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# Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 Fall 2015

## MSSA names RSU 22's Emil Genest Assistant Superintendent of the Year

RSU 22's Assistant Superintendent Emil Genest has been named the Assistant Superintendent of the Year by the Maine School Superintendents Association for his expertise in finance and school construction and his tireless work on behalf of public education and the district he serves.

Mr. Genest has been the Assistant Superintendent for Business for RSU 22, based in Hampden, for 22 years and before that the business manager for SAD 67 in Lincoln. In the last two years, he also has served the Veazie School Department. During his tenure he helped design and build the Reeds Brook Middle School and Hampden Academy and, in the late 1990s, worked on the multi-million-dollar renovation project at the Smith Elementary School.

He was instrumental in establishing the RSU 22 Education Foundation, which fosters innovation and excellence in the district's schools by raising funds and generating community-wide support, and the Penobscot River Educational Partnership.

Mr. Genest also helped establish the district's pre-kindergarten program and prepares the district's budget to support educational programming while considering  
*(Please turn to page 9)*



MSSA President Susan Pratt and Emil Genest.

## RSU 22 looking at improvements to Weatherbee-McGraw campus

The RSU 22 Board of Directors has hired WBRC Architects and Engineers to do some preliminary concept planning for possible improvements to the McGraw-Weatherbee portion of the RSU 22 campus in Hampden.

Assistant Superintendent Emil Genest said the project is the final phase of a master plan that's been going on for the last 20-25 years, which has included:

- Construction of Wagner Middle School in Winterport.
- Construction of Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden.
- Major renovations and expansion at Smith Elementary School in Winterport.
- Construction of the new Hampden Academy.

"This is the last one that we're projected to deal with for the next 25 years," Mr. Genest said.

He said the primary issues that need to be addressed are the growing enrollment at McGraw and Weatherbee and the traffic problems around the two schools.

Speaking at a meeting of the Board's Building Committee on September 23, Mr. Genest emphasized the preliminary nature of the discussions.

"We're looking at pre-concepts of what  
*(Please turn to page 3)*

## 'Creation Station' holds first two events at HA Library Media Center

Hampden Academy's Creation Station has held its first two events in the Library Media Center.

The first event, which was held October 1, was the kickoff for Creation Station's Module One: Coding and Apps. It was led by guest mentor Justin Mecham of hacktivate.org.

Students tried out Android Studio and sampled some beginning coding steps using that program. The software, plus supporting materials and equipment, was available in the Library for students to continue their explorations independently in the following weeks.

Module Two: Fabric Arts began on November 5 when students met  
*(Please turn to page 6)*



Creation Station modules: Fabric Arts (left photo) started Nov. 5. Coding and Apps (right photo) kicked off on October 1.



## 'Hot Mikado' coming to HA PAC November 19-21

The Hampden Academy Drama Club will perform *Hot Mikado*, a jazz version of the classic Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 19, 20, and 21, at the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center.

Performances will start at 6:30 p.m. on all three evenings to make it easier for families with younger children to attend.

*Hot Mikado* is the second full-scale musical that the Drama Club has produced in the last three years.

Jennifer Guare is the artistic director for the show, Heidi Corliss is the music director, and Rob Kissinger is the technical director.

Ms. Guare says the musical has

a very young cast, with only one senior.

"It's a pretty new experience for all of us," she says.

The lead roles of Nanki Poo, Ko

Ko, and Yum Yum are played by juniors Justin Hatch and Miles Martin and sophomore Alexandra Buzzini, respectively.

*(Please turn to page 4)*



The cast of "Hot Mikado" on stage at the Performing Arts Center for an early October rehearsal. The performances will be held Nov. 19, 20, and 21.

**Superintendent's message**

# Proficiency-based diplomas coming in 2018; new RSU 22 website; Strategic Plan

By Rick Lyons, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

For several years, RSU 22 has been moving forward on proficiency-based education, where students are required to demonstrate proficiency in meeting academic standards, rather than just receive passing grades on a certain number of tests.

We have also been preparing for the time when we would be required to award proficiency-based diplomas. In the past, we have talked about this being a requirement for some distant time in the future. We now want to point out that the future is getting closer and closer, and proficiency-based diplomas are now only two years away.

State law now mandates that students who graduate on January 1, 2018, or later will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the guiding principles of Maine state standards in order to graduate. In addition, all students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting each Hampden Academy priority standard in all content areas of Maine state standards.

The content areas are:

- Career and Education Development
- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies

- Visual and Performing Arts
- Wellness (Health Education and Physical Education)

January 1, 2018, is coming soon, and our current sophomores will have to demonstrate proficiency in those eight content areas in order to graduate.

We will be inviting parents and students to join us in a public forum in December to learn more about this new requirement.

For more information, please reference school board policy IKF "Graduation Requirements" on our website.

\* \* \*

If you haven't visited the RSU 22 website recently, you're in for a treat. The website has been completely redesigned and upgraded, and it offers a lot more information about what's going on in our schools.

The website was designed by Rainstorm, a website development firm in Orono.

The RSU 22 website home page.



Screenshot of the Hampden Academy home page.

It has separate websites for RSU 22, all six schools, the Pre-K program, and Adult Education, all of which can be controlled and updated from one place.

It includes a number of features, such as network-wide aggregated news and events, a modern design, schedules, alerts, newsletters, and more, which are enhancing our ability to communicate with students,

parents, and our communities.

The website address is the same, *www.rsu22.us*. Check it out—I think you'll be impressed.

\* \* \*

On November 18, the RSU 22 Board of Directors will hold its annual retreat to look at the current Strategic Plan and to consider ways to strengthen and modify it.

The Strategic Plan is one of many documents that is available on the website. On the RSU 22 home page, click on "About Us," and when the dialogue box opens up, click on "Strategic Plan."

The Strategic Plan has five major goals, plus sub-goals and action strategies. The five major goals are as follows:

- **Goal #1**—Student Learning and Outcomes: To improve individual student engagement and achievement.
- **Goal #2**—Stewardship and Development of Resources: To provide adequate resources to support our mission (human, capital, fiscal, and time).
- **Goal #3**—Governance and Policy: To provide effective governance to achieve our mission.



Screenshot of the Strategic Plan page.

- **Goal #4**—Communications and Public Relations: To communicate with and engage residents of Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport and Frankfort..

- **Goal #5**—Research and Development: To discover and create new knowledge of identifying and enabling development of valuable new products, processes and services.



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# Q&A on Proficiency-Based Education, Diplomas with RSU 22 Curriculum Director Mary Giard

**Q. What is proficiency-based education, and what does it have to do with graduation?**

**MARY GIARD:** In proficiency-based education, students have to demonstrate proficiency in meeting academic standards, rather than just receive passing grades on a certain number of tests. State law says that students who graduate on January 1, 2018, or later will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the priority standards of the eight content areas of the Maine Learning Results, as well as the Guiding Principles.



Mary Giard

**Q. What are the eight content areas, and how do students demonstrate proficiency?**

**MARY GIARD:** The eight content areas are career and education development, English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts, wellness (health and physical education), and world languages. Students may demonstrate proficiency through a variety of assessments, including tests, written assignments, oral reports, etc.

**Q. When do students have to demonstrate these proficiencies?**

**MARY GIARD:** At various times over the course of their career at Hampden Academy.

**Q. How do students know if they're attaining proficiency in the required standards?**

**MARY GIARD:** We're using using software to track student progress toward attaining proficiency. Parents can also with the guidance office or with their classroom teachers.

**Q. Why is it important to talk about graduations requirements now when they don't change until 2018?**

**MARY GIARD:** Because 2018 is only two years away. This year's sophomores at Hampden Academy will have to meet the proficiency-based requirements in order to graduate.

**Q. What has RSU 22 been doing to prepare for the new graduation requirements?**

**MARY GIARD:** Like most other school districts, we've been working hard to make sure that our students will be able to meet the new expectations when they become a requirement in 2018.

For example, we've reviewed the curriculum in all eight content areas of the Learning Results, and we've chosen to look at it as a K-12 opportunity, rather than just at Hampden Academy. We're trying to build in support for the proficiency-based diploma all the way from kindergarten right up through grade 12. We've taken each of the content areas—ELA, math, etc.—and created learning targets at each grade level.

Of course, there's a lot more to do, because we don't want to end up in 2018 with a lot of students at Hampden Academy who are struggling to meet the proficiency standards that will be expected of them.

**Q. How are we doing?**

**MARY GIARD:** We're well on our way, probably about halfway through. We've created policies to support proficiency-based work, we've done the curriculum work, and we've provided teachers with professional development opportunities. Now we're in the midst of the assessment work, and we're looking at strategies to meet student needs.

**Q. What kind of work are we doing on assessments?**

**MARY GIARD:** Assessments are a critical part of proficiency-based education because they not only tell students whether they've

achieved proficiency, but they can also tell students what they need to do to get where they need to be. We're looking at what kind of rubrics do we need to have in place, and what can we do to gather information on a regular basis, so that we're getting a clear picture of student growth. We're also creating ways for students who are not meeting standards to have additional support.

