



2014-15 BUDGET INSERT INSIDE
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Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 May-June 2014



Hampden Academy Jazz Ensemble—FIRST PLACE TROPHY, STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL.



Reeds Brook Middle School Jazz Band—FIRST PLACE TROPHY, STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL.



Wagner Middle School Jazz Band—FIRST PLACE TROPHY, STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL.

RSU 22 groups sweep 1st Place trophies in state jazz festivals

No doubt about it—2014 has been a banner spring for music in RSU 22.

Consider the following:

- During March, instrumental and vocal groups from Hampden Academy, Reeds Brook Middle School, and

Wagner Middle School earned seven Gold Awards in their respective state festivals, a record that included four First Place trophies, one Second Place trophy, and a Third Place trophy.

(Please turn to page 2)

District Budget Meeting set for June 5; Budget Referendum on June 10

The district budget meeting for RSU 22 will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, at the Hampden Academy Gymnasium, followed by the district budget referendum on Tuesday, June 10.

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 Franfort 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 2)

HA student's independent study course covers 4 areas of drama

Principal Yehle Ruey says Hampden Academy offers a variety of “customized learning” opportunities for students: The following articles describe several such opportunities:

* * *

Hampden Academy has a wide-ranging curriculum that's designed to meet the academic needs of a diverse and ambitious student body.

This includes a variety of “customized learning” opportunities that take place outside of the traditional classroom.

A good example is the independent study project in theater that senior Lizzy Loxterkamp developed with English teacher Sharon Zolper.

Lizzy's project involves units covering four major areas of drama—Greek Theater, Renaissance Theater and Shakespeare, Japanese Theater, and Modern Drama. She will earn a fine art credit for the project.

In each unit of her independent study, Lizzy does some research

(Please turn to page 5)

HAPPY Theater to present 'Into the Woods' July 11-13 at HA

The HAPPY Theater Company, made up of students from RSU 22, will present three performances of Stephen Sondheim's

Into the Woods on July 11, 12, and 13 at the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center.

The July 11 and 12 (Friday and Saturday) performances will start at 7 p.m. The July 13 (Sunday) performance will be a matinee starting at 2 p.m.

The show is directed by Rob Kissinger, English teacher at HA.

The cast features Mikayla Burrige as the Baker's Wife, Justin Hatch as Jack (from Jack and the Beanstalk), and Ruby Ramsay as Little Red Riding Hood. Other classic fairy tale char-

(Please turn to page 10)



Cast members for “Into the Woods.”

District Budget Meeting set for June 5; Budget Referendum on June 10

(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 2014-15 budget. The Budget Committee endorsed the budget, and on May 7, the Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the budget, as well.

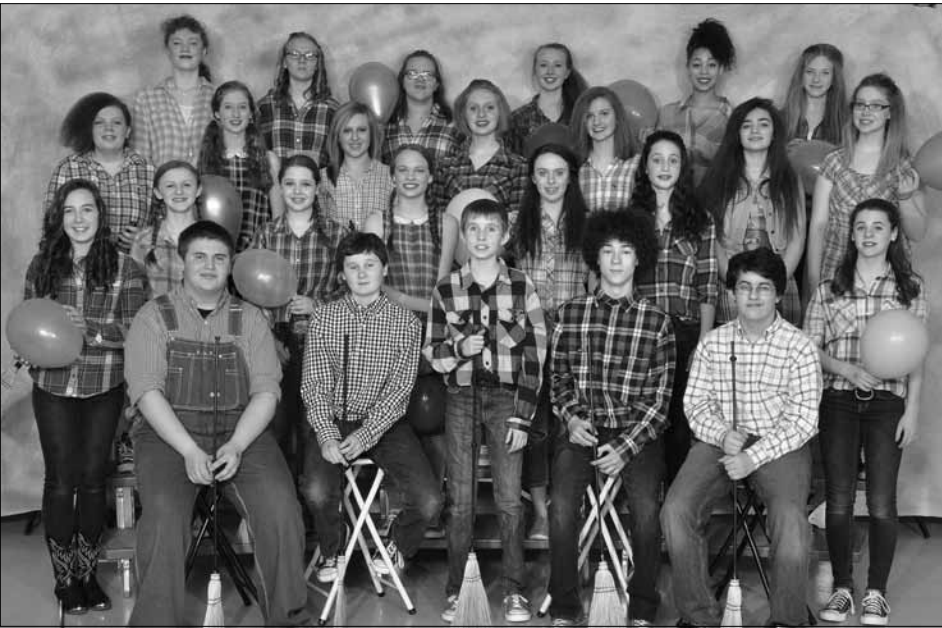
A summary of the budget and a description and explanation of all of the budget articles is included in a four-page insert on pages 7-10 in this issue of *Link-22*.

The budget that is being presented on June 5 has a gross expenditure increase of 1.78% (\$503,000), and a local share increase of 4.99%

The introduction to the budget says there are several reasons for the increase, including:

- A reduced level of state funding.
- It incorporates a new three-year contract with the support staff.
- It incorporates a two-year contact with the faculty.
- Health insurance rates have increased by 7.5%.
- Personnel adjustments have been in the areas of guidance at Wagner and Weatherbee, and a full-time teacher has been restored at Reeds Brook, which had an 50-plus increase in student enrollment compared to the previous year.

People with questions about the budget or about the procedures for participating in the budget meeting are welcome to call Superintendent of Schools Rick Lyons at 862-3255.



The Wagner Middle School Show Choir, which placed second in its division at the state Middle School Vocal Music Festival. The winner was the Reeds Brook Middle School Show Choir.

RSU 22 music

(Continued from page 1)

- Six RSU 22 soloists—one from Hampden Academy, four from Reeds Brook, and two from Wagner—received Outstanding Musicianship or Outstanding Solo awards.
- For the first time in memory, three jazz bands from one school district—the Hampden Academy Jazz Ensemble and the jazz bands from Reeds Brook and Wagner—won top honors in the state in their divisions.
- In April, the Jazz Ensemble and the show choir, Voices Unlimited, were both selected to perform at Walt Disney World in Florida.

To sum up, this year has been “one for the history books!”

* * *

Hampden Academy hosted the state high school Instrumental Jazz Festival in the Performing Arts Center on March 13 and 14. It was our first time hosting this event and it was a resounding success!

Many parents and volunteers contributed to the smooth running of this festival and raised large amounts of money to support our students. The HA Jazz Combo received a Gold Award, signifying a superior rating. The HA Jazz Ensemble received a Gold Award and 1st place in their division! Jacob Michaud, junior drummer, received one of the five outstanding musician awards. As the students and audience members waited for the results in the afternoon, HA’s R&B Project entertained the crowd to resounding applause.

* * *

The following weekend, the Wagner Jazz Band and the Reeds Brook Jazz Band traveled to Westbrook to participate in the middle school Instrumental Jazz Festival. At the state festivals, depending on school size, the schools are divided into four divisions for instrumental and two divisions for choral. Each of the middle school jazz bands received a Gold Award AND each placed first in their division!!

All RSU 22 middle school soloists received superior ratings. Five outstanding musicianship awards are given for each division at the state festival. Reeds Brook received three of those awards for the 2nd year in a row, while Wagner musicians received two. The award recipients were Ryan Walker, Logan Christian, and Nick Gauthier from Reeds Brook and Nicole Dunton on alto saxophone and Jordan (JP) Patterson on flugelhorn from Wagner.

The flugelhorn was purchased



Hampden Academy’s R&B Project, a new group that focuses on rhythm ‘n blues music, entertained the audience at the state Instrumental Jazz Festival when it was hosted by HA.

* * *

During April vacation, the Hampden Academy Jazz Ensemble and Voices Unlimited traveled to Orlando, Florida, to perform at Walt Disney World. Both groups had to send a video of a performance as an audition to perform on a Disney stage. About 40% of all groups that submit audition videos are invited to perform. Voices Unlimited performed at Downtown Disney in back to back shows in 93 degree heat! The Jazz Ensemble performed at Epcot and also in a Festival, where they received a superior rating and Best in Class for their school size. They also received the Second Place trophy for the entire festival!

* * *

What a super spring it has been! Congratulations to all musicians, instrumental and vocal, in RSU 22!

this year from donations in memory of Cody Stephens, a former Wagner Jazz Band trumpet player.

* * *

The last weekend in March brought the state vocal jazz/show choir festival in Ellsworth. For the first time, the Wagner and Reeds Brook Show Choirs were placed in the same division according to school size.

Reeds Brook received a Gold Award and placed 1st with their medley of songs from Disney movies. Aidan Babbitt received one of the four outstanding solo awards.

Wagner, the smallest school in the division, received a Gold Award and placed 2nd, also winning the outstanding choreography award.

The Reeds Brook and Wagner students supported each other even though they were competing in the same division!

Julia Mahon retiring after 12 years as district speech and language pathologist

Julia Mahon, speech language pathologist for RSU 22, will retire June 30 after 12 years in the district.

Before joining RSU 22, she spent 20 years of teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at two colleges in New England, Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, and Endicott College in Beverly, MA

Before that, she worked in private practice as a speech language pathologist, earned her doctorate in Education at Boston University, and was a school-based speech language pathologist in Newport, RI.

Originally from Philadelphia, she graduated from Temple University and received her Master’s degree in Speech Language Pathology from the University of Rhode Island.

Mrs. Mahon lives in Hampden with her husband John, who is a professor in the School of Business at the University of Maine. They have a daughter in Quincy, MA, who is about to deliver their first grandchild in June.

Mrs. Mahon says her retirement plans include providing child care for her new grandchild to help her daughter as she returns to work in a job that requires her to be on the road.

She and her husband also hope to retire to a home they own in the mountains of western Maine mountains west of Kingfield.

“We’d like to do some farming and wood lot management,” she said.

Mrs. Mahon says she enjoys cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and “anything that will get me out in the woods.”



Julie Mahon



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Curriculum Office Update

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

RSU 22 receives accountability data for 2013-14 school year

RSU 22 has received our accountability data for the 2013-2014 school year, based on the fall 2013 administration of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). With new guidelines, individual school targets have been created for reading and math.

Looking below, you will see new terminology used to determine progress towards meeting targets. The method for determining accountability scores is new for all Maine Schools in 2014.

The data show individual school progress toward meeting targets. Readers are able to view targets that have been calculated out to the year 2017-2018.

All Maine schools will be taking a different set of tests in the spring of 2015, the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

The battery of assessments will be administrated in the spring of 2015 to all students in grades 3-8 and one battery of assessments at the high school level.

RSU 22 Accountability Chart May 2014

NEW vocabulary May 2014:

AMO = Annual Measurable Objective. The annual target for the percentage of students who are proficient in math or reading, determined by school and by student subgroup. The AMO increases each year, and is determined by dividing the improvement goal into six equal increments.

