: *We exist to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a permanent positive culture change in their school, business and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.*

The **Seacoast School of Technology** held its first automotive summer camp for middle school students in 2011. *Engine Overhauled* was very successful and was the front page

feature in the September newsletter of the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers' Association. SST teacher Fritz Arseneau is commended for his excellent work in laying the foundation for this outstanding program.

In recognition of "Constitution Day" in September, one of the fourth grade classes at **Lincoln Street School** in Exeter presented daily information for a week about the US Constitution via the school's intercom system. This gave the entire school an opportunity to learn more about social studies and the importance of a democratic government and the responsibilities of good citizenship.

Teachers at **Newfields Elementary School** are embarking this year on the implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) for students. This systematic process makes sure that all students receive the services they need, when they need them, and that all of this fits well into a small school. The goal of the school and its teachers is to set high expectations for all students to meet their individual goals.

Main Street School in Exeter is one of the SAU 16 schools that will be implementing the Open Circle program this year. Open Circle is a research-based program developed at Wellesley College that is designed to support students' social and emotional learning.

Stratham Memorial School (SMS) has implemented Response to Intervention (RtI) in both reading and math. For the first time in its history, SMS has access to federal Title I funds which will provide remedial math intervention for those eligible students. These certified teachers have developed a number of activities using skill-based programs to enhance student learning.

Each school year **Exeter High School** (EHS) hosts several foreign exchange students with the goal of exposing local students to various world cultures and languages. For 2011-2012, five students will be attending EHS for either a semester or for the full school year. The native countries of this year's students include Austria, Mali, Mongolia, and Spain.

Reflection

The September 2011 issue of *Educational Leadership* was devoted to "Promoting Respectful Schools." One of the greatest challenges in schools today is to model and teach values associated with nurturing a respectful climate and culture where students and staff respect one another. Respect does not mean always agreeing with each other. Its primary emphasis is found in helping each other and being able to disagree without being disagreeable. One article in this issue is entitled, *Respect—Where Do We Start?* It concludes with the strong question and answer: "So how do we begin to create a respectful culture for our students? By first creating a supportive, uplifting, positive school culture for our teachers and other school staff members."

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Enrollment Trends

Officially the New Hampshire Department of Education requires each school district to report its student enrollment on October 1 annually. Trends are determined from this consistent data point.

For the **seven school years** beginning on October 1, 2005 through October 1, 2011, the following changes are noted:

Brentwood-391 to 398-Increase of 1.79%
East Kingston-188 to 197-Increase of 4.79%
Exeter-1013 to 1028-Increase of 1.48%
Kensington-208 to 187-Decrease of 10.1%
Newfields-165 to 134-Decrease of 17.58%
Stratham-644 to 652-Increase of 1.24%
Cooperative Middle School-1326 to 1365-Increase of 2.94%
Exeter High School-1611 to 1703-Increase of 5.71%

The **one-year change** from October 1, 2009 to October 1, 2010 is as follows:

Brentwood-388 to 398-Increase of 2.51%
East Kingston-204 to 197-Decrease of 3.55%
Exeter-1043 to 1028-Decrease of 1.46%
Kensington-194 to 187-Decrease of 3.74%
Newfields-150 to 134-Decrease of 11.94%
Stratham-627 to 652-Increase of 3.83%
Cooperative Middle School-1349 to 1365-Increase of 1.17%
Exeter High School-1667 to 1703-Increase of 2.11%

Military Service Veterans

SAU 16 is proud to acknowledge and recognize its staff members who have served in the US Armed Forces. Their dedication is impressive and helps to reinforce the values associated with serving one's country in this way. In September, 30 veterans were acknowledged by name. Four additional individuals are recognized this month:

Cooperative Middle School

William Furbush—US Army

SAU Maintenance/Operations Department

Dave Palen—US Army
Patrick O'Rourke—US Army
Ron O'Brien—US Army

Cost Per Pupil by District

Each year the State of New Hampshire receives information relative to the cost per pupil for the past school year. This actual cost includes all services provided to students. It encompasses staff salaries and benefits, books, supplies, facility upkeep and maintenance, and extracurricular activities. In order to maintain some level of consistency among school districts in the state, this figure does not include student transportation, food service, debt service, or out-of-district special education costs. These numbers are subject to change after review by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. Preliminary figures for 2010-2011:

Brentwood--\$13,008.90
East Kingston--\$12,351.73
Exeter--\$14,742.16
Exeter Region Cooperative--\$13,515.22
Kensington--\$13,669.04
Newfields--\$13,573.91
Stratham--\$13,544.50

Dick Eustis Honored

Well-respected and long-time Exeter High School football coach Dick Eustis has been selected for induction into the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame in November. This remarkable honor is a tribute to the outstanding work that Coach Eustis has done and continues to do for the entire SAU 16 community.

Mr. Eustis graduated from Exeter High School and excelled in football, basketball, and baseball—receiving All-State recognition in all three sports. He still holds the career scoring record in boys' basketball. Upon leaving EHS, Dick spent a post-graduate year at Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA) and continued his legacy of excelling in three sports that led to him being recognized locally and nationally for his accomplishments. He received a full scholarship to the University of New Hampshire to play football and received All-American recognition for his success on the lacrosse field.

Upon graduation from UNH, Dick was a teacher and coach in Salem, NH and then Exeter where he returned to his Alma Mater and led the football program to tremendous success by winning over 120 games! Coach Eustis retired from teaching in 1992 and has coached football at PEA while remaining as an NHIAA Boys' Lacrosse official.

His legacy continues to impact the greater Exeter community as having Eustis Field at Exeter High School named in his honor.

Did You Know?

In May 2011, the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) in Science was administered to all students in grades 4, 8, and 11. Recently released results showed that every school in SAU 16 had its students score above the state average.

Exeter High School was once again recognized for the Division I Sportsmanship Award. This is the fifth time in the last six years—and the ninth time in the last thirteen years—that EHS has been so honored. This is a magnificent tribute to our students, athletes, coaches, parents, and fans who all work so collaboratively under the leadership of Athletic Director Bill Ball.

Kensington Education Foundation Book Program

Make Way for Ducklings was the first book provided to all preschool children in Kensington as part of the “Books for Preschoolers” program recently initiated by the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF). Designed to provide additional, age-appropriate reading for children, the KEF joined forces with Kensington Public Library and invited all preschoolers that they could identify into the children’s room at the Library. There was a reading of the book, live music, and light refreshments. This family event was very successful and its organizers hope to make this an annual event. Any Kensington family with a preschool child who did not receive a book may still visit the Kensington Public Library to receive a copy.

The Three C’s—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

The **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) community collected over 2,000 cans of food over the past three weeks as part of the second annual “Canstruction” project under the direction of Art Teacher, June August. This year students built familiar structures of London on the SMS stage. This included Big Ben, London Bridge, and Queen Elizabeth II’s Castle along the River Thames. The cans were donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Exeter. Last year approximately 1,000 cans were collected. This year’s effort more than doubled last year’s impressive results!

Newfields Elementary School (NES) is excited to have a part-time Spanish teacher on its staff this year. Mrs. Michelle Donati is sharing information about Spanish culture and language with her students as a means of introducing them to an important new language while also interesting them in further study when they get to middle and high school.

Students in the second grade at **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) were recently studying life sciences. They compared various living things and recognized specific features that help them survive in various environments and climates. Students

learned that animals, including human beings, interact with their surroundings and change in appearance with the seasons. They also came to understand that many domestic animals face hardships and sometimes do not even have a home. The second grade teachers created opportunities for student reflection about these challenging issues in an effort to promote critical thinking and problem solving. Wanting to make a difference for these unfortunate animals, the students held a bake sale and donated their profits to the local SPCA. Activities like this help students to understand that people need to work together and that their efforts can make a positive difference in the community.

Students and staff at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** are finding ways to integrate the key points of Rachel's Challenge into their daily lives and the curriculum. As one example, in Mrs. Angela Bellantone's eighth grade English class students advanced their thinking on this topic by creating projects related to the key points that were presented: Eliminate prejudice; Dare to dream; Choose your influences; Kind words; Start a chain reaction. Students had choices that included creating brochures and writing their own code of ethics. One student created an iMovie while another wrote and recorded a song with music and lyrics inspired by the presentation.

Fall enrichment classes at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** are underway. For a modest fee, Swasey teachers offer a wide variety of programs from which children and families may choose. The current selection includes Chess Club; Science and Engineering; The Pop Art Project; Yoga; Theater: Create and Produce; Chefs Wanted! Cooking Class; Talk with Your Hands; Jewelry Making; and Animation Creation Workshop. This is a wonderful opportunity for SCS students to interact with different teachers while learning something extra that is of particular interest to them.

Recent important events at **Main Street School (MSS)** included a Summer Reading Celebration that was held in late September where fifty students were honored for meeting their summer reading goals. Recently retired Assistant Principal Jane McCaffery was the guest of honor as she read a book and presented certificates to the students. In addition, second grade students learned more about fire safety during fire prevention week. The Exeter Fire Department provided the program that included a fire safety video, a discussion about the equipment that they use, and an opportunity to explore and learn about the parts of a fire truck.

At the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** Culinary Arts teacher, Jim Collins, continues his impressive service by leading classes for SAU 16 food service employees. He is teaching twelve two-hour classes with topics including: cooking methods; chicken fabrication; knife skills; cooking methods for vegetables, grains and pastas and practice meals for an upcoming cycle menu. This is a volunteer effort which involves a great deal of planning and shopping time, in addition to the teaching. Exeter senior, Tylor Heath, volunteers as Mr. Collins' assistant for these classes.

Understanding the value in having its students experience educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom, students at **Kensington Elementary School (KES)**

are taking part in a variety of field trips this fall: students in first and second grade are going to a play at Exeter High School; students in third grade are going to the Boston Museum of Science; students in fourth grade are going to Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth; students in fifth grade are going to the Kensington Old School House.

The Play Production class and Comic Relief Club at **Exeter High School** (EHS) are leading a community-wide food drive that will directly benefit two local food pantries. All of the collected food will be on display for the children's theater production of *Stone Soup* at the end of October. This display will help the students to understand the important of giving back to their community which is the focus of the play.

Reflection

Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin annually publishes its "Mindset List" for students entering college each fall. Essentially, it puts life in perspective for their parents and teachers. For the Class of 2015 this includes: The only significant labor disputes in their lifetimes have been in major league sports; They "swipe" cards, not merchandise; Refer to LBJ, and they might assume you are talking about LeBron James; Music has always been available for free downloads; Sears has never sold anything out of a big book that could be used as a doorstep; The Communist Party has never been the official political party in Russia; Charter schools have always been an alternative; Their parents have always been able to create a will and other legal documents online; Amazon has never been just a river in South America. Interesting!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
November 2011

Tax Rates—2011

Local tax rates for the six towns within SAU 16 are in the process of being set. They will be reported as they become available. Please note that there is some delay in this process this year because of the reduction in staff at the Department of Revenue Administration. The finalized 2011 rates (per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation) are as follows:

Brentwood--\$23.01 (Decrease of \$0.85)—Decrease of 3.56%
East Kingston--\$23.19 (Decrease of \$0.14)—Decrease of .4%
Exeter--\$25.28 (Increase of \$0.67)—Increase of 2.72%

Principal Search Underway

The search for the next principal of Exeter High School has begun. The formal posting of this position was done in late October and applications will be accepted through November 28, 2011. Detailed information about this entire process is available on the SAU website (www.sau16.org). The goal is to have a new principal selected before the end of February 2012, with a starting date of July 1, 2012. Current principal, Vic Sokul, announced his retirement last year.

Blue Ribbon Awards

All seven of the elementary schools in the SAU and the Seacoast School of Technology were recognized recently at the annual New Hampshire Partners in Education Blue Ribbon Awards in Manchester. This impressive distinction celebrates the accomplishments of parent and community volunteers who donate their time and talents to provide services to children, teachers, and total school communities. SAU 16 is very fortunate to have such significant support from many constituent groups.

