



**2015-16 BUDGET INSERT INSIDE**  
**Budget Meeting info and Warrant .....pp. 7-9**  
**Budget Referendum Sample Ballot .....p. 9**

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# Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort

24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

May 2015

## Leigh Larson moving to Maine from Alaska to become Principal of Hampden Academy

Leigh Larson, principal at Wasilla Middle School in Wasilla, AK, for the last four years, will be the new principal at Hampden Academy, effective August 1.

Ms. Larson replaces Ruey Yehle, who is retiring after 12½ years as principal at HA and 38 years in education.

Ms. Larson has lived in Alaska most of her life, but her fiancée has family in Levant and Bangor, so

when they decided to relocate, she started familiarizing herself with education in Maine.

“We knew we wanted to be close to family, so we started looking in the Bangor area,” she said. “When the Hampden Academy job came open,



Leigh Larson with a 10-12 lb. rockfish that she caught southwest of Montague Island in Prince William Sound.

I started looking into it. My wildest dream is to be in an area where the community supports education as much as Hampden. It seemed too good to be true—but it wasn’t! I’m absolutely thrilled. I can’t wait to get started.”

*(Please turn to page 3)*

## District Budget Meeting set for June 4; Budget Referendum on June 9

The district budget meeting for RSU 22 will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, at the Hampden Academy Gymnasium, followed by the district budget referendum on Tuesday, June 9.

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hampden Municipal Building, Newburgh Elementary School, Samuel L. Wagner Middle School, and Frankfort Elementary School.

At the district budget meeting, voters will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on 19 budget articles, including 11 articles that authorize expenditures in cost center categories.

*(Please turn to page 3)*

## RSU 22 launches ‘Let’s Talk!’

Regional School Unit 22 believes that education is a shared responsibility. It takes the involvement of every parent, employee and community member to ensure that all students are provided their optimal learning environment and gain the skills needed to reach their full potential and meet the challenges of our ever-evolving global society.



We provide opportunities for you to partner with us so we can best serve all our students and our community. But we also understand how busy *(Please turn to page 2)*



Hampden Academy Jazz Ensemble—FIRST PLACE, STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL—See p. 5.

## Another trifecta for RSU 22 music groups in state jazz festivals

- **HA Jazz Ensemble wins for second year in a row ..... See p. 5**
- **RBMC Jazz Band wins for third year in a row .....See p. 10**
- **Wagner Jazz Band wins for second year in a row .....See p. 11**



Wagner Middle School Jazz Band—FIRST PLACE, STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL—See p. 11.



Reeds Brook Middle School Jazz Band—FIRST PLACE, STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL—See p. 10.



**Superintendent's message**

**New principal for HA, PR/marketing efforts, the Budget, long-term challenges**

By Rick Lyons, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

There is a great deal going on in RSU 22, but the big news is that we have a new principal for Hampden Academy.

Starting August 1, the new principal will be Leigh Larson, who has served as principal of Wasilla Middle School in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough north of Anchorage for the past four years.

Previously, she was assistant principal at Wasilla Middle School for one year, and assistant principal of Palmer High School in Palmer, AK, which is part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, for three years.

Ms. Larson is a good choice for Hampden Academy. The selection committee interviewed her twice while she was visiting in Maine in the middle of March. When she became a finalist, a number of committee members had phone conversations with their counterparts in Wasilla.

At end of the process, the two assistant principals at Hampden Academy joined me in a Facetime interview with Ms. Larson, and all agreed that she would be a good choice to replace Mrs. Yehle.

The RSU 22 Board of Directors approved a two-year contract on May 6, and we're looking forward to welcoming Ms. Larson in August.


\* \* \*

An important element of the Board's Strategic Plan is to enhance the district's public relations and marketing efforts through an enhanced website presence. Recent developments in this area include:

- We've added a new module to our website called "Let's Talk," which will allow greater communication between and among our

community in RSU 22.

- We're working with Rainstorm to develop a more active, informative format for our website, which will be unveiled in the fall.



- We're also working with a professor at University of Maine to encourage students who have website design/web enhancement capstone projects to apply those projects to improve our website.
- We are looking to establish a relationship with an individual to promote RSU 22, distribute relevant information in various mediums, and significantly enrich our web site and other social media.

\* \* \*

RSU 22 voters will have two opportunities in the coming weeks to make their feelings known and ask questions about the district's proposed 2015-16 budget. The annual budget meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, at Hampden Academy. This will allow residents to ask questions about the budget and vote on individual warrant items. The budget that is approved at the June 4 meeting will be subject to a referendum vote on Tuesday, June 9. Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the traditional polling locations in Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort.

The \$29.5 million budget has a gross increase of 1.93%, The net increase in local assessments is

1.21%. More detailed information is available on the district web site.

Individual town assessments are up 1.62% in Hampden, 1.63% in Newburgh, 0.24% in Winterport, and 0.66% in Frankfort. Cost sharing in RSU 22 is based 80% on valuation and 20% on pupil count. The state valuation for Hampden and Newburgh increased slightly, but declined by -1.23% for Winterport and -0.57% for Frankfort. The decline in pupil count was also larger in Winterport (-1.59%) and Frankfort (-13.29%) than in Hampden (-0.48%) and Newburgh (-0.63%).

\* \* \*

The proposed budget supports and aligns with the Board's Strategic Plan.

The budget includes funds for the following initiatives:

- The reintroduction of middle school foreign language and the introduction of upper elementary foreign language. Two teaching positions have been added for grades 6-8, and a 0.5 teaching position has been added for grades 4-5.
- Support of 1:1 technology at Hampden Academy, with Chromebooks replacing iPads for student use. The iPads will be passed down to the middle and elementary schools.
- Support for the acceleration of RSU 22's public relations and marketing strategy.
- Additional funds included at the Town of Hampden's request to support the school resource officer.
- Increased support for middle school music by increasing the music teacher's position at Reeds Brook from 4 days a week to 5 days (.8 full-time equivalent to 1.0 FTE).
- Continued enhancement of

gifted/talented education.

- Hiring WBRC Architects and Engineers to formulate a concept design plan to address challenges at the McGraw-Weatherbee complex.

Several positions are being eliminated by this budget, including an interpreter position at Hampden Academy, a teaching position at McGraw, and a foreign language position at Hampden Academy.

\* \* \*

Finally, we need to recognize that RSU 22, like most other school districts in Maine, faces some long-term budget challenges, including:

- Continuing increases in health insurance costs. This budget reflects an increase of 3.5% in the cost of health insurance. This has been a major driver of school budget increases for many years, and we don't see any relief in the near future.
- Teacher retirement funding is now done through local school budgets. This resulted in an increase of \$101,000 to our 2015-16 budget.
- Gov. LePage has signed the bill to have charter school tuition paid by the state rather than by local school districts. This helps school districts with large numbers of students attending charter schools, but the total tuition bill comes out of the state budget for general aid to education. That means there's less funds available for public education.

This all stresses the importance of being involved in the Legislative process. We must be vigilant in expressing our opinions representing RSU 22's best interests.

# RSU 22 launches 'Let's Talk!'

*(Continued from page 1)*

you are. Between school, work and family commitments, we know it can be difficult to find the time to make one more phone call or send one more email.

That's why we're offering Let's Talk! — a new online communication platform that allows you to ask a question, submit a comment, raise a concern or offer a word of praise 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And in the spirit of two-way conversations, we will respond to your submissions within 3 work days.

Here's what you need to know:

What: Designed by independent technol-

ogy and communications firm K12 Insight, Let's Talk! is an always-on communication tool that allows us to take the pulse of our community.

Where: Anywhere! You can find the button on our district website, [www.rsu22.us](http://www.rsu22.us). Let's Talk! is compatible with any computer, tablet or smartphone.

Who: Every student, parent, teacher, employee and community member can use Let's Talk! to reach our Superintendent, Central Office departments and schools. There are also links to discuss critical district topics.

How: Simply click the Let's Talk! button and select your desired topic to start a conversation.

Let's Talk! automatically routes submissions to the appropriate staff member for follow-up. You may remain anonymous or leave your contact information to receive a personal response.

Why: Because your voice holds the key to our successful future!

\* \* \*

RSU 22 technology coordinator Jeff Woodside said the district launched Let's Talk! early in May, and within a week—without any publicity—there had been a dozen "hits," which included questions from staff, students, and even a parent in southern Maine who complemented the high school on one of its traveling athletic teams.

Mr. Woodside said most of the visitors left contact information but a couple were anonymous.

"Let's Talk! allows for that," he says. "It eases communications by parents and community members who want to quickly comment or have a question about something but just don't know who to address the email to. For example ... a parent has a question about the lunches being served but doesn't know who Chris Greenier is... this gets it to her quickly and easily."



Georgeanne Jackson

## Georgeanne Jackson retiring after 35 years in the district

Georgeanne Jackson, gifted-talented teacher and coordinator for RSU 22 elementary schools for the past 30 years, is retiring at the end of the school year after 35 years in the district.

Ms. Jackson received her BA degree from Tufts University in Medford, MA, and her Master's degree in History from the University of Maine. She has also taken a number of courses in gifted and talented education.

After finishing graduate school, she

*(Please turn to page 15)*



# Link-22

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# District Budget Meeting set for June 4; Budget Referendum on June 9

(Continued from page 1)

In the budget referendum, voters will be asked if they favor approving the budget that was adopted at the district budget meeting.

Over the past few months, the RSU 22 Board of Directors Budget Committee and the RSU 22 Administrative Council have formulated the draft 2015-16 budget.

The Budget Committee endorsed the budget, and on April 15, the Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the budget, as well.

A summary of the budget and a description and explanation of all of the budget articles is included in a four-page insert on pages 7-9 in this issue of *Link-22*.

Budget public forums are being

held on Thursday, May 28, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Wagner Middle School library, and on Wednesday, June 3, at the Hampden Academy library.

The budget that is being presented on June 5 has a gross expenditure increase of 1.93%—\$560,282 above last year’s amount, and a local share increase of 1.21%.

The local share increase of 1.21% for the district will impact the four communities as follows:

Hampden	+\$97,443	1.6%
Newburgh	+\$16,282	1.6%
Winterport	+\$6,111	.2%
Frankfort	+5,242	.66%
Total	+\$125,078	1.21%

# Board takes first step toward looking at McGraw-Weatherbee complex

The RSU 22 Board of Directors has taken the first step towards looking at the McGraw-Weatherbee complex and determining what challenges need to be addressed, both in terms of infrastructure and education.

The Board has approved hiring WBRC Architects and Engineers to do a site plan and pre-concept design study for the area, including the central office and the bus garage.

The project will address the need for upgrades to the existing building and site infrastructure, as well as review education curriculum changes that could be enhanced through building modifications.

Assistant Superintendent Emil Genest said the study is the final phase of a 20-year plan for addressing the district’s facility needs. Steps 1 and 2 were the construction of Wagner and Reeds Brook Middle Schools in 1992 and 1994, respectively; step 3 was the expansion and renovation of the Leroy H. Smith School in 1998; and step 4 was the construction of the new Hampden Academy in 2012.

“It’s time to review school construction options for the other two school buildings in RSU 22—Weatherbee and McGraw,” he said.

McGraw, which currently houses grades K-2, was built in 1970. Weatherbee, which houses grades 3-5, plus Pre-K and two 2nd grade classrooms, was built in 1954, with the gym and additional classrooms added in 1962.

Mr. Genest said a number of issues related to the McGraw-Weatherbee complex need to be addressed, including traffic flow; separation of parent drop-off and bus traffic; providing paved parking for staff, volunteers, and visitors; and providing space for educational activities.

“A lot of educational programs—including support services, guidance, special education, nursing, and gifted-talented education—have been displaced and put on the stage at McGraw and in portables at both McGraw and Weatherbee,” says Mr. Genest. “A literacy classroom, a special ed classroom, the occupational therapy/physical therapy room, and the gifted-talented room are



Aerial view of the Weatherbee-McGraw complex, with Weatherbee School at the center, McGraw School to the left, the Bus Garage lower right, and the Central Office upper right. North Main St. runs along the right side of the photo. The all-weather turf field and the road to Hampden Academy is at the upper left. (WBRC photo)

located in portables. We’d like to take them out of the portables and incorporate them in the facilities.”

