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RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort

24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

June 2013

RSU 22 welcomes Frankfort

**Parent meetings scheduled for June 3 at Smith, Wagner;
budget meetings June 4, 6; budget referendum June 11**



Margaret Thurlow and Zach Ewing at the tie-dye table.



Zach Ewing with his new shirt.

Alt Ed, Life Skills students collaborate on tie-dying

The Alternative Education students and the Life Skills students at Hampden Academy are neighbors, who are located “across the street” from each other at the far end of the hall on the first floor of the academic wing.

Although they follow very different programs, they have some mutual interests, such as meeting new friends, and they’ve enjoyed collaborating in several areas this spring.

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The voters have spoken, and the citizens of Hampden, Newburgh and Winterport are pleased to welcome the town of Frankfort into Regional School Unit (RSU) 22.

Parent meetings have been scheduled for Monday, June 3, at Smith Elementary School from 6 to 7 p.m. and at Wagner Middle School from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The week after the parent meetings, the new four-town RSU 22 will hold two meetings and a referendum on the 2013-2014 budget. The budget schedule is:

- **June 4 at 6 p.m.**—a public hearing on the budget, to be held in the Hampden Academy library.
- **June 6 at 7 p.m.**—the annual RSU 22 Budget Meeting, to be held in the Hampden Academy gym, where RSU 22 voters will discuss and vote on all 10 articles in the warrant for the 2013-2014 budget. As members of the RSU, Frankfort residents will be entitled to vote on the budget articles, along with other RSU 22 residents.
- **June 11**—the Budget Validation Referendum, which will be held at municipal polling places in Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort. The referendum will ask voters if they want to approve the budget that was enacted at the RSU 22 Budget meeting on June 6.

The June 4 public hearing will also cover the district’s proposed Qualified School Con-

struction Bond (QSCB), which will provide funds for several renovation projects, including a new roof at Smith School, renovations to create two new classrooms at Wagner Middle School, and security upgrades at Weatherbee, Smith, and Wagner Schools. The QSCB will be submitted to the voters of Hampden, Newburgh, and Winterport only in a separate referendum on June 11.

At Monday’s parent meetings in Winterport, RSU 22 Superintendent

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RSU 22 Board adopts \$28.2 million budget

The RSU 22 Board of Directors has adopted a \$28.2 million budget for 2013-2014, when it will be educating students from four towns instead of three.

The budget was approved by the board at its regular meeting May 15.

It shows an increase in total expenditures of \$492,000, which is \$129,000 less than the \$621,000 in

new expenditures that were needed in order to bring Frankfort students into the RSU.

The expenditure side of the budget also included several factors that were beyond the RSU’s control, including:

- \$340,000 for the local share of Maine State Retirement contributions, which was shifted from the state budget to local school budgets

by Gov. LePage’s budget proposal.

- An 11% hike in employee health insurance premiums, an increase of \$300,000.

- Salary increases and other collective bargaining obligations.

To offset those increases, the board approved a long list of budget reductions totaling \$1.2 million, including the elimination of 4.75

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RSU 22 schools lead the way in new digital storytelling competitions

Some groundbreaking and record-breaking work has been going on at Reeds Brook Middle School, Wagner Middle School and Hampden Academy during the past year.

Student work at the three RSU 22 schools has amassed six 1st place finishes, four 2nd place finishes, and five 3rd place finishes, beating out a slew of schools from around the state, north and south.

What’s this all about? It’s about the media productions that student teams have produced as part of their participation in the Meridian

Stories initiative, which offers a series of curricular-driven digital storytelling competitions for schools.

From writing and producing Civil War Radio Dramas to re-imagining the balcony scene in Romeo and Juliet; from documentaries on gender stereotypes to interviews with Pi, these three schools have excelled.

In fact, one submission, entitled “Independence,” by Josh Redmond, Noah Gardner and Paul Casavant, 8th graders at Reeds Brook, was so

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Screenshot of “Alexsie and the Fairy Godmother of Poetry” by Alexandra Buzzini and Josie Lawrence, which won 1st place in the Meridian Stories Comic Poetry Sketch category.

Superintendent's message

Welcome, citizens and students of Frankfort; vote coming on whether to keep the budget referendum process; thank you, Liliane Deighan, for your service to RSU 22

By Rick Lyons, Superintendent of Schools, SAD 22

As the headline on the front page says, we'd like to welcome the town of Frankfort, its citizens, and its students to RSU 22.

I'm hoping to meet parents who will be sending their children to Smith Elementary School and Wagner Middle School at the parents' nights on Monday, June 3.

I'm also hoping to meet Frankfort voters at the budget information meeting on June 4 and the annual RSU 22 Budget Meeting on June 6.

I am encouraging Frankfort voters to go to the polls on June 11 to participate in the annual Budget Validation Referendum, which asks voters to answer "yes" or "no" to the question of whether they support the budget that was approved at the district Budget Meeting five days earlier.

* * *

Frankfort parents who haven't decided where they're going to send their children to school next fall are also welcome to attend the

June 3 parents' meetings at Smith and Wagner schools. You can also visit our district and school websites to learn more about the type of educational programs we offer.

If you would like to enroll your child in Smith School (grades PK-4), Wagner Middle School (grades 5-8), or Hampden Academy (grades 9-12), please contact the building principal.

* * *

While we're on the subject of the budget, RSU 22 voters will also be able to say whether they think the aforementioned Budget Validation Referendum is a vital part of the budget process.

The Budget Validation Referendum is a requirement of state law that was part of the school consolidation law when it was passed four years ago. The law requires regional school units (including SADs) to hold a referendum on the budget that is approved by the annual budget meeting within 30 days after the budget is approved. However,

the law also gives voters the opportunity every three years to weigh in on the referendum requirement.

The referendum is an expense, particularly during years when no other elections or referendums are scheduled. Some citizens say it is a duplicative effort, since a district budget meeting precedes the referendum.

Supporters of the referendum idea say it provides an important safeguard for the public interest, which might not be adequately protected during the annual budget meeting.

Either way—it's your choice. Please vote on June 11 on whether to retain the budget validation referendum.

* * *

I'd like to recognize Liliane Deighan, who has served on the SAD 22 Board of Directors for the past 15 years but who has decided not to seek re-election.

Liliane has served on the Steering Committee of the SAD 22

Education Foundation. She was a long-standing chair of the Board's Education Committee and also served as a member of the Policy Committee, Hampden Academy Re-Use Committee, Budget Committee, Behavioral Review Committee, and Athletic Committee.

I sincerely appreciate her service to the Board and the community, and her commitment to excellence in public education.

Thank you, Liliane.

* * *

RSU 22 has held three public forums on student-centered, standards-based education, which were very well attended. We have received some very good feedback, which will be incorporated into the steering committee's future work.

Curriculum Director Mary Giard will schedule some follow-up meetings in the near future. Please continue to access our website to stay current with the work of our steering committee.

RSU 22 Board of Directors adopts \$28.2 million budget

(Continued from page 1)

FTE (full-time equivalent) teaching positions at Hampden Academy, 2.5 FTE teaching positions at Reeds Brook, one-half of a teaching position at Wagner, one-half of a teaching position at McGraw, and one-half of a guidance position at Weatherbee, as well as reduced hours for educational technicians and some other staff members.

The cutbacks at Reeds Brook and Wagner will result in the suspension of the middle school foreign language program.

Superintendent of Schools Rick Lyons said the two schools would formulate a plan to develop foreign language clubs for middle school students, as well as other opportunities to provide enrichment in foreign languages.

"The cut was made with the conviction that the Board of Directors will reintroduce foreign languages at the middle school level the following year," Mr. Lyons said.

The net result of the board's deliberations was a budget with an increase of \$956,510 in assessments to the towns. But that increase was mitigated by the fact that \$733,816 of the total is scheduled to come from Frankfort, which wasn't a member of the RSU last year.

The assessment increases for the three former SAD 22 towns totaled \$228,694, for an average increase of 2.59%. However, Hampden's proposed assessment increased by \$268,550, or 5.1%, because its state valuation increased by 5.8% and its student population also increased slightly. By contrast, the proposed assessments for Winterport and Newburgh will go down by \$35,606 and \$10,250, respectively, because their state valuation and pupil count numbers are both down.

The budgeting process was made even more challenging by shortfalls on the revenue side. The Department of Education's spreadsheet on General Purpose Aid to local schools for 2013-2014 showed RSU 22 with a loss of \$467,000 in GPA compared to last year.

Ultimately, incorporating Frankfort into RSU 22 proved to be a definite financial plus for the district.

Although RSU 22 budgeted \$621,000 for expenditures related to educating Frankfort students at Wagner and Smith schools, those funds were more than offset by the new revenue that will be coming in, including a local assessment of \$733,000, a net increase in state revenues of at least \$276,000, and an additional \$122,000 that will come either from the state or the

town of Frankfort, depending on how many Frankfort students enroll in RSU 22 schools. That totals up

to a net positive impact of \$508,000 for RSU 22.

RSU 22 welcomes Frankfort

(Continued from page 1)

of Schools Rick Lyons and Curriculum Director Mary Giard will be welcoming Frankfort parents and giving them an overview from the district perspective, including information on the budget meeting and referendum, along with the RSU's educational philosophy and curriculum initiatives.

Each building principal will spend time with parents to talk about curriculum, procedures, policies, and practices at their schools, tour the building, and answer questions.

Parents who will have students at both schools can attend the meeting at Smith and then catch the last half-hour of the meeting at Wagner.

Smith will have students in Pre-K through grade 4 from both Frankfort and Winterport, while students in grades 5-8 will be attending Wagner Middle School.