**Q. How are you able to provide additional support for students who need it?**

**MARY GIARD:** There are a number of things we're doing. Students can be grouped and regrouped to work on skills or standards that they don't quite have under their belt. We're offering tutoring and other in-school opportunities for students. We're also providing opportunities for standards recoupment at Hampden Academy. If students aren't meeting standards, we can create on-line modules to help them get on track and meet the standards.

We're using a variety of technology opportunities so that students can take advantage of courses to recoup, but we also offer a variety of alternatives, so students can do things above and beyond what we're able to offer locally.

**Q. What should parents do if they're concerned about their child's progress towards graduation?**

**MARY GIARD:** They can check with the guidance office, classroom teachers, or an administrator. We're using using software to track student progress toward attaining proficiency, so that information is available. Parents should always feel comfortable about calling the school to ask about their children's progress. This is important stuff. They absolutely should know what's going on. Definitely, if we don't know, we'll find out so that parents are able to get the information they need. That's critical for us, because parent involvement is an important ingredient in ensuring that students are successful.

## RSU 22 looking at improvements to Weatherbee-McGraw campus

(Continued from page 1)

we can do," he said. "This is in its infancy. The idea is to promote conversations among a lot of players—the Board, the building principals, the Town of Hampden and the Safety Department, and the public. Everyone will be affected by this project; no idea is crazy."

He said the most immediate issue is traffic—in particular, the conflicts between parent and bus traffic and the bottlenecks that occur when parents drop off their children in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon.

Jennifer Richard and Mike Johanning of WBRC presented two different options for dealing with traffic issues. One option had parent traffic entering from Route 1A, with two parking areas and a drop off area between the two school buildings. A second option had separate bus and parent drop-off loops, with the bus loop entering from Route 1A and the parent loop entering from Reeds Brook Middle School. Building Committee members and others at the meeting generally agreed that the subject needed additional study.

There was some discussion of build-



The Building Committee of the RSU 22 Board of Directors and representatives of WBRC Architects and Engineers met with school administrators and town officials on September 23 to discuss possible improvements to the Weatherbee-McGraw campus.

ing improvements, including the possibility of connecting the two buildings so they could be operated as a single, PK-5 school. However, there was general agreement about the need for better enrollment data and structural information before the committee could proceed further in that area.

Among the deficiencies that need to be addressed in any renovation plan are eliminating portable classrooms at both schools; separating the gym and the cafeteria at Weatherbee; providing space for guidance at Weatherbee (guidance offices are currently located on the stage); additional space for "specials," such as art and music, as well as possible expansion of the world language program; and construction of an elevator at

Weatherbee (the school currently has a lift, which has been grandfathered).

If the two schools were joined together, the new construction could include shared library, cafeteria, and gym facilities.

Mr. Genest also suggested the possibility of including a senior citizen center to facilitate the use of senior

citizen volunteers in the two schools.

He added that the next steps are to complete a building needs capacity and enrollment study and to hold a public forum.

"The public needs to feel that they are part of the process," he said.

A public forum will be scheduled for the February/March time frame.

## Title I info added to RSU 22 Curriculum and Instruction web site

A Title I page has been added to Curriculum and Instruction web site so that parents can access information about Title I at any time.

The page includes the Parent-School Compact, as well as general

information about Title I.

Both Leroy H. Smith School and Wagner Middle School in Winterport are Title I schools.

The information about Title I is also available at both schools.

## 'Hot Mikado'

(Continued from page 1)

Also in the cast are Aidan Babbitt as the Mikado; Nicholas Parker as Pish Tush; Jack Burrridge as Pooh Bah; Abby Thompson as Pitti Sing; Danielle Barrett as Peep Bo; Terra Malkow as Katisha; Mikayla Holmes, Josie Lawrence, Paige Malkow, and Reba Sands as Yum Yum's Ladies; and Nate Bailey, Nathan Manaker, Alex Ross, Eliot Small, Hunter Spencer, and Orion Zydlewski as Pish Tush's Gentlemen.

The Ensemble includes Shelby Deron, Chelsea El-Hajj, Ruby El-

### Dakota Clement wins Gold for CPR/First Aid at national Skills USA event

Dakota Clement had a near-perfect score and won the gold medal for CPR/First Aid at the national SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, KY, June 22-26.

Dakota qualified for the nationals by winning the gold medal in the event at the Maine Skills USA competition at the United Technologies Center in Bangor last spring.

Now a senior at Hampden Academy, Dakota studied CPR/First Aid at UTC last year. This year, he is enrolled in the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) program at UTC.

Next spring, he will be eligible to compete in either First Aid/CPR or CNA in the SkillsUSA competition.

Dakota says his current post-graduate plans are to study nursing at Husson University and Boston College.

Hajj, Polly Frost, Emily Gonthier, Chloe Lawrence, Cara Leino, Emily Parent, Zoe Prescott, Sydnie Phillips, Harmony Stetson, and Christie Woodside.

The Tech Crew includes Krystal Grant, Lydia Tilley, Andrew Tilley, Patrick Kearns, Will Cody, Adam Cotter, Nathaniel Cust, Matthias Martin, Robbie Martin, and Jazmine Miller.

Cast members say they have enjoyed getting ready for the show. "The rehearsals have been really fun," says Nick Parker, a sophomore.

Junior Mikayla Holmes says the cast members have all become friends, and Miles Martin adds that rehearsals "aren't just working with friends, it's having fun with friends."

Ms. Guare says the show offers several challenges, which have made it even more fun for the cast.

"Because it's a comedy, we have to figure out how to make the audience laugh," she says. "When we figure out how to make the audience laugh, we make ourselves laugh as well."

She adds that *Hot Mikado* is "an incredibly musical musical," with 21 songs in two hours.

"The dialogue is fast and furious. You might have half a page of dialogue where four different things happen."

Ms. Guare said Abby Elkins has served as the student choreographer, helping the cast members learn all of their dance steps. In addition, she says Danielle Barrett, who plays Peep Bo, has been using her talents as a dancer to work with cast members on some of the small-group choreography.



HAMPDEN ACADEMY

## NEW STAFF AT HAMPDEN ACADEMY

### Christine Votour, Guidance

Christine Votour, a former social worker who did her guidance internship at Hampden Academy in 2013, has returned to HA as a guidance counselor.

She received her Master's degree in Counseling Education from the University of Maine in 2013 and spent the last two years as a guidance counselor at Miles Lane Elementary School in Bucksport.

A native of Orrington, she graduated from Brewer High School and received her B.A. degree in Communication Disorders from UMaine in 1990. She has 17 years experience doing social work in the Bangor area.

Mrs. Votour lives in Orrington with her husband and two daughters, ages 9 and 14. She says she spends a lot of time at camp and helping her children stay involved in soccer, gymnastics, music, and the performing arts.



Christine Votour

### Maia Dendinger, English

Maia Dendinger has joined the staff of RSU 22 as a new English teacher at Hampden Academy this fall after earning her Master's degree in English at the University of Maine last spring.

While completing her degree requirements, she taught English 101 at UMaine.

Previously, she had worked as a writing instructor at Xavier University in New Orleans for a year and at Daytona State College in Florida, also for a year.

A native of Boston, she grew up in Massachusetts but attended high school and college in Florida, graduating from Key West High School and majoring in English at Stetson University.

Mrs. Dendinger said she selected UMaine for her graduate studies because her grandmother, a winter resident of Florida, lives in Orland.

She says she is married with two



Maia Dendinger

cats and lives in Orono. Her husband recently started the same Master's degree program in English that she completed last May.

Her hobbies include backpacking and hiking around the world, including Egypt and Iceland, as well as parts of the U.S.

"I've done a lot of hiking in Iceland and slept in a volcanic crater," she says.

She also sings karaoke and writes poetry.

### Anna Swierczewska, Spanish

Anna Swierczewska, a native of Poland who speaks five languages, has joined the staff of Hampden Academy as a Spanish teacher.

Previously, she taught Spanish and French at Valley High School in Bingham for three years.

She also taught French at the British American Academy in Charlotte, NC, for one year while also teaching French and Spanish at a private language school.

She also works as a translator and on projects related to curriculum planning and developing a series of grammar books covering different languages.

"I love languages," she says. "That's what I do. My goal is to publish my grammar books and to pick up two more languages, including Arabic and maybe an Asian language."

Ms. Swierczewska came to the U.S. with her parents when her father, who was active in the Solidarity movement, was forced to leave Poland.

"We're now free to go back [to Poland], but we've established a life here," she says. "My twin sister and parents are here [in the U.S.], but everyone else is in Poland."

Ms. Swierczewska lives in Brewer. She says her twin sister is a doctor in New York.

She grew up in Shirley, NY, a beach town on Long Island. She received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Albany and did graduate work at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She also studied at universities in France and Spain and received her Master's degree from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.



