



2021-22 BUDGET INSERT INSIDE

Virtual Budget Meeting info pp. 9-12

Budget Referendum Sample Ballot p. 11

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RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 June 2020

Rick Lyons to retire June 30 after 28 years

Rick Lyons, Superintendent of Schools for RSU 22 for the past 28 years, is retiring effective June 30 after 44 years in education, including 3 years as a teacher, 11 years as a principal, and 30 years as a superintendent.

Mr. Lyons came to RSU 22 from Dover-Foxcroft, where he served as Superintendent of Schools at SAD 68 for two years, from 1990 to 1992.

Previously, he spent 11 years in SAD 1, where he served as Principal at three K-5 schools in the Presque Isle area, starting with a year at the Westfield Elementary School, followed by four years at Gouldville Elementary School and six years at Zippel Elementary



Superintendent Rick Lyons

and tary School, both in Presque Isle.

When he was named principal at Westfield in 1979, Mr. Lyons was 26 years old—almost certainly the youngest principal in the state.

Before SAD 1, he taught at the Washburn Elementary School in SAD 45 for two years, from 1976 to 1978. His first teaching job was in St. Albans, VT, from 1975 to 1976.

A native of Aroostook County, Mr. Lyons grew up in Masardis, a small town of about 200, where he attended a K-8 elementary school. From there, he went to Ashland High School, graduating in 1971.

He attended the University of Maine at Fort Kent from 1971 to 1973. He then transferred to the University of Maine at Orono, where he received his B.S. degree in Education in 1975.

He returned to UMaine in 1978-1979 for graduate work in Education, earning his M.Ed. in Education Leadership and his Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) in Superintendentcy.

Mr. Lyons will continue to work part-time during his retirement.

(Please turn to page 2)

RSU 22 Budget Hearing June 25; Referendum set for July 14

The RSU 22 School Board unanimously approved the school district's proposed 2020-21 (FY21) budget at its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 10.

Pursuant to an Order by Gov. Mills, the District Budget Meeting where these articles have traditionally been presented has been replaced by a virtual Public Budget Hearing, which will be held on Thursday, June 25, at 7 p.m. The hearing will be online via Google Meets at meet.google.com/xdo-wghm-bvu.

The final decision on the budget will be made by the voters at the District Budget Referendum, which will be held on July 14. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Skeehan Recreation Center in Hampden, the Newburgh Town Office in Newburgh, Wagner Middle School in Winterport, and the Frankfort Congregational Church vestry in Frankfort.

An open letter to town leadership and community members can be found on page 9 of this newspaper. A summary of the Budget, a copy of the warrant articles, and a sample ballot for the July 14 referendum can be found on pages 10-12.

The budget as recommended by the School Board has a gross increase of 3.16% and an increase of 1.98% in the local share—the amount the district has to assess the communities of Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort.

Overall, the state share of funding for RSU 22 is increasing by 0.65 percentage points—from 68.37% in FY20 to 69.02% in FY21. RSU 22's state allocation is scheduled to increase by \$787,000 in FY21—from \$19.77 million last year to \$20.55 million in the coming year.

RSU 22 food deliveries to area homes tops 100,000 meals



MEAL DELIVERIES—The RSU 22 School Nutrition staff, along with many ed techs, custodians, school bus drivers, staff and community volunteers have been producing, assembling and delivering meals to students' homes on the school buses since mid March. By the end of May our team had delivered more than 100,000 meals! Above, the delivery staff from Reeds Brook gets ready to load meals onto buses for delivery to the Winterport area. For more information, see page 3.

State sends chromebooks, tablets, routers to RSU 22 schools

RSU 22 has received 57 chromebooks, 86 tablets with built-in data plans, and 15 MiFi wireless routers that act as WiFi hotspots to serve students who need devices and internet connectivity to allow them to learn at home during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The devices were provided by the Department of Education as part of a program to facilitate home learning for 100 percent of schoolchildren in Maine for whom there was a reported need.

RSU 22 Technical Director Nate Savage said 52 of the chromebooks were for Weatherbee School, with the other five for Smith School. The tablets were for Wagner School, and the MiFi WiFi hotspots were for the entire district.

(Please turn to page 7)

RSU Board, administrators say 'thanks' to staff

A team of RSU 22 administrators and School Board members boarded 16 school buses on May 7 to deliver thank-you packages to the homes of 400-plus teachers and staff members throughout central and eastern Maine in celebration of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

Most of the bus routes were in the Hampden-Winterport-Bangor area, but some of the deliveries were to homes as far away as Waterville, Alton, and Lamoine.

The deliveries included purple RSU 22 t-shirts that were screenprinted by Brandywine Graphics in Hampden and invitations to a district-wide tailgate celebration to be held in the Hampden Academy parking lot when schools are allowed to reopen and people can get together without masks.

The t-shirts and invitations were



Wellness Director Brittany Layman (left) and Reeds Brook Principal Sue Thibedeau were among the RSU 22 administrators who made "thank you" deliveries to teachers and staff on May 7.



Board member Mary Anne Royal (above) and School Board Chair Heath Miller also joined the delivery crew.

delivered by Superintendent Rick Lyons; Regan Nickels, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations; building principals Bill Tracy, Susan Thibedeau, Don Roux, Jen Cyr, and Kristin Briggs; Nick Raymond, Assistant Principal at HA; Curriculum Director Mary Giard; Wellness Director Brittany Layman;

Technology Director Nate Savage; School Nutrition Director Kathy Kittridge, Athletic Director Fred Lower, and Mary Ellen Seymour, Assistant Director, Special Services.

School Board Chair Heath Miller and board member Mary Anne Royal were also part of the delivery crew.

(Please turn to page 2)

Rick Lyons to retire June 30 after 28 years as RSU 22 superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

Starting July 1, he will serve as part-time Superintendent in Medway and part-time Assistant Superintendent in Patten (RSU 89). The two jobs combined will require about 2½ days a week.

Mr. Lyons says he also expects to present school board workshops for the Maine School Management Association, which will cover boardsmanship, school laws, strategic planning, school board roles and responsibilities, and related topics.

* * *

Moving forward, Mr. Lyons says the biggest and most immediate challenge facing the district is the COVID-19 pandemic and how to reopen the schools this fall, assuming the state relaxes the current restrictions to allow that to happen.

“Other than that, we face the same challenges that school districts have historically faced—hiring and retaining good people, maintaining our facilities, and preparing our annual budgets,” he says.

In the next 2-3 years, Mr. Lyons sees school funding at the state level as a major issue.

“I’ve already informed the RSU 22 Board that I think we will see a curtailment of school funding by the Legislature this school year,” he said. “I don’t see how the revenue flow can support the biennium budget, which currently allocates about \$121 million statewide for public education. I would encourage the Board to start planning right now for a funding curtailment and take the appropriate steps.”

Mr. Lyons says recruiting and retaining good people—teachers, administrators, and support staff—has been a constant challenge over the years, and he thinks RSU 22 has done a very good job in this area.

“On an annual basis, we have to replace 7 to 8 percent of our teaching staff each year,” he says. “It’s important that we hire good people, and that we figure out how to support good people so we can retain them.”

Mr. Lyons says RSU 22 enrollment looks pretty solid, despite a projected drop of about 100 students over the next 10 years.

“I would encourage the district to try to increase the number of

tuition students at Hampden Academy from districts that don’t have high schools,” he says. “We currently have about 42 tuition students at HA. Ten years ago we had zero.”

Another priority for RSU 22 is to stimulate the resurgence of the RSU 22 Education Foundation—the tax exempt 501c(3) arm of the district.

He says one of the primary responsibilities of the new assistant superintendent, Tina Boone, will be to work with the governing board of the foundation so they can have a greater partnership with the RSU 22 Board of Directors.

* * *

School construction presented both a challenge and an opportunity for SAD 22 in 2005, as Hampden Academy was finally put on the state school construction list after a series of unsuccessful applications to get Hampden Academy on the state school construction list.

With about 25 percent of its students in portable classrooms, HA made the list, but was near the bottom for funding at No. 17.

Only the top 14 projects were funded, so SAD 22 worked with Hampden-area legislators and the State Board of Education to increase the debt service level for school construction. The Legislature wound up putting more money into debt service, and the new Hampden Academy was approved for funding.

At that point, the question became where to build it.

“The district owned property contiguous to the Weatherbee School, but it was landlocked,” Mr. Lyons said. “We were able to get the state to approve an access road and the four-way intersection the passage-way to the new building.”

Mr. Lyons said Gov. Baldacci’s reorganization plan in 2008 would have presented the district with a major challenge, except that SAD 22 was exempt.

“We were very fortunate in that we were one of only five districts in Maine that had been designated as high-performing and high-efficiency districts,” he said. “As a result, we didn’t have to come up with a plan to consolidate with other districts.”

* * *



Superintendent Rick Lyons congratulates Reeds Brook students when Reeds Brook was named a Blue Ribbon School in 2015.

Mr. Lyons says he’s been very fortunate to be surrounded by good people in SAD/RSU 22, including Emil Genest, who served as his assistant superintendent for 24½ years—from April 1993 until his retirement in November 2017—and David Greenier, long-time assistant principal at Hampden Academy.

Five weeks after Mr. Lyons arrived in 1992, the assistant superintendent, Alvah Brooks, had a heart attack and was unable to return to work.

“David Greenier helped me out tremendously that first year, and then we hired Emil,” Mr. Lyons said. “Now, David oversees the physical facilities in RSU 22 in conjunction with Mrs. Nickels.”

Mr. Lyons said RSU 22 has had a number of very talented teachers who had lengthy careers in the district.

“A good example would be Kristin Leithiser, English teacher at Hampden Academy who is retiring this year after 35 years,” he said. “We’ve had a lot of Kristin Leithisers over the years, such as Dick Balentine, biology teacher and cross country coach at HA for 41 years.

Mr. Lyons says RSU 22 has also been fortunate in the continuity of district leadership over the years.

“Ralph Thompson was Board

chair for the first 10 or 11 years, followed by Tim Pease, Kelly Bickmore, Niles Parker and Karen Hawkes,” he said. “Now, Heath Miller has taken over, but only five Board chairs in 28 years is quite remarkable.”

* * *

Mr. Lyons says the job of the superintendent has changed significantly over the years, primarily due to mandates enacted by the state and federal governments with respect to management of people and facilities.

In many cases, these mandates have been beneficial, in that they have focused on ensuring excellence in teaching and learning.

“It’s important to make sure that our children are taught well and have favorable outcomes,” he said.

* * *

In addition to working part-time, Mr. Lyons says he plans to keep running marathons, probably one each year.

“Marathon running is one of the ways that I’m able to put the demands of the job in perspective,” he says. He’s been a marathon runner for 30 years, including 17 consecutive Boston Marathons in a row from 1998 to 2014. He ran the Montreal Marathon in September.

Mr. Lyons recently built his retirement home on Portage Lake in Aroostook County. “That’s done so now I am just doing a little bit of work outside,” he says.

He and his wife Patricia have been married for 42 years. Patricia, who taught at McGraw School for 19 years, retired in 2018.

They have two children, Matthew and Megan, and three granddaughters, Oakley, 15 months, Ella 11 months, and Callie 3 months.

Matthew lives in Hampden with his wife, Laurie, who teaches in RSU 34 (Old Town), and one daughter. Megan lives in Turner with two daughters and a husband who is a merchant marine.

Mr. Lyons wants to express the most sincere thank you to citizens of Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport and Frankfort for the privilege of serving the communities and the thousands of citizens during his tenure

RSU Board, administrators say ‘thanks’ with deliveries to staff

(Continued from page 1)

The idea for the teacher and staff appreciation deliveries came from the School Board’s Community Relations Committee.

School Board member Les French said the committee wanted to make sure

that RSU 22 employees were recognized during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, the first week in May.

“Normally, the PTOs take the lead on this, but we felt that with the emphasis on social distancing, we felt that the Board could take the lead and work with the admin-

istration to help make this happen,” he said. “We wanted the teachers to know that the School Board and administration understand what they’re going through—and that we appreciate all that they’re doing.”

Mr. French said the deliveries were organized by Regan Nickels, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.

“She took the bull by the horns,” he said. “The entire board was supportive but she took the lead and reached out to community partners.”

Mrs. Nickels said she wanted to thank Snowman Printing and specifically Rich Armstrong and Brandywine Graphics for their help on the project.

“Rich did an incredible job designing the tailgate invitations, and the 400 t-shirts were printed in just three days,” she said. “We couldn’t have done this without the support of our willing business partners.”

She added that the McGraw PTO, the Weatherbee PTO, the Smith School PIE, and the Wagner Pride Pack have all pledged substantial monetary donations to cover the costs of the staff t-shirts.

The 16 buses left Hampden about 10 a.m. Some buses made up to 30 deliveries within the district in about two hours; other buses with longer routes returned to Hampden as late as 2 p.m.

Mr. Miller said the bus drivers did an outstanding job.

“They were excellent,” he said. “They knew where many of the teachers lived. If it hadn’t been for them, we would have been on the road for four hours instead of two.”

He said the response from teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

“They appreciated being recognized,” Mr. Miller said. “They were all a little bit surprised, and they appreciated the gesture.”



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24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

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

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Curriculum Office Update

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

Federal funds to support RSU 22 students and staff for 2020-2021

RSU 22 receives federal funds that bolster our district educational programs and professional development. Two of our schools receive Title I money. The funding formula for Title I programming is based on socioeconomic indicators, student achievement and need. In RSU 22, that money will be allocated for literacy teachers' positions at Smith, an after-school

program at Samuel Wagner School, and a part time math tutor at Wagner school.

We also receive Title IIA funds that are dedicated to educator professional development. Funds will support projects in technology, teacher leadership initiatives, National Board certification work, curriculum and assessment work, diversity and social emotional

initiatives.

We are the recipients of a third federal grant, Title IV, as well. The funds will be dedicated to technology, student health and well-being and other identified needs for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please direct any questions or comments to Mary Giard at mgiard@rsu22.us.



Mary Giard

Curriculum News

Content area curriculum committees have convened to determine the standards and skills students met during this 2019-2020 school year. Groups discussed student learning gaps and made some initial reentry plans for the 2020-2021 school year.

Maine Department of Education has applauded great teachers all across the state. Two RSU 22 teachers were identified. Hannah Boss is a kindergarten teacher at Leroy Smith

School and Heidi Corliss is a music teacher at Hampden Academy. Hats off to them!

