

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**  
**MAY 2015**

**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:

Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm - Newfields Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm - East Kingston Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm - Swasey Central - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm - Kensington Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm - Stratham Memorial - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 am - Main Street School - End-of-Year Assembly

Lincoln Street School held its DARE Graduation on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**High School Celebrations**

Commencement Exercises for **Great Bay eLearning Charter School** will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Tuck Learning Campus on Linden Street in Exeter. Festivities will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Graduation activities for the **Exeter Adult Education Program** will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School.

The Certificate Ceremony for the **Seacoast School of Technology** seniors will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School.

Commencement Exercises for the **Exeter High School** Class of 2015 will be held on Friday, June 12, 2015 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.

**Champions for Children**

Community members and school staffs continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of local individuals by nominating them for the SAU 16 Champions 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.

Just before the December holidays, the Exeter School Board selected **Ms. Debbie Perou** for this award. For the past twenty (20) years, Ms. Perou has been the impetus behind the annual “Holiday Card” project at Lincoln Street School (LSS). In her leadership role with the Rockingham County Nutrition Program, she knows and understands the value of having children make connections with the senior citizens she serves. LSS fifth grade students create holiday cards which are distributed throughout the county through the “Meals on Wheels” program. This provides a wonderful learning experience for the students and allows them to understand the importance of their role in actively supporting the senior citizens in the community.

Each December, Ms. Perou visits LSS to receive the cards. She is often accompanied by an elderly community member who shares various childhood experiences that relate to the children. Ms. Perou also shares an inspiring Native American folktale about the importance of “giving” and provides a “Certificate of Appreciation” to each child and classroom for being a part of this special “Holiday Card” project. Debbie’s commitment to helping students and the community make her a most worthy recipient of the Champions for Children Award.

This spring the Stratham School Board selected **Ms. Karen Morrissey and Ms. Billie Jo Kangethe** for this Award because of their outstanding work in the Stratham Memorial School (SMS) preschool program. Their faces are the first ones that the children see in a school environment and these dedicated ladies consistently demonstrate care, patience, and commitment to each child.

In addition to their sensitivity to children, Karen and Billie Jo began the “Jeans for Charity” project. Each Friday, each staff member is asked to donate \$1.00 to wear jeans and each month the money collected is donated to a different charity. Some of those organizations which have benefitted from this important project are: Wounded Warriors; Annie’s Angels; Richie McFarland Children Center; American Juvenile Diabetes Association; Toys for Tots; and Seacoast Family Promise. The SMS community gratefully acknowledges and recognizes these amazing women as Champions for Children.

Recently the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board acknowledged the extensive community service of one of its dedicated social studies teachers who is retiring at the end of this school year. **Mr. Bob Schur** has been the inspiration behind the “Kids Who Care” program at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS). Working in close conjunction with Ms. Donna Buxton (herself a previous Champion for Children) of Buxton Oil Company, Mr. Schur has rallied students and colleagues to raise money to provide “the gift of warmth” to local families in need. Since 2005, through activities such as art sales, bakes sales, and selling hot chocolate at the annual Holiday Parade, “Kids Who Care” has raised almost \$40,000 to help families in a careful and discreet way. Bob Schur’s humility and quiet, passionate leadership have made him a consistent role model for his colleagues and his students. Even though he shuns bringing attention to himself, the CMS community clearly recognizes him as a true Champion for Children.

Through her significant involvement in the Exeter Area General Federation of Women’s Clubs, **Ms. Sharon Farrington** was also recognized for the Champions for Children

Award by the Exeter Region Cooperative School District because of her direct work with the Digital Arts Media and FBLA chapter at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST). To demonstrate her commitment to students and to SST, Ms. Farrington worked with students to discuss and execute the production of a promotional rack card for her organization. Although a commercial designer could have been selected for this project, Ms. Farrington chose to work with SST students to help with the process, planning, and creation of this rack card. Her patience, understanding, and willingness to help students share in this hands-on business experience are commended and appreciated. This year, Ms. Farrington was also selected as the NH FBLA Business Person of the Year.