Anna Swierczewska

## NEWS FROM RSU 22 ADULT EDUCATION

### Fall Personal Enrichment Courses Are Still Available

While most of our fall courses have already started or have completed, we still have some fun and interesting course offerings starting in November or early December:

Mommy & Me Christmas Ornament Workshop  
Paint Me – One Night Paint & Sip (Cider) Party  
Winter Luminary – Glass Etching Workshop  
Deco Mesh Wreath Making Class  
Basic First Aid  
Stress Management Workshop  
Making Movies with iMovie

Appliqued Mitten Ornaments  
Kissing Ball Workshop  
Hook an Evergreen Pillow  
Holiday Pie Making  
Introduction to Self-Hypnosis  
Introduction to the Ukulele  
Cream Puffs & Eclairs

### Distance Learning Courses

We continue to offer nearly 500 interactive courses that you can take entirely over the internet. All of these self-paced courses are led by expert instructors, fit into convenient six-week formats and are reasonably priced. Purchase a course as a gift for a friend or family member! Our full catalog of courses can be found at: [www.ed2go.com/rsu22](http://www.ed2go.com/rsu22). Some of our more popular course offerings are:

Introduction to QuickBooks 2015  
A to Z Grant Writing  
Adobe Acrobat Photoshop  
Write Your Life Story  
Pleasures of Poetry  
Accounting Fundamentals  
Writing Effective Grant Proposals  
Introduction to PC Security

Genealogy Basics  
Introduction to Java Programming  
Math Refresher  
Grammar Refresher  
Designing Effective Websites  
SAT Test Preparation  
Using Social Media in Business  
Start Your Own Small Business

### Academic Programs

We continue to offer, on an ongoing basis, opportunities for our residents to earn a high school diploma, access Accuplacer prep and testing services, receive individualized basic literacy tutoring and instruction, access HiSET (GED) prep and testing services and receive one-on-one ESL instruction. All of these courses and services are available at no cost to our residents! Please contact our office (862-6422) for more information about these live-changing programs.

### Winter Term

We are starting to plan now for our winter and spring courses. Please contact us with ideas for courses that you would like to see us offer or if there is a course that you would like to teach for us. We will continue to offer this winter and spring a wide variety of academic, personal enrichment and vocational courses to the residents of RSU 22 and surrounding communities. We should be finalizing our next term's course catalog by mid-December.

### How to Reach Us

To find and pay for courses online: <http://orono-hampden.maineadulted.org/>  
To view courses online: [www.rsu22.us](http://www.rsu22.us) or [www.riversideadultedpartnership.com](http://www.riversideadultedpartnership.com)  
'Friend us' on Facebook: Riverside Adult Education: Orono, Old Town, Hampden  
Call us: 207-862-6422  
Walk in: 28A Main Road South (Reeds Brook Middle School), Hampden

## HA Guidance planning 'giving tree'

The Hampden Academy Guidance Office is making preparations for a holiday "giving tree" that will allow students to donate items to support other students during the holidays.

Guidance Counselor Erika Oliver said information about the giving tree will be mailed home to parents. The letter will give parents an opportunity to reply if they feel their son or daughter would benefit by being a giving-tree recipient.

When information about recipients and gift items is compiled, the giving

tree will be painted on the window in the dining commons by HA art students around Thanksgiving. Then the Guidance Office will post tags listing gift items on the tree.

Students and staff members can take the tags off the tree and purchase the items.

The names of the intended recipients are kept confidential, with only a number appearing on each tag.

Ms. Oliver said this is the second year that Hampden Academy has had a giving tree. Last year, about 30 HA students were giving tree recipients.

## HA Robotics Team grows to 25 members, 4 robots

The Hampden Academy Robotics Team, which took two robots to the VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville, KY, last spring, has expanded from seven students to 25 this year and added two more robots.

All seven students from last year are returning as seniors this year and will compete on the A and B teams, as they did last year.

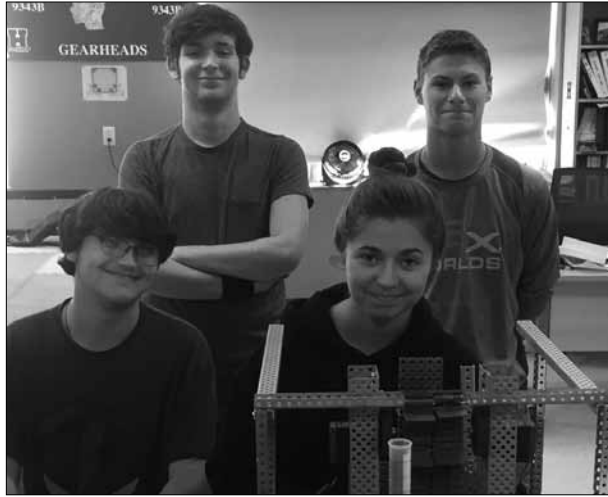
"We wanted the seniors to stay together," said technology education teachers and Robotics Team advisors Todd Moore and Charlie Huff.

They said the A and B teams have been expanded to five members each, compared to four and three members last year. The new C team has seven members and the D team has eight members; both are a mix of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

The first meet on this year's VEX Robotics schedule is in Cape Elizabeth on Saturday, Nov. 14, followed by a meet in Brewer on Nov. 21.

"The Cape Elizabeth meet is usually too early for us, but our two veteran teams [A and B] might compete this year," Mr. Huff said. "All four teams will compete in Brewer."

Other meets are scheduled for



TEAM 9343A—Front row: Levi Nash and Catherine Trojecki. Back: Dylan Noyes and Zac Perry. Not present for photo: A. J. Meo

Augusta of Dec. 12, and Erskine Academy in South China on Feb. 6.

The state VEX Robotics meet for Maine will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Hampden Academy.

"We hope to enter all four teams in the state meet," Mr. Huff said.

The four teams (Hampden Academy's team designation is 9343) are:

- Team 9343A—Dylan Noyes, Zac Perry, Catherine Trojecki, Levi Nash, and A. J. Meo.



TEAM 9343 C—Kaelan Dinwiddie, Jordan Collins, Miles Martin, and Riah Malachi (seated). Not present for photo: Darius Ramos, Devon Downs, and Dylan Cannon.

- Team 9343B—Nate Cust, Krystal Grant, Nate Haiden, Nick Hashey, and Carrie Foren.

- Team 9343C—Dylan Cannon, Jordan Collins, Kaelan Dinwiddie, Devon Downs, Riah Malachi, Miles Martin, and Darius Ramos.

- Team 9343D—Will Collins, Nick Gauthier, Nathaniel Jordan, Terra Mallow, Tyler Rinfret, Steven Santiago, Alex Smith, and Isaiah Swartz.

Each year, the rules for the VEX Robotics competition changes to present students with a new set of challenges.

The 2015-16 game is called "Nothing But Net." The robots have to pick up balls from around the arena and shoot them from the team's corner into the team's net. Robots get bonus points for picking up the robot of their alliance partner.



TEAM 9343B—Nick Hashey, Nate Haiden, Nate Cust (seated), Carrie Foren, and Krystal Grant.



TEAM 9343D—Nick Gauthier, Nathaniel Jordan, Isaiah Swartz, Will Collins, Steven Santiago, and Alex Smith. Not present for photo: Tyler Rinfret and Terra Mallow.

## 4 selected for 2 ACDA honors choirs

Four Hampden Academy students have been selected to perform at Jordan Hall in Boston on February 13 as part of two honors choirs sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division.

Noah Gardner, a tenor, will perform with the South American Repertoire Honors Choir for advanced high school and college students.

Tenor Alex Ross and altos Ruby Ramsay and Danielle Barrett will perform with the High School Honors Choir.

Noah and Ruby are juniors; Alex and Danielle are sophomores. All four auditioned last spring, sending in audio recordings of themselves singing the scales, "My Country Tis of Thee," and a folk song or aria. They were selected on the basis of tone and intonation.

The four HA students are among 25 high school students from Maine who were selected for the two choirs. About 250 students will perform in the High

School Honors Choir; about 100 students will perform in the South American Repertoire Honors Choir.

Noah, Alex, Ruby, and Danielle will attend the ACDA Eastern Division conference February 10-13 and rehearse with their respective choirs from Wednesday evening to Saturday morning. Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday morning; the performance will be at Jordan Hall on the New England Conservatory campus at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Student vocalists received their music this fall and will be practicing during the coming months. When they arrive in Boston, they will have to re-audition and demonstrate that they know the music.

The ACDA Eastern Division conference is held every two years. Heidi Corliss, Academic Team Leader, Visual and Performing Arts, and choral director at Hampden Academy, said someone from HA has been selected for the honors choirs every time except twice since 1990, but this will be the largest contingent ever to attend.



Honors Choir participants—From left: Ruby Ramsay, Noah Gardner, Alex Ross, and Danielle Barrett.

## November will be 'Aspire Higher Month' at Hampden Academy

November will be "Aspire Higher Month" at Hampden Academy—a month in which students will be encouraged to apply to college.

The goal is four college applications per student, but the project will also include military and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) applications.

Guidance Counselor Erika Oliver said the month's activities will include competitions among ad-

sory groups to see which groups can compile the highest number of college and military applications and the largest percentage of FAFSA completions.

She said the Guidance Office is setting up help sessions during the school day to help students prepare applications.

Every time a student completes an application, the Guidance Office will present some type of college-re-

lated merchandise—cups, benners, planners, pens, pencils, or other free stuff that the colleges bring in.

Ms. Oliver said four colleges—the University of Maine, UMaine-Augusta, Husson University, and Eastern Maine Community College—will come to HA during November and early December and do on-the-spot interview sessions with interested students.