Another RSU 22 teacher, Hillary Hoyt, who teaches third grade at the Leroy Smith School, created a learning video for Maine Public Television. Other Maine teachers are also making videos for students to be able to watch on television. The project, a joint effort between MPBN, Educate Maine, and the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, has been created

for students who do not have solid or reliable internet access.

Instructional coaches have been providing support to RSU 22 teachers as they have been planning remote learning activities. In addition, they have prepared and presented professional development to teachers and educational technicians.



The Wagner Kitchen school closure crew.



Malanie Moore assists with food deliveries.



The Reeds Brook Kitchen school closure crew.

RSU 22 School Nutrition News

Emergency School Closure Meal Service- Over 100,000 Meals Served!

RSU 22 School Nutrition staff, along with many ed techs, custodians, school bus drivers, staff and community volunteers have been producing, assembling and delivering meals to students homes on the school buses since mid March.

Meals, which include breakfast and lunches for 7 days, have been delivered weekly with the final delivery being on Wednesday June 10. Meals are prepared and packaged following strict food safety and sanitation procedures including wearing masks and gloves during all handling processes. By the end of May our team reached over 100,000 meals being provided to our RSU 22 community!

We do miss our students!

Free Summer Meals for Kids and Teens - Pick up

The RSU 22 Leroy H. Smith School is participating in the Summer Meals Program. There are no income requirements or registration. Anyone age 18 or younger may receive a healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch at no charge. We will be featuring some veggies from our school gardens as well as a variety of students favorites! Summer meal pick up will begin the week of June 15. Pick up days will be Mondays and Thursdays 11am-noon. You will receive multiple days of meals. Parents or Guardians must pick up the meals for their household. Details will be sent out and posted on the school nutrition website and Facebook pages.

Important Pandemic EBT Benefits

If you qualify for free and reduced meals you may be eligible to receive some funds through the Pandemic-EBT Benefits. Contact DHHS at 1-855-797-4357 to find out if you qualify. The deadline is June 30.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications

Get a jump start on free and reduced lunch applications. Fill out the confidential online application at the RSU 22 website under resources, school nutrition. Qualifying applications help both the household financially and assist with school funding.

School Food Service Bills/Donations

School year bills are emailed



The Hampden Academy Kitchen school closure crew.



Meals ready to load onto buses for delivery to RSU 22 communities.

regularly. Please make sure we have your current email. We will be sending out final school year bills to those who haven't paid in June. If you are interested in making a donation to help other families who are struggling let us know checks can be payable to RSU 22 School Food Service or you can transfer funds from your students accounts.

Looking Ahead

It has been quite an experience dealing with the constantly changing regulations, procedures and needs since the emergency school closure. As we move forward into the summer and fall, we anticipate providing more variety including fresh fruits and vegetables from our gardens and local farmers. We don't yet know what the school year will hold but assure you that we are committed to providing nutritious and safely prepared foods to enhance your students' learning experiences.

HAMPDEN ACADEMY

Bill Tracy, Principal
862-3791



Hampden Academy Broncos
@HABroncos

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Community
Create a Page

Hampden Academy Broncos
May 11 at 7:38 AM · 🌐

2020 Graduate: Matt Y.

These past four years have been a period of growth for not just me, but everyone who I've come to know and be thankful for. Going into highschool I never really considered myself to be outgoing, and the thought of performing in front of an audience was simply incomprehensible. But I wanted something different from middle school, and so I came to be a part of the HA Drama club. During my junior year I also attended UTC for Culinary Arts, which blossomed ... See More

132 likes · 17 Comments · 1 Share

Most Relevant

Beverly Smith You are an outstanding young man Matt! I loved watching you grow and am been honored to know you. I mean, you taught me how to cut an avocado! Good luck to you and make sure you keep in touch. Grateful that Grayson has such a wonderful friend. Congratulations!
Like · Reply · 2d · Edited

Russ Flewelling Congrats Matt, happy to see and hear you are doing well. Best of luck on your future endeavors. You will do great!
Like · Reply · 3d

2020 grads celebrate on Facebook, Instagram

"I wanted to give the students a voice so that they could celebrate their graduation year, and so other people could celebrate as well."

That's how Bill Tracy, Principal at Hampden Academy, described his decision to offer all HA seniors an opportunity to create a farewell message that he would post on the HA Facebook and Instagram pages.

As of June 1, 64 members of the Class of 2020—almost one-third of this year's graduates—had sent in material to be posted.

"I wish we had more graduates involved," he said. "I'll probably send out another announcement."

The original email, which was sent to all seniors and their parents, said each senior could share "a 59-second-or-less video, pictures, and a favorite memory, what HA has meant to them, important

events, accomplishments, and/or a message to a staff member."

Mr. Tracy said new submissions, which should be sent to him at btracy@rsu22.us, would be reviewed and accepted throughout the summer.

"I would love to see 100% participation," he said. "Even if you don't like to be in front of the screen, you can just send me what you'd like to say, and I can pull a Power-School picture or just share the information."

Mr. Tracy noted that many graduates used the posts to say thank you to teachers or other staff members who helped them during their years in school. In addition, a number of posts included comments by staff members about the students' attitudes and contributions to the learning environment at HA. A sample of the Facebook posts can be seen on this page.

Hampden Academy Broncos
May 10 at 10:44 PM · 🌐

2020 Graduate: Sydney H.

There are countless memories and opportunities I have been given during my time at Hampden Academy, and I will always be grateful for during my incredible four years. Being able to play the two sports I love, soccer and basketball, since I was little has been a blessing along side such great individuals. I will cherish the fun times we had cheering on other sports, homecoming week, being a three time Northern Maine Champion for basketball, pep rally... See More

176 likes · 31 Comments · 5 Shares

Most Relevant

Marcey Nadeau McIntyre Congratulations Sydney!! So happy for you 🥰❤️
Like · Reply · 3d

Tracey Frost Tolman Congratulations, We have had alot of fun times. Watched you grow into a beautiful young woman. Proud of your achievements. Mama T.
Like · Reply · 1d

Hampden Academy Broncos
May 14 at 12:25 PM · 🌐

2020 Graduate: Grace R.

There aren't enough words to describe my 4 years at Hampden Academy. There were a lot of ups and some downs, but I would do it all over again. I spent my time out on the turf, cheering at football games and playing softball, in the classroom, learning that Asia is in fact a continent and not a country, and in the hallways, laughing with friends and waving at teachers. There were a lot of late nights and early mornings, but I had my friends, family, and... See More

110 likes · 13 Comments · 3 Shares

Most Relevant

Leslie Snow Grace I am so lucky to have you for a niece ❤️. You and Madison are beautiful young women that will make a mark on society for the better. I too am very sad that I can't see you graduate 🥲. Visit soon Lucy and Evie miss you! Love you.
Like · Reply · 4w

1 Reply

Robin Wheaton Gagner Beautifully written, Gracie I am so very proud of you. You will move mountains ❤️❤️❤️
Like · Reply · 4w

HAMPDEN ACADEMY CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION SPEAKERS



ANNA BALDWIN will deliver the valedictory address for the Hampden Academy Class of 2020. Anna is the daughter of Brita Reisetter and James Baldwin. While at Hampden Academy, Anna has participated in Soccer, Alpine Ski, and Tennis. Her senior year she was both a soccer and ski captain. Also as a senior, she was ranked #1 in the State of Maine for Women's Alpine Skiing. Anna is also involved in the music department through chorus and show choir; she participated in both for all four years of high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. She also is involved in Spanish Club, collecting bottles for Hug it Forward and making piñatas after school. When not in class, Anna enjoys spending time outside hiking, reading, or sitting by a campfire. Although she is currently undecided on where she wants to attend college, she intends to major in either biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, or biochemistry.



DENALI EYLES, daughter of Jessica and Benson Eyles of Hampden, will deliver the salutatory address for the Hampden Academy Class of 2020. While at Hampden Academy, Denali has been a member of the Wind Ensemble, Pep Band, Key Club, Leadership Club, Math Team, Drama Club, Hampden Area Theatre Troupe, National Honor Society, HOBY Leadership Academy, and Writing Center. Additionally, she has participated in numerous events at Hampden Academy, such as the annual talent show, Poetry Out Loud contest, and poetry slam. In 2019, Denali received the Dartmouth Book Award for her outstanding academic and leadership qualities. Outside of school, Denali dedicates much of her time to volunteering, babysitting, tutoring, and working at the local Hannaford Supermarket. In her free time, Denali enjoys playing the piano and guitar, singing, writing stories and poems, and spending time with her friends and family. Next year, Denali will attend Husson University, where she will study pharmaceutical sciences.



ABBY LYONS, daughter of Jason and Christine Lyons, is the Honor Essayist for the Hampden Academy Class of 2020. While at Hampden Academy, Abby has participated in National Honor Society, Spanish Club, math team, and Leadership Club. Abby has received twelve varsity letters throughout her high school career, participating in field hockey, indoor track, outdoor track, and softball. She volunteers in her church community and tutors fellow students. Next year, Abby will be attending either Saint Anselm College or the University of Maine to pursue a degree in Social Work.



MPA PRINCIPAL'S AWARD—Congratulations to Anna Baldwin, recipient of the 2020 MPA Principal's Award at Hampden Academy. Anna was selected by HA Principal Bill Tracy to celebrate her exemplary efforts in the classroom, on the playing field (and ski slopes) and in the overall HA community. Anna, we're proud to have you as part of our Hampden Academy family!



Leadership class 'Acts of Kindness'

Mr. Nadeau challenged his Hampden Academy Leadership class students to do "Acts of Kindness" as an alternative for some assignments.

- Bryce DeRosby has been picking up trash while walking his dog. He has also been disinfecting areas at the Edyth Dyer Library.
- Adrien Sholes and his family have been making masks to donate to area hospitals.
- Sairah Damboise and her family have been shopping and donating needed goods to the

local food cupboard.

- Kolby Moore has been making masks for his mom and others. He also has been helping his grandparents fix up their house.

- Simon Boone works at the Waldo County Wood Shed that harvests wood for people in need to heat their homes. He has also helped clean up debris in his neighbor's yards.

KEEP BEING AWESOME!
Thank you Mr. Nadeau for providing this leadership opportunity!



4 HA students receive Maine History Day awards

Congratulations to four Hampden Academy students who received awards in three categories at the Maine History Day Competition and have qualified for the NATIONAL History Day Competition in June!!!

History teacher Heidi Harris worked with her students to choose topics and create projects for the competition. Awesome work by all who submitted and by Mrs. Harris for creating an

environment to study history and its impacts!

The students and their awards were:

- Amelia Plant and Kahlan Curtis—1st Place, Senior Group Exhibit: "Chernobyl: The Disaster that Revolutionized the Understanding of Nuclear Power."
- Quincy Rock—2nd Place, Individual Paper: "The Piracy Reformation caused by the Barbary Wars."

- Ellie Graham—2nd Place, Individual Exhibit: "Colin Pitchfork: The First Use of Genetic Testing to Convict a Killer."

**Congratulations,
Class of 2020!**

Technology teachers, student use 3D printers to make face shields, masks

Two teachers and one student from the Technology Education Department at Hampden Academy put the school's 3D printers to use making face shields and facemask backs for medical professionals and others who need them.

The project began when technology student Noah Dancoes sent an email to instructional leader Todd Moore asking if he could use one of the 3D printers to print face shields. He said his father, Thomas Dancoes, an emergency medicine specialist at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bangor, needed facemasks for his practice and the people he works with.

Mr. Moore told Noah he could take one of the printers home, and he supplied the materials that Noah needed for the face shields.

Noah met Mr. Moore at school the next morning. The shield that he wanted to print was fairly large, so he took the largest printer home with a couple rolls of filament and started printing the shields.

Inspired by Noah's example, Mr. Moore took three of the smaller 3D printers to his home, went on line and found a different model shield, and started printing those. When he told technology teacher Charlie Huff what he was doing, Mr. Huff came in, got three printers from his room, and started printing masks.

"Charlie, Noah, and I wound up with a total of seven 3D printers



HA Technology teachers and a student used 3D printers to make face shield frames and mask backs.

printing face shields," he said. "We gave them away to medical professionals, dentists offices, and other people who reached out to us."

For the face shields, the 3D printers were used to print the framework and buttons; the actual shields were made from flexible

plastic film that was attached to the frames.

The printers were also used to print mask backs—flexible plastic strips which allow a face mask's elastic loops to be connected behind a person's head instead of over the ears.



Dr. Leslie Matthews with face shield.

As of mid-May, the HA Technology crew had printed and given away 243 face shields and 325 mask backs.

Mr. Moore said about 50 shields and mask backs were given to the Hampden Public Safety Dept.

Mr. Moore and Noah were interviewed on WABI-TV about the face shield project. Shortly after the interview was on the air, he got a call from Laura Matthews at Reeds Brook Middle School, who wanted to send a dozen shields to her daughter Leslie, a doctor in North Carolina, who said thanks by sending a photo of herself wearing one of the shields.

Ben Johnson helps College Board develop new format, training materials for AP Latin test

With most schools closed and student working from home, the College Board had to develop a new format and new training materials for Advanced Placement tests this year.

The tests had to be administered digitally, rather than in person, and they had to be open-book tests because College Board had no way to monitor whether test-takers were using outside resources or not.

Ben Johnson, Latin teacher at Hampden Academy, played a key role in this process as a member of the AP Latin Development Committee, a group that includes three high school Latin teachers and three college professors.

"We had take the AP Latin test and boil it down to a 45-minute test that kids could do at home while having access to all their materials," he said. "We had to make sure that the exam tested things that students couldn't just look up in a book. We had to develop questions that required students to process information, rather than just present



Screen shot of Ben Johnson presenting an AP Latin on-line lesson.

the information itself."

Because teachers and students had limited access to each other, the College Board also decided to provide on-line lessons via YouTube to help students prepare for the AP exams.

Mr. Johnson was invited to serve

as one of two hosts for the AP Latin lessons, which were livestreamed on YouTube every weekday from 6 to 6:45 p.m. for eight weeks, from March 25 to May 8, including April vacation.

The second host was Jennie Luongo, a Latin teacher from Austin, TX.

Mr. Johnson said livestreaming the review lessons five days a week for eight weeks was "a little exhausting."

"We produced 33 live videos reviewing all of the AP Latin content and providing practice questions for all AP Latin students," he said. "Several thousand students watch them; the most-watched video had more than 17,000 views."