Health Insurance—Guaranteed Maximum Rate Increase

After experiencing an 11.1% annual increase in health insurance premiums for the past 14 years, the Guaranteed Maximum Rate (GMR) Increase for school districts who are part of the Local Government Center network (featuring Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield products), will be an average of 1.1% for 2012-2013. For two consecutive years the GMR has been under 5% annually. This will have a positive impact on proposed budgets within the SAU.

State Champions—Girls Soccer

Congratulations are extended to the Exeter High School Girls Soccer team for capturing the Division I state championship by defeating Concord 4-1. Coach Megan Curran and her student-athletes worked very hard again this year and may now boast of winning three consecutive state championships, and five in the last six years. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the strength of this program and the positive successes that Coach Curran and her student-athletes have been able to achieve.

School Board Seats Available in March 2012

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2012. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Liz Bryan and Dianne Vosgien in Brentwood; Christina Cassano Pelletier in East Kingston; Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell in Exeter; Cheryl Camacho in Kensington; James McIlroy in Newfields; Claire Ellis and Travis Thompson in Stratham; and Townley Chisholm (Exeter), Michael Grant (Newfields), and Patty Lovejoy (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, at least these twelve positions will be available for (re)election.

Graduate School Courses Available in Exeter

Plymouth State University continues to offer graduate level courses at the Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) in Exeter. During the winter term that begins on December 1, 2011, two classes will be available: *School Labor Relations, Negotiations and Personnel Management* will be available for those who are pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) degree; *School Finance and Negotiations* will be available for those who wish to pursue certification as a principal, curriculum administrator, or special education administrator. Registration may be completed directly at www.plymouth.edu.

Food Pantries Continue to Need Help

Community service efforts continue to focus on food pantries around the state. Many individuals and families struggle to make ends meet and often need to avail themselves of local food banks. The schools in SAU 16 will continue to find ways to gather food and funds to assist those who are struggling to meet some of the most basic of needs. Please encourage our respective communities to join this effort as much as possible especially with major holidays approaching.

Contract Negotiations

This school year has eight collective bargaining groups within SAU 16 involved in contract negotiations with their respective school boards. Four of those groups have reached tentative settlements which will be presented to voters in March 2012. Another four groups continue to negotiate. It is important to note that voter turnout has been relatively low in recent years and impacts the results. In March 2011, less than 20% of registered voters participated in this process.

Did You Know?

Exeter High School 2011 graduate, Christina Consoli, from Brentwood is studying the art of professional pastry making at *Chez Boucher Culinary Training Center* in Hampton. For two years Christina was involved in the Culinary Arts program at the Seacoast School of Technology and is able to develop her skills locally.

The Seacoast School of Technology (SST) was founded in 1980 to serve as “the regional vocational center” for students from six area high schools. These include Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional, and Winnacunnet High Schools. Over the past 30 years, SST has been transformed into the premier Career and Technical Center for high school students in the state and offers 12 different programs. It now serves approximately 670 students from those six original high schools, but has expanded its availability to students attending charter schools, private schools, and those being home schooled.

Over 300 elementary school students from eight area schools participated in the fall cross country program this year. This outstanding program generates enthusiasm and excitement among students, parents, and schools. East Kingston Elementary School physical education teacher, Chris Benson, initiated this program five years ago and it continues to grow each year.

A new sidewalk connecting Lincoln Street School and Main Street School is in the process of being constructed so that travel between the back entrances of both schools will be much safer.

The SAU 16 Educational Channel is continuing to expand its coverage of local school events and using its bulletin board capabilities to keep the public informed about school activities. Watch it on Channel 13 in Exeter and on Channel 22 in the other SAU 16 towns.

The 2011 Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference

The 25th annual Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference will be held in Manchester from November 29 through December 1, 2011 to explore the role of technology in 21st Century Teaching and Learning. This outstanding conference brings together well-respected national, regional, and local educators to share and learn more about ways that students may be engaged more fully in the technology that continues to shape our world. Over 2,000 participants are expected to attend. Some recent and current SAU 16 educators will lend their expertise and knowledge by presenting sessions at the conference. This includes Jennifer Middaugh, Director of the Seacoast Professional Development Center; Amy Cantone, Swasey Central School teacher; Steve Gagnon, Stratham Memorial School teacher; and Tony Baldasaro, former SAU 16 Assistant Superintendent who is now the Chief Human Resource Officer at the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS).

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

Kensington Elementary School (KES) hosted an impressive Veterans Day ceremony for the Kensington American Legion in early November. Fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Mary Knightly, taught the children about the meaning of this important holiday and music teacher, Mrs. Chris Vallone, led the students in the singing of some patriotic songs. The members of the American Legion made a donation of \$500 to the school because they remembered the kindness of the children and families a few years ago when money was donated to their organization to repair the roof on their building. The Legionnaires requested that this money be spent on something for the children.

Eleven Animal and Plant Science students and FFA members from the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) recently attended the National FFA Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana that was attended by over 54,000 FFA members. Our students were accompanied by SST Principal Margaret Callahan and Animal and Plant Science Teacher Anne DeMarco. While at the Convention the students volunteered to work on the Courtesy Corps to help with the setup of the General Session held in Lucas Oil Stadium (where the Indianapolis Colts play professional football). This session featured a keynote speech by US Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. Because the students were working backstage they were able to meet and have photos taken with Secretary Vilsack.

The teachers and Principal Jim Eaves at East **Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) are focusing on a school-wide reading improvement plan in response to its recent designation as a School in Need of Improvement (SINI). This plan outlines a continuous cycle of teacher collaboration focused on pre-assessment of trimester power standards, differentiated instructional design, and follow-up assessments that will better inform future instruction. The November EKES workshop on this topic will focus on grade level teams addressing the following questions: What is a formative assessment? What formative reading assessments are currently being used in respective classrooms? How well do these assessments align as pre-assessments for the second trimester reading power standards? If not, what other formative reading assessments should be used to assess student understanding of the power standards? This important curriculum work is essential to helping students succeed.

Students at **Main Street School** (MSS) are learning more about the values of friendship this month through the interactive and entertaining TIGER program that is available through Plymouth State University. Singing, acting, and dancing are all part of this presentation which students thoroughly enjoy. The student actors stress the five key elements of TIGER: T—Trust; I—I accept you; G—Give; E—don't Exclude; R—Respect.

The teachers at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) are combining “the 3 C's” by hosting a Family Math Night this month. This event will focus on playing math games that facilitate learning and family interaction. Participants have been asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Pilgrim Church Food Pantry in Brentwood.

Exeter High School (EHS) Science teacher, Helen Friedman, is traveling with some of her Chemistry students to some of the SAU 16 elementary schools for a series of Science Outreach Visits. In early December, these students will visit **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) and will introduce the elementary students to eight different student-designed science stations. Each station will have a different science question to answer and a hands-on inquiry-style science exploration challenge. Two examples of this work include: “Why does a spoon stick to your nose?” and “How do you clean up an oil spill?” Both of these address the science of adhesion, density, and immiscible liquids. This interaction among the SAU 16 schools supports the concepts of differentiated instruction and transition from one school to another.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) is celebrating its “Community Build” that recently completed an addition to the school playground. There are now five completely accessible play stations available for all children without having to negotiate down the hill to the main playground. This project was funded through the federal ARRA grant and a generous donation from the Newfields Parent Teacher Organization (NPTO). A special recognition and thanks go to Mrs. Cheri McIlroy who supervised and fed all of the children who brought their parents to help. In addition the efforts of many community volunteers who helped to make this project a reality are sincerely appreciated.

The professional staff at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) has been working with consultant, Elizabeth Keroack, on developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). These working teams of teachers have been organized and have agreed upon specific norms as they will continue to meet throughout the year. Recently the groups focused on a review of data from the 2010 administration of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) and made predictions related to this examination of data. In upcoming meetings, the PLC’s will look at specific literacy questions and how their students performed on them. This analysis is designed to inform instruction with the goal of improving the knowledge and skills of students of all ability levels.

The study of Latin among seventh and eighth graders at the **Cooperative Middle School** continues to explore a variety of aspects of Roman culture in addition to learning about the language itself. Seventh graders studied the importance of Pompeii and the Herculaneum before their visit to the Pompeii exhibit at the Museum of Science in Boston this month. The eighth graders have been studying how the history of the Mediterranean Sea, the Roman Empire, and the western world are closely tied with their attitudes and experiences toward religion and politics. They do all of this while learning to decline nouns and conjugate verbs as a means of understanding grammar and its applications.

Reflection

The most important thing that anyone can spend on a child is time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16

December 2011

EHS Principal Search Committee Selected

The members of the Exeter High School Principal Search Committee were recently selected recently by the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board. A total of 28 interested teachers and community members volunteered to serve on this Committee to complement the four Board Members and SAU administrators who had already been appointed. The goal set for the Search Committee is to select the finalists who will be publicly identified and submitted to the Superintendent and School Board who will make the final decision.

The members of the Search Committee are Carol Andre (SAU Special Education Administrator and former EHS Special Education Administrator); Sarah Bedingfield (Stratham resident; Vice President of Academic Services at Great Bay Community College, parent of a student at the Cooperative Middle School—CMS); Liz Faria (Brentwood resident, Cooperative School Board member, Early Childhood Educator); Paul Flynn (SAU 16 Associate Superintendent and Director of Human Resources); Mark Foley (Exeter High School Science teacher); Kevin Joyce (Stratham resident, former EHS Guidance Counselor, retired educator, grandchildren in SAU 16); Eric Kane (Exeter resident, attorney, parent of students in EHS and CMS); Sally Oxnard (Exeter resident, physician, former Exeter and Coop Board member, parent of four EHS graduates); Karen Pelletier (Director of EHS Alternative Education program, representative of the Exeter Area Administrators Association, EHS graduate); Stacy Penna (East Kingston resident, former East Kingston School Board member, educator, CMS parent); Kristina Peterson (EHS English teacher); and Joni Reynolds (Kensington resident, Cooperative School Board member, attorney, former teacher now working at the Massachusetts Department of Education).

The Search Committee has selected nine individuals with varying backgrounds and experiences to be interviewed as part of the “first round” of this process. These interviews will be conducted in early January. The names remain confidential at this time.

Detailed information about this entire process is available on the SAU website (www.sau16.org). The goal is to have a new principal selected before the end of February 2012, with a starting date of July 1, 2012.

State Champions—Football

Congratulations are extended to the Exeter High School football team for capturing the Division I State Championship by defeating Pinkerton Academy 23-13. Coach Bill Ball and his student-athletes worked very hard this year and overcame a difficult season last year which was their first season in Division I. Coach Ball and the EHS football program

may now boast of winning six state championships under his leadership and guidance. The first five state championships were won in Division II in 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2007. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the strength of this program and the positive successes that Coach Ball and his student-athletes have been able to achieve.

A little history: In 1955, Exeter won the Class M state championship in football; “Divisions” began in 1957 with Exeter being assigned to Division III based on enrollment. EHS captured Division III State Championships in 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1964, and 1965.

Tax Rates—2011

The finalized 2011 rates (per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation) are as follows:

Brentwood--\$23.01 (Decrease of \$0.85)—Decrease of 3.56%
East Kingston--\$23.19 (Decrease of \$0.14)—Decrease of 0.4%
Exeter--\$25.28 (Increase of \$0.67)—Increase of 2.72%
Kensington--\$18.87—No Change
Newfields--\$22.18 (Decrease of \$0.01)—No Difference
Stratham--\$18.95 (Increase of \$0.22)—Increase of 1.17%

Did You Know?

When **Exeter High School** was located on Linden Street it reached the 1,000 student enrollment mark in 1962. Today the “new” school located on Blue Hawk Drive and built for 2,000 students has over 1,700 students enrolled.

