

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**  
**Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**  
**MAY 2013**

**EDies School of Excellence**

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) was recently selected as the 2013 Elementary School of Excellence by the NH “EDies” Committee. For each of the past twenty years, this outstanding honor has been bestowed on one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school in the state. Earlier this year, Principal Jim Eaves decided to have the school apply for this honor because of his awareness that EKES combines a dedicated staff with interested students who create an exciting learning environment. Enhanced by a solid partnership with the Department of Education at the University of New Hampshire that annually provides a solid cadre of student interns, EKES is able to offer some unique opportunities for students that lead to a small teacher-student ratio.

Many of the strengths of EKES were centered on the excellent learning conditions and opportunities for students identified by the EDies Visiting Committee. The community’s strong support for the school was also noted.

The statewide celebration of this award will take place at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual “EDies” Award Dinner on Saturday, June 8, 2013 in Manchester.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am - Lincoln Street School - DARE Graduation  
Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm - Kensington Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 am - Main Street School - End-of-Year Assembly  
Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15 pm - East Kingston Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm - Newfields Elementary - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm - Stratham Memorial - Fifth Grade Recognition  
Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm - Swasey Central - Fifth Grade Recognition

**High School Celebrations**

Commencement Exercises for **Great Bay eLearning Charter School** will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 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 5, 2013 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 6, 2013 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 2013 will be held on Friday, June 14, 2013 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.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Courses will carry two Exeter High School credits (.5 Carnegie unit) and will have 10-18 students per class. All courses 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. Exeter High School students had the opportunity for priority registration prior to May 17, 2013. Open enrollment for any student is now available. More information is available online at: <http://savvy.sau16.org/ehs/SummerInstitute.cfm>

### **Did You Know?**

This year the kindergarten students from Stratham Memorial School (SMS) will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and sing “America” with the Exeter High School (EHS) Honors Choir at Graduation on Friday, June 14, 2013. These kindergarteners will be members of the EHS Class of 2026!

The EHS “School Song” was written in 1927 by English teacher Harriett Ford.

### **HONORING THE PAST IN SAU 16**

#### **Seacoast School of Technology (SST) Principals - SST began in 1980**

1980-1994—Langdon Plumer

1994-2007—Nancy Pierce

2007-Present—Margaret Callahan

## **A Cavalcade of 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 2013: Emily Avery (Valedictorian; Princeton University); Chandra Boudreau (Wellesley College); Coren Guen (Washington and Lee University); William Knutson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); Nora McCleary (American University); Melissa Murray (University of New Hampshire); Allison Nash (University of New Hampshire); Ann Palladino (New York University); Kelly Poncelet (University of Vermont); and Rebecca Salzman (Salutatorian; Northeastern University).

At the invitation of EHS English teacher, Kristina Peterson, renowned and prolific author Stephen King visited EHS on Friday, May 17, 2013 to talk about some of his work. He spent an entire class period with one group and answered questions regarding the novel that the class was studying. Later he spent 90 minutes reading from his newest work, *Joyland*, and responding to questions from the large audience in the auditorium. His presence made it a very special day at EHS!

Senior Kelsey Prince brought the Blue Hawk spirit to a new level by creating a mural with the words of the school song and a blue hawk sketch on the first floor of the school. Look for it the next time that you approach the school gym!

Thirty Latin students recently attained honors and awards as a result of their success with the 2013 National Latin Exam.

According to a recent issue of *US News and World Report*, EHS was listed as the 7<sup>th</sup> best high school in New Hampshire. Using a wide variety of criteria including ranking on state and Advance Placement tests, a college readiness index, percentage of graduates and college acceptances, over 21,000 high schools in the United States were rated. The American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC helped to collect and analyze data for this project.

Twenty-one juniors and eleven seniors were recently inducted into the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society during an induction ceremony and luncheon at EHS. The Society is very much dedicated to recognizing students for “fostering the development of respectful global citizens.” A well respected Social Studies teacher who is retiring this year, Mrs. Elizabeth DeSimone, was also recognized as an “Honorary Inductee.”

The National History Day teams, under the direction of teacher Molly Stevenson, presented their work at the Exeter Historical Society’s Youth Night recently. Meredith and Guinevere Gilman performed "CANDLES: Turning Humanity's Dark Evil into Courageous Light." Ainsley Katz, Ben Paquin, and Chandra Boudreau showed their film *No Clear Victor: Nuclear Diplomacy from 1945 to Today*. Exeter Town Manager and EHS 1987 graduate, Russ Dean, was the evening’s featured speaker.

Freshman Anna Sang was selected as the April “Francis Wayland Parker Scholar of the Month.” This honor is named after a New Hampshire native who revolutionized education in the 19th century. Anna was featured recently on the front page of the *Union Leader* and recognized for her work at the annual dinner held to honor this year’s recipients from around the state.

Thirty-eight students achieved various levels of recognition for their work on the 2013 National Spanish Examinations. Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Honorable Mention Awards were given at four different levels.