After the AP Latin test was given to students in mid-May, Mr. Johnson and the other Development Committee members had to score the results.

"This year, we scored the test digitally," he said. "Normally, we would go to a convention center and sit down as a group and score the different exams."

Mr. Johnson noted that he and another Hampden Academy teacher, Michele Metzler, who helped score the College Board AP American History exam, served as a table leader in charge of 5-6 people and making sure that they were all on the same page in terms of evaluating student responses.

HA Music Dept. finds ways for students to make music via distance learning

By Heidi Corliss
Music Teacher
Hampden Academy

When Maine school districts began to go to distance learning, music teachers started to look for ways that would allow students to continue to make music.

One of our music colleagues in the state proposed an idea on the Maine Music Educators' Association Facebook page. He was wondering if anyone was interested in collaborating to do a virtual choir in the state.

At the time, most of us did not have the technological skills or the proper software to do this on our own. With copyright issues, music that we could legally use would need to be found. This issue was solved when we learned that Christian

Giddings, a former student teacher in RSU 22 who teaches at Kents Hill HS, had recently commissioned a piece for a festival for which he was the guest conductor. The piece was composed by a Maine composer with lyrics by a Maine poet. With their permission, learning tracks were recorded and, along with the music, were electronically distributed to interested choir members.

I decided this would be a great project for the Hampden Academy Chamber Singers to work on. The students practiced on their own, using the learning tracks and written music. They recorded themselves, submitted the recordings to me for comment, and then did their own self-assessments. They set goals to improve and practiced more before finally submitting a video of themselves singing to the state address to be combined

and edited. We will anxiously await the result!

* * *

At the same time, our All-State Music students are going through a similar process working on making videos to submit for virtual ensembles including SATB choir, SSAA choir, orchestra, and band.

Four Hampden Academy students have submitted electronic auditions for All-National Ensembles which are scheduled to be held in Orlando, FL in November. They had to learn a required piece, record themselves, and they must have been accepted to this year's Maine All-State Ensembles. They will receive results in late summer.

The four students who have submitted materials are junior David Kelley and sophomores Morgan Ramsay, Jonathan Fenders, and James Mahoney.



MUSIC THEORY STUDENTS PERFORM— Students in Music Theory performed songs of their choice on piano for their last few assignments. Above is a screen shot of Jerdon Kiesman playing "Don't be Shy" by Cat Stevens. Jerdon will be studying Music Education at the University of Maine this fall. He's been a great student leader with the HA Pep Band and a featured soloist with the various Jazz groups.

HA senior receives numerous honors for 2019-20 basketball season

Hampden Academy senior Bryce Lausier was far and away the most honored high school basketball player in Maine for the 2019-20 season.

His honors include:

- Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year.
- 2020 Mr. Maine Basketball selection by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches.
- Bangor Daily News All-Maine Schoolboy Basketball First Team.
- Portland Press Herald Varsity Maine Player of the Year and repeat selection for the Varsity Maine All-State Boys Basketball Team.
- Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class A North Player of the Year.
- Outstanding Player-Sportsman of the Class A North Regional Championship.

Bryce averaged 27.7 points per game while leading the Broncos to a 17-1 regular season record and the No. 1 spot in Class A North during the 2019-20 season.

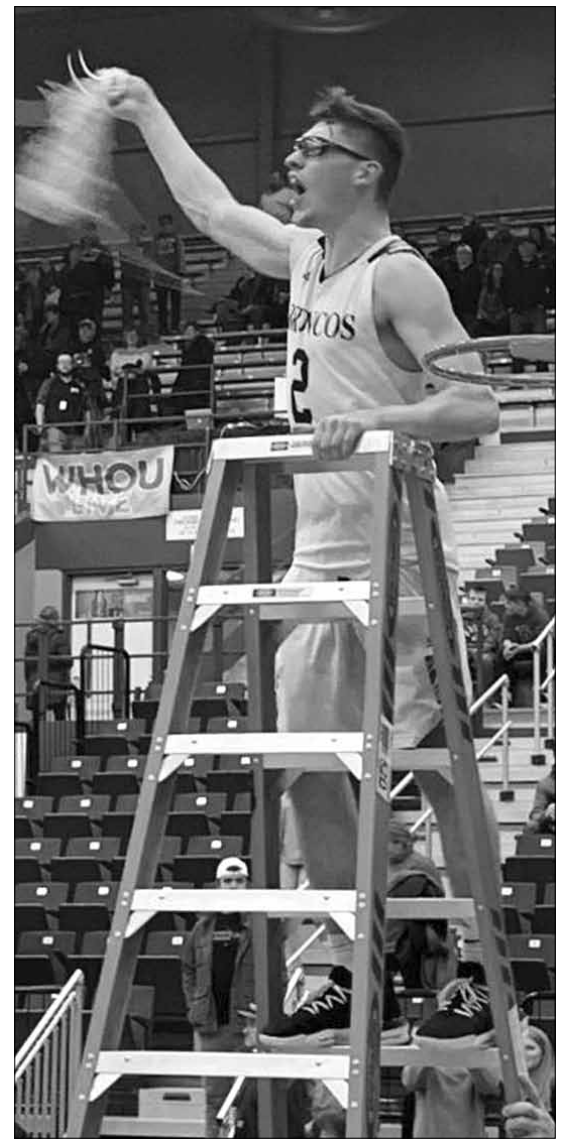
He also averaged seven rebounds and five assists per game while leading his team to the state championship.

Ernie Clark, staff writer for the Bangor Daily News, says it was Bryce's "clutch play during four straight come-from-behind tournament victories that landed him atop the BDN's all-state first team.

Clark reported that the 6'4" Bronco guard "averaged nearly 15 points in the second half of tourney games, helping the Broncos erase a late 10-point deficit in the North final against Cony of Augusta and wipe out an 11-point deficit in the third quarter of the state title victory over York."

Bryce has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH, next winter.

Bryce also served as president of his class at Hampden Academy and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.



Bryce Lausier waves the net in triumph after HA won the Northern Maine Regional basketball championship at the Augusta Civic Center in February.

Hampden Academy retirements

Kristin Leithiser, English teacher, 35 years of service

Kristin Leithiser, who has taught English at Hampden Academy for 35 years, will retire at the end of the school year.

She began her career at Hampden Academy as a student teacher under the department head, G. Everett McCutcheon. When Mr. McCutcheon was taken ill, Mrs. Leithiser was asked to stay on until the end of the year and was hired the following year to teach English and Social Studies.



During most of her career, she has taught English full-time.

Mrs. Leithiser had the privilege of working with many extraordinary people at Hampden Academy, but she said "perhaps the very dearest was the inimitable David Greenier."

Mrs. Leithiser grew up in Watertown, CT, won a scholarship to Westover School in Middlebury, CT, and graduated from Westover in 1976. She attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and Southern Connecticut State University and graduated from the University of Maine.

Before teaching, she worked as a camp counselor, waitress/hostess, restaurant cook, and paralegal. Eventually, she followed her mother's footsteps and went into teaching. She says her daughter Gretchen (HA 2006) also seems to be following the maternal path as she has been a camp counselor and is now working with the River Runners program in Old Town.

Mrs. Leithiser says her retirement plans include writing the great American novel, getting in perfect shape, cleaning every closet in her house, and organizing and color-coding the world.

"After that, who knows," she says. "One sure thing is that there will be a beach and plenty of books involved."

Cindy Schroder, 24 years of service

Cindy Schroder, who has been employed as a social worker for the past 41 years, will be retiring at the end of the school year. She has been employed at Hampden Academy since the fall of 2006.

Originally from Indiana, Mrs. Schroder received her B.S. degree in Community Service from Bemidji State University in Minnesota, where he met her husband Tim. They have been married for 45 years.



After having her daughter and son, she went back to school at Indiana University and completed her Master's degree in Social Work. She then went on to receive her certification as a licensed clinical social worker.

She has worked in a variety of mental health settings, including a shelter for domestic

violence, child protective services, crisis line, impatient psychiatric, outpatient therapy, clinical director of a case management agency for children, and counseling in schools.

Mrs. Schroder and her husband moved to Maine in 1987 and have lived in Glenburn for the past 32 years.

Mr. Schroder retired as a school psychologist for the Belfast, Searsport, and Northport schools, but continues to do consulting work for them. He also teaches scuba diving at Maine Maritime Academy on weekends.

Mrs. Schroder says her retirement plans include spending time with grandchildren—two in New Hampshire and one (and another on the way) in Indiana—and traveling.

"We like to go to tropical places, because we scuba dive," she says, "I'm also a beach person who loves to pick up sea glass."

She also enjoys gardening, reading books, and riding with her husband on cross-country motorcycle trips.

State sends chromebooks, tablets, routers to RSU 22

(Continued from page 1)

A joint announcement by Gov. Janet Mills and Education Commissioner Pender Makin said the program was a combined effort by DOE, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, ConnectME, and business and philanthropic entities.

The announcement said the state was able to acquire almost 15,000 service contracts through three different service providers, mostly for Wi-Fi enabled Samsung Galaxy Tablets. To fulfill the state's device-only needs, the DOE was able to order 7,450 chromebooks.

"The suspension of classroom-based instruction because of the Pandemic has brought on new challenges, and we should all be grateful for how Maine's educators have adapted to provide a quality education to our children," said Governor Mills. "It is our responsibility to ensure that Maine's teachers, and all students, have the tools they need to stay connected during these unprecedented times. These new connections will allow Maine students to do just that and stay engaged remotely with their school no matter where they live."

Jennifer Cyr, principal at Weatherbee School, said DOE sent schools a survey on March 25 asking about internet availability for students and student access to devices.

She said the school had canceled Maine Day (Friday, March 13), and she emailed staff that morning, saying teachers needed to ask all of their students by end of day whether they had a computer or other device at home, and whether they had internet access.

"Thank goodness we did that," she said. "We determined that we needed to make plans immediately for all of our devices in the event we had to distribute them, and by Monday, school was out and student's weren't there."

Mrs. Cyr said the school told parents that they could borrow devices, but the bigger challenge was what if students didn't have an internet connection?

"We didn't have an answer to that," she said. "We didn't have the resources."

She said the chromebooks were paired with hotspots that the state supplied and the district purchased to meet the needs of families that needed both a device and a way to connect to the internet.

"At this point, all Weatherbee students are capable of working online," Mrs. Cyr said.

Wagner finds ways to celebrate 8th grade class of 2020

By the Staff of
Wagner Middle School

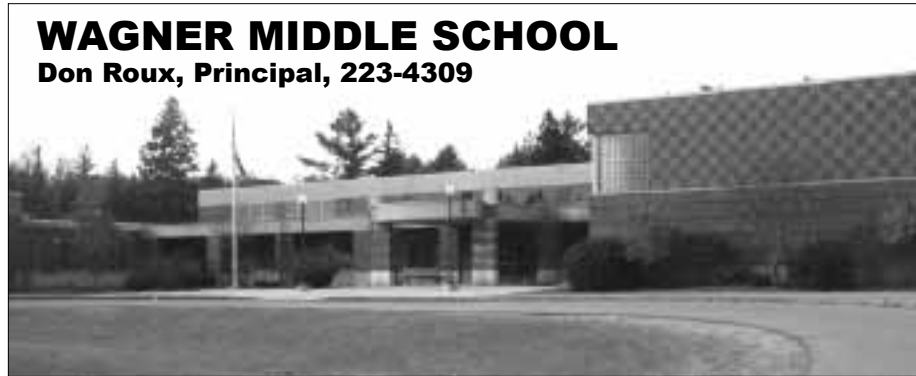
After much deliberation and tracking of societal expectations at this unprecedented time in history, the Wagner staff developed plans to celebrate Wagner's amazing 8th Grade Class of 2020.

Though we were unable to continue with the traditions Wagner has had in place since its inaugural year in 1992-93, the same traditions many of your parents experienced during your time as students at Wagner (!), we tried to keep as many of those traditions as possible, in addition to adding what we thought would be a fun celebratory event.

First of all, we pre-recorded a Virtual Recognition Ceremony

modeled after our traditional Recognition Ceremony. Staff members worked behind the scenes to have this up and running for your enjoyment on Friday, June 5. There were speeches and awards, and all students' names were read aloud with accompanying pictures.

In addition, Wagner Middle School hosted an "8th Grade Parade!" on Thursday, June 4, from 5:to 6 p.m. Every eighth-grader was invited to bring one car (filled safely with as many people as they wanted to bring). We encouraged everyone to dress up and decorate their cars! The staff of Wagner was spaced around the circle with signs to encourage and express our true fondness for these wonderful



young people ... just like a real parade!

Due to the nature of the times, this event was held for Wagner staff and eighth-grade families only, as a special, unique in-person celebration.

We would like to specifically recognize some of our eighth graders and their accomplishments:

- Jordan Hardy, Payton Stetson, Ava Downs, and Paxton Stetson had GPAs that placed them

in the Top 4 of the class. Each of them spoke a few words during the ceremony on June 5.

• Olivia Chase was selected as the Class Marshal. Though Olivia was not be able to "march" her class into the gym, we had something special planned for the virtual ceremony.

More awards and recognitions were announced during the ceremony.



WAGNER STUDENT PLAYS TAPS—Skylar DaSilva (center), a 7th grader at Wagner Middle School, played taps for at Memorial Day ceremonies at Frankfort and Winterport on Monday, May 25. Above, Skylar was accompanied at the Winterport ceremonies by Lt. Colonel Dickinson of Winterport (left) and Reginald Rancourt (holding the flag) of Winterport.

Wagner 7th grader learns TAPS via Zoom; plays on Memorial Day

As RSU 22 shifted to remote learning, a seventh grade student from Wagner Middle School used the opportunity to help serve her community.

Skylar DaSilva, a trumpet player and member of BSA worked with Dana Ross (Wagner Music Director) during her weekly remote trumpet lesson to add TAPS to her lesson. Skylar is a member of BSA Troop 234 of Winterport.

All Wagner band students had an opportunity to have a weekly 30 minute instrument lesson on Zoom over the last 8 weeks.

Skylar used hers not only to improve her playing skills, but to lend her talents to the Memorial Day ceremonies in both Frankfort and Winterport.

The Frankfort ceremony was held from 8 to 9 a.m. on Memorial Day, May 25. The ceremony in Winterport was held at noon. Skylar played TAPS.

6th grade ELA teacher helps students make transition to remote learning; finds on-line teaching 'really good for one-on-one interaction'

Like all the other teachers in RSU 22, Lauren Lumm, who teaches 6th grade English language arts at Wagner Middle School, has made the transition to remote learning.

