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RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 January 2022

Kelsey Stoyanova of Reeds Brook named 2022 Maine State Teacher of the Year

Kelsey Stoyanova, Language Arts teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School, has been selected as Maine's Teacher of the Year for 2022.

Last spring, Mrs. Stoyanova was named 2021 Penobscot County Teacher of the Year after being nominated by two of her 8th grade students, Tessa Castrucci and Stella Fox.

Following an application process that included writing, public speaking, site visits, recommendations, and interviews of all 18 county Teachers of the Year, Mrs. Stoyanova rose to the top and was named 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year in October 2021.

Hillary Hoyt, third grade teacher at Leroy H. Smith School in Winterport, was selected as Waldo County Teacher of the year and (Please turn to page 3)



Kelsey Stoyanova with her 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year plaque.



Madi Baude (Tanya), Alexis Scott (Pepper), and the ensemble perform the Act 2 crowd-pleaser "Does Your Mother Know."

HA Drama Club goes live with 'Mamma Mia!'

The Hampden Academy Drama Club brought live theater back to the Performing Arts Center this fall with five sold-out performances of the fall musical, *Mamma Mia!*

The performances were held on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 11-12, and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 18-20.

The production followed COVID safety protocols, with the cast using clear masks designed for performance, and selling every other row of seating.

Artistic Director Jenn Guare said *Mamma Mia!* had been on the radar as a potential fall musical for several cycles, but said she was glad that fate (Please turn to page 20)

Struggling with math? Try the HA Math Center

Students at Hampden Academy who are struggling with math can get help with their homework or extra practice with math skills by going to the new HA Math Center next to the lunch room.

Help is available from student volunteers at the Math Center before school, during school, after school, or online. Students can drop in at Room 194, the glass room in the cafeteria, or they can schedule an appointment for 1-on-1 help with some of HA's best math students.

The Math Center is the brainchild of Colin McKay, a sophomore at HA, who told Principal Bill Tracy he wanted to provide support for students who are struggling with math.

"Colin said he wanted to provide help similar to what was happening with writing at HA's Writeous Writing Center," Mr. (Please turn to page 7)

Samantha Poll receives Maine STEM award

Samantha Poll, 8th grade science and math teacher at Wagner Middle School, was presented with the annual Award for Excellence by the Maine STEM Partnership.

The award is given to an educator who has demonstrated superior qualities of commitment of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education.



Samantha Poll

Individuals chosen for the award are collaborative community members who work (Please turn to page 12)



MATH CENTER TUTORS—Back (l. to r.): Cole Bruen, Elise DeRosby, Colin McKay, Avery Richard, Nick St. Pierre, Annika Bragg, Jonathan Fenders. Front: Brooke McKay, Abbot Valentine.

'WinterKids' aims at getting Smith students outside

Smith School in Winterport is one of 22 schools across the state that will be participating in WinterKids, a 4-week series of challenges designed to help students develop healthy lifelong habits through outdoor winter activities.

"WinterKids gets students and the community involved in outside activities and excited about winter in general," says kindergarten teacher Hannah Boss.

"It's really fun, because the whole community gets involved," says third grade teacher Hillary Hoyt. "Parents reach out and get their kids to do different things at home. That's a really nice part of WinterKids. When we did it two years ago, the whole community loved it."

WinterKids runs from January 17 to February 11.

Each week has a different focus, as follows:

- Week 1—Jan 17-21: Outdoor Physical Activity
- Week 2—Jan 24-28: Nutrition
- Week 3—Jan 31-Feb 4: Family Engagement
- Week 4—Feb 7-11: Winter Carnival



The 22 schools will compete with each other to win a total of \$50,000 for their schools. The schools will earn points each week from student participation, activities they complete, non-teaching staff

(Please turn to page 2)

Superintendent's Message

Back to School: Our Plan and Our Objectives

By Regan Nickels, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

As we begin a new year, it is with great pleasure that RSU 22 introduces the 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan. The new strategic plan is a five-year district road map to result in the important goals of strong student achievement, professional excellence, community partnerships and robust resources to ensure the district provides fiscal, facilities and human resources supports for students and staff. The plan focuses on four pillars: Student Success, Professional Excellence, Community Partnerships and Operational Excellence.



Regan Nickels

The center insert of this edition of the LINK 22 features our Strategic Plan Summary. It is our first step to introduce the document and its goals to the community. In upcoming weeks, we will continue to work with the board and other stakeholders to ensure that the roll out of the strategic plan is timely and transparent so that the process mirrors that of the development journey. Our goal is that all stakeholders have familiarity with and understanding of the vision, goals and key objectives. We hope that you have time to give it a look and as always, the district appreciates the many contributions that you all offered toward this plan. Our next opportunity for community communication will occur virtually through a Strategic Plan Public Forum on Wednesday January 26, 2022; each grade span will have its own 30-minute session including invitations for: PK-5 Families 6:00-6:30 p.m., Grades 6-8 Families 6:30-7:00 p.m. and Hampden Academy Families 7:00-7:30 p.m. We look forward to your attendance on Google Meet.

Watch for information on how to access these Google Meet sessions in future newsletters sent out by your child's school.

The journey to the new RSU 22 Strategic Plan has incorporated the voices of stakeholder representatives from students, staff, taxpayers, businesspeople, town managers, community partners and parent participants over a two-year period. The RSU 22 Board of Directors has invested heavily in the development of the new strategic plan with the creation of an Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Plan was recently adopted by the Board of Di-

rectors on December 15, 2021.

Our progress first began with a 2019 Listening tour as the transition of the district superintendency was approaching. District staff were invited to face to face conversations and also given the opportunity to respond individually via survey to provide input around what had been working well in RSU 22 and what deserved and required attention and improvement. Based on these foundational findings, a structured process called Portrait of a Graduate was utilized to bring a new and improved strategic plan to life. During the past eighteen months, 71 meetings were conducted, 26 surveys sent, and 11,113 survey responses were reviewed, analyzed, and categorized. Both the school and town communities had open invitations to join Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee meetings and many staff and community members donated hours of time to ensure that we had representation and a voice from within and beyond school walls. We would like to again thank you for your contributions in this process. All of the meeting data and survey replies helped inform the final product, a five-year district direction with lofty goals.

An exciting component of the process incorporated the talents of Hampden Academy student digital artists. The students developed several document logos and presented them to the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee. In year one, Brooke McKay, Owen Mathias, Beckett O'Reilly, and Eliza Parker all contributed to logo creation. Year two added Charlotte Crouse and Declan Nelson to the team with Brooke McKay, and Owen Mathias. The final product is outstanding, and we thank the students, and their teacher Melanie Crowe, for their talent, effort and interpretation.

As part of this transparency and for those who prefer getting information visually in the digital age, a comprehensive video is being crafted to provide an overview of the plan itself and the process used along the way. All RSU 22 families were invited to submit a student video or two that highlighted responses to prompts such as "what do you want to be when you grow up and graduate" or "what makes your school or teacher special." As the video will illustrate, knowledge of the goals our students want to achieve and the school culture and connections that engage them successfully are essential when implementing the strategic plan for all grade levels. We have appreciated our families making time to provide these video submissions.

Great effort and energy have gone into as-

sessing where our district has been, where we need to go, and how we will commit the energy, expertise and resources to offer our students the strongest pathway to get there. This Strategic Plan highlights all of this thinking and prioritization. This road map for the future will come alive in the day-to-day operations of schools. It will serve as the driving focus for how and where the district allocates resources including state subsidy, local tax dollars, human resources and facilities use and development. The plan prioritizes student learning outcomes at every grade level from increasing student achievement to providing multiple opportunities and access to new learning pathways.

* * *

In another focus for RSU 22, the development of the school budget for 2023 is underway. Our public Budget Committee meetings will occur on the dates found below. Budget Committee meetings are scheduled to be in-person on Thursday afternoons in the Hampden Academy Library. There are exceptions of Wednesday Board presentations and Board ratification in May. Budget meetings begin at 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Budget meetings will be available for review by video recording. We welcome your partnership as we continue to learn, grow, and make the new strategic plan a living document that our entire community will use to focus on the important work that RSU 22 conducts on behalf of and with our students.

* * *

The schedule for budget meeting is as follows:

- **March 3**—Budget Background, Preliminary ED 279, State Valuation; Articles 8,10,11 (Transportation, Debt Service, School Nutrition)
- **March 17**—Articles 4, 5 (Other Instruction [athletics/co-curricular], Staff and Student Support)
- **March 31**—Articles 6, 9 and 15 (Central Office Administration, Facilities and Adult Education)
- **April 14**—Articles 1 and 2 (Regular Education and Special Education Instruction)
- **April 28**—Article 7 (School Administration)
- **May 5**—Article Revisions and Updates

* * *

And finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our community members, for your continued support and feedback as we do our best to keep RSU 22 schools open for our students and families. Our RSU 22 staff members continue to take measures to keep us as well positioned as possible for in-person learning. It is truly a collaborative effort and one that RSU 22 leadership does not take for granted.

WinterKids

(Continued from page 1)

participation, and showcasing the school.

Each week students will also receive an incentive for participation.

During week 1 they will get a WinterKids winter games pedometer that they will use throughout the week.

During week 2 they will get a WinterKids winter games water

bottle, with all the activities based on nutrition. Students will track how much water they are drinking, learn about healthy foods, and try new foods, etc.

Week 3 they will receive a pennant and will design their own pennants, as well. They will also participate in an outdoor family bingo game at home. Plans are being developed for a Family Night.

Week 4 they will receive sunglasses! The primary focus this week will be the school's Winter Carnival and closing ceremony.

All competitive schools will receive a cash prize based on how they finish, with the winning school receiving \$10,000, the 2nd place school \$7,500, and the third place school \$5,000.

During the 2020-21 school year, WinterKids offered an adapted, play-along version of the Winter Games to accommodate remote and hybrid learners. This model was so popular; the organization is offering it again this year.

All told, 22 schools with 4,000 children and 340 teachers will participate in the competitive track of the Winter Games for a chance to win cash, while an additional 6,000 students and 100 teachers will play along and receive incentives and a chance to win weekly prizes.

WinterKids is the nonprofit organization that helps children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity. The organization delivers innovative outdoor programs for families, schools, and communities.

"We are thrilled to offer a fun, active way to engage all kids in outdoor learning throughout the winter," says Julie Mulkern, WinterKids Executive Director. "This year, the Winter Games is focused on the Olympic Winter Games within the context of celebrating winter through outdoor physical activity, nutrition, family engagement and winter carnivals."

Embracing outdoor learning helps to counteract the negative effects of excessive screen time—particularly for those in elementary school. WinterKids provides resources for both teachers and parents to get their kids outside and active. There is also a WinterKids Winter Games Facebook group for resource sharing, and downloadable activities on the organization's website at www.winterkids.org.



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Curriculum Office Update

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

State Testing Overview

Over the past few years in Maine, we have had a history of state testing changes. All Maine districts have participated in a variety of assessments. Lack of a consistent measurement tool has made it difficult to study longitudinal data.

State tests are required yearly as part of the regulations for federal funding. A number of years ago, students took the Maine Educational Assessment which consisted of reading, writing and math tests. Science was also assessed at grades 5, 8 and 11.

The next iteration was the Smarter Balanced Assessment that was the first test to measure students' understanding of the Common Core State Standards for math and literacy. We continued to assess science at grades 5, 8 and 11.

The SAT was then used as the high school state assessment. It was supplemented with science assessments at grade 11. The grades 3-8 math and literacy tests were delivered through the EmpowerME platform for a few years.

The last data displayed on the Maine Department of Education state website was from the 2018-2019 school year. Maine was granted a waiver for the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19 so no testing occurred.

The state department, including a variety of other stakeholders, is in the process of designing new tests for math and English Language Arts (reading, writing, grammar, etc). Our interim test for reading, language usage and math is the Measures of Academic Growth delivered by the NWEA. Those families who have children in the school system are familiar with the assessment. Here, in RSU 22, we have used it for years to gauge students' growth. The new state assessment will likely be designed and ready to go by 2024. In the meantime, we will continue to use the NWEA in grades 3-8 and 11.

Families who have students in grades K-2 are also familiar with the NWEA assessments. Although they are not required for state testing, we do find them valuable to help us monitor progress and to provide guidance for instruction.

A new science assessment was intro-

duced in the spring of 2021. It was considered a field test. Grades 5, 8 and 11 took the assessment. The company is still working the bugs out. No results were collected for the purpose of reporting to the schools or the public. In the summer of 2022 educators will help benchmark the tests so that performance levels can be established for future years. The only data released was the participation scores.



Mary Giard

State Test Results from Spring 2021

District in General

English Language Arts	District At and Above: 75%	State At and Above: 63%
Math	District At and Above: 65%	State At and Above: 54%

Hampden Academy Grade 11

English Language Arts	At and Above: 82.45%
Math	At and Above: 81.33%

Reeds Brook Middle School - Grades 6, 7 and 8

English Language Arts	At and Above: 80.11%
Math	At and Above: 69.68%

Samuel Wagner Middle School - Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8

English Language Arts	At and Above: 64.65%
Math	At and Above: 53.99%

George Weatherbee School - Grades 3, 4 and 5

English Language Arts	At and Above: 76.07%
Math	At and Above: 62.27%

Leroy Smith School - Grades 3 and 4

English Language Arts	At and Above: 66.36%
Math	At and Above: 53.27%

Teacher of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

was one of three finalists for Maine Teacher of the Year, along with Mrs. Stoyanova. It was the first time that two Teacher of the Year finalists came from the same school district.