WSAGI = Within-School Achievement Gap Index. An analysis used to identify Focus schools, and to disqualify schools with significant achievement gaps from favorable categorization. The index number is the difference in math and reading proficiency between the highest-achieving student subgroup and the lowest-achieving student subgroup.

SSG = Super-subgroup. The group of all students who meet one or more of the following criteria: Student with a Disability or a student who is Black, Hispanic, Native American, Limited English proficient, or Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch.

RSU 22 did make participation targets at George Weatherbee School, Leroy Smith School, Reeds Brook Middle School and Samuel Wagner Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year

RSU 22 did not meet proficiency targets this 2013-2014 school year based on our latest NECAP scores (October 2013)

Leroy Smith School: Participation target:93%				Actual percentage: 94%		Make participation target? Yes			
Math Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2818 Target	Reading Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2018 Target
70%	No	61%	45%	84%	76%	No	63%	48%	86%

George Weatherbee School: Participation target: 95%				Actual percentage: 97%		Make participation target? Yes			
Math Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2818 Target	Reading Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2018 Target
79%	No (SSG)	80%	60%	88%	85%	No	82%	62%	91%

Samuel Wagner Middle School: Participation target: 93%				Actual percentage: 96%		Make participation target? Yes			
Math Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2818 Target	Reading Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2018 Target
70%	No	59%	43%	82%	84%	No	76%	61%	91%

Reeds Brook Middle School: Participation target: 93%				Actual percentage: 96%		Make participation target? Yes			
Math Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2818 Target	Reading Target for 2013-2014	Made Target?	Whole School % proficient	Super Subgroup % proficient	2017-2018 Target
81%	No	69%	46%	89%	90%	No	81%	59%	94%

RSU 22 ADULT EDUCATION: Year-Round Educational Opportunities

High School Diploma & HiSET Program

The State of Maine recently replaced the GED with the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET). The HiSET, Maine’s new high school equivalency credential program, essentially covers the same academic material as the GED. Since January, we have been able to offer the HiSET in Hampden.

Adults can also earn an Adult Education High School Diploma through our program. If you are interested in working towards a diploma instead of the HiSET, you should try to bring in a copy of your last high school transcript so that we can analyze it in order to determine how many credits and what courses you would need to complete to earn your diploma. We can offer students a variety of online and in-person courses to help them prepare for the HiSET or to earn a high school diploma.

Adults interested in learning more about the HiSET or an Adult Education High School Diploma can contact our office anytime during the year at 862-6422.

New Online Career Training Courses:

Through a new partnership with Health Ed Today, we are now able to also offer a series of new health occupations courses that will allow students to pursue careers such as Pharmacy Technician, Dental Assisting, Medical Coding & Billing, Electronic Health Records, Phlebotomy Technician, and Medical Terminology. These courses offer a combination of online and live laboratory work that allows students to prepare for national level certification tests in six to twelve months.

These courses are highly interactive and provide students with an enriched learning experience. Each course was developed to ensure that students gain the necessary skills to excel in a professional healthcare environment. Additionally, these programs include access to an online community with interactive content and robust student services.

Each course includes:

- 24X7 instructor support and course mentoring
- Online healthcare content that supplements each course
- Student and instructor collaboration
- Engaging labs, student exercises and course videos
- Additional labs and animated simulations
- Student pre- and post-assessments and online performance tracking
- National and state certification opportunities
- A secure Student Portal which includes: career guidance, resume writing, and other career resources
- Other online tools that will enrich each students experience

To find out more about these online career training courses, please contact our office at 862-6422 or view our web page at www.riversideadulthoodpartner-ship.com.

Online Personal Enrichment Courses:

We continue to offer a wide variety of over 500 popular distance learning personal enrichment courses. All of these courses are instructor-led, fit into convenient six week formats and are affordably priced. Some of the more popular courses available are:

- Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint or Word 2013
- Introduction to QuickBooks
- Introduction to Windows 8
- Learn to Buy and Sell on eBay
- A to Z Grant Writing
- Introduction to Digital Scrapbooking
- Beginner Blogging and Podcasting
- Introduction to Interior Design
- Math and Grammar Refresher
- Creating WordPress Websites
- Adobe Acrobat and Photoshop
- Genealogy Basics
- Teaching Smarter with SMART Boards

- Test Preparation: LAST, SAT, ACT, GRE, Praxis, GMAT
 - Using Social Media in Business
 - Jump Start Your Career With LinkedIn
- To view a complete catalog of the courses available, visit us at: www.ed2go.com/rsu22.

Fall Programming

Most of our in-person fall enrichment, vocational and academic courses start in late September or in early October. We usually start planning for the next semester in June and July and are always looking for new instructors and courses. If you have an interest in teaching a course or workshop or would like to see us offer a particular course, please contact our office at 862-6422 or email our Adult Education Director anytime at mtardie@rsu26.org.



THE WINTERPORT LIONS CLUB Outstanding Student Service Award for 2013 and a check for \$250 was presented to Kimberly Biddlecom (center) by Lion President David Senter (left) and Lion Award Chairperson Katie Fraser (right). Kimberly, a 2013 graduate of HA, did volunteer work at Manna, Phillip-Strickland, Roe Village, and HOBY Maine Association. She also tutored at Reeds Brook Middle School and Hampden Academy. Kimberly wants to become a school teacher after college.

Duron, Quigley, Loxtercamp to deliver honor parts at 2014 graduation

Olivia Duron, Keegan Quigley, and Elizabeth Loxterkamp will deliver the honor parts at Hampden Academy's 2014 graduation ceremonies.

Olivia is the Class of 2014 valedictorian, Keegan is the salutatorian, and Lizzy is the honor essayist.

Olivia is the daughter of Robert and Stefanie Duron of Hampden. While at Hampden Academy, she has participated in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. She has also been actively involved in music, playing bass guitar for the Jazz Ensemble and Voices Unlimited and euphonium in the Symphonic Band, and singing in the Chamber Choir. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honors Society.

She has been active in Girl Scouts and recently earned the Gold Award, the Girl Scouts' highest award. She frequently volunteers



Olivia Duron



Keegan Quigley



Elizabeth Loxterkamp

within her community. She also has a pet-sitting business, which involves taking care of people's pets when they're out of town.

Olivia will attend the University of Maine next fall where she plans to major in animal science.

Keegan, who resides in Newburgh, is the son of Bernard Quigley and Gwen Winston. During his four years

at Hampden Academy, he has participated in soccer, basketball, indoor track, and baseball. He has also been involved in Math Team, student government, Leadership Club, Chamber Singers, Voices Unlimited, Jazz Ensemble, National Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society.

During the summer, Keegan has volunteered at Eastern Maine

Medical Center. He currently serves as a student representative on the RSU 22 Board of Directors and is a National Merit Finalist.

Keegan plans to attend Brown University in the fall, where he will major in physics.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Jane and Jeff Loxterkamp of Hampden. She has participated in many Hampden Academy clubs and activities, including Junior Classical League, National Honor Society, Math Team, French Club, and Drama Club, where she specializes in set design.

Outside of school, she is an archer and has been competing nationally for the past two years. She also mentors young archers once a week at Central Maine Archery in Auburn.

She will be attending Wellesley College. She currently plans to double major in neuroscience and cognitive and linguistic sciences.

Hampden Academy hosts Special Olympics Central Maine Motor Activities Training Day

Hampden Academy hosted the Special Olympics Central Maine Motor Activities Training Day on Friday, May 16.

The Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) is designed for persons with severe limitations who do not yet possess the physical and/or behavioral skills necessary to participate in official Special Olympics sports.

Mike Bisson, athletic director at Hampden Academy, said the program allows students who can't compete in some of the higher-level Special Olympics events to participate in athletic activities geared to their ability levels and be recognized for their efforts.

"It's an opportunity for them to be a participant in an athletic event," said Mr. Bisson. "It's also a nice opportunity for the student volunteers who help them with their events."

The MATP activities were held in the gym. The athletes then ate lunch in the Dining Commons.

Seven athletes from the Hampden-Winterport Team participated in the event. They were: Danielle Beauregard, Madyson Gray, Colby LaHaye, Trent Palmer, Aaron Rush, Margaret Thurlow, and Justin White.

These athletes had the opportunity to showcase their skills at the six different stations for Mobility, Striking, Kicking, Dexterity, Fun & Games and Wheelchair activities.

Thirty-six Hampden Academy



Justin White receives his medal from Assistant Principal Nick Raymond

students volunteered to help with the Motor Activities Training Program for the Special Olympics of Maine. They were: Rebekah Boomer, Sarah Boomer, Kayla Gagner, Kristi Reichel, Sammi Brown, Katelyn Lyons, Mike Townsend, Kierra Speed, Paige Rainford, Chareeda Rustanavibul, Erin Jeter, Laura Fairman, Garrett Allen, Noah Parker, Stephanie Walker, Erin Murphy, Abby Lord, Brianna Cota, Eliza Eastman, Cam Scott, Katie Seekins, Sarah Richards, Ashley Woodside, Elise Arsenaault, Clark Bjorn, Mackenzie Winchester, Olivia Plowman, Katie Fasse, Lizzy Loxterkamp, Roxy Withers, Sammi Ricker, Michael Ward, Brandi Staples, Isaiah Olson, Casey Blake, and Keegan Quigley.

'Hug It Forward' trip postponed

Jeanette Evans, secretary in the Main Office at Hampden Academy, has announced that the planned trip to help build bottle schools in Guatemala for "Hug It Forward" has been postponed until the summer of 2015.

She said five or six people had expressed interest in making the trip, but recent medical issues have prevented her from going this year.

The group has raised close to \$2,000 this year, including a recent donation by the Student Council at Reeds Brook Middle School of \$200, which was raised through bake sales and individual donations.

She said the original goal for this year was to raise enough money to build an entire school, but Hug It Forward has received funding support that makes cash donations less important. Instead, she said the group plans to focus on finding more people who want to make the trip next year and to raise funds to help them with travel expenses.

People who are interested in going—teachers, community members, or students with parents—should contact Mrs. Evans at Hampden Academy, 862-3791, or by email to jveans@rsu22.org.



Pam Johnson to retire after 41 years at HA

Pam Johnson, who replaced Stephen King as an English teacher at Hampden Academy in the fall of 1973, is retiring effective June 30 after 41 years.

Mrs. Johnson recalls that when she started at HA, she taught "Fantasy and Science Fiction," a course that King had developed, and she had to work hard to keep a couple steps ahead of her students.

"After 41 years, I'm still teaching Fantasy and Science Fiction," she said.

Mrs. Johnson is married to Jeff Johnson, who retired as co-op teacher at Hampden Academy in 2012. They have four children—two adopted children who are now in their 40s and two birth children, age 30 and 24. They have two grandchildren, from the adopted daughter, who live in Bucksport.

The Johnsons have a house in Bucksport and a camp on Green Lake. "When September comes, we won't have to move back home," Mrs. Johnson says. "We can stay at camp and enjoy the fall months on the lake."