“Traffic flow is also a significant issue,” he said. “At arrival and dismissal time, traffic is backed up and a policeman is often needed on Main St. to let traffic out. Congestion needs to be addressed to make it a safe area.”

Another question is what to do with the bus garage and the central office building.

Should the bus garage stay in the Weatherbee-McGraw complex, or should they be moved someplace else? Should the central office remain as is, or should the superintendent and his staff move into school facilities so the central office building can be put up for lease?

The study will also look at improving connec-

tions between the McGraw-Weatherbee-Reeds Brook portion of the RSU 22 campus and Hampden Academy.

“What do we do down the road?” Mr. Genest asked. “Do we replace McGraw and Weatherbee? Do we renovate them? Do we combine them? The Board will determine what our options are after they receive the pre-concept design.”

RSU 22 will provide enrollment data for the projects, as well as information about curriculum.

Mr. Genest says he doesn’t know what recommendations will come out of this study, but he says that unless the education funding picture in Maine changes dramatically in the next couple of years, any construction would probably have to be done with local funds.

# Leigh Larson moving to Maine from Alaska to become Principal of Hampden Academy

(Continued from page 1)

For the past 13 years, Ms. Larson has served as a teacher and administrator in Wasilla, which is part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District north of Anchorage. She taught 7th and 8th grade in Wasilla Middle School for five years and spent two years as assistant principal at Palmer High School in Wasilla Palmer, and one year as assistant principal at Wasilla Middle School.

Previously, she spent five years in Alabama and Georgia, getting her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Education at Troy State University (now Troy University) in Troy Dothan, AL, and teaching 4th grade and high school world history in Bainbridge, GA.

She said she moved from Alaska to Alabama and Georgia because her mother’s family was from Georgia.

“I was married at the time, and my husband had some health issues and needed to go to a warmer climate,”

she said. “It was a great option for me—being closer to family, I got my education degrees, taught for a while, and then came back to Alaska and started teaching in Wasilla.”

Ms. Larson said she grew up in Anchorage in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

“It was a small community back then,” she said. “Now, it’s gotten so big that I moved north to the Matanuska Borough. That’s where I’ve been since 2003.”

As a long-time Alaska resident, Ms. Larson says that she’s sure Maine winters won’t bother her. However, she noted that although this past winter was rugged in Maine, they had almost no snow in Anchorage.

One thing she won’t miss about Alaska is the lack of daylight during December and January.

“When we were in Maine in March, the biggest deal for me was that it was daylight when I had my morning cup of coffee,” she said.

“Having only 4-5 hours of daylight for two months during the winter—that wears on you.”

Ms. Larson said she and her fiancée enjoy outdoor activities, including hiking and biking.

She adds that one of her favorite summer pastimes is fishing.

“I’ve been known to catch the biggest fish on the boat a time or two,” she says. “I love to rub that in every chance I get.”

She notes that her dad was a commercial fisherman during the summers in Bristol Bay, on the eastern edge of the Bering Sea.

“He’d disown me if I wasn’t a fisherman,” she said laughingly.

When told that Maine is a pretty good place to go fishing, she responded: “We’ve checked into it. I think we’ll have a lot of fun fishing in Maine. We’re going to wet a hook or two.”

Asked about challenges and opportunities that she sees at Hampden Academy in the next couple of

years, Ms. Larson says the biggest challenge will be following in Ruey Yehle’s footsteps.

“Those are some big shoes to fill,” she says. “It’s going to be a challenge for people who have enjoyed 13 years of her leadership—they’ve got to learn to trust me, but I’ve got to earn that trust. Based on conversations and outreach that I’ve experienced as part of the hiring process, I think it’s going to turn into a win-win situation. I know the stakeholders of Hampden Academy—the staff, the students, and the community—are going to help me in identifying some of the needs that they see.

“It’s pretty hard to take something that’s already so fantastic and make it better. How do you go about doing that? The sky’s the limit with that school. It’s just an amazing statement of the community and the value that the community puts on education. I couldn’t be more happy to be a part of that.”

# HA robotics teams enjoy ‘great learning experience’ at Worlds

The two Hampden Academy robotics teams had an enjoyable learning experience at the VEX World Robotics Tournament April 15-18 in Louisville, KY, but did not advance beyond the qualification round.

“It was a fantastic trip,” said Zach Perry, a member of the A team. “We were able to see the other teams’ designs and learn how they did things differently than we did. We’ll bring this knowledge and experience to the competition next year.”

Krystal Grant, a member of the B team, agreed.

“It was a great learning experience,” she said. “We got to talk to other teams and learned how they went about designing their robots.”

Zach and Krystal are both juniors. The other team members, Catherine Trojecki and Dylan Noyes of the A team and Nick Hashey, Nate Haiden, and Nate Cust of the B team, are also juniors.

Todd Moore and Charlie Huff, technology education teachers and the Robotics team advisors, said the teams did a great job against really tough competition.

“For a little team from Maine to go to world competition and represent Maine, we did very well,” they said.

The A team had particularly bad luck. In one of their matches, they were paired with a team that fielded a 6’ tall robot that could move three blocks at a time.

“We thought this was going to be

great,” Mr. Moore said. “Then, 15 seconds into the match, the 6’ tall robot fell on the A team’s robot and stripped all of its axles. Both teams never moved from that point on.”

A total of 450 teams competed in the high school division. In the qualification round, teams are paired up with each other randomly by computer to compete against two other teams.

“Our students paired up to compete with (and against) teams from all over the world,” Mr. Moore said. “It was amazing to watch these kids interact with kids from all over the globe and seeing what they could do to help each other out during the competition.”

He said the skill level of the competitors was eye-opening.

The two Hampden Academy teams were the highest-scoring teams in Maine, with a maximum score of 60 points. The average score in Louisville was in the low 80s, and the high score for the high school competition was 103.

Mr. Moore, Mr Huff and both teams would like to thank the many sponsors who helped fund their trip to Louisville. They were: Bangor Truck and Trailer Sales, Dysarts, Snowman Printing, Jason Sharpe, Susan Trzop-Haiden, Mr. Haiden, Tardiff Community Therapy & Wellness, H.O. Bouchard, Sargent Corp., Judy Agner, Mary Giard, SK Durrell Agency, Kenneth “Spider” Durrell, John H. Allen, Bangor Sav-



Robotics team members at the Vax World Tournament in Louisville, KY, in April. From left: Catherine Trojecki, Zach Perry, Dylan Noyes, Zack Cust, Nick Hashey, Nate Haiden, Krystal Grant.

ings Bank, Levesque Office Supply, MaineEarth, Chasse Family, Dennis Paper, WBRC, Rick and Danna Reidy, Carol Winch, Pat's Pizza,

Hannaford, Geiger Robotics, PDQ Door, Anglers, Darlings, Maine Society of Professional Engineers, Christine Henderson, and Grant's.

# Beekeeping Club excites interest among students, faculty

About 15 students have expressed interest in forming a beekeeping club at Hampden Academy, and some of them are already building hives that will soon be home to colonies of honeybees.

The project is being led by library ed tech Anne Cowin and her husband Peter, an experienced beekeeper better known as the Bee Whisperer.

Mrs. Cowin said she started thinking, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get more young people involved in beekeeping, and is this something that we could do at Hampden Academy?

She approached Principal Ruey Yehle, who was excited about the idea and took it to the RSU 22 Board of Directors. The Board invited Mr. Cowin to make a presentation, and after being reassured that the operation would be safe and adequately supervised, it approved construction of an 8-foot chain link fence and the installation of two hives in the southwest corner of the student parking area.

The fence will deflect the flight path of the bees upward, so students won't accidentally walk into the bees' flight path.

A meeting for prospective beekeeping club members was held on May



Volunteers assemble hives that will soon be home to honeybee colonies at Hampden Academy

7. About 10 students attended, but a number of others signed up and said they would have attended were it not for sports or other commitments.

Students who are involved in the Bee Project so far are Mariah Dennis, Kelly Martin, Max Trostel, Andrew Knight, Nicholas Hashey, Patrick Welch, Conary Moore, Arden Courant, Amanda Dysart, Bentley Simpson, Ashton Allen, Lily Salfi, Katie Nickerson and Sabrina Hatfield—with more joining daily.

“It’s great to see students seeing beekeeping and the preservation of honeybees as an important environmental issue—something they can get involved with to help the environment,” says Mrs. Cowin. “We’re hoping that Hampden Academy will be a real trail-blazer looking towards beekeeping as part of the school curriculum.”

Mr. Cowin said safety will be a primary concern for the project. Any student who goes inside the apiary—the fenced-in area around the

hives—will have to receive training and have protective equipment.

Mr. Cowin, who serves as president of the Penobscot County Beekeepers Association, noted that Hampden Academy hosted the annual meeting of the Maine State Beekeepers Association last October and will host the group again this year on November 14.

“I hope the students will be able to make a presentation in November about beekeeping at Hampden Academy,” he says.

He said the project has received quite a bit of outside support. A grant from the University of Maine has provided the equipment that will be needed to set up and assemble the hives, and a Maine beekeeper donated \$200 because she wanted to encourage students to become beekeepers. Other contributions have boosted the total to more than \$1,000.

The Cowins say there are many opportunities to tie beekeeping into the curriculum, particularly in science and environmental science courses.

At some point, Mr. Cowin is hoping that the project will be able to set up an observation hive—a hive with a glass wall to permit students to see what’s going on inside—in an environmental science classroom.

There are also possible tie-ins to other parts of the curriculum. Faculty members who have expressed interest to date include Joel Hills, social studies, on the business model of a beekeeping operation, along with English teachers Lisa Scofield, Sharon Zolper, and Rob Kissinger. Biology teacher Peter Wagner, himself a beekeeper, is also eager to link the project to his classroom activities.

# HA Math Team places 9th of 25 teams in Division A state meet

The Hampden Academy Math Team had an excellent 2014-15 season, with some 97 students participating in some or all of the season.

The team had five regular-season meets at various locations from October to March, and then the top 10 scorers were selected to go to the state meet, which was held on April 14 at the Cross Center in Bangor.

Hampden Academy placed 9th out of 25 schools in Division A and 24th overall against 103 schools competing.

Students who competed at the state meet were: Dalton Adams, Carl Boberg, Alex Flannery, Ana Malachi, Han Mason, Tyler Moore Trilok Polovaram, Kerry Quigley, Ruby Ramsay, and Max Trostel.

Senior Tyler Moore was the team’s highest scorer for the year, followed by senior Alex Flannery and sophomore Dalton Adams. Dalton was the third-highest scoring sophomore in eastern Maine over the course of the season.

Math team coach Rob Spreng said overall participation was the highest it’s ever been.



## HA Jazz Ensemble wins state jazz festival with score of 99 (out of 100)

The Hampden Academy Jazz Ensemble won first place at the state High School Instrumental Jazz Festival for the second year in a row this year, and they did it in impressive fashion.

The festival was held March 13-14 at South Portland High School.

The Jazz Ensemble scored 98 points out of 100 to win at the District V festival February 13 in Dexter. When they performed in South Portland, they scored 99 points out of 100.

“That’s almost unheard of,” said band director Pat Michaud. “It

might have happened once before.”

Alto saxophonist Bailey Giles and drummer Jake Michaud received awards for Outstanding Musicianship based on their solo performances.

Mr. Michaud said the Jazz Combo, a smaller group, also competed in the state festival and earned a superior rating. The combo is directed by Andrew Laidman, an educational technician in the Life Skills class who has a music composition degree from the Berklee School of Music. Mr. Laidman wrote one of the tunes the combo performed and

arranged the other two.

A third Hampden Academy group, the R&B Project, received a superior rating at the district festival. They would have qualified for the state festival but couldn’t go because of a rule that says students can’t play in more than one combo on the same instrument.

The Jazz Ensemble’s trophy was part of a trifecta by RSU 22 music groups this spring. The Reeds Brook Middle School and the Wagner Middle School jazz bands also won first-place trophies in their divisions

in the state Middle School Instrumental Jazz Festival March 21 at Nokomis High School in Newport.