Last year, about 75 percent of

HA students applied to either a 4-year or 2-year college.

Ms. Oliver said the Guidance Office is hoping to involve parents, as well.

"We hope parents will support and encourage their students," she said. "In addition, parents are more than welcome to come in for any of the help sessions. Parents often fell just as intimidated by the college admissions process as the kids if they haven't been through it before."



Hampden Academy JCL members march at last spring's state JCL convention.



Daija Misler, Mariah Dennis, and Natalie Hodgman.

## Junior Classical League, Latin are both alive and well at Hampden Academy

The Junior Classical League and the study of Latin are both alive and well at Hampden Academy.

A total of 105 students are enrolled in Latin courses at HA, and the school's JCL chapter continues to be one of the largest in the state with about 80 members.

This year, three HA students are statewide officers in JCL:

- Mariah Dennis, a senior, is the state JCL president. As such, she is responsible for planning and organizing the state JCL conventions.

- Natalie Hodgman, also a senior, is the editor of *Torch*, the JCL newsletter, a position she has held for two years in a row. Natalie was also a delegate to the JCL national convention at Trinity University

in San Antonio, TX, last year and plans to attend this year's national convention as well.

- Daija Misler, a junior, is the 2nd vice president, a job that includes judging spirit competitions among the JCL chapters.

Latin teacher Ben Johnson is the faculty adviser to the JCL chapter at HA, which meets at least once a

month. Because of the large number of members, the group often meets both before and after school, with students selecting which session they want to attend.

In addition to planning and preparing for statewide activities, the HA JCL engages in a number of local activities, including Trick or Treat for UNICEF, pumpkin painting, and ancient movie night.

"Hampden Academy has one of the most spirited, enthusiastic, high-performing, and well-rounded JCLs in the state," says Mr. Johnson. "The students like it—they sign up for Latin to be in JCL, and then they learn Latin and do academic things in JCL as well as spirit activities."

Natalie, who has been studying Latin since her freshman year, says it's helped her with other subjects, especially English.

"Studying Latin helps me identify different parts of speech in English," she says.

Mr. Johnson says there are about 500 students who are active in JCL statewide, participating in three conventions a year.

The fall convention was held of Friday, Nov. 13, at Winthrop High School, with the theme of "Flashback Friday," looking back at TV cartoons from the 1990s, which the students watched when they were little kids.

The certamen convention, which features a quiz-bowl type of competition that emphasizes fast recall of facts about classical civilization and its peoples, languages, and cultures, will be held at Leavitt High School in Turner in March.

The spring convention, an overnight event that included academics, athletics, creative arts, and spirit competitions, will be held in May at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop.

As state JCL president, Mariah is responsible for planning and organizing the conventions.

In addition, Mariah would like to see JCL increase networking and cooperation among schools, so that JCL becomes a big family of 500 students throughout the state, rather than just members of individual school Latin clubs.

Mariah says she'd like to see JCL update its ability to use social media—Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook—to get more interaction between JCL members throughout Maine.

Another possibility would be to hold regional conventions involving schools in different geographic areas of the state.



Back row (l. to r.): Cameron Labree and Patrick Kearns. Front row: Tyler Rinfret, Seth Townsend, Jonathan Turlo, and Jarett Jones. All are members of Boy Scout Troop 41.



Wagner Middle School students enjoy lunch at the new patio area behind the school.

## Wagner students have patio lunch area, thanks to Eagle Scout project

An Eagle Scout project organized by Hampden Academy senior Patrick Kearns has given students at Wagner Middle School a nice patio area behind the school where they have been able to eat lunch outdoors this fall.

Patrick, whose stepmother, Julia Kearns, used to teach at Wagner, decided on the project after consulting with Wagner principal Richard Glencross about ways to make things better for students and teachers.

"Dr. Glencross said there was a need to improve the patio behind the school," Patrick said.

Patrick, a member of Troop 41,

organized a work party in August to build three pressure-treated picnic tables, two benches, and three flower pots, and to re-do all the brickwork in the patio area and to re-grout the brick with sand.

In September, the crew stained the tables, benches, and flower pots with a dark brown stain.

Dr. Glencross said the picnic tables and the patio upgrade was a big hit with Wagner students.

"The students love this," he said. "They were able to go outside and eat lunch on the picnic tables. We had more participation by kids eat-

ing outside since Patrick's project provide them with a place to sit."

Patrick said the wood for the benches was donated by Hardy Construction of Hampden, whose owner, Todd Hardy, earned his Eagle Scout badge as a member of Troop 41 when he was Patrick's age. Mr. Hardy also served for five years as Scoutmaster for Troop 234 in Winterport.

As of the beginning of October, Patrick said he needed to complete his project report and earn three more merit badges to achieve his Eagle rank, but he was confident that he would get everything done this fall.

## Creation Station draws students to HA library for hands-on projects

(Continued from page 1)

to create laptop cases out of repurposed clothing. More Fabric Art sessions will be held throughout the month of November.

Creation Station is supported by funds from the Tibbetts bequest to the Hampden Academy Library.



Above: Participants in "Fabric Arts," Module 2 of Creation Station at the Hampden Academy Library.



## 5th graders enjoy hands-on science at Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Fifth graders at Wagner Middle School traveled to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland this fall and spent the afternoon investigating the connections between people, codfish, lobster, herring, and copepods in the gulf.

The students, working in teams of three, took on the roles of scientists and fishermen while conducting hands-on research in the institute's state-of-the-art learning laboratory.

They explored such questions as:

- How are cod and lobster connected? Students noted that when the cod population went down, the lobster population went up. How-

ever, as the lobster catch increased, the price went down.

- How can the fisheries be made more sustainable? Students role-playing as fishermen looked at research to choose which area of Gulf they were going to fish, what type of fuel they were going to use to get there, and what kinds of nets they would use. They entered their choices into the computer, and after they finished fishing the computer told them



WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

what they caught and whether any of the fish were too small and had to be put back.

- What impacts will climate change have on the Gulf of Maine ecosystem? Students researched the impacts that warmer water may have on key species in the Gulf—and on the ecosystem as a whole.

Fifth grade teacher Sheridan Rawcliffe says everything the students do at the GMRI lab is video-

taped, and the videos are sent to a personal website that is set up for each student. "When the students get home, they can log on to their websites, using their own IDs, see all the work their team did in the lab exercises, and share it with their parents," she says.

Ms. Rawcliffe said the entire trip, including transportation in a coach bus, was funded by GMRI and its donors.

## NEW STAFF AT WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Jillian Liversidge, Spanish

Jillian Liversidge, who spent 10 months last year sailing from Maine to the Bahamas and back with her family, is teaching Spanish at Wagner Middle School and Smith Elementary School.

She teaches one class per week to 4th graders at Smith and 5th graders at Wagner, and three 40-minute classes per week to students in grades 6-8 at Wagner.



Jillian Liversidge

Previously, she held a pair of part-time jobs, teaching Spanish at Ellsworth High School for two years and teaching Spanish to grades K-8 in Surry for three years.

Before that, she taught Spanish to children in preschool to grade 5 at Waynflete's lower school in Portland for four years, and at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham for four years.

Mrs. Liversidge, who is from Orr's Island, ME, says she grew up on a lobster boat, as her dad was a lobsterman from Harpswell. She graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, where she developed her passion for the Spanish language.

"I spent part of my senior year in high school in Cuernavaca, Mexico," she said. "That's when I decided to change my career aspirations."

She received her B.A. degree in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont, which is renown for its language programs. She also spent a semester studying Spanish at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile.

After graduating from Middlebury, she worked as an educational technician in SAD 75 in Topsham for a year and a half while she earned her teaching credentials.

Mrs. Liversidge lives in Stockton Springs with her husband and 8-year-old daughter. She and her husband share an interest in boating, which includes her family's 38-foot Island Packet sailing vessel, moored in Stockton Harbor.

She also has a daughter who is completing her studies at McGill University.

### Dana Andrews, Special Ed

Dana Andrews, who has worked for the past 13 years in the Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities (SPRPCE) in Bangor and Old Town, is now a special education teacher at Wagner Middle School.

Mr. Andrews started as an educational technician at SPRPCE in 2003 when it was in Old Town. The program moved to Bangor two years ago. Before joining SPRPCE, he was a police officer in Old Town and a case manager for the Department of Human Services.

A native of Brewer, Mr. Andrews

graduated from Brewer High School and received his degree in criminal justice from Husson University.

He and his wife live in Brewer. They have two daughters, age 12 and 13, who are in 7th and 8th grade at Brewer Community School.

### Samantha Dunton, 8th Grade

Samantha Dunton, a Winterport native who has degrees in both secondary and elementary education, is teaching 8th grade science and algebra at Wagner Middle School.

Ms. Dunton graduated from Hampden Academy and the University of Maine and did her student teaching at Dedham Elementary School and Hermon Middle School last year.

She lives in Bangor and loves anything Maine and anything outdoors, including hiking and camping, especially in the Millinocket area.

She initially graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, but decided to spend an extra year at UMaine to get a second degree in elementary education.

"I love working with younger kids, and I wanted more options," she said.

### Scott Arritt, 7th Grade

Scott Arritt, an avid skier who spent six years in the Air Force as a bomb disposal expert, is the new 7th grade ELA and writing teacher at Wagner Middle School.