Under the reorganization plan that was approved by voters in the four towns this spring, Frankfort residents can enroll their students in either RSU 20 or RSU 22 schools for the 2013-2014 school year, and students who are enrolled in an RSU 20 high school will be able to remain there for the duration of their high school years.

However, starting with the 2014-2015 school year, all Frankfort students in Pre-K through grade 8 will attend Smith Elementary School and Wagner Middle School, and all Frankfort students entering high school will attend Hampden Academy.

Both Frankfort and the former SAD 22 towns held referendums on the reorganization plan, and both votes were overwhelmingly in support of the plan. Frankfort voted

first, on March 28, and the tally was 181-59 in favor of joining RSU 22. The SAD 22 referendum was held on April 9, with a combined vote of 574-127 in favor accepting Frankfort into the district. The vote totals by town were Hampden, 280-52; Newburgh, 71-15; and Winterport, 223-60.

The creation of a four-town RSU including Frankfort will result in a few minor changes to the district.

- The Board of Directors will expand from 13 members to 14, with the additional board member representing Frankfort. Hampden will continue to have seven board members, Winterport four, and Newburgh two.

- The Board of Directors will move to a system of weighted voting that reflects the population of the four towns, based on the most recent U.S. census statistics.

- The cost-sharing formula for RSU 22 will be the same as for SAD 22—80% based on valuation and 20% based on enrollment. The cost-sharing percentages for FY 14 will be Hampden, 58.10% (down 3.02% from FY 13); Newburgh, 9.72% (down 1.06%); Winterport, 25.20% (down 2.90%); and Frankfort, 6.98%.

- Frankfort will pay a proportionate share of the bonded debt that is outstanding for SAD 22, including the local-only portion for the New Hampden Academy bond issue (\$5.8 million) and the School Revolving Renovation Fund bond issue (\$397,000) that funded multiple projects at SAD 22 schools.

- Frankfort will make a one-time payment towards the balance forward that is used to develop the FY 2014 budget.



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24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

is published by Maine Regional School Unit No. 22 for the citizens of Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort.

Richard A. Lyons, Superintendent of Schools

David C. Wollstadt, Editor (www.SchoolNewsletters.net)

Maine Regional School Unit No. 22
24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

207-862-3255

www.sad22.us

Curriculum Office Update

By Mary Giard, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, SAD 22

Kindergarten Jumpstart (KJS) Coming to Leroy H. Smith School in Summer 2013

This summer the Leroy H. Smith School will host a new program for select students headed to kindergarten in the fall of 2013. Kindergarten Jumpstart is a 100-hour program that provides young students the opportunity to be immersed in a literacy-rich learning environment, over a five week period. Kindergarten Jumpstart uses a multisensory approach to teach letters, letter sounds and the necessary phonological awareness skills for successful

literacy development, through a wide and inclusive literacy experience.

Book Buddies in Winterport sponsored Literacy for ME

The Book Buddies program will pair teen volunteers with children graduating from K-2 to share a love of reading while supporting early reading skills. It's intent is to provide a reading encouragement program. Similar programs are popular and successful in libraries across the United States. In this program, teens provide non-judgmental support for beginning

readers and positive encouragement as reading models. The program will be offered in Winterport.

Student-Centered Proficiency-Based Education Update

Over the past few months, the student centered proficiency based steering committee has hosted three public forums and has sought community input through smaller meetings and surveys. The information will be used to create RSU 22's strategic plan for implementing student centered proficiency based education over

the next few years.

RSU 22 teachers have begun some training focusing on complex reasoning strategies for deeper learning and basic classroom training to help manage a student centered classroom. Next year, training will be designed to support highly effective classroom strategies and to continue review content area goals.

The link to the survey is:

<http://goo.gl/PgZHE>



RSU 22 voters (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport) to vote on QSCB loan

Voters in the former SAD 22 towns of Hampden, Newburgh, and Winterport will vote June 11 whether to approve a Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) to fund renovation projects totaling \$283,000 at three RSU 22 schools.

A QSCB loan allows school districts to borrow at zero percent interest to renovate, repair, or equip schools. The QSCB lender receives a federal tax credit in lieu of interest payments.

The projects include:

- A new roof for Smith School.
- Renovations at Wagner Middle School to create two new classrooms from the original Integrated Study Center area.
- Security upgrades at the main entrances to Smith School, George B. Weatherbee School, and Wagner Middle School.

The estimated cost of the roof

project is \$181,300; the classroom renovations, \$33,400; and the building security upgrades, \$26,100. If the bond issue is approved, all three projects will be done this summer.

The Weatherbee School security upgrades include installation of two new interior vestibule doors with programmable electric strikes. A doorbell will also be installed, and the existing sliding glass window between the office and the vestibule will be replaced by a fixed glass security window and an indirect pass-through.

At Smith and Wagner Schools, programmable electric strikes will be installed on the existing vestibule doors, and security cameras and doorbell/intercom devices will be installed in the vestibules.

At all three schools, the exterior vestibule doors will normally remain unlocked, but the interior vestibule

doors will be programmed to automatically lock at a predetermined time in the morning and then to unlock at the end of the school day. While the interior doors are locked, visitors will come into the vestibule and either present themselves at the window (Weatherbee) or ring the doorbell (Smith and Wagner). At Smith and Wagner, a designated staff member will be able to view the vestibule on a desktop monitor and communicate with visitors using the intercom system. At Weatherbee, if a staff member is not available at the window, the visitor shall ring the doorbell for assistance. After visitors are cleared for entry, a staff member will buzz them into the school.

If funds are available after these projects are completed, the district will consider upgrading bathrooms in two classrooms at the Earl C. McGraw

School and renovation of the old locker rooms at the Weatherbee School to provide new ADA bathroom facilities. Those projects would be done during the fall of 2013 or the summer of 2014.

The referendum on the QSCB loan will coincide with the RSU 22 Budget Validation Referendum, but it will be on a separate ballot.

The budget referendum will be voted on by all four RSU 22 towns—Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort. The bond issue will not be voted on by Frankfort, because the town wasn't a member of SAD 22 when the QSCB application was submitted and approved.

However, in the reorganization plan that created RSU 22, Frankfort agreed to pay a proportionate share of the bonded debt that is outstanding for SAD 22, which would include the QSCB loan.

Weatherbee, Smith, Reeds Brook, Wagner engage in ‘Battle of the Books’

The Maine Student Book Award is designed to expand the literary horizons of students in grades 4-8 by encouraging them to read and enjoy a selection of new books and to choose a statewide favorite by written ballot each spring.

For students at Reeds Brook and Wagner middle schools and Smith and Weatherbee elementary schools in RSU 22, that turned into a Battle of the Books.

Interested students at the four schools formed teams to read as many of the 40 books on the MSBA list as possible and then participate in a Jeopardy-style competition.

The moderator would ask a question (for example: "In which book was creativity a crime?"); the students would huddle together, write their answer on a white board, and hold it up for the judges to see. Teams would earn a point for getting the title correct, and another point for naming the author.

In the first round of competition on March 21, teams from Weatherbee faced off against teams from Reeds Brook at the Reeds Brook library in Hampden, while teams from Smith and Wagner competed against each other at the Wagner library in Winterport.

In both cases, the elementary students came out on top.

In Hampden, Weatherbee students swept the top three places, with Team Irish winning first place after a tie-breaker. Team Red Flames was second, and Team Blue Devils placed third.



Students from Weatherbee School (left photo) and Smith School/Wagner Middle School (right photo) answer questions in "Battle of the Books."

In Winterport, Team Hornets from Smith won first place, while Team Jaguars from Wagner placed second and Team Bees from Smith took third.

On April 11, a district-wide Battle of the Books was held at Reeds Brook, with students from all four of the RSU 22 schools, plus a team from Doughty Middle School in Bangor.

Team Spaghetti from Reeds Brook won the trophy, followed by Team Zasha from Weatherbee in second place and the Weatherbee A Team in third place.

Team Spaghetti received Battle crowns, as well as a copy of a book on the list of 2014 MSBA nominations to be donated to the school library. Team Spaghetti members were Audrey French, Ellie Dacey, Cara Whitmore, Zoe Ellingwood, Eliot Small, Nate Bailey, Aiden Babbot, Maddy Freeman, and McKenzie

Dewitt. Team Spaghetti earned the privilege of keeping the Battle of the Books trophy at the Reeds Brook library and had its team name engraved on the plaque. They will bring it to next year's competition and see if they can hold on to it.

Team Zasha included Emily Briggs, Lily Poole, Mikiko Frey, Claire Nickels, Hannah Mushrow, and Emily Garib. Annika Witt was also a member of Team Zasha, but was unable to compete on April 11.

The Weatherbee A Team included Will Patin, Bryce DeRosby, Kevin Turgeon, Bryan Frost, Sean McQuilkin, and Marc Fachiol.

This was the first year of the "Battle of the Books" competition in RSU 22. The goal was to bring attention to the the Maine Student Book Award and to encouraging students to read more books.

"It's a great way to get students to read books they wouldn't normally read," says Anne Reid, librarian at Weatherbee and Smith schools. "There's a fresh set of 40 books every year. Students who usually read fantasy might read realistic fiction, science fiction, or nonfiction."

The MSBA program has been a great success in the elementary and middle schools. The program included a visit in January by Jennifer Richard Jacobson, author of MSBA-nominated *Small as an Elephant*. Students are already reading books from the 2014 MSBA list. Some of the most popular titles so far are *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Appelt; *Wonder*, by R.J.Palacio; and *The Ghost of Graylock*, by Dan Pablocki. Look for the complete list of Maine Student Book Award titles at <http://msba.umeedu.maine.edu/>.