She says her students have adjusted well, and although she'd rather have them back in their classrooms, she says teaching online does have some advantages.

"Virtual learning is really good for one-on-one interaction and students working at their own pace," Mrs. Lumm says. She's taken that idea a step further, with writing instruction completely individualized.

"I basically told students they can write on whatever topic they want, in whatever genre they want," she said. "I said they should spend about 30 minutes a day on their writing, but they can do an hour every other day—whatever works for them."

She says her students are enjoying the fact that they can choose their own writing assignments.

"What's really great is that I have kids writing fiction, I have kids writing essays, and I have a kid writing a script for a YouTube video, because that was what it took to get him interested," she says. "I also have kids drawing graphic novels and picture books."

Mrs. Lumm uses Google Calendar to schedule individual appointments with students and Google Hangouts to meet with them. "I open up blocks of time, and each kid signs up for two 10-minute meetings each week. I could have made a schedule for them, but this way the kids take ownership. It feels grown-up to them, making an appointment."

At the end of her conferences with the kids, Mrs. Lumm leaves them with an individualized next step, which she types right on to their document. "I have some



Lauren Lumm's remote learning students share photos of them reading to someone else.

students who are just beginning to recognize the difference between storytelling and summary, while other kids are doing sophisticated revision work, like weaving character development into their dialogue."

While much of the instruction is one-on-one, Mrs. Lumm says she's tried to keep at least some things in her virtual classroom similar to her regular English language arts classes at Wagner.

"Every morning, we start by reading a poem, and the kids talk about it," she says. "It was nice to get the morning poem to the kids virtually in the beginning. Some kids arrive early to chat with their friends, and around 9:55 they start counting down to 10:00, when I start the poetry reading by playing the same song I used in the classroom. I think doing that really helped a lot of kids—they found the ritual comforting."

Mrs. Lumm says she has also continued her practice of celebrating the end of the week by occasionally scheduling special activities on Fridays.

"One week we had Fancy Friday, when the kids got all dressed up,"

she said. "A week or two later, we had Fandom Friday, where everyone brought memorabilia. We were able to see everything from dragon mythology to anime characters to one student's collection of Carl Sagan books. For the last day of school, we're having a virtual talent show."

Mrs. Lumm says working with students individually has helped her reach all of them through remote learning, although she's still concerned about the issue of students who don't have regular access to the internet.

"I'd love to see that changed," she says.

Mrs. Lumm says remote learning has been a challenge for her, her students, and the rest of the staff at Wagner.

"One thing I want to be really clear on is that I don't see myself as doing more work or trying harder than my colleagues," she says. "We're all doing the best we can. I'm in a privileged position, having no children of my own, no real interruptions during the day. I can handle twenty 10-minute meetings in a day, but that's not feasible for everyone."



Link-22

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

June-July 2020: School District Budget Process

SCHOOL BUDGET VIRTUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, June 25, 2020 – 7:00 p.m., online via Google Meets at meet.google.com/xdo-wghm-bvu
Phone Numbers: 641-715-7071, PIN 809 881 495#

DISTRICT BUDGET REFERENDUM

Tuesday, July 14, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Skehan Recreational Center, Hampden; Newburgh Town Office, Newburgh;
Samuel L. Wagner Middle School, Winterport; Frankfort Congregational Church vestry, Frankfort

BUDGET PUBLIC INFORMATION

Available online at https://www.rsu22.us/budget_information

Open Letter to the Citizens of RSU 22

The RSU 22 Board of Directors unanimously approved the school district's FY 21 budget on June 10th following ten budget committee meetings over the winter and spring months. The RSU 22 Budget Committee presented a line item budget of \$34,281,554.48 which is a gross increase of 3.16%. The budget seeks to keep all educational programs intact and to address district goals related to high student engagement, academic achievement improvements (with a focus on mathematics) and social emotional learning needs. The budget also supports the unanimous Board approval of a one-year contract extension for RSU 22 teachers and a new three-year support staff contract, with raises of 2% and 3%, respectively. This year, the Budget Committee recommended increasing the unallocated fund balance dedication in response to the challenging economic times and to offset taxation. This year the dedication is \$550,000, resulting in a modest average local tax increase of 1.98%.

A school budget public hearing will be hosted virtually this year on Thursday June 25th at 7:00 p.m. The public hearing will replace the annual district budget meeting per Governor's Executive Order No. 56. The executive order seeks to offer a viable means to inform the public of the school budget and allow for public comment ahead of the district budget referendum vote to be held on July 14, 2020. A copy of the school budget public hearing guide and referendum ballot questions can be found on pages 10-12.

To access the school budget public hearing, please access the Google Meet link found here at meet.google.com/xdo-wghm-bvu or refer to the school district event calendar at <https://www.rsu22.us/calendar>. Facebook event posts will be issued as well. Due to the informational nature of the public hearing, voting on July 14th will occur on seven questions related to the school district

budget including a budget expenditure summary, raising revenue funds to support the budget, reserve fund dedications, adult education and career and technical education budget approvals. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hampden Skehan Recreation Center, Newburgh Town Office, Samuel L. Wagner Middle School, and the Congregational Church in Frankfort.

* * *

Planning for the FY 2021 RSU 22 school budget has been in process since January 2020. With the unexpected turn to COVID-19, RSU 22 has maintained the consistent meeting calendar for budget discussions and has re-evaluated programmatic needs considering the possibility of future schooling changes in the fall. District position requests have been re-evaluated, and the new positions the budget does propose are critical to our district goal areas: to increase mathematics achievement across our district and to ensure our students' social-emotional well being as engaged and productive learners.

The proposed budget includes requests to ensure strong response to students in the areas for which they can use support both academically and social-emotionally.

New positions include: a full time special education teacher, an additional classroom teacher and a .5 FTE Behavioral Consultant/Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) for the Leroy H. Smith School in Winterport, a .5 Building Assets/Reducing Risks (B.A.R.R. Program) Coordinator at Hampden Academy, a .5 social worker for district-wide service and two new special education educational technician positions.

Reeds Brook's library program will receive one hour of additional educational technician time each day and the budget will now support after school Homework and Technology Club advisors.

Our technology department will be

supported this summer with 4 weeks of additional support staff help for student device refresh, and instructional coaching will increase by half a day per week in the district.

All in all, the RSU 22 budget focuses heavily on supporting teachers, support staff instruction, and the supplies and resources necessary to carryout the important work of engaging students and recognizing challenges and barriers to educational success early.

* * *

Referendum questions regarding reserve funds, adult education and career and technical education (CTE) will also be on the ballot.

Regarding CTE, state subsidy funding passes directly to our regional CTE center, United Technologies Center (UTC) in Bangor. The referendum question approves the UTC operating budget for the year that the state fully funds. There is no additional CTE assessment to RSU 22 taxpayers.

For adult education, RSU 22 participates in a regional partnership with Old Town and Orono in the Riverside Adult Education Partnership. The adult education program in RSU 22 is thriving and the budget remains stable with a modest \$4,480 increase over last year.

In regard to reserve funds, transfers are recommended from the district's unallocated fund balance as the following: a Capital Reserve Fund dedication of \$200,000 for facility safety, roofing and maintenance projects; an Athletic Facility Capital Reserve Fund dedication in the amount of \$100,000 related to athletic facilities retaining wall infrastructure improvements and future projects including track and tennis court resurfacing, field renovations and proactive savings for the eventual athletic turf replacement; and a Technology Reserve Fund dedication of \$100,000 for required district accounting software replacement and potential remote schooling technology needs.

—Regan Nickels, Assistant Superintendent of Budget and Operations, RSU 22

SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

PUBLIC HEARING PART 1:

PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021

The School Board of the Regional School Unit has proposed a school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Pursuant to Order of the Governor, the budget meeting where these articles are presented has been replaced by a remote public hearing. The budget recommended by the School Board consists of the following Articles 1 through 15. Together, these articles constitute the proposed school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be presented to the voters as Question 1 at a budget referendum election scheduled for July 14, 2020.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

Proposed Expenditures by Cost Center

ARTICLE 1:	Regular Instruction	\$12,395,225.89
ARTICLE 2:	Special Education	\$6,674,187.84
ARTICLE 3:	Career and Technical Education	\$0.00
ARTICLE 4:	Other Instruction	\$1,007,772.08
ARTICLE 5:	Student and Staff Support	\$2,743,286.74
ARTICLE 6:	System Administration	\$925,019.73
ARTICLE 7:	School Administration	\$1,593,383.06
ARTICLE 8:	Transportation and Buses	\$1,438,425.45
ARTICLE 9:	Facilities Maintenance	\$3,886,620.79
ARTICLE 10:	Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$3,617,632.90
ARTICLE 11:	Regular Instruction	\$0.00

STATE SUBSIDY AND LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit appropriate the amounts set forth below for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and raise and assess the amounts set forth below as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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.....	\$16,555,153.43
Town of Newburgh	\$3,288,584.94
Town of Winterport.....	\$7,521,825.05
<u>Town of Frankfort.....</u>	<u>\$2,080,503.89</u>
Total Appropriated.....	\$29,446,067.31

Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):

Town of Hampden.....	\$5,317,409.00
Town of Newburgh	\$880,849.66
Town of Winterport.....	\$2,203,692.00
<u>Town of Frankfort</u>	<u>\$721,476.00</u>
Total Raised	\$9,123,426.66

State Mandated Explanation: The Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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.

OTHER LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 13: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$570,297.06** for the annual payments on debt service previously approved

by the Regional School Unit voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or 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.

State Mandated 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: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$3,049,659.86** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$3,049,659.86** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$3,049,659.86: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive pre-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.

State Mandated 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 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.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 15: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit authorize the School Board to expend **\$34,281,554.48** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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.

PUBLIC HEARING PART 2: REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The following school budget and other questions will be submitted to referendum on July 14, 2020:

Question 1: School Budget. Shall Regional School Unit No. 22 appropriate the sum of **\$34,281,554.48** and raise the sum of **\$12,743,383.58** for the 2020-2021 school budget? *School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.*

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 1

The Regional School Unit No. 22 school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals **\$34,281,554.48**. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of **\$12,743,383.58**, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the RSU's cost sharing formula and state law. The locally

raised amount exceeds the maximum state and local spending target by \$3,049,659.86. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

<u>Cost Center</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
Regular Instruction.....	\$12,395,225.89
Special Education.....	\$6,674,187.84
Career and Technical Education	\$0.00
Other Instruction	\$1,007,772.08
Student and Staff Support	\$2,743,286.74
System Administration.....	\$925,019.73
School Administration	\$1,593,383.06
Transportation and Buses.....	\$1,438,425.45
Facilities Maintenance	\$3,886,620.79
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$3,617,632.90
All Other Expenditures	\$0.00
Summary of Total Authorized	
School Budget Expenditures	\$34,281,554.48

Question 2: RSU Adult Ed Program. Shall the Regional School Unit be authorized to appropriate \$75,080.00 for adult education and raise \$36,000.00 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?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Question 3: Capital Reserve Fund. Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$200,000 from unallocated fund balances and/or unanticipated revenues to the RSU's previously established Capital Reserve Fund and shall the School Board be further authorized to expend up to \$200,000 from this Capital Reserve Fund to fund capital projects in the RSU including, school safety and security audit/implementation, school roofing project, sanitizing equipment, furniture (social distancing), plexiglass barriers or other safety equipment, compressor replacement at Hampden Academy, generator installation, bleacher renovation at Hampden Academy Track, window/door/flooring replacements/upgrades, district paving projects, building water filtration systems (Winterport), and vehicle fleet replacement purchase?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Question 4: Athletic Facility Reserve Fund. Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$100,000 from unallocated fund balances and/or unanticipated revenues and up to 50% of gate receipts from RSU athletic events during the 2020-2021 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?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Question 5: Technology Reserve Fund. Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$100,000 from unallocated fund balances to the previously established Technology Capital Reserve Fund and to expend these funds from said reserve fund for the purpose of district remote learning technology needs and district accounting software replacement?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Question 6: CTE Region Budget. Shall the regional career and technical education operating budget as approved by the cooperative board for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$3,105,184.26?

Question 7: CTE Region Adult Ed Budget. Shall the United Technologies Center - Maine Vocational Region 4 approve a budget for adult education in the amount of \$316,945.91 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program, and shall Regional School Unit No. 22 raise \$7,466.96 as its share of the adult education budget for the United Technologies Center - Maine Vocational Region 4?

DISTRICT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Skehan Recreation Center, 1 Main Road, Hampden
Newburgh Town Office, 2220 Western Ave., Newburgh
Samuel L. Wagner Middle School, 19 Williams Way, Winterport
Frankfort Congregational Church vestry,
42 Main Road South, Frankfort**

The 2020-21 budget was approved at the June 10 meeting of the RSU 22 Board of Directors. District citizens will have the opportunity to vote at the polls on July 14 on the following budget questions:

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

A sample of the July 14 ballot is outlined below:

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

STATE OF MAINE
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 22
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT BUDGET REFERENDUM
OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE TOWN OF
HAMPDEN/NEWBURGH/WINTERPORT/FRANKFORT
JULY 14, 2020

Chair of the School Board

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

Vote "yes" or "no" by making a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square of your choice at the left of each question.

Yes No **Question 1: School Budget.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 22 appropriate the sum of \$34,281,554.48 and raise the sum of \$12,743,383.58 for the 2020-2021 school budget?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 1

The Regional School Unit No. 22 school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals \$34,281,554.48. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of \$12,743,383.58, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the RSU's cost sharing formula and state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the maximum state and local spending target by \$3,049,659.86. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

Cost Center	Amount Appropriated
Regular Instruction	\$ 12,395,225.89
Special Education	\$ 6,674,187.84
Career and Technical Education	\$ 0.00
Other Instruction	\$ 1,007,772.08
Student and Staff Support	\$ 2,743,286.74
System Administration	\$ 925,019.73
School Administration	\$ 1,593,383.06
Transportation and Buses	\$ 1,438,425.45
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 3,886,620.79
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 3,617,632.90
All Other Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:	\$ 34,281,554.48

Yes No **Question 2: RSU Adult Ed Program.** Shall the Regional School Unit be authorized to appropriate \$75,080.00 for adult education and raise \$36,000.00 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?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Yes No **Question 3: Capital Reserve Fund.** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$200,000 from unallocated fund balances and/or unanticipated revenues to the RSU's previously established Capital Reserve Fund and shall the School Board be further authorized to expend up to \$200,000 from this Capital Reserve Fund to fund capital projects in the RSU including, school safety and security audit/implementation, school roofing project, sanitizing equipment, furniture (social distancing), plexiglass barriers or other safety equipment, compressor replacement at Hampden Academy, generator installation, bleacher renovation at Hampden Academy Track, window/door/flooring replacements/upgrades, building water filtration systems (Winterport), and vehicle fleet renewal?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Yes No **Question 4: Athletic Facility Reserve Fund.** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$100,000 from unallocated fund balances and/or unanticipated revenues and up to 50% of gate receipts from RSU athletic events during the 2020-2021 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?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Yes No **Question 5: Technology Reserve Fund.** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$100,000 from unallocated fund balances to the previously established Technology Capital Reserve Fund?
School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Yes No **Question 6: CTE Region Budget.** Shall the regional career and technical education operating budget as approved by the cooperative board for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$3,105,184.26?