Mr. Arritt graduated from the University of Maine last May. He did his student teaching at Hermon High School and Wagner Middle School.

At Wagner, his mentor was Julia Kearns, who left at the end of the school year to move to southern Maine. Mrs. Kearns' departure resulted in the opening that Mr. Arritt was hired to fill.

A native of Harmony, he graduated from Foxcroft Academy and now lives in Brewer.

Mr. Arritt says he's looking forward to the first snowfall. "I can't wait to get back to skiing," he says.

He regards Sugarloaf and Sunday River as his ski areas of choice, although he'll probably take his first couple of runs at Hermon Mountain.

He's skied as far west as Telluride, CO, and he skied in Korea when he was in the Air Force, stationed at Osan AFB.

His military specialty was explosive ordinance disposal, serving on Air Force bomb squads throughout the Pacific while on temporary duty from Osan. He also served at Tyndall AFB, Panama City, FL, and Luke AFB, Mesa, AZ.

As an ELA teacher, Mr. Arritt also enjoys reading and says he constantly has his nose in a book.



Wagner Middle School students had a huge vegetable display for Harvest Day.

## Harvest Day at Wagner

Students at Wagner Middle School learned a lot about local foods and healthy eating during the school's annual Harvest Day celebration on Monday, Sept. 21.

"All of the different veggies in the salad bar were labeled, and there were a lot of different foods for kids to try," said Wagner Kitchen Manager Brenda White.

Students also participated in the food preparation—harvesting vegetables from the school garden, shucking corn, and helping in the kitchen to make kale chips.

Mrs. White said tomatoes, peppers, and carrots were harvested from the school garden, which was started last spring by district wellness coordinator Brittany Layman.

She said she also brought in

produce from a local farm so there would be enough to go around.

Mrs. White said the school garden continued to produce veggies for the food service program during the fall, and she's hoping it will expand in the future.

She's also hoping to be able to incorporate the garden into lessons about local foods and nutrition.



Student prepares kale as part of Harvest Day celebration.



Students shuck corn for Harvest Day at Wagner Middle School.

## 2 from Reeds Brook attend institute at UMaine on 'Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning'

A summer training institute on Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning at the University of Maine has generated a lot of interest among staff members at Reeds Brook and Wagner Middle Schools.

The subject—how to get students to take ownership of their learning and track their own progress—is being discussed by teachers at both schools during a series of learning sessions that are being scheduled for in-service days.

"We're talking about assessment FOR learning, as opposed to the old practice of assessment OF learning," says Laura Matthews, 7th and 8th grade math and science teacher at Reeds Brook who attended the institute and is helping lead the learning sessions.

"Having students track their own learning gives so much more bang for the buck in teaching," adds Georgiana Piete, 6th grade math and science teacher at Reeds Brook who also attended the institute.

The institute was funded by the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership, a partnership between UMaine and a number of Maine school districts, including RSU 22. It was attended by teachers from more than 50 Maine schools.

The trainers were Anita Stewart McCafferty, former principal at Reeds Brook who is now a professor at the University of Southern Maine, and Dr. Jeff Beaudry, one of her colleagues at USM.

The institute began with 2½ days of instruction on the seven strategies, followed by a week of hands-on sessions at UMaine in which the participants practiced what they had learned.

"We worked with teachers from other schools in the area to create unit plans with assessments," said Ms. Piete. "What I learned from this training was that writing good assessments that really measure what students know and understand is difficult. I also learned how important it is to track student learning and to have students have ownership of learning and tracking."

When Ms. Piete and Ms. Matthews returned to RSU 22, they found that their fellow teachers were very interested in what they had to say about assessments for learning.

As a result, they broke down the information into a series of four or five learning sessions for teachers from both schools.

The first session, which focused on student ownership of learning and the use of one-step rubrics as a student-friendly means of assessment, was held during the in-service day on August 28.

The second session, on assessments and setting clear learning targets, was held during the in-service day on October 9.

Future sessions are planned for later in the year.

Ms. Matthews says the emphasis of assessment FOR learning, as opposed to assessment OF learning, applies to both students and teachers.

"The previous focus of assessments was on what students have

learned; now, we're looking at assessments as a means of helping students and teachers determine how well they're doing on meeting the standards and what they still need to learn," she said.

### More on the Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning . . .

A team from RSU 22 is attending a four-day training throughout the 2015-2016 school year. Representatives from each building are participating in training similar to what Mrs. Matthews and Ms. Piete did during the summer of 2015. Information will be shared with other RSU 22 educators through in-service time, staff meetings and small group meetings.

## NEW STAFF AT REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Christine Keeley, part-time Library ed tech

Christine Keeley, who spent last year as the lead toddler teacher at the Children's Voice, a private preschool in Belfast, is the new part-time library ed tech at Reeds Brook Middle School.

Mrs. Keeley said she took the job at the Children's Voice because she had always wanted to try working with toddlers.

"I loved it and left work each day with a song in my heart and either ranch dressing or paint in my hair," she said. Ultimately, however, she decided she wanted to spend more time with her family.

Previously, she worked for four years as a special education ed tech at Wagner Middle School after spending time at home raising her two daughters, Rosalind, now a freshman at Gordon College in Massachusetts, and Lilly-Anne, a 7th grade at Wagner Middle School.

Originally from Scenery Hill, PA, Mrs. Keeley received her B.A. in English from Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania, and her Master's degree in Middle Level Education from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

Before moving to Maine, she taught for eight years in Pennsylvania (grades 7-12) and Connecticut (grade 6).

### Carrie Kern, Special Ed Grade 7

Carrie Kern has joined the staff of Reeds Brook Middle School as a 7th grade special education teacher.

She comes to Reeds Brook from Deer Isle-Stonington High School, where she spent a year working as a special education administrator and resource room teacher for grades 9-12 while also completing her internship for special education administration.

The year before, she was a speech language pathologist at Kennebunk High School while she completed her special education administration coursework at



Christine Keeley



Carrie Kern



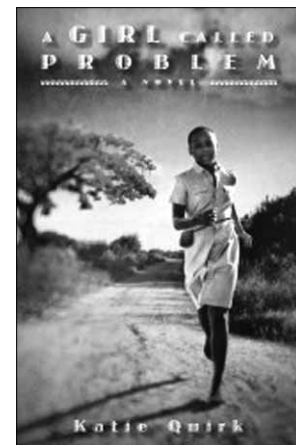
REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Reeds Brook 40 Book Challenge

Our students at Reeds Brook have been put to the challenge to read 40 books this year. This equates to one book a week or 10 books a quarter. Last year we had several students meet this goal and many students read over 20 titles during the year!

We recently had author Katie Quirk speak to our students about her new book, *A Girl Called Problem*. We would like to encourage students to check out this award winning novel and to consider reading the book set in Tanzania.

Some teachers have set up systems to help students select books from a variety of genres, so the students get outside their comfort zones.



the University of Southern Maine.

Previously, she was a speech language pathologist for eight years at Orono High School and Middle School, and for 10 years in southeastern Massachusetts.

A native of Bangor, she graduated from the University of Maine with a B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders and received her M.S. degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Syracuse University.

In 2012, she completed the coursework to become a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA).

She and her husband live in Winterport. They have two children, ages 8 and 12, who attend Smith Elementary School and Wagner Middle School, respectively, and a dog named Spot.

Ms. Kern enjoys cooking, kayaking, and reading.

### Francisca Smith, Spanish

Francisca Smith, a native of Mexico who lives in Bangor, is the full-time Spanish teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School this year.

For the past two years, she taught Spanish at the Ashland District School in Aroostook County. Previously, she taught Spanish at the Parkside Learning Center in Bangor, a private child care facility for pre-K and kindergarten students.

Mrs. Smith graduated from Universidad del Noroeste (now Universidad del Valle de México) in Hermosillo, Sonora, in 2002 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She then worked in a bank for a year and then managed a dry cleaning company in Hermosillo.

"That's where I started teaching," Mrs. Smith said. "I had a program so my employees could go beyond just doing things with their hands. I started teaching them English and computers, and I found out that I like to teach."

She decided that she needed to learn more English, so she moved to Las Vegas, studied there, and got married. Mrs. Smith and her husband Mark decided to move to Maine because Mark's mother is from Newport.

"We came to visit and found that Maine is a beautiful place to raise children," she said. "We want to raise our kids here." The Smiths have two children, ages 8 and 9.

### Brian Simpson, Special Education ed tech

Brian Simpson, an educational technician in the Resource Room at Earl C. McGraw School for the past two years, has moved to a similar position at Reeds Brook Middle School.

Mr. Simpson worked for the telephone company for 32 years before retiring in 2011. He served for a year and a half as a long-term substitute at McGraw, Reeds Brook, and Weatherbee Schools before taking the Resource Room job at McGraw.

A native of Minot, ME, Mr. Simpson graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn and received his B.A. degree in History from the University of Maine. His first job after college was as an ed tech in the Resource Room at Garland Street Middle School (now the Cohen Middle School). After three years at Garland Street, he took the job with the phone company.

