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# Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 January 2023

## 24 cadets taking first steps toward permanent Navy JROTC at Hampden Academy

Twenty four students, including 7 seniors, 4 juniors, 9 sophomores, and 4 freshmen, are taking the first steps toward establishing a permanent U.S. Navy Junior ROTC program at Hampden Academy.

HA Principal Bill Tracy said the goal is to get 10 percent of the student body—about 80 students—to sign up for NJROTC within the next three years.

If that level of participation is achieved, the program will be certified as an official NJROTC program, which will be funded by the federal government through the U.S. Navy.

Currently, NJROTC at Hampden Academy is funded with a grant.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success, Community Partnership**

Both Mr. Tracy and the NJROTC instructor, retired Chief Petty Officer Alicia Baston, are optimistic about the future.

“We have great students and they are doing wonderfully in class and in other aspects of the program,” said Chief Baston. “We’re getting a lot of support from the community and fellow teachers at

*(Please turn to page 2)*



Nova Scotia Tree To Boston 2022  
To see part of the Nova Scotia Tree event on YouTube, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iklxnjy9gmY&t=16s>

## Nova Scotia Tree stops at Reeds Brook, Weatherbee enroute to Boston Common

Two RSU 22 schools had some very special visitors on Monday, November 21.

Students at Reeds Brook Middle School and George B. Weatherbee School went outside to see the 2022 version of the Nova Scotia Tree, which was being trucked from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the Boston Common. This tree is donated annually by the people of Nova Scotia as a symbol of gratitude for the assistance they received from Boston and New England after the 1917 Halifax Explosion.

The explosion, which occurred about 9 a.m. on December 6, 1917, destroyed much of the city and was the largest non-nuclear explosion of all time, killing almost 2,000 people and injuring another 15,000. Boston authorities learned of the disaster by telegraph and quickly dispatched a

relief train around 10 p.m. to assist survivors. A blizzard delayed the train, which finally arrived in the

early morning of December 8, and immediately began distributing food,  
*(Please turn to back page)*

## Wagner 8th graders visit UTC in Bangor

In December, all of Wagner’s 8th graders visited the United Technologies Center (UTC) in Bangor.

They spent a half day exploring potential opportunities for future learning once they get to Hampden Academy. UTC currently offers about 20 programs for students to choose from, including welding, automotive, electrical, public safety, health, and outdoor recreation, just to name a few.

When students enter their junior  
*(Please turn to page 3)*

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships**



## School Oral Health Program now open to all RSU 22 students in grades K-5

In November 2022, the RSU 22 Health Services team arranged for the School Oral Health Program to be offered to students at McGraw and Weatherbee Schools. This is the first time this program has been offered in these schools.

The School Oral Health Program is a state-funded preventative care program to provide students in grades K-5 with a dental screening by a licensed dental hygienist as well as a fluoride varnish application.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships**



Dental Hygienist provided by the State of Maine with Smith student Elijah Patterson.



Colleen Jolley and Weatherbee Student Ely Stillman.

In previous years the program has been offered only to schools who meet certain criteria. Leroy

H. Smith was the only elementary school in RSU 22 that was eligible to participate. The Winterport program

is organized by the school nurse for the Winterport schools.  
For the 2022-2023 school year,

the program was expanded to include any school that wanted to  
*(Please turn to back page)*

## Superintendent's Message

# RSU 22 moving forward on four pillars of strategic plan

By Nicholas Raymond, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

Dear RSU 22 Community,

We are pleased to share that throughout RSU 22 schools we are celebrating the return of school field trips as venues open again and transportation is feasible. School concerts and performances are being enjoyed at all levels. Athletics have returned to pre-covid status! Bleachers are full and fans are as excited as athletes to be able to compete. Volunteers are pouring in, and we welcome more! The enrichment opportunities that existed prior to Covid are up and running. Extracurricular activities that students love and benefit from are back in action. In short, school is back in session in the way that we all desire.



Nicholas Raymond

Our new strategic plan is a force in our decision making and the focus continues to be on student success, professional excellence, community partnerships, and operational excellence. As you read articles through this issue of the Link 22 please note the "tag" or label with each section that denotes alignment with our community created, board approved strategic plan. Academic rigor is of course a priority but not without the multi-tiered system of supports that sets students up for success individually. While the strategic plan is in its first year, we are very proud of the progress to date.

The success in so quickly moving forward on strategic plan goals lands squarely on the shoulders of RSU 22 staff members. They have been flexible and supportive. They have been creative and positive. They have pitched in regularly to put student needs first. I have gratitude every single day for team members who go above and beyond to be able to meet individual and collective student needs and bring our strategic plan to life. Our plan demands that RSU 22 graduates leave us with the following core values: Critical Thinker - Problem Solver – Collaborator - Effective Communicator - Perseverance. We only see these core values in our graduates when they are modeled for them by every RSU 22 Team Member, and thankfully, from what has been observed this year, we have team members who constantly live up to and strive to meet these values. Thank you RSU 22 Team. I am very proud of your commitment to all RSU 22 students.

I am also very proud of our RSU 22 students. For some students, the transition out of Covid has been as challenging, if not more so than the abrupt launch into Covid. Still, students are putting their best foot forward. In general, they are taking advantage of what RSU 22 is able to again offer. This includes academic learning and all the extras that have come to be known as the RSU 22 brand; visual and performing arts, athletics, and many other enrichment choices. Students are working to be fully engaged. They are working to make the most of their learning experience. Keep it up students!



**VETERAN RECITES PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**—One of our students suggested having a local Veteran recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Hampden Academy starts each day with the Pledge, but it was a special treat to have retired Senior Chief Curt Slininger join us the day before Veterans Day. Above, Senior Chief Slininger (standing in front) joins the HA NJROTC cadets in the main lobby to recite the Pledge. Senior Chief Slininger is also heavily involved in the VFW, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans.



These three cadets—Jordan Wells, Cam Brickle and Ray Brickle—went to the Bangor VA home on their own to spend time with the Veterans on Veterans day.