Yes No **Question 7: CTE Region Adult Ed Budget.** Shall the United Technologies Center - Maine Vocational Region 4 approve a budget for adult education in the amount of \$316,945.91 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program, and shall Regional School Unit No. 22 raise \$7,466.96 as its share of the adult education budget for the United Technologies Center - Maine Vocational Region 4?

DETAILS OF THE 2020-2021 RSU 22 SCHOOL BUDGET

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 1 - Regular Instruction	\$11,813,945.79	\$12,395,225.89	\$581,280.10
Subtotal Elementary	\$5,165,885.53	\$5,405,239.41	\$239,353.88
Subtotal Secondary	\$3,548,962.67	\$3,735,616.86	\$186,654.19
Subtotal VHS	\$36,471.50	\$41,542.70	\$5,071.20
Subtotal K-2	\$2,358,969.41	\$2,417,954.39	\$58,984.98
Subtotal PreK Program	\$357,501.89	\$374,637.80	\$17,135.91
Subtotal ELL	\$25,221.86	\$25,829.83	\$607.97
Subtotal Alternative Education	\$139,153.08	\$144,129.74	\$4,976.66
<u>Subtotal Gifted & Talented</u>	<u>\$181,779.85</u>	<u>\$250,275.16</u>	<u>\$68,495.31</u>
Total Article 1	\$11,813,945.79	\$12,395,225.89	\$581,280.10

Adjustments:

- Recalculation of salary lines based on CBA 2% increase
- Recalculated health insurance rates and coverage levels
- Recalculated technology lease
- Increase to tuition reimbursement
- Increase to instructional supplies
- HA Building Assets/Reducing Risks .5 Coordinator (BARR) position
- Elementary Teacher 1.0 FTE Smith School
- Behavior Consultant/Behavior Analyst BCBA .5 FTE Smith School

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 2 - Special Education	\$6,245,438.90	\$6,674,187.84	\$428,748.94
Subtotal Resource	\$2,517,483.56	\$2,730,257.44	\$212,773.88
Subtotal Summer Special Education Program	00.00	00.00	00.00
Subtotal Self Contained Classroom	\$2,314,599.17	\$2,385,673.12	\$71,073.95
Subtotal Hospital/Housebound	\$25,000.00	\$31,500.00	\$6,500.00
Subtotal Social Work	\$73,329.39	\$124,248.40	\$50,919.01
Subtotal Student Psych Services	\$216,054.47	\$222,749.69	\$6,695.22
Subtotal Speech & Language Services	\$451,296.83	\$520,930.61	\$69,633.78
Subtotal Student Occupational Therapy Services	\$200,649.47	\$184,145.06	(\$16,504.41)
Subtotal Student Audiology Services	\$200.00	\$1,000.00	\$800.00
Subtotal Student Physical Therapy Services	\$76,000.00	\$76,000.00	00.00
Subtotal Student Adapted Physical Education Services	\$22,641.89	\$47,253.69	\$24,611.80
<u>Subtotal Special Education Admin.</u>	<u>\$348,184.12</u>	<u>\$350,429.83</u>	<u>\$2,245.71</u>
Total Article 2	\$6,245,438.90	\$6,674,187.84	\$428,748.94

Adjustments:

- Recalculation of salary lines based on CBA 2% increase
- Recalculated health insurance rates and coverage levels
- Special Education teacher position 1.0 FTE Smith School
- District Social Worker .5 FTE
- New Ed Techs positions 2.0 FTE
- Increase to Tuition Reimbursement

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 3 - Career and Technical Education	\$0	\$0	\$0

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 4 - Other Instruction	\$902,696.91	\$1,007,772.08	\$105,075.17
Subtotal Summer School	\$3,203.10	\$3,203.10	00.00
Subtotal Elem. Co-Curricular	\$63,019.83	\$73,659.16	\$10,639.33
Subtotal Secondary Co-Curricular	\$130,444.72	\$161,282.47	\$30,837.75
Subtotal Graduation	\$4,750.00	\$4,750.00	00.00
Subtotal Elem. Extra-Curricular	\$170,249.03	\$181,936.46	\$11,687.43
<u>Subtotal Secondary Extra-Curricular</u>	<u>\$531,030.23</u>	<u>\$582,940.89</u>	<u>\$51,910.66</u>
Total Article 4	\$902,696.91	\$1,007,772.08	\$105,075.17

Adjustments:

- Increase in stipends and associated benefits coaches/advisors
- Reeds Brook Technology Club and Homework Club Advisors
- Increase in co-curricular transportation
- Increase in athletic supplies and equipment
- Increase in athletic trainer middle schools

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 5 - Student/Staff Support	\$2,672,729.83	\$2,743,286.74	\$70,556.91
Subtotal Student Guidance Services	\$659,789.57	\$702,266.14	\$42,476.57
Subtotal Student Health Services	\$448,791.29	\$501,673.28	\$52,881.99
Subtotal Instructional-Related Technology	\$663,869.39	\$642,302.21	(\$21,567.18)
Subtotal Charter School Commission	00.00	00.00	00.00
Subtotal Section 504	\$41,290.79	\$200.00	(\$41,090.79)
Subtotal Other Student Support	\$50,000.00	\$54,600.00	\$4,600.00
Subtotal Intervention	\$42,114.06	\$47,824.99	\$5,710.93
Subtotal Improvement of Instruction	\$288,847.35	\$286,786.86	(\$2,060.49)
Subtotal Instructional Staff Training	\$51,487.49	\$88,726.89	\$37,239.40
Subtotal Library Services	\$327,024.61	\$321,462.51	(\$5,562.10)
<u>Subtotal Assessment</u>	<u>\$99,515.28</u>	<u>\$97,443.86</u>	<u>(\$2,071.42)</u>
Total Article 5	\$2,672,729.83	\$2,743,286.74	\$70,556.91

Adjustments:

- Tech related repairs and maintenance increase
- Re-calculated health insurance rates and coverage levels
- Revised technology lease allocations
- Reeds Brook library Ed Tech increase (1 hour per day)

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 6 - System Administration	\$920,576.11	\$925,019.73	\$4,443.62
Subtotal Board of Directors	\$110,544.80	\$123,457.27	\$12,912.47
Subtotal Staff Relations/Negotiations	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	00.00
Subtotal Executive Administration	\$447,409.01	\$438,522.50	(\$8,886.51)
<u>Subtotal Central Office Fiscal</u>	<u>\$332,622.30</u>	<u>\$333,039.96</u>	<u>\$417.66</u>
Total Article 6	\$920,576.11	\$925,019.73	\$4,443.62

Adjustments:

- Increase to contracted services
- Salary and benefits adjustment for new Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 7 - School Administration	\$1,540,278.76	\$1,593,383.06	\$53,104.30
Subtotal School Administration	\$1,540,278.76	\$1,593,383.06	\$53,104.30

Adjustments:

- Salary and benefits adjustments

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 8 - Transportation	\$1,375,602.70	\$1,438,425.45	\$62,822.75
Subtotal Student Transportation	\$1,375,602.70	\$1,423,425.45	\$47,822.75
Subtotal Special Education Out of District Expense	00.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Total Article 8	\$1,375,602.70	\$1,438,425.45	\$62,822.75

Adjustments:

- Special Education student transportation increase
- Transfer in of auto repair/maintenance expenses for student transportation
- Van replacement for student transportation

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 9 - Maintenance	\$4,042,106.88	\$3,886,620.79	(\$155,486.09)
Subtotal Operation of Buildings	\$1,117,980.10	\$1,128,037.47	\$10,057.37
Subtotal Care of Buildings	\$1,271,458.36	\$1,209,106.54	(\$62,351.82)
Subtotal Maintenance of Buildings	\$953,277.01	\$958,367.66	\$5,140.65
Subtotal Capital Renew & Renovation	\$659,590.57	\$546,109.12	(\$113,481.45)
<u>Subtotal Architectural & Engineering</u>	<u>\$39,850.84</u>	<u>\$45,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,149.16</u>
Total Article 9	\$4,042,106.88	\$3,886,620.79	(\$155,486.09)

Adjustments:

- Reduced Capital Repair & Maintenance
- Moved auto insurance to Article 8
- Moved auto repairs to Article 8

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 10 - Debt Service	\$3,718,459.90	\$3,617,632.90	(\$100,827.00)
Total Article 10 - Debt Service	\$3,718,459.90	\$3,617,632.90	(\$100,827.00)

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Variance
Article 11 - Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food Service Transfer	00.00	00.00	00.00

School is in session— just from home

By Susan Thibedeau, Principal, Reeds Brook Middle School

School is in session -- just from home.

This has been our mantra from the very start of distance learning. RSU 22 was well positioned to transfer to learning from home, thanks to our innovative staff, in-place technology, and strong leadership.

Reeds Brook pivoted learning to an online model in literally one day. Teachers and support staff have been nothing short of phenomenal in their efforts to engage students in meaningful activities and to support students in this new realm of education.

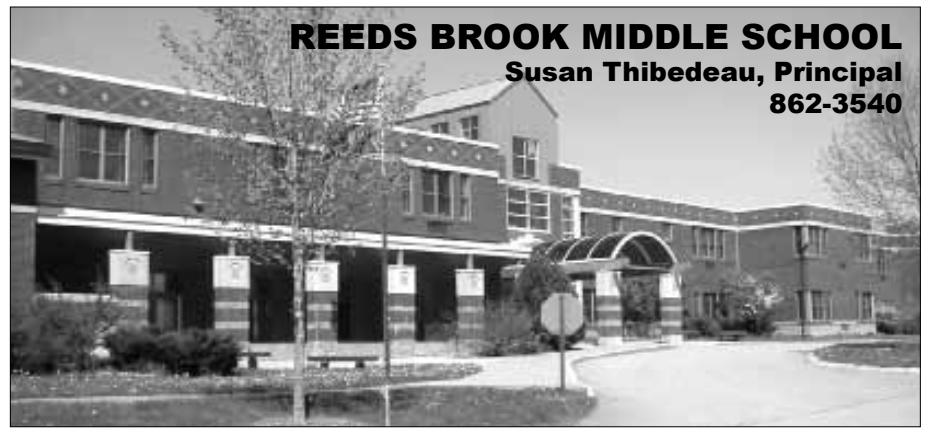
At Reeds Brook, we have offered students a compressed schedule focused on core academic classes with opportunities for enrichment in art, music, physical education, Spanish, technology, and library. We have stressed a balance between structure and flexibility in the hopes of

allowing families to access school in ways that worked best for their new schedules and needs.

Students have stepped up and continued to succeed!

As 8th grade Language Arts teacher, Karyn Fields describes, "The truth is that not only can we do this, but we are doing it. No matter where you are doing this, no matter how you are doing this, and no matter what you are doing—you are doing this."
* * *

We appreciate all the hard work families and students have put forth. Ann Moody, school counselor, and Kim Haggan, Dean of Students, have made daily phone calls providing information, resources, and support to families. By mid-May, they had made more than 350 contacts with families. This outreach has provided per-



REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL
Susan Thibedeau, Principal
862-3540

sonal communication with school community members.

Shifts in how we connect has been another commonality in these times. Jason Kash, 7th grade Social Studies teacher, shares: "While it has been a challenge to convert teaching into a strictly online format, for some students—now responsible to manage their pace and engagement—it has been an atmosphere in which they have flourished. Even though our contact is limited we take those available times to share more about ourselves. I think I have shared more about my hobbies and inter-

ests during remote learning than I did in the physical classroom."

This blur between home and school has brought us all closer in some ways, a positive point in this pandemic.

* * *

Reeds Brook students have shown their resilience in forging ahead with learning while at home. Although we all look forward to the time when we can be together in the school building, staff and students will incorporate new technology, skills, and ways of communication into their future academics no matter where that may take place.

6th graders at Reeds Brook embrace virtual visitors

By Ginger Hansen

The building may be closed, but Mrs. Hansen's 6th grade Social Studies class is still open for business! The 6th graders at Reeds Brook embraced their new remote learning adventure by inviting international guests to join them each Friday in their Google Meet classroom.

Week 1, they visited Canada, their neighbors to the north. An English teacher and her two sons joined the class along with a realtor from Toronto. The students learned about Toonies, Raptors, and parliamentary democracy. Students had previously brainstormed a set of questions for their guests each week. The questions covered everything from sports to currency. The information that the guests provided was great fun and they even had props! Hockey sticks and all types of money made an appearance!

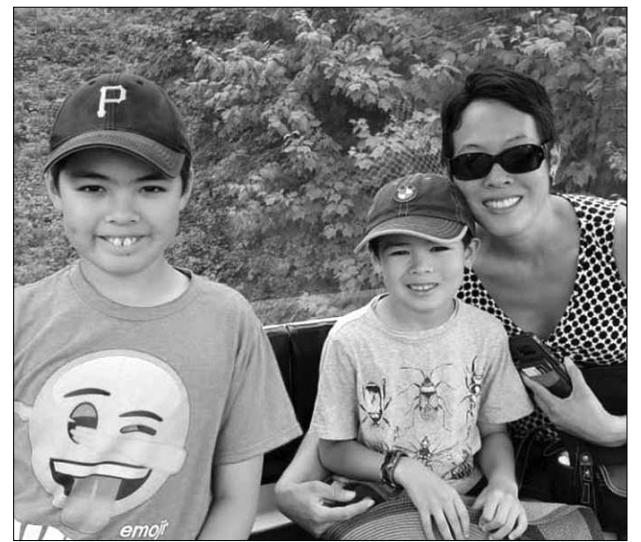
Week 2, Chelsey Luijckx, a musician and student at the Department of Defense School at AFCENT, The Netherlands, joined us for a riveting performance of her original songs



Saskia Van Reenen.