After her selection, Mrs. Stoyanova's accomplishments were celebrated during the first assembly at Reeds Brook in a year and a half, which was attended by Pender Makin, Maine's Commissioner of Education, and Martha Harris, former RSU 22 School Board member and who is currently a member of the Maine State Board of Education, as well as staffers from both Senator Collins' and Senator King's offices.

Former students also spoke at the ceremony with words that show the power of a teacher who is supportive and challenging. They spoke about finding their voice and having someone believe in them, and their eloquent writing and poised speaking demonstrated the knowledge and skills they gained while in middle school.

Speaking last, Mrs. Stoyanova delivered a speech about giving students opportunities for voice and choice in their education and about the importance of reading as a way to learn about one's self and others.

The entire ceremony can be found on YouTube at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tcShfevm_8



2022 Maine Teacher of the Year Kelsey Stoyanova with a group of students she taught in 8th grade, now 9th graders at HA.

After the announcement assembly at Reeds Brook, the annual Teacher of the Year Tailgate Gala was graciously hosted by Peter Geiger on the grounds of Geiger Brothers in Lewiston, to celebrate the entire cohort of 2021 County Teachers of the Year. Here, Mrs. Stoyanova spoke on the power of educators to make a difference through connections with students, families, and the greater community. She included a call to action saying, "We want to amplify the needs of our students to decision makers in the state, support our colleagues in addressing these needs, and we want to invite families and our communities, as well as our educational partners, to engage in the learning process too."

As Maine State Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Stoyanova will have numerous opportunities to be a vocal advocate for education in Maine, bringing awareness to stakeholders in education of the needs of educators and students in our state. She is also currently in the running to be named 2022 National Teacher of the Year, and will get the opportunity to meet and network with the whole 2022 State Teacher of the Year cohort in February.

Mrs. Stoyanova is a committed teacher who puts student needs first and who makes the most of all learning opportunities both for her students and herself. Reeds Brook is proud of Mrs. Stoyanova and offers congratulations on a well-deserved award.

3 RSU 22 board members meet with Student Council members at HA, Reeds Brook to discuss leadership, board membership issues

This Fall three School Board members met with RSU 22 Student Council members to compare leadership notes, discuss what it means to be a board member compared to other elected positions, and answer any questions the students had.

The idea for the collaboration came from Winterport Board representative, Chris Labonte. He was joined by Faye Anderson, a representative from Hampden, and Heath Miller, Board Chair from Newburgh.

A student representative to the Board, Jacob Brown, had mentioned that other classmates and friends asked him what he did on the board. That gave Mr. Labonte the idea of meeting with students to explain the role of a school board.

* * *

The Board members attended a meeting with the Hampden Academy Student Council, which consists of 16 students, nominated from each graduating class, who are elected by the student body each Fall. Student Council Co-Advisors, Jessica Giorgetti, a Science teacher at HA, and Karyn Field, an English teacher at HA, had been facilitating discussions the prior week between the Hampden Academy Faculty Council and the Student Council.

Ms. Giorgetti stated that this group of students has a positive attitude and is full of new ideas.

"It has been a wonderful experience to watch them interact with the teachers and administrators in the Faculty Council and present their concerns and solutions in such an articulate, professional manner," she said

The next week, when meeting with School Board Chair Heath Miller and representatives Faye Anderson and Chris Labonte, students learned a great deal about the role of the School Board members, how policies are made in the district from the ideas, to the first and second readings, and their permanency as school policies.

The students had excellent questions about how their voices can be heard and who they can approach with their concerns. Following the meeting, students discussed the importance of creating solutions that work best for HA students through the strong relationships between students, teachers, and administrators. Principal Bill Tracy then discusses those ideas and concerns with Superintendent Regan Nickels and Assistant Superintendent Christine Boone, who make recommendations to the Board.

Amelia Plant, a 12th grade student and Student Council Vice President, said the meeting was valuable to the Student Council "because we established a connection with members of the Board and learned how we can communicate our needs as students to these community leaders."

She said she left the meeting "feeling encouraged that our voices are valued and respected by the School Board. We appreciate their time and dedication to serving the students of RSU 22. Thank you for allowing this opportunity to happen!"

Another 12th grade student, Student Council Treasurer Sarah Gardella, added that "throughout the past few years, there has seemed to be a disconnect between those who make decisions about the students' needs and the actual students. It's been so frustrating to see decisions being made without getting the overall consensus of students. Being able to have the chance to fill that void was very appreciated. It was interesting to hear about the process the School Board members go through, and there seems to be a stronger connection between students and the community members on the Board. Thank you for spending your time with us."

Elise DeRosby, 11th grade student and Student Council Secretary, said she appreciated the opportunity to have a couple of School Board members sit in on a meeting with us and learned a lot from the experience.

"It was super valuable for us, the students, to gain an awareness of the various responsibilities of the School Board," she said. "I think it was equally valuable for them to physically be in a classroom, with students who are affected by the decisions that they are making regarding our education."

Tessa Castrucci, a freshman Student Council member, said she really enjoyed meeting with the School Board members and learning more about the processes they work through to help support our schools. She said the Board members also gave us advice on how to approach the whole board with our requests about the dress code and other future issues.

"By them being able to meet with us, they can get more student perspectives to help them make their decisions for the future," she said.

* * *

Mrs. Field said the visit by the Board members to Hampden Academy was a great success.

"Their willingness to meet with our Student Council members to explain not only what they do as board members, but why and how they do it, provided our students with a meaningful learning opportunity," she said. "Inviting them to share this process also served to support our district's dedication to providing students with a supportive and empowering atmosphere."

Mrs. Field added that shedding light on what is involved when the Board makes critical and impactful decisions about our schools is crucial,

"I applaud the steps both our student representatives and our Board members are taking toward



living the values outlined in our district's mission statement," she said. "The members of the HA Student Council felt that they gained some very valuable insight into what happens behind the scenes and expressed that they appreciated the opportunity to learn about the process of creating new policies as well as what it takes to change those that already exist. I think it's important to note, too, that all involved expressed an interest in seeing this kind of meeting become a consistent practice rather than a one time only event."

* * *

When the board members attended the Reeds Brook Student Council meeting, they were met with many questions about policy making, how to be a representative, and curiosities about school board connections with other school boards in the state.

Reeds Brook Student Council advisor and 8th grade teacher Kelsey Stoyanova found the experience to be "very important for students as leaders of our school community."

She said the mission of the Student Council at Reeds Brook is "service to school, service to community, and service to the world, and the school board represents that mission well with all they do for students in RSU 22."

She added that seeing Student Council think critically about how the role of board members and their role as student leaders overlap "was



very exciting to watch."

During the meeting, Mrs. Stoyanova connected the service that School Board members provide to the service that the board provides, specifically talking about how a need arises and it is the job of the two groups to meet that need thinking about resources, people involved, money, and the benefit to the school community.

This connection was very meaningful to 8th grade Student Council representative Logan Martin, who said, "It was insightful learning from what the school board does because it can teach us how to make our Student Council better. For example, learning about the creation of policies can help us guide our own decision-making to make our school better as a whole just like what they try to do for students."

Want to help high school sports? Find ways to recruit more, younger officials

High school and middle school sports is something most players, parents, and fans take for granted, but that could be in jeopardy if the number of sports officials in Maine continues to decline.

"We have a severe shortage of officials," says Superintendent of Schools Regan Nickels. "We need to find ways to recruit people—both adults and students—so that athletes and the community can continue to enjoy interscholastic competition."

She points out that two Hampden Academy alumni, Adie Hughes (Class of 2020) and Libby Hughes (Class of 2021) are both working as soccer officials, having started while they were still in high school.

Fred Lower, Athletic Director at Hampden Academy, says there's a shortage of officials in most sports.

"It's not just basketball, field hockey, and soccer—it's across the board," he says. "Fewer and fewer officials are available when we need them for games."

Mr. Lower says a number of factors are contribution to the decline, including abuse by parents and fans.

"Definitely, some people don't want to continue officiating or to become officials because of the criticism they receive from spectators, coaches, and players," he says. "But we're also at a point where a lot of officials are aging out, and we're not getting the same amount of young officials to replace them."

He says Covid-19 has played a role, as well.

In many sports, accommodations were put in place because of Covid. For example, umpires weren't allowed behind home plate in baseball, and several umpires elected not to participate under those conditions. Similarly, in basketball, a majority of schools require both players and officials to wear masks on the court, and some referees have decided not to participate because of the mask requirement.

Nick Raymond, Principal at Wagner Middle School, has been refereeing basketball games in Maine for the past 23 years, and he's also served as a baseball umpire.

"Many people say the shortage of officials is caused by the lack of respect they get from fans, parents, and coaches, but I don't think it's the whole thing," he says. "For most people, officiating is in addition to their regular occupation, and it also requires regular meeting and rules reviews, in addition to actually refereeing the games. There's not just one reason why fewer people are signing up to be officials."

Adie and Libby both say the attitude of parents, fans, and players has contributed to the shortage of officials.

Adie says that giving the officials a hard time is something that fans and parents have come to accept as part of the game.

"What they don't understand is that right now we don't have enough refs to cover every game as it is," Adie says. "If we make just one ref quit, that's a game that doesn't get played—or 10 games over the course of a season."

Libby agrees. She points out that soccer is supposed to have three referees per game, but most offi-

cial use a two-person system because there aren't enough officials to schedule three per game.

She says a lot of officials have stopped doing it because they get frustrated at being yelled at by parents and players.

"They're thinking, I'm giving up my time to you guys," she says.

She says the problem is more acute in soccer and basketball, because the fans are so much closer to the playing field.

"You go to a basketball or soccer game, the parents are five feet away from the refs on the sideline," she says.

Adie has been refereeing for six years, doing soccer and baseball/softball. She was a referee at the U.S. Youth Soccer National President's Cup last year. This is Libby's first year refereeing soccer.

Both Adie and Libby played soccer while they were at HA. Adie plays collegiate at Nichols College in Massachusetts. Libby took a "gap year" after graduating from HA last June. This fall, she'll be a freshman at Christopher Newport University in Virginia, which won the Division

III National Championship in soccer last fall with a 20-0-1 record.

Both Adie and Libby say that one key to solving the problem is to get more young people involved in officiating.

Libby points out that for someone her age, there's no better job than

being a soccer official.

"I get paid to run around and watch people play soccer," she says. "If a couple more people my age started officiating, they'd tell their friends and spread the word."

She says it's really easy to get started officiating.

"It's a great way to be active, and you make money doing it."

Adie says she's been told that some youth volleyball leagues have a rule that every team that plays a game has to provide referees for the next game.

The more we can get players and coaches involved in officiating, the better off we'll be," she says.

Mr. Lower points out that the pay for refereeing at the high school level is pretty good.

For varsity basketball officials on a two-person crew make \$78 per game (for each official), plus mileage. For freshman/JV games, the pay is \$48 per game.

He says the pay rate is similar for other high school (varsity/JV/freshman) games in soccer, field hockey, ice hockey, baseball, and softball. The pay for swim officials is higher because the meets tend to involve more athletes and last longer.

Mr. Lower says students or others interested in officiating can contact Jeff Benson, Commissioner of Officials for the Maine Principals Association at jbenson@mpa.cc.

Or you can call Mr. Lower at Hampden Academy (862-3791) and he'll help you find answers to your questions.



Adie Hughes, HA Class of 2020, referees a soccer game.

Weatherbee 5th grader reports on HA hockey victory

The following story was written by 11-year-old Adrian Ellingwood as part of his work in the 5th grade Journalism project at Weatherbee School in Hampden! Excellent work, Adrian, and we look forward to receiving many more stories from you! The story appeared on www.929theticket.com, the website for 92.9 The Ticket Sports Radio.

* * *

On Saturday night, December 11th, the Hampden Academy Broncos played their first game of the 2021-22 Class B Ice Hockey Season against the Capital Region Hawks at Sawyer Arena in Bangor, winning 9-0.

The Broncos took an early lead with just 3:41 gone in the first period, when Morgan Tash scored assisted by Khaleb Hale.

Lucas Dunn doubled Hampden's lead, when he scored assisted by Max Fleming and Morgan Tash at 8:19.

The Broncos stayed dominant in the first period. Matt Shayne added a third with 4:46 remaining in the first, assisted by Adrian Webb and Keith Brooks.

Still, the Broncos didn't take their foot off the gas as Shayne scored again, assisted by Max Fleming with 73 seconds remaining until the first intermission.

Both teams went to the locker room with Hampden up by 4. The Broncos had 10 shots on goal compared to 7 for the Hawks in the first period.

In the second period, Morgan Tash scored his second goal of the night and his team's 5th at 3:29 assisted by Shayne.

At 11:01, Capital Region goaltender Adrian O'Connell suffered an injury after a scramble in front of his net. He immediately left the ice and was replaced by backup goaltender Jayce Corgan.