## 24 cadets taking first steps toward permanent Navy JROTC at HA

(Continued from page 1)

HA. We are doing well for our first year."

Mr. Tracy said he thinks the three-year goal is achievable. "It will be important to look at the opportunities provided through NJROTC and the student leadership,"

he said. "Both of those will help us in our recruitment process."

Chief Baston said the first-year program introduces the students to the Navy and leadership skills and then goes into civics, government, health and nutrition, physical fitness and first aid. This spring, they'll end their year with orienteering and outdoor survival.

Next year, Chief Baston says the second-year NJROTC students will encounter a much more focused program.

"They'll learn more about leadership skills, along with such topics as maritime history, maritime geography, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy, and physical sciences— aerodynamics, buoyancy, power force motions,

and electronics," she said. "These are things they'll need to know when they're aboard ship."

Starting this February, the NJROTC students will be issued uniforms and wear them one day a week for inspection. The uniforms are on order; the students currently have weekly inspections which cover grooming standards and personal/professional attire, along with questions on military knowledge.

Mr. Tracy said the idea of bringing JROTC to Hampden Academy gained traction when the school conducted a student interest survey regarding courses and options in 2019-2020, before the pandemic.

The application process lasted about a year, and in the summer of 2021, the school was told that it could start the NJROTC program in Fall 2021, Spring 2022, or Fall 2022.

"In order to plan everything, it made sense to look at the Fall of 2022," Mr. Tracy said.

He said the Navy program was of interest to HA because of a few local connections and the fact that none of the high schools in the area offered the Navy JROTC program. Bangor High School has Army JROTC, and Brewer High School has an Air Force program.



# Link-22

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# Curriculum Office Update

By Jennifer Nickerson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, RSU 22

## American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Dear RSU 22 Community,

We would like to take this opportunity to provide another overview of the way RSU 22 used additional grant money to support our students.

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, authorized under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, provides over \$411 million to Maine to support schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. It is particularly important that ARP ESSER funding will enable school administrative units (SAUs), and more directly schools, to support students who have been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities in our communities and schools that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

RSU 22 received \$2,490,043.59 as their share of this Maine DOE funding. An application was filed and approved before utilizing these funds. A performance report will also be completed to describe how the funds were used to support students who were impacted in some way by the pandemic.

These funds expire September 30, 2024 and

any projects created by these grant funds will either be discontinued or have to be absorbed into the local budget to continue.

\* \* \*

The projects created by the district were:

- **Enrichment Programs (K-12):** Examples of clubs supported thus far are STEAM Club at Wagner, Garden Club at Reeds Brook, and Coding Club at Weatherbee. The HA Makerspace has also received more equipment and will begin meeting every Thursday starting Jan. 26th. HA has also begun an eSports program and the district hopes to expand to middle school next year.
- **Extended School Day (K-8):** McGraw, Smith, and Weatherbee students have been part of an acceleration program that occurs before or after school. There is one teacher per grade level at each school and the size of the Fast Track group is no more than six students. Data is reviewed to determine if the focus will be literacy or math for each grade level and each session. Transportation is available for students so they can attend. Expanding this to middle school will be a focus for next year.
- **Summer Programming (K-12):** This project is designed to be a four day/four week program for students who are identified as needing additional support in the areas of literacy and/or math. Administrators will begin

designing this program soon for implementation in July 2023.

- **High-Quality Tutoring (5-12):** Middle and High School students are eligible for tutors during the school day. This could be individual sessions, but it could also be in small groups. The project is designed to support 3 days per week for 30 minutes, and could also be held during school vacation times so there is less regression in students' learning. This has not started yet as finding staff has been a challenge.

If you can think of a great candidate, please point them in our direction!

- **Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC):** This program was started at Hampden Academy. The grant pays the salary of the retired officer leading the students, as well as some supplies for the students.

- **Hampden Academy Expansion:** Hampden Academy is adding eight classrooms to the third floor. This project was approved via referendum, is on schedule, and was featured in previous issues of Link-22.



Jennifer Nickerson

## RSU 22 celebrates Virtual Summer School raffle winners

On Thursday, September 1st, we honored our Virtual Summer School winners. Students had to earn over 400 points individually to qualify to enter the raffle.

Virtual Summer School was open to students in grades 3, 4, and 5 at Weatherbee and Smith elementary schools and Wagner Middle School.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Operational Excellence, Student Success**

The raffle winners won a \$15 gift card and fall trip to BAM. Special thanks to Books-a-Million for the gracious hosting as well as some surprise merchandise!

Students ate a special lunch created by food services (or if they opted for their lunch from home) and ate in the cafe. Then, shopping ensued (along with a fair amount of elevator trips).

Each student was given a BAM summer reading program zip pouch and pin on their way out. It was a true celebration of hard work and lots of fun!



## Wagner 8th graders visit UTC in Bangor

(Continued from page 1)

year at HA, they can choose to study a trade at UTC. They balance a half day of study at UTC with a half day of course work at HA.

UTC in Bangor is the largest technology center in the state of Maine. There are 7 sending schools and 31 communities that benefit from UTC.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**

UTC also offers a variety of continuing education classes in the evenings for those adults that are interested.

This was an important field trip for our students. Not only are trade jobs in high demand, it gives students the chance to see what is available to them in the future so that they can plan their course work for the two years prior to being able to attend UTC.

## New RSU 22 Social Workers

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence**

### Allison O'Neil, Social Worker

Allison O'Neil has joined the staff of RSU 22 as a social worker at Earl C. McGraw School and George B. Weatherbee School.

Mrs. O'Neill was previously employed as a caseworker in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child and Family Services.

In addition to her work with RSU 22, she does per diem work at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center as a member of the social services team, working with patients in the OB, NICU, and pediatric units

Mrs. O'Neil and her husband James live in Bangor with their black lab, Rogue. James is a member of the Maine National Guard.

She grew up in Belfast and graduated from Belfast Area High School. She has Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a double major in Spanish and a Master's degree in Social Work, both from

the University of Maine.

