

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
MAY 2016

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 15th @ 6:30 pm - Newfields Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition
Thursday, June 16th @ 6:00 pm - East Kingston Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition
Thursday, June 16th @ 6:00 pm - Swasey Central - Fifth Grade Recognition
Thursday, June 16th @ 6:30 pm - Kensington Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition
Thursday, June 16th @ 6:30 pm - Stratham Memorial - Fifth Grade Recognition
Friday, June 17th @ 8:45 am - Main Street School - End-of-Year Assembly
Friday, June 17th @ 7:45 am - Cooperative Middle School - 8th Grade Field Day

Lincoln Street School holds its DARE Graduation on Thursday, May 26th at 9:00 am.

High School Celebrations

Commencement Exercises for **Great Bay eLearning Charter School** will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 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 8, 2016 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 2, 2016 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 2016 will be held on Friday, June 17, 2016 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.

Special Honors for Exeter High School

The Senior Honors Banquet at Exeter High School recently celebrated the accomplishments and successes of the highest ranking members of the Class of 2016: Victoria Badala (Clemson University); Shelby Bernard (Rhode Island School of Design); Tyler Boudreau (Hamilton College); Justin Carbone (Valedictorian; University of Massachusetts, Lowell); Robert Fitzgerald (Hamilton College); Riley Galloway (Georgia

Tech); Helene Kenney (Northeastern University); Gabrielle Kliegle (University of California—Santa Barbara); Katherine Lietz (Boston College); Brendon Mello (Salutatorian; University of New Hampshire); Sean Sullivan (Harvard University); Stephanie Varga (University of South Carolina); Daniel Weinhold (Colorado School of Mines). Congratulations to each of these students and to their families in working so hard to attain this outstanding honor and recognition!

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 seniors Gabrielle Kleigle (Latin IV Poetry magna cum laude) and Tyler Boudreau (Latin IV gold summa cum laude) received outstanding scores on their respective exams and have studied Latin for all four years of high school. Congratulations to all who represented EHS and the Latin program so well!

Summer Programs Available

The **2016 Exeter High School (EHS) Summer Institute** will once again offer 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: Philosophy in the Digital Age; Poetry and Painting; Discovering the Power of One; Our National Pastime(s)—Sports in America; and Tragedy to Triumph: Using the Poetry, Music, and Art of Terezine to Honor the Human Spirit. Additionally, a non-credit-bearing enrichment course, College Selection and Application Boot Camp will be available. Detailed course descriptions, schedules, and application information may be found at the SAU website: www.sau16.org

For only the second 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: Adventures in Japanese; French Enrichment; and Chillin' with the Villains. Detailed course descriptions, schedules, and application information may be found at the SAU website: www.sau16.org

Film Camp will also be offered again 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 June 27-July 1, 2016. More information may be found on the SAU 16 website or contact Bethany Constance at a713production@comcast.net

Ms. Kim Felch, outstanding guidance counselor at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS), was recognized recently at Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA) with the *Honoring Early Educator Award*. Ms. Felch was one of five early educators selected from teachers around the world to receive this honor. She was nominated by her former students, Anna Diez and Ingrid Bergil, as part of the PEA program that encourages students to show appreciation for an educator who helped him or her to be successful.

Around 400 people attended the recent Seacoast Area Special Olympics track meet that was held on May 15, 2016 at Exeter High School. Approximately 75 volunteers, including students from Exeter High School, Phillips Exeter Academy, and community volunteers helped to run specific events. Well respected coach **Mr. Jim Tufts** coordinated the entire activity that included 220 athletes including 54 athletes competing on the Exeter Area team. Of these students, 30 were students from CMS, EHS, or alumni from EHS. Approximately 140 students, counting four from CMS and 135 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 3-4, 2016.

Did You Know?