He said the Hampden Academy music department is very proud of its success but doesn’t want the program to be defined by hardware.

“It’s really about the love of music,” he said. “We’re trying to ensure that the kids understand how music can be such a great thing to do during their entire lifetime. My goal is to keep as many kids as possible in music beyond high school.”

## Voices Unlimited receives gold award, places 2nd in Vocal Jazz Festival

Hampden Academy’s Voices Unlimited show choir received a gold award and placed second in the



Ethan Casavant (left) and Mikayla Burrige received Outstanding Vocalist awards.

state High School Vocal Jazz Festival March 29 at Stearns High School in Millinocket.

The group sang a medley of songs from the Broadway musical *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Two soloists, Ethan Casavant and Mikayla Burrige, received two of the four Outstanding Vocalist awards in the division.

Ethan sang “Dangerous Game,” while Mikayla sang “Once Upon a Dream.”

Voices Unlimited held its annual “Cabaret” May 12 at the Performing Arts Center. The performance included the medley from *Jekyll and Hyde* that it performed at the vocal jazz festival, along with jazz standards, solos, duets, and small group numbers.

On May 23, it repeated the performance at the Marsh River



Voices Unlimited performed a medley from “Jekyll and Hyde.” Photo by Duane Vigue Photography.

Theater in Brooks.

Heidi Corliss, Music Dept. chair at Hampden Academy and director of Voices Unlimited, said the

group’s first performance next year will be singing the Star Spangled Banner at the Portland Sea Dogs game on August 25.

## Hampden Academy switching to Chromebooks for 1:1 technology



Social studies teacher Joel Hills holds his iPad, which will be replaced next fall by the Chromebook (right) as Hampden Academy’s primary 1:1 technology device.

Hampden Academy will continue to provide 1:1 technology for all students, but it will switch to Chromebooks instead of iPads next fall.

Joel Hills, social studies teacher at HA and chair of the technology committee, said the iPads have worked well, but both students and faculty members would prefer a device that includes a standard-size keyboard.

The keyboard on the iPad isn’t big enough, and because it’s part of the iPad screen, it doesn’t have the feel of a conventional keyboard.

By contrast, the keyboard on a Chromebook is similar to the keyboard on most laptops.

However, Mr. Hills points out that a Chromebook is not a computer. “It’s a Chromebook,” he says.

A computer has a lot more memory and it’s designed as a stand-alone unit, able to perform with full functionality even if it’s not connected to the internet.

The Chromebook, on the other hand, has a

small flash hard drive that provides limited storage, and it doesn’t have a word processor. Rather, it’s designed to access the internet and use Google Docs along with cloud storage.

“We’re already using Google Docs at Hampden Academy, so the Chromebooks seemed like a natural fit for us,” Mr. Hills said.

The Chromebooks also have a cost advantage. The iPads cost about \$500 each, while Chromebooks are about half of that, or \$250 each.

The Chromebook has a forward-facing camera that will allow Skype conferencing, but the camera is not practical to use for taking photographs.

Mr. Hills said the school will acquire a few cameras for use in classrooms where students need to take photos. Many students already have smartphones with cameras, but cameras will be available for students who don’t.

## Freshman math teams place 3rd, 5th in spring meet at EMCC

The freshman math team at Hampden Academy had a really good year.

About 35 students participated, and two of the three teams that went to the spring meet placed third and fifth among 14 teams at the meet.

The freshman math season includes three meets—fall, winter, and spring.

The fall and winter meets are scheduled by individual schools, and the results are sent to the league by email. For the Hampden Academy freshmen, the fall and winter meets are held at Reeds Brook and Wagner, respectively, with students in grades 6 through 9 competing. The results for the freshmen are sent in to the freshman math league.

The spring meet was held April 1 at Eastern Maine Community College. Schools were allowed to take their top 12 students in four-person teams. The teams competed in three rounds—an individual round, in

which students answered questions or solved problems individually; a special round, in which students worked individually, but with calculators; and a team round, in which all four team members worked together.

Team 1 for Hampden Academy included Danielle Barrett, Illia

Horton, Marissa Gilpin, and Orion Zydlewski. They placed third.

Team 3 included Zach Flannery, Nicholas Parker, Kaylie LePage, and Alexandra Buzzini. They placed 5th.

Team 2 included Connor Roy, Jared Deans, Micah Hawes, and Nick Lorenzo.

Two individuals placed in the top 10 in overall scoring for the year.

They were Danielle Barrett, 3rd; and Marissa Gilpin, 9th.

Sara Ballard, Academic Team Leader for the Math Department, is the freshman team coach.

## Spanish Club sells Yudabands to help 2 Guatemalan students attend high school

The Hampden Academy Spanish Club raised \$2,030 in February through its Yudabands project, selling 290 handmade coconut and leather bracelets for \$7 apiece.

As a result, the club is sponsoring two Guatemalan students to attend high school through Yudabands.

Guatemalan children can attend free government schools through grade 6. After grade 6, they have to pay to go to school.

Members of the Spanish Club were able to select the students they wanted to sponsor by reading about



Spanish Club members Eliza Eastman, Patrick Kearns, and Danielle Bowler.

them and their plans for the future on the Yudabands website. One of the students wants to become a doctor; the other wants to become a teacher.

The Spanish Club organized the Yudabands project after Danielle Bowler, a junior, saw a TV newscast about a Yudabands project at another school in Maine. She brought up the idea to the club, and the members liked the idea.

About 10 members of the Spanish Club were active in the Yudabands project, which included a week of advertising and two weeks of selling during February.

Eliza Eastman, also a junior, says the Spanish Club has also supported a bottle school project in Guatemala.

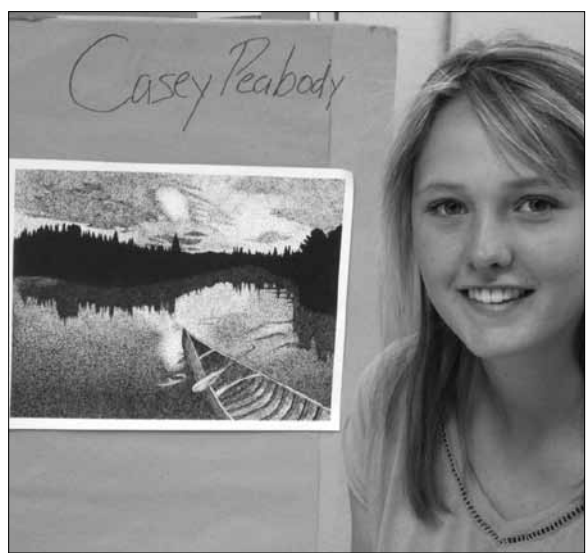
Celebrating HA senior art students and their favorite works



KELLY HART—Oil pastel drawing. Kelly plans to take a year off and do volunteer work around the country through Ameri-Corps. After that, she'll decide whether to apply to art school.



JAYMIE BICKFORD—Pen and ink drawing using colored Sharpies. Jaymie plans to attend Mt. Ida College in Newton, MA, and study Veterinary Technology.



CASEY PEABODY—Pen and ink drawing. Casey considered applying to art school, but decided to attend Husson University, where she will major in Hospitality and Tourism Management. She has also done a lot of pottery while at Hampden Academy.

Keenan Soule named 'Senior Poet' for his poem, 'Skin'

Keenan Soule has been awarded the title of Senior Poet at Hampden Academy for his poem, *Skin*.

His poem was selected by the members of the English Department from a total of nine that were submitted.

He says the poem is difficult to explain to someone who hasn't read it, but in broad terms, he says it's about life—"finding yourself, learning how to be yourself."



Keenan Soule

Keenan said the idea for the poem came to him when he was thinking about what to do for the Senior Poet contest.

"The first draft was very different from the final draft, but there was the same essential idea there," he said. "I developed it and took time with it. I tried to make it the best that I could."

English teacher Kristin Leithiser, who introduced Keenan as the winner of the contest, described *Skin* as "a poem that speaks of growth, of strengthening voice, of courage and independence."

Mrs. Leithiser, who oversees the Senior Poet contest, says one of the goals is to counter the idea that poetry is something that students do only in class.

"We also want to encourage students who are writing poetry for themselves and developing their voices," she says.

Members of the English Department vote on the poems to select three finalists. Then they sit down and discuss the top three. The teachers don't know the names of the students who wrote them, unless the student has talked to them about the poem for some reason.

"The conversation [about the poems] is really fun," Mrs. Leithiser says. "For us as teachers, it's a really cool way of seeing how the students have grown. However, we're really looking at the merits of the poem itself, rather than the student who has mastered the art."

3 HA students at UTC earn SkillsUSA gold medals

Three Hampden Academy students who are enrolled at the United Technologies Center in Bangor earned gold medals in the state SkillsUSA competition March 6-7 and will represent Maine in the national SkillsUSA competition June 22-26 in Louisville, KY.

- The students are:
- Arich Hawes, Heavy Equipment.
  - Dakota Clement, First Aid/CPR.
  - Matt Wagner, Video Game Design.

Arich, a senior, has been in the Heavy Equipment program at UTC for two years, with the first year focused on heavy equipment maintenance and the second year on diagnostics.

He's currently job shadowing at Chadwick BaRoss, a heavy equipment dealer in Bangor. Previously, he job shadowed at Whited Peterbilt, a truck dealer, also in Bangor. Arich says Whited Peterbilt has offered him a job after graduation and may wind up sending him to specialty training.

Dakota, a junior, is enrolled in the First Aid/CPR course at UTC and will have his basic EMT license at the end of the year. Next year, he



Matt Wagner

plans to switch to UTC's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. After graduation, he plans to study nursing at Husson University.

Matt, a senior, worked with three other UTC students from Hermon and Bangor to develop a game called "Barbarian Assault." Matt describes it as a strategy-power-defense game, in which the player defends his bulding from attacking barbarians.

Next year, he plans to take core classes and a computer repair course at EMCC. He says he's not planning to take courses specifically related to game development at this time, but he looking forward to Louisville, where he thinks game development companies might be



Dakota Clement

scouting for prospective employees.

In addition to Arich, Dakota, and Matt, six other Hampden Academy/UTC students earned the right to compete in the state competition, which was held at UTC and Eastern Maine Community College.

- They were:
- Derek Ginn, 3D Visual & Animation, Silver Medal.
  - Jacob Cyr, Cabinet Making, Silver Medal.
  - Aiden McIver, Carpentry.
  - Brian Dysart, Outdoor Power Equipment Technology, Silver Medal.
  - Taylor Levesque, Culinary Restaurant Service.
  - Noah Lataille, Welding Sulpture, Bronze.



Arich Hawes

Unified Basketball coach, partner, athlete reflect on season

When the Unified Basketball Team was being formed at Hampden Academy last fall, there was no doubt in Isaiah Palmer's mind about what he wanted to do.

"I didn't make the freshman team," he said. "I wanted to play basketball." He signed up and became one of the team's leading scorers with a season high of 21 points against Oceanside.

For Wil Huston, the situation wasn't so clear.

"When I heard about unified basketball, I didn't know what it was," he said. "I thought it was pickup basketball between schools. When I talked with Mr. Bisson (the HA athletic director), he told me what it was about, and I said sign me up. It was the best decision of my senior year."

Unified Basketball was the Maine Principals Association's first attempt to bring together Special Olympics athletes ("athletes") and students without disabilities ("partners") in an MPA-recognized high school varsity sport.

The teams competed in four

regular-season games and then participated in a state tournament. Hampden Academy team finished 3-1 during the regular season, and then won the state tournament and brought home a Gold Ball.

The team's reception after winning the state tournament was memorable, said assistant coach Linda MacDonald, a special education teacher at Hampden Academy.

"It was really nice that the team had the same experience other championship teams have had—an escort back to town and people waiting to congratulate them," said Ms. MacDonald. "They were famous."

In many ways, it was a magical season, as students rallied around the unified team—and sometimes around their opponents, as well.

