

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
APRIL 2013

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 2013-2014 term include:

Brentwood—Dianne Vosgien
East Kingston—Korrine Bork
Exeter—Patrick O'Day
Exeter Region Cooperative—Kate Segal
Kensington—Gary Bonitatibus
Newfields—James McIlroy
Stratham—Heidi Hanson

Teacher of the Year

Two elementary teachers in SAU 16 were nominated for the prestigious honor of Teacher of the Year for 2014. **Ms. Katie-Jean Blair**, a second grade teacher at East Kingston Elementary School, and **Ms. Casey Hamilton**, a kindergarten teacher at Newfields Elementary School were each nominated by a parent from their respective schools. On Monday, April 8th, these two teachers and their respective principals, Jim Eaves and Helen Rist, were joined by Assistant Superintendent Esther Asbell and Superintendent Michael Morgan as they were presented to the Commissioner of Education and the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee along with 34 other outstanding candidates from throughout the state. This lengthy and detailed process continues for several months with the final announcement of the winner being made in early October 2013.

Champions for Children

Community members and school staff 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 Exeter School Board recently honored **Martha LaPerle and Linda Raye** for their exemplary leadership with the Cooperative Middle School Outreach Program. This outstanding initiative has provided financial assistance to students and families throughout the year with special emphasis during Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday periods. Under their direction, Martha and Linda provided scores of food baskets and

arranged for holiday kindnesses to those less fortunate in the wider Exeter area. Gift certificates were also provided for food, clothing, and other student holiday gifts.

The Kensington School Board recently honored recent Board Member, **Alice Mower**, for both her service to the Board and for direct service to children as a parent volunteer. Mrs. Mower facilitated the Kensington Elementary School Building Addition Committee and successfully led this project for two years, culminating in 2003 with the new addition to the school. She also served on the SAU 16 Strategic Planning Steering Committee and devoted significant time to helping the students, families, and residents of Kensington.

The Kensington School Board also recently honored teacher **Nancy Roffman** who has served numerous roles in the community. She was actively involved in the school as a parent volunteer before joining the staff as a teacher in 1989. Besides being a Lead Teacher, she has also been the facilitator of the KES Gardening Club, organizer of Earth Day, and a member of various SAU 16 curriculum committees. As a resident of Kensington, Nancy has also served on the Recreation Committee, the Kensington Library, and the Grange Committee.

Voter Turnout/Results--2013

	Brentwood	East Kingston	Exeter	Kensington	Newfields	Stratham	TOTAL
Registered Voters	2812	1771	10849	1522	1216	5678	23848
Votes on Coop Budget	355	305	1518	325	365	393	3261
Pct.Voters on Coop Budget	12.62%	17.22%	13.99%	21.35%	30.02%	6.92%	13.67%
YES votes on Coop Budget	311	245	1233	263	298	334	2684
Pct. YES on Coop Budget	87.61%	80.33%	81.23%	80.92%	81.64%	84.99%	82.31%
Voters on Local Contract			1718	409			
Pct.Voters on Local Cont.			15.84%	26.87%			
YES votes on Local Cont.			1125	239			
Pct. YES on Local Cont.			65.48%	58.44%			
Votes on Local Budget	86	275	1733	414	394	63	
Pct Voters on Local Budget	3.06%	15.53%	15.97%	27.20%	32.40%	1.11%	
YES votes on Local Budget	86	154	1360	343	341	63	
Pct. YES on Local Budget	100.00%	56.00%	78.48%	82.85%	86.55%	100.00%	

Training for School Receptionists

In late March, all of the building receptionists received a two-hour training related to school safety and security protocols. Police Chiefs Richard Kane from Exeter and John Scippa from Stratham led the training which emphasized the need to carefully monitor who would be gaining access into schools during the day. Research and evidence have shown that perpetrators to elementary schools generally come from people “outside of the building,” such as witnessed recently in Newtown, CT. Perpetrators to middle and high schools generally come from within the school and are primarily students, such as witnessed a decade ago at Columbine High School in CO. The major purpose of this training was to stress the importance of similar procedures throughout the SAU and to address issues of mutual concern.

Postvention Suicide Training

In early April, a special “Postvention” Training for all SAU administrators and building principals was held as a continuing follow-up to untimely student deaths, particularly suicides, in SAU 16. Several guidance counselors also participated. Presented by Anne Duckless from the National Alliance for Mental Illness, New Hampshire, and Carol Trecosta, one of the guidance counselors at the Cooperative Middle School, this training focused on “A Community Response After a Sudden Death or Suicide.” Individual, family, and community healing topics were presented and discussed. Further information is available through “The Connect Program” which provides general information about suicide, suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention trainings, as well as many other supportive resources. It is accessible at www.theconnectprogram.org.