Over the past 40 years, Exeter High School has had eight different principals:

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)

Sean F. Kiley (2012-2014)

James Tremblay (2014-Present)

From the Exeter School Board Policies of 1969: *“As long as space permits, a maximum of 20 students each from Epping and Fremont may be admitted to Exeter High School in Grades 9, 10, and 11. September 1 is the deadline for application.”*

The Exeter High School (EHS) National Honor Society hosted a very successful Red Cross Blood Drive in early April. With a goal of collecting 40 units of blood for the event, the group surpassed that goal and collected 51 units of blood—with 37 of those coming from first-time donors. This is community service at its best!

Fifty-three (53) students have already registered for Swasey Central School (SCS)’s full-day kindergarten program which is being offered for the first time beginning in August 2016. Only 36 students were enrolled in the half-day kindergarten program in August 2015.

Stratham Memorial School (SMS) students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser just before spring break. It was the 13th consecutive year that SMS students joined this effort which is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Physical Education teachers, Laura Batchelder and Tiffany Locke, coordinated the event which raised over \$4,700 in one day!

The Seacoast School of Technology (SST) currently offers 32 dual enrollment courses that allow students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously.

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

Three **Exeter High School** (EHS) students under the direction of Social Studies teacher, Melissa Small, recently participated in National History Day. This wonderful opportunity for students challenged their organizational, planning and research skills; teamwork; and creative thinking. The students learned more about the value of communication and respect for others while also improving their presentation and public speaking abilities. Additionally, this experience enhanced their love of history and bolstered their self-confidence while testing their competitive spirit and expanding their understanding of the world through the relevance of historical events. It was truly a cross-curriculum experience!

Two teams of seventh graders at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) participated in Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 4, 2016. They had studied many important facts about the Holocaust in language arts and social studies classes with special emphasis on the approximately 11 million men, women, and children who were murdered by Nazi Germany from 1939 to 1945. Of those 11 million people, 1.5 million were children and 6 million were Jews. The culminating event of this unit of study was participating in a four-hour walk to remember the lives of those who suffered and died during those six excruciating years. Each step that the students took during the walk was tracked and ultimately the students amassed a total of 5,669,622 steps.

“Research Fun” is the focus of library learning at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) in May. First graders are exploring the school’s *PebbleGo* animal database which is designed specifically for young researchers. Second graders will choose a topic in which they want to become “experts” and learn how to pursue studies in that topic. They will use an app called *Chatterpix Kids* to make an animated audio recording of what they learned. Third, fourth, and fifth graders will research various facts about the 2016 Summer Olympics which begin in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. Third graders will choose a country that participates in the Olympics and learn about that country. Fourth graders will focus on the sports aspect of the Olympics. Fifth graders will focus their work on particular athletes and use a variety of websites that will help them to explore an assortment of information. The goal is to get the students to become more interested and excited about the Summer Games.

Stratham Memorial School (SMS) recently held its second *EdCamp* staff meeting of the school year. During this meeting, staff members volunteer to share a ten-minute topic of their choice with their colleagues. It is a great way to learn from each other and to introduce some new concepts to one another. Recent sessions included: *Plickers*, real time formative assessment data without the need for student devices; *Gynzy*, a chrome browser based app with interactive content for any board/projection situation; *Words Their Way*, sharing strategies to teach students so that they transfer what they know about how words work into their reading and writing; *Classflow*, how to send Promethean content to student devices; and *Mystery Science Website*, lessons aligned to the NextGen Science standards where students try to solve a mystery by watching videos and completing activities.

Visits from two special guests are highlighting reading at **Main Street School** (MSS). Through the cooperation of Water Street Bookstore, kindergarten students and teachers

recently welcomed illustrator Dylan Metrano who created the illustrations for *Every Day Birds*. This book helps children to identify and learn about common birds so that the children may distinguish among them more easily. Author and illustrator Maryann Cocca-Leffler will make a presentation to all MSS students before the end of the month about her most recent book, *Janine*, which tells the story of her own daughter and her “abilities.” She will inspire the children to think about and tell their own stories.