Mr. Simpson lives in Hampden with his wife Nancy, who is in her 40th year as a teacher and her 27th year at Reeds Brook. They have three grown sons, two in New York and one in California. All three graduated from Hampden Academy.

### Susan McCallum, Spanish

Susan McCallum, who taught Spanish for 37 years before retiring two years ago, is now teaching Spanish half-time at Reeds Brook Middle School.

The last 28 years of her teaching career were at Brewer Middle School and the new Brewer Community School.

A lifelong resident of Hampden, Mrs. McCallum attended parochial schools in Bangor until grade 10 and then graduated from Hampden Academy. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Maine, where she majored in French and minored in Spanish.

She said she didn't plan to return to teaching after her retirement, but she

(Continued in next column)



Brian Simpson



Francisca Smith



Susan McCallum



# Weatherbee adopts 6-day rotation for specials to ensure equal time

George B. Weatherbee School has implemented a six-day rotation for “specials,” or “encore classes,” in order to fit Spanish into the curriculum without taking time away from reading, writing, and math.

The specials include one session of art, music, guidance/library, and Spanish and two sessions of physical education every six school days.

The new schedule ensures that the specials receive the same amount of time, regardless of holidays, snow days, or other interruptions.

Under the old system, students would have specials on the same day every week, so students who had art on Mondays would have fewer art classes because of Monday holidays. Similarly, snow days would result in students missing that day’s special for the week.

Now, with the six-day rotation, students follow a schedule with days designated as A, B, C, D, E, and F days. When there is a holiday with no school, a special school event, or a snow day, students don’t go without their “special.” Rather, if an A day is missed for whatever reason,

the next school day is an A day.

The students know this and have adapted to the new system very well. Each day’s designation (A, B, C, etc.) is announced in the morning and at the end of the day, and it’s also written on a welcome whiteboard in the hall.

The process of developing the new schedule began last December, when a team of teachers volunteered to research a new model.

The basic task was to create new schedule for coming year (2015-16) that would solve the problem of how to add Spanish without detracting from the core curriculum and the other specials, and how to make the programming equitable.

The new schedule also provides two other very significant advantages for the entire Weatherbee community.

First, the schedule balances the times during the day when students and teachers work on reading, writing, and math in the classroom.

As a result, reading is scheduled for the first part of the day on two of the six days, in the middle of the

day on two days, and at the end of the day on two days. Ditto for math and writing.

Weatherbee Principal Christine Boone explains: “Now, if you have a student who’s a morning person, and who’s super-focused in the morning, he won’t have the same subject in the morning all the time. Similarly, if a student is tired part of the day, he’s not tired for the same subject every day. All three core subjects—reading, writing, and math—are evenly split between the first part of the day, the middle of



GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL

the day, and the end of the day.”

Second, the specials are scheduled at the same time of the day for each grade level, which means that teachers can have common planning time to discuss student learning and best practices, develop common lesson plans, or otherwise communicate about student needs.

An additional benefit is that the PE program at Weatherbee and McGraw Schools has become an integrated K-5 program. Weatherbee PE teacher Andrew Plaisted has teamed with McGraw PE teacher Randi Kaplan so that two classes of the same grade level may be taught at the same time. The teachers taught together as a team for the first several weeks of the year to make sure they learned the individual needs of children at the other school. Slowly, they have transitioned into independent classrooms. This means that once in the six-day cycle, Weatherbee students walk to McGraw with Mrs. Kaplan and McGraw students walk to Weatherbee with Mr. Plaisted. Weatherbee students are thrilled to walk the 30 yards to go to their “old” school, and the McGraw students are excited to have a class at their future school.

One goal of the new schedule was to allow McGraw students to be more familiar with Weatherbee School so that the transition from grade 2 to grade 3 is as seamless as possible.



Emma Prescott prepares an announcement in the main Hallway for “B” Day at Weatherbee School.

To accomplish all of these scheduling changes, Mrs. Boone said the staff at Weatherbee had to work with Reeds Brook, Smith, McGraw, and Wagner to make sure that the encore teachers could come to Weatherbee at the same time.

“A lot of details had to be worked out,” she said. “There were a lot of conversations and lot of cooperation and collaboration at all levels.”

Art teacher Angeli Perrow said the 6-day schedule has definite advantages where specials are concerned.

“Holidays, in-service days, and snow days no longer impact a class’s art time,” she says. “Last year I had a 4th grade class that missed four art classes in a row. That isn’t a problem with the new schedule.”

## Emil Genest honored

(Continued from page 1)  
the taxpayer’s perspective.

“Assistant Superintendent Genest has been a strong ambassador for public education for over three decades. His leadership is one of the reasons RSU 22 has been on numerous occasions designated one of Maine’s ‘high performing and highly efficient’ school districts,” said RSU Superintendent Richard Lyons, who nominated Mr. Genest for the honor.

“He is an asset to the district’s administrative team, integrating institutional memory with progressive thoughtfulness,” Lyons said.

Mr. Genest said what motivates him in his job are students and the community.

“I passionately care for the betterment of students and the community as a whole. As I look around RSU 22, I can identify the signifi-

cant changes that have impacted the lives of citizens. My educational mission is simple: We love and nurture all children,” he said.

Mr. Genest was selected for the award through a vote of a committee of his peers.

“It is a truly rewarding experience to be recognized by one’s fellow colleagues because they understand the job expectations and implications on a day-to-day basis,” he said. “I also want to emphasize this award is a reflection of the dedicated faculty, staff and Board of Directors of the RSU 22 family.”

The award was announced at the Maine School Superintendents Association Annual Meeting in October. Mr. Genest has been active in MSSA, as well as being active in the Penquis Superintendents Association, currently serving as its secretary.



**MAINE AUTHOR KATIE QUIRK** visited Reeds Brook Middle School on Tuesday, September 8 to talk about the time she spent in Africa, the culture there, and how it related to her book, “A Girl Called Problem.” Many students expressed interest in reading the book, which can be purchased at The Briar Patch and Bull Moose in Bangor, as well as at Amazon, Powell’s, Barnes and Noble, Indie Bound, and Auntie’s in Spokane, WA.

## NEW STAFF AT REEDS BROOK

(Continued from preceding page)  
changed her mind when she saw the half-time position advertised.

“It’s perfect,” she said. “I love kids, I love teaching, and I love not having to get up every single day. I teach every other day, so every week I have a three-day weekend.”

### Jason Kash, Grade 7

Jason Kash has joined the staff at Reeds Brook Middle School as a 7th grade social studies and math teacher.

He comes to Hampden from Hartland, ME, where he taught 7th and 8th grade social studies for four years.

Mr. Kash grew up in an Air Force family and attended high school in Illinois just outside St. Louis. After high school, his parents went on



Jason Kash

overseas assignments and he decided to attend the University of Maine because he had relatives in the Midcoast area and wanted to be near family while in college.

After graduating with a dual major in history and English, he went to work at the Renys distribution warehouse in Newcastle, where he managed the toy section. He then worked as a finish carpenter making furniture for a local company in Boothbay Harbor before deciding to enroll in the Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP) at the University of Southern Maine, finishing his masters degree in teaching and learning.

While new to teaching in the district, Mr. Kash has been working with RSU 22 students for several years as an assistant coach for both the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons at Hampden Academy.

Mr. Kash has always had a passion for running. He was a runner in high school and competed on the track and field team at UMaine.

Mr. Kash and his wife live in Hampden. They have a horse, Monte, which they keep in Glenburn, and two cats.

## NEW STAFF AT GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL

### Susan Imbriaco, Spanish

Suzie Imbriaco, who taught Spanish in South Carolina and Virginia for nine years before moving to Hampden last year, is now the part-time Spanish teacher at George B. Weatherbee School.

Mrs. Imbriaco is teaching Spanish for one period per week to all 4th and 5th graders at Weatherbee. Last year, she stayed home with her children. This year, her son is enrolled in kindergarten at McGraw School and her 2-year-old daughter is in day care.

Before coming to Maine, she taught elementary Spanish in Lexington, SC, outside of Columbia, for about 2½ years and middle school and elementary Spanish in Charlottesville, VA, for about five years. Earlier, she taught Spanish for shorter periods at schools in Virginia Beach and South Carolina.

Mrs. Imbriaco graduated from the University of South Carolina, where she majored in Spanish and minored in Education. She initially planned to teach math, but then started studying Spanish and became excited about it.

"I studied Spanish for three years in high school, but it was just another subject," she said. "When I studied it in college, I got excited about it and saw my classmates doing the same. I figured if they got excited, I would be able to engage younger students in language learning."

She said the turning point came when she spent a summer semester abroad in Spain, studying in the Alcalá de Henares, a city of 200,000 outside of Madrid. "I started dreaming in Spanish," she said.

Mrs. Imbriaco enjoys cooking and reading.

### Audrey Bracciodieta, Special Ed, Grades 3 and 4

Audrey Bracciodieta, who has taught special education for eight years in New York, Alaska, and Arizona, is now teaching special education in grades 3 and 4 at the George B. Weatherbee School.

For the past 10 years, Mrs. Bracciodieta has been a stay-at-home mom, but for the past four years, she has been substitute teaching at McGraw and Weatherbee Schools.

A native of Michigan, she received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in Special Education from Hunter College in New York City.