Chelsea Luijckx.



Irene Walker and sons from Toronto.

based on the French Revolution. She also performed requests for the students once they had finished asking all of their questions. Chelsey has been so popular with the students that she has returned for several classes and made a recording of her original song for Reeds Brook to enjoy for years to come. The second guest that week

was a banker from The Netherlands who shared her views of the culture and heart of the Dutch people.

Week 3, the students were joined by Dr. Heather Hansen, an environmental scientist in San Antonio, Texas. Students were fascinated to learn about venomous animals, weather in the south (it was 90 degrees at 8:15am CST) and her local efforts at

water conservation. Upcoming guests include a hotel manager from Dallas, a nurse from New Zealand, and musicians from Germany.

The students have been wonderful ambassadors for Reeds Brook by asking thoughtful, intelligent questions and showing enthusiasm, kindness, and empathy to their guests. Great job, 6th grade!

Reeds Brook continue to create art while learning at home

Reeds Brook Middle School students continued to create art while learning at home this spring.

Every week art teacher Bethany Hanson prepared a lesson with multiple resources for each grade level, as well as an extra art mod for students who wanted more art.

The lessons were posted during the art mod in Google classroom. The students also had virtual art classes where they met with the teacher and worked on assignments together. When the students completed the assignments they turned them in through Google Classroom.

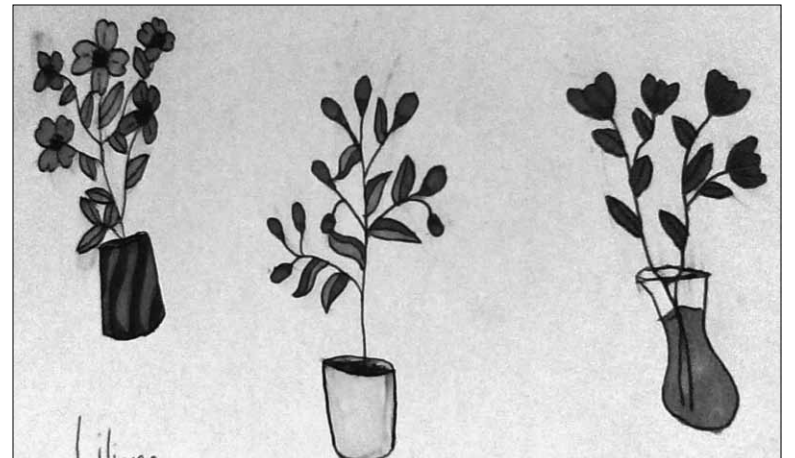
Mrs. Hanson responded to the students' work and created a website to share their work with the community.

"It has been a joy to see the work the students have done and to have the opportunity to stay connected during this time of remote learning," she said

Art Club also met once a week starting in late April. The group met after school at 2 p.m. on Fridays. Each Friday, a project was posted in the art club Google Classroom during mod meeting time, 10:30-11:30. Then at 2 p.m., students were invited to join us in Google Meet and to work



Jessica Sass drawing during art club.



Art flowers.

together on the projects.

The first week, the students did owls; the next week they drew roses together and learned how to draw trees.

Lucy wrote about attending remote art club. "I joined art club because I really love art," she said. "Art makes me so happy, and I thought since I didn't have anything to do in the afternoons, it

would keep me occupied. Remote art club is super fun. It is very relaxing and incredibly enjoyable, and a great way to spend the afternoon."

Above are some examples of what the students were doing.

To see more student artwork that was created during remote learning, visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/rsu22.us/art-2020/>

RSU 22 School Gardens primed and ready to go for 2020 season

By Brittany Layman
RSU 22 Wellness Director

The RSU 22 School Gardens are primed and ready to go for the 2020 season. Though the students are not in the school buildings we are fully prepared to plant a variety of plants to share with our community. We have themed our 2020 gardens “Victory Gardens,” building off the World War II Victory Gardens that supplied much-needed food to families across the country.

We would like to bring our communities together and a great way to do this, while being safe, is to garden!

Gardens do not have to be long rows of carrots and peas. You can plant vegetables amongst the rose bushes or in a pot on your window sill. It doesn’t cost a lot of money to supply healthy and nutritious

produce for your family.

We recently shared seeds that were donated by Erickson’s Hardware by creating a Victory Seed Library in the Reeds Brook Middle School greenhouse.

The vegetables and herbs we grow in our RSU 22 school gardens will be shared with our community via our newly built farm stands.

The Brooker family built two beautiful farm stands which will be located at the entrances to Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden and Smith Elementary School in Winterport. People can take what they need (of course donations are always accepted)!

Staff from across the district submitted slogan ideas for our version of Victory Gardens and we had over 65 entries. The winning slogan was created by Alisa Wing, school psychologist, “Plant your Victory Garden! Plant your Future!”.



Cami with greenhouse tulips.



AJ’s mini-greenhouse.



Victory Seed Library.

* * *

Students participated in the “Plant Something for ME” program which is hosted by Maine Agriculture in the Classroom. Over 700 mini-greenhouses (upcycled tomato containers), soil, seeds and lesson plans were sent home to Smith and McGraw Elementary students with the first homework packets that went home in March. Students were exposed to Maine gardening and were able to build their own little garden.

* * *

If you are interested in helping out with any of the school gardens please email Brittany Layman at blayman@rsu22.us. We are always looking for help with weeding and watering! Follow us on Facebook for the latest school garden updates: <https://www.facebook.com/RSU22garden/>



Brooker Farm stands.

Reeds Brook music program provides enrichment, lessons to help engage students

By Becky Mallory

While considering the different challenges each household faces, the music programming at Reeds Brook has focused on providing enrichment to help engage students in ways that work for them. Although our school building doors were closed to students in mid-March, the doors to many web-based music opportunities were opened. Thanks to the generosity of companies like Make-Music.com (Smart Music) and the Sightreadingfactory.com, students at Reeds Brook have had free access to explore interactive music software. In addition to this software, which keeps students playing and singing, there have been many enhance-

ments to the online resources offered to students in Google Classroom. For example, many students compose and share music using Chrome Music Labs, and learn about songwriting and enhance their music theory skills with websites like hooktheory.com, noteflight.com, soundation.com, musictheory.net, teoria.com, and EdPuzzle.com.

Students have had the opportunity to take music lessons with Mrs. Mallory through Google Meets, and percussionists have had access to the play-along rudiment exercises on VicFirth.com. Mrs. Mallory has also provided required scales, fingering charts, some HA band music, and choral resource links into

shared drive folders for students preparing for high school.

Students’ feedback from weekly questions has also helped guide Mrs. Mallory in what she offers. Requests include access to resources to learn guitar, ukulele, piano, and drums. Thanks to Little Kids Rock, many online resources are available to help the students learn the basic chords to their favorite Pop songs on these instruments (“All of Me” by John Legend was a particular hit.) Students have also learned how to make kazoos, play the didgeridoo, play body percussion, and construct their own drum set at home, as well as enjoying several games of “Name That Tune” over Google Meets. Most importantly,

music programming is offered as an outlet that allows students to explore their talents, share listening playlists, and try new tools based on their personal interests. There is no replacement for learning together as an ensemble, and for a majority of students, the best part of being in the band and/or chorus is the social contact and being part of something bigger than themselves. This time away has been a challenge, but our programming has met the challenge by opening doors (and windows) and allowing students the freedom to explore and learn on their own terms, hopefully appreciating it all that much more when we are able to make music together again.

Reeds Brook students stay connected through virtual book club

On Tuesday afternoons this spring, about a dozen students at Reeds Brook Middle School participated in a virtual Book Club organized by Reeds Brook Librarian, Trish Hafener.

The virtual book club gave students a fun way to engage in independent reading and stay connected beyond the classroom. Mrs. Hafener started the club because she missed her students and missed talking with them about books.

New books were delivered by bus to any student who wanted to participate.

“The book club was all about connection,” says Mrs. Hafener. Sixth

grader Coleman Chase agreed. He joined the book club because he “needed something to do that connected me with my friends.” Students spent the first few minutes checking in with one another, doing things like showing off their chickens or the newly built zipline in their backyard. The social interaction was virtual but still meaningful.

Book Club participants read *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman. Set in Chennai, India, the book tells the story of two runaway sisters, Viji and Rukku, who face many challenges now that they are on their own. Fortunately, the girls

find shelter—and friendship—on an abandoned bridge with two homeless boys. Together the group forms a family and helps each other through uncertain and dangerous situations.

Mrs. Hafener thought this story of resilience and hope would be the perfect book during these times of remote learning.

“I was so impressed with how engaged the students were with the book and the connections they made with the characters,” Mrs. Hafener said. The book gave the students a chance to learn more about India and the difficult plight of children who earn a living as ragpickers,

rummaging through garbage dumps for recyclable materials.

Asher Valentine, a sixth grader, read ahead because he was “enthusiastic to see what is going to happen to the two sisters, Viji and Rukku, as I ride along with them on their journey to stay safe through the ups and downs of leaving home and not having anywhere to go.”

The Book Club continued through the end of the school year. “I miss seeing my students, but this has been a great way to stay connected and share our love of reading,” said Mrs. Hafener.

She hopes to continue having book clubs next year.



McGraw and Weatherbee created paper learning packets for every student. 16 buses (above) lined up to deliver to over 600 hundred homes across the district.

Finishing Strong at Weatherbee School

By Jennifer Cyr, Principal
George B. Weatherbee School

Finding a new normal has been a fluid adventure during our COVID-19 School Closure. At Weatherbee, we were just about to celebrate Maine's 200th birthday (a highlight of the year) when we began to realize the crisis unfolding before us. The Superintendent's Office was responsive and steadfast with real-time updates. Safety was paramount and our team had to work quickly to do our part to flatten the curve. That meant no Maine Day; little did we know that breaking the news to students would be the tip of the iceberg. Friday, March 13th we would say goodbye to our students, not knowing that in-person learning had ended for the year, and we would be transforming the way we offered school in just a few short days.

As I reflect on this time, I'm humbled by the remarkable work

of our district, and the resiliency of our students and families. Louisa May Alcott said, "Painful as it may be, a significant emotional event can be the catalyst for choosing a direction that serves us – and those around us – more effectively. Look for the learning."

Those words have resonated with me throughout this experience. At every turn, we have looked to "learn". When we returned on Monday, March 15th, staff immediately began gathering materials for students and delivered them to each student's door.

With paper packets in place, Weatherbee was able to begin planning to move to Google Classroom. Many staff had not heard of let alone used Zoom or Google Meet. We had decisions to make, action to take, and a river of uncertainty.

Teachers are learners and what became apparent was that the word "but" had to be removed from the conversation and replaced with "yet". "I'm not sure how to do that yet" became the sentence starter for our conversations. The power of "yet" unleashed an incredible transformation of school. Weatherbee and the district took on the attitude of "Whatever it Takes" and dove in to create powerful solutions, generously share resources and support one another.

As we narrow in on the close of the year, I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish. Staff have been able to offer unique academic offerings that give students choice in their learning.

• Maine Day wasn't lost. Meghan Schall rallied the team and on Tuesday, May 26, we held a virtual Maine



Mr. Plaisted, PE teacher at Weatherbee, delivers learning packets after the school closure.



GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL
Jennifer Cyr, Principal
862-3254

Day for our fifth graders.

• Zoom and Google Meet meetings have allowed us to continue to grow our sense of community and stay in touch.

• Kelly O'Brien Weaver and Matt Madore hosted a virtual Pet Show with great success, and Kelly O'Brien Weaver followed up with a Talent Show.

• Students and staff shared a joke of the day to start our daily morning announcements on Facebook.

As we look to welcome our new students through virtual transition meetings, it is offering us wonderful insights on our new students as we get to know them virtually in their homes.

Lastly, we'll conclude the year with a week-long Olympics. Teachers will start the event with a virtual Olympic run and hand off the torch to students so they can finish strong. Our grand finale will symbolically encapsulate the spirit, grit and tenacity of our learning community. And just as



Our bus drivers have been critical links to our students during the school closure. Maverick Van Aken drove Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Whitehouse, Mrs. Pearce and Ms. Marvin.

in the Olympics, Weatherbee goals are set on personal bests. Our students have won gold for sure!

While we would all prefer to be in school with our students, this time has sparked innovation, creativity and given us insights on students' abilities to think beyond the traditional classroom. I'm grateful to our incredible faculty for their embrace of change and to our families for their incredible support. Our community has truly been "in it together" and will continue to do so, no matter what we face moving forward.

Weatherbee teachers use Google Meet, Zoom to plan virtual field trips

Spring at Weatherbee is typically a time where students venture out into the community for field trips, concerts, and community activities.

While it was not possible to bring students into the community this year, the 5th grade team at Weatherbee found opportunities to bring the community to their students during Remote Learning.

Using Google Meet and Zoom, teachers planned virtual field trips and incorporated guest speakers into virtual lessons. Students participated in a Remote Ranger Program on animal adaptations with Ranger Alexa Pezzano from Acadia National Park and the Schoodic Institute. Ranger Alexa also filmed a video lesson on lobsters

and answered student questions to help with an informational writing unit.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Robert Bayer, a researcher from the University of Maine, about lobsters for this writing piece.

Finally, 5th graders went on a virtual field trip to the Maine Alpaca Experience with Corry Pratt. Students learned a lot about alpacas and enjoyed getting to see these fascinating animals "face to face" through Zoom.

The 5th grade team is very thankful to all of these guest speakers for supporting and enriching Weatherbee students during this challenging time!



Ranger Alexa Pezzano



The Maine Alpaca Experience

Weatherbee School 5th grade GT students discover contents of time capsule from 2002

In mid February custodians at the Weatherbee School mentioned to Carol Kiesman, Director of Gifted and Talented Services for RSU 22, about a time capsule that had been placed in the basement area of the school by Mrs. Georganne Jackson, a former GT teacher and educator in RSU 22 for many years.

This project had been completed by Mrs. Jackson's students about 18 years prior, with the plans to return to the school in 10 years to open the time capsule.

Shortly after the February break, Mrs. Kiesman decided to take a look inside the very large box that the custodians had pulled from the basement and delivered to Room 202.