HA Jazz Ensemble, tribute band honor Don Stratton at concert

The Hampden Academy Jazz Ensemble teamed up with a special tribute band to honor jazz trumpeter and University of Maine professor Don Stratton with a tribute concert May 10 at the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center.

The Jazz Ensemble played “Us,” by Thad Jones, a jazz trumpeter, composer, and band leader, which featured guest artist Dave Demsey. The ensemble also played several pieces that they had practiced for festival competitions.

The tribute band, which was led by Hampden Academy band director Pat Michaud, played two of the major works that Stratton composed while he was at UMaine, Concerto for 3 Valver, featuring UMaine trumpet professor Jack Burt, and Concerto for J.C., featuring drummer Steve Grover. The group also performed an arrangement by Craig Skeffington and Alicia Keyes, “If I Ain’t Got You” featuring Dave Demsey, and “Our Love is Here to Stay.”

Gary Wittner, Dave Demsey, Peter de Klerk, and Steve Grover also performed Stratton’s arrangement of “Monk’s Mood.”

The tribute band included:
Saxophones: John Cooper, Jay Bregman, Dave Demsey, Dave

Tennis team raises funds for ‘Hug It Forward’ trip

Members of the Hampden Academy tennis team held a “servathon” early in May, which raised \$1,000 for “Hug It Forward” in support of a trip to Guatemala in June that is being led by Hampden Academy secretary Jeanette Evans.

Tennis team members got pledges from friends and family members, based on how many serves they could make out of 50 attempts. All team members, including JV players, participated.

“Hug it Forward” is an organization that helps rural communities in Latin America build schools out of plastic bottles stuffed with trash.

Mrs. Evans says the Reeds Brook Student Council has made two donations, including \$250 from the proceeds of a “Hat Day” at the school and \$200.41 from a portion of the admissions fee to a school dance.

A yard sale in April raised about \$600.

Mrs. Evans and her group will be leaving June 23 and returning June 30. She says additional donations are welcome, and there are more spots available on the trip to Guatemala, for anyone who is interested in going. More information on this trip can be found on their Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ASchool4ME](https://www.facebook.com/ASchool4ME) and information on Hug It Forward can be found at www.HugitForward.org.

NHS, Zumba instructor raise funds for bombing victims

A collaborative effort involving science teacher and Zumba instructor Danielle Johnson and Kylee Parker of the National Honor Society has raised more than \$1,200 for victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.

Ms. Johnson and the NHS sponsored a Zumba fundraiser at the Weatherbee School gym on May 2. About 50 people participated, with a suggested donation of \$1 per song and a playlist of 26.2 songs—the

Wells, and Steve Orlofsky.
Trumpets: John Foss, Craig Skeffington. Mark Tasker, Trent Austin, and Jack Burt.

Trombones: Mark Manduca, Jim Winters, Jim Trembly, and Dan Barrett.

Rhythm Section; Steve Grover, piano/drums; Gary Wittner, guitar; Peter de Klerk, bass; Jake Michaud (Hampden Academy drummer and student of Steve Grover), drums; Trevor Marcho, tuba; Rebecca Mallory, piccolo; Reba Sands (Reeds Brook Middle School 8th grader), flute; and Lizzie Graham, horn.

Hampden Academy sophomores Ethan Casavant, trumpet, and Spencer Canham, percussion, sat in with the tribute band while it played the Concerto for 3 Valver.

“There were a lot of really big names in the [tribute] band—a lot of people who are huge in jazz in Maine

right now,” Ethan said. “It was really cool to play along side them. You could tell that there was a real sense of camaraderie in the band. Everyone meshed together really well. So far as I know, they hadn’t played a lot together, but everything kind of clicked. It was really cool.”

Spencer said the tribute band came together really well in a short period of time. “It was really nice to be able to sit in with such great

sounds and such professionals,” he said. “It was a great opportunity to share a musical experience with these people who play so well.”

Stay tuned to hear more from the Don Stratton Tribute Band and others, as plans are being made to develop a summer jazz series in 2014, which will feature big bands in Maine, such as the Portland Jazz Orchestra, Al Corey Band, Opus Big Band, and others.



Logan Lafayette wins Lions Student Service Award

Congratulations to Logan Lafayette of Hampden Academy who was selected for the 2012 “Winterport Lions Student Service Award.” Logan received a certificate and a check for \$250.

Logan was selected because of his ongoing commitment to raising money for cancer by the collecting of returnable cans and bottles, “Can Cancer”, as well as participating in other cancer fund raisers over several years.

The purpose of the award

is to encourage and recognize outstanding service to our communities by students and is awarded once per year. All High students are eligible at Hampden Academy and any type of community service will be considered. Applications may be submitted by anyone at any time, including the student themselves and are available at the Hampden Academy Guidance office. Applications received after June 15th, 2013 will be considered for the 2014 award.



David Senter (left), President, Winterport Lions, presents Student Service Award to Logan Lafayette as project chair Katie Fraser looks on.

Fred Lund’s drawing selected for UMaine exhibit



Fred Lund with charcoal drawing that was displayed at UMaine.

A charcoal drawing by Danish exchange student Fred Lund was put on display at the University of Maine Art Museum in Bangor for two weeks this spring.

Fred’s drawing, which was completed for Leah Olson’s Art 2 class, was selected for an art exhibit at the Bangor Mall. After being displayed at the mall, it was selected for the UMaine exhibition.

“It was a great honor to have my drawing hanging in the University of Maine Museum of Art,” Fred said.

He said he would ship it home to his parents in Denmark.

Fred said he’s been drawing since he was a little child, a trait he believes he picked up from his grandmother in Viborg, Denmark.

“She was very artistic,” he said.
Fred, whose family lives in Vejle, Denmark (on the mainland about 70 miles north of the German border), said he has enjoyed his time at Hampden Academy.

He said the highlight of his visit to the U.S. was a trip to Pittsburgh for a December 30 game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cleveland Browns. The Steelers, Fred’s favorite NFL team, won, 24-10.

“I’ve been a Steelers fan for eight years,” Fred said. “The NFL is big in Denmark. Every Sunday night, Danish TV shows NFL games from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m.”

He said he watches all the games and concluded that American football is a “manly sport with a lot of contact.”

Fred started playing football in Denmark about four years ago, usually at the safety position.

At Hampden Academy, he played defensive end on the football team, but broke his ring finger in mid-season.

When he returns to Denmark this summer, he’s hoping to play for his local team, the Triangle Razorbacks, which represents three cities in central Denmark. The Razorbacks have won the Danish American football championship three years in a row, and this year he’ll be old enough to play on the Razorbacks’ senior team.

Expert on West African drumming teaching course at Hampden Academy

One of the foremost authorities on West African drumming comes to Hampden Academy every other Friday to teach a course on African Drumming with music teacher and band director Pat Michaud.

The drummer is Mike Bennett of Southwest Harbor, an adjunct professor at College of the Atlantic who has been traveling to Gambia to study West African drumming since 1999.

Mr. Michaud says Mike introduces new material to the African Drumming class when he comes to Hampden every other week; then Mr. Michaud reinforces those lessons during the remainder of the class time.

Although most of the students who sign up for African Drumming don't have musical experience, they



Mike Bennett (right) teaches African Drumming class.

have performed twice this year—at a school assembly on May 12 and at a banquet at the University of South-

ern Maine for Maine music educators on May 16. The class is also scheduled to perform for RSU 22

elementary students early in June and at the Hampden Pops Concert on June 4.

Ashley Simon said she took African Drumming because she needed an art credit.

“For me, I thought it was an interesting class,” she said “It was something new to learn.”

Ashley said a lot of the students in African Drumming don't have musical experience and don't play a conventional instrument. Nevertheless, she says Mr. Michaud has taught them how to read music and perform it.

And the class has learned how to notate drum beats.

In addition to learning about drumming, Ashley says the class has learned a lot about Gambian culture.

“Mike talks about drumming and culture,” she says. “He's been to Gambia many times. He was the first person to notate West African drumming beats.”

The students in the African Drumming class may not have a lot of musical experience, but they seem to enjoy the class.

“It's pretty interesting,” says Alex Townsend. “I've never done it before.”

“It's a good change from just sitting down and taking notes,” says Josh Grover.

“It makes a person more in tune with school,” said Seth Lucas. “In most classes, you're on your own. In African drumming, however, everyone takes a specific and important part in the drumming; everyone has to participate and we have to help each other.”

Ashley agreed. “If your part doesn't work, the whole thing doesn't work,” she said. “We have to help each other and look at each other to see if we're on the right beat.”

HA Envirothon Team earns trip to state Envirothon finals

The Hampden Academy Envirothon Team placed fourth at the state Environthon competition, which was held Thursday, May 23, at Bowdoin College.

The team earned the right to compete in the state final by placing third among 15 teams at the Downeast-Central Region competition May 16 at the Seacoast Mission in Cherryfield.

The team includes Beau Wilson, Chelsea Covey, Courtney Smith, Michelle Rocker, and Samanth McGarrigle, all seniors, and one alternate, Jorgia Rainford, a sophomore. Michelle, Sam, and Beau have been members of the Envirothon team for the past three years. Chelsea, Courtney, and Jorgia are in their first year.

The team advisor is Amy Sidel, assisted by Betsy Bass, a retired teacher and former Envirothon advisor.

The team had the highest score on the Envirothon's current issues question at both the state and regional competition. This year's question was based on the theme: “Sustainable Forestland Management: Achieving Balance With Forest Products, Environmental Concerns, Traditional Recreation, Tourism and Increased Developmental Pressure.”



The Hampden Academy Envirothon Team.