She taught in New York City for a year and upstate New York for three years. Then she spent three years teaching in Palmer, AK, in the same district as Hampden Academy Principal Leigh Larson.

Mrs. Bracciodieta said she wound up in Alaska because she and her husband honeymooned there and loved it. However, they wanted to come to the lower 48 to start their family, so her husband got a job in Phoenix, and she taught there for one year.

Phoenix was too hot and crowded, so they moved to Maine 10 years ago when their oldest daughter was four months old.

Mrs. Bracciodieta says she enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, and all things outdoors.



Suzie Imbriaco



Audrey Bracciodieta

### Chynna Felice, Grade 4

Chynna Felice is a new 4th grade team member at the George B. Weatherbee School. After moving to Orono a year ago, she subbed in RSU 22 and Bangor before settling in at Weatherbee.

Previously, she taught grades 4/5 in California for one year; grades 2/3 and 4/5 in Asheville, NC, for five years; and kindergarten in Columbus, OH, for four years. She also spent two years in New York City, where she taught art and technology classes at the Children's Museum of Manhattan.

A native of Athens, OH, Mrs. Felice received her B.A. in Art Education at The Ohio State University and her Master's degree in Education at the University of California-Santa Cruz. She enjoys hiking, cooking, making jewelry, and family. She lives with her husband, Gene, who works in the Digital Arts and Technology Department at the University of Maine, and her infant daughter.

### Zea Joles, Grade 5

Zea Joles, who graduated from the University of Maine last May, is teaching 5th grade at George B. Weatherbee School.

She did her student teaching in grades 4 and 5 at Old Town Elementary School.

A native of Presque Isle, she grew up in Bangor and graduated from Bangor High School. She lives in Hampden.

Her interests include music and reading. She plays eight different instruments. She says she always has a book with her and enjoys reading non-fiction, particularly biographies and autobiographies.

### Candice Randall, Grade 4

Candice Randall, a 3rd grade teacher at Newport Elementary School for the past 11 years, is now teaching 4th grade at the George B. Weatherbee School.

Mrs. Randall started teaching at Weatherbee on October 13 to fill a new position that was created in response to increased enrollment at Weatherbee.

Before she started teaching at Newport Elementary, she was the lead teacher at Bright Horizons Family Solutions in Belfast from June 2003 to December 2004, a grade 4 teacher in Corinth from 2001 to 2003, and a long-term sub at Leroy H. Smith School in the spring of 2001.

Mrs. Randall received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maine in December 2000.

She and her husband Gene live in Etna with their two sons, Cameron, a senior at Nokomis Regional High in Newport, and Gabe, 11, a 6th grader at the Etna-Dixmont School.

She says her family loves to go to car shows. "We have a 1970 Chevelle which we have worked on and enjoy cruising in in nice weather," she says.



Chynna Felice



Zea Joles



Candice Randall

She says her family also loves movies, swimming and camping.

"I also enjoy scrapbooking and crafting, and I like to repurpose old things and create something new," she says. "I have a slight addiction to HGTV shows!"

### Cindy Donovan, Librarian

Cindy Donovan, who served as a substitute teacher at Leroy H. Smith School last year, is now the librarian at George B. Weatherbee School.

Previously, she was a parent volunteer at Smith and Wagner Middle School for seven years.

Before she had children, she was a social worker at two Bangor agencies, United Cerebral Palsy and Opportunity Housing Inc., from 1997 to 2002.

A native of Old Town, Mrs. Donovan received her B.S. degree in Psychology and Child Development from the University of Maine. She and her husband Jason live in Winterport with their two sons, who are 5th and 8th graders at Wagner.

Mrs. Donovan enjoys reading, hiking, and gardening.

### Mikkala Libbey, Grade 3

Mikkala Libbey, a Hampden native who spent the last two years teaching at Watch Me Shine, a private early intervention school in Bangor, is teaching 3rd grade writing and social studies at George B. Weatherbee School.

Mrs. Libbey said she is teaching in the classroom across from where she attended 3rd grade with Mrs. Kelsey.

She graduated from Hampden Academy and the University of Maine at Farmington.

She is single and lives in Hampden. She says she loves being outside, spending time with family, and playing sports, especially soccer.

### Jay Corbin, Grade 5

Jay Corbin, who has been teaching for the past 11 years in grades 3 through 10, is teaching 5th grade writing and math at the George B. Weatherbee School.

He is teamed with Mr. Lindemann.

Mr. Corbin started teaching middle school special education in Millinocket for four years and in Greenbush for one year.

He then taught in regular education classrooms—grade 3 for two years, grade 4 for three years, and a combined grade 4/5 classroom for one year, all in Greenbush. He also coached middle school soccer and softball while in Greenbush.

A native of Carroll, ME, he graduated from Lee Academy and attended the University of Maine at Presque Isle and the University of Maine, where he earned his Bachelor's degree.

In 2014, he received his Master's degree from St. Joseph's College.

He is currently taking courses focus-



Cindy Donovan



Mikkala Libbey



Jay Corbin

ing on improving his technology instruction.

Mr. Corbin lives in Lincoln with his wife, two daughters, and golden retriever, Huck. He loves anything that gets him outdoors, especially fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, anything on the water, and most sports.

### Jennifer Smith, Special Ed, Grades 4 and 5

Jennifer Smith, who has been a special education teacher in New Hampshire, Idaho, and Oregon for 12 years, is teaching special education, primarily in grades 4 and 5, at the George B. Weatherbee School.

Mrs. Smith spent the last two years as a regular education teacher at St. Albans Elementary School.

"I'm happy to be back in special education," she says. "I enjoy teaching 4th and 5th graders."

A native of Oregon, she grew up outside of Portland and received her Bachelor's degree in Education and her Master's degree in Education Policy and Management from the University of Oregon. She started teaching in Idaho, where she stayed for five years. When her daughter was born, she moved back to Oregon to be close to family. After five years in Oregon and her daughter ready to start kindergarten, she became concerned about school budget cuts and half-day kindergarten classes with 30 students and no specials. As a result, she moved to Portsmouth, NH, and taught there for two years before coming to Maine.

She and her husband live in Bangor, where her daughter, now 9, is in 4th grade in Fairmount School.

Mrs. Smith loves canning—"I can everything I can," she says, including fruits, vegetables, and jam. She also enjoys reading and spending time with family.



Jennifer Smith

## NEW RSU 22 STAFF

### Rachelle Pattershall, District Social Worker

Rachelle Pattershall, a certified teacher with a background in psychology, child development, and social work, has joined the staff of RSU 22 as the district social worker for all five elementary and middle schools.

A native of Winterport, she graduated from Hampden Academy in 1989 and received her B.S. degree in Child Development and Family Relations from the University of Maine.

After a brief period working in pre-schools, she worked with Ira Weissman in the Hampden Academy Life Skills program for several years. She then worked for two agencies in Bangor—Wings for Children and Families and United Cerebral Palsy of Maine—for four years each—before leaving the workforce to have children. Mrs. Pattershall said her tenure at Wings for Children involved a lot of training and studying as she made the transition from child development to social work. "It was a period of intense learning," she said.

Mrs. Pattershall and her husband live in Hampden. They have two sons, age 9 and 10, who are students at Weatherbee School.



Rachelle Pattershall

## Smith School off to a great start for 2015-16 school year

Off to a great start! That is how we would describe our first month of the 2015-16 school year.

Smith School students have been extremely busy this past month.

On the first day, our new team of student announcers took charge of an assembly at which all of the Smith School staff was introduced, and students were warmly welcomed back.

Our school mascot (the Bee) stopped in to remind the students of our rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.

As teachers got to know new students and students began to settle in, lots of learning kicked in right away. Later, we had a successful harvest day where students got a chance to shuck local corn for lunch.

Grandparents Day, Farm Day and the Book Fair were other exciting and successful happenings during the month of September.

NWEA testing went off without a hitch, giving teachers valuable insights into the strengths and needs of our students, and we are all happy



LEROY H. SMITH  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
to be in solid learning mode now!  
Please visit our Facebook page at

Leroy H. Smith School to keep up with our happenings.



Shucking corn for Harvest Day.

## Farm Day at Smith School

Smith School enjoyed our first ever Farm Day on Friday, September 18. Students rotated through stations learning about different aspects of farming.

- Fisher Farm shared the importance of soil, the life cycle of the seed, and how to grow vegetables in the winter.

- Bee Whisperer Peter Cowin brought his honeybees and taught the students why bees are important to agriculture. Students also got to taste-test honey!

- School Health Coordinator Britta-

ny Layman brought her angora goats, showed the students the difference between wool and fiber, and allowed the students to card clean wool.

- Cynthia Buzzini used our new mobile cart to explore the inside of the tomato, and students had an opportunity to taste the different variety of tomatoes.

- Gentle Meadow Goat Farm joined us with their goats and explained the difference between goat and cow milk.

- Alex Layman housed an apple station where students taste tested apple cider and made beautiful ap-

ple prints. The weather was perfect and the day was fabulous. Students at all grade levels were brimming with stories and enthusiasm when they returned to their classrooms.

We would like to thank all the volunteers, presenters and organizers for making Farm Day such an educationally rich event, demonstrating the power of community involvement and hands-on learning.