"Unified basketball definitely had a way of changing the atmosphere of the school," said Wil. "When you asked



From left: Assistant Coach Linda MacDonald, Partner Wil Huston, and Athlete Isaiah Palmer.

if someone was going to the unified basketball game, the answer was, 'I'm coming, you'll hear me in the stands.'"

But Wil said it was different from a regular basketball game. "If the student section was chanting, we'd cheer for the opposing team, too."

However, as the season progressed from regular-season competition to tournament time, the students' competitive nature became more pronounced. "During the tournament, students were willing to sacrifice their playing time if it would help the team win the game," said Wil.



# RSU 22 - 2015 School District Budget Process

## DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2015 — 7 p.m. Hampden Academy Gymnasium

## DISTRICT BUDGET REFERENDUM

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 — 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Hampden Municipal Building    Newburgh Elementary School    Samuel L Wagner Middle School    Frankfort Elementary School

## BUDGET PUBLIC FORUMS

Thursday, May 28 — 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Wagner Middle School Library

Wednesday, June 3 — 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Hampden Academy Library

On April 15, 2015, the RSU #22 School Board of Directors unanimously approved the proposed 2015-2016 budget increase of 1.93%. The 2015-2016 budget figure of \$29,548,781.85 is \$560,282.98 above last year’s amount.

The local share increase of 1.21% for the four communities will increase as follows:

Hampden	+\$97,443	1.6%
Newburgh	+\$16,282	1.6%
Winterport	+\$6,111	.2%
Frankfort	+\$5,242	.66%
Total	+\$125,078	1.21%

On Thursday, June 4, 2015, a district budget meeting will be held in the Gymnasium at Hampden Academy, starting at 7 p.m.

The nineteen articles, which will be presented for voting, are listed below.

The final step to secure voter approval for the 2015-16 budget is to conduct a district-wide referendum on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. The polls will be open in each municipality from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters in Hampden will vote at the Municipal Building, in Newburgh at the Newburgh Elementary School, in Winterport at the Samuel L. Wagner Middle School and in Frankfort at the Frankfort Elementary School.

The RSU #22 Board of Directors recommends endorsement of the proposed 2015-16 school district budget.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES  
(Explanations of variances are noted below each article.)

**Article 1:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **REGULAR INSTRUCTION** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$10,551,066.37**

*Explanation: The Regular Instruction account includes expenses related to classroom teaching and learning, such as salaries for teachers, substitutes, and paraprofessionals, and classroom instructional materials and supplies. Also included are expenses related to Alternative Education, English Language Learners (ELL), and Gifted & Talented Programs.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b>Article 1</b>			
<b>Regular Instruction</b>	\$10,310,247.48	\$10,551,066.37	\$240,818.89
<b>Regular Instruction Programs</b>	\$7,860,982.68	\$8,093,309.15	\$232,326.47
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers			
* Addition of (1) Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Foreign Language Teacher at the K-5 level			
* Reduction of .5 FTE Foreign Language Teacher at Hampden Academy			
* Increased support for middle school music by increasing the music teacher’s position at Reeds Brook from 4 to 5 days per week			
* Elimination of half time study hall educational technician at Hampden Academy			
<b>PreK-2 Instruction Programs</b>	\$2,165,300.10	\$2,160,771.54	(\$4,528.56)
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers			
* Reduction of (1) FTE classroom teacher at McGraw School due to lower enrollment			
<b>Other Instruction Programs</b>	\$283,964.70	\$296,985.68	\$13,020.98
* Alternative Education			
* English Language Learners (ELL)			
* Gifted & Talented – continued enhancement of program			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b>\$240,818.89</b>

**Article 2:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$4,657,841.61**

*Explanation: The Special Education Instruction account includes expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b>Article 2</b>			
<b>Special Education Instruction</b>	\$4,718,150.13	\$4,657,841.61	(\$60,308.52)
<b>Special Education Programs</b>	\$4,361,424.46	\$4,296,939.87	(\$64,484.59)
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers and educational technicians			
* Elimination of (1) interpreter			
<b>Special Education Administration</b>	\$356,725.67	\$360,901.74	\$4,176.07
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b>(\$60,308.52)</b>

**Article 3:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$315,465.55**

*Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to the Career and Cooperative Education Programs.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b>Article 3</b>			
<b>Career and Technical Education</b>	\$295,164.09	\$315,465.55	\$20,301.46
<b>Career and Technical Education</b>	\$295,164.09	\$315,465.55	\$20,301.46
* Increase of number of students using this program			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b>\$20,301.46</b>



**Article 4:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **OTHER INSTRUCTION** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$706,184.72**  
*Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for Co-Curricular, Extra-Curricular, and Summer School Programs.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 4</u></b>			
<b><u>Other Instruction</u></b>	\$702,972.31	\$706,184.72	\$3,212.41
<b>Summer School</b>	\$3,136.20	\$3,157.20	\$21.00
<b>Co-Curricular</b>	\$147,537.14	\$140,438.30	(\$7,098.84)
<b>Extra-Curricular</b>	\$552,298.97	\$562,589.22	\$10,290.25
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>\$3,212.41</u></b>

**Article 5:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **STUDENT AND STAFF SUPPORT** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$2,413,550.15**  
*Explanation: The Student and Staff Support account includes expenses for student support services (curriculum, guidance, health, and instructional technology) as well as staff support services (improvement of instruction, improvement of staff training, library services, and student assessment).*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 5</u></b>			
<b><u>Student and Staff Support</u></b>	\$2,211,675.11	\$2,413,550.15	\$201,875.04
<b>Guidance Services</b>	\$536,986.85	\$552,750.94	\$15,764.09
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for guidance professionals and support staff			
<b>Health Services</b>	\$361,050.04	\$375,325.50	\$14,275.46
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for nurses and support staff			
<b>Other Student Support Services</b>	\$62,410.90	\$92,742.48	\$30,331.58
* Addition of (1) 504 educational technician due to student need			
<b>Improvement of Instruction</b>	\$160,365.64	\$189,908.10	\$29,542.46
* Support for the acceleration of RSU #22’s public relations and marketing strategy			
<b>Support Services Instructions</b>	\$84,929.80	\$83,356.83	(\$1,572.97)
<b>Library Services</b>	\$317,357.06	\$323,024.04	\$5,666.98
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for librarians and educational technicians			
<b>Instructional-Related Technology</b>	\$593,640.18	\$701,332.71	\$107,692.53
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases and/or adjustments for teachers and support staff			
* Enhancement of district web page			
* Support of 1:1 technology at Hampden Academy, with Chromebooks replacing iPads for student use. iPads will be redistributed to elementary and middle school levels.			
<b>Assessment</b>	\$94,934.64	\$95,109.55	\$174.91
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>\$201,875.04</u></b>

**Article 6:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$ 758,443.91**  
*Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent, and Business Office functions.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 6</u></b>			
<b><u>System Administration</u></b>	\$759,570.78	\$758,443.91	(\$1,126.87)
<b>System Administration</b>	\$759,570.78	\$758,443.91	(\$1,126.87)
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for administrators and central office staff			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>(\$1,126.87)</u></b>

**Article 7:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,317,510.95**  
*Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of individual schools.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 7</u></b>			
<b><u>School Administration</u></b>	\$1,233,883.72	\$1,317,510.95	\$83,627.23
<b>School Administration</b>	\$1,233,883.72	\$1,317,510.95	\$83,627.23
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for administrators and support staff			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>\$83,627.23</u></b>

**Article 8:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **TRANSPORTATION AND BUSES** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,243,329.81**  
*Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the transportation contract, fuel, and special education transportation services.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 8</u></b>			
<b><u>Transportation and Buses</u></b>	\$1,206,155.28	\$1,243,329.81	\$37,174.53
<b>Transportation</b>	\$1,206,155.28	\$1,243,329.81	\$37,174.53
* Contract increase of 2.5%			
* Additional transportation support for tuition students			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>\$37,174.53</u></b>

**Article 9:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$3,508,917.20**  
*Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of physical plant and grounds, minor capital construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment, and supplies.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 9</u></b>			
<b><u>Facilities Maintenance</u></b>	\$3,390,357.68	\$3,508,917.20	\$118,559.52
<b>Facilities Maintenance</b>	\$3,390,357.68	\$3,508,917.20	\$118,559.52
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for custodial staff			
* Moderate increase in overall repair, maintenance, and operating costs including electricity			
* Additional funds included at town’s request to support the school resource office			
* Architect/engineering fees to formulate a pre-concept design plan to address infrastructure/educational challenges at the McGraw/Weatherbee complex			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>\$118,559.52</u></b>

**Article 10:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **DEBT SERVICE AND OTHER COMMITMENTS** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$4,076,471.58**  
*Explanation: The Debt Service account includes expenses for state approved capital debt obligations.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 10—Debt Service and Other Commitments</u></b>	\$4,160,322.29	\$4,076,471.58	(\$83,850.71)
<b>Debt Service Payments</b>	\$4,160,322.29	\$4,076,471.58	(\$83,850.71)
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>(\$83,850.71)</u></b>

**Article 11:** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES** for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$ 0**  
*Explanation: The All Other Expenditures account includes expenses for the food service operations.*

	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Variance
<b><u>Article 11</u></b>			
<b><u>All Other Expenditures</u></b>	\$0	\$ 0	\$0
<b>Food Service Transfer</b>	\$0	\$ 0	\$0
* Food service program is now self-sustaining			
<b>Total Variance:</b>			<b><u>\$0</u></b>



ARTICLES 12, 13, AND 14 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

**Article 12: State/Local Essential Programs and Services (EPS) Funding Allocation.** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from Pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and assess as each municipality’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688. **Recommended amounts set forth below:**

<b><u>Total appropriated (by municipality):</u></b>	
Town of Hampden .....	\$15,115,565.77
Town of Newburgh .....	\$2,848,609.33
Town of Winterport .....	\$7,466,012.61
Town of Frankfort .....	\$1,417,020.22
<b>RSU Total Appropriated</b>	
<b>(Sum of above) .....</b>	<b>\$26,847,207.93</b>

<b><u>Total raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):</u></b>	
Town of Hampden .....	\$5,077,682.66
Town of Newburgh .....	\$837,965.34
Town of Winterport .....	\$2,070,533.34
Town of Frankfort .....	\$669,496.00
<b>RSU Total Raised:</b>	
<b>(Sum of above) .....</b>	<b>\$8,655,677.34</b>

*Explanation: The Regional School Unit’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**Article 13: Appropriation for Non-state-funded Debt Service Allocation.** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters for non-state-funded school construction projects and non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Regional School Unit’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreKindergarten to grade 12.

Board of Directors recommends: **\$506,922.73**  
*Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Regional School Unit’s long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters.*

**Article 14: Appropriation of Additional Local Funds (Written Ballot Required).** To see what sum Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$1,274,346.88**), which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$744,752.30**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors recommends **\$1,274,346.88** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$744,752.30: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive PreK-12 educational program, such as (1) athletics/co-curricular program costs; (2) transportation for the athletics/co-curricular program; and (3) special education costs.  
*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit’s local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.*

ARTICLE 15 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

**Article 15: Total School Budget Summary.** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 from the Regional School Unit’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

The Board of Directors Recommends: **\$29,548,781.85**

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

**Article 16:** In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the Board of Directors be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Board of Directors recommends a “YES” vote.

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

**Article 17:** To see if Regional School Unit No. 22 will appropriate **\$65,000** for adult education and raise **\$30,000** as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

Board of Directors recommends an appropriation of **\$65,000.00** with a local share of **\$30,000.00**.

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

**Article 18:** In addition to amounts authorized under Articles 1 through 17, shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$150,000.00** from unallocated fund balances to the RSU’s previously established Capital Reserve Fund and shall the School Board be further authorized to expend up to **\$150,000.00** from this Capital Reserve Fund to fund capital projects in the RSU including the following: (i) classroom flooring upgrades at Reeds Brook Middle School, (ii) roof shingling for portables at McGraw and Weatherbee Elementary Schools, and (iii) paving at RSU schools?

Board of Directors recommends a “YES” vote.

ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

**Article 19:** In addition to amounts authorized under Articles 1 through 18, shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to 50% of gate receipts from RSU athletic events during the 2015-2016 fiscal year to the School Athletic Facility Capital Reserve Fund and to expend these funds from said reserve fund for the purpose of maintaining the RSU’s multi-purpose athletic field and maintaining other Regional School Unit athletic facilities?

Board of Directors recommends a “YES” vote.

DISTRICT BUDGET  
VALIDATION REFERENDUM

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Hampden Municipal Building  
Newburgh Elementary School  
Samuel L. Wagner Middle School  
Frankfort Elementary School

After the 2015-16 budget is adopted at the June 4 district budget meeting, district citizens will then have the opportunity to vote at the polls on June 9 on the following question:

The RSU #22 Board of Directors recommends a “YES” vote.

A sample of the June 9 ballot is outlined below:

Question I: Do you favor approving the Regional School Unit No. 22 budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest district budget meeting?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Explanation: If the total “YES” vote prevails, the school Budget will have been secured; if the “NO” vote prevails, then the process will revert to another district budget meeting. The process will conclude when the budget has been endorsed in the referendum mode.

# Reeds Brook Jazz Band wins 3rd state jazz festival in a row

For the third year in a row, the Reeds Brook Middle School Jazz Band has won first place in the state Middle School Instrumental Jazz Festival, which was held March 21 at Nokomis High School in Newport.

Three Reeds Brook students earned Outstanding Musician-ship awards for their solos—Logan Christian, trumpet; Nick Gauthier, baritone saxophone; and Jack Dunning, alto saxophone. For Logan and Nick, it was the second year in a row they had received the awards.

This is also the third year in a row that soloists from Reeds Brook have received three of the five Outstanding Musicianship awards in the division.

All of the other soloists received

superior ratings. They were: Audrie French, trombone; Brady Lobdell, tenor saxophone; Kent Oliver, trombone; Zoe Ellingwood, flute; Nathaniel Bailey, bass clarinet; Bryan Frost, flute; Zach Scott, drum set; Noah Dancoes, drum set; Robert Brown III, guitar; and Bailey Mallory, bass guitar.

Becky Mallory, music teacher and band director at Reeds Brook, said this year's 8th graders have finished in first place all three years that they have performed in the state festival.

"They're a very strong group," she said. "It's been phenomenal watching them grow."

She noted that when the Jazz Band took first place two years ago, it was the first time ever that a



music group from RSU 22 had won a state title.

In the two years since then, all three RSU 22 jazz bands—Reeds Brook, Hampden Academy, and Wagner Middle School—have won consecutive state titles, giving the district

a jazz band trifecta two years running.

Mrs. Mallory said the Reeds Brook Show Choir placed third and earned a superior rating and gold award at the state Middle School Vocal Jazz Festival March 27 at Stearns High School in Millinocket.

## Eliot Small wins RBMS Civic Oration contest with speech about Times Square

Eighth grader Eliot Small won the Reeds Brook Civic Oration contest this spring and then placed first in the district competition April 28 in Medway. He then competed in the regional finals, which were held May 7 at Wagner Middle School.

The regional winner was Emma Campbell, a 5th grader from Wagner whose performance will be videotaped and sent to the national competition in Rock Island, IL. Last summer Chloe Thurlow, an 8th grader at Reeds Brook, represented the state of Maine and was named the 2014 National Champion for her speech.

This year's Civic Oration theme was "an interesting landmark." Approximately half of all Reeds Brook students participated this year, choosing such landmarks as Fenway Park, the Lincoln Memorial, and Mount Rushmore.

Eliot's winning topic was Times Square in New York City. The second place winner at Reeds Brook, 8th grader Gavin Kearns, who also



RBMS orators Eliot Small (left) and Gavin Kearns.

went to the district finals in Medway, talked about the USS Constitution.

The other finalist at Reed Brook was Chloe Lawrence, who's landmark was Mont Saint-Michel.

Speech coordinator Reed Farrar said many students had never been to the places they described, but their orations were informative and the other students enjoyed learning about the different landmarks.

The Civic Oration contest is sponsored by the Modern Woodmen of America.



From left: Sara Poll, Jen Bowman-Mckay, Rece Poulin, and Karyn Field.

## Sara Poll, Rece Poulin represent RBMS at 2015 Scholar Leader Dinner in Augusta

Eighth graders Sara Poll and Rece Poulin were selected to represent Reeds Brook Middle School at the 2015 Scholar Leader Dinner May 14 at the Augusta Civic Center. The students were selected based on several criteria, but most importantly it was their excellent attitude toward learning, the fact that they are both extremely positive role models for others, and the fact that they take responsibility for their own behavior and learning.

The Scholar Leader Awards are co-sponsored by the Maine Association of Middle Level Educators (MAMLE) and the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS).

The students were allowed to invite one of their teachers to the awards ceremony. Sara invited Jen Bowman-McKay, while Rece invited Karyn Field, who also serves on the board of directors for NELMS.

Mrs. Field said the keynote speaker for the dinner was Nicholas Parker, a former Reeds Brook student who is now a freshman at Hamden Academy. Nicholas was part of a keynote address given last fall by national consultant Nancy Doda at the MAMLE Conference, and board members were so impressed with his work that he was asked to keynote this event as well.

Gert Nesin, a member of the MAMLE board of directors, said she was "mesmerized, moved, [and] pushed to think" by Nick's performance." She added that it wasn't just her—it was the entire audience of middle school educators, consultants, and vendors.

## 'Twisted Swing' to debut with Jazz Social June 22

Twisted Swing, a new community adult jazz band founded by Gary Walker and Becky Mallory, will make its debut with a Jazz Social and Silent Auction on Monday, June 22, at 7 p.m. in the Reeds Brook Middle School gym. The proceeds will support the RBMS music program and music camp scholarships for RBMS students.

Mr. Walker is the father of three former students in the RBMS music program who plays tenor and alto saxophone; Mrs. Mallory, who plays alto saxophone, is the music teacher at RBMS.

## Sharyn Hastings retires after 40 years in education

Sharyn Hastings, who brought the "Silk Road" to Reeds Brook Middle School, is retiring after 40 years in education and 22 years of teaching 7th grade (and occasionally 6th grade) in RSU 22.

Mrs. Hastings started teaching middle school social studies in RSU 22 in the spring of 1993, when the middle school grades were still housed at George B. Weatherbee School. She moved to Reeds Brook when it opened in the fall of 1994, and she's been there ever since.



Sharyn Hastings

## RBMS Spring Concert set for June 2 at PAC

The Reeds Brook Middle School Spring Concert will be held Tuesday, June 2, at the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center, starting at 7 p.m. The concert will include the Grades 6-8 Band and the Grades 6-8 Chorus.

Previously, she taught for one year at the Shrine of the Little Flower School, a parochial elementary school in Baltimore, and for 8 years at international schools in Kenya, Tanzania, Togo, and The Gambia.

A graduate of Plymouth State College, she started her education career as a teacher trainer in elementary science with the Peace Corps in the Philippines.

Following graduate studies at Teachers College, Columbia University, she moved to Washington, DC, where she taught for four years at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, a private school on the Georgetown University campus.

Mrs. Hastings said she was proud of the fact that she started teaching her 7th grade students at Reeds Brook about the ancient Silk Road—the network of routes between China and India and the Mediterranean Sea that was popularized by Marco Polo, among others.

"I especially enjoyed teaching the children about India and China," she said. "I worked hard at having them understand how other people think and believe. I am proudest of giving children the gift of being able

to understand other cultures."

Although she's submitted her retirement papers to RSU 22, Mrs. Hastings says she's not really retiring, just changing careers. One of her sons owns the Acadia Hotel in Bar Harbor, and starting this summer she will be the concierge.

"The hotel has guests from all over the U.S. and the world," she says. "I'll be able to continue my passion for meeting people and talking to them about their cultures."

Asked if she speaks other languages, Mrs. Hastings says she speaks "market languages"—not fluent enough for university-level conversations but good enough to go to the local market and get what she needed and talk to people.

Mrs. Hastings said she and her husband Michael, who is director of research and sponsored programs at the University of Maine, have sold their house in Hampden and will be moving to Bar Harbor.

They have two sons, Timothy and Peter, both of whom graduated from Hampden Academy. Timothy and his wife live in Denver CO, and Peter and his wife live in Bar Harbor with Mrs. Hastings' grandson, 2½.



# Wagner Jazz Band wins 1st place at state Instrumental Jazz Festival

For the second year in a row, the Wagner Middle School Jazz Band won first place in Division 3 at the state Middle School Instrumental Jazz Festival, which was held March 21 at Nokomis High School in Newport.

The Jazz Band earned a gold award and a superior rating en route to the championship.

The Wagner Show Choir also received a gold award and superior rating at the state Vocal Jazz Festival, but did not finish in one of the top three places. The vocal festival was held March 27 at Stearns High School in Millinocket.

Jerdon Kiesman, tenor saxophonist for the Jazz Band, and John

Barrett in the Show Choir, both received awards for Outstanding Musicianship for solo performances at their respective festivals.

Only five students in each division receive Outstanding Musicianship awards.

Along with Jerdon and John, all of the Wagner soloists at both festivals received superior ratings for their performances. They were:

Jazz Band: Zara Misler, alto saxophone; Julia Hammond, piano; Noah Burby, guitar; Wade Brown, baritone saxophone; Matt Southard, tenor saxophone; Mercede Ambrose, alto saxophone; Wesley Reynolds, trumpet; and Conor O’Kendley, trumpet.

Show Choir: Moxie Flanagan, Kayli Varnum, Brooklyn Kirkland, Maxwell Webster, Brooke Lavin, Madison Baker, and Wade Brown.

\* \* \*

The Wagner Jazz Band and Show Choir will be embarking on their annual “East Coast Tour”—where they play at area elementary and middle schools—on June 4.

This year’s tour includes Smith School in Winterport, Caravel Middle School in Carmel, a stop at Pizza Hut for lunch, and Holden Elementary School in Holden.

\* \* \*

Wagner’s Spring Concert will be held on Monday, June 1, with sepa-

rate performances for the 5th and 6th grade groups and the 7th and 8th grade groups to accommodate seating and parking.

The first concert, for the 5/6 chorus and the 6th grade band, will start at 6 p.m.

The second concert, for the 7/8 chorus and the 7/8 band, will start at 8 p.m.

The Jazz Band and Show Choir will perform at both concerts.

\* \* \*

The 5th Grade Band concert will be held on Wednesday, May 27, starting at 6:30 p.m.. They will be joined by 4th graders from Smith School, who will be playing recorders.

## Camp Kieve Leadership School comes to Wagner for 7th grade team building

Every spring, the 7th graders at Wagner Middle School get together for an activity that involves the entire class as they get ready to move up to the 8th grade.



A 7th grader nears the top of the Climbing Tower, which Kieve brought to Wagner.

This year, the Leadership School from Camp Kieve brought its outreach program to Wagner for a day of community building, team building, and leadership development activities.

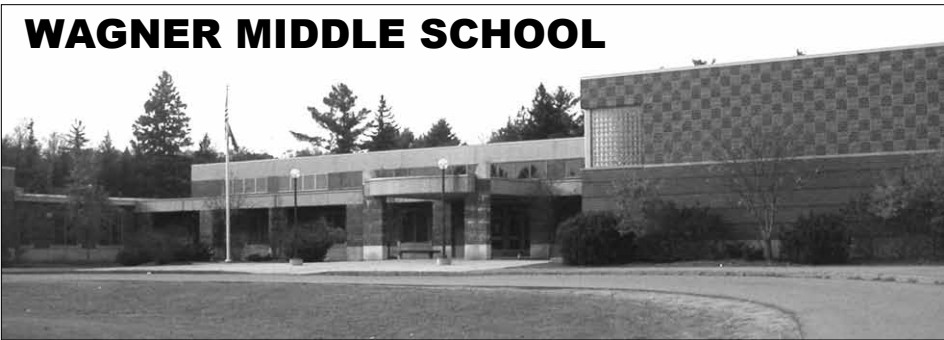
The day started off with the entire 7th grade gathering together in the cafeteria for a series of ice-breaking activities.