To address that question, the team developed plans for a trail system in the wetlands mitigation parcel adjacent to Reeds Brook Middle School.

The competition also included a series of tests on aquatics, soil, forestry, and wildlife. The tests on soil,

forestry, and wildlife had some practical components, such as using a compass and identifying different soil horizons, identifying animal species through skulls and footprints, and tree identification.

Alt Ed-Life Skills tie-dyeing

(Continued from page 1)

• The Life Skills class invited the Alt Ed students to their room on two occasions to hear a demonstration of Native American drumming by Chris Sockalexis, husband of educational technician Jill Sockalexis.

• In March, the Alt Ed students provided an introductory lesson in tie-dyeing, and then the two classes spent an afternoon together tie-dyeing t-shirts.

• In April, the Alt Ed students worked with the Life Skills students on another arts and crafts project, this time involving clay. These projects are still waiting for their final coat of paint.

• In May, the two programs will get together for a barbecue, with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and the works.

The tie-dyeing collaboration developed from a suggestion by one of the Alt Ed students, Dana White, that they share the activity with the Life Skills kids.

The idea grew, and Alt Ed teacher Kai Ksnyiak talked with Life Skills teacher Ira Weissman, who suggested that the Alt Ed students talk to the Life Skills program first to tell them a little bit about tie-dyeing so they would know what to expect.

“It was a really great activity,” Ms. Ksnyiak said.

“It was great to see all the different designs that they [the Life Skills students] did with the tie dye,” said Heather Greatorex, one of the Alt Ed

students. “They came out really well.”

Heather added that the Life Skills students were very excited about the afternoon. “They were really happy that we went over and helped them,” she said.

“I loved seeing the smiles on their faces,” said Alt Ed student Alyissa Thibodeau.

Krysta, one of the Life Skills students, said she tie-dyed one of her brother's t-shirts because she didn't have any white t-shirts of her own. She dyed it red, blue, and purple.

“I use it for pajamas,” she said.

Margaret, another Life Skills student, said she tie-dyed her shirt with a rainbow design. Tie-dyeing was “really fun,” she said.

Ms. Ksnyiak said the collaboration with the Life Skills program is one of the huge benefits of being in the new Hampden Academy building.

“Being in the building, we're able to develop a relationship with them,” she said. “Before, we were really across the street [in the Masonic Hall building].”

The net result is that the Alt Ed and Life Skills students have gotten to know each other well enough to exchange greetings in the halls.

One Alt Ed students said one of the Life Skills girls had messaged her on Facebook a couple of times. “She'll say hi,” she said. “They're really nice.”

“Yes, they are,” agreed Alt Ed student Cody Turner. “They just want to have friends. They just want to have someone to talk to.”

RSU 22 Adult Education: Summer 2013 update

The RSU 22 Adult Education Program is excited to offer, through a partnership with Education To Go, nearly 500 interactive online courses to residents of RSU 22. Even though our office is generally closed for much of the summer a wide variety of professional development and personal enrichment courses will still be made available for people to take. All classes are instructor-led, fit into convenient six-week formats and are affordably priced. To view a complete catalog of distance learning courses, visit our page: www.ed2go.com/sad22. Some of the more popular course titles include: Accounting Fundamentals, Creating Web Pages, Microsoft Excel 2010, A to Z Grant Writing, Grammar Refresher, Computer Skills for the Workplace, Microsoft Word 2010, Introduction to Photoshop, Personal Finance, Buying and Selling on eBay, Genealogy Basics, Quickbooks 2010, LSAT, SAT, ACT, GRE Test Prep, and Math Refresher.

The RSU 22 Adult Education Program will again be offering personal enrichment, vocational and academic course offerings this fall to residents of Hampden, Newburgh, Frankfort and Winterport. We were very excited with the positive response we've had from many people concerning the programming that we offered during our winter and spring sessions, and believe that we will again be able to continue to offer a variety of courses and workshops that will appeal to many people. Most of our fall courses will start in late September or early October, and our fall brochures should be making their way to residents' mailboxes by mid-September. Course information can also be accessed by visiting us at: <http://lorono-hampden.maineadulted.org/>.

People who are interested in earning a high school diploma, GED Preparation or who want free one-on-one adult literacy or ESL tutoring should also contact our office for information on how we can help you receive these services.

For the past few years, our partnership with the RSU 26 (Orono, Glenburn, Veazie) Adult Education Program has allowed us to offer a wider variety of programming to residents of both educational communities. We are also now very excited to announce that our adult education partnership will include RSU 34 (Old Town, Alton, Bradley) starting in July.

Many people have been contacting us with ideas for courses that they would either like to take or teach. We are always looking for new courses and instructors. Most of the best ideas for new courses come from our residents. We value your input and continue to want to hear from you. As always, you can contact the RSU 22 Adult Education office at 862-6422.



Sadie Allain shows the sugar mask that she worked on during the art show.



Taylor Davis made this bowl during the district art show.

Artwork from all 6 RSU schools fills HA dining commons

Art students from all six RSU 22 school had their works on display in the David J. Greenier Dining Commons at Hampden Academy during the May 7 district art show May 7.

The art department also had four students—Nikki Quigley, Taylor Davis, Sadie Allain, and Gabrielle Bodek—creating works of art during the show.

Nikki and Taylor made bowls and other types of pottery on the pottery wheels, while Sadie worked on a sugar mask, a type of Mexican holiday mask for Day of the Dead celebrations.

“We made a lot of bowls,” Taylor said. “We took requests and tried to do it. Sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn’t.”

She said the students who came to the art show were really interested in the pottery demonstrations.

“They asked a lot of questions, which was nice,” Taylor said. “They wanted to work on the pottery wheel.”

“Actually, the adults wanted to work on the wheel, too,” said Nikki.

Gabrielle sketched two portraits of her friends and later gave the portraits to her friends as gifts.

One of Gabrielle’s subjects was Elise Arsenault, an AP art student who had her one-of-a-kind painted designer sneakers on display at the show. Elise was



There was lots of art to look at in the David J. Grenier Dining Commons at Hampden Academy May 7.

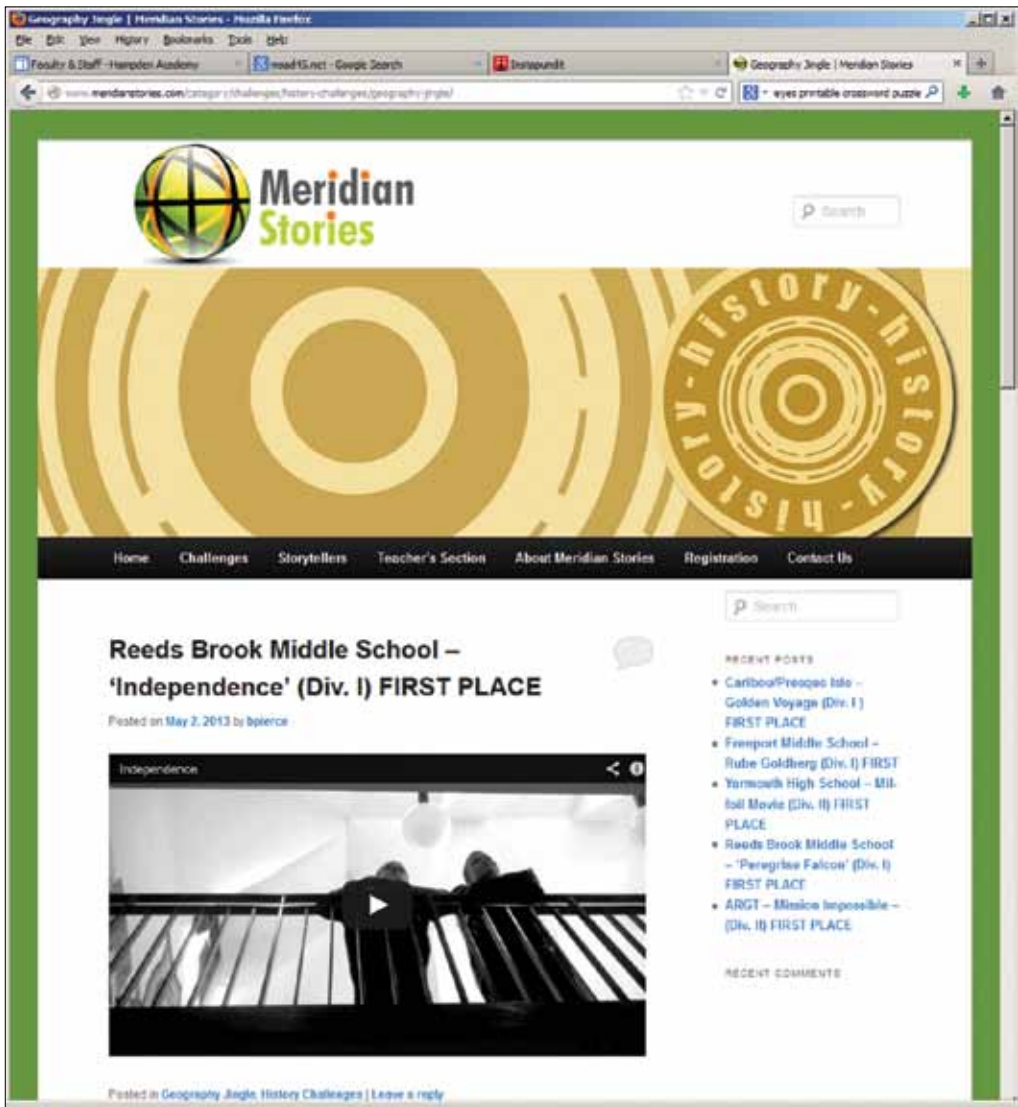
selling the sneakers to help fund her participation on a trip to Guatemala to help build “bottle schools” with Hug It Forward.