It wasn't long before Hampden Academy scored against the backup goalie for the Hawks. Khaleb Hale scored assisted by Shayne 13:56.

With 19.5 seconds left until the second intermission, Matt Shayne scored his third goal of the game unassisted



Photo by Adrian Ellingwood.

to make it a hat trick.

By the end of the first two periods, the Broncos had 21 shots on goal while Capital Region had 14.

It wasn't long before the Broncos scored their eighth goal of the game. Keith Brooks scored assisted by Cam Henderson with 4 minutes elapsed in the third.

3:45 later, the Broncos added another goal to make the score 9-0. Cam Henderson scored assisted by Morgan Tash.

Hampden had 10 shots on goal in the first period, 11 in the second, and 16 in the third for a total of 37 shots on goal. The Hawks had 7 in the first period, 7 in the second and 5 in the third for a total of 19. The Broncos had 10 penalties called against them compared to 6 for Capital Region.

Hampden Academy's next game will be Wednesday, December 15th at 6:30 at home vs. the Kennebec Riverhawks. Capital Region will play their next game on Saturday December 18 at home against Cony at 8 pm.

**Shelley Abbott,
Main Office Coordinator**

Shelley Abbott, Recreation Director for the Town of Hampden for the last seven years, has become the Main Office Coordinator at Hampden Academy and Administrative Assistant to Principal Bill Tracy.



Mrs. Abbott lives in Hampden with her husband William. They have one daughter, who is a junior at HA.

Mrs. Abbott grew up in Hampden and graduated from HA in 1996. She received her B.S. degree in Recreation Management at the University of Maine at Machias in December 1999. She worked in mental health recreation for two years and then started a 19-year career with the Town of Hampden Recreation Department. She was the Assistant Recreation Director from 2002 to 2013, Interim Director from 2013 to 2014, and then Recreation Director from 2014 to 2021.

In her off-duty hours, Mrs. Abbott enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.

**Steven Austin,
Special Education**

Steven Austin, who taught special education in Aroostook County for 16 years and Bangor for the last two years, has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as a special education teacher.



Mr. Austin grew up on Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, ME, and moved to Caribou when he was in 8th grade and attended Caribou High School. He received his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health from the University of Maine.

After graduating from UMaine, he moved to Kentucky for seven years, where he earned a degree in Special Education from Western Kentucky University. He then returned to UMaine, where he completed his Master's degree in Educational Leadership.

Mr. Austin initially taught in Maine's Unorganized Territories for a year, and then taught at Ohio County High School in Kentucky for six years.

He moved back to Caribou in 2003 and taught in the Caribou School District for 13 years and the Woodland Consolidated School District (New Sweden, Westmoreland, Woodland) for three years. He then moved to the Bangor area and taught in the Bangor School District for two years before joining the staff at HA.

Mr. Austin is married with three children (twin girls and a son) from his first marriage, and a step-son and a son with his current wife.

In his off-duty hours, he enjoys hunting and fishing, spending time with his family, and coaching.

**Florence Cousineau,
French**

Florence Cousineau, a native of France who has taught in France, Louisiana, and Maine, has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as a French teacher.



Ms. Cousineau grew up in the city of Lorient in Brittany, where she attended high school. She attended the University of Bretagne in the cities of Lorient and Rennes, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American and British Literature and Civilization. She was then accepted at the University Institute of Teachers Training in Vannes, Brittany, and received her Master's Degree in Education.

She started her teaching career in France, where she served for eight years as a classroom teacher and a traveling teacher, teaching English as a second language in rural elementary schools.

She came to the U.S. in 2001 and worked as a French immersion teacher in 3rd grade and kindergarten in Lafayette, LA. She moved to Maine in 2014, working as an EAP (English for Academic Purposes) instructor at the college level.

In 2017, she was hired by the Millinocket school system, and for the past four years, she has taught both French and ESL (English as a Second Language) to junior high and high school students.

Mrs. Cousineau lives in Orono. She is married and has three children—two daughters who are 19 and 12 and a son who is 16.

In addition to spending time with her family, Mrs. Cousineau loves traveling. She has visited Greece, Hungary, Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Aruba, Morocco, and Italy, in addition to many regions in France and the United States.

She enjoys outdoor activities, including hiking, swimming, running, paddle boarding, and cross country skiing. She also loves reading and usually starts each day with a few quiet minutes of reading.

She enjoys outdoor activities, including hiking, swimming, running, paddle boarding, and cross country skiing. She also loves reading and usually starts each day with a few quiet minutes of reading.

Cindy Emerson, Special Education teacher for STAR program

Cindy Emerson, who spent the last seven years serving as Special Education case manager for state agency clients in RSU 22, is now the Special Education teacher for the STAR program at Hampden Academy.



Ms. Emerson grew up in Newbury, VT, and graduated from Oxbow High School. In 1982 she moved to Maine and eventually earned her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education at the University of Maine. After 10 years of teaching lower level grades,



HAMPDEN ACADEMY

**Bill Tracy, Principal
862-3791**

**New staff at
Hampden Academy—2021-22**

Teachers:

- Steven Austin:** Special Education
- Florence Cousineau:** French
- Cindy Emerson:** Special Education STAR Program (In district transfer)
- Karyn Field:** English (In district transfer)
- Seamus McKaig:** Social Studies
- Tina Reed:** Special Education (In district transfer)
- Marianne Tomasic:** English/Social Studies

Counselor:

- Greg McElvaine:** Northern Light Acadia Counselor (LCPC)

Educational Technicians:

- Amanda Ambrose, Marc Cammack, Devon Davis, Heidi Fairbrother**

Food Service:

- Rosie Nadeau**

Custodial:

- Mary McInnis, Rick Faloon**

Main Office:

- Shelley Abbott:** Main Office Coordinator/Admin Assistant to Principal;
- Sharry Woodside:** Attendance Admin Assistant (In district transfer)

Administration:

- Ryan Crane:** Assistant Principal (profiled in the August issue)

she returned to UMaine and received her Masters degree and CAS in Counselor Education.

She opted for the clinical program, interned in the Adolescent and Children inpatient unit at Acadia Hospital, and received her Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor certification, which she still maintains. After 10 years at Acadia, she moved to the Stetson Ranch residential NFI program to work with the clients that had high acute needs. During that time, she continued her education to receive certification for Special Education.

Ms. Emerson adopted her daughter, Gemmalisa, in 2006. The two of them published her story, *Gemmalisa's Journey*, on Amazon in 2019.

In 2013, RSU 22 advertised for a long-term, full-time substitute job, and Ms. Emerson saw this as an opportunity to get back into education and to have a more compatible schedule with Gemma, who is currently in the 9th grade at Hampden Academy.

Ms. Emerson and Gemmalisa live in Winterport, where they enjoy their chickens and dwarf Nigerian goats as a hobby farm. They also enjoy hiking and watching movies.

**Karyn Field,
Grade 9-12 English**

Karyn Field, who taught 8th grade Language Arts at Reeds Brook Middle School for 24 years, has transferred to Hampden Academy, where she teaches grade 9-12 English.



Mrs. Field grew up in Bangor and graduated from Bangor High School in 1989. She received her Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Southern Maine in 1993 and her Master's degree in Middle Level Education from the University of Maine in 2004.

She is currently working on a second Master's degree in Writing and the Teaching of Writing at the University of Maine.

Before coming to RSU 22, she spent three years teaching 8th grade Language Arts in Camden.

While at Reeds Brook, Mrs. Field

was the drama director for 20 years, a civil rights team advisor for five years, and one of the co-chairs of the last NEASC accreditation process at Reeds Brook.

She also served as the Maine representative on the New England League of Middle School Board of Directors for 10 years.

In addition, for the last two years, Mrs. Field has taught ERL 440/590 to graduating seniors at the University of Maine who are about to embark on their student teaching careers.

Mrs. Field has lived in Hampden for the past 15 years with her husband, Zach, and 17-year-old son, Owen, who is a junior at HA. Outside of school, she loves to read, work on updating her blog, and spending time with family and close friends.

She says making the decision to leave Reeds Brook was a difficult one, but the right one.

"I firmly believe that change is good, and I have felt incredibly welcomed by the entire HA faculty and staff," Mrs. Field says. "The decision to leave Reeds Brook was made so much easier due to the fact that I already knew many of the HA English teachers very well. They have made me feel very welcome."

Greg McElvaine, Northern Light LCPC

Greg McElvaine, former Clinical Counselor at Acadia Hospital in Bangor, has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as a Northern Light LCPC (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor).



He is employed by Acadia Hospital, but serves in a school-based role at HA.

Mr. McElvaine lives in Brewer with his wife and two children, a 3-year-old daughter and a 1-year-old son.

He grew up in Rome, ME, and attended Messalonskee High School, where he was active in the theater program. He received his B.S. degree in Psychology at the University of Maine at Farmington, and his Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Husson University.

He worked as an adult case manager while in graduate school from 2013 to 2017 and then transitioned into his role as clinical counselor in 2018. He started working at Acadia Hospital in April 2019.

In his off-duty hours, Mr. McElvaine enjoys theater, gaming, and baking.

Seamus McKaig, Grade 10-11 Social Studies

Seamus McKaig has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as a social studies teacher in grades 10 and 11.



Mr. McKaig attended Orono schools and graduated from Orono High School in 2015 and received

his Bachelor's degree from Western New England University in Springfield, MA.

Last year, he taught at Orono Middle School.

Mr. McKaig lives in Bangor and enjoys playing disc golf.

Tina Reed, English and Special Education

Tina Reed, who was a special education teacher at the Weatherbee School for the past two years, is now teaching English and special education at Hampden Academy.

Before coming to RSU 22, Mrs. Reed taught middle school and high school mathematics at Katahdin Junior High School in Sherman, Stearns High School in Millinocket, and Bucksport High School for a total of five years. She also taught special education at the elementary level in Bangor for 18 years.

She grew up in Millinocket and graduated from Stearns High School and the University of Maine. She earned her Master's degree in Special Education from New England College in Henniker, NH.

Mrs. Reed is married with two children and lives in Hampden. Her hobbies include reading, spending time with her family at her camps on Schoodic Lake and Middle Jo-Mary Lake. She also loves spending time with her pets, which consist of four cats and three dogs.



HA Math Center

(Continued from page 1)

Tracy said.

"Colin has taken the lead on this," Mr. Tracy said. "He noticed the need for math help, and he met with me and the Math Department. We have a student available at the Math Center every period to provide help for drop-in students."

The Math Center drop-in schedule is as follows:

- 1P—Annika Bragg
- 2P—Avery Richard
- 3P—Brooke McKay
- 4P—Cole Bruen
- 1W—Nick St. Pierre
- 2W—Abbot Valentine
- 3W—Elise DeRosby
- 4W—Jonathan Fencers

Annika, Avery, Brooke, Jonathan, and Abbot are seniors; Cole, Nick, and Elise are juniors.

For before-school, after-school, and online sessions, or to guarantee a session time, students can fill out a form attached to the QR code located on the Math Center poster.

Students interested in volunteering as a math tutor can email Colin at 24mckayc@rsu22.us.

Marianne Tomasic, English, Social Studies

Marianne Tomasic, who has taught in West Virginia and the Middle East and visited Hiroshima through the Japan Fulbright Teacher Memorial Fund, is now teaching English and social studies at Hampden Academy.

Ms. Tomasic grew up outside of Pittsburgh and received her undergraduate degree in Comprehensive Literature and Secondary Education from Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA.

Before heading to the classroom, she worked in business, first running the student employment program for a university, then as the personnel manager for Filene's Basement.

After moving to West Virginia with her family, she began a permanent substitute position as a middle school math teacher in a school for students with learning and behavioral problems. At the same time she began working as a graphic layout designer and reporter for the local newspaper.

The following year, she moved into a full-time teaching position as an English and Journalism teacher at Hedgesville High School in West Virginia. In 2011, she took a sabbatical to teach English as a Foreign Language in the Middle East for a year, and upon returning home she worked as a literacy teacher at the middle school level while also coaching track and cross country.

During her time in West Virginia, she earned Master's degrees both Communications and Literacy Education, took part in the National Writ-

ing Project, and started working on a Master's degree in teaching Writing from Johns Hopkins University.

After reading an article where Pender Makin, Commissioner of Education in Maine, stated that Maine students are much more than one test score, Marianne decided to take a leap of faith and move to Maine. She has had a whirlwind of a semester as she bought a home, learned a new curriculum, and started exploring her new environment.

Ms. Tomasic enjoys water activities and hiking.

She says she is enjoying Maine and Hampden Academy, but adds that she will forever be a Pittsburgh Steeler and Penguin fan.



Marianne Tomasic says this photo of her with a deer is her favorite. It was taken the island of Miyajima, near Hiroshima, Japan, which she visited through the Japan Fulbright Teacher Memorial Fund. She says the deer on the island had a habit of walking up to people and, if given the opportunity, stealing from them.