Then the 7th graders broke up into four groups and rotated through four different activities, including a 40-foot outdoor climbing tower, indoor activities, outdoor activities, and problem-solving challenges that required students to communicate with each other.

Each group was led by a Kieve staff member, who are trained to work with middle-school students.

“The students really bought into it,” said 7th grade teacher Amanda Pullen. “It was a day without teachers. Kieve brought four leaders, who are very good at getting groups of kids from point A to point B, and we were there as silent watchers.”

Ms. Pullen said the Kieve leaders emphasize “challenge by choice,” which encourages students to chal-



lenge themselves but ensures that engagement is voluntary.

“Some students climb all the way up the wall; another student might get the harness on and stop after climbing one step. Everyone gets their own level of success.”

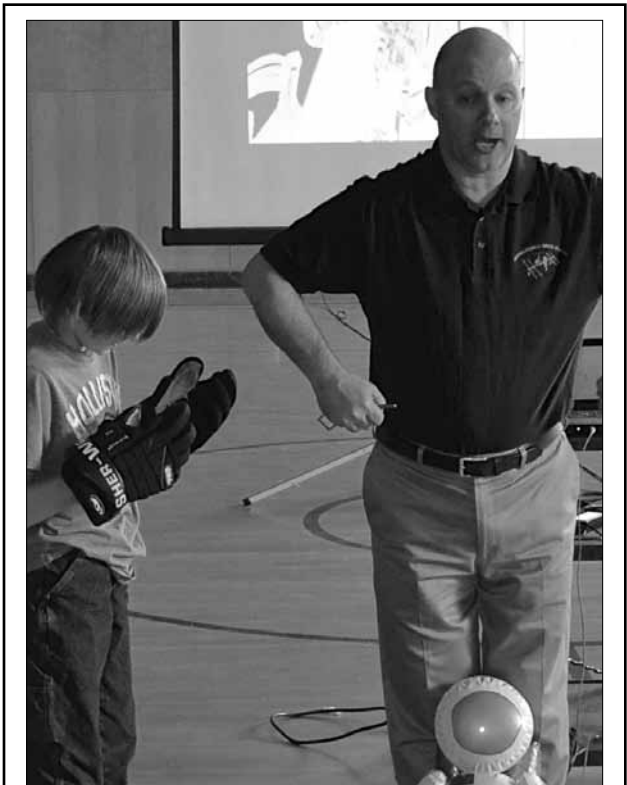
She said the Wagner teachers often saw their students shine in unexpect-

ed areas or with unexpected skills. “It was awesome to see them stepping up in different situations” she said.

Ms. Pullen said the feedback from the 7th graders was resoundingly positive. “This is something that I think we’d like to do in future years,” she said. “It’s a good way to get ready for 8th grade.”



The day started with a series of ice-breaking activities that brought all 7th graders together.



AEROSPACE EDUCATOR BRIAN EWENSON visited Wagner Middle School on April 29 and gave a presentation about living and working in space, “No Shoes, No Showers, No Problem.” Part of his presentation covered the challenges of working during space walks, which Mr. Ewenson likened to working while wearing hockey gloves. Above, Ryan Cote put on a pair of hockey gloves and attempted to separate a bolt and nut. The task proved to be more than a little challenging with the gloves on. Mr. Ewenson’s visit was scheduled at Wagner Middle School courtesy of the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor, where 6th grade classes from Wagner have participated in simulated space missions for a number of years.

## Cindy Moran retiring

Cindy Moran, who has been teaching science and algebra at Wagner Middle School for the past 15 years, will retire at the end of the school year.

Before coming to Wagner, she taught in Ellsworth and Carmel for a total of 26 years in teaching.

A native of Brewer, Mrs. Moran graduated from Brewer High School and then studied medical technology at Husson. After getting married, she raised five children and went to work in the laboratory at Eastern Maine Medical Center for two years. She then decided she wanted to go back to school to prepare for a career in either medicine or teaching. She chose teaching and earned her education degree at the University of Maine.



Cindy Moran

Mrs. Moran’s retirement plans include traveling and “new adventures.” Traveling will involve visiting her children and 11 grandchildren in St. Louis, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Camden, ME. New adventures could be almost anything, including climbing aboard a hot air balloon in Missouri later this summer.

She says she’ll also substitute teach within RSU 22 “when I’m not off on one of those adventures.”

Mrs. Moran says her husband George, who works for the Post Office, won’t retire until next year.

The two things Mrs. Moran says she’ll miss most are her students and the staff at Wagner Middle School, who she describes as “my Wagner Pride family.”



MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA CIVIC ORATION CONTEST WINNER—Emma Campbell, 5th grader at Wagner Middle School, has won the Regional/State competition in the Modern Woodman of America Civic Oration Contest with her speech titled, “Take Your Places: The Bangor Opera House.” Emma won the school competition on April 16, the district competition on April 29 in Milford, and the regional/state competition, which was held at Wagner on May 7. Emma will record her speech and send it to the national competition. The results of the national competition will be announced in July. Above, Emma displays the trophies she earned in the oration contest.

5 teachers at Weatherbee working on Master’s degrees to benefit kids in classrooms

Five teachers at George B. Weatherbee School are or soon will be working on their Master’s degrees in Education, and they’re bringing the knowledge that they gain into the classroom in many different ways.

The teachers are Jennifer Jones and Angela Pratt, 3rd grade; Meghan Schall and Shannon Peterson, 4th grade; and Renita Downer, 5th grade.

\* \* \*

Third grade teacher Jennifer Jones expects to get her Master’s degree in Literacy from the University of New England in Biddeford in May 2016, but she says her students are already benefiting from her studies.

“Everything that I’m learning I can use immediately in the classroom,” she says. “It’s really exciting to take a class that I can apply immediately. I can take what I’m learning and report back to my fellow students and tell them how it worked.”

One of her recent classes dealt with technology in the classroom, including web quests, which help her provide differentiated lessons for her students.

“There are several sites where I can set up on-line learning for my students,” she says. “A lot of teachers do a ‘flipped classroom’ that way. They learn the lesson online at home and then apply it in the classroom, rather than listening to a lecture at school and taking a homework assignment home.”

Mrs. Jones says taking graduate courses reemphasizes how exciting it really is to be in the classroom with young students

“It’s brought a new ‘spark,’” she says. “As teachers, we’re always learning new things, and it’s nice to work with colleagues who are learning on-line.”

\* \* \*

Meghan Schall is in the second year of a three-year Master’s degree program in Educational Leadership at the University of Maine. She expects to graduate in May 2016, although she may have to take a



Jen Jones



Meghan Schall



Renita Downer and Shannon Peterson



Angela Pratt

couple of electives next summer to complete her degree requirements.

During the past year, Mrs. Schall has been taking a course on Action Research, using real-world student data from Weatherbee in her research project.

She worked with the Literacy Leadership Team at Weatherbee, which she chaired, to find “blind spots” in reading instruction and then looked at data and current research in order to develop an action plan to address that gap or weakness in the curriculum.

The team decided to focus on vocabulary and researched best practices for vocabulary instruction.

“We’ll continue to work in that area next year, even though my class is done,” she says.

Mrs. Schall said the Literacy Leadership Team worked collaboratively through the entire process. The team has created vocabulary word lists for each grade level, and will use those lists and Marzano’s framework for vocabulary instruction in the classroom.

\* \* \*

Shannon Peterson received her Certificate in Math Leadership from the University of Maine at Farmington last December and will use those courses as the concentration for her Master’s degree in Education program at Orono. She expects to receive her degree in May 2016.

She says the Math Leadership program at UMF is based on the idea that math instruction at the elementary level can benefit from the same type of expertise that is provided in reading and writing

instruction by literacy specialists.

“A math coach, like a reading coach, could support teachers and help them improve their instruction,” she says. “A math specialist, like a literacy specialist, could support struggling learners in math.”

Ms. Peterson has served as leader of Weatherbee’s Math Leadership Team for the past three years and decided to pursue her Master’s degree when she saw the Math Leadership courses at UMF.

\* \* \*

Renita Downer completed her Master’s degree in Education from UNE last December. Her focus was on curriculum instruction.

A math teacher, she’s served on the Math Leadership Committee with Shannon Peterson. The last part of her course work at UNE was an Action Research project in which she looked at Weatherbee’s NECAP scores and identified problem-solving as a weakness in the school’s math curriculum.

Specifically, she looked at the bar-model method of problem-solving that she had learned about when a group of Weatherbee teachers received training on Singapore math in the fall of 2013.

Mrs. Downer’s Action Research project asked whether bar modeling really helps students in problem-solving. For eight weeks, she instructed classes primarily using the bar-model method and found that it did help with the process of solving word problems in math. However, she found that the bar model didn’t apply to all word problems, and that students had

a hard time if it wasn’t real clear how to apply the bar model.

“I brought that finding to the Math Leadership Team, and we took that information and developed a systematic approach to solving word problems,” she said. “Now, everybody at Weatherbee is using the same approach, and students hear the same approach in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The system is based on bar-modeling, but students can use other visual representations, as well.”

\* \* \*

This summer, Angela Pratt will start online classes at UNE that will lead to a Master’s degree in School Leadership in May 2017.

She’s been a member of the Data Committee at Weatherbee for several years, she’s facilitated a Professional Learning Community, and she’s served on the Student Assistance Team and the Math Leadership Team.

She’s hoping that an advance degree will help her become a better teacher because she’ll be able to look at her students and her classroom with another lens.

“I’ve had a parent lens and a teacher lens,” she says. “Now, I’ll have an administrator lens—learning what administrators have to deal with.”

After she gets her Master’s, she’ll have some additional courses to take in order to get her principal’s certificate, but she thinks that’s her ultimate goal.

“I’ve been teaching for 28 years, and my two children are now grown,” she says. “I think it’s time for a new phase.”

Wagner/Smith team wins ‘Battle of the Books’

A team of six students from Leroy H. Smith School and Wagner Middle School won the “Battle of the Books” against four other teams of students in grades 4-8 from RSU 22.

The winning team was made up of LillyAnne Keeley and Grace Farrar from Wagner and Rachel Palmer, Abigail Adamo, Amy Spencer, and Victoria Boyorak from Smith.

Also competing from Smith and Wagner schools were:

Smith: Evan King, Stephanie Clisham, Charlotte Beckwith, Kitty Burnside, Gracie Baker, and Peyton Spahr.

Wagner: Eliza Murphy, Connor Parker, Frank Bozzino, Rebecca Demmons, Andrea Moody, and Emma Campbell.

The Battle of the Books is a competition involving students who have read at least six of the 41 books nominated for the Maine Student Book Award.

Participation was voluntary, and students practiced for about

an hour after school, once a week for two months. The students had to memorize the names and authors of the 41 books and become familiar with what the books were about.

The first “battle” was between students from Smith and Wagner on March 19, with Smith students traveling to Wagner.

In the competition, the moderator asks questions related to the 41 books that were nominated for the Maine Student Book Award, and the contestants write their answers—the name of the book and the author—on a whiteboard. The student gets a point for each correct answer.



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS WINNERS—These students from Leroy H. Smith School and Wagner Middle School won the “Battle of the Books,” competing against two other mixed teams from Smith and Wagner schools, and two mixed teams from George B. Weatherbee School and Reeds Brook Middle School. From left: Rachel Palmer (4th grade), LillyAnne Keeley (6th grade), Grace Farrar (5th grade), Abigail Adamo (4th grade), Amy Spencer (4th grade), and Victoria Boyorak (4th grade).

In the first battle, a group of Smith students won, but no announcement was made since it

was a practice meet, rather than a competitive meet.

A week later, on March 26, the Smith and Wagner students were bused to Reeds Brook Middle School, where three teams from Smith and Wagner competed against two teams from George B. Weatherbee School and Reeds Brook.

All five teams had a mix of elementary and middle school students.

The winning team received Burger King crowns and a trophy, and they were allowed to choose a book for their library. They chose *The Island of Dr. Libris*, by Chris Grabenstein.

Brittany Harrington, librarian for Wagner and Smith schools, said the Battle of the Books participants from her schools “held themselves to a standard that far surpassed my expectations.”

She added: “They didn’t conform to anybody else’s attitude. They were outstanding, worked really, really hard, and did such a good job.”