The district music concert was also being held at the Performing Arts Center that night, so a lot of people who came to hear the bands stopped by to look at the art work, as well.

Senior James Cowin served as photographer for the show. He documented the show and created a CD with photos of the event for the art department.



Nikki Quigley (right) works on a bowl at the pottery wheel as visitors to the district art show watch her transform a lump of clay into a piece of art. Photo by James Cowin.



All of the winning entries can be viewed at the Meridian Stories website, www.meridianstories.com.

RSU 22 schools take six 1st place

(Continued from page 1)
compelling that it earned the students an invitation to present at the upcoming MLTI Student Conference in Orono.

expanded the number to 20—five challenges in each of four categories (Mathematics, History, Science, and Language Arts), and they charge par-

“Independence” was also selected by Meridian Stories as a featured presentation on its website.

This is the second year that Reeds Brook, Wagner, and Hampden Academy have participated in the Meridian Stories competition. Last year was a pilot year for Meridian Stories, which offered five challenges and allowed 13 schools to compete at no charge. The three RSU 22 schools won nine medals, and in the middle school division, Reeds Brook and Wagner

took first place in all five challenges. This year, Meridian Stories has

ticipating schools a modest fee. The challenges are described in



Screen shot of the African Savannah video.



Josh Redmond (above) was the rap performer in the 1st place “Independence” video.

**Reeds Brook Middle School –
Alexsie and the Fairy Godmother
of Poetry (Div. I) FIRST PLACE**



**Reeds Brook Middle School – ‘Lunch
with Lulu’ (Div. I) FIRST PLACE**

Posted on May 2, 2013 by bpierce



**Reeds Brook Middle School –
‘Peregrine Falcon’ (Div. I) FIRST PLACE**

Posted on May 2, 2013 by bpierce



**Wagner Middle School –
Exponential Growth Game Show
(Div. I) SECOND PLACE**



**Hampden Academy – Gender
Stereotypes (Div. II) FIRST**



**Wagner Middle School –
Interview with PI 1 (Div. I)
SECOND PLACE**



Screen shots from some of the first- and second-place videos submitted by RSU 22 students to Meridian Stories.

awards, four 2nds, five 3rds in digital storytelling competitions

detail on the Meridian Stories website (www.meridianstories.com), but it's fair to say that they are quite different from the challenges that middle school and high school students are presented in most of their coursework.

For example, when Josh, Noah, and Paul created “Independence,” their task was to compose a song in any musical style to convey one of five geography lessons. They chose to write a rap song explaining that eight former British colonies, including the U.S., felt that “independence was their destiny.”

One of this year's math challenges, “Interview with Pi,” was to create a video showing an interview with Pi (the mathematical constant that describes the ratio between the diameter and circumference of a circle), who is receiving a lifetime achievement award. A team from Reeds Brook won 1st place in that challenge, while teams from Wagner took 2nd and 3rd.

This year, Reeds Brook students earned five 1st place awards and one 2nd. Teams from Wagner earned four 2nd place awards and four 3rds. Teams from Hampden Academy won one 1st place, one 2nd, and one 3rd.

Brett Pierce, executive director of Meridian Stories, said, “The consistent quality of the student work in these creative/curricular endeavors comes from the enthusiasm and expertise of the teachers. That group of educational innovators leading the way at all three of these amazing schools is exemplary.”

Meridian Stories is a pending non-profit designed to challenge teams of middle school and high school students to create short-form stories using images, words, video and music in the service of core curricular objectives. The purpose of Meridian Stories is to provide students and teachers with digital media arts opportunities that support the curriculum, enrich learning, and catalyze new interests and creativity.

RSU 22 WINNERS IN MERIDIAN STORIES COMPETITIONS

Reeds Brook Middle School

First Place—Geography Jingle Challenge: Josh Redmond, Noah Gardner and Paul Casavant (grade 8)
<http://www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/history-challenges/geography-jingle/>

First Place—Local Flora & Fauna Challenge: Peregrine Falcon, by Simone Withers and Rachel Lyons (grade 8)
<http://www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/science-challenges/local-flora-and-fauna-documentary/>

First Place—Eco Disruption Radio Drama Challenge: African Savanna, by Emma Wilson and Amelia Murphy.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/science-challenges/eco-disruption-radio-drama/>

First Place—Interview with Pi Challenge: “Lunch with Lulu,” Reba Sands and Mikayla Holmes (grade 8)
<http://www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/mathematics-challenges/interview-with-pi/>

First Place—Comic Poetry Sketch: “Alexsie and the Fairy Godmother of Poetry” by Alexandra Buzzini and Josie Lawrence.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/04/12/reeds-brook-middle-school-alexsie-and-the-fairy-godmother-of-poetry/>

Second Place—Local Flora & Fauna Challenge: Wild Turkeys, by Zach Field and Parker Kimball (grade 8)
<http://www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/science-challenges/local-flora-and-fauna-documentary/>

Wagner Middle School

Second Place—Interview with Pi Challenge: Caroline Beckwith and Bailey Mallory (grade 5/6)
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/02/08/wagner-middle-school-interview-with-pi-div-i/>

Second Place—Exponential Growth Game Show: Jerdon Kiesman and Brody Jamison (grade 5/6)
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/02/08/wagner-middle-school-exponential-growth-game-show-div-i/>

Third Place—Interview with Pi Challenge: Emily Murphy and Camryn Bouchard.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/02/08/wagner-middle-school-interview-with-pi-2-div-i/>

Third Place—Poetry Comedy Skit: “Poetry Trivia” by Chelsea El Hajj, Kaylie LePage, Micah Hawes
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/04/11/wagner-middle-school-poetry-trivia-div-i/>

Third Place—Supreme Court Movie Trailer: “The Watergate” by Daija Misler, Ryan Kord, and a Third student.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/04/12/wagner-middle-school-the-watergate-div-i/>

Third Place—Water Cycle Cruise Sales Pitch: “Destination Condensation” by Kurt Speed, Hunter Spencer, Justin Hatch
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/04/12/wagner-middle-school-condensation-destination-div-i/>

Hampden Academy

First Place—Gender Stereotypes Challenge: Andrya Ryan, Chareeda Rustanavibul, Cam Scott, and Meghan Saunders.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/02/21/hampden-academy-gendr-sterotypes-div-i/>

Second Place—“Ligeia” Edgar Allan Poe Horror Scene Challenge: Madeline Armstrong, Eric Babbitt, Alicia Fortier, Aimee Leighton.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/01/31/hampden-academy-ligeia-div-ii/>

Third Place—Comic Poetry Sketch Challenge: Morgan Deane, Taylor Avery, James Cowin, and Kayla Clewley.
<http://www.meridianstories.com/2013/04/09/hampden-academy-poems-div-ii/>

'Donors Choose' project brings clean water message to elementary students

Two hundred brightly painted wooden fish now adorn the fence at the Earl C. McGraw School playground as a reminder of the importance of clean water.

The fish were the product of a year-long project that brought together a 7th grade science class from Reeds Brook Middle School, five elementary classes from McGraw and George B. Weatherbee schools, the shop class at Hampden Academy, and an anonymous donor family from Hampden who likes to support local classroom initiatives in ecology.

The project started when 7th grade science teacher Laura Matthews visited the website for DonorsChoose (www.donorschoose.org), an online charity that allows citizen philanthropists to fund specific project requests from teachers in U.S. schools.

Mrs. Matthews posted a project called "Stream of Conscience," which she borrowed from a similar project in Canada called "Stream of Dreams." She wanted her students to develop an ecology unit that focused on watersheds and present what they learn to elementary school classes. The elementary students and the 7th graders would paint wooden fish together and then hang the fish on the playground fence as a permanent reminder of the importance of watersheds and clean water.

The project piqued the interest of a DonorsChoose supporter, who



More than 200 wooden fish, painted by elementary school students, have been attached to the playground fence as a reminder about the importance of clean water.

donated \$442 to fund the purchase of wood, acrylic paint, and other supplies, along with books for the students to use when teaching the younger students.

Mr. Huff's shop class at Hampden Academy volunteered to cut out the fish from birch panels that were purchased by DonorsChoose.

Mrs. Matthews' 7th graders split up and went to five elementary classrooms to teach their lesson on watersheds and clean water. They also read each class a book, helped them sing a song (one of the books had a song about clean water), and then helped them paint the fish.

The elementary classes were Mrs. Knowles' and Mrs. Smith's



kindergarten classes at McGraw and Mrs. Nadeau's 2nd grade, Mrs. Schall's 3rd grade, and Mrs. Kiesman's 5th grade at Weatherbee.

On May 17, the 7th graders, assisted by elementary students and several students from the shop

class, hung the fish on the fence.

"The primary kids will see the fish every time they go out to the playground," says Mrs. Matthews. "The fish will remind them of what they learned about watersheds and the importance of keeping clean water."

7th graders say working with kindergarten class is 'really good learning experience'

When Chloe Thurlow was younger, she used to love it when a big kid talked to her or said something to her on the bus.

Now that she's in 7th grade at Reeds Brook Middle School, she figures that other young children would enjoy a little attention from "a big kid" as much as she did.

That's why she and Zoe Prescott, another 7th grader, have been volunteering in Judy Nadeau's kindergarten class at Earl C. McGraw School.

Two 7th graders go to McGraw during their Flex class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30. They spend about an hour and a half interacting with the kindergartners during math stations, story times, snack time, and generally doing whatever they can to help Ms. Nadeau.