Four students traveled to Washington, DC and five others traveled to Hawaii as part of the annual Close-Up program under the direction of teacher Rob Newman. This experience provided first-hand opportunities for students to learn more about the workings of government, politics, history, and international relations.

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

During spring break at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** hardware was installed in four classrooms for the addition of Promethean Interactive Boards to enhance student learning and access to technology. These interactive white boards were the result of the PTO’s fundraising efforts and the school’s goal of supporting technology in the building. SMS is moving toward 1:1 computing with its addition of Chromebooks for the 2013-2014 school year.

**Main Street School** joined efforts with the Exeter Police Department to host a Bike Rodeo for second grade students in early May. This included an obstacle course, bike safety activities, a bike safety check by Exeter Cycle, and free helmets from Exeter Hospital. The event brought together many volunteers from the MSS staff and parents’ group, as well as from the Exeter Police and Fire Departments, and Exeter Cycle. This was a wonderful event that combined education and community service.

**East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** is preparing for its June Book Swap from June 3-5, 2013. Building on the success of the Halloween Book Swap, each child at EKES is asked to bring in one gently used children’s book that he/she has already read. On Friday June 7, 2013, each child will be given the opportunity to select one book with the goal of every student being able to have a new book for the summer. If there are extra books, these will be considered donations and will be kept in the school’s book bins that may be used during lunch time at the school.

School field trips in May are always a big hit for students and a welcomed opportunity to learn in an atmosphere that is away from the school. This year the students at **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** are enjoying experiences beyond their classrooms. Grade One students: Great Bay Discovery Center; Grade Three: Boston Common and the Boston Public Gardens; Grade Four: Dan Daily’s Art Studio in Kensington; and Grade Five: Seabrook Water Treatment Plant.

This year the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) renewed its focus with middle school students from each of the six sending districts in the area. Throughout the year, SST hosted students on the campus 13 times during the school day. In addition, monthly Technology Fun Nights for students in grades 5-8 were held and during the upcoming summer SST will host nine middle school “camps” for students. The SST staff and administration are very much committed to engaging students at an earlier age to make them more excited about the career and college ready opportunities that are open to them at the school.

The annual “Integrated Arts Night” at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) is always a much-anticipated event because of the variety of student art displays throughout the building. Scheduled for May 23rd this year, the evening event brings together music, dance, and poetry readings to enhance the artwork. Local artist, Bill Childs, and three LSS students will be displaying their artwork in the school library. This is just another example of how SAU 16 students are exposed to many different learning opportunities.

The second graders at **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) recently participated in a program called “*I Can Save.*” The program was presented by the Center for College Planning at the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Network Organization. The topics discussed were “spending, saving, and sharing.” Students learned about the difference between needs and wants. Visual examples were shown and the children actively made decisions and discussed why they made those decisions. “Saving” was addressed by thinking about short-term savings, a year or less, and long-term savings being longer than a year. The second graders shared their ideas of small and large purchases, which included houses, cars, and college education. In talking about sharing, the children focused on giving time for others, as well as fundraising for causes, along with donating money or food. They shared examples that they observed from the adults in their lives. The PowerPoint was engaging. Each student received a “Moon jar” to assemble at home with a parent. The “Moon jars” contain three sections for each area presented and serve as a reminder about “spending, saving, and sharing.”

Fifth grade students at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) have been heavily involved in the annual Revolutionary War unit. They take on roles that were popular in the late 1700s and the halls are filled with marching! The students are working hard academically and socially as their efforts collectively combine to demonstrate how the victors are determined. Recently these fifth graders visited the NH History Museum in Concord for its “Colonial Day” presentation that highlights careers, lifestyles, and food that were common in the days of the Revolution. This learning opportunity opens up a wide variety of non-traditional experiences for the students and their families and is thoroughly embraced by all who participate.

Life at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) is often filled with various levels of student engagement and activities that are done to enhance learning in a way that is particularly meaningful for students who are preparing for high school. Recently, sixth graders on Team 2 reported on some of their initiatives. In English class, the students worked on a Robert Frost Poetry Project that included an audio recording of a poem,

pictures to accompany the audio, and a written interpretation of the poem. In Social Studies classes, the students learned about life in India and performed skits about the culture there. In Science classes, a unit on friction involved experiments with rockets and skateboards. In Math classes, working with fractions was enhanced by raps and songs to remember how the process works. Many sixth graders report that their initial fears and anxieties of transitioning from elementary school to middle school have been allayed because of their active involvement in projects at the middle school.

### **Personal Reflection**

During Spring Break, my wife and I traveled to northern Spain and walked part of the famous pilgrimage route, the El Camino that leads to Santiago de Compestelo. Fifteen to twenty miles a day for five consecutive days! Sore feet aside, this walk was very symbolic of life's journey and how important it is to take it slowly and appreciate each step along the way.