Mrs. Johnson says she hopes to do some substituting and possibly become involved with Literacy Volunteers. She had planned to wait until 65 to retire, but her husband was diagnosed with cancer last fall.

"I want to be with him and enjoy our time together," she says.



Pam Johnson

Diane Batty retiring after 8 years at HA

Diane Batty, who has taught child development courses at Hampden Academy for the past eight years, will retire at the end of the school year.

In addition to the regular child development courses, Ms. Batty taught a college-level ECE 110 course (Childhood to Adolescence Development) both at Hampden Academy and at Eastern Maine Community College. She also taught Family Life (the freshman health class) and Fashion as an Art Form.

Before coming to Hampden, she taught Family and Consumer Sciences and freshman health at Orono High School for 27 years. She taught for a semester at the old 5th Street Junior High in Bangor prior to Orono.

Ms. Batty grew up in Virginia. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in Home Economics and earned a masters degree in Human Development at the University of Maine. She taught in Virginia for three years and then traveled for a year. She met her husband out west and lived for a while in Wyoming, where Ms. Batty worked with 2-year-olds.

Her retirement plans include working part-time teaching two courses at the University of Maine. Other plans include working on fixing up her house, gardening, kayaking, hiking, and visiting her daughters in Sarasota, FL, and Oakland, CA.



Diane Batty

HA offers ‘customized learning’ opportunities

Liz Loxterkamp’s independent study course covers 4 areas of drama

(Continued from page 1)

and background reading, reads two or more plays, and does a paper or project related to the dramatic works she’s studied.

For the Greek Theater unit, she did some research on Greek theater, read two Greek tragedies, *Medea* and *Antigone*, and wrote an essay comparing them.

For Shakespeare, she took notes on some general aspects of Renaissance theater, read *Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Othello*, and then did costume designs for four different characters in *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a project that’s focused more on the artistic side.

Although the story takes place in ancient Athens, the costume designs in Renaissance theater were based on contemporary fashions, so Lizzy’s design shows the characters Helena and Hermia dressed in upper class Renaissance clothing.

For the Japanese Theater Unit, Lizzy read and did costume designs using water colors. She also did some make-up designs in Kabuki style.

In mid-May, she was starting the unit on Modern Drama, which included plays by Ibsen, Ionesco, Pinter, and others.

* * *

In addition to her academic work, Lizzy competes nationally

in archery. In April, she flew to Phoenix, AZ, to compete against archers from all over the world in the Arizona Cup at 70 meters. She placed 51st in the qualifying round in women’s combined recurve to reach the finals, where she lost in the first round to the woman who placed 14th.

Lizzy got her start in archery while attending Camp Acadia in Casco, ME, for a couple of summers. Then the archery instructor gave her mom a list of places where she could practice during the year, including Central Maine Archery in Auburn. She currently mentors young kids in the archery program at Central Maine Archery

every Saturday; in return, she gets to practice there for a couple hours afterwards.

She also practices at home—in the back yard when the weather is favorable and in her basement when it isn’t.

This fall, Lizzy will be attending Wellesley College. Her current archery coach is the coach for the Wellesley archery team. She has practiced with the team a couple of times and is looking forward to the possibility of traveling to Texas with members of the team to compete at the Texas Shoot-Out, an international archery competition similar to the Arizona Cup.

Future teachers get elementary classroom experience at Weatherbee

When Sammi Ricker and Josh Kiesman take education courses at Husson University next fall, they’ll have a leg up on most of their classmates.

They’ll have spent 80 hours or more in a real classroom watching real teachers teach and real students learn.

Sammi and Josh are participating in Hampden Academy’s teacher assistant program, which sends them to an elementary school classroom for one hour every other day, where they observe and do whatever they can to assist the teacher.



Sammi Ricker (left photo) and Josh Kiesman (right photo) help Weatherbee School 5th graders through HA’s teaching assistant program.



It’s one of the “customized learning” opportunities that are available at Hampden Academy to help students achieve their academic goals.

Both Sammi and Josh work in 5th grade classrooms at George B. Weatherbee School. Sammi works with Mrs. Kiesman’s 5th graders (Mrs. Kiesman is Josh’s mother), while Josh works down the hall in Mrs. Downer’s classroom.

This is Sammi’s second year in the teaching assistant program, and she particularly likes being in a 5th grade classroom. She says she does photocopying and helps students with spelling tests and math work. She said she expected

to be teaching a lesson or two sometime in May.

“I really like it,” she says. “I like that grade level.”

Josh says he and Sammi go to Weatherbee around writing time, so he’ll often help students with whatever their writing lesson is for the day. If they’re working on computers, he can help them with technical issues; he also does photocopying and sometimes takes the class to lunch.

On some days, Josh works in the music room with the music teacher. He’s in band and jazz band at Hampden Academy, and

he’s worked in music camps, so he’s capable of helping the music teacher with his daily lessons.

Sammi and Josh are both seniors, and they’re planning to attend Husson University in the fall. Both of them say the teaching assistant program has enhanced their desire to enter the teaching profession.

Sammi says the program will benefit her as an education student, because she’s been exposed to the classroom environment and observed Mrs. Kiesman giving lessons.

“That will be valuable when I start student teaching,” she says.

Josh says being in an actual classroom is “better than learning about it from a textbook.”

Although he’s been working in a 5th grade classroom, Josh says he wants to teach younger students, probably 2nd grade.

He says he works for Hampden Rec doing an after school program at McGraw, and he likes the 2nd grade students.

“They’re past the basic fundamental stuff of kindergarten and 1st grade,” he says. “In 2nd grade, you start teaching them the things that they’re going to build on the rest of their school career.”

Shianne White studying Animal Behavior and Zoology through VHS

Shianne White is the only student at Hampden Academy taking Animal Behavior and Zoology.

In fact, she’s the only student from Maine who’s taking this particular Animal Behavior and Zoology course, because the teacher is in Oregon.

The course is one of hundreds of courses offered by The Virtual High School (VHS), one of the pioneers of online learning. VHS courses are one of several “customized learning” options available to Hampden Academy students.

Shianne didn’t plan to take a VHS course and was initially concerned that an online course might be difficult to fit in with her existing schedule.

Nevertheless, she found herself at the start of the spring semester with two study halls—and it was too late to sign up for a regular



Shianne White with her VHS course workbook for Animal Behavior and Zoology.

class at Hampden Academy. As a result, she went to Guidance to

look at the VHS catalog.

She says she was surprised by what she saw. “There were a lot of classes that I didn’t know you could take at the high school level,” she said.

She looked at an Anatomy course and Animal Physiology, and decided to take Animal Behavior and Zoology because it would help her with zoology in college.

Shianne says she’s happy with the choice she made.

“I definitely like the class,” she says. “It tells me things I never knew before, which is interesting to me because I really love animals.”

A junior, she says she’d like to take another VHS course next year, possibly Animal Physiology.

“I like the fact that I can work at my own pace,” she says. Her present course runs for 15 weeks,

but by mid-May, she was a couple weeks ahead of schedule and already working on week 15.

Another advantage of a VHS course is that students can do the work at home—anywhere they have access to the internet. Most of the time, she does her classwork in the Guidance Office.

Shianne says her Animal Behavior course requires her to participate in weekly discussions over the internet and respond to two other students.

There’s also a “student lounge”—an internet discussion group where students taking the course can talk about the course, games, or anything that’s going on in their lives.

“It’s nice to be able to interact with other students,” Shianne says. “I can ask them if I don’t understand something.”

3 Wagner 7th graders selected for UMaine Innovation Fair

Three 7th graders from Wagner Middle School competed at the Maine Middle School Invention Convention at the University of Maine’s Student Recreation Center on May 17.

The 7th graders had the top three inventions in the first Wagner Middle School Invention Fair, which was held May 5.

The students and their inventions were:

- 1st Place: Noah Burby, the JAFF (Jumping Alternative for the Future), a built-in jump start device for cars that can also be used to jump-start other cars.
- 2nd Place: Dakota Miller, the Kernel Buster, a dishwasher-safe snack bowl with a strainer on the bottom that lets kernels and other annoying snack material fall through, leaving the large kernels for eating.
- 3rd Place: Hannah Gallacher, the Reading Mark, a computer-type bookmark that is small enough to fit in or clip on to a traditional book and has the ability to search words, remember your page, tell you how many pages you have read, etc.

The UMaine convention was sponsored by the Foster Center for Student Innovation.

The Wagner Invention Fair was organized by 7th grade science teacher Tamara Cardello. All 7th grader participated in their science classes, working to identify problems and generate ideas for their inventions.

Once the students identified a problem to be addressed by an invention, they kept a journal of their activities related to the invention and conducted surveys to see if the invention is something that people would want or need.

They also created a logo and a name for their invention (naming a new product is not as easy as it might seem), created a display board to explain their project, and built a prototype.

Ms. Cardello said the need to build a prototype convinced some inventors to rethink or rework their projects—

Grade 6-7-8 Explorers seek donations for Bangor Humane Society

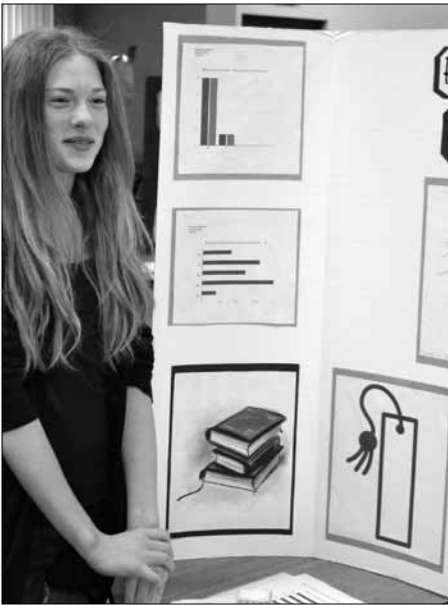
The Grade 6-7-8 Explorers at Wagner Middle School will be doing a service learning project, collecting donations for the Bangor Humane Society during the week of June 2-6. The students will also be spending Saturday, June 7, doing volunteer work at the Humane Society facility in Bangor.

The items most needed by the Humane Society are soft dog toys, squeaky dog toys, rope toys, blankets, sheets, towels, soft dog treats, squeeze cheese, cat supplies, cat litter, KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement), and clay cat litter. Cash donations are always welcome.

People who wish to donate items may bring them to Wagner Middle School during the week of June 2-6 or call Ms. Huerth at 223-4309.

People donating items should consult the Bangor Humane Society’s Wish List at www.bangorhumane.org/documents/Wishlist.pdf.

The Humane Society says it is unable to accept items that aren’t on the Wish List.



THIRD PLACE—Hannah Gallacher, the Reading Mark.

and convinced others to abandon their projects and start anew.

“It’s a neat process,” she says. “That’s how science works.”

At the Invention Fair on May 5, all of the 7th graders practiced their presentations, which were judged by Wagner teachers Chris Gould and Cindy Moran, retired teacher Julie Cashwell, and parent and inventor Duane Miller.