Inside the box were many smaller shoebox-size boxes. Each box had been decorated and included many personal items representing the likes and interests of the students during that time period, as well as news stories from that time, examples of current events, and popular music and tv shows of that time.

The boxes also included letters each student had written to their future self, telling about their hopes for the future and where they expected to be living, going to school, or working.

Some of the current 5th grade GT students thought this was such a cool discovery and had so much fun looking through the time capsule



Current GT students - Aubrey Shaw, Lucas Fachiol.

contents. The plan (prior to the closure of school due to COVID-19) was for these current students to create something similar, with plans to return their senior year of high school to open their time capsule.

Current Hampden Academy Senior, Jerdon Kiesman, volunteered to help the 5th grade GT students create their time capsule and also to search for the owners of the contents of the original time capsule.

Prior to the school closure a few of the original students or their families were located with Jerdon's



Current GT Student - Lucas Fachiol.



Current GT students - Tracy Alsbrook and Aubrey Shaw.

help as well as the help of some current staff members of RSU 22. When school is allowed to safely resume in the fall, the hope is to be

able to continue this project and to search for the remaining owners or their families and return these extraordinary keepsakes.

Mr. Madore urges students to join 5th grade band

Matt Madore, music teacher at the George B. Weatherbee School, usually talks to 4th graders one-on-one to encourage them to join the school's Fifth Grade Band.

This year, because the school has been closed and student have been working from home, Mr. Madore sent all of the 4th grade families a pair of videos about the elementary band program.

In the first video, Mr. Madore outlined the reasons why most students enjoy playing in band—and how they benefit.

Why do band?

First, it boosts brain activity.

"When you're working on single subjects, you work different part of your brain," Mr. Madore said. "When you're doing band, you're working all the parts of your brain at the same time. Playing in the band boosts scores for students in all different subject areas."

Playing in the band also allows students to learn to work as a group to achieve something special.

"When kids first sit down at band practice, they're all playing something different," he says. "But when it all comes together and sounds really beautiful, it's a really special moment. The students absolutely love it."

Finally, Mr. Madore points out that playing in the band gives students something they can do for the rest of their lives.

"It's a skill that you will rarely ever forget if you start playing in 5th grade and keep on playing through middle school and high school," he says.

* * *

The second video focused on the first question that most students and parents ask when they start playing in the band—how you you get an instrument?

Mr. Madore says students can either rent an instrument or purchase one outright.

Most of the rentals are done through Music and Arts (www.musicarts.com), which delivers the rental instruments to the school.

When the rental payments are



Music teacher Matt Madore

completed, Music and Arts takes back the rented instrument and gives the student a new one to keep.

Mr. Madore says the benefits of renting are that families can pay for the instruments over time and that Music and Arts provides repair and maintenance services for the rental instruments. The rental agreement includes a trial period where rental payments are lower. Music and Arts will also allow a student to choose a different instrument one time without penalty.

Mr. Madore says purchasing an instrument outright can save money, but he cautions parents to be careful when shopping for an instrument online.

He suggests Perkins Music House in Skowhegan for new instruments and Bangor Brass and Woodwinds for used instruments.

"If you see an instrument on Amazon and it looks too good to be true, it probably is," he says. But if you see a deal that you think you shouldn't pass up, contact Mr. Madore and he'll be happy to check it out for you.

Other possible sources for used instruments are yard sales ("they can be awesome," Mr. Madore says), along with former band students who are no longer playing their instruments.



Maine Day 2.020
Tuesday, May 26th

Our Bicentennial Bash/COVID-19 Style

Maine Day adapts with virtual format

By Meghan Schall

Literacy Teacher, George B. Weatherbee School

Each year Weatherbee School hosts a special celebration known as Maine Day. It is a day to celebrate our great state's birthday, which this year was our bicentennial. This year Maine Day was scheduled for March 13th, 2020, but sadly we had to cancel the event. When we broke the news to our students, they all expressed great disappointment, and I promised them that I would try my best to reschedule the event.

In a collaborative effort, the staff at Weatherbee School has done it! On May 26, our 5th grade students participated in a virtual Maine Day. We called it Maine Day 2.020, as it was our second attempt at the day, and it was delivered in a completely different format.

The day consisted of 5 sessions and students were able to select any session that they wanted to attend throughout the day. For each session there were between 10-12 workshops for students to choose from. Workshop sessions included:

- Maine Jeopardy.
- Whoopie Pies.
- Nature Walk.

- Maine Virtual Escape Room.
- Maine Kahoot!.
- Show & Tell.
- Doodles with Chris Van Dusen.
- Yoga with a Maine Twist.
- Maine Seascapes: Winslow Homer.

- Maine's Night Sky (by Southworth Planetarium, University of Southern Maine and Emera Astronomy Center & Jordan Planetarium).

- Lost on a Mountain in Maine: Donn Fendler.

- Maine Origami.
- Maine Wreath Making.
- Acadia National Park.
- Would You Rather: Maine Edition.

- Secret Life of Frogs and Toads.
- Brook Fishing.
- Meet Miss Maine.
- Maine Lighthouses.

We had a wonderful variety of activities that reached the interests of all of our students. Although all of the sessions were virtual instead of in-person, hands-on learning was priority number one.

Maine Day 2.020 was remote learning at its finest.

Weatherbee's Virtual Pet Show and Talent Show

In April, Weatherbee students were invited to participate in a virtual Pet Show. Students were able to show off their pets by emailing in a video. The videos were compiled and distributed to students, families and community members.

Highlights included:

- Eddie L's cat race between Dusty and Skippy.
- Mackenzie and Jade M's whole farm.
- Rylynn B's Hedgehog Quillamina (who runs in the bathtub).
- The grand finale was Adam M's skateboarding bulldog!

The Weatherbee pet show had over 80 submissions, including 64 dogs, 38 cats, 5 chickens, 4 horses, 3 bunnies, 2 hamsters, 1 turtle, 1 fish, 1 lizard and 1 hedgehog.

In May, Weatherbee had a virtual talent show. The talent show included basketball trick shots, artwork, trampoline tricks, gymnastics and dance routines, piano, headstands, skateboarding, raps, and more pets. Lyla L even played her recorder with her nose.

You can find both the Pet Show and the Talent show on Weatherbee's Facebook page.



Jace B played piano for the talent show.



Emma W brought her horses, Jocey and Nahla, to the pet show.



Oliver Cyr brought Zoey to the pet show.



Preya H did running and hula hoops for the talent show.



Nah M's cat, Oreo, can ring a bell for a treat.

Weatherbee chess team wins state tourney; RB, McGraw compete at championship level

By David Bishop, Chess Coach, Reeds Brook Middle School, Weatherbee School, and McGraw School

The Reeds Brook, Weatherbee, and McGraw school chess teams participated in the 2020 Maine Scholastic Team Chess Championship at the University of Maine.

All three teams played at the Championship level after having competed in the novice division since 2014. All players faced four opponents each, and they played some of the best players in Maine.

RBMS faced stiff competition and did not place, but the students played well for their first appearance at the Championship level. The top scorers were Josh Lorenzo with 3.5 points and Peyton Fraser with 3 points. (a win = 1 point, a draw = 1/2 point) Peyton is headed to Hampden Academy this fall and will be a great addition to their chess team. Josh will be returning to the RBMS team as an eighth grader. He will be joined by the rest of the talented sixth and seventh graders from this year.

In their first appearance at the Championship level, the Weatherbee Bobcats won the K-5 Maine State Scholastic Chess Tournament. Weatherbee Elementary and Ames Elementary ended up with 14.5 points each, but Weatherbee won the tiebreaker. Top scorers for Weatherbee were Alex Adams, 3.5 points; Harrison Seavey, 3 points; Ebba Hidestrand, 3 points; and Christian Zhang, 3 points. Ebba and Alex are headed to RBMS this fall, to further strengthen the Rebel team.

The McGraw team participated in the first Chess Club at their School. They, too, faced tough

K-2 competition that no McGraw students have ever faced. Although they did not place, all players showed their mettle with strong play. This will prepare them for next school year, when they will join the Weatherbee Bobcat team. Avery Zhang won all four of his games for a score of 4.0 points. Other top scorers were Nathaniel Wong, 2.0 points, Braddock Stansauk, 2.0 points, and Derrick Johnson, 2.0 points.

All of the Hampden chess teams worked hard from October to March. We have a long Chess "season" in RSU 22. The teams had Saturday practices from 9 to 2:30, and they all had weekly Chess Clubs they attended.

The Weatherbee team would have competed at the National Level in Nashville with their inaugural State win, but COVID-19 brought the season to a halt.

I am very proud of all the McGraw, WB, and RBMS students who were on the Chess Teams. I look forward to seeing them next school year, and we will continue to get stronger.

I would like to give a special thank you to Stephen Wong, of Hampden. He assisted with running the team practices with videos and tutorials that really helped the kids. I would also like to give a special thank you to the people and groups that have donated to the Chess Clubs and Teams. The three donors were the Weatherbee PTO, my Mom, Norma Bishop, and an anonymous donor. (you know who you are). Thank you for your help. We could not have achieved as well, without your help.

The RSU22 Chess Clubs and Teams will still need help with



The Weatherbee Chess Team shows off their state championship trophy!

funding for the school year 2020-2021. Please consider donating to our Clubs and Teams. You will be

proud of the accomplishments these kids will achieve, with the help of Chess. It is not just a game.

Pre K RSU 22

RSU 22 Pre K openings are available to children who turn 4 year olds by October 15, 2020. We offer a variety of setting in Hampden, Newburgh and Winterport to best meet the needs of students and families.

Openings are still available at most locations. Details of each program are available at www.rsu22.us.

RSU22.us, select: Pre K.

Hampden/Newburgh residents, please visit www.RSU22.us, select: Pre K for an application.

Winterport and Frankfort residents, please contact Waldo CAP at 338-3827 for an application.

Please contact Dawn Moore at dmoore@rsu22.us with any questions.

'Lake Blue,' by Bronwyn Wilde, a Fractured Fairy Tale from Weatherbee School

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Lake Blue. She was beautiful with sparkly blue eyes, long dark wavy hair and ivory skin. She was very kind, smart, caring and strong. She had a contagious smile and no one could stay unhappy around her. Both people and animals loved her because they could tell she truly listened to them and respected them.

Lake Blue's mother died tragically when she was a baby. She lived with her good hearted father in a small friendly town. They didn't have much money but they were happy with the life they had together.

Every year Lake Blue and her father drove 3 hours in their little blue car and stayed in the same cozy little cabin they rented for the summer. It was at a large campground on a calm and peaceful lake. They looked forward to summer all year and always made amazing memories.

Unfortunately, a woman who Lake Blue liked to refer to as Janet the Evil Hiker because she was often rude, cranky, and sometimes tried to ruin their campground experience lived at the campground in the summer too. They could never go hiking without running into her because she was in charge of keeping the hiking trails looking good and staying safe. Janet the Evil Hiker was in love with Lake Blue's father and had been trying to convince him to marry her for years. She was envious of Lake Blue and all the attention her father gave her.

When they got to the campground in the summer of 2018, Lake Blue was ecstatic. She leaped out of their little blue car and rushed to the information booth.

"May I please see the sign up sheet for the canoe race?" asked Lake Blue.

"Of course!" said the campground manager.

"Welcome back Lake Blue," he added as he handed her the sign up sheet. It

was a tradition that every year at the campground there was a big canoe race with a fun filled picnic afterwards and all the campers were invited to sign up. Since Lake Blue was such a strong and confident canoeist, she won every year.

Lake Blue signed her name with a flourish and then scanned the paper to see who else had signed up for the race. She was shocked to see Janet the Evil Hiker's name at the top of the list. She decided not to mention it to anyone. It was a public race after all, and maybe Janet had decided to take up canoeing over the past year. She hoped it wouldn't cause any more problems between them. After saying goodbye, Lake Blue climbed back into the car and they drove down the bumpy road to their cozy little cabin.

As the days passed by, Lake Blue and her father spent their afternoons hiking and swimming, and their evenings playing games and eating gooey s'mores by the crackling campfire.

Nearby, in her small and lonely camper, Janet the Evil Hiker was busy plotting to beat

Lake Blue in the canoe race. She desperately hoped that if she was able to win the race she could also win attention and love from Lake Blue's father.

"Maybe he will even marry me!" Janet thought dreamily.

After some serious thinking, she had an idea. She decided that she would make a poison s'more using some sleepy clovers she found growing in a small clearing behind her camper. She would put them in the chocolate and it would make Lake Blue fall asleep so she would miss the race.

On the day of the big race Lake Blue woke up feeling very anxious. She decided to go for a hike to clear her mind before the competition. On her way to the hiking trails, Lake Blue strolled by Janet The Evil Hiker's camper.

"Good morning Lake Blue!" said Janet The Evil Hiker in a cheery voice.

"Good morning Janet." replied Lake Blue.

"This is weird, why is she being so nice to me?" Lake Blue wondered.

"Would you like a s'more?" asked Janet The Evil Hiker. Lake Blue hesitated but then she took the smore, thanked Janet, ate it, and moved along. Half way through her hike Lake Blue started to feel sleepy and then, all of a sudden, she fell into a deep sleep.

Just then, some kind and silly little squirrels—Peanut, Almond, Cashew, Hazelnut, Pecan, Walnut, and Macadamia, otherwise known as The 7 Squirrels—came scurrying up the path. They were very alarmed when they found a girl asleep in a small mossy area just off the hiking trails.

"What happened to that girl?" asked Almond.

"I don't know but we should go get help." said Hazelnut. So they all rushed down the path to find help. On their way, the 7 squirrels ran into the hand-

some game warden.

"Game warden game warden!" cried The 7 Squirrels.

"What is it?" asked the game warden.

"There is a girl asleep just off the hiking trail and we need you to help us wake her up" cried the 7 squirrels. The handsome game warden decided that he better follow the 7 squirrels to see what was going on. When the game warden saw Lake Blue he fell deeply in love with her and he couldn't help but give her a tender kiss on the cheek. Lake Blue came out of the sleeping spell and they hurried to make it to the canoe race on time.

Lake Blue effortlessly won the race and she also won a huge amount of prize money! Later that day, Janet the Evil Hiker invited Lake Blue and her father to come over to her camper. She apologized over and over and explained why she did what she did. After some thinking, Lake Blue's father realized that he had strong feelings for Janet. He agreed to marry her and Lake Blue spent her prize money on a huge RV for the family. From then on, they would all make happy summer memories at the campground together.