Summer Institute at Exeter High School

Designed to provide a wide range of learning opportunities for students entering grades nine through twelve, Exeter High School (EHS) will host its first Summer Institute in 2013. Twenty-seven different courses, ranging from Broadcast Journalism to Standardized Test Preparation and from an Introduction to Marine Biology to an Introduction to Elementary Teaching, will run for two-week sessions from June 24th to August 2nd. Courses will carry two Exeter High School credits (.5 Carnegie unit) and will have 10-18 students per class. Each course will have 40 hours of class time and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Each course costs \$250 plus additional fees for books or travel, as appropriate. Priority registration for students from SAU 16 is now open and will be available until May 17, 2013. After that date, registration will be open to any high school student. More information is available online at: <http://savvy.sau16.org/ehs/SummerInstitute.cfm>

Did You Know?

Kensington Elementary School was recently awarded the *HealthierUS* School Challenge (HUSCC) Bronze Award presented by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). This recognition highlights schools that have created healthier environments through improvements in the quality of food while providing both nutrition and physical education to promote healthy lifestyles. Less than 5% of schools in the US are annually selected for this outstanding award.

Thirty-six students from the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society in an impressive ceremony at the Talbot Gymnasium. The candidates were selected by a committee of teachers and chosen because they exemplified outstanding qualities in skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. Mr. Kyle Repucci, Principal of Epping High School, was the guest speaker. SST serves students from several area high schools and offers a wide variety of programs in career and technical education.

The **Exeter High School (EHS) Alumni Association** will host Hawkfest, an evening celebration of the “History of High School Sports in Exeter” on Friday, May 17, 2013 at 7:00 pm at EHS. Featured guests will include Master of Ceremonies Mike Latvis; Tony Lock - Class of 1948; Burton “Twig” MacArthur – Class of 1965; Doug Stockbridge – Class of 1973; Exeter Town Manager Russ Dean - Class of 1987; Cassandra Donovan – Former Athletic Director; Coach Jim Tufts—Special Olympics Coach; and a variety of other special guests. Tickets are available at EHS for \$5.00 each.

The annual trip to Nature’s Classroom at Sargent Camp for fifth grade students from Brentwood, East Kingston, Newfields, and Kensington took place during the week of April 8-12, 2013. This is a wonderful educational and social experience for many SAU 16 students because it gives them a marvelous opportunity to learn more about environmental science first hand and it is an excellent chance to meet other fifth graders who will be attending the Cooperative Middle School with them.

Principals Sean Kiley of Exeter High School and Tom Foshier of Stratham Memorial School regularly publish blogs about events at their schools. Find them online at www.sau16.org.

Honoring the Past in SAU 16

Exeter High School (EHS) Assistant Principals

Edward Roundy (1955-1957)

Louise Temple (Dean of Girls—1955-1964)

John Duncklee (1957-1960)

David W. MacDonald (1960-1963)

Donald Elsemore (1963-1965)

Frank Kozacka (1965-1967)

David L. Mann (1967-1977)

Linwood Saddler (1973-1975)
Walter Borkowski (1975-1978)
Chester Willey (1977-2001)
Chester Jablonski (1979-1983)
Daniel Guilmette (1983-1984)
Michael Latvis (1984-2002)
Cassandra Donovan (1985-2001)
Eileen Sheehy (2001-2004)
James Daley (2001-2009)
Michael Monahan (2002-Present)
Walter Garland (2002-2009)
Kathy Newcomb (2004-2006)
Carol Mastacouris (2006-Present)
John LeSage (2010-2012)
Marcy Dovholuk (2012-Present)

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

The **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) community has been heavily involved in a major effort to raise awareness and funds to support those who are dealing with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). In early April, many students and staff participated in Red Sox Rally Day where baseball hats and uniforms could be worn. Fifth grade students made posters to encourage student participation and over \$300 was raised. In addition, NES alumna, Rebecca Gowing who is now a student at the Cooperative Middle School, partnered with NES art teacher, Crystal Buswell to organize an “Art for a Cure Show and Auction” at the Provident Bank on Portsmouth Avenue in Exeter. A wide variety of students and adults contributed art work for the event which was extremely well attended. Over \$6,000 was raised to support this most important DMD cause.

Mega-Tech ATT Software is among the software applications used in the Automotive Technologies program at the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST). This software covers all areas of the curriculum including Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), which will be a NATEF requirement beginning next year. The software is able to virtually show how combustion systems work, for instance, and has been found to be a great way to reinforce learning. For example, a teacher might give direct instruction on rebuilding brakes, followed by an assignment using the software before moving to the shop to actually apply the learning. Interactive demonstrations are available to show the function of all systems in a car, which is not always possible even in the shop.