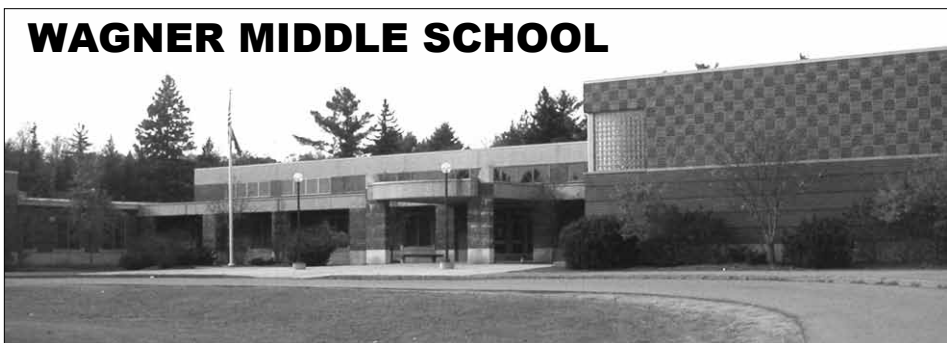
The judges selected the top 10 entries and their inventors. Placing 4th through 10th were: 4th place, Camryn Bouchard, Happy Cat



SECOND PLACE—Dakota Miller, the Kernel Buster.



FIRST PLACE—Noah Burby, Jumping Alternatives for the Future (JAFF).



Tower; 5th place, Jordan Lockard, Indecisive Hair Decider; 6th place, Breanna Brown, HOT tbar heater; 7th place, Cole Frey, Super Gunk

Remover; 8th place, Emily Murphy, Hat Holder; 9th place, Natalie Kirby, Travel Tracker; 10th place, Zara Misler, Duo Pack.

Civil Rights Team caps successful year with trip to Sea Dogs

The Civil Rights Team at Wagner Middle School had a really successful, active year in 2013-14.

The team had so many members that it split up into two groups, one for grades 5-6 and one for grades 7-8.

The Civil Rights Team sponsored several different projects, including:

- Be Yourself Week, which was held during the week before February vacation. It included a series of activities related to individuality and encouraging students to be proud of themselves as unique individuals.
- Spring into Pride Week, which was held the week before April vacation.
- Fifth Grade Fun Day (part of Spring into Pride Week), in which the Civil Rights Team hosted activities for 5th grade students, including Wii dance, floor hockey in the gym, and music playing for dancing in the cafeteria.
- A Civil Rights Team Dance on May 16.

The team celebrated the year by attending a Portland Sea Dogs game on Friday, May 9. The tickets were paid for by the Civil Rights Team Project of the Maine Attorney General’s office; the Wagner students had to raise funds for a bus—

and they wound up raising enough money to take a coach bus.

Attending the Sea Dogs game were the following Civil Rights Team members:

Grades 5: Eliza Murphy, Maddy Humprey, MacKenzie Patterson, Lilly Ann Keeley, Alex Holmes, Matt Knupp, Anthony Hall, Meghan Deans, and John Barrett.

Grade 6: Anthony Gatrigh, Wade Brown, Kegan Danforth, Jer-

don Kiesman, and Sage Tate.

Grade 7: Noah Burby and Jade Clewley.

Grade 8: Dakota Noonan, EJ Kenisten, Micah Hawes, Ruby El-Hajj, Isaiah Palmer, Sarah Rose Lindell, Matt Martin, Nicole Duntton, Josey Trojecki, Kaylie Harnish, and Jared Deans.

Guidance counselor Jen Huerth and science teacher Cindy Moran are the Civil Rights Team advisors.



Civil Rights Team members at the Sea Dogs’ stadium in Portland.

Wagner students, staff hold Spring Clean Up Day

Students and staff members at Wagner Middle School joined forces for a Spring Clean-Up Day from 12:15 to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 16.

The group did everything you could think of related to Spring Clean-up—they picked up, cleaned up, raked, trimmed, planted flowers, and put down mulch to prevent weeds from growing.

The clean-up effort was organized by 6th grade teacher Chris

Gould, who organized similar projects when he was head custodian at Reeds Brook Middle School.

He says he had several objectives for Clean-Up Day— to encourage students to take pride in the outside of the building, to help build student-staff relationships, and to get everyone outdoors.

He also said he wanted to encourage community service and foster community service skills.

“It’s been a long winter,” he said. “I wanted to get the kids outdoors and out of the classroom.”

All grade levels—grades 5 through 8, including staff—participated in the day’s activities.

Mr. Gould said the RSU 22 administration supported the effort, providing 10 yards of mulch and about \$100 worth of flowers and plants. Both the mulch and the flowers and plants were purchased locally.



RSU 22 - May 2014 School District Budget Process

DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING
Thursday, June 5, 2014 — 7 p.m. Hampden Academy Gymnasium

DISTRICT BUDGET REFERENDUM
Tuesday, June 10, 2014 — 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

On May 7, 2014, the RSU #22 School Board of Directors unanimously approved the proposed 2014-2015 budget increase of 1.78%. The 2014-2015 budget figure of \$28,838,498.87 is \$503,289.86 above last year’s amount.

Contributing to the \$503,289.86 increase are the following significant fiscal matters:

- State revenue reduction (\$66,000.00 below last year’s allocation)
- Contracted obligations associated with recently negotiated collective bargaining contracts with teachers and education support personnel, including performance based compensation for teachers (an increase of \$310,000.00 above last year’s budgeted amount)
- 7.5% increase of health insurance premiums for all district employees (an increase of \$218,000.00 above last year’s budgeted amount)
- Adjustment in personnel including additional guidance services at Weatherbee and Wagner schools; additional health services district wide; additional reading services at Smith School; restructuring of elementary and middle school gifted and talented program adding one half teacher and one (1) additional teacher at Reeds Brook due to higher enrollment.

The local share increase of 4.99% for the four communities will increase as follows:

Hampden’s local share will increase \$296,035.12, Newburgh’s local share will increase \$57,264.90, Winterport’s local share will increase \$89,585.80 and Frankfort’s local share will increase \$40,126.10.

On Thursday, June 5, 2014, 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 2014-15 budget is to conduct a district-wide referendum on Tuesday, June 10, 2014. 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 2014-15 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 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$10,160,247.48**
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 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 1			
Regular Instruction	\$9,797,852.73	\$10,160,247.48	\$362,394.75
Regular Instruction Programs	\$7,525,910.60	\$7,710,982.68	\$185,072.08
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers			
* Middle Schools – addition of (1) classroom teacher at Reeds Brook due to higher enrollment; addition of (2) educational technicians at Smith to assist in reading education.			
K-2 Instruction Programs	\$2,025,968.26	\$2,165,300.10	\$139,331.84
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers			
* Addition of Pre-K program at Smith School			
Other Instruction Programs	\$245,973.87	\$283,964.70	\$37,990.83
* Alternative Education			
* English Language Learners (ELL)			
* Gifted & Talented – addition of 50% Gifted & Talented Teacher			
Total Variance:			<u>\$362,394.75</u>

Article 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$4,718,150.13**
Explanation: The Special Education Instruction account includes expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 2			
Special Education Instruction	\$4,388,392.75	\$4,718,150.13	\$329,757.38
Special Education Programs	\$4,006,871.20	\$4,361,424.46	\$354,553.26
* Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers and educational technicians			
* Addition of (2) Educational Technicians to accommodate increased educational needs			
Special Education Administration	\$381,521.55	\$356,725.67	(\$24,795.88)
* Transfer of budgeted special education administrative costs to increased educational costs			
Total Variance:			<u>\$329,757.38</u>

Article 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$295,164.09**
Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to the Career and Cooperative Education Programs.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 3			
Career and Technical Education	\$334,642.60	\$295,164.09	(\$39,478.51)
Career and Technical Education	\$334,642.60	\$295,164.09	(\$39,478.51)
* Decrease of number of students using this program			
Total Variance:			<u>(\$39,478.51)</u>

Article 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **OTHER INSTRUCTION** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$702,972.31**
Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for Co-Curricular, Extra-Curricular, and Summer School Programs.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 4 Other Instruction	\$707,275.89	\$702,972.31	(\$4,303.58)
Summer School	\$3,136.20	\$3,136.20	\$0.00
Co-Curricular	\$135,089.90	\$147,537.14	\$12,447.24
Extra-Curricular * Collaborate Nordic ski program with surrounding schools	\$569,049.79	\$552,298.97	(\$16,750.82)
Total Variance:			(\$4,303.58)

Article 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **STUDENT AND STAFF SUPPORT** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$2,211,675.11**
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 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 5 Student and Staff Support	\$2,171,600.55	\$2,211,675.11	\$40,074.56
Guidance Services * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for guidance professionals and support staff * Addition of 70% Guidance Counselor to serve Wagner and Weatherbee schools	\$454,483.80	\$536,986.85	\$82,503.05
Health Services * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for nurses and support staff * Addition of 25% health services due to increased student needs	\$330,082.01	\$361,050.04	\$30,968.03
Other Student Support Services * Re-assignment of (2) 504 educational technicians to special education program	\$128,955.03	\$62,410.90	(\$66,544.13)
Improvement of Instruction	\$159,425.09	\$160,365.64	\$940.55
Improvement of Staff Training * Professional development reductions	\$93,951.01	\$84,929.80	(\$9,021.21)
Library Services * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for librarians and educational technicians	\$316,284.42	\$317,357.06	\$1,072.64
Instructional Technology * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for teachers and support staff * Hampden Academy – re-assignment of 50% technology integrator to regular instruction	\$598,350.71	\$593,640.18	(\$4,710.53)
Student Assessment	\$90,068.48	\$94,934.64	\$4,866.16
Total Variance:			<u>\$40,074.56</u>

Article 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends \$ **759,570.78**
Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent, and Business Office functions.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 6 System Administration	\$721,807.07	\$759,570.78	\$37,763.71
System Administration * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for administrators and central office staff	\$721,807.07	\$759,570.78	\$37,763.71
Total Variance:			<u>\$37,763.71</u>

Article 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,233,883.72**
Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of individual schools.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 7 School Administration	\$1,211,981.44	\$1,233,883.72	\$21,902.28
School Administration * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for administrators and support staff	\$1,211,981.44	\$1,233,883.72	\$21,902.28
Total Variance:			<u>\$21,902.28</u>

Article 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **TRANSPORTATION AND BUSES** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,206,155.28**
Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the transportation contract, fuel, and special education transportation services.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 8 Transportation and Buses	\$1,159,882.06	\$1,206,155.28	\$46,273.22
Transportation * One (1) additional bus for Frankfort * Increase in cost of fuel	\$1,159,882.06	\$1,206,155.28	\$46,273.22
Total Variance:			<u>\$46,273.22</u>

Article 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$3,390,357.68**
Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of physical plant and grounds, minor capital construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment, and supplies.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 9 Facilities Maintenance	\$3,239,794.30	\$3,390,357.68	\$150,563.38
Facilities Maintenance * Negotiated salary/benefit increases for custodial staff * Increase in overall repair & maintenance costs including utilities, fuel and electricity	\$3,239,794.30	\$3,390,357.68	\$150,563.38
Total Variance:			<u>\$150,563.38</u>

Article 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **DEBT SERVICE AND OTHER COMMITMENTS** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$4,160,322.29**
Explanation: The Debt Service account includes expenses for state approved capital debt obligations.