Bronwyn, a 3rd grader in Mikkala Libby's class at Weatherbee School, composed this "fractured fairy tale," based on the original version of "Snow White."



Bronwyn Wilde

3 Weatherbee jokes



Emjae and Audriana: "How do you make a lemon drop? You let it fall!"



Naia: "Why can't your arm be 12" long? Because then it would be a foot!"



Danny: "Why couldn't the pony sing? It was a little hoarse!"

Retirements

Sally Burke, school nurse at Weatherbee, McGraw

Sally Burke, school nurse at Weatherbee and McGraw schools for the past eight years, is retiring at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Burke currently spends three days a week at Weatherbee and one day a week at McGraw.

She has been a school nurse in RSU 22 since 1997, but when she started, she served as a nurse at five different schools—Newburgh, Wagner, and Reeds Brook, as well as Weatherbee and McGraw.

"There was one nurse at Hampden Academy and Smith School in 1997, and I had the other five schools," she said. "It was pretty crazy. Over the years, I worked for 16 or 17 different principals."

Before joining RSU 22, Mrs. Burke worked for 12 years at Eastern Maine Medical Center, starting in the neurology/neurosurgery unit as a staff nurse. She later became a staff developer, which gave her a

bigger role in education, policy, and administration.

A native of Connecticut, Mrs. Burke graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology. Her first job was as a wildlife technician for the U.S. Forest Service in Orono, ME.

She later got her nursing degree from the University of Maine.

Mrs. Burke's husband, Rob, was a science teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School for 30 years. He retired four years ago.

They have two grown children, Morgan and Ethan, both Hampden Academy graduates and physical therapists. Morgan lives in southern Maine, Ethan in southern New Hampshire.

Mrs. Burke says her retirement plans are to concentrate on fishing and bicycling in the first year.

"They're good things to do with social distancing," she says.

She also wants to continue her gardening and volunteer work with the local ski club,

She adds that she has "a crazy idea that I want to learn a couple of foreign languages—and learn to play pickleball and travel when circumstances allow."



Cindy Greenacre, nutrition

Cindy Greenacre, school nutrition clerk at Earl C. McGraw School, retired in December 2019 after 25 years of service at both McGraw School and George B. Weatherbee School in RSU 22.

Before coming to RSU 22 (then SAD 22), she spent 21 years as an executive secretary at the Bangor Daily News.

Mrs. Greenacre grew up in Brooks and graduated from Mt. View High School in Thorndike. She then took a one-year diploma program in Automated Secretarial Science at Beal College, graduating summa cum laude.

She has lived in Hampden with her husband Miles for 41 years. They have a daughter and son-in-law who live in Massachusetts, and a daughter who lives in Washington, DC.

Her retirement plans include traveling with Miles for his photography business and to spend more time with their daughters out of state.



New staff at Smith School: Bonnie Kelly, Special Education

Bonnie Kelly joined the staff at Leroy H. Smith Elementary School in February as a special education teacher. Mrs. Kelly comes to Smith from Las Vegas, Nevada, where she spent 5 years teaching special education.

Mrs. Kelly graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, with a Master's degree in Special Education. Prior to becoming a teacher, she spent 5 years working for a non-profit organization, where she worked with at-risk students.

Mrs. Kelly recently relocated to Orrington, Maine with her husband and their one year old daughter. On the weekends, she enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, and doing DIY projects.

Victoria Cushing, 2nd grade

Tori Cushing joined the staff at Leroy H. Smith Elementary School as a 2nd grade teacher in mid-year.

She grew up in Brewer and graduated from Brewer High School in 2016. She attended Husson University and receive my B.S. in Elementary Education where she graduated in December of 2019.

Tori enjoys spending time with her dog and being outdoors when the weather is nice. Becoming a teacher has been her dream since she was a little girl and she is so grateful to have started her journey at Smith School!



Smith School Staff stays connected with students

When home learning began in March due to COVID-19, Smith School staff quickly sprang into action!

Teachers, specialists and other school personnel worked diligently to help prepare paper packets of school work and lesson materials for students. The staff knew that keeping academics moving was important, but they also quickly

realized that there was something else that needed to be a priority—keeping strong connections with students and families. With teamwork and creativity, they were able to find ways to help families feel connected with school even without physically being in the building.

One of the ways teachers are connecting with their students is by scheduling regular virtual meet-ups for individual students, small groups as well as their whole class. Although not the same as face-to-face connections, teachers and other school staff value any time spent talking with their students.

During these virtual meetings, teachers are getting creative with fun theme days and activities such as pajama parties, scav-



enger hunts, and read a-louds.

Students are also getting creative with connections they are making at home! Many have had the opportunity to share important parts of their lives, such as their younger siblings, pets, art projects or special talents. Smith School's parent group, Partners in Education (PIE) organized the annual variety show again this year but in a new format! Students submitted videos of their skills and talents which were then put together in a virtual Variety Show video!

Teachers and school staff recog-

nize how challenging it can be for students and their families while they take on this new remote learning. All school staff remind parents that learning can take place in so many ways! The most important thing is staying connected. In a time when we feel so disconnected, staff have taken comfort in hearing from their students and families via postcard, email, video conferencing or through apps like Seesaw. Smith School staff want to remind all their students and families that they are only a phone call or email away!



First Grader Aisley Raymond shares a story with her class during a virtual meeting.

The Show Must Go On!

Unique times like this call for creative solutions.

For the past 12 years, Smith School's Parent Organization, Partners in Education (known as PIE) has held a variety show in June for the students and staff to show off their many talents. Past shows have included magic tricks, dancing and singing acts and even a few comedy routines.

This year PIE knew that even though we couldn't gather to enjoy the talents, the show must go on. PIE members put together a virtual variety show featuring Smith School students singing, dancing and showing off some cool motor skills. In keeping with tradition, the show was emceed by fourth grade students Mason Worden, Izzy Krummel and Gus Gustafson.

After all the submissions were collected the show was released for everyone's enjoyment on May 29th. The virtual variety show can be found on the PIE Facebook page.



Talented Smith School students!

Virtual Space Day at Smith School

Students in Miss Hoyt's homeroom had a virtual space day recently. Prior to the event students were mailed their astronaut badges so they could be ready to explore outer space. Students also received a video with directions of how to make an astronaut helmet from materials from around the house. One of the students (Kenzie) even got her grandfather in on making them, "making the helmets and decorating it with stickers was my favorite part!" she said.

Students all joined a classroom google meet. During the meet, students started by blasting off into space through a video from inside a shuttle. From there they explored four different websites. All of these websites were then sent out through Seesaw and classroom websites so students could continue to explore.

The first website was a 3D model of the solar system: <https://www.solarsystemscope.com/>. Here Miss Hoyt showed students how by using the model they could explore not only planets but other things in our solar system as well such as asteroids. When clicking on objects students could see facts, pictures, and more. They could even look inside the planets in the model. This was by far their favorite site, noted by their votes.

The next website was <https://storytimefromspace.com/library/>. Here students could watch videos of astronauts reading pictures as books while floating around.

The third website was <https://www.windowson-earth.org/> which showed pictures that astronauts have taken from the space shuttle. This site gets uploaded weekly so students are able to check back in and see new photos.

According to Lena, the last website, "the one with the toothpaste video was my favorite!" This was a video playlist put out by the Canadian Space Agency. They have fun short videos of interesting tips from space such as how you brush your teeth or sleep while on-board the international space station. They even show what strange thing happens to honey in outer space.

After the classroom Google Meet was over, stu-



Photos from Virtual Space Day at Smith.

dents explored these websites on their own then shared via seesaw which was their favorite. Students also shared what their mission would be if they were to go into space. Some of the missions students came up with were these: "I would find a new black hole," "I would travel to the coldest planet," and "I would be the first person to go past Pluto!"

With the students' creativity and ambitions, our future is looking bright!

Virtual Guidance Class: Engaging Students in Creative Ways

Virtual learning brings a number of new challenges for students, families and educators.

At Smith, School counselor Kim Raymond is thinking outside the box to bring creative ideas and helpful fun lessons to students and their families. In order to engage students from a distance, Mrs. Raymond started creating a variety of videos with positive messages. Throughout her short 5-10 minute videos, she uses music, props, puppets, costumes and interactive games to help make learning fun for students.

While creating lessons, Mrs. Raymond tries to focus on short, specific learning targets or simple activities that families can possibly implement while they are at home.

For example, in one lesson, the focus was mindful breathing. Students and their families were encouraged to practice a variety of breathing techniques to help calm anxiety and help with focus. She also demonstrated how you can use bubbles to help be more mindful with your breathing.

In another video lesson, students were encouraged to incorporate some simple physical activity and movement into each day to help keep their brains and bodies healthy.

Mrs. Raymond hopes that these videos can help support students and families and help bring a sense of normalcy to these challenging times.

Videos are posted a couple of times each week on the Smith School Facebook page using the hashtag: #MrsRaymond-ReachOut.



McGraw School's budding scientists enjoy "Fire and Ice" presentation.



EARL C. McGRW SCHOOL
Kristin Briggs, Principal, 862-3830

'Mad Science of Maine' and the Gold Ball visit McGraw; virtual learning arrives

By Kristin Briggs, Principal
Earl C. McGraw School

On March 11, McGraw welcomed Mad Science of Maine for an amazing visit! The name of the presentation was "Fire and Ice," and it did not disappoint on either one!

Students saw fire coming from a lion and frozen bubbles floated around them, as well! The visit ended with Catalyst Corey sharing a foggy dry ice "storm!"

We all agreed that science is so cool and there are many budding scientists at McGraw!

A special thank you to the Mc-

Graw PTO for once again sponsoring this very special event.

* * *

On March 13, the Hampden Academy boy's basketball team paid a visit to McGraw! We got to see the famous Gold Ball, and McGraw's students were very impressed!!

Thank you, Coach Bartlett, for bringing your team and coming to visit us!

Congratulations to the Hampden Academy Boys' Basketball team!

* * *

Virtual learning is

something that would never have entered our mind at McGraw three months ago!

So much of our learning is done through hands-on activities and exploration that we have had to make a lot of changes!

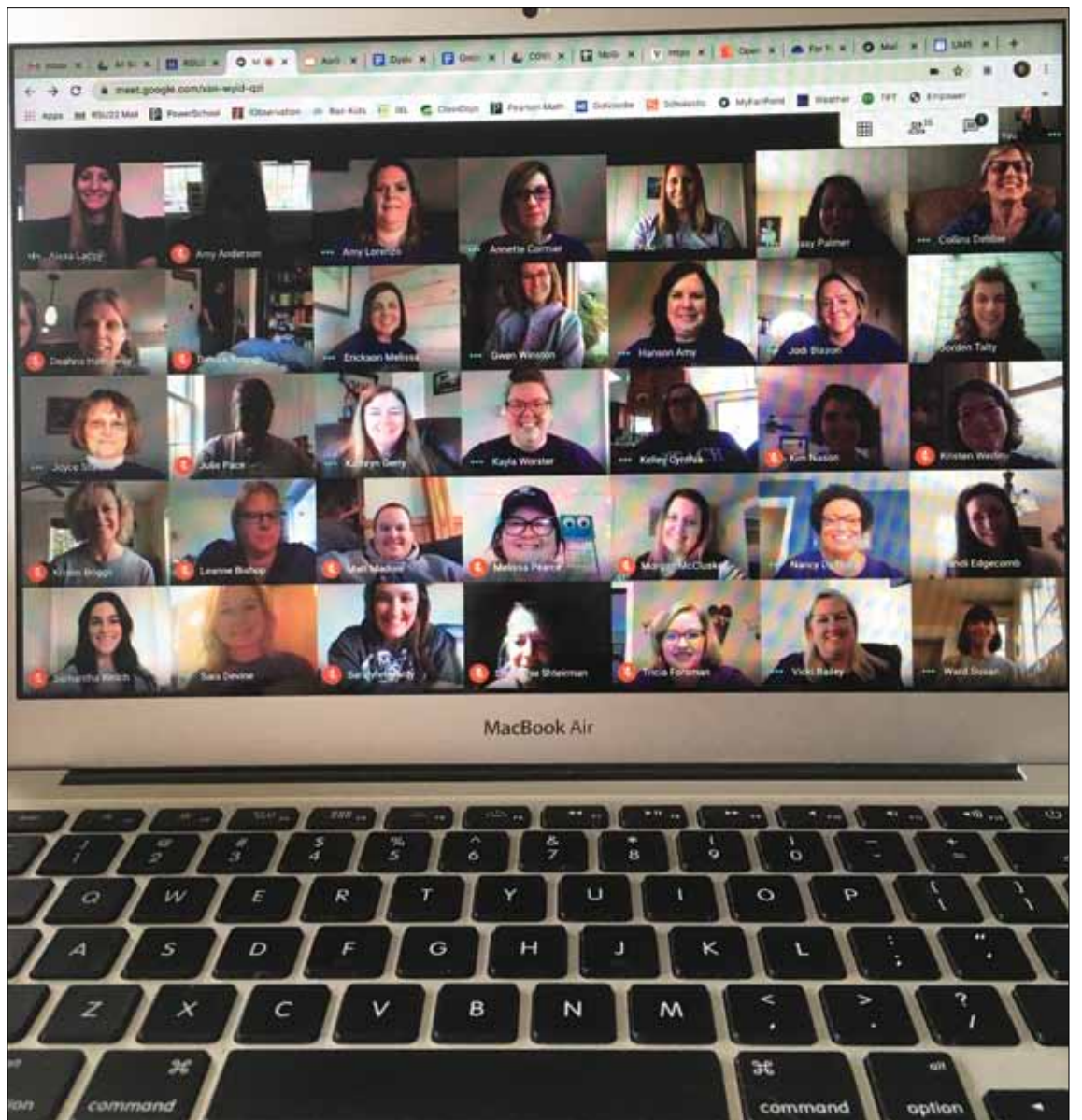
The teachers, students, and parents have worked together to make

this a reality and we continue to learn new things each day.

We all agree, the hardest part is missing each other, though. Zoom, Google Meet, and See Saw platforms have helped and it is so wonderful to be able to see each other's smiles, but we all look forward to being back together soon!



Bronco basketball players (l. to r.) Ethen Gray, Logan Tribou, Aiden Kristal, and Landen Gabric show the Gold Ball—the 2020 Class A Boys Basketball State Championship trophy—to students at McGraw school.



Mrs. Briggs hosts an online staff meeting via Google Meets.