Robinson Female Seminary in Exeter was destroyed by fire in 1961.

The original **Eustis Field** located behind the Tuck Learning Campus on Linden Street was dedicated in 1970.

The “**Vocational Center**” facility which now is home to the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) was opened in 1980.

All of these facts accompanied by outstanding pictures are part of the 2012 Tuck/Exeter High School Centennial Raffle Calendar which is sponsored by the **Exeter High School Alumni Association**. It is on sale now for \$25.00 each and features daily drawings for cash prizes that total over \$14,000.

Contract Negotiations

This school year has eight collective bargaining groups within SAU 16 involved in contract negotiations with their respective school boards. All eight groups have reached tentative agreements. The goal is to present each of these to voters in March 2012.

These tentative agreements include the Exeter Region Cooperative administrators, the Exeter Region Cooperative paraprofessionals, the Exeter Region Cooperative teachers, the Exeter teachers, the Brentwood teachers, the East Kingston teachers, the Stratham teachers, and the Newfields paraprofessionals. It is important to stress that voter turnout has been relatively low in recent years and directly impacts the results. In March 2011, less than 20% of registered voters participated in this process.

Statewide Recognition for EHS Coaches and Athletes

The New Hampshire Union Leader annually selects outstanding athletes and coaches for recognition based on performance and success. This year Exeter High School was honored with the selection of several All-State winners.

Molly Heaney was chosen as one of seven “Fall Athletes of the Year” because of her marvelous success in Field Hockey.

All-State honors in Football included **Brad Tiernan, Tim Stackhouse, Jake Pleadwell,** and **Conor Carrier**. Coach **Bill Ball** was selected as the Football Coach of the Year.

All-State honors in Girls Soccer included **Abby Short and Kanoe Eichholz**. Coach **Megan (Curran) Young** was selected as Girls Soccer Coach of the Year.

These remarkable accomplishments highlight the commitment of these individuals and add recognition to the SAU 16 community.

The Three C’s—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

The Historical Society of Kensington recently hosted the Grade 5 students from **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** at the one-room brick schoolhouse on Route 150. The old North School was built in 1842 and was in use until 1954. Elaine Kaczmarek and David Lambert, the presenters, attended the school in 1953 when they were in Grade 4. They spoke about what it was like to attend school with a wood-burning stove, no running water, and an outhouse.

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) fifth graders, Abby and Lily Keane, with the help of their mother organized a Halloween candy drive so that military servicemen and women who are stationed around the world could enjoy a little taste of home. With the support of friends in the School’s Out Program, over 100 pounds of candy was organized, boxed, and shipped for distribution by the Pease Greeters in Portsmouth.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) is hosting its first Grand Friends Day on Thursday, December 22, 2011. Students will be welcoming grandparents and other family friends to NES for an afternoon of sharing. Guests will spend time in their hosts’ classrooms, and then gather in the multipurpose room for refreshments. All classes have been preparing a song, play, or poem to perform for their guests.

The administration and faculty of **Main Street School (MSS)** have been working very hard to address issues related to its status as a District In Need of Improvement (DINI). Staff members have reviewed the Action Plan developed during the summer and noted many steps that have been taken in response to the plan. Some of these steps include: providing Response to Intervention (RtI) training for staff; providing professional development for staff on working together in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs); working on the master schedule; creating common planning time for grade level teachers; reviewing and organizing the system for collecting and analyzing student achievement data.

Several important projects have been completed recently through the efforts of the students and staff at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)**. These include the Building Construction Technologies classes, under the direction of teacher Jim Klingensmith, have built shower stall doors for the Exeter Parks and Recreation Department. They also built a new well house for the James House in Hampton. This historic landmark is considered to be the oldest known structure in the state.

On Tuesday, December 20th, students in five classes at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** in Brentwood, along with students at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)**, **Kensington Elementary School (KES)**, and **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)**, are participating in “Innovation Day.” This is an international movement in the business world where employees are encouraged to work on anything in which they are interested with a goal of delivering a project overnight that shares what they have learned. Schools are beginning to implement this into their classrooms. With guidance from their teachers, students choose what they want to study, decide on what resources they will need for their learning, design, and plan a project that demonstrates what they have learned. They will have an opportunity to share their learning with others on the following day. This wonderful opportunity for learning directly involves students in using their own creative learning styles and requires interaction with others in a positive and rewarding way.

The French Club and the French Honor Society at **Exeter High School (EHS)** will be visiting St. Ann’s Nursing Home in Dover to sing French Christmas carols to the residents prior to the December holiday break. Most of the residents there are of French-Canadian descent. The Club is also raising funds to help children attend school in northern Haiti. Students in Honors Advanced French, with a French-speaking guide, will be visiting the Portland Museum of Art in December. Students are also preparing for their trip to the Winter Carnival in Quebec City in early February 2012.

The administration and faculty of the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** continue to work with the information gathered during the November Instruction Rounds visits to classrooms. This was focused on identifying areas of instruction that are needed to meet the various learning styles of students. Finding ways to more effectively challenge advanced students at CMS continues to be a goal of the Cooperative School Board.

Lincoln Street School (LSS) recently hosted the “TIGER” theatre program from Plymouth State University. This group performed “Bullies and Bystanders Beware” which is part of the school’s efforts to educate students more about “bullying behavior” and all of its ramifications. The entire SAU continues to focus on ways to stress the importance of developing relationships among individuals as one significant way to address negative interactions among students.

Coop Budget Advisory Committee Vacancies

The three-year term of office of three members of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee expires in March 2012. These positions are currently held by David Pendell of East Kingston, Carl Robertson of Exeter, and Susan Canada of Stratham. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. The filing period for these vacancies occurs at the end of January 2012.

Reflection

In schools students tend to remember more about how they are treated than what they are taught. In homes children tend to remember more about how they are treated than what they are given.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
January 2012

Deliberative Sessions and School District Meetings

At this time of the year each of the seven independent school districts hosts their respective Budget Hearings, Deliberative Sessions, Voting Sessions, and School District Meetings on the proposed school budget for 2012-2013. This includes a review of any proposed Warrant Articles, such as new master agreements that result from collective bargaining. These meetings are open to the public and residents are strongly urged to attend to become more informed about issues in their school districts.

Brentwood:

Budget Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2012, 7:00 pm, Swasey Central School
School District Meeting: Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9:00 am, Swasey Central School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Brentwood Recreation Center

East Kingston:

Deliberative Session: Monday, February 6, 2012, 6:30 pm, East Kingston Elementary School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, East Kingston Elementary School

Exeter:

Deliberative Session: Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7:00 pm, Lincoln Street School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, Talbot Gym, Tuck Learning Campus

Exeter Region Cooperative:

Deliberative Session: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 7:00 pm, Exeter High School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012—Each respective town

Kensington:

Deliberative Session, Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 6:00 pm, Kensington Elementary School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 8:00 am to 7:30 pm, Kensington Town Hall

Newfields:

Deliberative Session: Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7:00 pm, Newfields Elementary School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Newfields Town Hall

Stratham:

Budget Hearing: Monday, February 1, 2012, 7:00 pm, Stratham Memorial School
School District Meeting: Friday, March 9, 2012, 7:00 pm, Stratham Memorial School
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Stratham Municipal Center

School Board Seats Available in March 2012

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2012. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Liz Bryan and Dianne Vosgien in Brentwood; Christina Cassano Pelletier in East Kingston; Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell in Exeter; Cheryl Camacho in Kensington; James McIlroy in Newfields; Claire Ellis and Travis Thompson in Stratham; and Townley Chisholm (Exeter), Michael Grant (Newfields), and Patty Lovejoy (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, at least these twelve positions will be available for (re)election. The Filing Period extends from Wednesday, January 25, 2012 to Friday, February 3, 2012. Filing takes place for Exeter and Exeter Region Cooperative positions at the SAU 16 Offices at 30 Linden Street in Exeter. Regular business hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Filing for all other positions takes place at the respective Town Offices.

Coop Budget Advisory Committee Vacancies

The three-year term of office of three members of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee expires in March 2012. These positions are currently held by David Pendell of East Kingston, Carl Robertson of Exeter, and Susan Canada of Stratham. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Filing is done at the SAU 16 Offices at 30 Linden Street in Exeter. The filing period for these vacancies begins on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 and ends on Friday, February 3, 2012. Regular business hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Did You Know?

During the fall 2011 Exeter High School girls' soccer season all of the student-athletes on the team wore neon-yellow shoe laces in memory of Mrs. Lynn Maxwell, mother of senior **Roz Maxwell** who was named to the Division I All-State Second Team this year. Lynn died on September 20, 2011 after suffering from multiple myeloma. She was a strong supporter and regular attendee at the girls' games.

EHS freshman **Shannon Murdock** and senior **Molly Heaney** were recently selected by the Seacoast Sunday newspaper as two of the seven 2011 Fall Athletes of the Year.

Exeter High School Principal Finalists Announced

Nine prospective principals were interviewed recently by the EHS Principal Search Committee. After serious consideration and deliberation, the following two candidates were selected to move forward in this process:

Mr. Sean Kiley of Merrimac, MA, is currently an Assistant Principal at Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow, NH. He earned a BS degree in Sports Biology, and an M.Ed. degree in Health Studies from Springfield (MA) College. In the 1996-1997 school year, he taught Health Science at Methuen (MA) High School; from 1997-2003, he taught Health Science at Pentucket Regional High School in West Newbury, MA. He has been in his current position since 2003.

Mr. John Shea of Portsmouth, NH is currently a consultant/facilitator for high school redesign initiative at Traip Academy in Kittery, ME and is working as the start-up consultant for MC2 Charter High School in Manchester. Mr. Shea earned a BBA degree from the University of Notre Dame (IN), and MBA from Harvard Business School (MA), and M.Ed. degree from the University of Washington (WA), and a CAGS degree from the University of New Hampshire. From 2007-2010 he was the Principal at Spaulding High School in Rochester. From 2003-2007 he was the Upper School Director at Berwick Academy (ME). From 1999-2002 he was the co-founder, vice-principal, chief operating officer, and dean of students at High Tech High School in San Diego, CA.

A public reception to greet both candidates will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 5:00 pm at Exeter High School. Public interviews of each of the candidates will follow beginning at 6:00 pm that evening. Any interested student, staff member, or resident of SAU 16 is invited to attend.

Champion for Children

Ms. Barbara Clark, Program Manager for the Technical Development Program at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, was selected recently by the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board as a Champion for Children. Ms. Clark has been an active advocate for the Computer Programming program at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) since 2003. She has served on its Advisory Board for nine years and consistently brings great ideas for program improvement to the group. She is well aware of the importance of SST programs and is active in arranging internships, fields trips, and job shadowing opportunities for students.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

Approximately \$1200 was raised in December at the Annual Santa Spaghetti Supper that was coordinated by the Health Science Technologies students at the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST). This event was well attended by families connected to the Wright Start Preschool at SST and Main Street School (MSS). Most of the proceeds were

donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation which has been supported by the students in the Health Science Technology program for many years.

To enhance experiences for students at **Main Street School (MSS)**, the Dental Van visited the school earlier this month to emphasize the need for good oral hygiene. Later this month, individual students who receive permission from their parents will have oral hygiene cleanings. In addition, the four-week winter session of After School Enrichments will begin at the end of January and will include needle felting, cooking, science, snowshoeing, Yoga for Kids, actors workshop, and Zumba for Kids.

Teachers at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** continue to gain proficiency in writing “Learning Targets” as part of its Restructuring Plan. Teachers submit a weekly “target” and receive feedback from the administration on it. The “Learning Target” is to articulate what the students are to learn and how that is going to be measured. The emphasis is designed to avoid, “What am I going to do today?” and replace that question with “What do I want students to learn today?” This process is designed specifically to meet the needs of each student in each class.