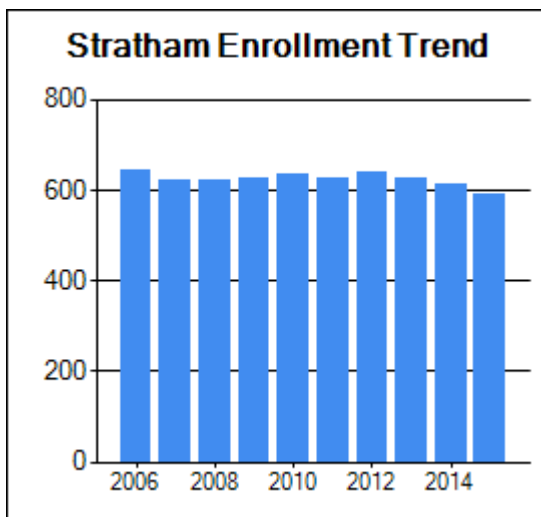
### **Board Chairs Selected**

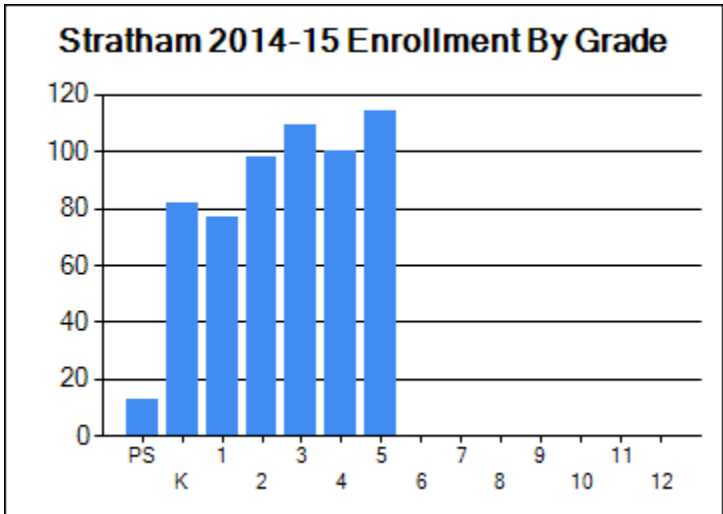
Each year after the March election, each School Board chooses a chairperson to assist in conducting its regular business. Chairpersons selected for the 2015-2016 term include:

- SAU Joint Board—Travis Thompson (Stratham)
- Brentwood—Melissa Litchfield
- East Kingston—Korrine Bork
- Exeter—Patrick O’Day
- Exeter Region Cooperative—Helen Joyce
- Kensington—Dennis Roffman
- Newfields—James McIlroy
- Stratham—Travis Thompson

### **Spotlight: Stratham School District**

Given the fact that SAU 16 has an excellent reputation for its local schools, each month a different school district will be highlighted here as a way of sharing more specific information with the wider SAU and community audience.





**Student Achievement Trends**

Number and Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Above  
 N is the number of students enrolled during testing minus the number of state-approved nonparticipants

Grade	Content Area	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<u>3</u>	Reading	105	93	91	87	117	86	105	90	98	90
	Mathematics	105	92	91	84	117	87	105	87	98	81
<u>4</u>	Reading	106	76	111	88	96	85	124	90	111	86
	Mathematics	106	80	111	72	97	82	124	87	111	89
<u>5</u>	Reading	115	91	108	88	109	83	98	83	120	93
	Mathematics	115	90	108	81	109	88	98	88	120	83
	Writing	0		108	57	109	61	98	70	120	70

Educational Attainment of Teachers in NH in 2014-2015:

- Bachelor's Degree: 40.9%
- Master's Degree: 57.7%
- Beyond Master's Degree: 1.1%

Educational Attainment of Stratham Teachers in 2014-2015:

- Bachelor's Degree: 12.2%
- Master's Degree: 87.8%

Average NH Teacher Salary in 2014-2015: \$55,986

Average Stratham Teacher Salary in 2014-2015: \$75,775

Average NH Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2014-2015: 12.0 to 1  
Average Stratham Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2014-2015: 11.9 to 1