With the collaboration of the New Hampshire Theatre Project, Main Street Art, Paul Memorial Library, Sarah Rosenbleeth, Matt Bennett and Crystal Buswell, the **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) community is pleased to implement a fourth grade artist-in-residence program from May 16 until June 10, 2016. Catherine Stewart from the New Hampshire Theatre Project and Heather Park Hanlon from Main Street Art will be the guest artists. Their program will incorporate visual art, theatre, history and writing to produce two student performances and one student art display that will be exhibited at Main Street Art. One public performance will be held at NES during its regular Community Meeting at 8:45 on Friday, June 10, 2016. This will be followed by a weekend public performance outside the Paul Memorial Library, date and time to be determined. This interactive performance will bring to life the history of Newfields, in particular the lives of Isabel and Harriet Paul. Fourth grade students will use historical research and artifacts to gather information about Newfields residents Isabel and Harriet Paul while exploring the idea of community, family, and equality in the past, as well as today.

At **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) fourth grade teacher Ms. Hallie Estle’s class presented a project to her class that began in conjunction with Tyler Armstrong, the 11-year-old mountaineering phenomenon who is attempting to be the youngest climber to summit Mt. Everest. After reading about Tyler in *Scholastic News*, the class made contact with him on Twitter and have connected with him on Skype. They have also decided to help his cause, *Climb to Cure Duchenne*. It is a campaign encouraging climbers of all ages to help cure Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a devastating and lethal muscle disease in children, impacting more than 300,000 children worldwide. Most children with Duchenne will not survive beyond their mid-20s and will likely need a wheelchair by age 12. Currently there is no cure for Duchenne but researchers are on the verge of FDA approval for a drug that can cure the disease.

Tyler is challenging anyone to “Pick Your Peak,” conquer it, and raise money to help make the cure for Duchenne a reality. Other LSS fourth grade teachers - Mr. Keith Schmitt, Ms. Katrina Pupino, and Ms. Jennifer Roeder - are joining their classes with Ms. Estle’s class to hike Mt. Major at the end of May to help support this most worthwhile cause.

A few weeks ago, **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) hosted its annual Grandparent and Senior PTO Luncheon. Over 120 guests attended and were treated to a tour of the school and a complimentary turkey dinner. The visitors enjoyed entertainment from several classes of students and each received a potted plant as a gift from the school. Ms. Kristyn LaFleur coordinated the event and she was assisted by many PTO volunteers who helped with setting up and service to the guests. Mr. Brad Rice and Ms. Kim Gallant prepared a wonderful meal and fifth grade students led the tours and assisted with meal service. It was a wonderful day and strengthened community spirit!

Graduating seniors from the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) are preparing to transition to an amazing variety of institutions of higher education. Just note the following: Boston College; Fairfield University; Hofstra University; Norwich University; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Syracuse University; Temple University; Tufts University; University of Colorado; University of Hawaii; and Villanova University. This simply underscores the wide range of talents that these students have and will continue to use as they pursue their respective educational goals.

Kensington Elementary School (KES) is pleased to announce that its students are working on another project in collaboration with The Farm at Eastman's Corner. Eric Cimon, Director of Marketing and Events, contacted the school and proposed the idea of students creating a mural for the side of the Animal Barn at The Farm. Ms. Annie Beauchemin and Ms. Kelsey Plourde quickly accepted the challenge and the students got right to work! The result is a beautifully detailed landscape mural of Kensington. The mural highlights various scenes found between KES and The Farm Stand. It features the Fire Station, Library, Sawyer Park, ponds, fields and even Mrs. Greenwood's house! The mural, which is over eight feet in length, was sent off to Infinite Imaging in Exeter where it is being transferred onto a weather resistant vinyl. The "official" unveiling of the mural will happen at the annual Block Party on Saturday, June 4, 2016. The public is invited to join the festivities!

Reflection

The population of central Venice, Italy is approximately 60,000 people. That is about four times the population of Exeter today. When my wife and I traveled to Venice over spring break recently, I was absolutely amazed (and pleased) to find that the city had no motorized transportation of any kind—not even bicycles or skateboards. It was an image of a time gone by—but it was so nice and quiet too! Imagine downtown Exeter without cars today! It might not be so bad!