Arts Education was highlighted during March in all SAU 16 schools. At **Lincoln Street School** (LSS), Music teacher Sue Noseworthy directed five outstanding concerts in celebration of “Music in Our Schools Month.” Students, parents, and community members were treated to a wide array of music selections. In similar fashion, Art teacher Deb Wheeler-Bean organized a major display of student art work for the Exeter Student Art Show that was held at the Town Hall Gallery during the month of March. The LSS

exhibit, as well as the artwork displayed from other schools in the SAU, provided extraordinary examples of the exemplary student artists in the different schools.

This year the 17th Annual **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** Variety Show recently had over 200 students involved with showcasing their skills and talents over two nights. Students in Kindergarten through fifth grade performed for approximately two-minute productions on Thursday, April 11th and Friday, April 12th. This year, teachers Deb Craig and Mary Ann Hazeltine, spearheaded the organization of events, conducted the rehearsals, and coordinated the props/equipment for the performances. Selected activities included juggling, dancing, martial arts, hula-hooping, joke telling, gymnastics, playing musical instruments, singing, and magic. Students and families always enjoy this wonderful community gathering because it emphasizes learning that is different from traditional classroom instruction in many creative ways.

The “Stop, Drop, and Read” program at **Main Street School (MSS)** is an annual highlight of the school year because the children always look forward to the involvement and support of the Exeter Fire Department. This year two second graders were driven to school in a fire truck! This was followed by a brief assembly where two second grade classrooms were announced to be the winners of a pizza party for their 100% participation and the highest amount of minutes read (20,908). The second graders read a total of 2,423 hours and exceeded their goal of reading for 2,400 hours. It is important to note that 64% of these students read during each of the four weeks of the program. The overall curriculum goal is to inspire children to be lifelong readers!

The various teams of students at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** continue to explore learning in a wide variety of ways. Some sixth grade students recently finished a unit on how to undertake research on a topic using the two-column note taking strategy. In preparation for working on a novel, the students applied their research skills by researching a specific person with a disability ranging from physical disabilities to environmental disadvantages. In the seventh grade, some students have been studying the Holocaust in both English and Social Studies classes. Each student chooses one of three memoirs about the time period to discuss with the class. The students are then introduced to a documentary about a small Tennessee school that collects over twelve million paper clips to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust. In the eighth grade some students are preparing their persuasive speeches and learning about Manifest Destiny while exploring such topics as the Texas Revolution, the Mexican War, and the Gold Rush.

Students from **Exeter High School (EHS)** participated recently in the National History Day/New Hampshire competition at Plymouth State University. EHS students, Meredith Gilman and Guinevere Gilman, won first place in the Senior Group Performance category for “CANDLES: Turning Humanity’s Dark Evil into Courageous Light,” which chronicles the activities of Eva and Miriam Mozes who survived Mengele’s medical experiments at Auschwitz during the Second World War. Ainsley Katz, Ben Paquin, and Chandra Boudreau earned second place in the Senior Group Documentary category for their film, “No Clear Victory: Nuclear Diplomacy from 1945 to Today.” Both groups

will revise their presentations in preparation of the National History Day competition in Maryland in early June.

Students and staff at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** recently were treated to a special presentation from three service dogs and their trainers/owners. The purpose of the program was to introduce students to the valuable role that service animals play for those who may be disabled or who may need extra assistance to help with various life tasks. Scott and Mary Mace who partner with Canine Companions provided this excellent learning experience for the school.

Kensington Elementary School (KES) hosted its annual Micro Society program in March. This concluded with “Market Day” with the various K-3 “towns” (classrooms) counting the funds that they raised after displaying a wide variety of items that they created/made for sale. Each group decides where it would like to donate funds to help others. Generally speaking, donations are made to the NH SPCA, Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD), the NH Audubon Society, or various local food pantries.

“Off the Bookshelf” is a regular feature of **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** Weekly. Submitted by Literacy Coach, Emily Darby, this column includes helpful reading suggestions for elementary school children. With baseball season here, there are several recommendations for those children who enjoy America’s favorite pastime. Look for the following: *H is for Home Run: A Baseball Alphabet Book* by Brad Herzog; *Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Machizuki; *There Goes Ted Williams* by Matt Tavares; *Teammates* by Peter Golenblock; and *The Kid Who Only Hit Homers* by Matt Christopher. Ms. Darby’s column is a wonderful resource for children and families throughout the SAU.

Personal Reflection

The importance of a positive attitude each and every day is essential when working with students and their families. With some regularity, I am struck by the fact that several people often portray that “the glass is half empty” rather than seeing that “the glass is half full!” Life is way too short for negativity!