HAMPDEN ACADEMY MATH CENTER

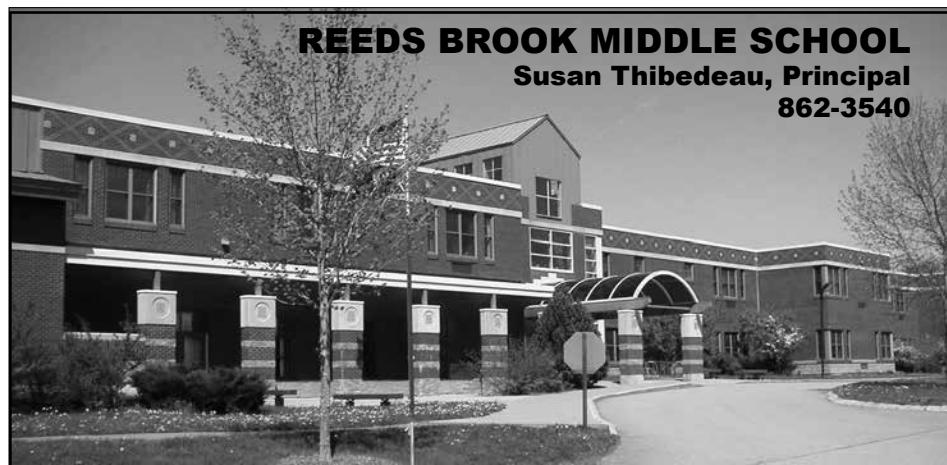
Room 194

Glass room in the cafeteria. Drop-ins welcome!

Need help with math homework or want some extra practice before a test? Drop in or schedule an appointment during school, before/after school, or online, for a 1 on 1 with HA's best math students!

Scan here to schedule!

Questions? Become a tutor? Email 24mckayc@rsu22.us



REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL
Susan Thibedeau, Principal
862-3540

New staff at Reeds Brook Middle School—2021-22

Teachers:

Melissa Angelo: 6th grade Spanish (part-time)
Cindy Donovan: 6th grade English Language Arts (one-year position)
Carol Gourmelon, Social Studies (transfer from Wagner)
Alyssa Kilgour: 8th grade Special Education

Nurse:

Nick Oyler

Educational Technicians:

Amy Clement, Librarian Ed Tech; Luis Martinez, Life Skills; Katherine Miller; Liz Kilhefner (transfer from Smith)

Social Worker:

BJ Bowden

Gifted/Talented:

Dorothy Dawson, G/T Coordinator, district-wide position

Melissa Angelo, 6th grade Spanish

Melissa Angelo, a native of the Dominican Republic who came to the U.S. in 2017, is the new 6th grade Spanish teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School.



Ms. Angelo attended Onesimo Jimenez High School and Universidad Abierta Para Adultos (UAPA) in the Dominican Republic. She studied Business Administration at UAPA and attended the New England Institute for Teacher Education in Bucksport to get the credits she needed for her teaching certificate in Maine.

Before coming to Reeds Brook, she worked as an administrative assistant for a manufacturing company and as a customer service agent for United Airlines.

She is married and lives in Brewer. In her off-duty hours, Ms. Angelo enjoys camping, swimming, going to church, and gathering with family.

Cindy Donovan, 6th grade English Language Arts

Cindy Donovan, who has worked in RSU 22 for eight years as a substitute teacher, librarian, and Gifted and Talented service provider, is now in a one-year position teaching 6th grade English Language Arts at

Reeds Brook Middle School.

Ms. Donovan served as a substitute teacher at Smith School in 2014-15 and then moved to Weatherbee to run the school library from 2015 to 2019.

For the past two years, she has worked with Gifted and Talented students at Wagner and Reeds Brook middle schools.

Ms. Donovan is married with two sons. She is a graduate of the University of Maine and has lived in Winterport since 1998.

Her hobbies include walking her dog, baking, reading, and watching her favorite New England sports teams.

Carol Gourmelon, Grade 6-7 Social Studies

Carol Gourmelon has joined the staff at Reeds Brook Middle School as a Social Studies teacher for grades 6 and 7.

Last year, Mrs. Gourmelon taught social studies at Wagner Middle School. Before coming to RSU 22, she taught social studies at the middle school



level in Houston, TX, for three years and spent 2½ years in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where her husband, Jean-Yves, was working as regional technical manager for an energy company.

Previously, she taught in her hometown of Troy, AL, for 12 years and in a suburb of Atlanta, GA, for 12 years.

Mrs. Gourmelon received her B.S. degree in Secondary Social Science Education from Auburn University and her Master's degree in Middle Grades Social Studies and Science from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

The Gourmelons live in Orland.

Mrs. Gourmelon has two children, a daughter who lives in Maine, and a son who attends Missouri State University.

In her off-duty hours, Mrs. Gourmelon enjoys reading, especially about history, which she says is her "ultimate passion."

Alyssa Kilgour, 8th grade Special Education

After Alyssa Kilgour graduated from Hampden Academy in 2014, she got a job with the Hampden Rec Department and discovered how much she enjoyed working with children.

That experience prompted Ms. Kilgour to pursue a career in education, and now she's the new 8th grade special education teacher and case manager at Reeds Brook Middle School.



She got her Associate's degree in Elementary Education at Eastern Maine Community College and then transferred to the University of Maine, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Mathematics. She did her student teaching at Wagner Middle School.

She taught 8th grade math and

social studies at Bucksport Middle School before accepting her current position at Reeds Brook.

Ms. Kilgour currently lives in Hampden with her husband. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Special Education at UMaine.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, baking, and playing tennis.

Nick Oyler, School Nurse

Nick Oyler, a sea kayak instructor who spent many summers on the coast of Maine, is the new school nurse at Reeds Brook Middle School.

Mr. Oyler grew up and attended high school and college in Richmond, VA, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Before coming to Reeds Brook, he served as a school nurse, school nurse supervisor, and Coordinator of Student Health in Chesterfield County, VA.

Mr. Oyler moved to Maine in April 2021.

"Maine has some of the best coastal kayaking in the world, and we've always wanted to be closer to the Maine coast," he said. "After the crazy year of 2020, we decided to stop wishing and start doing, so here we are."

The Oylers live in Hampden. They have one child, a daughter who attends Reeds Brook Middle School. Mrs. Oyler teaches English at Nokomis Regional High in Newport.

"Hampden was a great choice for us to be able to find work, live near a great city, send our daughter to great schools, and still be close to all of the outdoor activities Maine has to offer," he says.



Maine's Teacher of the Year Journey Starts with Your Nomination

Nominations are now open for the 2022 County Teachers of the Year and 2023 Teacher of the Year. Members of the public are encouraged to nominate educators who demonstrate a commitment to excellence and who inspire the achievement of all students.

"Our educators have continued to inspire, educate and care for their students during dynamic and difficult times," said Commissioner of Education Pender Makin. "We encourage education colleagues, students, and community members to nominate an educator who exemplifies the committed heroes in our classrooms and schools."

Nominations can be made through a nomination form on the Maine Teacher of the Year Website now through 5:00 pm on Feb. 4, 2022. Nominations will be accepted from students, parents, caregivers, community members, school administrators, colleagues, college faculty members, and associations/organizations (self-nominations, and nominations from family members are not accepted).

To be considered for the County

and Maine Teacher of the Year award, a person must:

- Be employed by a Maine public school including PK-12, Career and Technical Education sites and centers, and/or Adult Education Programs
- Hold the appropriate professional certification for their position
- Be actively teaching students at least 50% of full-time at the time of nomination and during the year of recognition
- Have been teaching for a minimum of five years – three of which are in Maine
- Remain teaching in the county for which they are selected during year of recognition

Through the generous support of Maine businesses, there is no cost to the local district when the Teacher of the Year is out of the classroom on their official duties, which includes representing educators state-wide and nationally through safely distanced in-person and virtual events that highlight the important work of Maine schools, communities, and educators.

Reeds Brook 6th, 7th graders research gravestones at local cemetery

Sixth and seventh graders in Mrs. Gourmelon's Social Studies classes at Reeds Brook Middle School took a walking tour of Locust Grove Cemetery this fall as part of a project to learn about research, documentation, and original sources.

"The students needed to learn how to do research—how to read documents and use primary sources," Mrs. Gourmelon said. "I wanted to keep it local, so we went to the cemetery, and I had them pick a person from one of the tombstones and do research on that person's background."

After taking notes from the gravestones about such details as life span and family members, students continued to explore these past Hampden residents' lives through sites like *ancestryclassroom.com* and *newspapers.com*.

Mrs. Gourmelon got a grant from *Ancestry.com* to support the use of these research sites.

Students used timeline graphic organizers to lay out the events from the people's lives. The last step will be to create a brochure for display at the Hampden Historical Society.

The project began with the walking tour in October, and since then Mrs. Gourmelon says the project has just bloomed.

"From the research, the kids have found some really interesting stories," she said.

For example, one of the tombstones was for Alonzo Sylvester, who went to Hampden Academy, worked with his father in his harness-making shop, and then decided to become a dentist.

"The research showed that Mr. Sylvester found out that Europeans love American dentists, so he wound up going to Prussia [now part of Germany], where he became the dentist for the last Kaiser of Prussia," Mrs. Gourmelon said. "And he's buried in the cemetery across the street from Reeds Brook."

The research also told a sad tale about Lydia Carey, whose grave was found by a student in River View Cemetery, also in Hampden.

Mrs. Carey's husband returned from a trip and thought he had ship fever, but it turned out to be smallpox. Mrs. Carey and all of their four children apparently died of smallpox.

Mrs. Gourmelon said the students have been excited about the project.

"They really like it," she said. "They're learning about history, and with the research they're doing, they're uncovering the lives of these people who were forgotten."

As the project progressed, the students found that many of the tombstones at Locust Grove had become covered by grass.

"We asked the town if we could clean up around some of these tombstones," Mrs. Gourmelon said. "The town said OK, and the students formed a tombstone clean-up crew, which started work in November."

On the first day, about eight students showed up, but on subsequent visit, more than 20 students worked at digging the grass away and uncovering the buried tombstones.

Later in the fall, the weather put a damper on the clean-up effort.

"The kids usually met on Mondays and Tuesdays, but if it's raining or there's snow on the ground,



they're limited in what they can do," Mrs. Gourmelon said. "We'll probably step back and resume our

clean-up efforts in the spring."

Mrs. Gourmelon says the 6th graders are also learning about the

Wabanaki people to understand the indigenous people's experiences along with the settlers' experiences.

Dorothy Dawson named District Teaching Director for G/T

Dorothy Dawson, who taught 5th grade at the Weatherbee School for four years, was appointed District Teaching Director of Gifted and Talented Education by the RSU 22 Board of Directors at its November meeting.

Mrs. Dawson's new office is in Weatherbee, but she serves students in all RSU 22 schools.

While serving as a general education teacher, Mrs. Dawson remained attached to the special education field of gifted and talented education and served as a member of the RSU 22 Gifted and Talented Advisory Board.

Mrs. Dawson shares RSU 22's commitment to the Renzulli approach to education of gifted students. According to Renzulli, gifted individuals have above average ability, high task commitment, and great creativity that combine into gifted behavior. Maine educational law (Chapter 104) provides that identified students may make up to 5 percent of the student body. This is a challenge in RSU 22, as students must score in the 98th to 99th percentile on aptitude and achievement tests and be in need of curriculae other than that offered in the general classroom in order to qualify for GT services. RSU 22 screens student in Grades 2, 5, and 8 to determine eligibility for GT services, which include push-in and pull-out models and in some cases, opportunities outside the district.

As a whole, GT services in RSU 22 are referred to as the Explorers program.

While recognizing the need for



Dorothy Dawson

students to grow academically, Mrs. Dawson also sees the need to meet students' social and emotional needs. She says one often misunderstood characteristic of gifted students is that of asynchronicity, which means gifted children may, in effect, be several ages at once. For example, a gifted 10-year-old may read at a Grade 12 level, yet have the interpersonal skills of a 6-year-old and the motor skills of a 4-year-old. As no two gifted students are alike, Mrs. Dawson intends to grow the Explorers program by putting robust Individual Learning Plans in place that address the individual needs of the students with their whole selves in mind.

Mrs. Dawson has traveled the 'scenic route' from her agrarian hometown of Woodslee, Ontario, on

the Great Lakes to the forests of Maine. She took her newly awarded Bachelor's degree in Psychology (University of Windsor, 1991) with her abroad to teach English in Japan. Upon her return to Canada, she studied and practiced law in Manitoba until she got tired of fighting all day long and returned to teach in Japan.