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 10 Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$4,601,979.62	\$4,160,322.29	(\$441,657.33)
Debt Service Payments * Reeds Brook Middle School – debt service payments complete	\$4,601,979.62	\$4,160,322.29	(\$441,657.33)
Total Variance:			<u>(\$441,657.33)</u>

Article 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES** for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

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

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Variance
Article 11 All Other Expenditures	\$0	\$ 0	\$0
Food Service Transfer * Food service program is now self-sustaining	\$0	\$ 0	\$0
Total Variance:			<u>\$0</u>

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:**

Total appropriated (by municipality):	
Town of Hampden	\$14,523,673.43
Town of Newburgh	\$2,740,985.30
Town of Winterport	\$7,256,457.88
Town of Frankfort	\$1,554,758.37

RSU Total Appropriated
(Sum of above) \$26,075,874.98

Total raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):	
Town of Hampden	\$4,848,052.50
Town of Newburgh	\$799,267.50
Town of Winterport	\$2,002,320.00
Town of Frankfort	\$643,140.00

RSU Total Raised:
(Sum of above) \$8,292,780.00

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 kindergarten to grade 12.

Board of Directors recommends: **\$515,296.03**
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 \$1,353,792.30**), which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$830,954.62**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors recommends \$1,353,792.30 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$830,954.62: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive K-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.

ARTICLES 12, 13, AND 14 RAISE FUNDS FOR 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: **\$28,838,498.87**

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 **\$58,000** 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 **\$58,000.00** with a local share of **\$30,000.00**.

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE 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 **\$250,000.00** from future revenues not allocated as revenues for the operating budget, if any, to the RSU’s previously established Capital Reserve Fund and shall the School Board be further authorized to expend up to **\$250,000.00** 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 Elementary School and (iii) door replacement and 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 2014-2015 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 10, 2014 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

After the 2014-15 budget is adopted at the June 5 district budget meeting, district citizens will then have the opportunity to vote at the polls on June 10 on the following question:

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

A sample of the June 10 ballot is outlined below:

Question 1: 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.

Tom White to retire after 8 years at HA

Tom White, who has been teaching math at Hampden Academy for the past eight years, will retire effective June 30.

Teaching has been a second career for Mr. White, who moved to Bangor from West Virginia in 2006 after a 35-year career in medical equipment sales. He and his wife Susan, a retired teacher who has been substitute teaching at Hampden Academy, made the move so they could be closer to their only grandchild, Lydia, who now lives in Freeport.



Tom White

A native of West Virginia, Mr. White got his Associate’s degree from Fairmont State University in Fairmont, WV. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Education in 1997 from West Virginia University after taking morning and evening classes for nine years. He then did substitute teaching while continuing to sell medical equipment. Mr. White said he and his family had friends in Southwest Harbor and often visited Maine during the summer. He said his daughter Jacey loved Maine, and after she and her husband Daniel completed medical school, they decided to do their residencies at Eastern Maine Medical Center. They now have their own osteopathic practice in Freeport. After retirement, the Whites plan to stay in Maine but probably move closer to Freeport. They plan to do a lot of traveling and spend a lot of time with their granddaughter.



Reeds Brook Student Ashley Fitzgerald assisting Garrett Hall from Smith School.

Hampden – Winterport Special Olympics Athletes Results for the Penobscot Area Track & Field Meet, Cameron Stadium, May 7

Weatherbee School

Kierstin Chamberlain—50M 1st, 100M 2nd, Softball Throw 2nd
Colby Gott—50M 2nd, 100M 4th, Stand Long Jump 1st
Hailey McPherson—50M 3rd, 100M 2nd, Stand Long Jump 3rd
Michael Samoluk—50M 3rd, 100M 4th, Run Long Jump 1st
Selina Turgeon—50M 2nd, 100M 1st, Softball Throw 2nd

Reeds Brook Middle School

Evan Allen—50M 3rd, 100M 2nd, Run Long Jump 2nd
Trevor Allen—200M 1st, 100M 2nd, Softball Throw 1st
Erik Gagne—10M 2nd, 25M 2nd, Softball Throw 1st
Madyson Gray—Softball Throw 1st
Marcus Hernandez—50M 5th, 100M 4th, Softball Throw 2nd
Colby LaHaye—50M 1st, 100M

4th, Softball Throw 4th
Brianna Leneski—50M 2nd, 100M 1st, Run Long Jump 4th
Joshua Leneski—50M 1st, 100M 1st, Run Long Jump 2nd
Madison Mooers—50M 1st, 100M 1st, Run Long Jump 1st
Trent Palmer—50M 2nd, 100M 5th, Softball Throw 3rd
Mahayla Stone—50M 2nd, 100M 3rd, Softball Throw 1st

Hampden Academy

Lars Barclay—50M, Runningn Long Jump 4th
Danielle Beauregard—10M 3rd, 25M 2nd, Softball Throw 2nd
Krysta Cooper—400M 1st, 100M 2nd, Long Jump 2nd
Shaughnessy Dalton—50M 1st, 100M 3rd, Long Jump 3rd
Zach Ewing—200M 1st, 100M 2nd, Long Jump 2nd

‘Into the Woods’ July 11-13 at HA

(Continued from page 1)

actors join the show, like Rapunzel, played by Reba Sands, and Cinderella, played by Rosie Frost. Real-life brothers Keenan and Garrett Soule play the “Charming” Princes.

Also in the cast are: Alexandra Buzzini, Taylor Coon, Miles Martin, Jack Burridge, Josie Lawrence, Chloe Lawrence, Christie Woodside, Megan Morin, Mikayla Holmes, Braeden Soule, and Lydia Tilley.

The cast includes students from high school and middle school and one 4th grader.

This is the second summer performance for the group. Last July, they performed Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Pirates of Penzance* on the PAC stage.

Into the Woods is a story that ties together characters from several different traditional fairy tales. A witch cast a spell on a baker so that his wife could not have children. The baker and his wife are trying to break the curse, but to accomplish that, they need to get a cloak of red (Little Red Riding Hood), a cow of white (Jack and the Beanstalk’s milky white cow), hair of gold (Rapunzel’s long hair), and Cinderella’s slipper.

Mr. Kissinger said *Into the Woods* is one of his favorite plays, along with *Pirates of Penzanze*.

Auditions for *Into the Woods* were held during the first week of May. The group will rehearse from 1 to 5 on Sundays until school is out. Then, for the three weeks prior to the performances, they will hold afternoon and evening rehearsals.

Kristen Casavant, a Hampden Academy graduate, will help with the music.

Mr. Kissinger said the choreography will be done by the performers.

“The students did their own choreography for *Pirates*,” he said. “We’ll do the same thing for this show.”

Last year, the group decided to call itself the “Hampden Area Players Youth Theater” to create the acronym HAPPY Theater. The HAPPY Theater Company is looking forward to including additional young people from Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort in future performances.

Aaron Rush—Shot Put 4th
Madison Springer—50M 3rd, 100M 5th, Softball Throw 3rd
Kamren Starbird—10M 1st, 25M 3rd, Softball Throw 1st
Margaret Thurlow—50M 4th, 100M 4th, Stand L Jump 2nd
Kelsey Tripp—200M 1st, 400M 2nd, Shot Put 2nd
Justin White—10M 2nd, 25M 1st, Softball Throw 3rd

Winterport – Smith

Garrett Hall—10M 1st, 25M 1st, Softball Throw 1st
Devin Twitchell—50M 2nd, 100M 2nd, Softball Throw 1st

Winterport – Wagner

Colby Whitmore—50M 1st, 100M 1st, Softball Throw 1st

Reeds Brook holds pep rally for Special Olympics athletes



Reeds Brook Middle School held a rally for Special Olympics athletes on May 5, two days before the Penobscot Area Special Olympics track and field meet at Cameron Stadium in Bangor.

RSU 22 had 31 athletes registered for the meet from six different schools. About 40 7th and 8th graders from Reeds Brook volunteered to help at the meet, and the entire 6th grade attended as fans in the stands.

The keynote speaker at the pep rally was Lisa Bird from the state Special Olympics office. She was impressed with the school and the way students handled themselves at the pep rally, high-fiving the athletes as they marched into the gym.

“I am blown away by the compassion this school has for people with disabilities or special needs,” Ms. Bird said. “Reeds Brook is a leader in Project Unify.”

7th, 8th grade Explorers earn honors in digital storytelling competition

Members of the 7th and 8th grade Explorers at Reeds Brook Middle School have received several awards in a statewide digital storytelling competition offered by Meridian Stories of Freeport.

Teams from the 8th grade at Reeds Brook took the first and second place awards in “Dystopian Drama,” a language arts challenge.

In this challenge, the students have to describe an undesirable or frightening society (dystopia is the opposite of utopia) and then shoot a scene that takes place in that society.

The winning entry, titled “2049,” was produced by Danielle Barrett, Nick Parker, Orion Zydlewski and Morgan Tall.

The 2nd place award went to “Rising Religions,” which was produced by Josie Lawrence, Alexandra Buzzini and Diana Bryant.

The two videos can be viewed at the Meridian Stories website, www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/2013-14/language-arts/dystopian-drama.

Another 8th grade team from Reeds Brook also placed second in the Literary Speed Dating Challenge, another language arts challenge in which the students have to take two famous literary characters of their choice and put them together in a speed dating scenario. The characters must speak in their ‘voice’; the time is current, but the characters are from their original time (they can ‘time

Reeds Brook Middle School: 2049 – Div. I – FIRST PLACE

Posted on March 18, 2014 by bpierce



First place in Division I for the Dystopian Drama, “2049,” by Morgan Tall, Orion Zedlewski, Nick Parker, Danielle Barrett.

travel’ to the present day, as necessary); and by the end of the scene, their romantic intentions toward each other (or not) should be clear.

The 2nd place winner was “The Princess and the Greaser,” produced by Tait McKay, Aria Fasse, Christie Woodside, and Terra Malkow.

The video can be viewed at www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/2013-14/language-arts/literary-speed-dating.

From the 7th grade came a second place win for Ross Webb, Nick Gauthier and Daniel Fachiol for a piece called “Lincoln’s Death.” Their video was entered in the Sports Casting History category. In this challenge, the team had to pick a key moment in U.S or world history and create a play-by-play account of the action,

with a broadcaster and color commentator. The visual re-creation of the historical moment could be done in any style the team wants: from animation or storyboards, to live action re-creations. However the focus of this challenge was not on elaborate visuals, but on the historical content, as presented through the dialogue of the sportscasters. This video can be seen at <http://www.meridianstories.com/>.