"They're such a good group of kids," says Chloe. "They're all really well-behaved. It's fun to see how they interact with each other. It's a really good learning experience."

"If anything, we're learning from them," says Zoe. The Flex period at Reeds Brook gives students

an opportunity to get help if they need it or to do enrichment activities. Zoe said their Flex teacher, Mrs. McCafferty, suggested that they use the time to do a service learning project.

Since both girls have little brothers in kindergarten, they thought it would be fun to work with a kindergarten class and be the "big kid" who pays attention to them.

"We both like to baby sit and be around kids," said Chloe. "I knew that kids in older grades doesn't really interact with younger kids that much. When I was that age, I used to love it when a big kid talked to me or if a big kid said something to me on the bus. They're just so excited when we help them. They're just the sweetest kids."

Since Chloe's little brother is in Ms. Nadeau's kindergarten, the girls decided to email her and ask if they could help out in her classroom.

Both girls say they've enjoyed working with the kindergartners.

"There's a lot of differentiation," says Chloe. "It's interesting to see the progression of how the



Chloe Thurlow (left) and Zoe Prescott have been working with Judy Nadeau's kindergarten class at McGraw School.

kids learn. It's something I look forward to."

"The kindergarten kids don't get much time to talk to older kids," Zoe says. "The only time they get to be around the 1st and 2nd graders is during recess. Going over there is the most fun part of my week."

'Dormia' author impresses Reeds Brook students with storytelling skills

Jake Halpern, co-author of the *Dormia* fantasy novels, met with students at Reeds Brook Middle School on May 9 and made a huge impression, both as an author and as a storyteller.

He came to Reeds Brook because he's been working with the father of Ryan Wilson, a 7th grader at Reeds Brook, while doing research for a book on debt collecting.

"He's writing a book about what my dad does," says Ryan, who said his father is a debt collector.

Mr. Halpern, who considers himself a journalist as well as an author, wrote a profile of a debt collector in Buffalo for the *New Yorker* magazine in 2010. He has written on a variety of topics for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Sports Illustrated*, *Slate*, *GQ*, and many other publications.

"Mr Halpern is a family friend



Jake Halpern (standing) tells stories to students in the Reeds Brook library.

of the Wilsons," says Reeds Brook librarian Michelle Reasso. "He came here because he wanted to visit Ryan's school. It was a free visit, a gift."

Mr.. Halpern's visit to Reeds Brook focused on the *Dormia* series. The first book, *Dormia*, was published in 2009, followed by *World's End*, which was published in 2011. The final book

of the trilogy, *The Shadow Tree*, is currently being written.

Reeds Brook students who heard Mr. Halpern were very impressed with his storytelling ability.

"He was amazing," said 7th grader Chloe Thurlow. "He had all these accents. He was hilarious—he told so many stories."

He told the students that a lot of the events he talks about in the *Dormia* fantasies have their roots in real life events. "It was crazy," recalled Chloe. "There are a lot of creepy aspects to his book that were derived from his little son, Sebastian."

For example, there was an episode where one of the characters hears a very soft voice calling, "Daddy, Daddy, where are you? Where are you?"

What happened, Mr. Halpern said, was that his son came into his room in the middle of the night asking for him, when he and his wife were in a sound sleep, the room was pitch black, and he couldn't tell where the sound was coming from.

"What Mr. Halpern was trying to tell the students was that even fantasy novels come from real-life events," said Ms. Reasso. "That's (Please turn to page 10)

2 Wagner 5th graders earn 1st, 2nd place ribbons at Special Olympics

Two 5th graders from Wagner Middle School competed in the Penobscot Area Special Olympics Track and Field Meet on May 8 at the Brewer Community School and brought home two first-place ribbons and one second-place ribbon each.

The athletes, Joshua and Brianna Leneski, are twins. They competed in the 50-meter and 100-meter dash events and the running long jump. Both placed first in the two running events and second in the long jump.

After the 50-meter race, which Brianna clearly won, the judge mistakenly gave her the second-place ribbon and gave the first-place ribbon to Madison Mooers of Weatherbee School in Hampden.

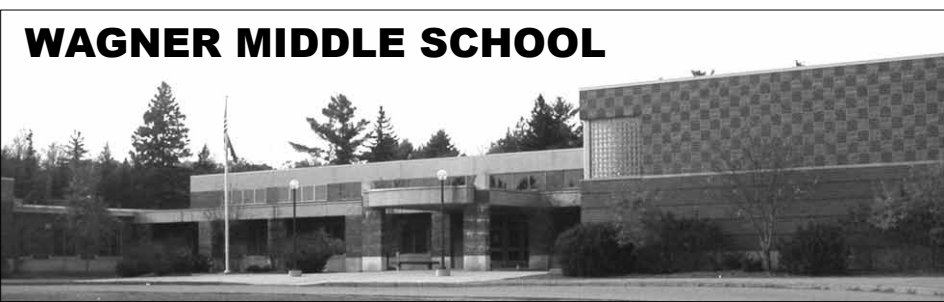
At that point, Madison took it on herself to go up to Brianna and exchange ribbons with her.

"I didn't win this race, you did," Madison told Brianna.

Brianna, Madison, and Joshua were among 26 RSU 22 athletes from the Hampden-Winterport Special Olympics Team who competed in the regional Special Olympics. They were joined by about 150 volunteers from Reeds Brook Middle

School. About 30 7th and 8th grade students were paired up with RSU 22 athletes, while the entire 6th grade served as "fans in the stands," cheering the athletes as they competed.

The Reeds Brook volunteers were organized by 6th grade teacher Kelley Hodgdon.



Brianna Leneski placed second in the running long jump.



Joshua with ribbons.



Brianna with ribbons.



The Wagner Show Choir in costume for "The Lion King."

Wagner Show Choir takes 2nd place in state festival with 'Lion King'

The Wagner Middle School Show Choir placed second in Division II at the State Vocal Jazz and Show Choir Festival April 4-5 at Ellsworth High School.

The group performed a medley of songs from *The Lion King*. All of the soloists received superior ratings.

Director Dana Ross said the Show Choir members picked *The Lion King* and did their own make-up and costumes with help from their parents.

The students also decided that they would portray animals in the performance.

"I wanted to do Little Shop of Horrors, but the students wanted *Lion King*," Mr. Ross said. "Then, I wanted tribal costumes [for *Lion King*] but

the students wanted to be animals. In both cases, the students prevailed. We bought face make-up, and the students decided how they wanted to look."

Mr. Ross said the Show Choir spent several evenings using facilities at Hampden Academy for rehearsals.

On Wednesday nights in January, the group used Hampden Academy's All-Purpose Room, which has a mirrored wall.

"With the mirrored wall, the students can see what they're doing, which helps them so much," he said. "The students were able to self-evaluate; instead of being told what they needed to do, they could see it themselves."

The group was also rehearsed a couple times on the stage at Hampden Academy's new performing arts center, which was similar to the stage they would be performing on at Ellsworth High School.

"They were able to practice in a performance hall space, looking out into a big room that's all seats, as opposed to a gym with bleachers," Mr. Ross said.

The festival was sponsored by the Maine Music Educators Association.

Wagner Jazz Band, Show Choir complete 'East Coast tour'

The Wagner Middle School Jazz Band and Show Choir completed their third annual "East Coast Tour" on May 24, performing concerts at Smith Elementary School and two schools in Carmel.

The groups started with a morning concert at Smith, followed by a late-morning concert at Caravel

Middle School. Then the group had lunch at Pizza Hut in Bangor and finished up with an afternoon concert at Carmel Elementary School.

Music director Dana Ross said the tour gives the students valuable practice setting up and tearing down for performances, as well as performing for multiple audiences.

"It's a great way to learn how to do a show over and over again, and make it fresh for each audience," he said.

Mr. Ross said Show Choir members had to wear face makeup all day. Four members of the Show Choir were also in the Jazz Band, so they had to wear face makeup while playing their instruments.

RSU 22 Pre-K News

Pre K students from Newburgh and Hampden, as well as Highland Preschool, visited the Earl C. McGraw School in early May in preparation for their transition to kindergarten next fall. This is an annual event for Pre K students to meet the kindergarten teachers in their respective classrooms, tour the building and hear from Principal Leathem about what to expect next fall. Students expressed excitement about meeting with teachers, using an iPad, visiting the gymnasium and library, and riding the bus! At McGraw, there are 29 four year olds transitioning from the Newburgh and Hampden Pre-K programs and 17 from Highland Preschool, with a total of 71 presently registered for kindergarten. At Smith there are 16 students transitioning from the Winterport Pre-K with a total of 49 registered for kindergarten, and more joining weekly.

Hampden Pre-K to hosts 2 classes next fall; Winterport Pre-K welcomes students from Frankfort

The RSU 22 Pre-K, in partnership with Penquis Child Development, Child Development Services (CDS) and Waldo Community Action Partners (CAP) are pleased to announce a recent approval from the Maine Department of Education to transfer one of its vacant classroom sessions, previously slated for Newburgh, to the Hampden community.

The Hampden Pre K program is located at the George B. Weatherbee Elementary School. This shift will provide two half-day Pre K class sessions (8:30-11:30 a.m. and noon-3 p.m., Tues.-Fri.) and improves accessibility to early childhood activities and events for Pre-K students, and enhanced services for families in RSU 22. One existing classroom session will remain in Newburgh, which meets Mon.-Fri. from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

RSU 22 has also applied to the Maine Depart-

ment of Education to expand the Pre-K program at the Leroy H. Smith Elementary School to include 16 additional public-community slots, for a total of 32 slots, to accommodate additional Frankfort students. From the 32 slots, 16 will be slated for Head Start/Income eligible families, and another 16 for public applicants from Winterport and Frankfort. Pending approval, students will be divided into two half day sessions, morning and afternoon. RSU 22 will provide one way transportation for students residing on existing bus runs. Parents will be responsible for the mid-day pick up or drop off. Applications can be downloaded at www.sad22.us/, click Schools > Pre K Programs, or call 973-3567 to request an application by mail.