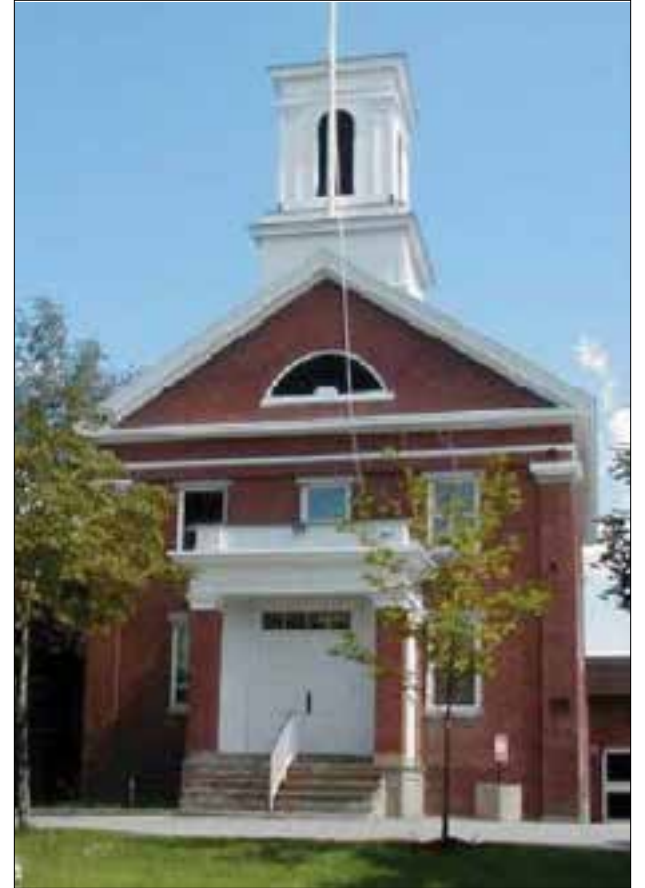
In 2005, she resettled in North America and within a year welcomed her son, Stirling (now a grade 10 student at Hermon High School) with her husband Lloyd Hall who was transferred from Johnson Outdoors headquarters in Wisconsin to Old Town Canoe in Old Town.

When Stirling started kindergarten, Mrs. Dawson resumed her career in education and was employed for seven years in several capacities at RSU 34, including ESL (English as a second language) teacher, robotics coach, and Gifted Education Specialist at Leonard Middle School.

Outside of education, her passions are creative pursuits at home in Carmel, such as gardening, cooking, reading, knitting, visual art, woodworking, and music, along with supporting her son on his path to Eagle Scout.

Mrs. Dawson is a candidate for the National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards and expects to start the Masters of Science in Education in Educational Leadership program at the University of Southern Maine this summer.

RSU 22 Strategic Plan 2022-2027



DISTRICT MISSION

RSU 22 is committed to the optimal learning of all students. To achieve our mission, we are further committed to:

- Fostering and modeling a love of learning
- Developing self-reliant, creative, and responsible citizens
- Providing the necessary resources
- Creating a community of respect and caring

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- All citizens in our communities share the responsibility to educate our children and themselves,
- Our schools are community support systems and should welcome and encourage all members of our communities to participate, and
- Our schools will have a supportive and empowering atmosphere for all students and community members.

Four Building Blocks: Student Success, Professional Excellence

Student Success

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Achievement

Action Steps

- Increase the number of students who participate in full day PK programs
- Implement and measure rigorous curriculum consistently
- Ensure engaging high impact instructional strategies
- Initiate restructuring of the middle level experience
- Evaluate and improve relevant and authentic project-based learning programming assessment tools

Goal 2: Foundational Skills

Action Steps

- Prioritize and evaluate PK-2 Literacy and Numeracy Fundamentals
- Amplify 3-5 Reading to Learn, Computing and Problem Solving and Writing
- Utilize 6-8 Critical Thinking, Application of Reading, Writing, Math
- Cultivate study skills curriculum (AVID) 3-12
- Develop and implement concrete Advisory curriculum 9-12
- Restructure and prioritize Civics course implementation
- Focus on Guiding Principles and Citizenship curriculum

Goal 3: Instructional Models, Pathways and Opportunities

Action Steps

- Relevant, rigorous, and innovative academic opportunities will prepare students to succeed in their chosen path. Provide early opportunities for awareness of local and regional careers (see partnership goals)
- Create a master menu from which students personalize learning pathways and map out personal goals starting in 8th grade
- School scheduling development

Goal 4: Engagement in a diverse, global society

Action Steps

- Decrease the number of students defined as chronically absent
- Ensure inclusive and varied opportunities for all students
- Complete a curriculum audit for compliance with Maine state law, including measuring the degree to which our curriculum complies
- Implement and sustain training to improve cultural competency* to better address individual student needs

* **Cultural competency:** The ability to understand, appreciate and interact with students, families, and colleagues from cultures and belief systems different than our own, including but not limited to: age, disability status, gender identity, military/veteran status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation and/or socioeconomic status

Aligned Core

Critical Thinker - Problem Solver - Collaborator - Effective Communicator - Perseverance

Professional Excellence

Goal 1: Attract and Maintain High Performing Professionals

Action Steps

- Through ongoing, curriculum-focused professional development, staff will apply and discern high yield strategies that promote academic excellence and inclusion. (Skill building-three measures of success)
- Foster and develop administrators as effective leaders of human capital
- Retain highly effective and qualified staff through less than 2% attrition
- Increase the number of qualified candidates for the annually identified difficult to staff areas by 5%
- Strengthen evaluation processes across all staff areas. Consistently include calibration of teacher observations, student grading, standard benchmarking, and what it means to perform at grade level in each content area
- Prioritize student/teacher productive relationship development as an essential instructional practice
- Response to Interventions will be implemented completely and correctly in every school

Goal 2: Professional Development

Action Steps

- Encourage and support National Board Certification cohort growth

Goal 3: Best Practices

Action Steps

- Foster development of effective teaching practices (i.e., project based learning, flipped learning, research-based practices)

Aligned Core

Critical Thinker - Problem Solver - Collaborator - Effective Communicator - Perseverance



History of Student and Educator Excellence in RSU 22

- 2013 – Mary Giard – Maine Curriculum Leader of the Year
- 2013 – Rick Lyons – Dr. Alice Duckworth Achievement in Education Award
- 2014 – Andrea Lee – Dr. Richard H. Bartlett Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- 2014 – Barb Parent – School Nurse of the Year
- 2014 – Zach Gilpin – Gatorade Player of the Year
- 2014 – Zach Gilpin – BDN Player of the Year
- 2014 – HA Boys Basketball State Champions
- 2015 – Kathryn Foran – Waldo County Teacher of the Year
- 2015 – Emil Genest – Assistant Superintendent of the Year
- 2015 – Unified Basketball State Champions
- 2015 – HA Boys Basketball State Champions
- 2016 – Reeds Brook named Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education
- 2016 – Dana Ross – Music Teacher of the Year
- 2016 – Unified Basketball State Champions
- 2018 – Dawn Moore – Principal of the Year
- 2018 – Kelly O'Brien – School Counselor of the Year
- 2018 – Wagner Middle School - Eastern Maine Math League Champions
- 2018 – Pat Michaud, Matt Madore, Dana Ross, Heidi Corliss, Becky Mallory – Dale F. Huff Outstanding Music Program Award
- 2019 - Russell Bartlett – Basketball Coach of the Year
- 2019 – HA Boys Basketball State Champions
- 2019 – Hampden Academy named on ESPN Honor Roll as part of its Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools National Recognition Program
- 2019 – Weatherbee – Maine Chess K-6 Division State Champions

- 2019 – Weatherbee honored by the American School Counselors Association and designated as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP).
- 2020 – Bryce Lausier – Gatorade Player of the Year
- 2021 – Susan O'Brien – Instructional Coach of The Year
- 2021 – Kimberly Raymond – School Counselor of the Year
- 2021 – Wagner Middle School - Maine Environmental Education Assn grant
- 2021 – Samantha Poll – Annual Award of Excellence, Maine STEM Partnership
- 2021 – HA Boys XC State Champions
- 2021 – Brittany Layman – KVIC Volleyball Coach of the Year
- 2021 – Danielle Johnson – XC Coach of the Year
- 2021 – Abbott Valentine – Boys' XC Runner of the Year
- 2022 – Hilary Hoyt – Waldo County Teacher of the Year
- 2022 – Kelsey Stoyanova – Penobscot County and Maine Teacher of the Year



Rachel Gardella, Maddie Mooers, Linda MacDonald, and Andrea Lee with Hampden Academy's banner as a Special Olympics National Unified Champion School.

Excellence, Community Partnerships, Operational Excellence

Community Partnerships

Goal 1: Family and Community Engagement

Action Steps

- Increase the percentage of parents who participate in involvement opportunities at their child's school

Goal 2: RSU 22 Educational Foundation

Action Steps

- Re-establish and define Educational Foundation Board and initiate activity

Goal 3: Communication and Transparency

Action Steps

- Connect with the community to earn and promote community trust through ongoing communication, transparency, and marketing of RSU 22
- Development of a comprehensive RSU 22 Communications Plan

Goal 4: Campus Based Service

Action Steps

- Create and implement organized systemic on campus partnerships to increase community engagement with students
- Partner with local organizations to provide wrap-around services to students including healthcare, nutrition, academic and social and emotional support
- Expand the use of the RSU 22 facilities, i.e., Performing Arts Center, turf, multi-purpose room

Goal 5: Develop Authentic Student Academic Programming Based on Community Partnerships

Action Steps

- Partner with community organizations to implement learning projects and activities with the RSU 22 community or region that are aligned with current curriculum and provide opportunities for authentic learning
- Build partnerships with local, state and national businesses, organizations and governments to support a variety of learning experiences

Aligned Core

- Critical Thinker
- Problem Solver
- Collaborator
- Effective Communicator
- Perseverance



Operational Excellence

Goal 1: Budget Development

Action Steps

- Maintain prudent budget development as an investment in students and sustainable practices
- Perform ongoing review and re-evaluation of budget for expense redundancies and waste
- Ensure equitable purchasing/procurement practices
- Implement per pupil expenditure system; monitor and adjust, as needed

Goal 2; Fiscal and Facilities Management

Action Steps

- Maintain a strong financial position.
- Ensure efficient and effective business practices
- Establish and implement sustainability practices
- Increase funding for the district by annually attaining or superseding the per student statewide average
- Strive to maintain K-12 enrollment at no less than 99% of previous year
- Increase the amount of supplemental funding acquired through partnerships and competitive grant opportunities by engaging a grant writer
- Ongoing assessment of campus facilities for immediate and anticipated need (i.e., construction, preventive maintenance, etc)

Goal 3: Comprehensive Planning

Action Steps

- Analyze the impact (financial and academic) of streamlining programming beginning at middle school level
- District middle level reorganization
- Optimize technology resources district-wide

Aligned Core

- Critical Thinker - Problem Solver
- Collaborator
- Effective Communicator
- Perseverance



Hilary Hoyt (left), Waldo County Teacher of the Year, and Kelsey Stoyanova, Maine Teacher of the Year. Ms. Hoyt was also a finalist for Maine Teacher of the Year.

Wagner students enjoy clubs

Art Club: have fun and work on art

By Mary-Ann Ashe

Art Club is a club for students in grades 5-8, led by art teacher Mary-Anne Ashe, with approximately two dozen students participating weekly.

The club meets every Tuesday directly after school (2:10-3:10), and students can ride the Homework Club bus if they make arrangements with the Homework Club.

During Art Club, students can work independently, following their own interests, or they can follow lessons that provided Ms. Ashe.

The objective of the club is to have fun, work on art, and socialize with like-minded friends.

The Art Club also has a virtual component for students who cannot fit the after-school program into their tight schedule. Ms. Ashe has created a Google Classroom for Art Club so students can go to this virtual classroom to find fun enrichment activities (like the activities offered in Art Club).

A new addition to the Art Club is a small group of interested students who have started meeting on the first Thursday of each month to discuss and receive instructions to help them better understand Gifted and Talented visual arts portfolio guidelines.

"This is very new," Ms. Ashe says. "I am excited to see this develop further."



WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Nick Raymond, Principal, 223-4309

No new staff at Wagner Middle School—2021-22

Chess Club provides chess opportunities for students who aren't selected for chess team

By Ian Hall

This year Wagner chess had 37 kids try out for the competitive team. A maximum of 9 are selected for the team, which practices almost every day after school from 2:15 to 4:00.

Because there were so many chess enthusiasts this year, chess coach Ian Hall created a chess club for new players to come and learn the game. Chess club meets each Wednesday, and will continue on for the rest of the year.

The club currently has 22 students, ranging from 5th grade to 8th grade. It meets once a week, but when the competitive chess and basketball seasons are over, the club plans to open up more days during the week for more chess time.

Club members identify and play through multiple different chess puzzles and problems invented throughout the history of the game. They study openings, middle game, and end game scenarios.

Coach Hall says Wagner's chess team competes

in the Penobscot Valley Chess League. The team has nine members; Christopher Burnett, Asa Wentworth, Finn Cuddy, Franklin McKnight, Harrison Burnham, Sawyer Castro-Long, Ava Black, Sarah Sweeney, and Brendan Bowie. These gifted students made the team out of the thirty seven kids who tried out.

As of mid-December, the chess team had two matches, losing to Glenburn by two points and winning against Caravel.

Homework Club provides help, a quiet place to finish a project or read a book

By Betsy Murphy

Need help with school work?
Extra time to complete a project?
A quiet place to read a book?

Wagner Middle School has you covered!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, all Wagner Middle School students have an opportunity to receive academic support by staying after school for Homework Club.

The hour after school is monitored by Wagner staff. Students can com-

plete classwork and/or homework, catch up when absent, make progress with projects, study for quizzes and tests, or simply read.

Afterschool snacks are provided to students, thanks to a generous donation from the Wagner Pride Pack.

After-school transportation can be provided to students participating in Homework Club. To participate, students and families simply need to inquire with any classroom teacher.