In her off-duty time, Mrs. O'Neil enjoys traveling and road trips, camping, beach days in the summer, hiking and walking with her dog, and spending time with her family.



### Heidi Taylor, Social Worker

Heidi Taylor, LCSW, has joined the staff of RSU 22 as a school social worker for Reeds Brook and Wagner Middle Schools, and Weatherbee Elementary School.

Before coming to Hampden, she was a school counselor for RSU 71 in Belfast and RSU 13 in Rockland.

Mrs. Taylor and her husband, James, live in Winterport with their two sons, Jude and Jamie. She grew up in West Enfield, graduated from Penobscot Valley High School and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maine.



# Fostering a culture of literacy at Hampden Academy

By Leslie Rosenblatt  
Library Media Specialist

The Hampden Academy Library has had increases in book circulation in each of the past two years, compared to pre-covid figures. September circulation numbers more than doubled between 2019 to 2021, and increased by another 17% in 2022.

What is behind these increases? Library Media Specialist Leslie Rosenblatt credits two initiatives, both of which are collaborations between the Hampden Academy Library and the English department.

The first component is a focused effort by HA English teachers to ensure that every student, in addition to assigned texts, has a book of their choice to read.

For the past two years, student-selected books for English classes have increased both circulation and the number of student visits to the library.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Operational Excellence**

More importantly, the push establishes an expectation that everyone should always have a book in progress.

The second factor is a building-wide reading challenge, called LEAF, created by HA English teachers Jenn Guare and Rob Kissinger and administered by Leslie Rosenblatt.

Now in its fourth year, LEAF sets a challenge of reading 12 books



Library Assistant Lindsay Harrington checks out a book to Grade 9 student Emery Palmer.



A teacher's LEAF reading challenge poster.

of various genres during the year. While students are included, LEAF has been especially popular among teachers and staff; 48 adults are participating this year. Each participant gets a poster to hang near their classroom or work area, and stickers are awarded as books are read.

The posters are a place to display titles and book covers. These inspire informal book discussions and recommendations, and show students that reading can be a social endeavor.

The circulation increases show that more books are

getting into the hands of students and staff. Thanks to the drive for student-selected reading, and the

LEAF program, a culture of literacy is being fostered for everyone at HA.

## HAMPDEN ACADEMY

Bill Tracy, Principal  
862-3791



The Hampden JCL, led by Benet Moholland, prepares for the spirit competition.



Benet Moholland leads the rest of the Hampden JCL to the spirit competition.

# Hampden Academy hosts Maine Junior Classical League Fall Convention

Hampden Academy welcomed some 225 students from a dozen different schools for the Maine Junior Classical League Fall Convention on Friday, December 2.

It was the first MEJCL convention since 2019.

Ben Johnson, Latin teacher and Junior Classical League advisor at HA, said the JCL fall convention was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. The last fall convention was held in 2019 at Greely High School in Cumberland.

Mr. Johnson said Hampden Academy hosted the convention in 2012 and 2016.

"Hosting a convention is a really big task," he said. "We had the experience to do it, especially after two years of not having it."

A total of 59 Hampden Academy JCL members attended the convention and brought the school many honors.

- Six HA students were in the



The full Hampden JCL holding their awards from the convention.

- top 10 academically, including:
- Tatum Cousins, 10th place.
  - Quincy Rock, 7th place.
  - Declan Arimond, 5th place.
  - Jack French, 4th place.
  - Tim St. Pierre, 3rd place.
  - Corina Arimond, 1st place.
  - As a school, Hampden Academy came in first in the Academic Sweeps.

## RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success

This was the sixth straight win for HA at Maine JCL Conventions.

- In the spirit competition, HA came in first place for large schools.
- The HA Latin 1 Certamen team placed 2nd (out of 9); Latin 2 placed 2nd (out of 9); and the Advanced

Latin team placed 1st (out of 12).

Mr. Johnson said Elise DeRosby (MEJCL Editor), Peter Verhar (MEJCL Parliamentarian), and Corina Arimond (MEJCL 1st Vice President) did a fantastic job of helping JCL run the convention.

# New Staff at Hampden Academy

## RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence

### Alicia Baston NJROTC instructor

Alicia Baston, a Navy chief who retired with 21 years of service, has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as the school's new NJROTC instructor.

Chief Baston grew up in Florida and received her AS and BS degrees from Colorado Technical University. She later earned her Master's degree from Liberty University.

She currently lives in Orrington with her husband and two children, who attend middle school in Orrington.

Chief Baston enjoys farming, fishing, reading books, and learning new skills.

### Morgan Johnson Math

Morgan Johnson has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as a Math teacher.

She received her B.S. degree in Secondary Education and Mathematics from the University of Maine in December 2021 and started teaching at HA in January 2022.

She lives in Waterville with her significant other and their two cats.

Ms. Johnson grew up in Bowdoinham, ME and went to Mt. Ararat High School. As a member of the softball team, she competed against HA every year in high school!

In her off-duty time, she says she loves to crochet, watch a good movie or show, play the flute, go snowmobiling, and spend time with her cats.



### Andrea Lumbr Alternative Education

Andrea Lumbr has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as an Alternative Education teacher.

Mrs. Lumbr is in her 30th year of teaching. Before coming to RSU 22, she taught English at Penquis Valley High School for 19 years, high school and junior high English in RSU 67 (Lincoln) for 7 years, and Alternative Education at Mattanawcook Academy for 3 years.

Mrs. Lumbr lives in Lincoln. She is married with three children and two grandchildren. She also has two cats and a Golden Doodle named Jake.

She grew up in Lincoln and graduated from Mattanawcook Academy. She received her Bachelor of Art degree in Education and her Master's degree in Literacy from the University of Maine.

Mrs. Lumbr enjoys snowmobiling and ice skating in the winter and swimming and paddleboarding in the summer. She also enjoys reading, writing, and poetry regardless of the season.



### 'Mac' McLain Science

William "Mac" McLain has joined the Science department at Hampden Academy, teaching Earth and Physical Science, Physics, and Biology.