Reeds Brook Middle School: Rising Religions – Div. I – SECOND PLACE

Posted on March 18, 2014 by bpierce



Second place in Division I for Dystopian Drama, “Rising Religions,” by Diana Bryant, Josie Lawrence, and Alexandra Buzzini.

Reeds Brook: Lincoln’s Death – Div. I (SECOND PLACE)

Posted on January 16, 2014 by bpierce



Second place in Division I for Sports Casting History, “Lincoln’s Death,” by Ross Webb, Nick Gauthier, and Daniel Fachiol.

[category/challenges/2013-14/history/sports-casting-history/](http://www.meridianstories.com/category/challenges/2013-14/history/sports-casting-history/).

‘Night of the Living Beauty Pageant’ draws full house 2 night at RBMS

Stage moms, crazed contestants, crooked judges and gangsters were all part of the fun that ensued when Reeds Brook Middle School presented *Night of the Living Beauty Pageant*, a high-energy spoof teenage beauty pageants, on April 3 and 4 in the school cafeteria.

Karyn Field, who directed the play with her husband Zach, said it was the first time that the spring play at Reeds Brook had sold out both nights.

She had special praise for set designer Linda Kehr, a special education ed tech who also teaches adult education art classes.

“She’s just brilliant,” Ms. Field says. “She builds phenomenal sets.”

Cast members included Taylor Iaderosa as Miss Better Health, Abby Thompson as Miss Cranberry Bog, Christie Woodside as Miss Wildlife, Alexandra Buzzini as Sheri Page, Chloe Lawrence as Miss Industry, Josie Lawrence as Miss Seashore (“Polly”), Diana Bryant, as Melba, Orion Zydlewski as Mumbles, Nick Lorenzo as Gregg Anderson, Julianne Llerena as Sonia, Michael Sears as Rick, Anthony Meo as Don, Colby



A scene from “Night of the Living Beauty Pageant.”

Small as Leo, Terra Malkow as Lois Del Monaco, Emily Briggs as Pippi Wrongstocking, Nate Bailey as Chad, Robert Buzzini as Deputy Scott, Danielle Barrett as Cuddles O’Boyle, Alex Ross as Fingers, Garrett Soule as George Vincent, Phoebe Wagner as Penny Loafer, Aria Maietta as Rose Bowl, Derek Gendreau as Ed, and Emily Gonthier, Mikayla Patel, Rosie Shelly and Sydney Jordan as Pageant Dancers.

Kelsey DeRaps was the dance

coordinator for the production, and Emi Verhar was the student director.

Backstage support was provided by Courtney Fish and Emily Dysart, Sarah Couture and Alexis Spaulding, lights; Isaac Anderson and Bryce Nickels, sound; Bailey Mallory, Ellie Prescott, Bailey Anderson, Gabrielle Doucette, and Ryleigh Preston, Autumn Carey,

Gabe Ducas, Sienna Probert, Emily Dysart, Courtney Fish, Carrie Foren, and Kelli Foren, set and stage crew; Zoe Ellingwood, opening slideshow; Cara Leino, behind-the-scenes video; and Emi Verhar, costume and props assistant,



The set and tech crew for “Night of the Living Beauty Pageant.”

Weatherbee forming grade-level teams with literacy, numeracy expertise to better serve all students

While George B. Weatherbee School has some very strong scores on standardized tests and very successful students, teachers at the school are not resting on their laurels. Weatherbee School is implementing a structural change next year in order to better meet student needs.

At all three grade levels (third through fifth), Weatherbee teachers will form two or three person teams. Each team will consist of a teacher with literacy expertise and a teacher with numeracy expertise (math). For the three person teams, writing, science or social studies will be subjects of specialization as well. Weatherbee will basically create teams of “experts” to ensure that we are placing the most skilled teacher in each subject area in front of our students. Both well-performing and struggling students can benefit from this model. “While our teachers are qualified to teach all subjects and have had success in doing so, Weatherbee still felt this level of change was justified if we were going to continue to raise the bar for our students,” stated Christine Boone, principal. “When we talk about redesigning schools to keep up with the the demands of our society and college preparation, this model comes to our attention. It allows for subject specialization at the elementary level while still honoring the developmental needs of the age group. It meets also meets our criteria of increasing student achievement in a way that does not increase our local budget.”

It has been a year-long discussion that began last fall when classroom teachers and data team members reviewed scores from status tests such as the NWEA and NECAP. According to the specific data from the status tests, and what teachers see day-to-day in the classrooms, there are some students who are not making the kind of academic gains we would expect given the rigorous instruction and additional interventions that they receive. The data team, comprised of Christy Whitehouse, Shannon Peterson, Renita Downer, Cedena McAvoy, Bonnie Walker, and Angela Pratt, spent considerable time discussing instructional models that research shows have had the largest impact on student achievement. After talking with teachers on their grade level teams, they decided that it was time for some systemic change because much of what the research says works, was already in place. For example, classroom models such as guided math and reading, were already in place, so the team had to dig deeper. They looked to the building level.

The staff looked at several school instructional models in an effort to find one that would better enable them to meet every student where they are and move them forward.

After narrowing the choices to those that met our internal criteria and aligned with the RSU 22 Strategic plan, the models were presented to the full staff. The data team

shared the four that they thought would possibly help the students most and also meet the needs of our larger Newburgh and Hampden community. Teachers listed the pros and cons of each model and considered the academic, developmental, and social and emotional needs of the students they serve. In the end, the vast majority of teachers determined that it would make sense to create teams of teachers at each grade level that would allow individual teachers to narrow their focus of planning and instruction. Prominent researchers in the field day it is basically unrealistic for elementary teachers to have the specialized knowledge to facilitate mathematics instruction, as well as knowledge for every other subject they teach. Therefore, after reviewing teacher strengths and specialty areas due to advanced degrees, years of experience, or other expertise, teams have been designed so that teachers may specialize in the core subjects instead of teaching

Weatherbee players celebrate ‘small moments’ with ‘School Rhymes’

“School Time, School Rhymes,” a poetic celebration of some of the small moments that elementary students remembers about their early years in school, was performed by the Weatherbee Players on April 30 in the school gym.

The play was written in rhyming verse by teacher of the deaf/interpreter Vicki Kusnierz and performed by 10 Weatherbee students in grades 3-5. Mrs. Kusnierz directed the performance.

The cast members were Marissa Abbott, Tiffany Coon, Braeden Soule, Ali Nason, Olivia Ferriter, Caroline Pickering, Graceanne Brinkworth, Gabrielle Kennard, Cassidy Fish, and Anna Hollrock.

Mrs. Kusnierz said the play portrays students reflecting back on their primary-school years, when their teachers would call them together for story time or other activities by saying, “Come to the rug.”

“I wrote a poem about that,” Mrs. Kusnierz said. “It’s a rhyming poem, because that’s what I do. It’s fun and silly.”

The play also has students reflecting on learning how to stand in line and walk through the hall, learning how to raise their hand quietly

Weatherbee students raise \$8,000 through ‘Jump Rope for Heart’

Students at George B. Weatherbee School raised more than \$8,000 for the American Heart Association through their “Jump Rope for Heart” community service campaign this spring.

The total was twice as much as the best previous Jump Rope for Heart campaign, according to physical education teacher Andy Plaisted, who organized the drive.

Mr. Plaisted said Weatherbee students have been Jumping Rope for Heart for 16 years and have raised more than \$40,000 to help fight heart attach and stroke.

He said the goal this year was not a dollar amount, but to achieve maximum participation.



every subject in isolation.

This process had already begun on some levels in recent years, but the staff embraced making it official for every grade and class for the 2014-15 school year. They look forward to having a small team to support a student while also allowing more time and energy to go into planning for fewer subjects. They look forward to being able to “dive deeper” into the curriculum and be better prepared to meet individual needs. Whether a struggling learner or a high achiever, all deserve to make growth. It is their expectation that this model will support that and data will of course be reviewed closely to monitor student progress toward goals.

This model also lends itself well to the software that is being introduced across the district at the elementary level. The software

tracks individual student mastery of specific learning targets and will provide more detailed information to parents regarding what their child really knows or is still learning. Constant communication will be essential to the success of the model and teachers are being proactive in establishing internal systems of communication for team members as well as external systems for parents. The faculty and staff at Weatherbee are hopeful that this differentiation by subject area will allow higher levels of learning for all students due to the teacher’s ability to narrow their focus and apply specific expertise and passion for the subject area. Research shows that it can be the case, and Weatherbee staff are committed to work to making the research the reality at Weatherbee School.



The Weatherbee Players.

(instead of waving it wildly), and hearing about the importance of eating healthy foods. Other memories celebrated in rhyme include the excitement of having an extra day off when the teachers have a workshop day, and the different reactions of children and parents when a snowy day results in school being canceled:

*It’s a snowy day. It’s a snowy day.
We think it’s so cool.
It’s a snowy day. It’s a snowy day.
We don’t go to school!!*

*When we hear those special words
we jump with joy and shout.
But our poor moms and dads
go back to their room and pout!*

“I had all these poems that I had written, and I wanted to do something with them,” said Mrs. Kusnierz. “So I wrote the play around the poems.”

Weatherbee Principal Christine Boone said she’s hoping to schedule another Weatherbee Players performance next year, probably in the fall.

tried to do a day-long event, but it turned out to be too big a disruption for the classroom teachers.”

Mr. Plaisted says that when he introduces Jump Rope for Heart to the students, he describes it as a community service project, not as a fund-raiser. “I want the students to see the value of doing something for the good of the community,” he says. “When we started Jump Rope for Heart in 1998, that was the year my grandfather died of a stroke. Then told the students that heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 3 killers in the U.S., and the Heart Association is trying to find cures and treatments for those diseases.”



The Weatherbee staff gave it their all in the Tug of War, but as the above photos show . . .



. . . they were greatly outnumbered by the 4th graders, who won both pulls.

How does a Spaghetti Supper turn into a Tug of War?

The Weatherbee Staff and PTO held their Community Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on March 27th in the Weatherbee Gym, which about 300 people attended. Everyone at Weatherbee was involved in some way in making this supper a success, from the 5th graders making posters about the supper and being wonderful waitstaff, to the third graders making centerpieces for all the dining tables, and the fourth grader families making all the spaghetti sauce! It was a school wide effort that paid off.

There was lots of fun at the face painting table. The HA Eastern Maine State Class A Basketball Champions were on hand for auto-

graphs and pictures, and there was a fantastic cake walk that was overwhelmingly the hit of the evening. In addition, an auction frenzy for the 5th grade gift baskets took place, and, of course, there was food. Hanaford of Hampden donated all the pasta, salad dressing, paper plates, and cheese. Anglers of Hampden donated the rolls, butter, and salad. Garelick Farms of Maine donated two cases of chocolate and one case of skim milk. LaBree's Bakery of Old Town donated 300 mini cupcakes.