The Wagner Middle School boys soccer team won the Penobscot Valley Middle League Sportsmanship Award, which is voted on by their opponents during the season.

Maine STEM award

(Continued from page 1)

to engage, value, and support all educators and learners through research-guided best practices. They are also thoughtful, respectful, and dedicated educators whose impact reaches beyond their own classroom and positively influences the broader education community in Maine.

Mrs. Poll was nominated by Jim Fratini, a teacher at Hermon Middle School. The award was presented at the RiSE (Research in STEM Education) Annual Summit, a virtual meeting on Nov. 20.

She was also nominated by a group of teachers from Wagner.

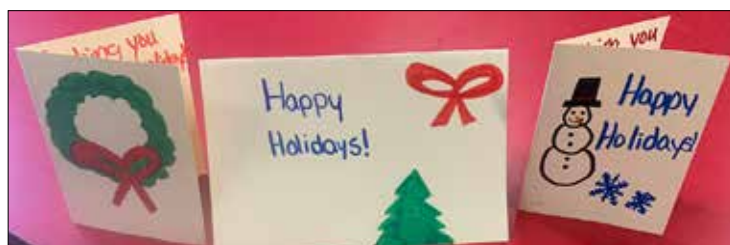
Mr. Fratini said Mrs. Poll was a leader in science education.

"Her work with the Stem+C program gave her the opportunity to develop lessons and teach us about Computer Science Unplugged activities," he said. "She became the go to person for our professional development."

He added that Mrs. Poll was able to develop approaches to teaching science that made it fun for her students.



HANDMADE HOLIDAY CARDS—The Student Council at Wagner Middle School made over 50 handmade holiday cards in November that were delivered to area nursing homes during December. Above, Student Council members LilyAnne Harriman, Dorian Hills, and Lionel Hills create cards.



Wagner Pride Pack is back

By Janette Giles, President Wagner Pride Pack

Pride Pack is back up and running! Yay!!

Pride Pack held its Winter Raffle in December, starting with daily drawings December 12-23. People purchased tickets (or "chances to win") at \$10 each.

Pride Pack is also trying to plan a Winter Festival for later in the winter when we hopefully have snow. This was being discussed during December to see if it is possible.

During the fall, Pride Pack provided candy cups for Halloween. These were cups filled with candy and cocoa or cider for all students at Wagner as well as staff.

Pride Pack also provided food for teachers during parent/teacher conferences.

LEROY H. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Dawn Moore, Principal, 223-4282



New staff at Smith School – 2021-22

Educational Technicians:

Olivia DeNicola (transfer from Hampden Academy)
Kristen Lane
Mackenzie Nikon



Caleb reads the labels on a glossary page.

First Grade Nonfiction Readers

Have you ever wondered what it's like to get really smart about all kinds of topics?

First Graders at Smith School are becoming experts on various subjects by reading several nonfiction books during their daily Reader's Workshop!

First Grade teachers have collaborated with the Title 1 reading teachers and Reading Specialists to offer students a huge variety of nonfiction leveled books.

Students are most excited about reading information about animals all around the world, machines, sports, and different habitats!

They can't wait to begin reading to themselves or with a partner, consistently starting with their nonfiction books first! The photos, captions, and labels teach students how to become nonfiction writers, too.

First Graders have learned that they should stop and study each page to look for text features that can help them learn more. Then, they learned to discuss their new



Olivia reads a book about Sea Stars.

learning with a reading partner.

These skills will help Smith School learners as they work on telling the main idea and finding key details in a nonfiction book.

First Graders can't wait to share all that they are learning with their teachers and their families at home!

If you know a Smith School First Grader, be sure to ask them what they're "super smart" about and what facts they can teach to you.

Hillary Hoyt says being a finalist for Maine Teacher of the Year was 'incredible, rewarding experience'

Hillary Hoyt, third grade teacher at Smith School and Waldo County Teacher of the Year, says being a finalist for Maine Teacher of the Year has been "a really incredible and rewarding experience."

She said the final selection process included both an interview in Augusta and a school visit by the selection committee.

"The school visit was a golden moment of my teaching career," Ms. Hoyt said. "It was really great to get to share my school community with them and to see and hear how impressed they were by Smith School."

She said the visit included a tour of the school led by student guides.

"When the selection committee asked what's so great about Smith School, the student guides replied 'We know we're loved here—and everyone's welcome.' That's a pretty remarkable response for a third grader."

As Waldo County Teacher of the Year, Ms. Hoyt was able to attend Educate Maine's Annual Education Symposium

and Leadership Awards ceremony.

"We heard from the National Teacher of the Year and from community and business leaders throughout the state about ways to connect education with business and workforce development in the state," she said. "That was really exciting."

Ms. Hoyt also enjoyed the opportunity to visit the University of Maine with Maine Teacher of the Year 2022 Kelsey Stoyanova of Reeds Brook Middle School and meet with the student MEA group at UMaine.

"It was great to share our teaching experiences and answer their questions," she said. "Kelsey and I are both UMaine graduates, and to be able to go back and speak to current students was a really great

opportunity. I'm looking forward as the year progresses to more opportunities to speak at different events. It's really exciting."

She said her principle message



Hillary Hoyt at Maine Teacher of the Year ceremony.

at colleges is the importance of engagement for our students—and the importance of science learning, especially at the elementary level.

"I'm passionate about that," she said. "By teaching science to young students, we're going to create the next generation of problem-solvers who are going to change the world. Engaging students in those problem-solving opportunities is just so important."

Ms. Hoyt added that engaging the community is also important.

"One of the reasons the education symposium was so impactful was because the business representatives were saying that, yes, they want to be involved," she said. "I think that's huge—getting the community involved in student learning."

Winterport/Frankfort Kindergarten/Pre-K Registration

Leroy H. Smith School in Winterport will hold kindergarten registration on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. Registration will be held from 12-5 PM in the library. Masks are required when entering the school building. Due to limited spacing, children do not need to be present for registration. Students must be five years old on or before Oct. 15, 2022 and be a legal resident of Winterport or Frankfort in order to attend kindergarten at the Smith School for the 2022 - 2023 school year. Please bring the student's certificate of vital record (hospital birth certificate is no longer acceptable), proof of residency, immunization record and a recent photograph with you to registration. You may contact Debbie at the Smith School at 223-4282 with any questions.

* * *

Pre-K registration will be held at the Smith School in Winterport on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 from 12- 5 PM in the Smith School library. Masks are required when entering the school building. Due to limited spacing, children do not need to be present for registration. Students must be four years old on or before Oct. 15, 2022 and be a legal resident of Winterport or Frankfort in order to attend Pre-K for the 2022 - 2023 school year. You may contact Melissa Fisk at 505-1076 with any questions.

Sarah Chandler, 3rd grade

Sarah Chandler, who graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelor's degree in Education in 2020, has joined the staff at Weatherbee School as a 3rd grade teacher.



This is Mrs. Chandler's first full-time teaching job. Last fall, she did her student teaching in the Bangor School Department. In the spring, she held two long-term substitute positions in Bangor.

Mrs. Chandler went to elementary and middle schools in Bangor; for high school, she attended Bangor Christian School.

While at Liberty, she participated in a Semester at Sea program sponsored by Colorado State University in which the students circumnavigate the globe on a cruise ship.

In addition to her Semester at Sea experience, Mrs. Chandler has visited 48 different countries—many of them more than once—mostly while traveling with her father, who works as an international food inspector for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Mrs. Chandler got married this summer. She and her husband, Luke, live in Bangor. In addition to traveling a lot, she enjoys baking.

Paula Graham, 4th grade

Paula Graham has joined the staff at the Weatherbee School as a fourth grade teacher.

Last year, she was an educational technician at Weatherbee. Before that, she spent nine years as an ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor and part-time substitute teacher at Brewer Community School, and 12 years as a classroom teacher in grades 2, 3, and 4 at St. Mary's Parish School/All Saints Catholic School in Bangor.



Ms. Graham was born in Millinocket, but spent much of her childhood in Berlin, NH. Her family moved back to Millinocket, where she graduated from Stearns High School.

She attended the University of Maine at Farmington, earning her Associate's degree in Nutrition. She worked in hospital settings as a dietetic technician for several years, while earning her B.S. degree in Elementary Education.

Ms. Graham lives in Brewer with her husband and daughter, and her stepson and family live nearby. In her off-duty hours, she enjoys hiking, biking, ice skating, camping, traveling, singing, reading, writing, and spending time with her awesome family.

Olivia Maynard, 5th grade

Olivia Maynard, who received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from Husson University in 2019, has

joined the staff at Weatherbee School.

She began the school year working in the Special Education department but has transitioned to become a member of the 5th grade team



It is her first full-time teaching job, although she had previously worked as a substitute teacher and as an in-home tutor.

A native of Bangor, Ms. Maynard moved to Farmingdale and attended Hall-Dale High School before returning to Bangor to get her degree.

Ms. Maynard is single. She says she enjoys sports, traveling, and crafts, and has an 8-month-old puppy that she loves dearly.

Liam Quinn, Special Education

Liam Quinn is a new special education teacher at the George B. Weatherbee School this year.

Last spring, he started in RSU 22 in February as a special education teacher at Earl C. McGraw and Leroy H. Smith elementary schools.



He graduated from the University of Maine in the spring of 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a focus in childhood and human development. He is working toward his master's degree in special education for low incidence and high incidence disabilities at the University of Maine.

A native of Massachusetts, Mr. Quinn has been skiing at Sugarloaf since he was 6 years old, which is one of the biggest reasons he came to Maine for college.

He participated in the weekend freestyle skiing program at Sugarloaf for a big part of his childhood, and he still goes to Sugarloaf as often as he can, "because that is my favorite place in the whole world!"

While at UMaine, he joined Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, which had "Feeding America" as its national charity. That brought Mr. Quinn to Hampden for the first time to do volunteer work at Good Shepherds Food Bank.

"That is where I started to meet some of the awesome local people from the Hampden community," he said.

Mr. Quinn did his student teaching at Weatherbee.

Sarah York, 3rd grade

Sara York, who taught elementary grades in the Bangor School Department for nine years, is teaching 3rd grade at the Weatherbee School this year.

After teaching in Bangor, Ms. York spent three years



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

New staff at Weatherbee School—2021-22

Teachers:

Sarah Chandler, 3rd grade
Paula Graham, 4th grade
Olivia Maynard, 5th grade
Liam Quinn, 3rd grade Special Education Case Manager
Sara York, 3rd grade

Literacy Interventionist:

Bethany Healy

Administrative Assistant:

Joseph Paradis

Gifted/Talented:

Tricia Richardson, district-wide position

Food Services:

Chef Brian Ross (profiled in the August 2021 issue)
Kendra Laffey

running the family business before coming to Weatherbee.

Ms. York grew up primarily in the greater Bangor area. She attended the Good Samaritan Agency Teen Parent Education Program, where she was class valedictorian. Because she was a resident of Bangor, she received her diploma from Bangor High School.

After graduation, she worked as a sales representative for W. S. Emerson for about eight years. During the last five years, she worked part-time while she pursued her Education studies at the University of Maine. She has degrees in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education with concentrations in Child and Human Development.

Ms. York lives in Orono with her long-term partner of 24 years. She has a 22-year-old son.

In her off-duty hours, she says she enjoys hiking, mountain biking, reading, exercising, being outdoors, going to the ocean, and spending time with family and loved ones.

Bethany Healy Literacy Interventionist

Bethany Healy is the new Literacy Interventionist at Weatherbee School.

Mrs. Healy comes to RSU 22 from RSU 64 (Corinth, Bradford, Kenduskeag, Stetson, Hudson), where she spent six years as Title 1 Ed Tech for grades K-3, supporting students in reading, writing, and math instruction, and three years as a Title 1 Ed Tech for Literacy Intervention for grades K-4.

After accepting her new position at



Weatherbee last summer, she attended additional intervention training for students who need extra help with reading, writing, and spelling.

Mrs. Healy grew up in Hampden and Newburgh and graduated from Hampden Academy in 1994. She received her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Maine in 2000. She is married, lives in Kenduskeag, and has two grown children. She enjoys time with family, walking her Labrador retriever, reading, traveling and swimming in the summer, and attending music concerts.

Josiah Paradis, Administrative Asst.

Josiah Paradis has joined the staff at Weatherbee School as the administrative assistant.

In that position, he takes attendance, creates the weekly newsletter, and does a number of other tasks to keep the school running smoothly, including:

- Scheduling all IEPs for Special Ed teachers.
- Managing the school volunteer database.
- Managing the school calendar and room assignments for facilities, including: special education testing, outside tutors, and outside organizations.
- Updating the Parent/Student Handbook.
- School photo liaison.
- Managing all student absences—contacting parents for absences and issuing letters for excessive tardies and absences.
- Website management.



• Answering and directing in-person and telephone inquiries, greeting visitors, and providing information to parents, students, teachers and public.

Mr. Paradis and his wife Megan live in Bangor with their newborn daughter Liesel.

He grew up in Belgrade, graduated from Messalonskee High School, and earned his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Maine. While at UMaine, he worked at Chick-fil-A during the school year and as an ophthalmic technician at Kennebec Eye Care during school breaks.