Mr. McLain was born and raised in Georgia. Before coming to RSU 22, he taught for 17 years at Chattahoochee High School in Johns Creek, GA.

He attended Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone, GA, and earned his Bachelor's degree at Auburn University. He did his graduate work at Georgia State University.

He enjoys fly fishing and the outdoors. Mr. McLain and his wife live in Bangor. "Maine just became our favorite spot over time, so we finally decided to make it permanent," he said. "The landlocked Atlantic salmon fishing helped."



### Allison Oyler English

Allison Oyler has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as an English teacher.

Before coming to Hampden, she taught English and Drama at the high school level for 18 years, including one year at Nokomis Regional High in Newport; 15 years at James River High School in Midlothian, VA; and two years at Nottoway High School in Nottoway, VA.

Mrs. Oyler lives in Hampden. She is married with one daughter.

She enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, thrift shopping, and reading.



### Melanie Simmons Occupational Therapist

Melanie Simmons has joined the staff at Hampden Academy as the school's occupational therapist.

Mrs. Simmons comes to HA from Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, where she was an occupational therapist for 7½ years and a performance improvement specialist for 2½ years.

At EMMC, she spent much of her time on the acute rehab unit, which helped people prepare for discharge and rehab before going home. She also worked on the acute care side to help hospitalized sick patients.

As a performance improvement specialist, she worked on hospital-wide initiatives to help improve the quality of care.

Mrs. Simmons is married with two children and lives in Brewer.

She grew up in Brewer and graduated



from Brewer High School. She spent \_\_\_\_\_ years at the University of Florida, and then attended Husson University from 2008 to 2012. She has a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Mrs. Simmons says she loves the theater, especially musicals. She performed in over 25 productions while she was in school.

### Julie Thornton Chemistry

Julie Thornton, who served as an ed tech in RSU 22 for 4½ years, joined the science department at Hampden Academy as a Chemistry teacher in February 2002.

Ms. Thornton lives in Newburgh with her son, Chase, and daughter, Bristol. She grew up in St. Albans and graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in Environmental Science.

Before coming to RSU 22, she worked for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and for RSU 19 (Newport).

She worked as an ed tech at the McGraw School from 2017 to 2019, and at the Weatherbee School from 2019 to February 2022.

When she is not at school, Ms. Thornton watches her son play hockey and her daughter dance. She says they love to go hunting, four-wheeling, camping, and fishing.

She adds that she is "incredibly happy to be part of this school district and community!"



### Kelly Weaver School Counselor

Kelly Weaver, School Counselor at Weatherbee School for nine years (2013-2022), has transferred to Hampden Academy, where she will continue to serve as a School Counselor, working with high school students.

Ms. Weaver lives in Hampden. She is married and has a 3-year-old daughter, Hannah.

She grew up in Hampden, graduated from Hampden Academy, and then attended Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Hispanic Language and Literature. She later received a Master's degree in Counselor Education from the University of Maine.

Ms. Weaver began her educational career at Dirigo High School, where she taught Spanish for two years (2005-2007). She then moved to Leonard Middle School in Old Town, where she taught World Languages for six years (2007-2013).

In 2013, she returned to her home town of Hampden, serving as School Counselor at Weatherbee School for nine years (2013-2022) before transferring to Hampden Academy.

In her off-duty time, Ms. Weaver enjoys skiing, hiking, and traveling.



### Sophie Robinson selected for SATB Honor Choir

Sophie Robinson, a junior at Hampden Academy, has been selected to participate in the American Choral Directors' Association National SATB Honor Choir.

Sophie submitted a virtual audition and was one of approximately 100 sopranos selected from across the nation.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**

She is the first HA student to achieve this honor.

She will be traveling to Cincinnati, OH, during February vacation, where she will rehearse for three days under the internationally known conductor, Dr. Eugene Rogers.

Dr. Rogers is the choral conductor at the University of Michigan, conductor of the two-time Grammy award winning Washington Chorus, and founder of Exigence choral ensemble.

The honor choir will be performing at Cincinnati Music Hall on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 4 p.m.

## Ed Techs Wanted

**Educational Technician I**  
\$15.06 - \$18.97/hour

**Educational Technician II**  
\$15.89 - \$20.55/hour

**Educational Technician III**  
\$17.22 - \$22.79/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

\* \* \*

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](http://www.rsu22.us).



Left to Right: Bo Rancourt, Xander Joy, Mr. Martinez.



Left to Right: Xander Joy, Aidan Salyer, Bo Rancourt.



Left to Right: Aidan Salyer, Xander Joy.

## HA Life Skills students volunteer at Good Shepherd Food Bank

By Kimberly Mitchell  
Life Skills, Hampden Academy

Some of the students in the Life Skills program at HA volunteer at the Good Shepherd Food Bank as part of their vocational instruction.

They learn about work ethic, how to dress for work, how to communicate with co-workers, workplace safety, how to use a time clock, how to work as part of a team, and time management.

The students learn about these topics in the classroom setting and then practice those skills at the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

This is our 2nd year volunteering there, and the folks at the Good Shepherd Food Bank have been fantastic supporters of our students and have really taken time to help teach our students about how to maintain their personal safety while at work.

While volunteering, our students have been fortunate to also pair with other volunteers from other area schools, which has given them authentic opportunities to meet and work with a variety of great students.

HA Life Skills students really look forward to this opportunity each week and we are very grateful for this community partnership.

Xander Joy, a junior at HA, has started volunteering this year and says, "I enjoy organizing food and I know it's helping people."

Sam Hatch, a junior at HA, has been volunteering for two years, and states, "I like getting boxes ready and pushing boxes to where people can reach them to fill."

Bo Rancourt, a sophomore at HA, is enjoying his first year volunteering and says he enjoys

### RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships and Student Success

working with all of the other kids.

Aidan Salyer, a senior at HA, has volunteered for two years and says he enjoys "working with others and helping people by giving them food."