# Weatherbee students invite seniors to a morning of ‘Coffee, Tea, Read with Me’

Students at George B. Weatherbee School invited senior citizens to visit their school on May 7 for a morning of “Coffee, Tea, Read with Me.”

About 120 seniors in our community attended, and they were enthusiastically escorted into the school by students and served light refreshments as the entertainment began.

Third graders shared the American Folk Songs they learned throughout the year. Their concert received rounds of applause.

Fourth graders individually shared their pieces of writing with the seniors. The research and writing consisted of content from the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement! All the non-fiction pieces shared were researched and written by fourth graders and our seniors were impressed.

Fifth graders had a variety of jobs

including serving, escorting, photographing, and playing musical instruments, among many others. They also worked behind the scenes setting up and taking down. All students worked together to make the event run smoothly for the Seniors.

In addition, a number of 5th grade volunteers got up on stage and read poems for the seniors. Some of the poems were original, others were selected by the students.

Christine Boone, Principal at Weatherbee, said the format for this year’s “Coffee, Tea, Read with Me” was developed in response to feedback from seniors, who said they would enjoy more interaction with students.

Previously, the event focused on a luncheon that was served by students.

Students at Weatherbee would like to thank the guests for attend-



GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL

ing. They would also like to thank the Weatherbee staff for baking and cooking for the event.

They would also like to thank Hannaford for donating platters, cups, napkins, plates, and utensils.

The thank you cards and verbal praise that have followed the event have reinforced what a special day it was for students and seniors.

Mrs. Boone commented, “Having

the seniors as our audience brings real purpose and meaning to the work of the day. Students take pride in their singing, writing, sharing or supporting. It gives every student a chance to shine and allows us to say thanks to our very supportive community. Honoring our seniors is a long time tradition at Weatherbee School and we look forward to continuing that tradition for many years.”

# Special Olympics athletes make Weatherbee proud, add Unified Team event

Special Olympics athletes have made Weatherbee School proud again this year, and they also have added a new layer of competition through their Unified Team this Spring. On Wednesday, May 6, Olympians Michael Samoluk and Colby Gott were joined by Unified Partners Isabella McLaughlin and Carson Lord. Colby, Bella, Michael, and Carson ran the 4X100 meter relay together and were among the students who represented RSU 22 and Weatherbee School at the Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics athletes and their unified partners agreed that everyone had a great time and can’t wait to do it again. Bella said they placed fourth and that it was fun.

“I’m glad I did it,” she said. “It’s fun to see our friends do well in things even if they have a disability.”

Colby said it was always fun to do Special Olympics. He is a veteran in track and field but also has placed in skiing and swimming.



Colby Gott competes in the long jump.

While he feels the running and jumping “is good exercise,” he really liked having new friends join him and to be able “hold the Baton out for Bella.” Michael, a veteran Olympian, agreed. His favorite event is the long jump and he has snowshoed in the past, but he was proud to participate with friends from school who had never been to Special Olympics before.

Carson said this was his first time as a unified team member. “I was invited by a friend and I’m glad I did it,”

he said. After running with his friends from Weatherbee, Carson cheered on a cousin.

“I ran with my cousin in the 50 meter dash,” he said. “I didn’t compete. I just ran along beside him in one of the lanes. He’s FAST! I hope I get to do it again.”

Educational technician Brian Lovely, has helped Weatherbee students participate in Special Olympics this year, says it’s a great opportunity for students. “They get to experience things that they would not normally do and feel positive about themselves,” he said.

Fourth grader Kierstin Chamberlain, a Weatherbee Special Olympics athlete, said Special Olympics is “AWESOME—and it’s a good way to show what you’ve got. It doesn’t matter if you win or lose, as long as you show how good you are. It’s about trying your best.” This year, Kierstin chose to participate in the 50 meter run, 100 meter run and the softball throw.

John McDougal, a third grader, also participated, winning first place in the softball throw and competing in the 100 meter run. “It’s absolutely fun,” John said. “I learned to always put on sunblock—SP50 to be exact.”

Kaden Spencer shared his experience representing Weatherbee School as an Olympian. “I have done soccer, bowling, basketball and swimming. They are all fun. Special Olympics are amazing. The sports let you get lots of energy out.” He summed it all up nicely when he stated, “Special Olympics are about earning medals and ribbons. I earn mostly ribbons, but someday I will earn a medal. What’s most important is that you have FUN!”

Fun was the curriculum of the day,



the Weatherbee Unified 4 x100 relay team—From left: Carson Lord, Michael Samoluk, Isabella McLaughlin and Colby Gott.



John McDougal displays his ribbon.



Kierstin Chamberlain competes in the 100 meter run.

and the Olympians as well as their unified partners certainly met that learning target.

## Kelly O’Brien receives CAS, named outstanding graduate in UMaine Counselor Education program

Kelly O’Brien, school counselor at George B. Weatherbee School for the past two years, recently received her Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in School Guidance from the University of Maine.



Kelly O'Brien

She was named the outstanding graduate in UMaine’s entire Counselor Education program.

A native of Hampden, Ms. O’Brien graduated from Hampden Academy and Mt. Allison University in Sackville, NB. Before coming to RSU 22, she taught world languages at Leonard Middle School

in Old Town and Spanish at Dirigo High School in Dixfield.

During the summer of 2013, she spent seven weeks in China as a Fulbright Scholar, visiting schools in Beijing, Xian, Chiangking, and Shanghai. She has also traveled to Japan, Korea, and Turkey.

Christine Boone, Principal at Weatherbee, says Ms. O’Brien “wears many hats at Weatherbee and wears them all well,”

In addition to individual interventions and classroom instruction, she has helped sponsor the Weatherbee Student Leaders, helped coordinate testing, and she operates and supervises all the 504 plans and programs.

“Her colleagues at Weatherbee congratulate her on this award and think that it’s very well deserved,” says Mrs. Boone. “We’re very grateful that she’s joined our Weatherbee team.”



HA Science Buddy Tyler Moore (left) helps Grace Southerland, Skylar DaSilva, Elizabeth Rowley, and Caden Genever plant their green bean seeds.



Science Buddy Stan Small observe experiment results with 2nd graders Vivianna Stetson, Issac Leamer, Abby Gallant, and Kiera Munn.



Second graders observe their experiment results with Science Buddy Julia Fasse (behind). From left: Annika Fehn, Talon Lizotte, Isabella Boyorak, and Jacob Lambeth.

## Smith School 2nd graders enjoy working with HA ‘Science Buddies’

During the fourth quarter, second graders at Smith School have been exploring what plants need to grow. National Honor Society students from Hampden Academy have been volunteering in Mrs. Young’s class once a week to encourage students to get excited about science.

Throughout this unit, Smith Students experienced the scientific process. They made predictions/hypotheses before beginning the experiment. Next, Hampden Academy students helped students set

up the experiments and led small groups in making accurate observations about the progress of their experiments.

Later, students drew conclusions, compared their predictions to what really happened, and wrote a summary about their findings.

Mrs. Young has enjoyed collaborating with the Hampden Academy students throughout this unit. Both Smith and Hampden students are enthusiastic about science class and they look forward to working



together. HA students have been positive role models for their younger science buddies. Additionally, the younger scientists have impressed their older science buddies with their efficiency, responsibility, and insightfulness.

## Smith School students top 45,000 minutes during April Read-a-Thon

Students at Leroy H. Smith School participated in a school wide Read-a-Thon from March 30 to April 10. During Read-a-Thon, students earned one ticket for every ten minutes they read. Each ticket students earned, was put into a drawing for a brand new bike! Howard Lodge #69 donated enough bikes so that one boy and one girl from each grade could win.

Smith School also participated in other activities that celebrated reading. During the last week of Read-a-Thon, students listened to an audio book during two of their lunch sessions, and had the opportunity to participate in “Quiet Read Night” where they could earn double the amount of tickets. On “Quiet Read Night” students brought their

families and came in comfy pajamas to read for an hour in the Smith School gym! To end our Read-a-Thon celebration, Smith School students dressed up as their favorite book characters and paraded around the gym with the books their character were from. Students also participated in an all-school read of *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss. For this all-school read, each class practiced different sections of *Green Eggs and Ham* and took turns reading their portion of the book until they had read the entire book.

Smith School students read a grand total of 45,111 minutes in just two weeks—

great job Smith students! Congratulations to our bike



One boy and one girl in each grade level won a bike in the “Bikes for Books” program, which was part of the Smith School Read-a-Thon. Howard Lodge #69 donated the bikes.

winners and a special “Thank You” to Howard Lodge #69 for our bikes and our community for their participation!

## Summer Book Swap coming to Smith

Students at Smith School will have a special opportunity to keep up with their reading skills over the summer. Smith School teachers will be putting together a summer reading bag with books that are a “just right fit” for any interested students. Sign ups will be sent home at the end of May. This summer reading bag will go home with them during the last week of school. Then beginning on June 22, Smith School teachers will be available at the school from 11:15 to 11:45 on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the summer for students to switch out books they have read for new ones.



Students are invited to come to the Smith School Library each day that is it open or just when they are reading to swap books. Teachers at Smith School hope that many students take advantage of this opportunity to read, read, read over the summer!

Hampden-Winterport Special Olympics Team Results—Track & Field Meet 2015								
Athlete	Event 1	Place	Event 2	Place	Event 3	Place	Event 4	Place
Evan Allen	50 M	2nd	100 M	2nd	Long Jump	1st	4x100 Unified Relay	1st
Trevor Allen			100 M	1st	Long Jump	1st		
Ian Barclay	50 M	1st	100 M	1st	Long Jump	3rd	4x100 Unified Relay	1st
Lars Barclay	50 M	3rd	100 M	2nd	Long Jump	2nd		
Danielle Beauregard	10 M	3rd	25 M	3rd	Softball Throw	2nd		
Kierstin Chamberland	50 M	1st	100 M	1st	Softball Throw	1st		
Krysta Cooper			100 M	2nd	Long Jump	3rd		
Shaughnessy Dalton	50 M	3rd	100 M	2nd	Long Jump	1st	4x100 Unified Relay	2nc
Zachary Ewing			100 M	2nd	Long Jump	2nd	4x100 Unified Relay	1st
Erik Gagne	10 M	2nd						
Colby Gott	50 M	3rd			Standing Jump	1st	4x100 Unified Relay	4th
Madysen Gray					Softball Throw	3rd		
Garrett Hall	10 M	1st	25 M	1st	Softball Throw	1st		
Noah	50 M	1st	100 M	4th	Softball Throw	2nd		
Marcus Hernandez	50 M	2nd	100 M	2nd	Softball Throw	3rd		
Evan King			100 M	1st	Softball Throw	3rd	4x100 Unified Relay	2nc
Brianna Leneski	50 M	1st	100 M	1st	Long Jump	2nd	4x100 Unified Relay	3rd
Joshua Leneski	50 M	1st	100 M	1st	Long Jump	3rd	4x100 Unified Relay	3rd
MacKenzie Lowe	50 M	1st	100 M	4th	Long Jump	2nd		
John Bernard McDougal	50 M	4th	100 M	3rd	Softball Throw	1st		
Hailey McPherson	50 M	2nd	100 M	2nd	Standing Jump	2nd		
Trent Palmer	50 M	4th	100 M	3rd	Softball Throw	1st		
Bailey Rahn	50 M	3rd	100 M	2nd	Softball Throw	2nd		
Aaron Rush					Shot Put	3rd		
Michael Samoluk	50 M	1st	100 M	2nd	Long Jump	4th	4x100 Unified Relay	2nc
Madison Springer	50 M	1st	100 M	1st	Softball Throw	2nd		
Margaret Thurlow	50 M	4th	100 M	1st	Standing Jump	3rd		
Kelsey Tripp					Shot Put	2nd	4x100 Unified Relay	2nc
Selina Turgeon	50 M	4th	100 M	4th	Softball Throw	4th	4x100 Unified Relay	5th
Devin Twitchell	50 M	2nd	100 M	2nd	Softball Throw	4th	4x100 Unified Relay	2nc
Liam Twombly					Softball Throw	2nd		
Matthew Twombly					Softball Throw	1st		
Justin White	10 M	1st	25 M	2nd				
Colby Whitmore	50 M	3rd	100 M	3rd	Softball Throw	2nd	4x100 Unified Relay	1st



# McGraw School celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday

Earl C. McGraw School celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2 with an all-school assembly led by Jane Litwack, who dressed up as the Cat in the Hat.