In his off-duty hours, Mr. Paradis loves to play disc golf during the summer and fall and play strategy games of both the video and board varieties.

Mr. Paradis and his wife enjoy taking walks together and playing with their newborn daughter.

He says he's delighted to be part of the RSU 22 school system and has been enjoying his time at Weatherbee immensely.

Tricia Richardson, K-8 Gifted & Talented

Tricia Richardson, who has been teaching 4th and 5th grade in Glenburn for the past three years, is excited to be returning to RSU 22 as the K-8 Gifted and Talented teacher.



Ms. Richardson will be housed at Weatherbee School, but she will provide Gifted and Talented services for RSU 22 students in grades K-8 throughout the district.

Ms. Richardson grew up in Carmel, attended Hermon High School, and graduated from Rivier University in Nashua, NH, with a B.A. in Public Relations.

After many successful years as a nonprofit fundraiser, grant writer, and event planner, she made a career change to education.

She went back to school at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, to earn her K-8 teaching certification. She then took additional courses to earn her Maine Gifted & Talented Certification and a Master's degree in Gifted Education from the University of South Florida. Ms. Richardson's expertise is working with twice exceptional students—those who are gifted and have a disability. She is currently working on her Certificate of Advanced Study in Special Education from the University of Maine to further advance her expertise in this area.

She taught for several years in Norfolk, VA; Virginia Beach, VA; and Washington, DC, and in 2014, she returned to Maine and joined the staff of RSU 22. She taught second grade at McGraw School for one year, third grade at Weatherbee School for three years, and then served as the district Gifted and Talented teacher for two years.

In 2019, Ms. Richardson left to teach 4th and 5th grade in Glenburn, but she says she is "very excited to be returning to RSU 22, the place I call HOME."

Ms. Richardson is married and lives in Hampden with her husband Gary. She has four grown children, two sons and twin stepdaughters.



Weatherbee PE classes make cider

A project led by physical education teacher Andy Plaisted to use a grinder and cider press to make fresh apple cider for Weatherbee students and staff was a huge success this past fall.

Mr. Plaisted said he received support from the Weatherbee PTO to obtain both the grinder and the cider press.

He said the project made a grand

total of 30 gallons of fresh apple cider, averaging two gallons per classroom.

During PE classes, the students consumed about a gallon of cider while grinding and pressing the apples.

"I had the best time with all of our students and look forward to next fall," Mr. Plaisted said. "I believe that the students really enjoyed learning the process. They were super helpful and loved the juice."

He said the cider was pasteurized by Chef Brian Ross in food services at McGraw and Weatherbee.

Mr. Plaisted said he wanted to thank the PTO and all the parents who volunteered their time helping run our first ever cider pressing.

"Our future plans include planting and pruning within our orchard and possibly adding a second cider press," he said.

3rd graders learn about traditions, including Macy's Day parade

When Mrs. Chandler's and Mrs. Adams's 3rd grade classes were learning about traditions of different cultures, the students identified different traditions that they celebrate with their families.

Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Adams both have a tradition of watching the Macy's Day parade on Thanksgiving with their families.

To share this tradition with their students, they had them read *Balloons Over Broadway*, a book about the life of an immigrant, Tony Sarg, who grew up loving marionettes. He became the puppeteer of the Macy's Day parade, creating a tradition of the giant upside-down marionettes made from balloons.

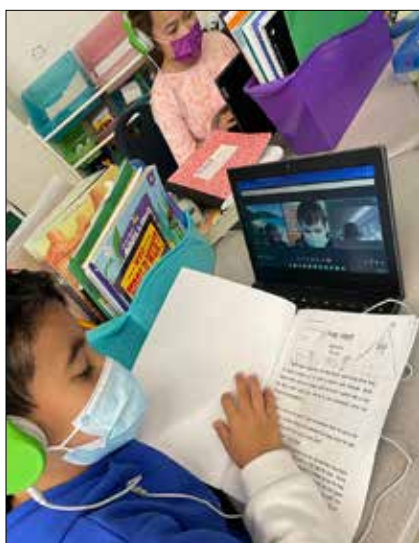
The students were able to design and construct their own balloon figures and go on a parade throughout the school, which they did on November 22.

Mrs. Adams said the projects were supported by the Social Studies standards in the curriculum, which ask students to draw on concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the community, Maine, and the United States.

She said the lesson on tradition was from the



TCI Social Studies program, "Finding Places in the United States. In this lesson, students explored the role that traditions, symbols, and values play in uniting people across the continent in a single country.



Laith and Erika participating in our Google Meet share with the entire 4th grade.



Chad, Ella and Lucy enjoy ice cream as they share their small moment stories with each other.

Team Birmingham-Hardy Writing Class busy at Weatherbee

Writing class has been busy this year!

Fourth graders focused on narrative writing in the beginning and wrote personal narratives.

We had a "Beach Party" on a warm day with a sweet treat to celebrate our writing and shared stories within our team.

Next, we created realistic fiction pieces, and students focused on adding details and dialogue into their writing. Our share was a whole fourth grade session so we utilized a Google Meet session and broke students into breakout rooms to share across the grade.

Finally, we began opinion writing

by arguing if turkey should be the traditional Thanksgiving food.

Students even got to do a small art activity to go with their opinions.

As you can see, although writing is starting to look closer to "normal," we are still utilizing some strategies to safely read to each other.

Ed Techs Wanted

Educational Technician I - \$15.06 - \$18.97/hour
Educational Technician II - \$15.89 - \$20.55/hour
Educational Technician III - \$16.82 - \$22.13/hour

- **35 hours per week during the school year only;**
- **Health insurance - BCBS Standard 1000 (full year) : 100% paid for single coverage, 75% paid for family coverage**

Current openings for Ed Tech III's at McGraw and Smith Schools; additional openings possible at other RSU 22 schools as instructional needs arise.

Ed Techs work primarily in two areas. In special education, Ed Techs work in small group settings and 1:1 with individual special education students.

Ed Tech generalists assist the teaching staff by working in the Library, in reading rooms (helping with reading instruction), providing intervention in small groups, and doing lunch duty.

Maine Certification, CHRC required.

To apply, fill out a non-teaching application and submit it to the Superintendent of Schools.

Applications can be found on the RSU 22 website, www.rsu22.us.

Jodi Bisson, Stacy LaBree National Board Certified Teachers

(Continued from page 1)

They were among 16 educators in Maine who achieved National Board Certification on December 11, 2021. RSU 22 was one of only two school districts with more than one teacher being recognized.

* * *

Ms. LaBree said her journey through the National Board certification process was the most powerful and effective professional learning she has ever experienced.

"It was extremely rigorous and time consuming, but it required me to be a truly reflective practitioner who focuses on meeting the needs of individual students, using data in new ways to assess student progress and learning goals while deepening their content knowledge. It has taught me to think systematically about my instructional practices to ensure student success."

* * *

Mrs. Bisson said the process of applying for National Board Certification challenged her to think about her teaching and to become more thoughtful and reflective in her planning.

"It got me thinking about the ways that I impact my students and forced me to ask questions such as: What do my students need from me? Am I meeting these needs? What can I do to make sure that they feel valued and appreciated every day?"

However, she said the biggest takeaway was how the process caused her to reflect on herself not only as an educator, but as a learner.

"I did not pass the boards on my first try and I had to make the decision to 'put myself out there' again," she said. "This was my biggest challenge. I thought about not continuing, but then I remembered all of the times that I encouraged my students to not give up, and told

Substitute teachers wanted!!!

If you like children and have 2 years of college credits, you might well enjoy substitute teaching. You can control your own schedule, work when you want to (and not when you have other commitments). You can also tell us which schools, grade levels, age levels, and subjects you prefer.

In addition to 2 years of college credits, you need to obtain a Criminal History Records Check through the Department of Education and fill out an RSU 22 substitute teacher application form, which is available at the Superintendent's office or online at www.rsu22.us. Please call us with any questions you may have.

**Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22
24 Main Rd. North, Hampden, ME 04444**

207-862-3255



Substitute teacher Angela LaRoche works with students at George B. Weatherbee School.

them you can do anything when you set your mind to it. I was determined to continue the process and

I was fortunate enough to find a great support team who not only urged me to continue, but were there for me throughout the process. Becoming a National Board Certified Teacher was not easy, but it was definitely worth the process and has given this veteran teacher of 31 years renewed confidence and purpose.”



Stacy LaBree



Jodi Bisson

* * *

Other National Board Certified Educators in RSU 22 are: Vicki Bailey, McGraw; Audrey Bracciodietta, Weatherbee; Heidi Corliss, Hampden Academy; Amy Hanson, McGraw; Hillary Hoyt, Smith; Jason Kash, Reeds Brook; Matt Madore, Weatherbee-McGraw; Susan O'Brien, Reeds Brook, RSU 22 Instructional Coach; and Kelly O'Brien Weaver, Weatherbee.



Riverside Adult Education

We are here for you!

<https://orono-hampden-oldtown.maineadulted.org>

Whether services are in-person or remote, our academic services are tailored to your needs and schedule. All academic services are always free of charge to Maine residents.

Academic Support and High School Completion

Build your foundational math and reading skills to enhance your job performance or achieve an academic life goal. You can work with a tutor one on one or join a class (location can be virtual or may be at a partner site). Earn your high school diploma through class work or by passing the HiSET test (formally the GED). Prepare for higher education career training or college with our experienced and encouraging staff. Whatever your academic goals may be, we are here to help you!

Maine College and Career Access

Our College Transitions Program is designed to help students successfully prepare for college or the workforce. We help adult learners who are earning their high school diploma or their HiSET certificate successfully transition to college. We also help students who already have a diploma prepare for their college experience. We can even provide support if you're already enrolled in college but need help finding your groove. Contact Rebecca Cross at rcross@rsu26.org if you would like to learn more about our College Transitions services.

Community Enrichment: Distance Learning Courses

Ed2Go <https://www.ed2go.com/enrichment/>

This fall, check out nearly 500 interactive personal enrichment online courses through our partnership with Ed2Go. All classes are instructor-led (via email), fit into convenient six-week formats, and are affordably priced. Popular courses include: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner, Photography Suit, Intro to Guitar, Alternative Medicine, Accounting, Microsoft, Cloud Computing, Security, Languages (Spanish, French, Sign Language) and many more. Browse the site for a full list of courses!

UGotClass (<https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/>)

Develop professional skills through certificate classes in an online course with UGotClass. Browse <https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/> for information on certificates and education in Business, Health, Human Resources, Management, Leadership, New Media, and more.



RSU 22 Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration 2022/2023 School Year

Day: Tuesday, Feb. 15, 4-7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 18, 10-4 p.m.

Place: Earl C. McGraw School
20 Main Road North
Hampden, ME 04444
207-862-3830

You must register your child with the town where you reside (Hampden/Newburgh)

At the time of registration, parents must provide the child's state-issued birth certificate (not hospital-issued), current immunization records, two forms of proof of residency, and a small photograph.

Masks are required when entering the school building. Due to limited spacing, children do not need to be present for registration.

Students are eligible for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2022.

The Pre-K program provides for inclusive education for children who will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2022.

Applications will be available at registration or you can print off the packet starting February 1 at mcgraw.rsu22.us (McGraw School) for Kindergarten and rsu22.us/our-schools/pre-k for Pre-K.



Bus Drivers Wanted



Van Attendants Wanted

John T. Cyr & Sons Inc.

We are looking for people who love working with children. This is a great opportunity to earn extra income at a part time job and having a very important responsibility in the community, keeping our children safe as they go back and forth to school.

We work with people to get their qualifications to drive a School Bus, including help with Entry Level Driver Training. We also accept those who already have their qualifications.

If you are interested and have a great driving record, please call

949-0597 and ask for Melanie

RSU 22 blessed by generosity, kindness of families, community partners, staff

By Jennifer Nickerson, Principal, Earl C. McGraw School

The generosity and kindness of families, community partners, and staff is outstanding.

* * *

On Wednesday, December 15, representatives from Bangor Savings Bank brought food for families in need at McGraw.

On Monday, December 20, Journey Church in Hampden provided food for distribute to McGraw families as they do every year.

* * *

A family in Winterport—Steph and Lindsey LaChance—donated school supplies and snacks to all six RSU 22 schools—tons of stuff!!! The donations included office and instructional supplies, including card stock, construction paper, markers, post-its, dry erase markers, pencils, pens, and glue sticks, etc., as well as tissues and personal care items.

* * *

We also had a family donate money to support building teacher classroom libraries. They gave \$1,000 to The Briar Patch in Bangor, and teachers have been able to go and purchase a book for their classroom. All teachers in RSU 22 were welcome to get books until the funds ran out.

* * *

Mt. Waldo Plastics has donated 20 kid-sized shovels to our school for kids to use outside at recess to build snow forts.

* * *

Once again, items for the McGraw Project Paw campaign were purchased by staff, families, and community members, which helped six families have a wonderful holiday.

Project Paw serves as our Giving Tree. The McGraw Paw is a component of the school and so we “lend a paw” during the holiday season. Families who need assistance during this time contact our school counselor, Melissa Erickson, and complete a form with their sizes and toy requests. This year we used Signup Genius to organize our wishes instead of having paper paws that people come in and select.