To help emphasize that the primary goal of the new introductory world language experience at **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** is not language proficiency but cultural awareness and understanding, a direct connection has been made with Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA). Every Wednesday afternoon PEA students from different countries are meeting with EKES students and teaching them about their own national cultures. This will include presentations, as well as engagement in cultural activities such as playing games, developing arts and crafts, and regional cooking experiences.

Three **Exeter High School (EHS)** US History teachers partnered recently with the Exeter Historical Society to have students work with primary sources from World War II. Student activities included searching for spying planes with World War II binoculars, determining ration allowances, finding evidence of war aid in the Exeter Newsletter, determining who was eligible for the draft, and watching the *March of Time* film featuring Exeter. Students used their research to explain how the war impacted life on the home front.

Students and staff at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** participated in a variety of events during the recent holiday period. This included second graders visiting the Brentwood Recreation Center and the Rockingham County Assisted Living Program to sing carols for the senior citizens and residents. The first graders also collected items for the Stratham SPCA which was overwhelmed with the donations that were needed to help many animals throughout the winter months.

The **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** staff is implementing the Response to Intervention (RtI) Framework in reading. This process informs instruction and individualizes a student’s learning needs. The entire staff continues to receive professional development in this area by reading and discussing *RtI with Differentiated Instruction* by Jodi O’Meara.

Stratham Memorial School (SMS) students compete annually in spelling bee and geography bee competitions. All fourth and fifth graders recently completed the preliminary competition questions from the National Geography Bee to identify classroom winners. Ten finalists were selected. Fourth grader Morgan Sawyer and fifth grader Grayson Brockelbank became the grade level champions. The 15th Annual Spelling Bee will take place at SMS on February 2, 2012 at 6:30 pm on the school stage. The public is invited to attend.

Lincoln Street School (LSS) was recently selected to receive a \$7500 grant from Wal-Mart as part of its *Twelve Days of Giving* program. LSS was nominated by a parent for the various local community fundraisers that it supports including the Chamber of Commerce Children's Fund and the Holiday Giving Tree program. This grant is to be used to continue the school's outreach efforts to support the less fortunate members of the community. It is a wonderful recognition of all that the LSS staff, students, and parents do throughout the year to assist local charitable programs.

Exeter Adult Education and **Exeter High School** (EHS) partnered to provide algebra training and instruction for paraprofessionals who needed and wanted more information about this subject in order to better assist the students with whom they are working this year. This professional development gave these paraprofessionals more skill and confidence in dealing with students who needed assistance in some high school math classes.

Kensington Elementary School (KES) is replete with many programs and creative opportunities for learning beyond the traditional classroom experiences. These include jump rope, dodge ball, Heart of Art Club, Student Council, early morning reading in the Library, and instrumental music lessons. The Cultural Passport Program began earlier this month and students will be "traveling" to Spain this year. Additional information is posted on the school's website.

Reflection

Rare is the "crisis" in life—or in school. Keeping circumstances and events in perspective is very important. Think about categorizing things that happen as "interesting," "amazing," or "incredible" before labeling what just happened as a "crisis."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
February 2012

New EHS Principal Selected

Mr. Sean Kiley of Merrimac, MA, was selected recently by the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board to be the next principal of Exeter High School. Originally from Methuen, MA, Mr. Kiley earned his BS degree in Sports Biology from Springfield (MA) College in 1992 and then completed his M.Ed. degree in Health Studies from Springfield College in 1996 during which time he was a Graduate Teaching Fellow for the college. This provided him experience in teaching undergraduate students for two years while he also served as assistant coach of the intercollegiate varsity wrestling team. He completed his certification for school principal through the Educational Leadership Program at Northeastern University in Boston.

Mr. Kiley taught Health Science at Methuen High School during the 1996-1997 school year and then moved to Pentucket Regional High School in West Newbury, MA where he was a Health Science teacher from 1997-2003. Since 2003 he has been an Assistant Principal at Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow, NH.

Among his extracurricular accomplishments he was recognized as an NCAA All-American and GTE Academic All-American in 1992. From 1990-1992 he was selected as the Springfield College "Athlete of the Year." In 2000 the Boston Globe honored him with the "Wrestling Coach of the Year."

His position as principal of Exeter High School officially begins on July 1, 2012. He will replace Mr. Vic Sokul who is retiring on June 30, 2012 after seven years of service to the students, faculty, staff, and parents of Exeter High School.

Did You Know?

Assistant Superintendent Laura Nelson was recently recognized by the American Association of School Administrators and received the *Women in School Leadership Award* for her outstanding talent, creativity, and vision. Ms. Nelson has served in her current role in SAU 16 since July 2008. Among her duties, she is directly responsible for the Stratham and East Kingston School Boards.

The Mary E. Bartlett Library in Brentwood is located in the original Crawley Falls School that the young Mary Bartlett attended for eight years in the early 1900s. Mary graduated from Sanborn Seminary in Kingston and Bates College in Lewiston, ME in 1921. She began her teaching career in Groveton, NH, but soon moved to Manchester Central High School where she was a foreign language teacher for 42 years. It is wonderful to have the town's library named in honor of an educator who devoted her entire life to students.

School Board Candidates

Twelve School Board seats are available when voters go to the polls next month. Candidates for the various independent boards within SAU 16 are listed below. Voting takes place in all districts on **Tuesday, March 13, 2012**. Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years.

Brentwood (2 seats available): Dianne Vosgien (one write-in position is available)

East Kingston (1 seat available): Christina Cassano Pelletier

Exeter (2 seats available): Darrell Chichester, John Maxwell, and Kathy McNeill

Exeter Region Cooperative (3 seats available; 1 from each of the following towns):

Exeter—Maggie Bishop and Townley Chisholm

Newfields—Alicia Heslop

Stratham—Helen Joyce

Kensington (1 seat available): Barbara Darby

Newfields (1 seat available): James McIlroy

Stratham (2 seats available): Heidi Hansom and Travis Thompson

Thank You for Your Service

Serving on a school board today is no easy task. The commitment of time and energy is often more significant than one imagines at first. SAU 16 has been fortunate over the years to have capable and dedicated individuals devote some of their community service efforts to help the students, families, and staff members of their respective communities. In March 2013, the following individuals will be leaving their school board seats to others. Their service is gratefully appreciated.

Brentwood—**Liz Bryan** (*served 3 years*)

Exeter Region Cooperative—**Patty Lovejoy** (Stratham – *served 9 years on the Coop Board and 3 years on the Stratham Board*); **Michael Grant** (Newfields – *served 3 years and 9 years on the Newfields Board*)

Kensington—**Cheryl Camacho** (*served 7 years*)

Stratham—**Claire Ellis** (*served 3 years*)

The Importance of Voting

There is a civic duty and responsibility associated with voting in a democracy. This is particularly important in communities that rely heavily on local participation to make decisions for town and school issues.

In March 2011, only 17.3% of the registered voters in the six SAU 16 communities participated in this important process. In other words, over 80% of the registered voters did NOT choose to go to the polls to cast a ballot on issues ranging from proposed budgets to collective bargaining contracts and from special education trust funds to maintenance capital reserve accounts.

This year voters in Stratham will gather on Friday, March 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm to conduct its Annual Meeting. Voters in Brentwood will do the same on Saturday, March 10 2012, at 9:00 am to do the same.

Voting for school positions including school board members will take place in all districts on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Please make an extra effort to participate this year so that the SAU may achieve at least a 20% participation rate. Absentee Ballots are also available for those who may not be able to avail themselves of the long voting hours that day.

New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Results

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) recently released the results of the fall 2011 administration of the annual NECAP tests. The students in SAU 16 performed very well overall, especially when compared to state averages in the various grades and categories. Results for individual schools are available at the NHDOE website (www.ed.state.nh.us). Below is an overall summary of the results in the SAU.

Grade 2011 Reading Proficiency

	SAU 16	State
3	90.5 %	81 %
4	86 %	70 %
5	89.5 %	77 %
6	87 %	80 %
7	89 %	77 %
8	92 %	82 %
11	86 %	77 %

2011 Math Proficiency

Grade	SAU 16	State
3	87 %	76 %
4	84 %	76 %
5	91 %	76 %
6	86 %	72 %
7	88 %	68 %
8	82 %	68 %
11	50 %	36 %

2011 Writing Proficiency

Grade	SAU 16	State
5	75%	55%
8	84%	61 %
11	62 %	46 %

Coop Budget Advisory Committee Vacancies

The three-year term of office for three members of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee expires in March 2012. These positions are currently held by David Pendell of East Kingston, Carl Robertson of Exeter, and Susan Canada of Stratham. All three of these individuals have decided to run again for this position and are running unopposed in 2012.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

The **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) Wellness Action Committee (WAC) is sponsoring the “Biggest Winner” the week of February 13-17, 2012. This is the school’s third year of implementing this event. For the entire week during lunches and PE classes, staff members will be talking with the students about eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep, drinking water, the importance of exercise, decreasing “screen time” in our daily schedules and how to reduce stress. On Monday, February 13th, Chef Calias, a prominent chef in Boston, will be cooking a meal with the help of a few fifth grade students during lunches for both students and staff. On Friday, February 17th, volunteers from Seacoast United Soccer will be visiting KES again to teach the students the importance of exercise and to demonstrate their soccer skills during an all school assembly. The students will also be given a challenge for the following week to practice at home what they have learned all week and to record their healthy habits in their individual journals. They will return their journals on Friday, February 24th, and then the staff will determine who the “Biggest Winner” at KES is for this year. Donations made by local businesses will be given to the winners. The *Exeter Newsletter* will be covering the story, as well as the KES Student Newspaper. Check the website for more information and pictures.

Exeter Adult Education staff hosted a table at the recent Exeter JOB FAIR. It was a great opportunity to share information about the opportunities available in this valuable program. Future presentations are planned at the Riverwoods Wellness Fair and at the Exeter Housing Authority.

The six Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) continue to meet twice each month to emphasize the importance of their curriculum work. Each PLC has identified specific goals on which to focus for the rest of this school year. Consultant Elizabeth Keroack will observe the different PLC’s in action in late February and will provide them with feedback on their identified goals. This work is important because it gives teachers the valuable opportunity to work together in the best interests of their students.

As part of the *Get Active, Get Fit Challenge*, **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) participated in the competition in late November. Recently, the administration, staff, and students were notified that they had been selected as one of the winners! On Wednesday, March 7, 2012 the Disney Dance Team will spend an hour at the school to celebrate this

wonderful accomplishment. Together they will dance, listen to music, play games, and receive give-a-ways. In addition to the dance party, because NES was selected as a winner in the challenge, the school also received three boxes of gym equipment. This included over 100 balls of various sizes, 12 cones, 8 hula hoops, 36 jump ropes, 12 rubber discs, plastic field markers, and 8 net bags to hold the equipment.

The American Communication Association (ACA) points out on its website that one of the biggest inhibitors to employee promotion is a discomfort or unwillingness to speak publicly. At **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)**, the administration and teachers are always looking for ways to have their students speak publicly and perform. From classroom presentations to speaking at weekly school-wide meetings, students are continually challenged to share their ideas, passions, and knowledge with a larger group. The more opportunities that the students have to speak in front of a group, the more their confidence and comfort grow. Performance also plays an important role in this learning process. From early on, students prepare for and give end-of-unit shows for parents and the community in their classrooms. There are three vocal and instrumental performances a year, and of course, the school's annual musical for the fourth and fifth graders. One of Principal Jim Eaves' long term goals for fifth graders, as part of the transition to middle school, will be to present to a board of community members a personal portfolio demonstrating their readiness to move on and an understanding of themselves as learners.

Fifth graders at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** are actively involved in a children's book drive to help a school in the North Country. "Books for Berlin" is an impressive outreach to demonstrate the connections among children and the need for sharing good literature with others, especially those who may not be as fortunate. Already a significant number of different kinds of books have been collected. The drive continues through the end of February.