Then, from March 9 through March 27, the school participated in Read Across America by holding its annual home Read-a-Thon to raise money to buy more leveled books for the classrooms and for the school's take-home reading program.

During those three weeks, the students read for a total of 20,595 minutes and raised \$1,614.29 for new books.

Students pledged an amount (a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or whatever amount the family was comfortable with) that they would



Jane Litwack (left photo) performs as the Cat in the Hat during McGraw School's celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2.

donate for each minute they read to parents or family members--or, in the case of non-readers, for each minute a parent or family member read to them.

Each week, the classrooms kept track of their progress by adding a stripe with the number of minutes read to build a gigantic hat on the wall in the hallway.



# Masons' 'Bikes for Books' urges McGraw students to read

Students at Earl C. McGraw School are currently in the midst of a month-long reading incentive program called "Bikes for Books" that will result in six students taking home brand-new bicycles.

Bikes for Books, which is sponsored by the Masons, started May 4 and will run through the end of May. Students keep track of how many minutes they read, and they receive drawing tickets for a new bike, based on the number of minutes they report.

Kindergarten students receive a drawing ticket for every 20 minutes they read, 1st graders will receive a ticket for every 30 minutes, and 2nd graders will receive a ticket for every 40 minutes. The more minutes each student reads, the more tickets he or she can enter in the drawing.

The drawing will be held in early June, and one boy and one girl from each grade will win a new bike. The Grand Lodge of Maine Youth Committee sponsors Bikes for Books, and the Masonic Lodge collected donations to purchase the bikes.



Roscoe Robinson (left photo) and Cami Layman (right photo) check out two of the bikes that are being offered as prizes in the "Bikes for Books" drawing at McGraw School. The bikes were donated by the Masons.

## RSU 22 ADULT EDUCATION SPRING & SUMMER 2015

A wide variety of educational, professional development and personal enrichment courses will still be made available for people to take through our program during the spring and summer months. To contact us you can call our office at 862-6422 or email our program director at: [mtardie@rsu26.org](mailto:mtardie@rsu26.org).

### Career and Vocational Education

For people interested in vocational / career trainings, we have available during the spring and summer months a variety of CNA, CRMA, PSS and MHSS programs. We also have access to self-paced online professional development programs offering certifications in the pharmacy tech, medical coding & billing and phlebotomy tech fields. Some of these courses combine online distance learning with hands-on training experiences.

### High School Completion, HiSET, and Basic Literacy Instruction

For adults looking to earn a high school diploma, a HiSET Certification or to improve basic literacy and ESL skills, we offer year-round opportunities for advancement. If you are interested in earning your Adult Education High School Diploma, you should get a copy of your high school transcript and schedule a meeting with one of our staff. You may be closer to earning a diploma than you think. In January 2014, the HiSET replaced the GED and became Maine's State High School Equivalency Diploma. Since then, our program has helped many of our residents earn this life-changing credential. Again, just contact our office at any time if you have questions about or interest in the HiSET.

### Distance Learning Courses

We continue to offer, through a partnership with Education to Go, nearly 500 interactive personal enrichment online courses to residents of RSU 22. All classes are instructor-led, fit into convenient six-week

formats and are affordably priced. Some of the more popular course titles include:

- Introduction to Microsoft Excel and Word
- Introduction to PC Security
- Introduction to Windows 8
- A to Z Grant Writing
- Beginner Blogging and Podcasting
- Math Refresher
- Grammar Refresher
- Understanding the Cloud
- Genealogy Basics
- Adobe / Acrobat Photoshop
- Buying & Selling on eBay
- Pleasures of Poetry
- GRE, Praxis Test Preparation
- Teaching with SMART Boards

To view a complete catalog of distance learning courses, visit our page: [www.ed2go.com/rsu22](http://www.ed2go.com/rsu22).

### Getting Ready for the Fall

Looking forward, we are hoping to expand the hours that we are able to offer academic supports, tutoring and guidance to students. We also are working with other organizations to be able to offer to our residents a wider range of career and vocational programs on a more regional level. Finally, we expect that we will be able to offer our residents greater access to College Transitions supports, Work Ready trainings and academic distance learning courses.

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. Some of the best ideas for new courses come from our residents. We generally start planning for our fall semester in late June or early July. 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.

## Georgeanne Jackson retiring after 35 years in the district

(Continued from page2)  
taught for two years in Island Falls and then stopped teaching while she had four children. She waited until she was 32 to return to teaching, initially taking a job at Mt. View Junior High in 1979 and then starting her career at RSU 22 in 1980. At first, she taught social studies and English language arts in grades 7 and 8, when the middle school was in George B. Weatherbee School.

In 1985, she became G/T coordinator for the Hampden and Newburgh schools; the following year, she became G/T teacher and coordinator for all RSU 22 elementary schools.

Lately, her G/T classes have included children of former students.

"It's really cool," she says. "I'm still in contact with many of my former students in their role as parents. They're now grown up and still living in the Hampden-Winterport area."

Ms. Jackson's four children live in England, Maine, the Washington, DC area, and the Boston area. She has three grandchildren, two in England and one in the DC area.

Her retirement plans include rest and relaxation, "downsizing" her home of 38 years in Hampden, traveling, and dabbling with her artwork in pastels.

Education Foundation Mini-Grants program aiding inspired education

‘Caring for Yourself and Maine’s Environment’ at RBMS

Last fall the RSU 22 Education Foundation was able to award seven mini grants to teachers throughout the school district. These grants, which are made possible by the generous support of businesses and members of the community enable the Education Foundation to supplement classroom budgets and promote inspired educational programming to the students of RSU 22. One of the grants awarded during the fall grant cycle was to help fund the “Caring For Yourself and Maine’s Environment” program at Reeds Brook Middle School. We checked in with Ms. Gail Ocepkia to see how the initiative went.

What is the goal of Caring for Yourself and Maine’s Environment ?

Ms. Ocepkia—My hope was to help the students make better choices in their lives about eating, exercise and health, while at the same time helping our environment.

What inspired you to initiate this program?

Ms. Ocepkia—Many of my students came to school having eaten no breakfast and their choices at lunch were often the same everyday ( pizza, milk and an apple). I hoped that by learning about and trying new food, they would be more willing to try new things and find things that they liked that were healthier.

How does this program link to your curriculum?

Ms. Ocepkia—I connected it with a science unit on the human body and continued on with a unit on composting and protecting the environment. The two units covered all aspects of what I was hoping to do. I also continued to reinforce what we had learned by using a book in reading that talked about what the characters chose for lunch and we ate the same meals,

What was the reaction of students when you started this activity in your class?

Ms. Ocepkia—At first they were surprised and hesitant , but quickly became interested in seeing what new items were brought to try from each food group. By the end of the first unit, they were bringing suggestions of things they would like to try or share with others.

How have you seen this activity benefit your students.

Ms. Ocepkia—Since I have my students for at least 3 years, I have been able to observe how their eating habits have changed, they now make better, more varied choices at lunch and like to share with me when they have tried something new and whether they did or didn’t like it. They are more open to to take a chance and explore what is out there. As far as the composting, they are very concerned about what can and can’t go into the bin and enjoy the product that goes into our hoop house in the spring. We have even been able to enjoy some of the food from the garden.

What surprises came from initiating this program with the help of the grant from the Education Foundation?

Ms. Ocepkia—How many different choices I was able to share with the students with the help of the grant, even though I have always shared, at my own cost, with my students, I found that because of the grant I felt freer to buy items, that I might not have felt I could afford before. This made the units more varied and the experience richer for the class. We were even able to go to a restaurant at the end of the year so that the student had the opportunity to order a health meal to demonstrate

what they had learned.

Were there any other people who you brought in from other disciplines to help you with this program?

Ms. Ocepkia—Yes, the school nurse and a student nurse both came to speak to the class about what choices we need to make to help us be healthy and stay that way. Someone also came to speak about the importance of composting and how it helps the environment. They also pointed

out that the composting material helps us grow healthy foods to eat ,so that it is all connected to making us healthier . I also spoke with the science teachers in the school to gather more materials to use in my lessons.

\* \* \*

Please consider supporting classroom programs such as this by making a contribution to the RSU22 Education Foundation or by purchasing a Gold Star Teacher’s Award. Visit our website at rsu22educationfoundation.org to learn more.



RSU 22 Education Foundation  
Community Partners for Inspired Education

RSU 22 Education Foundation member profile: Jim Tatgenhorst

For education to work you have to have good mentoring. For Jim Tatgenhorst, it wasn’t until after college in the late 70’s that he felt like he connected with a trusted, inspiring mentor. A few months after graduating from the College of Wooster in Ohio, Jim took his backpack to Caratunk, Maine to hike the Appalachian Trail. When he reached Hanover, New Hampshire, it was time to overwinter.

Within a week Jim was living on a farm owned by Dartmouth professors Donella and Dennis Meadows. A pioneering environmental scientist and lead author of the seminal book Limits to Growth, Donella somehow found the time to teach Jim how to care for the farm animals, garden and cook for what was usually large groups of people.

Several months into his stay, Jim met one of Donella’s students on campus who asked curiously, “How late does Donella stay up to prepare



Jim Tatgenhorst

for her amazing lectures?” Jim replied, “I don’t recall seeing her prepare, last night she carded and spun wool. The day before that we

went out to collect apples and made applesauce!”

Fast forward to seven years ago when a friend, Jim Shue, asked Jim to join the RSU 22 Education Foundation well after he moved to Maine. When Jim saw the possibilities the foundation’s mini grants provide to teachers so they can offer interesting experiences to students beyond the classroom, he said, “Yes!” Jim has chaired the Mini Grants Committee for many years and is proud, after reading teachers’ assessments of how well their event met expectations, of how the foundation has helped teachers improve their mentorship with their students. “Teachers, more than anybody, know what activities students would get the most out of doing, so it’s fulfilling to help them do what they think is needed by helping financially.”

Jim lives with his wife in Winterport and is an architect with Lewis and Malm Architecture.

Gold Star Awards: The Best Way to Say “Thank You”

Would you like to honor a special teacher, coach or staff person at Graduation time?

How about a GOLD STAR AWARD?

It’s a gift that gives back.

For \$25, the Education Foundation will send a Gold Star Award Certificate to a favorite teacher, coach or staff person from your family or child. A letter of recognition will also go to their principal, and their name will be listed on our website and in the next issue of the Link-22.

Money from Gold Star Awards goes directly to the Education Foundation’s Mini Grants Program. Mini Grants are given to RSU 22 teachers and staff to help pay for school and classroom projects not covered by the school budget.

To give a Gold Star Award, go to the “Ways to Give” page on the Ed Foundation’s website: [www.rsu22educationfoundation.org](http://www.rsu22educationfoundation.org) to download the application or simply use the form that will be coming home in your child’s folder.

You can mail your gift to: RSU #22 Education Foundation, PO Box 115, Hampden, ME 04444.

Make your check payable to the RSU #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 on the Gold Star Program, or the Education Foundation, contact us at 862-5393 or email [shastings@rsu22.us](mailto:shastings@rsu22.us)

Mini-Grant applications now being accepted

The RSU #22 Education Foundation is now accepting applications for fall 2015 grants of up to \$250 for school and classroom projects that innovate, inspire, and encourage collaboration. The grants are made available through the Foundation’s

Mini Grants for Teachers Program. Applicants must be an RSU #22 staff member and projects must be based out of an RSU #22 school. Applications may be submitted at any time, but in order to be considered for the fall awards the deadline is

June 20. Grant guidelines and application forms are available on the Foundation’s website at [www.rsu22educationfoundation.org](http://www.rsu22educationfoundation.org). If you have additional questions, please email Jim Tatgenhorst at [22edgrants@gmail.com](mailto:22edgrants@gmail.com)