Mrs. Balentine's 4th graders visit their 'Biology Buddies' at Hampden Academy

Mrs. Balentine's 4th graders from Weatherbee School took a "walking field trip" to Mr. Balentine's new state-of-the-art science laboratory at Hampden Academy on May 20 to learn through scientific inquiry. AP Biology students (mostly juniors) were matched up with the younger students to teach about a topic they both shared learning about in the curriculum this spring, "Cells and Using the Microscope."

Making slides of dissected plant parts and using the compound and stereoscopic microscopes to observe cross-sections of stem, root, and leaf cells was the highlight of the laboratory investigation. Mrs. Balentine expressed pride in seeing some former students in the role of teaching her younger science students. "It was exciting to see them transfer their knowledge from the elementary classroom to preparing slides of pollen grains to observe under the lab's high-tech microscopes,"



AP Biology students at Hampden Academy helped Mrs. Balentine's 4th graders learn about cells and microscopes



she said. Mr. Balentine concurred that being in a teaching role for his students brought their learning to a more challenging, higher level. Dissecting the reproductive parts of tulip plants was a valuable, investigative, hands-on experience that promoted lots of good questioning and learning from these younger budding scientists.



2 Weatherbee 5th grade classes travel to Boston, stay overnight at Museum of Science



Students especially enjoyed the sting ray touch tank.



Jhonan observes some jellyfish at the aquarium.

Donna Megquier's and Bonnie Walker's 5th grade classes from George B. Weatherbee School made a two-day trip to Boston May 9 and 10. The itinerary included a tour of the New England Aquarium, a walk on the Freedom Trail, and an overnight "camp-in" at the Museum of Science. At the Museum of Science, students enjoyed the many museum exhibit halls, as well as a planetarium show, a science workshop, and an Omni Theater presentation on Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees. Fundraising for this trip was ongoing all year, but the students agreed that it was well worth it!

Weatherbee holds annual Variety Show with more than 40 acts

Weatherbee School held its annual Variety Show on Thursday, April 4, featuring more than 40 acts by students in grades 3, 4, and 5. The show included a performance for parents and friends at 6:30 p.m., as well as a performance during the school day for students. The show was directed by 3rd grade teacher Jennifer Jones. Student acts included dancing, cup stacking, karate, singing, musical instruments (including violin, guitars, keyboards, tin flute and pianos), Lego displays, art displays, wood burning displays, beat boxing, gymnastics, and break dancing. Students had been auditioning and practicing for four weeks. Five emcees announced the show: Addie Hughes, Andrew Raye, Zachary Scott, Amelia McLaughlin, and Emily Garib.

100-plus seniors attend Weatherbee luncheon

More than 100 senior citizens enjoyed lunch and a lot of attention when they attended the annual Senior Citizens Luncheon at the George B. Weatherbee School on May 16. The seniors were guests of the school and the students and were treated as such. They were met in the parking lot and escorted into the school by 5th grade greeters. Other 5th graders set up the tables, served the meal, cleared the dishes, and served dessert. Fifth graders Aria Maietta, Claire Nickels, and Denali Eyles played piano to serenade the seniors during their visit. Third grade classes entertained the seniors with a musical performance. Some 3rd graders also made paper chains for decorations. The 4th graders made placemats for the table settings, and Amy Nadeau's 2nd grade, which has been at Weatherbee this year, made the table centerpieces out of recycled soup cans with decorative paper. Prior to the event, the greeters and servers received etiquette lessons, with tips on how they should greet the seniors, serve them, and interact with them.



Amy Nadeau's 2nd grade class made table centerpieces.

Dormia author visits Reeds Brook

(Continued from page 8)
what makes them authentic and believable. You write what you know." Chloe said all of the characters' names in *Dormia* came from the names that Mr. Halpern's son Sebastian had given to his rubber duckies. "Mr. Halpern was a really great story teller," she said. "It was like a movie in my head." She added that the visit was interest-

ing to all grade levels. "Even the 8th graders were laughing," she said. Ms. Reasso said Mr. Halpern has promised to return to Reeds Brook after he finishes *The Shadow Tree*. Students who are interested in the *Dormia* trilogy can visit his interactive website, www.WorldofDormia.com. Students interested in reading Mr. Halpern's non-fiction articles can find a selection at www.jakehalpern.com.



Fifth graders set the table while the 3rd grade practices in the background.

Smith School teachers hold open house May 2 to welcome Frankfort families to RSU 22

On Thursday, May 2nd, Smith School teachers held an open house to welcome Frankfort families to the school district. More than 20 Frankfort families attended this exciting event.

Students were greeted at the door and given a map of the school and a passport to be stamped as they explored the school. Students used these passports to record their discovery of each wing of the school, a classroom that they might be in next year, and other important places in our school, such as the library, art room, music room and

gymnasium.

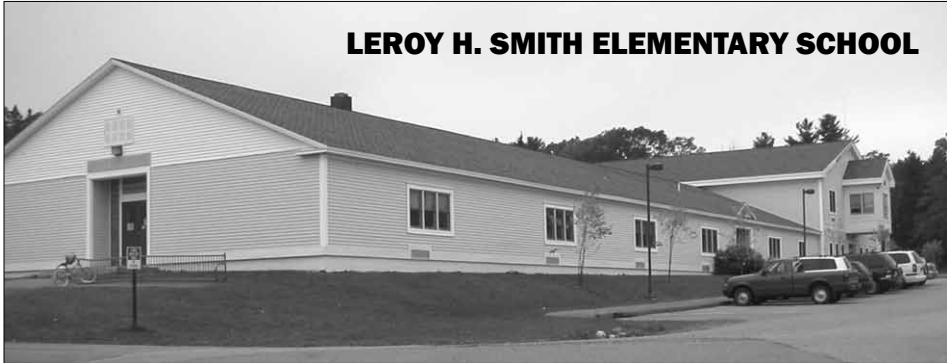
Teachers were on hand to show the families around Smith School and to answer any questions. We also had several fourth grade students available to guide families as they explored our school.

The Frankfort students seemed excited to see all that Smith School has to offer and to meet our staff. Smith School teachers and students created bulletin boards and a front lobby display welcoming the new families and letting them know that we are eager to have them join us and to make new

friends.

When the passports were completed, we all gathered in the cafeteria for some snacks. What

a wonderful time it was to get to know some of the new students that will be joining our Smith School family.



How many hours can Smith School students read in a month? The answer will amaze you!

By Julie Burgess

During the month of March, the Leroy H. Smith School Partners In Education (PIE) parent-teacher organization teamed up with the Howard Lodge No. 69 “Bikes for Books” program for a “BEE a Great Reader” read-a-thon.

The read-a-thon was a fun way for students to strengthen their reading abilities and also raise money for their school. Children, from kinder-

garten through fourth grade, were encouraged to read or be read to and to get sponsors to pledge money for the minutes that they read.

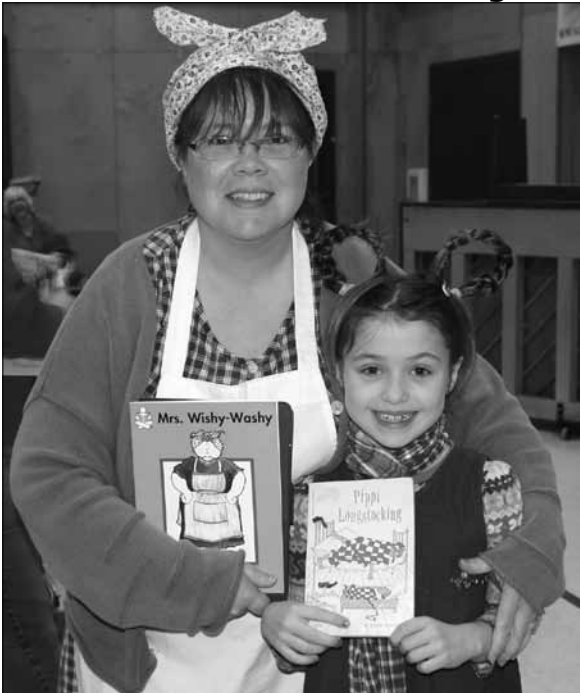
Teachers helped students set their own reading goals and found innovative ways to incorporate the read-a-thon into their classroom curriculum.

Howard Lodge #69 donated 10 bikes for the event. For every 10 minutes students read (or were read to), they were given a ticket,

which entered them into a drawing to win a bike. The more they read, the more chances they had to win.

So how many hours did the students read? Smith School students read 1,339 hours (that’s 80,340 minutes!) in one month! They raised \$4,371.23 for their school and one boy and one girl from each grade went home with a new bike.

To celebrate such an outstanding accomplishment, Smith School held a special “dress as your favorite book character” day. The entire school, students, teachers and staff, spent the day “in character”, sharing their stories with each other and ending the read-a-thon with a character parade in the gymnasium. What an



Madison Rishton with Maine author Jennifer Richard Jacobson.

extraordinary group of readers we have at Smith School!

4 from Smith run, throw in Special Olympics

Four students from Smith School traveled to Brewer Community School to compete in the 2013 Special Olympics Track and Field Events.

Congratulations to Trent Palmer, who came in 4th in the 50-meter and 6th in the 100-meter!