This month seniors in the Health Science Technologies program at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** embark on three-month internships. Teacher Linda Cutler spends a great deal of time cultivating relationships with local medical facilities. When it comes time for seniors to participate in these internships people know that her students are well-qualified. Many seniors will earn their Licensed Nursing Assistant Certification (LNA) at the Rockingham County Home. Most of these students have been accepted to college and will pursue a certificate or degree in registered nursing. Those with other professional interests will be completing internships in fields including: pharmacy; fire fighting; occupational therapy; radiology; dentistry; emergency medical technician; physician's assistant; and physical therapy.

Exposing children to a wide variety of experiences at **Main Street School (MSS)** is an important part of its daily curriculum to enhance literacy and math skills. One of these wonderful experiences is the music program which provides students with exposure to singing, movements, and the use of percussion instruments. These skills help students to learn about beat and rhythm and are ways to develop their creative thinking. This can also be an inspiration for writing, composing, or creating dances. Similarly, in physical

education classes, students learn about team and recreational sports, cooperative learning, adventure activities, and nutrition and health/fitness concepts.

The monthly **Swasey Central School (SCS)** Family Newsletter regularly features articles and information about local school issues including its steps toward the implementation of the SAU Strategic Plan. This month “Connecting Math to Everyday Life” stresses that current research underscores the need for parents to talk with their children about problem solving in such areas as time spent doing homework, playing sports, cooking, or dining out. In its article on “Lifestyles” SCS explains how it eliminated vending machines several years ago and how its food service program meets or exceeds current nutritional standards to provide balanced meals that children will eat and enjoy. The SCS Newsletters are available on its school website.

The **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** is honoring its top students with a regular Student of the Month Award. This recognition highlights the academic and developmental successes of its students at each grade level. The public reception usually surprises the selected student and includes parents and family members being in attendance for the certificate ceremony. Visit the CMS website (<http://cms.sau16.org/>) for details and pictures of the honorees.

Students and staff at **Exeter High School (EHS)** are rallying to show their collective support for Spanish teacher Jonathan Fischer who was diagnosed several months ago with a serious type of stomach cancer. This community outreach has involved a flower drive, a concert, and a 5k road race and displays significant involvement from the entire school community. Over \$2,500 has been collected to help Mr. Fischer and his family.

Reflection

What used to be the shared responsibility of families, churches, and schools when it comes to providing an education for our students is now being done far more extensively by schools alone. Think about all of the resources and services that are now being mandated for public schools in our society. It all started with breakfast programs!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
March 2012

Voting Day 2012 Results—Warrant Articles

Budgets

Brentwood - Proposed Budget \$5,134,767--PASSED
East Kingston - Proposed Budget \$2,578,654--PASSED
Exeter - Proposed Budget \$15,154,706--PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Proposed Budget \$49,945,945--PASSED
Kensington - Proposed Budget \$3,015,094--PASSED
Newfields - Proposed Budget \$2,096,159.17--PASSED
Stratham - Proposed Budget \$9,584,502.50--PASSED

Trust Funds

Exeter Region Coop - Maintenance - Add \$150,000--PASSED
Newfields - Maintenance - Add \$10,000--PASSED
Stratham - Special Education - Add \$75,000--PASSED
Stratham - Maintenance - Add \$100,000--PASSED

Contracts

Brentwood - Teachers (2 years) 2012 – 2014--PASSED
East Kingston - Teachers (2 years) 2012 – 2014—PASSED (Recount possible)
Exeter - Teachers (2 years) 2012 – 2014--PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Teachers (2 years) 2012 – 2014--PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Admin. Assoc. (2 years) 2012 – 2014--PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Para. Assoc. (3 years) 2012 – 2015--PASSED
Newfields - Para. Assoc. (3 years) 2012 – 2015--PASSED
Stratham - Teachers (3 years) 2012 – 2015—PASSED

Other

Brentwood—by petition—adopt SB 2—FAILED
East Kingston - Partial Roof Repair - \$45,000--PASSED
Exeter - Bond Payment for Its Share of Coop Bond--PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Transfer Trustee Duties from East Kingston to Exeter—PASSED

Voting Day 2012 Results—School Board Members

Brentwood—Dianne Vosgien and Jessie Hollister (Write-In)

East Kingston—Christina Cassano Pelletier

Exeter—Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell

Exeter Region Cooperative—Maggie Bishop (Exeter), Alicia Heslop (Newfields), and
Helen Joyce (Stratham)

Kensington—Barbara Darby

Newfields—James McIlroy

Stratham—Heidi Hanson and Travis Thompson

Coop Budget Advisory Committee Results

Three current members of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee were re-elected to three-year terms on March 13, 2012. They are David Pendell of East Kingston, Carl Robertson of Exeter, and Susan Canada of Stratham. Congratulations to each of them!

Congratulations, Laura Nelson!

Assistant Superintendent Laura Nelson was recently selected to be the next Superintendent of Schools for SAU 10 in Derry, NH. Dr. Nelson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new position because she has a background in teaching, building and central office administration, and law. She has spent four years serving the students, families, staff, and community of SAU 16 with particular emphasis on working with the Stratham and East Kingston School Districts as well as technology, grants, and professional development for the wider community. Dr. Nelson begins her new position officially on July 1, 2012. The search for her successor is underway.

Did You Know?

Students at **Kensington Elementary School** recently participated in their third annual Biggest Winner program inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign. As part of this experience, the fifth graders served food at the school that they helped to prepare with Nicholas Callas, executive chef at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston.

A recent community forum held at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** involved a combined effort between school counselors and the Stratham Police Department. This forum, which is one in a series that targets teenagers' risk factors, was entitled, "*Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Teen Drug And Alcohol Use In Our Community But Were Afraid To Ask.*"

Fifth grade students at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** recently took on their teachers and other staff members in the fourth annual basketball tournament to raise school spirit and money for the end of school year class trip to the Freedom Trail in

Boston. The highlight of the evening was the flash mob that performed during halftime. Approximately \$500 was raised this year.

The “new” **Exeter High School (EHS)** opened in the fall of 2006, making the 2011-2012 school year the fifth one in that building. The graduating Class of 2012 will be the second class that has spent all four of its high school years in that facility. These students entered grade one in September 2000. The students entering grade one in the fall of 2012 will graduate from high school as the Class of 2024!

Over the past 36 years, since 1976, **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** has had seven principals, including one who served only three months as an Interim Principal and one who served for one year. These include Frank Scala (1976-1989); Gary VanderEls (1989-1992); Robert Sinibaldi (Interim - September to November 1992); Robert Teel (1992-1994); Chester Lee (1994-2000); Thomas Meehan (2000-2001); and current principal Barbara Switzer (2001-Present).

Exeter High School (EHS) Senior Hillary Holmes earned All-American recognition in the National Pentathlon competition on March 10th in New York City. Nineteen young women from throughout the United States competed in the pentathlon. Hillary placed 3rd, just shy of 2nd place. The second place winner is also going to be Hillary’s teammate at Cornell University this fall. Hillary is the daughter of Janel and Jeff Holmes, both of whom are teachers in the Exeter Region Cooperative School District.

Average Teacher Salaries for 2011-2012

Brentwood - \$64,187
East Kingston - \$58,669
Exeter - \$68,760
Exeter Region Cooperative - \$64,670
Kensington - \$64,934
Newfields - \$59,194
Stratham - \$73,049

SAU 16 Top Wage Earners

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools - \$133,131
Victor Sokul, Principal, Exeter High School - \$117,190
Paul Flynn, Associate Superintendent/Director of Human Resources - \$116,934
Richard Keays, Principal, Lincoln Street School, Exeter - \$106,932
Laura Nelson, Assistant Superintendent - \$106,741
Margaret Callahan, Principal, Seacoast School of Technology - \$106,080
Joan Ostrowski, Principal, Swasey Central School, Brentwood- \$103,126
Thomas Fosher, Principal, Stratham Memorial School - \$103,025
Steven Adler, Principal, Main Street School, Exeter - \$102,676
William Furbush, Principal, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham - \$102,000
Esther Asbell, Assistant Superintendent - \$100,000

Thank You for Your Service

Serving on a school board today is no easy task. The commitment of time and energy is often more significant than one imagines at first. SAU 16 has been fortunate over the years to have capable and dedicated individuals devote some of their community service efforts to help the students, families, and staff members of their respective communities. In addition to those individuals mentioned in my report last month, Townley Chisholm will also be leaving the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board. Mr. Chisholm faithfully served the Coop Board for six years and even served as Chair of the Board for one year. His service is sincerely acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

In conjunction with sponsorship provided by the Exeter Fire Department, second grade students at **Main Street School (MSS)** are involved with a reading incentive program during the month of March. The students are being challenged to read daily and record the minutes that they read. Reading logs are tallied each week. During the first week, 130 students participated. Prizes for the students include a classroom pizza party, a water bottle for each participant, a special backpack of surprises for one student selected at random and a special surprise from the Exeter Fire Department.

To emphasize reading even more at **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** this year, the students participated in a “book trade” project. Each student was asked to donate at least one book and, in return, he/she could choose a book from the donations. The project realized that many more books were donated than taken and the extra books were given to a local charter school.

During the month of March, all students in grades K-3 at **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** will be participating in Micro Society. This unit is part of the Social Studies curriculum which teaches the students about economics and careers. All students will learn about how a small town like Kensington functions. Each classroom will choose a name for its town, elect town officials, earn money and pay taxes, choose products to make and sell and then decide as a town how to spend their profits. Market Day will be on Friday, March 30th, which is when all the towns will sell their products and the multipurpose room will be packed with families and Kensington residents who will shop and buy their goods. When completed and the financial results are tabulated, the towns will make decisions on donating their money to such community service organizations as the SPCA and local food pantries.

March is “Music In Our Schools Month” and includes many opportunities to highlight the wonderful music program available in SAU 16 schools. At **Lincoln Street School (LSS)**, music receives outstanding support for students, families, and staff. This is clearly evidenced by the five concerts that it hosts. Two of these involve students in grade three, two others involve students in grade four, and one involves grade five students. The month-long celebration of music at LSS culminates with grade five students participating in the “World’s Largest Concert.” Music educator, Sue

Noseworthy is highly commended for her outstanding efforts in arranging and directing these five concerts in such a short time! The tremendous assistance of Mrs. Noseworthy's UNH intern, Laura Ducharme is to be highly recognized as well!

The Marketing Technologies students at the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) are actively preparing for their annual Small Business Showcase which will take place on Wednesday, April 11th, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Talbot Gym in Exeter. This event is the capstone project for Marketing Technologies seniors. More than fifty businesses will assemble at this event which is run entirely by the students for an evening of networking with one another and with a wide variety of community members.

Several selected students from **Swasey Central School** (SCS) are participating in the Exeter Arts Committee Youth Art Month Show that is held annually at the Exeter Town Hall Gallery on Saturdays and Sundays through April 1, 2012. The opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012. These budding young artists are coordinated by art teacher Crystal Buswell.

Students enrolled in eighth grade Spanish at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) are learning essential vocabulary for traveling, such as important words and phrases that can be used at airports or in Spanish-speaking countries. To enhance this experience, students have learned about the Peace Corps, Doctors Without Borders, and Orbis (a non-profit organization that is, quite literally, a "flying eye hospital." Using their knowledge of these organizations, students discover reasons to travel, as well as finding ways that they may be able to volunteer to help others while also pursuing ideas for a future career.

Several **Exeter High School** (EHS) students participated recently in the 7th Annual *Poetry Out Loud* High School Competition that was organized by EHS English teachers Dennis Magliozzi and Kristina Peterson. *Poetry Out Loud* is a national recitation competition endorsed by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. High school students from across the country memorize and recite poems from a list of 400 choices with a finalist from each state eventually selected to compete for the national title in April. Freshman Zachary Morris earned top honors at EHS this year!