As part of the fundraising leading up to the supper, there was much anticipation about which grade would win the School Spirit Chain contest, which ended the day of the

supper. The winners won the chance to participate in a tug of war against the Weatherbee staff, which took place on April 18th. On Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of March, the students were encouraged to purchase a paper chain link for one dollar, during their lunch time, write their name on it and help their grade make the longest school spirit chain. The third grade was ahead for quite a while, but on the last day of sales, the fourth graders pulled off a win with 167 links to the third graders 157 links. The fifth graders contributed 25 links to their chain. Congratulations to the Weatherbee fourth graders for showing their school spirit!

On the Friday before April vacation, the students and staff gathered on the front lawn to watch and/or participate in the tug of war. Despite two valiant tries, the Weatherbee staff was unable to win the tug of war as they were greatly outnumbered by the fourth graders, who gave it their all and relished in their victory!

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and families who gave of their time and money to make this one of our best spaghetti supper fundraisers ever. The PTO was able to raise about \$3,000, which will help with classroom Scholastic and Time magazine subscriptions, staff grants, and the playground fund.

Donna Megquier to retire after 28 years of teaching

Donna Megquier will be retiring this year after 28 years of teaching in grades K, 1, 4, and 5. She will be leaving a 5th grade position at Weatherbee School, where she has been a dedicated member of the teaching staff for 17 years.

Mrs. Megquier graduated from UMaine in 1975 with a degree in Child Development, reflecting her passionate interest in teaching the "whole child." After starting her career teaching 1st grade in New Jersey, she and her husband David moved to Maine to settle down and raise a family, first in Bangor and then in Hampden, where they lived for 19 years.

After spending nine years at home with her two children, she returned to teaching and spent ten years at Newport Elementary School, teaching kindergarten and then 4th grade.

When a 5th grade position opened up at Weatherbee School, she jumped at the opportunity to apply. "Our two children had such a positive educational experience here, it felt like a way to return the favor to the community, plus it was wonderful teaching so close to home."

Mrs. Megquier and her husband David now live on Green Lake. They have two grown children, Aaron and Shelley, and two young granddaughters.



Donna Megquier

Robin Balentine to retire effective June 30

Fourth grade teacher Robin Balentine is retiring this June after 37 years at Weatherbee School. It has been a very enriching profession for her, impacting well over 1000 students in the Hampden community.

Mrs. Balentine graduated from UMaine with a degree in Child Development and minor in Psychology in 1977. After student teaching in 1st grade at McGraw School, she was hired and taught Corrective Reading and then 4th grade until the present. Early in her career, she coached junior high soccer and freshman girls basketball at Hampden Academy for three years. She has served in many professional capacities at Weatherbee, including being involved with the school's building renovation and garden project.

She says she doesn't think about this step as "retiring," but rather as "moving on to the next phase of my life, enjoying some hobbies, traveling, and being involved in the learning experiences and lives of my children and grandchildren."

Mrs. Balentine resides in Hampden with her husband Dick, long-time biology teacher at HA. She has two daughters, Leah Smith, a 1st grade teacher at McGraw, and Molly D. Paul, a graduate student living in Chicago. She also recently became a grandmother for the first time.



Robin Balentine



WEATHERBEE VARIETY SHOW—Above: 5th grade emcees David Kelley, Andrew Raye, Mrs. Jones (3rd grade teacher), Olivia Ferriter, Lindsay Garrity and Isaiah Dove introduced 28 different acts at the annual Weatherbee Variety Show, which was held April 19 before a full house. The show was produced by 3rd grade teacher Jennifer Jones, with sound provided by William Jones. In addition to many traditional musical song and dance presentations, this year's Variety Show included several solo dances by boys and a tae kwon do demonstration. Performers included Mikiko Frey; Cameron Neal, Taylor Gardner, Madysen Gentle, and Marion Glinski; Maddie Ivers; Olivia Airey, Montana Langille, and Lily Woodside; Sophia Pereira and Aili Wiseman; Sammi Brooker; David Marshall; Samantha Quesnel; Brooklyn Lindberg and Ashley Flannery; Brenna Moholland; Will Airey; Jaclyn Hussey; Clara Bowlby; Nevaeh Dicker, Olivia Dunn, and Amelia Plant; Felix Moran; Vinny Mousally; Camden Baker and Aurelia Maietta; Chance Sudbeck; Christopher Madden; Tiffany Coon and Reese Levesque; Josie Smith, Meghan Mallory, and Emma Damboise; Annabeth Olson; Skylar Manhart; Kailee Nevells and Lily Geiser; Kaitlyn Libby; Ava Samoluk, and Sophie Kahn. Below: Amelia Verhar (grade 5), Peter Verhar (grade 3) and Samantha Cram (grade 5) closed out the show with a stirring rendition of the Michael Jackson favorite, "Thriller."



Carla Leathem retiring after 41 years with SAD and RSU22

Carla Leathem, principal at Earl C. McGraw School for the past four years, will conclude a 41-year career with SAD and RSU 22 when she re-tires at the end of this school year.

Mrs. Leathem started as a special education teacher for 13 years at Smith School in Winterport and 13 years at McGraw School. Then she served for three years as special education director for the district, before re-turning to Smith School as principal for eight years.

She moved from Smith School to her present job at McGraw in the fall of 2010.



Carla Leathem

Mrs. Leathem said she loved teaching, but accepted the special education director position “because I felt it was time to challenge myself.” She said special ed director was the hardest job, “but I learned more in that job faster than I’ve ever learned before in my life.”

Mrs. Leathem was born in Easton and raised on a potato farm. She graduated from Easton High School and the University of Maine. She received her Master’s degree in Special Education in 1979 and her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership in 2000, both from UMaine.

She and her husband Bill, who teaches chemistry at Hampden Academy, live in Hampden. They have two sons, Michael, a micro-electronics engineer who lives in Brownfield, ME, near Fryeburg; and Sean, who is completing his Master’s degree in Marine Geology at the University of North Carolina



EARL C. McGRAW SCHOOL

at Wilmington.

They have a grandson, Kaelan, 2½, in Brownfield.

Mrs. Leathem says one of the reasons she is retiring is to spend more time with her grandson. She is also training to do a sprint triathlon—a race that includes swimming, biking, and running but for shorter distances than a regular triathlon—in August.

“My son Michael talked me into this,” she said. “He also talked me into climbing Mt. Washington in the

winter for my 60th birthday. It was 2 degrees F. with 60 mph sustained winds and gusts to 90 mph. We made it to the top, when they took a photo, I had to hold onto the sign to keep from being blown off the mountain. It was crazy—it was the hardest thing I ever did.”

In addition to the triathlon, Mrs. Leathem says she’ll spend the summer at camp on South Twin Lake, near Millinocket. She’ll also probably do some volunteer work, either at school or for Literacy Volunteers.

More than half of McGraw students celebrate ‘Screen-Free Week’ by turning off TVs

More than half of the students at Earl C. McGraw School celebrated “Screen-Free Week,” May 5-11, by turning off their TVs and video games and finding other ways to have fun.

Melissa Erickson, counselor at McGraw, said Screen-Free Week is a national program where kids and families don’t watch TV or play video games for a week. This is the 6th year that McGraw has participated in the program.

Students are asked to keep track of how much time they spend watching TV or playing video games and write it down on a calendar. Those who come back with a calendar that shows zero screen time for the entire week are invited to an ice cream party the following week.

About 185 students brought back calendars showing zero screen time. They enjoyed the ice cream party, which was held in the cafeteria on May 21.

Mrs. Erickson says it’s a pretty big deal for the children. “We have one boy who talked his mom into having her whole day care operation go screen free.”

How do students and parents get through a week with no TV or video games? They find other things to do.

The survey form that students use to report screen time also asks what they and their families did instead of watching TV.

The responses included Legos, fishing, reading, friends, baseball, blowing bubbles, climbing trees, and playing with pets.

One kindergarten student commented, “Because I didn’t watch TV, I read for 60 minutes last night.”

A parent of a 2nd grader said she looks forward to Screen-Free Week “because my children fight less and play together more.”



McGraw students with poster for “Screen-Free Week.”

McGraw students enjoy reading to Opie and Sklyar, even if they’re napping

Two Fridays a month, Hampden residents Cheryl and Ron Lare bring two special visitors to Earl C. McGraw School to help the kindergarten and 1st grade students with their reading.

The visitors don’t actually read with the students—they listen while the students practice reading aloud, and sometimes they fall asleep.

But that’s OK, because the visitors are dogs. They’re Opie and Sklyar, Shih Tzu therapy dogs who are trained to be quiet and non-aggressive around people, including children.

The Lares have been bringing them to McGraw for the past four years, Cheryl working with Opie and Ron working with Sklyar.

When they go into a classroom, they’ll usually sit on the floor, with Opie or Sklyar between their legs. The children come up one at a time, sit next to Cheryl or Ron and read to the dog.

Mr. Lare says the dogs are trained to either sit or lie down when the owner stops and talks. When Ron and Cheryl are sitting on the floor in a classroom, Opie and Sklyar sit or lie down quietly—and when they’re lying down, they may go to sleep.

Mr. Lare says Sklyar is just acting naturally if he dozes off.

“If a student is reading and taps the book and says, ‘Sklyar, look at



Cheryl Lare and Opie, Ron Lare and Sklyar.

this,’ Sklyar will lift his head and look,” he says.

Mr. Lare says if a student notices that Sklyar is sleeping, he’ll respond by asking, “When your parents read you a bedtime story, don’t you go to sleep, too?” He says that usually satisfies the student, who then keeps on reading.

The Lares take Opie and Sklyar into the special education rooms, too, and during lunchtime, they go to Reeds Brook Middle School and

meet with special needs students there.

Opie and Sklyar have also been greeting the troops at Bangor International Airport.

“We’ve met over 1,100 military flights in the past five years,” Mr. Lare says.

The Lares got Opie when he was 10 weeks old and took him out for socialization training. The trainer also trained service dogs and therapy dogs, and after work-

ing with Opie said he would make a great therapy dog.

The Lares’ response was, “What’s a therapy dog?”

After learning how therapy dogs can help people in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and many other situations, they enrolled Opie in training, which takes about a year.

At the time, both Ron and Cheryl were working, so they decided to get a companion dog. They called the Shih Tzu breeder, who had just rescued Sklyar, whose owner had beaten him, braking his jaw in the process,

The Lares put Sklyar in training along with Opie, although they thought he’d never qualify because of the beating. However, Sklyar did everything that Opie did, and he just kind of worked into it.

When Opie and Sklyar took the three-hour test for therapy dogs, only three of 25 dogs passed—Opie and Sklyar and one other.

Opie and Sklyar are both 8 years old. Most therapy dogs go to the hospital and nursing homes, but the Lares wanted to work in schools.