Please feel free to view a snapshot of our day on <http://wabi.tv/2015/09/18/farm-day-at-leroy-smith-school>.



First graders display their project about the apple's life cycle.

## Apples make for yummy learning in First Grade

First grade students at Smith have been taking a bite out of fall by learning all about apples! The 1st graders have been studying the structure, function, and growth of plants as part of the science curriculum.

Students in Mrs. Baker's, Mrs. Davis's, and Mrs. Patterson's class-

es have connected this learning to the world around them since many families love picking fresh apples this time of year.

The students began their study by learning about the life of Johnny Appleseed and how he planted apple trees across the United

States. Then, students investigated what happened once the seeds were in the ground by reading books, looking at photographs, and watching videos about planting and plant growth. Students showed their new learning by creating a sequencing chart of the apple's life cycle.

"It's like the circle of life," commented one first grader. The unit of study was completed with a taste test of three different colored apples, and a graph charting each class's favorites.

Yum!

## NEW STAFF AT EARL C. McGRAW SCHOOL

### Elizabeth Carfrey, Grade 1

Elizabeth Carfrey has joined the staff at Earl C. McGraw School as a first grade teacher after teaching for 11 years in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Florida.

Her most recent teaching jobs were in Allentown, PA, where she served as a freshman-sophomore academic support and reading specialist at Allentown Central Catholic High School for one year and kindergarten teacher



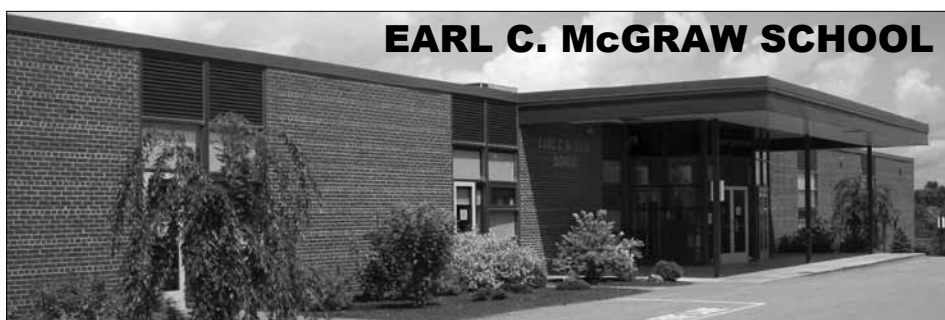
Elizabeth Carfrey

and reading specialist at the Jewish Day School in Allentown.

Ms. Carfrey grew up in Bucks County, PA, outside Philadelphia, and received her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Temple University. She taught first grade in a Catholic school in Pennsylvania and then moved south, teaching first grade in Macon, GA, for four years and third grade in Altamont Springs, FL, near Orlando, for three years.

While in Macon, she earned her Master's degree at Mercer University. She also earned a Master's degree in Literacy while she was teaching in Allentown.

Ms. Carfrey lives in Old Town with her partner, who is the superintendent at the Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono. She has two dogs and enjoys taking them on walks. She also loves reading, travel, and meeting new people.



## Parents, students enjoy McGraw Curriculum Night

Parents and students alike enjoyed the annual Curriculum Night at Earl C. McGraw School, which was held from 5:30 to 6:30 on the evening on October 1.

Students were able to bring their parents into their classrooms and show them some of the things they will be learning during the year.

Some teachers organized scavenger hunts, while others had displays of projects that the students had completed during the first month of school.

The PTO organized the Chry-

ler Drive for Kids program, which offered \$10 for every person who signed up and test drove a vehicle. A total of 102 people took test drives so the PTO received \$1,020 from Chrysler to support school programs.

Principal Kristin Briggs said Curriculum Night also included a Scholastic Book Fair, which was very well attended.

"The book fair was a huge success," she said. "The feedback I received on the selection of books was very positive."



# RSU 22 Education Foundation

*Community Partners for Inspired Education*

## RSU 22 Education Foundation introduces Custodian Accounts

The Education Foundation for RSU 22 is a constantly evolving organization focused on “funding initiatives that fall outside the school budget; partnering with the school district to help achieve its vision; and building community-wide support for the benefit of our schools”. In keeping with this mission the Education Foundation has recently decided to offer fund raising assistance to school clubs and organizations. Custodian Accounts with the Education Foundation allow school clubs to fund-raise as part of the Foundation’s non-profit 501c(3).

How does this benefit the community? Well, the cost and time involved in becoming a non-profit tax exempt organization usually prevents clubs from becoming a 501c(3), so most school clubs rely on the generosity of many, for small donations and work very hard at fund raising for their clubs. Although that will continue, your club may also opt to accept and solicit tax-deductible donations from members of the public or businesses by establish-

ing a custodian account with the Education Foundation.

Donations are then made to the Education Foundation, care of “your club,” and held in an account for you until you need them.

In the spring of this year the Education Foundation voted to establish this type of account because several organizations were fund raising and wanted to be able to write receipts for the tax-deductible donations to those who donated. The Hampden Academy Bee Keeping project was funded in part by one such generous donation. Since then, the Education Foundation of RSU22 has acted as custodian for donations to the Reeds Brook Middle School Band and the Reeds Brook Trails Project. The Education Foundation is drafting policy now to regulate the use of custodian accounts. If your club or organization would like to partner with the Education Foundation to aid raising funds for your organization please contact Peter Witt at peterwitt@juno.com.



Gabriel Baker

### Gabriel Baker of Frankfort joins Foundation Board

The RSU 22 Education Foundation is pleased to have Frankfort resident Gabriel Baker join its Board of Directors. Since graduating from the University of Maine in 2001 with a B.S. in Business Administration, Mr. Baker has worked in the fields of business management, human resources and sales across several industries including finance, CRM, building materials and most recently, power equipment. Gabe is District Manager for Ariens Company of Brillion Wisconsin, covering all of Maine and Eastern New Hampshire.

Mr. Baker has actively supported our local schools, serving one term on the SAD 56 Board of Directors, as Chair of the Frankfort School Withdrawal Committee, and the Frankfort RSU 22 School Organization Committee.

Gabe is husband to Christy Baker, 1st grade teacher at the Leroy H. Smith School, and father of Madison Baker and Gracie Baker, both at Samuel Wagner Middle School.

### Foundation Board seeks to expand

The RSU 22 Education Foundation is actively seeking new board members and committee volunteers to join a growing nonprofit organization that supports the students and teachers in the school district.

Serving the towns of Frankfort, Hampden, Newburgh and Winterport, the Education Foundation funds initiatives with grants that help foster innovative educational projects. If you have a desire to connect with others who share an interest in quality education for children please consider joining the team.

Interested citizens or those wishing to nominate candidates for the Foundation Board of Directors should email [rsu22educationfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:rsu22educationfoundation@gmail.com).

To learn more about the RSU 22 Education Foundation, visit [www.rsu22educationfoundation.org](http://www.rsu22educationfoundation.org).

## Education Foundation hosts artists from Kansas for 3 performances of ‘Life In A Jar—The Irena Sendler Project’

The RSU 22 Education Foundation was the organizing sponsor for three performances of “Life In a Jar – The Irena Sendler Story” at Hampden Academy. Irena Sendler was a Roman Catholic social worker, who saved approximately 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland during the 2nd World War. The inspirational story of survival is brought to the surface in this play as Irena had to convince the parents to give up their children in order to save the children’s lives. Promising to reunite them with relatives after the war, she smuggled the children out of the ghetto and placed them with Polish families.

The general public was invited for two performances on Sunday, Nov. 8, and over 800 people enjoyed the play. The five actors and Director Norm Conard took questions from the audience right after the play and made themselves available for one-on-one conversations – and autographs – long after each of the performances. The actors included veterans such as Illinois State University sophomore Mary Fischer who – while having been in the play for 5 years – was nevertheless playing the role of Irena Sendler for the first time. Original cast member Megan Stewart, who had played the role of Irena Sendler since the beginning in 1999, could not attend for personal reasons. Mary’s gift as an actress and sincerity in portraying Irena were apparent, as was her beautiful voice.

Two newcomers to the cast were Addison Brown and Mary Kerr, both performing for their first time. High School (!) sophomore Mary Kerr played orphan Renata Zajdman who was saved by Irena at age 14. She added her beautiful voice to her acting skills, featuring 2 Jewish songs, one of which

was performed in Yiddish.

No cost to the public or the district occurred as all expenses were covered by generous sponsors from the district towns and the greater Bangor area, including businesses and Christian and Jewish organizations. That freed up over 800 attendees to donate generously to the LifeInAJar Foundation, supporting child survivors of the Holocaust and their families.

Monday saw an inspirational third performance for RSU 22 students only, and nearly 500 students from Hampden Academy and 8th grade students from Wagner and Reeds Brook Middle Schools attended. The Q&A session with the students was particularly impressive.

This project was conducted in close collaboration with the history and language arts teachers and building principals at Hampden Academy and both middle schools, where the topic of the Holocaust is covered in eighth grade.

For more information on the uplifting story of Irena Sendler and to watch a short video clip, please go to <http://www.irenasendler.org/video/>.



Scene from “Life in a Jar.”