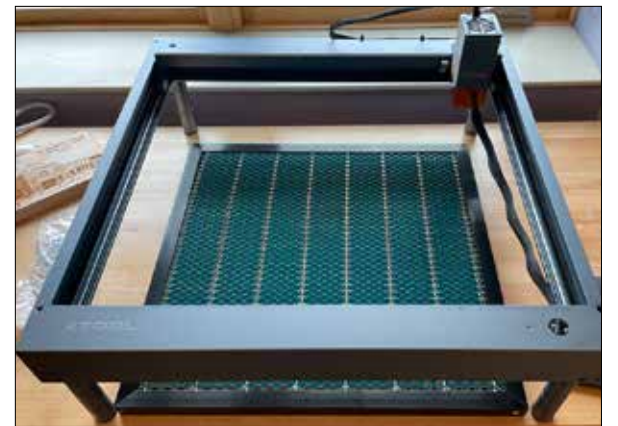
Students pack boxes with canned food, packages of rice, potatoes, cereal, juice, milk, and canned fruit but sometimes the food available changes from week to week. HA students pack anywhere from 40 to 80 boxes of food to be distributed to our local community, each time they volunteer.



3D printers



CNC Router



Laser engraver

## Tech Dept. announces new MakerSpace at Hampden Academy

By Todd Moore  
Instructional Leader  
Technology Education

The Hampden Academy Technology Department is proud to announce our new MakerSpace, which is located in Room 103 on the campus of Hampden Academy.

A MakerSpace is a collaborative work space inside a school, library or separate public/private facility for exploring, making, learning, and sharing that uses a broad range of tools, from no-tech to high-tech.

Hampden Academy's MakerSpace includes several new technologies for the students of

RSU 22 to learn, explore and create items that will be used across all disciplines.

Our MakerSpace includes:

- three 3D Printers
- a 4' x 4' CNC router
- two X Tool Laser engravers
- a 6 station screen printing machine with all of the accessories
- a vinyl heat set machines for hats and t-shirts
- two Cricut Machines with accessories
- an industrial sewing machine
- a Serger
- a Embroidery machine
- a digital media center

- a Book Making/Binding area
- a Leather working area.

We will be using student ambassadors (after they have been taught the safety and use of each piece of equipment) to aid in the instruction for other RSU 22 students.

This Spring will be a learning experience for all involved, but we hope to have everything 100% up and running next Fall.

### RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Operational Excellence



6-station screen printer



Sewing area



Heat set machine

# Kelsey Stoyanova's year as Maine Teacher of the Year

By Susan Thibedeau

Last October, Reeds Brook had the great pleasure to host an assembly announcing Kelsey Stoyanova as the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year. Former students, including those who initially nominated Mrs. Stoyanova, spoke at the ceremony with words that show the power of a teacher who is supportive and challenging. They shared how Mrs. Stoyanova helped them find their voice and believed in them. Their eloquent writing and poised speaking

truly embody the knowledge and skills they gained while in middle school.

Now that Mrs. Stoyanova's year of recognition as Maine Teacher of the Year is ending, she shared the highlights of her time as a spokesperson for all educators. From teacher advocacy with Maine elected officials in Augusta and in Washington, DC to attending Space Camp where she

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence**

learned about rocket science and NASA to being on the Nite Show sharing the stage with RSU 22 bus driver Vinny Comier and his tribute Ozzy band, Mrs. Stoyanova's opportunities ranged from local to national.

Traveling to DC in April 2022, Mrs. Stoyanova was honored at the White House alongside her national cohort of teachers of the year from across the country, including the 2022 National Teacher of the Year Kurt Russell from Ohio. This week

of learning focused on elevating teachers' voices and centering equity at the heart of all leading, learning, and decision-making. Meeting with Maine senators afforded the chance to talk about the importance of recruiting and retaining educators in Maine and continuing the free lunch program indefinitely.

Another highlight was meeting with teachers across the state, including conducting professional development about how Maine County Teachers of the Year can elevate their practice and expertise as well as that of their colleagues. Mrs. Stoyanova credits visiting the classrooms of the finalists for 2023 Maine Teacher of the Year as, "the best professional development experience during my whole year of recognition and it made me so proud to see all of the amazing things happening in Maine schools." Visits included Casco Bay High School, Hampden Academy, Sacopee Valley Middle School, and Caribou Community School.

A final standout opportunity was being invited to keynote the Annual Educate Maine Symposium in December, where Mrs. Stoyanova focused her message on the importance of business and education partnerships.

RSU 22 is proud of all Mrs. Stoyanova has accomplished in her year as the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year. Our district also had another finalist for the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year, Hilary Hoyt from Smith School, and a finalist for this year, 2023 Maine Teacher of the Year, Emily Albee from Hampden Academy. These accolades demonstrate RSU 22's commitment to professional excellence.



'Step Afrika!' at the Collins Center combined songs, storytelling, and humor with percussive dance styles and traditional African dances.

## RSU 22 students enjoy 'Step Afrika!' at UMaine Collins Center

Thanks to a parent for bringing this opportunity to the attention of administration and the follow up by our new Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Jennifer Nickerson, we received grant funding to support our entire school attending a fabulous event at the Collins Center on Friday, September 30th!

Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities;

### RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships

traditional West and Southern African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience.

Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each

performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.

Step Afrika! promotes stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding. This was an engaging and dynamic performance for RSU 22 students.

**RSU 22 KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K REGISTRATION  
2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Wednesday, February 15**

<b>Hampden/Newburgh residents:</b> 4pm-7pm Earl C. McGraw School 20 Main Road North Hampden, ME 04444 207-862-3830	<b>Winterport/Frankfort residents:</b> Noon - 5 p.m. Smith School 319 S. Main St. Winterport, ME 04496 207-223-4282
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You must register your child with the town you reside.  
(Hampden/Newburgh at McGraw School and Winterport/Frankfort at Smith School)

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 (if possible).

Students are eligible for Kindergarten if they will be five years old on or before October 15, 2023.