SAU 16 Square Miles: 81.66  
Stratham Square Miles: 15.47

Stratham Population:

7,280 (2013 estimate from the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning)  
6,355 (2000 census)  
7,255 (2010 census)

Registered Voters: 5,813 (March 2015)

2014 Total Equalization Valuation of Property: \$1,192,262,110

2014 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$19.91

### **Special Honors for Exeter High School**

The Senior Honors Banquet for the **Top Ten Students** celebrated the accomplishments and successes of these highest ranking members of the Class of 2015: Hailey Bean (Boston University); Emma Henricks (Connecticut College); Eren Kalfaoglu (Salutatorian; Leigh University); Rachel Leonard (Valedictorian; Colby College); Emma Lightizer (University of Vermont); Jennifer Mancini (University of Michigan); Cameron Morris (University of Connecticut); Shannon Murdock (University of New Hampshire); Christopher Puda (University of New Hampshire); Michael Thurston (Colby College). Congratulations to each of these students and to their families in working so hard to attain this outstanding honor and recognition!

In April many of the EHS Spanish students took the **National Spanish Exam** which is coordinated by dedicated teacher, **Ms. Michelle Marnicio**. This is a competitive exam which measures achievement and proficiency in this important world language. When the scores were announced, EHS students had won five (5) Gold Medals, seven (7) Silver Medals, and three (3) Bronze Medals. Of particular note is that senior Andrew Allard won his second Gold Medal and this year achieved the highest score in the state. Junior Helene Kenney walked away with her third Gold Medal in as many years! Congratulations to all who represented EHS and the Spanish program so well!

Sixteen (16) EHS Latin students, under the tutelage of outstanding teacher **Ms. Emily Ellis** were recognized for their achievement on the **National Latin Exam**. In particular, it must be noted that freshmen Matt McCutcheon and Weston Su received perfect scores on their respective exams. Congratulations to all who represented EHS and the Latin program so well!

### **End 68 Hours of Hunger Founder Honored**

**Ms. Claire Bloom**, the inspiration behind and the founder of the *End 68 Hours of Hunger* program, was honored recently by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA) with the **2015 statewide Champions for Children Award**. Ms. Bloom was recognized because of the tremendous impact that this program has had on

children in our area, including all six towns within SAU 16. Claire began this program in 2011 with the desire to help some school children who had to confront the 68 hours of hunger between the free school lunch that they received on Friday and the free breakfast that they received on Monday morning. This idea was first implemented with 19 backpacks of food given to children in Dover. Today the program finds itself in 47 communities across six states and feeds over 1,000 children each weekend during the school year. Thanks to the leadership and dedication of our SAU 16 coordinators, **Kim Army** from Newfields and **Sue Abizaid** from Stratham, an active corps of local volunteers provide over 100 of those backpacks of food to food-insecure K-12 students each week.

### **School Librarian of the Year**

Distinguished Lincoln Street School (LSS) Library and Media Specialist **Helen Burnham** was recently selected as the *2015 School Librarian of the Year* by the New Hampshire School Library Media Association. This prestigious award recognizes ongoing excellence in school librarianship and leadership in the statewide school library community through her work in local, regional, and state initiatives. Mrs. Burnham consistently brings inspiration and passion for her work to the LSS students and is a constant source of knowledge and service to her colleagues. She has also achieved statewide recognition and appreciation for her service as President of the state association from 2011-2013. She now serves as the Association's Treasurer. Congratulations, Mrs. Burnham and Thank You for all that you do for LSS and SAU 16!

### **Outstanding Achievement Award**

Enthusiastic Kensington Elementary School (KES) Physical Education teacher, Ms. **Lili Spinosa** was selected this year as a recipient of the *Outstanding Achievement Award* from the New Hampshire Governor's Council on Physical Activity and Health. Nominated by her colleague, Ms. Julie Hall, Ms. Spinosa was presented with the Award in the Executive Council Chambers at the New Hampshire State House on May 29, 2015. Two excerpts from her nomination:

*"She helps kids realize their potential from kindergarten through fifth grade, pushes them beyond limitations they didn't know they had put on themselves."*

*"Her classes are never just about physical education, instruction, sports, healthy lifestyles and nutrition, - although there is a hefty dose of each of those - but also about the importance of teamwork, good sportsmanship, team building and respect. She doesn't miss an opportunity to drive home the importance of treating each member of our KES with dignity and respect."*

The students and staff at KES and within SAU 16 are fortunate to have such a dedicated and genuine teacher among us! Congratulations and Thank You, Ms. Spinosa!