Schools need to continually find ways to outreach to the broader community in order to expand and enrich learning opportunities for students. **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) recently announced that it has established a working relationship with the Office of Community Service at Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA). Students representing the PEA Multi-Cultural Organization spent Wednesday afternoons in January and February with EKES's Foreign Language Club sharing about their country and culture. When two of the students learned that EKES students were interested in cooking, they started an after-school enrichment club for fifth graders called *Cultural Cooking*. Beginning March 21st, a group of PEA students will be leading an after-school Biology Class. The best part of this program is that all of the students, regardless of their age, benefit from the partnership.

At **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** the Wellness Committee has been gathering momentum, preparing for an evening of information with multiple resources. As part of the health and wellness component of the fourth grade curriculum, the students were treated to a presentation by Susan Rogers which focused on the 5-2-1-0 Healthy NH. Students are now able to participate in vigorous physical activities two mornings each week before school begins under the direction of the fourth grade teachers. Students are also recording their choices, most notably the various food groups at their meals and drink selections. In addition to the school day information, the PTO has scheduled to provide information to parents with Nurse Judy, Susan Engle (Nutritionist/ Dietician) and Dr. Everett Lamm, MD on staying healthy, eating right and other items for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This evening session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17 @ 6:30 PM.

SMS third graders recently celebrated their cultural heritage as part of the Ellis Island Simulation. Friends, parents, guardians, grandparents and staff represented various roles as students arrived into the Great Hall. Once the 120 immigrants were sworn in as US citizens, the classes returned to their respective rooms for stories and unique traditions by each family. Many of our senior attendees shared their journeys, relished artifact and photographs of their initial arrival to America. As an added delight, many prepared a food dish that was part of their custom.

Lastly, SMS continues to reach out to our local and national community through a variety of service projects. The fourth grade classes at SMS have participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon for the past six years. This year they continued the voluntary practice of raising funds for the program by solving various types of math problems. Students sought donations for their efforts and this year the class was able to raise over \$3,500.

Exeter Adult Education (EAE) is an official GED® testing site. Exams are given at least monthly and over the last several years, an average of 100 people/year pass the GED exam in Exeter. Many more take a portion of the exam, but are not able to complete all subtests. Since its inception in the late 1940's to the present, the GED exam has consisted of five (5) subtests which include writing, reading, social studies, science and mathematics. The current form of the test has been in effect since 2002. Test takers range in age from 16 to 70 years old and may come from SAU 16 towns or any other community in New Hampshire.

GED Testing Service has been bought out by Pearson-Vue and beginning in 2014, a new GED test will be rolled out. This new computer-based test will be aligned with the Common Core Standards. Anyone who has not completed the 2002 version of the GED by December 31, 2013, will need to start over again with the new test. Staff at EAE will begin professional development in the summer of 2012 to prepare for this major change. The EAE is urging anyone who has started taking the current GED to finish as soon as possible. GED preparation classes are available day and evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
April 2012

Board Chairs Selected

Each year immediately after the March election each School Board chooses a chairperson to assist in conducting its regular business. Chairpersons selected for the 2012-2013 term include:

Brentwood—Dianne Vosgien
East Kingston—Robert Nigrello (March-June, 2012); Christina Cassano Pelletier
(July 2012-March 2013)
Exeter—Patrick O'Day
Exeter Region Cooperative—David Miller
Kensington—Alice Mower
Newfields—Michael Price
Stratham—Travis Thompson

Swasey Central School Principal Announces Retirement

After 12 years (2000-2012) at the helm of Swasey Central School (SCS) in Brentwood, Principal **Joan Ostrowski** announced her retirement recently. The Brentwood School Board has already begun the search process to find a successor. At its regular meeting this month, the Board approved an eight-person selection committee that will include two Board Members, two teachers, two community members, a member of the support staff, and an SAU administrator. Almost 50 applications have been received for the position. The goal is to select the new SCS principal by May 21, 2012.

Mrs. Ostrowski has distinguished herself as an outstanding school administrator both in Brentwood and throughout the state. Immediately prior to coming to SCS, she served the Merrimack School District in several different capacities including special education teacher, housemaster, and assistant principal from 1986-2000. In 2010 the SCS staff nominated her as the NH Elementary Principal of the Year. After a very competitive process she was selected for this exemplary recognition. Since 1980 SCS has eight different principals:

1980-1982—Harry Mangel
1982—M.L. Haney (Interim)
1982-1989—Margaret Griffin
1989-1991—Jay Cullen
September-December 1991—Robert Sinibaldi (Interim)
January 1992-1997—Diane Nockles
1997-2000—Nick Hardy
2000-2012—Joan Ostrowski

Family and Consumer Science Teacher of the Year

Exeter High School (EHS) teacher, **Gail Perkins**, was selected recently as the Family and Consumer Science Teacher of the Year for 2012. This outstanding recognition highlights the excellent work that Mrs. Perkins has done in SAU 16 for the past eight years. Her important work at EHS includes teaching courses in such areas as Child Development, Fashion and Design, Food and Nutrition, Parenting, Interior Decorating, and Personal Finance. This wide range of options exposes students to many important life skills and is valuable on many different personal and professional fronts. Congratulations, Mrs. Perkins!

Adequate Yearly Progress

Approximately six months after students in Grades 3-8 and 11 are administered the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) test, state education officials release information relative to each school's and each district's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the national No Child Left Behind law. The ultimate goal is that every child in every school in the country will be "proficient" in **reading and math** by 2014. Every two years the expected "proficient" level rises as it works its way toward the 100% goal.

AYP in this test is determined for the entire school and for each appropriate subgroup within the school. In SAU 16, subgroups are generally "Economically Disadvantaged" students and "Educational Disability" students. Subgroups must include a minimum of 11 students.

Schools and/or Districts that do not achieve AYP for two consecutive years in a particular area are designated as a "School (or District) In Need of Improvement" (SINI or DINI).

AYP results for the October 2011 testing period were released in early April. The overall results are:

Swasey Central School, Brentwood—Made AYP for the entire school in both reading and math; did not make AYP for the Educational Disability group in either reading or math.

East Kingston Elementary School—Made AYP for the entire school in both reading and math; made AYP in reading for the Educational Disability subgroup, but did not make AYP for the same group in math.

Main Street School, Exeter—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math and in reading and math for all subgroups.

Lincoln Street School, Exeter—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math; made AYP for all subgroups in reading and math except for the Educational Disability group which did not make AYP in either reading or math.

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math; made AYP for all subgroups in reading; did not make AYP in math for the Educational Disability subgroup.

Exeter High School—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math; made AYP for all subgroups in reading and math except for the Educational Disability group which did not make AYP in either reading or math.

Kensington Elementary School—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math; made AYP for all subgroups in reading but did not make AYP in math for the Educational Disability subgroup.

Newfields Elementary School—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math and in reading and math for all subgroups.

Stratham Memorial School—Made AYP for the entire school in reading and math and for all subgroups in math; did not make AYP in reading for the Educational Disability subgroup.

Champions for Children

The Stratham School Board approved the nomination of two Wiggin Memorial Library Children Librarians for the Champions for Children Award earlier this school year.

Phyllis Danko and Jan Streelman have an “infectious zeal for children and the literature associated with the elementary age group.” They have a tremendous amount of energy, reaching children in ways that promote a variety of reading strategies to enhance their fluency, vocabulary, and genre selection. Stratham Memorial School administrators and teachers believe that they are most fortunate to have Phyllis and Jan as town librarians.

The Kensington School Board recently approved nominations for the Champions for Children Award to recognize outstanding contributions to its school community.

American Legion Post #105 and teacher Mary Knightly were selected. Together Mrs. Knightly and the Legionnaires have collaborated for the past two years to organize and celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day in the school. The children and the staff have been beneficiaries of the assemblies which have emphasized the need and responsibility to honor veterans and their sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

The Kensington School Board also approved the nomination of **Mary Jane Soloman** for the Champions for Children Award to recognize her service in many areas of the school. In addition to her work as a teaching and library assistant, Ms. Soloman also organized the After School Enrichment classes, started “Magical Mailbox,” volunteered on the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), and leads the “Heart of Art Club” with teacher Annie Beauchemin. She is an extremely talented artist and regularly shares her skills and talents with students.

The Exeter Region Cooperative School Board recently approved the nomination of retired Seacoast School of Technology (SST) Marketing teacher, Mr. **Bob Bailey**, who continues to volunteer for a wide variety of SST events and activities. Mr. Bailey taught for 30 years and now chaperones the DECA State Conference and assists with Career Fair Days, the annual “Sneak Peek,” and Technology Fun Nights. Last year he even chaperoned the nine-day trip to Maryland to support the SST submarine team. His dedication to students is vitally important to the SAU 16 community.

Did You Know?

Two Exeter High School (EHS) seniors, Anna O’Neil and Sam Wallace have achieved the distinction of being named National Merit Scholar Finalists for 2012.

Ms. Jean Lerch, Kitchen Manager at the Main Street School in Exeter, was recently selected to receive the School Nutrition Foundation’s 2012 First-Timer Scholarship of \$500 to attend the organization’s Annual National Conference in Denver during July 2012.

Students in the FFA program at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) recently collected more than 500 textbooks to support the work of former SST student, Ryan Keith, who is now teaching in an all-girls boarding school in Kenya. Teacher Ann DeMarco worked with current students to solicit and collect these anatomy, chemistry, biology, physics, and environmental science books.

Fourth and fifth grade students at East Kingston Elementary School recently performed Disney’s adapted musical *Beauty and the Beast* to an enthusiastic audience at the school.

The local cable access Educational Channel is now providing twenty-four hour programming and bulletin board announcements throughout SAU 16. This is available on Channel 13 in Exeter and Channel 22 in the other five towns.

The Destination ImagiNation (DI) Team from the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) has advanced to the Global Finals at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville by placing second in the recent statewide competition. The team of six boys, all seventh graders, created their own movie trailer with their own plot and soundtrack. This had to include two different nationalities from two different nations.

State and federal officials recently visited several schools within SAU 16 to determine their on-site preparedness of an emergency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) praised local administrators and staff for being highly prepared to deal with unexpected situations. FEMA is particularly interested in a school’s emergency plan, its proper contact information, awareness of evacuation routes, and the ability to contract families should a disaster occur.

Exeter High School (EHS) juniors Chandra Boudreau and Ainsley Katz won first place in the Senior Group Documentary category in the ninth annual New Hampshire History Day competition held recently at Plymouth State University. Their film, entitled “By Word and Sword: Revolutionary Reactions to Lincoln’s Wartime Reforms,” examined goals for the Emancipation Proclamation, reactions from different groups in the North and South, and the enduring legacy of the document. Chandra and Ainsley are now eligible to travel to Maryland in mid-June for the National History Day competition.

Another EHS junior Kelsey McDermott will participate in a one-month trip to Morocco in July to learn more about this northern Africa culture. While there she will help build community centers or classrooms and teach English through Global Routes, a group dedicated to community service in other countries. Kelsey will be part of a group that includes 18 other students, two American leaders and two Moroccan leaders.

The Three C’s—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

The “Stop, Drop, and Read” program at **Main Street School (MSS)** was very successful this year. Two second grade students were recognized for their outstanding reading and rode to school in a fire truck recently. A brief assembly was held at MSS to announce the two second grade classroom winners for having 100% participation and the highest amount of minutes read (30,000). Each class of students will be treated to a pizza party. Overall, students at MSS read a total of 142,793 minutes (2,383 hours) during the four weeks of this special program. The Exeter Fire Department supported this effort and MSS is grateful for their assistance and encouragement.

The Artist-in-Residence program at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** welcomed Genevieve Aichelle from the New Hampshire Theater Project to work for three weeks with each of the six third grade classrooms. The students produced a play regarding Greek history and mythology. Students had the option of acting, narrating, providing sounds or becoming part of the scenery for these forty-five minute productions. The majority of the costumes were even designed and developed by the students. Grade five students are also working with singer/songwriter/storyteller Jeff Warner as he shares his talents regarding New England and New Hampshire history.