Students are eligible for Pre-K if they will be four years old on or before October 15, 2023. (Hampden/Newburgh Pre-K is housed in Newburgh at the Newburgh Center. Winterport/Frankfort Pre-K is housed in Winterport at the Smith School)

Applications will be available at registration or you can print off the packet starting February 10 at [McGraw.rsu22.us](http://McGraw.rsu22.us) (McGraw School) or [smith.rsu22.us](http://smith.rsu22.us) (Smith School) for Kindergarten and [rsu22.us/our-schools/pre-k](http://rsu22.us/our-schools/pre-k) for Pre K.

**MEANINGFUL PAID WORK EXPERIENCES**

**Maine Career Exploration Badge**

<b>WHAT</b> The Maine Career Exploration badge for Maine juniors and seniors is an opportunity to participate in 40 hours of meaningful work experience facilitated through an intentionally designed exploration and reflection process. Students receive an academic award of \$500 for completion!	<b>HOW</b> Students complete a minimum of 40 hours of hands-on employer engagement experiences coupled with online modules utilizing JMG's Learning Management System (LMS) to set goals, document their employer engagement experiences, and plan for their future.
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**THE INGREDIENTS**

<b>1</b> Enroll in the Badge Pathway	<b>2</b> Complete Online Preparatory Content	<b>3</b> Complete 40 Hour Work Experience	<b>4</b> Complete Online Planning & Reflection	<b>5</b> Earn the ME Career Exploration Badge!
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**UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE BADGE, STUDENTS RECEIVE...**

<b>\$500</b>	<b>WHO</b> <b>4,000</b> JUNIORS & SENIORS
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**CAREER EXPLORATION** **HANDS ON WORK** **FUTURE PLANNING**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: JMG.ORG**

## RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships, Student Success

# New Staff at Reeds Brook

RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence

## Colleen Shink Grade 6

Colleen Shink has joined the staff at Reeds Brook Middle School as a sixth grade teacher.

She lives in Bangor with her husband, Jim. They have two grown sons, Brandon, 30, who is a Physical Therapist living in Anchorage, Alaska; and Mason, 22, a Doctor of Pharmacy student at Husson University.



Mrs. Shink grew up in Auburn,

Maine, and graduated from Edward Little High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree from University of Southern Maine with a double major in Elementary Education and Math/Computer Science. She received her Master's degree in Literacy from the University of Maine.

In her free time, Mrs. Shink can often be found spending time at the family camp on Shin Pond. She enjoys spending time outside hiking, kayaking, fishing, four-wheeling, and exploring the northern Maine woods. In the winter, she likes to snowshoe with her dog, Bogey, and ice skate on the pond. She also really enjoys a campfire and a good book!

Mrs. Shink's entire career has been in middle schools, often as a 6th grade ELA teacher. Most recently, she worked as a Middle Level Literacy Interventionist.

"I could not be more excited to be back in the classroom teaching 6th graders," she says. "This will be my 32nd year of teaching, and every day I look forward to what I have to share with the kids and learning from them as well."

## Brooke Trask English Language Arts

Brooke Trask has joined the staff at Reeds Brook Middle School as an English Language Arts teacher.

Before coming to RSU 22, she worked in education for 20 years, teaching for the past 12 years at RSU 3 in Monroe.



Mrs. Trask lives in Winterport with her husband, Doug, three children, and two stepchildren. She graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in Elementary Education.

She enjoys attending her children's sporting events, gardening, baking, and spending time with her two dogs.

## Carolyn Newhouse ELA, Grade 7

Carolyn Newhouse has joined the staff at Reeds Brook Middle School as an English Language Arts teacher for grade 7.

She graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington, where she also taught English for the TRIO Upward Bound program.

Before coming to RSU 22, Ms. Newhouse taught at SeDo-MoCha Middle School in Dover-Foxcroft for six years.

She grew up in Pittsfield and graduated from Maine Central Institute. She loves reading, cross-country skiing, biking, and just finding new adventures.



## Laurie Robichaud Special Education

Laurie Robichaud, who spent her first 14 years in RSU 22 at Hampden Academy, is now a Special Education teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School.

"I loved high school, but I felt it was time to accept a new challenge," Mrs. Robichaud said. "You can't grow otherwise!"

Mrs. Robichaud and her husband of 16 years, Aaron, live in Newburgh.

She graduated from Dexter Regional High School and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maine. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Special Education at the University of Maine at Farmington.

In her off-duty time, she enjoys hiking, fishing, reading, history, and travel.



## Stephen Metcalfe Art

Stephen Metcalfe, a native of England who has lived in Hampden for the past 18 years, is now the Art teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School.

Mr. Metcalfe comes to RSU 22 from AOS 94 (Dexter, Harmony, and Athens), where he taught for two years at middle and elementary schools in Athens and Harmony schools.

In England, Mr. Metcalfe grew up in the steelworks town of Scunthorpe in Lincolnshire, and took a foundation Course in Art and Design at Grimsby College of Art in Lincolnshire. He then completed a degree course in Graphic Design and Illustration at Leeds Metropolitan University in West Yorkshire.

He worked on his K-12 Art Teacher Professional Qualification while serving



REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Susan Thibedeau, Principal

862-3540

as a full-time Ed Tech III in the Hermon school system. He also subbed in the art room at Hermon High School.

During summers, he taught art at the Riley School in Rockport and later at Ellsworth YMCA Summer Camp at Webb Pond.

In 2012 Mr. Metcalfe qualified as a K-12 Art teacher, and worked for the next six years teaching art for Spurwink services at two campuses.

During the first year of the Covid Pandemic, he was the Art teacher at Old Orchard Beach High School. He then moved to AOS 94, where he was the Art teacher at Athens Community School and the Harmony Elementary-Middle School.

In addition to creating his own artworks, Mr. Metcalfe enjoys coaching track, particularly the jumping events, as he was an international triple jumper in England and National Schools Champion in that discipline.

Mr. Metcalfe says he plans to work closely with the other district art teachers to provide strong overall continuity and growth as artists for our students throughout their years in RSU 22!