### **Summer Programs Available**

The **2015 Exeter High School (EHS) Summer Institute** will offer once again credit-bearing courses for students entering grades 9-12. Most courses run for a two-week

period of time at a nominal fee of \$250 plus any approved lab/travel fees. Available courses include: Poetry and Painting; Philosophy in the Digital Age; Let Your Freak Flag Fly; and French Immersion. Detailed course descriptions, schedules, and application information may be found at the EHS website: [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)

For the first time this summer, the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) will offer the **CMS Summer Enrichment Program** for students entering grades 6-8. Courses will run for a one-week period of time at a nominal fee of \$150 plus any approved lab/travel fees. Available courses include: Ukulele Jam Camp; Adventures in Japanese; Speak Spanish All Day Long; French Enrichment; and Public Speaking. Details course descriptions, schedules, and application information may be found at the CMS website: [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)

**Film Camp** will also be offered this summer at EHS. This wonderful opportunity is available for any student entering grades 6-12. Under the direction of Talent Manager and Film Producer Bethany Constance (a Brentwood resident and parent) and SAU 16 Director and Coordination of Educational Channel 13 Doug York, Film Camp involves students in writing, directing, acting, and shooting a film together. The Camp runs from July 6-10, 2015. For more information and to register, contact Bethany Constance at [a713production@comcast.net](mailto:a713production@comcast.net)

### **Did You Know?**

**Mr. Dan Provost**, an English teacher at Exeter High School (EHS) and Advisor to the Student Senate recently received the 2015 *Warren E. Shull Advisor of the Year Award* for his outstanding work with the EHS Student Senate.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) teacher **Ms. Sarah Rosenbleeth** has been selected as a finalist in the competition for the prestigious *2016 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Award*.

**Mr. Josh Felch**, outstanding math teacher at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS), was recognized recently at Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA) with the *Honoring Early Educator Award*. Mr. Felch was one of five early educators selected from teachers around the world to receive this honor. He was nominated by his former student, Peter Chinburg, as part of the PEA program that encourages students to show appreciation for a teacher who helped him or her to be successful.

The Seacoast Area Special Olympics track meet was held on May 17, 2015 at Exeter High School. Well respected coach **Mr. Jim Tufts** coordinates the event that included 47 athletes competing on the Exeter Area team. Of these students, 26 were students at CMS, EHS, or alumni from EHS. Approximately 140 students, including two from CMS and 138 from EHS, served as peer coaches to help the athletes train and compete. The Exeter Area team will also compete at the NH Summer Games at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) on June 6-7, 2015.

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

Just before spring break the children at **Main Street School (MSS)** had a special assembly from *Johnny the K*. He provided songs and humor to the children in kindergarten through grade 2 as he reinforced important messages about friendship. One acronym that he shared was THINK: Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? The MSS faculty, staff, and administration are committed to helping students learn and practice lessons about the value of developing and nurturing good friendships with each other every day.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Exeter PTO *Get Fit in May 5K Race, Fitness Walk, and Children's Fun Run* was held behind **Lincoln Street School (LSS)** on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Through LSS's *Get Fit in May* program, students were encouraged to run or walk a ¼- mile route set out on the playground each day and log the number of miles that they completed. Students were highly motivated to run or walk during recess periods; participation and involvement were excellent! One week prior to the actual 5K race, LSS and MSS held a joint Pep Rally on the field behind LSS. The enthusiasm within LSS and MSS was contagious and set the stage for wonderful student, staff, parent, and community participation on the day of the race! On the day of the event, 804 runners participated and raised almost \$17,000. Special thanks goes to race directors Helen Marie Collins and Nadine Deacy who worked closely with Dawn Bullens, co-president of the PTO, to make this such a successful and fun event.