Special activities continue to take place before and after school at **Kensington Elementary School (KES)**. These are designed to provide extra opportunities for students and to increase their awareness and interest in different ways of learning. These activities include Student Council, Heart of Art, Dodge Ball, Jump Rope Club, Stacking Cups, Walking Club, SAU-wide Super Band, instrumental music lessons including guitar, book groups, school newspaper, school store, and early morning reading in the library.

Forty seniors in the Welding Technologies and Building Construction Technologies programs at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** have earned their Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Ten-Hour Construction Safety Card. Welding Technologies instructor, Mr. Jonathan Theberge, is an authorized OSHA trainer. This

safety awareness program is a tremendous asset for students and the Safety Card is well-known throughout the industry and is required to work on any job site.

For the past 11 years the students at **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** have participated in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart event. This is a major fundraiser to help medically fragile children who struggle with heart ailments. Students set a goal for raising money and ask friends and family to help them reach it. The students celebrate their effort with a Jump Rope for Heart Day where they jump rope for as long as possible. In return for participating in the event, EKES received bundles of jump ropes and health and nutrition curriculum materials.

The **Lincoln Street School (LSS)** staff continues to work very hard on developing Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in the school. A recent in-service program had the teachers focus on developing a wide-reaching plan related to comprehension questions including a specific scoring rubric. Paraprofessionals attended a workshop on autism to learn more about this important topic that affects many students today. In addition, both groups also learned more about "Response to Intervention" (RtI) by participating in a workshop at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS). To enhance its work with PLC's, several teachers and LSS principal, Dick Keays, attended a two-day conference in Concord that was presented by national experts Richard and Becky Dufour.

Under the direction of **Exeter High School (EHS)** Principal Victor Sokul, a public forum dealing with students' risky behaviors was held recently at the school. This was a result of the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey which told a story of an increasing number of EHS students engaging in dangerous activities that included substance abuse, particularly alcohol. Realizing the importance of talking about this matter, representatives from several community agencies participated in this important event that was attended by about 70 people.

Fourth grade students at **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** enhanced their biography unit recently when they presented their annual wax museum. In addition to researching a historical character and making a presentation, students presented a mini-one-man show that allowed them to get into character to reveal the facts of that person's life. As parents, teachers, and other students circled the school gym, the fourth graders were in costume and snapped to attention when visitors pressed the button on their desk. Helen Keller, Marilyn Monroe, Thomas Edison, Sacajawea, and Pablo Picasso were among the day's guests.

All seventh grade students at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** enjoyed a week of activities during *Pi Week* that was held in honor of the irrational number Pi. The activities included the exploration of Pi with students measuring the circumference and diameter of various circles and calculating an estimate of the number Pi, researching into which types of real life jobs require the use of Pi, memorizing the digits of Pi, and the application of the number Pi to find the circumference and area of circles. The week culminated in an exuberant celebration in the school's auditorium where students participated in a Pi Bee, a pie-eating contest, sang songs, and recited poetry having to do

with Pi. Students also set a goal of collecting 314 cans for the local food pantry. They actually surpassed the goal and collected 338 cans that were donated to the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry in Exeter.

Reflection

In one of the courses that I teach for the College of Graduate Studies at Plymouth State University, I stress the value of “relationships” and “connections.” The advice from the first paragraph of the *Desiderata* (1927) is recommended for reflection:

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
May 2012

Elementary School Celebrations

At the end of each academic year, each elementary school chooses to celebrate and recognize its departing students in its own creative way. These events are worth attending because they depict the uniqueness of each of our schools. Celebrations are planned for the following dates and times:

Thursday, May 24, 9:00 am—**Lincoln Street School** DARE Graduation
Thursday, June 14, 8:45 am—**Main Street School** End-of-Year Assembly
Monday, June 4, 6:00 pm—**Kensington Elementary**—Fifth Grade Recognition
Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 pm—**Newfields Elementary**—Fifth Grade Recognition
Wednesday, June 13, 6:15 pm—**East Kingston Elementary**—Fifth Grade Recognition
Wednesday, June 13, 6:30 pm—**Stratham Memorial**—Fifth Grade Recognition
Wednesday, June 13, 6:30 pm—**Swasey Central**—Fifth Grade Recognition

High School Celebrations

The Certificate Ceremony for the **Seacoast School of Technology** seniors will be held on **Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 5:30 pm** in the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School

Graduation activities for the **Exeter Adult Education Program** will be held on **Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 7:00 pm** in the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School

Commencement Exercises for **Great Bay eLearning Charter School** will be held on **Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 6:00 pm** at the Tuck Learning Campus on Linden Street in Exeter. Festivities will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Commencement Exercises for the **Exeter High School** Class of 2012 will be held on **Friday, June 8, 2012 at 5:30 pm** at the high school. Festivities will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Please note that all of these events are open to the public. Community members are cordially invited to attend.

GBeCS Award

The Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBeCS) was recently honored by its involvement with the Education Commission of the States and assisted the State of New Hampshire in winning a national award for its part in fostering “bold high school reforms that replace the time-based system of Carnegie units with competency-based learning.” Because of its innovative work, NH Commissioner of Education Dr. Virginia Barry recognized GBeCS as only one of five schools in the state named to the Commissioner’s Circle of Excellence.

New Swasey Central School Principal

Mr. Ronald Kew of Manchester, NH has been selected as the new principal of Swasey Central School (SCS) in Brentwood. Mr. Kew is currently the principal of Gossler Park Elementary School in Manchester. He earned his BS degree in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph College in Standish, ME and his M.Ed. degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of New Hampshire. Mr. Kew has 17 years of experience teaching at the elementary level and has been a school administrator in Manchester for the past five years. He will begin his new position on July 2, 2012 and replaces Mrs. Joan Ostrowski who has served SCS faithfully for the past 12 years.

MARCH 2012 VOTING TRENDS

	Brentwood	East Kingston	Exeter	Kensington	Newfields	Stratham	TOTAL
Registered Voters	2494	1588	9716	1507	1197	5159	21661
Votes on Coop Contract	517	400	1982	424	331	608	4262
Pct. Voters on Coop Cont.	20.73%	25.19%	20.40%	28.14%	27.65%	11.79%	19.68%
YES votes on Coop Cont	218	156	1240	172	143	342	2271
Pct. YES on Coop Cont	42.17%	39.00%	62.56%	40.57%	43.20%	56.25%	53.28%
Voters on Local Contract	135	435	2128	476	338	117	
Pct. Voters on Local Cont.	5.41%	27.39%	21.90%	31.59%	28.24%	2.27%	
YES votes on Local Cont.	113	222	1471	254	205	117	
Pct. YES on Local Cont.	83.70%	51.03%	69.13%	53.36%	60.65%	100.00%	

Did You Know?

Of the Top Ten graduates at Exeter High School this year, nine of them are young women. Johanna King is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2012. She will continue her education at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Miranda Beggin is the Salutatorian. She will continue her education at Northeastern University in Boston.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) teachers, in conjunction with the leadership of Principal Jim Eaves, continue to work hard in preparing their students for the required Grade 4 Science Assessment that is part of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). This test is administered in May to all public school students in grades 4, 8, and 11 in the state. The test includes multiple choice, constructed response (words, pictures, diagrams, and charts) and short answer items. The real strength of the assessment is its “inquiry” component. Students are asked to apply inquire skills to a scientific situation to show their thinking in a variety of ways. The staff’s work this year with science consultant, Jeff Winokur, has helped to keep this important component of the curriculum in the forefront of their work.

Kensington Elementary School (KES) continues to find success in its implementation of the *Open Circle* program in all K-5 classrooms this year. This is designed to build a safer school community and to teach children about ways to communicate in more positive and effective ways. Emphasis is on both one-to-one communication as well as entire class communication. KES teachers have completed their training with this model and are noting successes because the “same language” is being used throughout the school. Many other teachers and classrooms throughout the SAU also use the *Open Circle* process very effectively.

The **Exeter High School** (EHS) students in the Brain and Body class and in Advanced Placement Biology recently spent a day working on a biotechnology lab at Boston University City Lab. The students collected cheek cells then isolated a small section of the DNA from their chromosome 16 through PCR and ran a gel. The students were complimented on their lab skills.

The SOARS (Smile. Opportunity. Attitude. Respect. Success) group at **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) continues to gain participation with the school’s first-ever “Fun Run,” a 5K run/walk as part of the wellness theme for May. The students are meeting with specific classrooms on a daily basis, making posters and signage for public notification, and leading an exercise group twice a week to get ready for the big event. The fifth graders will serve as race guides, hosts for water stations, and help with the post-race festivities.

Cruising the Continents was a major theme recently completed by first graders at **Main Street School** (MSS). This emphasis on geography highlighted the studies of various countries and continents for the children and stressed the differences in culture, language,

and climate. An assembly was held at the school to capture the major themes associated with this important topic.

As it continues to emphasize the importance of the Arts, **Lincoln Street School (LSS)** will be hosting its annual “Integrated Arts Night” on Thursday, May 31, 2012. This event is open to the public and will highlight the music and art programs at LSS. Local artist, Terry Braun, and three LSS alumni who are currently Exeter High School (EHS) students will be displaying their work.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) is actively involved in its “Gardening Project” this spring. The lumber was donated, the raised beds were built, the ground has been prepared, and the beds are in place. Planting is next! The NES Garden will feature early growing vegetables that can be harvested before the end of the school year. The goal is to serve these vegetables as one of the “High Five Friday” choices at lunch. The UNH Cooperative Extension Service has provided some direct assistance to the students and staff at NES to assist with this project.

The **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** has been involved in strengthening its school identity. In so doing, plans are underway to rename the various houses and teams at the school beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Rather than the traditional names, such as Team One or Team Two, the four “Houses” will be known as Air, Water, Earth, and Fire. Within each “House,” names will reflect those appropriate elements. Within Air: Tornado, Hurricane, and Windstorm. Within Water: Tsunami, Tidal Wave, and Riptide. Within Earth: Earthquake, Landslide, and Sandstorm. Within Fire: Inferno, Blaze, and Spark.

The **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** has been asked to serve as a pilot site for automotive technicians seeking to earn or renew their state inspection certification qualifications. The current system has made the process very difficult for dealerships seeking to certify technicians. In a partnership with the New Hampshire Auto Dealers Association (NHADA) and the NH State Police, SST has agreed to fill this need in exchange for letting a few SST students be a part of the class and giving them the opportunity to earn their certification. SST teachers Bob Nienhouse and Fritz Arneneau have been instrumental in this process.

Reflection

Nurturing positive relationships in life is so important. This may often begin in a school setting. The impact that a good teacher, a good counselor, and/or a good coach can have on an individual is so important.

This week I was privileged to attend the Exeter High School Honors Banquet that recognized the Top Ten graduates of the Class of 2012. Each senior was accompanied by his/her parents and was asked to invite someone else who had a major impact on his/her life. Five of the honorees selected an EHS teacher who had been a source of inspiration, help, and guidance. What a compliment! What a reward for a teacher too!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
June 2012

Fifth Graders Moving On

Almost 500 students in SAU 16 celebrated the completion of Fifth Grade and are preparing to move to middle school this fall. The vast majority of these students will be attending the Cooperative Middle School, but a few will be moving out of the area or enrolling in a charter school or a private school. Each of the six elementary schools within SAU 16 honored and celebrated the accomplishments of their fifth graders in their own respective ways. Notice the different sizes of our fifth grades—listed here from smallest to largest:

Newfields Elementary School—30 students
Kensington Elementary School—38 students
East Kingston Elementary School—43 students
Swasey Central School (Brentwood)—82 students
Stratham Memorial School—115 students
Lincoln Street School (Exeter)—174 students
TOTAL—482 students

Student Population Shifts

The total number of students in our SAU 16 schools has a direct impact on the number of teachers that are needed, the number of courses that are offered, and how each of these impact the annual operating budget. Enrollment figures for each grade in the SAU may be found on the front page of the SAU website (www.sau16.org).