## Tracy Cowan ELA, Grades 7, 8

Tracy Cowan has joined the staff at Reeds Brook Middle School as an English Language Arts teacher for grades 7 and 8.

She graduated from the University of Maine and Husson University, and she's currently working towards her Master's degree in Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction at the University of Maine.

Before coming to RSU 22, Ms. Cowan taught at Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln, for eight years.

She grew up in Orrington and graduated from John Bapst Memorial High School.

She loves reading, skiing, hiking, and horseback riding—and anything that gets her outside.



At the All Saints Catholic School chess tournament, Rebels Eli Marquis (left) and Christian Zhang (right) tied for 2nd place in their section. Also pictured are future teammates from Weatherbee, who also tied for 2nd place. They are Derrick Johnson (2nd from left) and Avery Zhang (second from right).

## Reeds Brook Middle School Rebels Chess

The RBMS chess team has competed in every tournament in the Maine Grand Prix League this season. In addition, they played in two other fundraising tournaments.

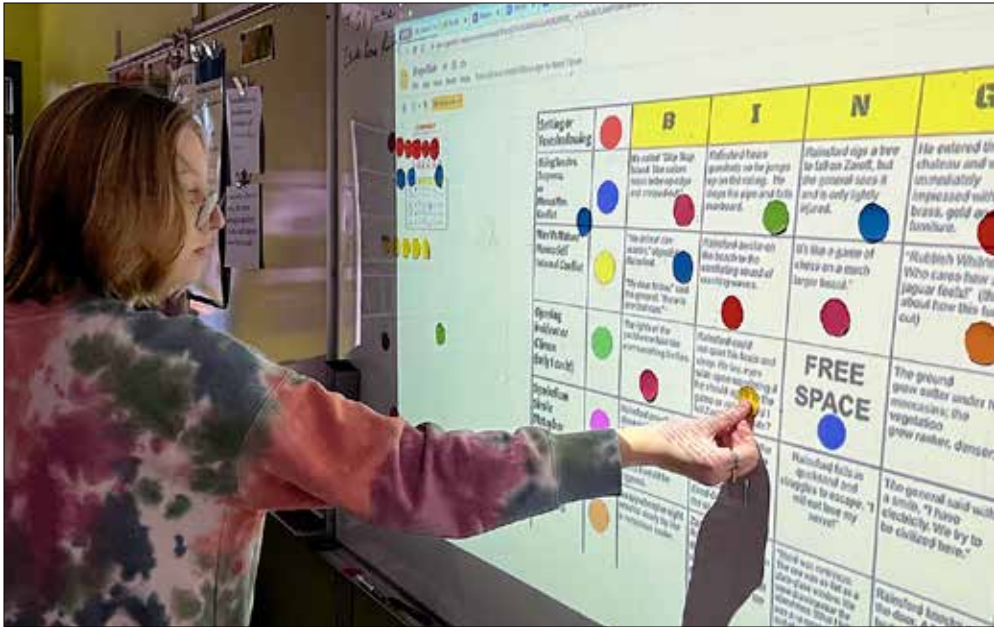
The Rebels chess team has 15 teammates who will compete in the March State Tournament. The team score is based on the top 5 scorers that day.

The Rebels earned 2nd place

RSU 22 Strategic Plan:  
Student Success

last year. This year, the rebels are stacked with many strong players. They are looking to win the State tournament and move on to the national championship tournament in Washington DC.





Alex Mayhew matching the literary elements to moments in the story on a Bingo board.



Students decoding an alphabet using a wooden cipher disk with graphics from the story.

## Why just read a story, when you can ‘Escape’ it?

For many years, 8th grade teachers have taught the adventure story “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell. Students have created maps, held mock trials and written argumentative essays. But this year Reed Farrar experimented with a new approach.

“I wanted to find an engaging way to review the story and the elements of literature,” he said. “My family has been going to professional escape rooms all over the state, and this sparked the idea to try it with classes.”

As the clock ticked down, students in Mr. Farrar’s ELA classes were divided into teams and given a series of tasks and puzzles to solve in order to “escape.” The activity not only featured ELA skills, but also called upon students to use mathematics, geography, logic, and cooperative learning.

“Two new advances in technology encouraged me to finally try this - Google Forms and Google Slides,” Mr. Farrar said. To move onto each level, students had to type their final answers into a Google Form, which unlocked the next page in the slide presentation. As the students advanced in the game, they were surprised to see their Reeds Brook teachers appearing in costume to provide video clues for each task. The featured teachers were Chris



Technology teacher Chris Beckwith gave the students a video tip to solve a puzzle.



Students fishing for a basket of clues below on the lower level of Reeds Brook.

Beckwith, Audrey Cliff, Reed Farrar, David Haggan, Andrea Lee, Rebecca Mallory, and Luciene Moore.

In designing the game, Mr. Farrar had assistance from Creative Escape Rooms in Spring Hill, Florida. The owner gave Farrar advice and helped him design a 3-part cipher wheel that was customized with illustrations from the original story, written in 1932. Students used the spinning wheel to crack a cryptic code that was hidden inside a classic novel in the class

library.

“I tried to give the students the closest experience to attending a professional escape room,” Mr. Farrar said. “There was a digital countdown clock on the wall, actual puzzles to assemble and locks to open.”

One of the most elaborate tasks involved using a compass to navigate the school with coordinates. When they found the correct spot, they used a fishing pole from the second floor to hook a basket on the first floor. In the basket was a black light flashlight they used to

### RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success, Professional Excellence

find a glowing quote on a classroom wall in the dark.

Another challenge involved using a diary and math to figure out a locker combination. When the students opened the locker door, a full-sized ventriloquist dummy popped out holding the next clue.

Mr. Farrar said the student teams were specifically assembled for the different learning styles they each brought to the challenge. Every team had some students who were more hands-on learners, some with strong computation skills, and others who were creative and could think abstractly. At each level of the game Mr. Farrar facilitated different students taking the lead with the tasks.

Besides creativity, Mr. Farrar had another key purpose in mind.