On May 22, 2015, **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** hosted its annual Memorial Day Celebration. In addition to KES students, families and staff, the greater Kensington community including its veterans, police officers, firefighters, and town officials joined together for a very special assembly outside around the school's flagpole. Students recited the Pledge of Allegiance, sang patriotic songs that honored the 70th Anniversary of the ending of WWII, and unveiled the new flag spotlight which was recently installed, thanks to a generous donation from Kensington American Legion Post # 105. Principal Becky Ruel spoke about the importance of Memorial Day and led the school community in this important ceremony.

Family and Consumer Science (FCS) education is offered to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)**. This program is designed to empower individuals and families to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse global society. The unique focus is on the family, the work community, and the relationship between the two. Proper job etiquette and safety skills are explained in class and practiced in the FCS lab. During this unified art time, the students are exposed to: a) career exploration; b) clothing and fabric exploration; c) human growth and development in children; d) independent living skills and personal financial literacy; and e) foods and nutrition.

In early April, the Swasey Swinging Stars from **Swasey Central School (SCS)** hosted their "biggest and best show ev-ar" at Exeter High School. The exciting show included many new and challenging routines that were created by the SCS students under the direction of renowned physical education teacher Ms. Sheila Lane. Imagine Irish Step Dancing while jumping rope or tap dancing! Think about a brand new routine on roller blades! Approximately 150 students are members of the K-5 club with 27 fifth graders



showing the most representative membership in the club. All of this demonstrates the strong commitment by the SCS teachers and staff to “keep the kids moving!”

The most recent issue of *The Beacon*, published quarterly by the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** highlights the incredible number of community service initiatives and projects embraced by the students, faculty, staff, and administration. Consider some of this school year’s accomplishments: Biotechnology students are partnering with the Marine Biological Laboratory on a nationwide investigative microbial project; Health Sciences Technologies students visited Riverwoods Continuing Care Community and participated in recreational activities with the residents; for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Animal and Plant Science students are taking care of the Adopt-A-Spot in front of the Exeter Town Offices; and last year the Building Construction Technologies students built the beautiful Goat Barn at the Farm at Eastman’s Corner in Kensington; this year the Welding Technologies students fabricated a star, five feet tall, to complement the project. Visit [www.SeacoastTech.com](http://www.SeacoastTech.com) for more wonderful SST accomplishments.

Two recent exciting events at **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** captured the attention of the entire school and community: Grandfriends Day and the Memorial Day Celebration. On May 15, 2015, NES exploded with smiles as many of the children had a special “grandfriend” spend 90 minutes at the school, sharing stories, learning more about school experiences, and sharing wonderful food. On May 22, 2015, 14 local veterans graced the school with their presence and with the characteristic symbols of heroism, freedom, and patriotism. The message was clear: Our veterans must be recognized and appreciated for all that they have done for their communities and the nation.

Grade level Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** have been working on the improvement of “writing” as their common goal during this school year. All teams have created and used rubrics and look forward to refining that work as implementation continues next year. Grade levels teams have had rich, in-depth conversations around writing instruction and have spent time reviewing samples of student work. Classroom teachers note that student writing has improved in a number of ways this year as the professional staff has focused on “writing” as a school goal. Some teams have even looked closely at student data to create strategy groups. This entire process is designed to help students learn in a more engaging way as teachers collaborate to find the best techniques to meet the needs of each student.

**East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** was fortunate to have another children’s author visit the school recently. Mr. Harry Bliss is the author of *Bailey, Bailey at the Museum*, *Luke on the Loose*, and the illustrator of *Diary of A Spider*, *Worm*, and *Fly* as well as *Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth*, *A Fine, Fine School*, and many others. He visited with students and shared his knowledge and experiences on writing and illustrating and responded to questions from the children during this exciting day.

## **Reflection**

Never forget the teacher who had the most significant impact in your life! Consider reaching out to him or her and sending a note of appreciation as the school year quickly comes to a close.