What is interesting to note is that the number of incoming sixth graders is almost the same as the exiting eighth graders. Essentially, this translates into very little change in anticipated student population at the Cooperative Middle School. It should begin the new school year with approximately 1,370 students in grades 6-8.

The situation at Exeter High School is quite different. The number of seniors leaving the school this year is approximately 375 students. However, the number of incoming ninth graders is approximately 450 students. This includes the fact that some students will transfer from the Cooperative Middle School to private or charter high schools. This may translate into an increase of between 50 and 75 students in the overall population of Exeter High School. The enrollment at the end of the 2011-2012 school year was 1,662. The 2012-2013 school year could see an enrollment closer to 1,740 students which would be the largest enrollment ever in the history of Exeter High School. When the new school was opened in the fall of 2006, its student capacity was listed at 2,000 students.

Channel 13—the SAU 16 Educational Channel

The SAU 16 Educational Channel is completing its first year of service to the six towns that comprise the SAU. Thanks in large measure to the Town of Exeter and the cooperation of Comcast and the neighboring communities, all Comcast subscribers in the towns of Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Kensington, Newfields, and Stratham are able to view school-related programs on Channel 13. The efforts of Channel 13's primary coordinators, Doug York and Jim Fellows, are greatly appreciated because they have been able to substantially increase program offerings and bulletin board announcements relating to all of the schools within the SAU. Tune in!

EHS State Championships—2011-2012

Four Exeter High School (EHS) teams captured top honors in their respective sports and divisions during this school year. It is no easy feat to achieve such recognition and this is truly a credit to our student-athletes, their coaches, and to the parents of our students who consistently and regularly support these teams. This year statewide recognition goes to:

Football—Coach Bill Ball

Girls Soccer—Coach Megan Curran

Girls Alpine Skiing—Coach Joanne Pare

Girls Spring Track—Coach Jeff Holmes

Champions for Children

Since it was initiated three years ago, the local Champions for Children program has been very successful. Local School Boards consistently receive nominations of dedicated community and staff members who have gone above and beyond regular service to students and have been recognized for their service contributions to the school. To date, approximately 75 individuals and organizations have been honored in this way.

Since last noted in this report, the following individuals have been selected and their names have been inscribed on the large Champions for Children plaque that circulates among the schools in the SAU:

September 2011—Stratham—Jan Streelman and Phyllis Danko, Children's Librarians at Wiggin Memorial Library, have an enormous amount of energy, reading to the students at Stratham Memorial School (SMS) in ways that promote a variety of reading strategies to enhance their fluency, vocabulary, and genre selection. They have a knack of motivating students through their programs, communications, and personal skills. They have an infectious zeal for children and the literature associated with elementary school students.

December 2011—Exeter Region Cooperative—Barbara Clark works in the Technical Development Program at Liberty Mutual. She has been an active advocate for the Computer Programming program at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) and has

served on its Advisory Committee since it was established in 2003. She works one-on-one with students, giving them the perspective of what the business world is like. Barbara has been involved in arranging internships, job shadowing, and field trip opportunities for SST students at Liberty Mutual.

March 2012—Exeter Region Cooperative—Bob Bailey retired from teaching Market Education at SST from 1978-2008, but has continued to serve students there in a variety of diverse ways. He has chaperoned the DECA State Conferences four times without compensation. Last summer he chaperoned the nine-day submarine trip to Maryland. He assists with SST Career Fair Days; Sneak Peeks when Exeter students visit SST; and Technology Fun Nights. Even in retirement, Bob continues to serve the educational community in outstanding ways.

March 2012—Kensington—American Legion Post #105 and Mary Knightly—Every Veterans Day and Memorial Day, respected teacher Mary Knightly organizes a wonderful assembly for the entire school and invites the American Legion Post #105 to play a key role in the event. During the assembly Mrs. Knightly acknowledges the many sacrifices of our veterans. She also underscores the importance of civic and patriotic pride among students and community members. For the past two years, the American Legion Post #105 has donated money to the school to help with programs for the Kensington Elementary School children.

March 2012—Kensington—Mary Jane Solomon is an active volunteer at Kensington Elementary School who organized the After School Enrichment classes; started “Magical Mailbox;” plays a key role in the “Heart of Art Club; and regularly volunteers to help the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Her tireless efforts continue to have a major impact on the entire school community.

May 2012—SAU 16—Exeter High School (EHS) School Resource Officer Dan D’Amato and Cooperative Middle School (CMS) Liasion Officer Michael Oliveira are valuable contributors to the entire SAU by the way that they serve the middle school and high schools students. Officer D’Amato is a member of the Exeter Police Department and has served EHS for the past six years. He has been directly involved with students, families, and staff members, especially in dealing with key issues that have the potential to be of a criminal nature. Officer Oliveira is a member of the Stratham Police Department and plays a key role in students’ lives at CMS. He is a valuable role model for them and helps them to realize that youngsters do not have to be intimidated by someone in a police uniform. He works hard to develop trust and respect with and among the students. Both of these gentlemen are “unsung heroes” in our midst and serve their respective communities extremely well.

May 2012—Stratham—Connie Adams and Linda Johansson play a significant role in the Stratham Memorial School (SMS) Arts Booster Club. For the past 10 years these outstanding women have spirited the annual two-day Variety Show to promote the abilities of many children from kindergarten through grade five to perform on the SMS stage. This year over 125 students graced the stage to dance, play an instrument, juggle,

sing, create magic, tell a story, recite a poem, play act, tumble with gymnastics routines, or move to a martial arts series. These ladies are inspirational to the entire SMS community.

EHS Alumni Panel

An outstanding panel of recent Exeter High School (EHS) graduates participated in a panel discussion this month that highlighted EHS's academic preparation for college and university studies as well as "things to know" about going to college today. Inspired and organized by Lily Zwann '10 (Kenyon College), the group included students who are now attending public and private post-secondary institutions. The general theme among the students is that they were well prepared for college by the EHS faculty. They also offered some suggestions for consideration. These included making "college prep" classes more challenging; having students complete course evaluations to share with teachers and administrators; complete writing assignments in less time; offer more classes in world geography and personal finance; include more science-related writing; and encourage students to not limit themselves.

The panel was recorded and will be broadcasted on the SAU Educational Channel 13 and will be used with younger students as a learning tool. In addition to Lily Zwann, the panel included:

Erin Benotti—EHS Class of 2010; now attending Middlebury College
Tim Doucette—EHS Class of 2011, now attending the University of New Hampshire
Zoe Montis—EHS Class of 2010, now attending the University of New Hampshire
Jacob Randlett—EHS Class of 2010, now attending the University of New Hampshire
Dylan Ryan—EHS Class of 2010, now attending Duke University
Willem Sherwood—EHS Class of 2010, now attending the University of New Hampshire
Caroline Young—EHS Class of 2010, now attending Providence College

Exeter High School Principals—50 Years of History

With the retirement this year of Exeter High School principal Vic Sokul, history will record that since 1963, Exeter High School has had only eight principals during the last 50 years. Walking down "Memory Lane," these include:

Burton G. MacArthur (1963-1972)
Richard C. Bergeron (1972-1976)
Dr. William Allard (1976-1978)
Walter A. Borkowski (1978-1994)
William C. Clancy (1994-1996); Mr. Clancy also served as SAU 16 Superintendent at this time
Susan Ratnoff (1996-1999)
Gary Heald (1999-2005)
Victor P. Sokul (2005-2012)

Mr. Sean Kiley will begin his service as the new Principal of Exeter High School beginning on July 1, 2012.

Did You Know?

Hillary Holmes, a 2012 graduate of Exeter High School, recently set an all-time record in the New Hampshire Heptathlon Championship by scoring 4,582 points. This overshadowed the previous high scorer from Oyster River High School who set that record in 1988 with 4,555 points. Hillary will attend Cornell University in the fall.

Jeanne Pierce, the Food Service Director for Exeter and the Exeter Region Cooperative School Districts, has successfully earned the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credential from the School Nutrition Association (SNA).

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) will continue its nine-year tradition of hosting a Summer Learning Institute for Teachers in June. The focus of the Institute varies year-to-year based on the school's professional development goals. This year the following topics will be explored: Inquiry in Earth Science; An Overview of the Literacy Common Core; Reading Running Records in Depth; A Typical Day in a Connected Classroom; CPR and First Aid.

Kensington Elementary School (KES) will begin to offer a full-day kindergarten program with an option of extended day kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year. There was an overwhelming majority of parents surveyed who supported the full-day offering. The Kensington School Board approved this addition at its June meeting. KES is the first school in SAU 16 to offer full-day kindergarten to its entire eligible group.

Lincoln Street School (LSS) hosted a very successful DARE Graduation for its fifth graders at the end of May. Exeter Police Officer Ryan Veno worked extremely well with these students and is commended for his excellent cooperation with the LSS students, staff, and administration.

Culinary Arts students at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** have the opportunity to earn national certification in ServSafe principles after two years of study. ServSafe is a national food safety program created by the Education Foundation of the National Restaurant Association. This national certification enables students to access better paying and more secure jobs in the food service industry.

Fourth grade students at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** "traveled" the Oregon Trail at the end of this school year. There were many activities simulating the trip that the early pioneers would have taken. They learned how to rope a steer; cut boards from a log; make corn husk dolls; make biscuits and cook them on an open fire; and to pack a Conestoga wagon for a long trip. The "trip" ended with parents joining their children for some singing and dancing.

The kindergarten class from **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) participated in the Exeter High School graduation for the Class of 2012. Wearing their “Exeter 2024” tee shirts, they cautiously walked into a gymnasium packed with almost 2,000 people and went onto the risers where they led the audience in a perfect presentation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Many people commented about the fact that the current high school seniors started school in 2000 and already Exeter High School is preparing for the Class of 2024!

At the end of the school year, **Main Street School** (MSS) students and staff participated in a number of enrichment programs and field trips. As part of their study of the ocean, the second graders went to Odiorne State Park in Rye to enhance their science unit on oceans and the seashore. First graders visited Hammond Castle in Gloucester, MA and Wolf Hollow in Ipswich, MA as part of their study of fairy tales and endangered species. The kindergarten classes traveled to Wild Animal Kingdom in York, ME where they participated in a scavenger hunt while at the zoo. They located most of the “zoo phonics” animals that they studied this year. Experiences such as these for elementary children truly enhance their learning.

Students in some of the French and Spanish classes at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) worked on fairy tale plays in their target language at the end of the year. Under the direction of Ms. Royce and Mrs. Zadravec, students practiced and memorized their lines with correct pronunciation and then acted out and recorded their version of the play. Once students had their video footage, they used iMovie to edit their work and added subtitles. This excellent project included the use of various media and challenged students to use their target language as much as possible.

Classroom blogs are becoming more and more popular among elementary school students and teachers. During this past year, several classes at **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) used blogs as a way of increasing student writing and communication. Visit the “kidblog” section of these SMS teachers on the school’s website to see some of the wonderful results of this initiative: Ms. Valenti, Mr. Gagnon, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Tierney, and Mrs. Page. (<http://sms.sau16.org/index.php/academics/class-pages/180-classroom-blogs>)

Reflection

The summer is a wonderful time for relaxation and reflection. It is an ideal time for traveling to different places and learning something new. My wife and I are going to—of all places—North Dakota. This will complete my goal of visiting all fifty states! (By the way, the state capitol building in Bismark is 18 stories high!) Not to limit ourselves, however, we will also visit South Dakota’s capital in Pierre, the Badlands, the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, and Crazy Horse. I hope that you learn something new this summer too.