“Cheryl comes from a family of teachers,” Mr.Lare said. “Her mother was a foster grandparent at Weatherbee until two years ago when she had a stroke. That’s why we’re passionate about reading. We love the kids. In the summertime we don’t know what to do.”

Summer Feeding Program at Smith School cafeteria

Winterport is excited to offer a unique opportunity for all area children ages 0-18.

This summer, we will be running a summer feeding program in the Smith School cafeteria.

All area children ages 0-18 are invited to come eat lunch between 11:30-12:30. Cost: ZERO. Free to

ALL children. You do not have to be a student at Smith School to participate and get a free lunch. All children up to 18 are welcome.

The Summer Feeding Program will run from 11:30-12:30 daily, June 25 through August 22. Be on the lookout for more information. Spread the word!



Smith celebrates World Read Aloud Day

Once again this year, the students at Smith School took part in World Read Aloud Day sponsored by Litworld.org. They were treated to two fantastic read alouds at an assembly to kick off the day.

Kelsey Sullivan, a wild life biologist and parent of a Smith School third grader, talked with the students about his job tagging ducks in Maine. He showed them a video that he and his colleagues had created about how they catch, hold and band black ducks. Mr. Sullivan followed up his video by reading a book called *Wow! It's Great Being a Duck*, a hilarious tale about a duck that didn't want to act like a duck until a fox tries to trick him.

Next, Cam Scott, one of the captains of the Hampden Academy basketball team, read *Officer Buckle and Gloria*, a story about a police officer and his dog that work together as a team to teach students about safety.



World Read Aloud Day.

In the afternoon, all of the students at Smith School enjoyed a read aloud story by a teacher from another classroom during our teacher swap. It was a wonderful day of read alouds for our students!

Smith 3rd graders create tea table for Literacy of Maine Volunteers Tea

Ms. Hoyt's 3rd grade class at Leroy H. Smith School, recently created a tea table for the annual Literacy of Maine Volunteers Tea that was held in Bangor, Maine. Students had recently, through their unit of study on social issues, discovered just how many people in our area are affected by having some problem with understanding parts of literacy. The students felt compelled to help in some way. Designing a table was a way in which they all were able to be involved in making a difference and learn about giving back.

The whole class chose a book on which to base their table design. They did this through presenting and voting on their favorite books. The class chose *If I Built a Car*, by Chris Van Dusen, and were surprised and excited to find out that he would be present at this tea.

After the class read the book each student used his or her imagination to generate an invention just like Jack, the main character, had. The students went through a design process including drafting, explanations, finalizing, and presenting. These inventions turned into the placemats for the tables, while other student artwork was showcased as centerpieces. Everything on the table was designed by students, down to the car-shaped confetti and the written description of the story behind our table.

The day after the tea, the students waited eagerly to find out information about how the tea went. There were tons of questions about how did people like the table (especially Mr. Van Dusen!). Students also asked if they were going to be able to see pictures of the table, but the most heartwarming of all was that most students really wanted to know if the event was able to really help the people in need. When they found out the event raised 100% of the amount of money the Literacy Volunteers needed, the students were beyond excited!

Smith School poets share their work

In recognition of National Poetry Month in April, Students at Smith school were very busy writing poetry.

Throughout the month, students had the opportunity to submit original poems by placing them in a "poetry box," which was created to help inspire and encourage students to express themselves and their ideas through poetry. Each day, a poem was selected from the box and the student who wrote it read it over the intercom during morning announcements. Several students also chose to submit poems anonymously. After poems were read over the intercom, they were displayed in the hallway for all students to see.

Students truly enjoyed sharing their poems and it was a great opportunity for students to hear writing from their peers.

Below are two of the poems that were shared during the month:

"Numbers"

By Isabella Boyorak, Grade 1

1 2 3 Butterfly
4 5 6 Butterfly
7 8 9 Butterfly
9 Butterflies

"Leaf," by Anonymous

Red, green, yellow, Brown
Tumbling, tumbling all the way
down
Come one come all.
Tumbling all the way down.
They can be big or small.
Falling
Falling
Falling
Down to the ground.
Red
Yellow
green
brown



Smith School students stand next to the Poetry Box.

DI team from Smith School qualifies for Globals

A team of seven 4th graders from Leroy H. Smith Elementary School spent four days in Knoxville, TN, competing in the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals, May 21-24.

The students were Gracie Farrar, Johanna Philbrook, Carly Philbrook, Renee Drake, Sam Jagger, Olivia Saucier, and Elizabeth Burgess.

The team's advisor was Erica Farrar, 8th grade teacher at Wagner Middle School and Gracie's mother.

The team competed in the "Going to Extremes" Challenge, a scientific challenge in which they had to identify an extreme environment and have a character land in the extreme environment and adapt to it.

The team qualified for Globals by placing second in their challenge in the state competition, which was held March 22 at the University of Maine.

The students had the highest score in the state for the Instant Challenge, where they scored 98.5



Smith School 4th graders placed second at the Maine state competition and qualified for Globals.

points out of 100.

They also won the "Spirit of DI" award for a team that shows exceptional creativity, teamwork, or sportsmanship. They received their Spirit award for their creative storytelling, their excellent teamwork during their challenge, and the sportsmanship they showed other teams when they were coming in and performing.

The Smith School students prepared for the challenge by doing some

research on extreme environments. They were torn between the Alaskan tundra and the newly-discovered "Diamond Planet" (a carbon-rich planet about 40 light years from earth in the northern constellation Cancer). They decided to combine the two, with aliens from the Diamond planet landing in the Alaskan tundra. Eskimos living in the tundra taught the aliens how to survive the cold temperatures.

Education Foundation Mini-Grants program inspiring education

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 aid Mr. Sam Manhart in initiating a dance residency program at Hampden Academy. The Education Foundation recently checked in with Mr. Manhart to see how the grants were helping him bring inspiring education to his students.

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “What was the inspiration for this program?”
Sam Manhart: “We have been doing a dance residency with Katenia Kellor for five or six years now. Ms. Kellor is a choreographer/dancer/artist from Belfast. She works in coordination with The Maine Alliance for Arts & Education. As district budgets have tightened and funds for arts education have dwindled, we needed to seek alternative funding sources for this residency.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “How does this program link to your curriculum?”
Sam Manhart: “The students provide the links between literature and movement. Ms. Kellor would ask questions about what we were reading, we would make lists of images, and we would gradually transform those images into movement, into dance.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “What was the reaction of students when they found out they would be dancing in your class?”
Sam Manhart: “Initially, some students were hesitant about dancing and creating a structured piece. Once we began, however, all of the students found that they were not only capable of organizing a dance, they genuinely enjoyed it. This process has repeated itself each year we have done this residency. Entire classes of Hampden Academy students have overcome their initial uneasiness and really come together as a cohesive group to create something very unique and special.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “How has this Dance in Residency changed your instructional approach?”
Sam Manhart: “The residency has not changed my approach to literature. Rather, it has changed my perception about teens’ abilities to step out of their comfort zones and come together to create art.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “What surprises came from initiating this program with the help of the grant from the Education Foundation?”
Sam Manhart: “Though I am no longer surprised at dance residencies track record of “building community through the arts,” which is the stated goal, I am surprised each time we do such a residency at the unique ways that students find to express themselves. No two classes are the same and no two dance pieces are the same.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “Where there any other people who you brought in from other disciplines to help you with this program?”
Sam Manhart: “The two other teachers with whom Ms. Katenia Kellor worked with were Ms. Lisa Scofield (both English teachers at HA) and Ira Weissman, who runs the Life Skills Program at HA.”
Please consider supporting classroom programs such as this by making a contribution to the RSU 22 Education Foundation. Visit our website at rsu22educationfoundation.org to learn more.



Students dancing in Sam Manhart’s class.



RSU 22 Education Foundation *Community Partners for Inspired Education*

Mini-Grants program aids garden project

Last fall the RSU 22 Education Foundation was able to award seven mini grants. We recently checked in with Ms. Kerrilyn Marzullo and Ms. Cynthia Buzzini to see how the grants were helping bring inspiring education to the students of Reeds Brook.

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “What was the inspiration for this program and how will the mini-grant help?”
Ms Buzzini and Ms. Marzullo: “Clare Cole has maintained the greenhouse for the past few years and has harvested close to 4lbs of salad greens (this season alone) for the Reeds Brook MS salad bar. We are going to amend and replace some of the soil in the beds this summer and expect to produce a great deal more for the next school year.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “What is your future vision for this project and how will the mini-grant award help you achieve it?”
Ms Buzzini and Ms. Marzullo: “We also decided to enlarge the outside plot this year because we needed more space last summer and we will be providing some of the produce to the new RSU 22 summer feeding program in Winterport, managed by Chris Greenier. We added about 550 square feet and the kids in the Hampden Recreation Kids Kamp will once again help us maintain the garden in the summer, as they have done the past few years. It’s wonderful to see the kids excited about growing their food.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: What were some of the difficulties in getting

this project off the ground?”
Ms Buzzini and Ms. Marzullo: “Our biggest challenge the past few years has been the soil in the outside plot. Through a connection with a new garden group member, Pam Tremblay, Willow Drive Farm in Winterport is generously donating a truckload of much-needed aged manure and the RSU 22 team (Rodney) has been a huge help tilling the soil for us! We had a great harvest last year and expect a great deal more this summer.”

RSU 22 Education Foundation: “What is the reaction of students when they are out working on the garden and in the hoop house?”
Ms Buzzini and Ms. Marzullo: “We have such an enthusiastic group of gardeners making our Farm to School project a reality. We have lots of laughs while working hard and would love to have more community members of all ages join our group. It’s not hard labor—we all do whatever we can and there is no pressure. I’m in the process of updating the website with more photos and information. There is a link on the district’s homepage <http://www.RSU22.us>. Also, Rich Dudley, a RBMS teacher, has joined our group and is revitalizing our compost program, which we hope to greatly expand this summer.”

Education Foundation receives donation from WLBZ award recipient

Due to the generosity of RSU 22 school board member Martha Harris, the Education Foundation’s mini-grants fund is larger by \$500. As one of WLBZ’s “Those Who Care” award recipients for 2013, Martha was selected due to her lifetime of community service and her focus on the educational well being of the children of Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort. The generous donation by Martha will allow the Education Foundation to continue to support quality educational programming for the students of RSU 22. Thank you Martha!

Foundation Board seeks to expand

The RSU 22 Education Foundation is actively seeking new board members and committee volunteers to join a growing non-profit organization that supports the students and teachers in the school district. Serving the towns of Frankfort, Hampden, Newburgh and Winterport, the Education Foundation funds initiatives with grants that help foster innovative educational projects. If you have a desire

to connect with others who share an interest in quality education for children please consider joining the team.
Interested citizens or those wishing to nominate candidates for the Foundation Board of Directors should email hanish@roadrunner.com To learn more about the RSU 22 Education Foundation, visit www.rsu22educationfoundation.org.