Folks in the community, staff, and families went online to view the requests and selected those items they wished to donate. They then dropped off the items, and Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Kim Nason (Administrative Assistant) organized the gifts and distributed them to the families. This year six families put in requests. We were able to meet all of their needs and the PTO added in a \$25 gift card to Hannaford for each family.

* * *

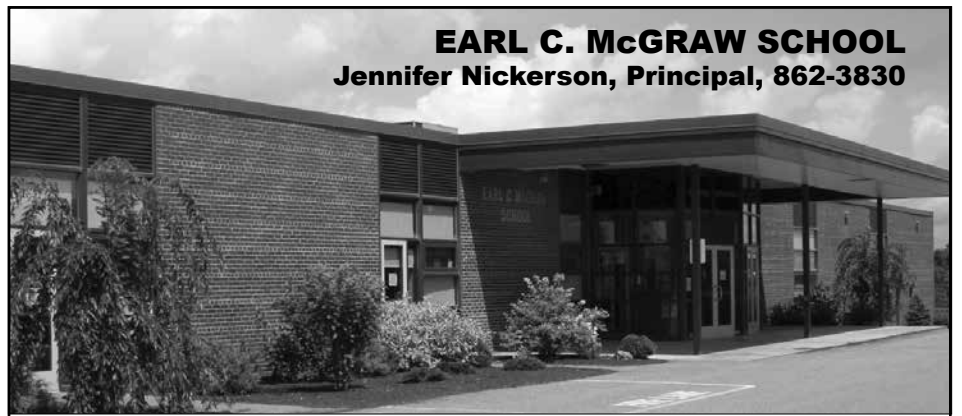
F. W. Webb in Hampden made a generous donation to McGraw to use for outdoor playground equipment. We are hoping to put it towards the purchase of an elevated sand table for all students to enjoy.



HOLIDAY FOOD DONATION—Bangor Savings Bank employees came to McGraw School on December 15 to donate food for McGraw families in need during the holidays. From left, they are Jake Knight, Jaclyn Silk, Lori Sinclair, and Laura Blake. Mrs. Silk has two children at McGraw.



Gretchen and Brian Keezer of the Journey Church brought bags of supplies and Hannaford gift cards for the families on their list.



EARL C. MCGRAW SCHOOL
Jennifer Nickerson, Principal, 862-3830

New staff at McGraw School—2021-22

Educational Technicians:

Jen Haslett, Sarabeth Miller, Liza Phair, and Hannah Bailey



A representative of the Christine B Foundation (right) presents Brian Ross with the foundation's 2021 Volunteer of the Year award.

Brian Ross honored as Volunteer of the Year by Christine B Foundation

Brian Ross, Chef Manager in RSU 22 who oversees the kitchen operations at McGraw and Weatherbee schools, has been honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Christine B Foundation, which strives to connect cancer patients in Eastern Maine with the services they need, including access to personalized social, financial, educational, and emotional support.

Mr. Ross, who volunteers 10 to 15 hours a week, says the group provides medically tailored nutrition packages to cancer patients located in several Maine counties.

“We just surpassed 150,000 meals in the past year and a half,” he says.

Mr. Ross got involved with the Christine B Foundation after being diagnosed with Stage 4 Neuroendo-

crine cancer in 2017.

“I wanted to find a way to somehow give something back in the manner that people helped and supported me,” Mr. Ross says. “The Christine B Foundation is a great group started by a young man whose mother passed from stomach cancer when he was just a teenager.”

After three years of treatment, Mr. Ross’s cancer was in remission. On his Facebook page, Mr. Ross offered this Thanksgiving message for 2021:

“Thanksgiving 2017—1 day into Stage 4 diagnosis and I had to puree my turkey dinner. Thanksgiving 2021—1 year into remission and I have to loosen my belt for apple pie! I know what I’m thankful for.”

Grade 2 students, staff collect change, donate to Shaw House

Grade 2 students and staff collected their change for the month of December and made a donation to the Shaw House, a homeless shelter for teens located in downtown Bangor.

The total presented to Lauren for the Shaw House was \$1,040.11. The Grade 2 students raised \$740.11, and Maine Savings Bank donated an additional \$300. Maine Savings Bank rolled and counted all the money for us!

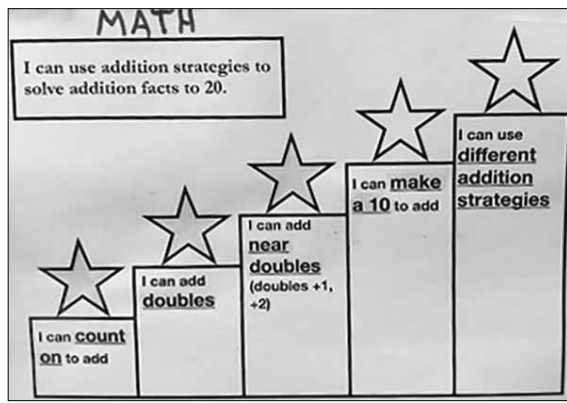


Cindy Kelley, Grade 2 teacher, and some of her second grade students present Lauren from the Shaw House with the funds they raised in December. The left photo shows them turning over the jars of coins they collected; the photo at right shows them with the check after the money was all counted by Maine Savings Bank.



Tracking Student Progress

Vicki Bailey, NBT, who teaches first grade at McGraw uses an assessment and feedback strategy called “Stars and Stairs” in her classroom. Teachers use this strategy to provide feedback to students about their progress towards a standard. As you can see in the picture, the standard is identified in the upper left corner. “I can use addition strategies to solve addition facts to 20.”



beginning of each class to help the student know where he/she is working and what is next. In the example below, the student is working on making a ten to add and has almost reached proficiency on the standard.

This technique is described in a book published in 2009 called *Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning*, written by Jan Chappuis.

The teacher then outlines the learning targets required to reach that standard. These become the stairs for students. Each time the child demonstrates mastery of the learning target, the star at the top of the stair is colored in and the student moves to the next step. This is a visual reminder to be used at the

PTO donates ‘Scholastic News’ to Grades 1, 2

The McGraw PTO generously donated the *Scholastic News* magazine to all our Grade 1 and 2 students this year! This is a weekly nonfiction magazine that investigates current events in science, social studies, and social development topics from a kid’s perspective. Teachers typically read the magazine together in class with students and then send the magazine home to share with families. There are also digital activities that students can engage with as well. Thank you to the PTO for funding this for our students!



Students from Mrs. Kelley’s 2nd Grade Class read ‘Scholastic News.’

Virtual Parent Informational Nights planned at McGraw

Each month Jennifer Nickerson, McGraw Principal, has been hosting virtual parent informational nights on current topics. The meetings are brief, but are designed to engage families in learning more about McGraw. For those who can’t attend, the slideshow from the meeting is shared the following day with all families. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday school is in session each month at 6 p.m. Invitations to the meetings are sent out the week prior and the Google Meet link is sent to those that RSVP. If anyone is interested in joining these meetings, please contact mcgrawoffice@rsu22.us

rsu22.us for more information. All are welcome!

Save the date! Our sessions coming up include:

January 25: RSU 22 Strategic Plan

March 1: Yardsticks: Developmental Stages for PreK-2 Students (joint with Smith families)

March 29: To Be Determined

April 26: To Be Determined

May 31: To Be Determined

If you have a suggestion for a topic to be featured at an upcoming informational night, please send it to jnickerson@rsu22.us.

RSU 22 School Nutrition

By Kathy Kittridge

In case you didn’t know, we offer Free Meals for all students.

Purchasing local

In September we featured the Maine Harvest and locally produced items. We continue throughout the school year to purchase local items featuring a Harvest of the Month item on our menus.

Some of the local menu items that we have featured included tomatoes, broccoli, brussel sprouts, onions, zucchini, carrots, corn on the cob, watermelon, apples, potatoes, squash, cider, blueberries, organic yogurt, milk, Albies of Hampden Maine BBQ sauce, Bangor Brick Oven rolls.



K-8 students help with shucking of the corn for our harvest lunch. Left: McGraw students. Right: Wagner students.

Applefest Week

We featured a large variety of apples for the students to try.

Right: Our Wagner team shows off a few of the apple varieties.



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Wagner Middle School and Leroy Smith School have been participating in the fresh fruit and vegetable program (FFVP). This program is designed to encourage and educate students about incorporating more fresh fruits and vegetables into their day. They are exposed to some less familiar items to try. These items are featured two times a week as an extra snack item.

Right: Rhydian Herrick trying Broccolini at Leroy H. Smith School



Chef Ross

Chef Brian Ross is enjoying getting to know our students at McGraw & Weatherbee Schools. He has become a bit famous for homemade meatballs with garden sauce.



Salad Bars are coming back!

We have already reopened our salad bars at the middle and high school. We are better able to offer a wider variety of healthy selections for the students to choose from. Early next year we will be reopening at the elementary schools.



Alexis Scott (Pepper) and the ensemble perform "Does Your Mother Know."



From left: Madi Baude (Tanya), Gracie Farrar (Rosie), Benet Moholland (Bill), Christopher Barrett (Harry), Sophie Robinson (Sophie), Emma Campbell (Donna), and Dallin Thomas (Father Alexandrios).

HA Drama Club returns to live theater with 5 sold-out performances of 'Mamma Mia!'

(Continued from page 1)

intervened and saved it for this year.

"After all," she said, "what better remedy for the stress of a pandemic and the onset of a Maine winter than a sun-drenched story of family, friendship, love and romance—brightened even further by the fun of ABBA's greatest hits?"

Ms. Guare noted that what the audience saw on stage was only half the story.

"Our team of student actors, technicians, and musicians have worked incredibly hard to bring this play to life," she said. "They have faced every challenge with resilience, grace, and good humor, and they tirelessly supported and cheered for one another. I could not be more proud of what we have created together."

Musical Director Heidi Corliss said the production came at a time when the pandemic had put a damper on music at Hampden Academy and elsewhere.

"Many of our students had little experience on stage or even singing harmonies in a group, and most of them had not performed in front of a live audience for almost two years," she said. "However, they worked hard and grew stronger and more confident with every rehearsal."

She added that the student instrumentalists had impressed her, learning somewhere around 200 pages of music like professionals while still keeping up with their schoolwork.

"I am so proud of these students—on stage, in the orchestra pit, and behind the scenes," she said. "They were simply amazing!"

The cast included Sophie Robinson



Emma Campbell (Donna), Madi Baude (Tanya), and Gracie Farrar (Rosie) perform as the Dynamos.

as Sophie; Samantha Brooker as Ali, Josie Gilmore as Lisa, Madi Baude as Tanya, Gracie Farrar as Rosie, Emma Campbell as Donna, Chris Chiappone as Sky, Mallory Parks as Eddie, Alexis Scott as Pepper, Christopher Barrett as Harry, Benet Moholland as Bill, Max Ross as Sam, and Dallin Thomas as Father Alexandrios.

The Lead Ensemble was Cayden Fournier, Abby Scott, and Lily Woodside.

The Ensemble included Tori Boyorak, Lilianna Faloon, Natalie Healy, Molly Kearns, Paige Napolillo, Kolby Norris, Hannah Orr, Kaden Pattershall, Lucas Pattershall, Jordan Peterson, Soren Peterson, and Kyra Qualey.

The Dance Captains were Tori Boyorak, Chris Chiappone, and Natalie Healy.

Jenn Guare was the Artistic Director, Heidi Corliss was the Musical Director, Rob Kissinger was the Technical Director, and Stephanie Erb was the Choreographer.

The Backstage crew included Rebecca Graham, Sky Manhart, Ava Paradis, Frog Shearer, and Embree Thomas.

The Orchestra featured Dana

Ross on piano, Owen Field on guitar, Jacob Brown on bass, Bobby Duron on drums, and Jonathan Fenders on percussion.

Lighting and sound were designed and operated by Jaiden Hansen and Connor Kielbasa.

The set was constructed and painted by members of Hampden Academy's Introduction to the Performing Arts Center class: Andrew Austin-Stacey, Madi Baude, Adam Bennoch, Anthony Cote, Grayson Cox, Felicia Dean, Jack Emerson, Meghan Mallory, Virginia Manning, Mallory Parks, Kaden Pattershall, Caleb Ryan,



Benet Moholland (Bill) and Gracie Farrar (Rosie) perform "Take a Chance on Me."



Emma Campbell (Donna) and the ensemble in "Money Money Money."

Dallin Thomas, and Abbott Valentine.

Costumes and props were designed and gathered by Rebecca Graham, Ava Paradis, Frog Shearer, Autumn Stymiest, Embree Thomas, and members of the cast.

The Dynamos' 1970s-style performance attire was designed and constructed by HA Librarian Leslie Rosenblatt.

Hair and make-up was coordinated by Sky Manhart and the cast.

The poster and t-shirt were designed by Frog Shearer.

Cast and crew photographs and biographies were organized by Kaden Pattershall.



Max Ross (Sam), Benet Moholland (Bill), Sophie Robinson (Sophie), and Christopher Barrett (Harry) perform "Thank You For the Music."



The pit band included Jacob Brown (bass), Owen Field (guitar), Dana Ross (piano), Jonathan Fenders (percussion), and Bobby Duron (drums).