Garrett Hall impressed the crowd with a 1st place finish in the 10 meter, a 1st place finish in the 25 meter and 3rd place in the softball throw.

Marcus and Erik Wells were in-

terviewed by Channel 2 and were on television to share their excitement about this event. Marcus had an outstanding performance by placing 3rd in the 50 meter, 4th in the 100 meter and 1st in the softball throw. His brother Erik, amazed the crowd with a 1st place finish in the 50 meter, 1st place in the 100 meter and 2nd place in the softball throw.

Congratulations to our marvelous Smith School athletes!

Destination Imagination team with Smith 3rd, 4th graders goes to Globals

By Megan Deans, Renee Drake, Gracie Farrar, Kelsea Faulkner, and Carly and JoHannah Philbrook

Our Destination Imagination (DI) team just competed at the state DI competition at the University of Maine at Orono. We came in second place in the state finals for the “In Disguise” challenge. What we had to do to win was to make up a play that was non-verbal, which means we couldn’t speak and we couldn’t write any words, and it had to be six minutes long. We also had to make a morphing mask (which changed from one thing to another), a decorative mask, and a disguise, and pick two other things to be scored.

Our play was about a robber disguised as a maid. She stole jewelry from

a rich lady. While the rich lady was at a ball with her date, her dog, who was really a spy, saw the robber steal the jewels. The dog/spy called the police. The robber went to court and had to do community service to pay for her crime.

The members of our team are fourth graders Megan Deans and Kelsea Faulkner and third graders Renee Drake, Gracie Farrar, and Carly and JoHannah Philbrook. Our team managers are Erica Farrar and Nicolle Philbrook. The community has helped us a lot to raise money to be able to go to Globals in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Thank you so much to the community for all the help and support you have given us.



Smith School students qualified for the Destination Imagination Global competition in Knoxville, TN, by placing second in the state finals at Orono.

McGraw School holds annual PTO Book Fair, Spring Showcase

Parents flocked to Earl C. McGraw School on the evening of May 2 for the school’s annual PTO Book Fair and Spring Showcase.

Parents had the opportunity to look at all the books at the book fair and purchase titles for their children to read this summer.

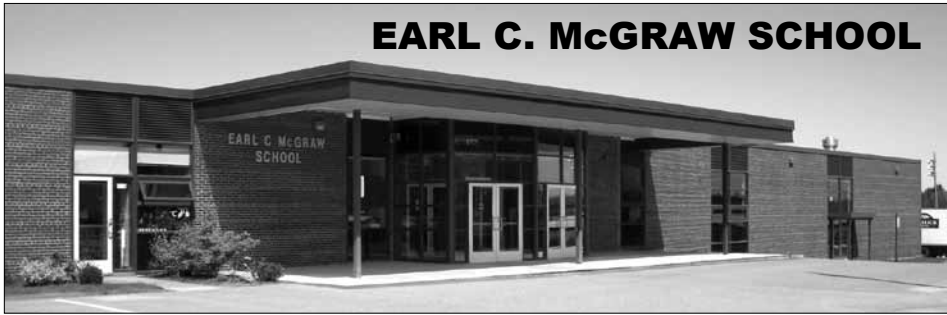


Parents were able to see how much their children have progressed in writing during the year.

Then, they visited the classrooms, so their children could share the writing that they have done this year, and parents could see how much their children have progressed.

Principal Carla Leathem said all of the students had written stories to share with their parents.

She said the school is using a



new writing curriculum by Lucy Calkins, which has produced excellent results.

“We’ve seen tremendous growth in our students’ writing,” she said.

Mrs. Leathem said she heard a lot of positive comments from parents who were pleased by how much their children could write now. In

addition to hearing their children read their latest writing pieces, parents were able to look through their writing folders and see how much they’ve progressed during the year.

Mrs. Leathem said the turnout for the book fair and Spring Showcase was huge. She said the book fair raised about \$1,500.

MSAD 22 Education Foundation Volunteer Interview: Jonathan Henry

Q: What led you to become involved with the Education Foundation?

Jonathan Henry: After serving six years on the MSAD #22 School Board, it seemed like a natural transition to become involved with the Foundation board. I was one of the founding officers of the Foundation when the School Board established the Foundation. So in some ways, I knew I would be moving into this role. I also believe in active civic engagement as a resident of one of our towns. Volunteerism is what makes our communities so effective and successful!

Q. What do you like about being involved with the Education Foundation?

Jonathan Henry: The most gratifying piece for me is hearing the stories about the difference teachers and staff have made in the lives of HA alumni. You can see peoples' faces come alive when they reflect on the special memories or outstanding faculty who changed their lives. It's these powerful human stories that connect us, and

often motivate people to make a financial contribution to an organization like the Foundation. It's also no secret that I am an extrovert, and I thrive on connecting with others -- it's built into my DNA.

Q. How do you see the Foundation helping our schools in the years to come?

Jonathan Henry: It is abundantly evident that public support of our schools is diminishing. It is clear that we need individuals, communities, and businesses to help fill the gaps to ensure we maintain excellence; healthy schools mean vibrant communities and businesses. I am confident that the people in our towns will rise to the task, and we will be able to guarantee that our schools, students and

teachers have what they need for our district to maintain its status as one with high-performing and highly efficient schools. Frankly, we need to invest in the kids. They are our future, and Maine needs them to succeed to secure the future of our state.

Jonathan Henry, M.Ed., serves on the Education Foundation Board of Directors and is Associate Provost of Enrollment Management at Husson University. He has worked for 28 years in college and university admissions in Vermont and Maine. He and his wife, Sara, have two sons who were educated in the district. Andrew, 21, just graduated from USM with a B.A. in English; Jordan, 18, just completed his freshman year in the Honors Program at USM.



Jonathan Henry



MSAD #22 Education Foundation

Community Partners for Inspired Education

A Great Way to Give to Your Schools

Do you have great organizing skills? An interest in fundraising? Expertise in financial matters or working with websites? Nonprofit board or legal experience?

The MSAD #22 Education Foundation is putting out the call to community members who want to give back to their educational community, and have some time and skills too offer. As a nonprofit, 501c3 organization working to benefit our students, teachers and schools, the Foundation needs volunteers in the areas of finance, web design, and legal support, as well as other skills. Our Education Foundation receives no taxpayer funding and therefore relies on the generosity of the community to maintain and complete its mission to foster innovation and excellence in our school district.

If you would like to help support the goals of our Education Foundation, please visit our website at www.msad22foundation.org and go to the "Get Involved" page, or call the Foundation Office at (207) 852-2138.

Gold Stars: A Great Way to Appreciate a Teacher or Staff Person

Once again, the MSAD #22 Education Foundation is offering families a way to thank a special teacher or staff person and support teachers in years to come. It's called the Gold Star Awards Program.

For \$25, the Foundation will send a *Gold Star Award Certificate* from your family or child to the teacher, coach or staff person of your choice. A letter of recognition will also go to the principal at their school and their name will appear on the Foundation's website and in next issue of the Link-22.

Money from Gold Star Awards goes to the **Education Foundation's Mini Grants Program, which provides grants** to District teachers and staff to help pay for

exceptional school and classroom projects not covered by the school budget.

To give a Gold Star Award using a credit card, go to the "Ways to Give" page on the Foundation's website: www.msad22foundation.org. Or mail your check to: MSAD #22 Education Foundation, 24 Main Rd. N., PO Box 115, Hampden, ME 04444. Make your check payable to the MSAD #22 Education Foundation and include a note that lists the name of the person to be honored, their school, and your child's name.

For more information, contact the Foundation office at 852-2138 or info@msad22foundation.org.

Find the Bronco This Summer: Learn About Your Community and Win a Prize

The MSAD #22 Education Foundation invites children, and their parents, to participate in the first-ever Find the Bronco Treasure Hunt.

Starting in mid-June, a downloadable passport and weekly clues will be posted on the Foundation's website and Facebook page. Use the online clues to find the location of "lock-boxes" in various spots around the district. Each box will have a stamp in it that will be used to stamp your passport.

The Find the Bronco Treasure Hunt will last six weeks. The first 10 children to submit passports to the Education Foundation will win a Hampden Bronco-themed prize. All participants who submit passports will receive a small token of appreciation for playing.

Look for "Find the Bronco Treasure Hunt" information soon on the community access TV channel, the Foundation's website and in flyers going home with school children.



Are You a Business Owner in an RSU 22 Community?

Show your support for our students and schools by joining our Corporate Partners Program!

- Encourage pride in our schools while attracting customers who value your support.
- Provide funding to the Foundation to support our teachers, students and schools.

Depending on the level of support, Corporate Partners can receive: an Apple for Schools Emblem for display; their logo on the Foundation's webpage, Facebook

page and at Foundation events; sponsorship of the Gold Star Teachers Program; free admission to Foundation events; and/or a plaque to display in their business, among other benefits.

Thanks to our 2013-2014 Corporate Partners: Levesque Office Supply and Rand & Rand Dentistry!

For more information on Corporate Partnerships, contact the Foundation at info@msad22foundation.org or (207) 852-2138.

It's Reunion Season!

Do you have a Hampden Academy reunion coming up this year -- or next? Would you like help collecting the names of your classmates?

For two years, the MSAD 22 Education Foundation has been compiling names of Hampden Academy alumni. The Foundation now has an extensive database that includes individuals' married and maiden names, graduation years

and, in some cases, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. While happy to provide the names for reunion purposes, the Education Foundation is always seeking to add and update this comprehensive list and welcomes any new information on alumni. If you are seeking the names of graduates or would like to help with the database, please contact Brian Hanish at 862-5393.



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