“One of our district goals is to improve attendance,” he said. “It’s my hope that by putting together unique lessons and opportunities, students will look forward to school and not want to miss any of the upcoming fun.”

Students have already asked what the next escape room will be, but Mr. Farrar told them “that will probably be a surprise for next year’s 8th grade!”



Students use a UV flashlight to find a quote from the story.



Students review their vocabulary words from the story to solve a riddle.

# Farm and Sea to School – RSU 22 Style

In the summer of 2022, a team of RSU 22 administrators and teachers attended the inaugural Farm and Sea to School Institute.

Under the leadership of Kathy Kittridge, RSU 22 Nutrition Director, our grant proposal was approved, starting us on the journey about how to bring local food to our cafeteria, how to incorporate local agriculture into our curriculum, and how to build community connections.

At the institute, our team developed a values statement: *Growing great minds through nourishment, education, and community in RSU 22.*

Under these three pillars of cafeteria, classroom, and community, Leroy H. Smith School in Winterport and Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden began incorporating local food and agriculture into our schools.

## Cafeteria

Reeds Brook students have been working with District Chef Michele D’Amario and Kathy Kittridge to develop new cafeteria offerings. In order to introduce new cafeteria offerings created with student input, we have added a suggestion box, developed a student committee, and used taste testings to inspire more student involvement. Tomato soup from Reeds Brook gardens was our first taste test, which we debuted at our fall Open House. Since then, Reeds Brook students have tried poke bowls with shrimp, fish sandwiches made with local Maine fish, and a variety of pickled vegetables.

In September we celebrated Harvest Week at all six schools, featuring a variety of local vegetables, including corn on the cob shucked with the assistance of our students.

RSU 22 participates in the Harvest of the Month program, which features a local item at least twice a month on our menus in all schools. All schools have featured Maine tomatoes, apples, brassicas, and squash as part of the Harvest of the Month program.

Through the Fisherman Feeding Mainers program, we have received a variety of white fish from the Gulf of Maine. Wagner Middle School, Reeds Brook Middle School, and Hampden Academy have featured this fish in a crunchy fish sandwich



Michele D’Amario makes pickles with Reeds Brook Garden Club

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan:  
Student Success,  
Professional Excellence  
and Community  
Partnerships**

Sixth graders at Reeds Brook are reading *Moo*, a book in verse about a Maine girl connecting with a stubborn cow, holding a cutest cow contest, and building math and science skills through interdisciplinary connections.

RBMS 6th grader Avery Simmons explained why she is enjoying the book *Moo*,

“I like the different style with poems in it,” she says. “The author shows Reena is afraid of the cow at the beginning but then she learns about the cow’s personality.”

The Reeds Brook 6th grade team feels that the FSTS program has brought students together through activities like the cutest cow contest and cow cookie making.

Stacy LaBree, 6th grade teacher, said, “This programming has brought camaraderie to students and staff and connections to local foods and agricultures, as well as fostering excitement and enthusiasm for curricular content.”

A final component of FSTS to highlight is how students’ own experiences become more connected to their academics.

Jace Boron, a 6th grader who shows his sheep through 4H, shared that it means a lot to him to talk about local agriculture at school. Jace said he enjoys opportunities to show his knowledge about his sheep and how he can handle the animals. He even sold a sheep to a Maine senator. He plans to share his experiences with his classmates through a video he made about his sheep.

\* \* \*

Smith students planted garlic, with each grade level having a responsibility.

First grade students began the process by separating the garlic bulbs to prepare them for planting.

Fourth grade students then went outdoors to begin weeding the raised bed in efforts to get them



Nutrition Director Kathy Kittridge, and Brittany Layman, Wellness and Safety Director, share tomato soup made with school garden tomatoes.

served on a local Bangor Brick Oven Bakery roll.

Other Maine proteins that we have offered this fall include organic maple yogurt, shaved steak, and stew beef.

At Hampden Academy, a new milk dispenser serving Oakhurst milk was installed thanks to generous grants from Fuel Up to Play 60,

the Maine Dairy Council, and the Natural Resource Council of Maine.

## Classroom and Co-Curricular Activities

Students at Smith School and Reeds Brook Middle School have adopted calves as part of our collaboration with the Maine Agricultural in the Classroom program.



Maine Harvest Month  
Local Corn, Melon and Reeds Brook Garden Soup



Crunchy Maine fish sandwich on Bangor Brick Oven roll



Heath Miller (local dairy farmer and RSU 22 board chair) and Sarah Littlefield (dairy farmer and executive director of the Maine Dairy Council) speak with Reeds Brook 6th graders.



Caleb McAvoy enjoyed the first cup of milk from Hampden Academy's bulk milk dispenser. We offer Maine milk from Oakhurst.



Smith School student getting the soil ready for garlic (and enjoying the worms).

ready for the planting.

Third graders tilled the gardens and prepared the holes for planting, while enjoying the worms and buried carrots they discovered.

Second grade students had the opportunity to plant the garlic, while Kindergarten students put on the final touches by covering it with straw.

We are excited as a school to see what grows and use it in our kitchen!

\* \* \*

Reeds Brook's new Garden Club has weeded the school's gardens, visited the apiary at Hampden Academy, made chapstick with local beeswax, and made pickles.

Recently they made pasta from scratch with fresh tomato and pesto sauces.

Their winter activity is to research and design pollinator gardens at Reeds Brook. These gardens are being financially supported by a grant through Maine Agriculture in the Classroom.



Students are getting the garlic and beds ready. Then, they are topping the process off with straw for the winter.

### Community

RSU 22 will be partnering with the Maine School Garden Network to host the Maine School Garden Day.

The mission of this organization is to promote and support educational gardens for youth, and to encourage school programs which teach healthy eating and environmental stewardship.

The conference, School Gar-

dens—Connecting the Whole School Community, will take place at Reeds Brook Middle School on May 13, 2023. It is going to be an exciting day of garden-based workshops that connect community, cafeteria, and classroom.

\* \* \*

In conclusion, RSU 22's work in our first year is focused on procuring local menu items, preparing

meals using scratch cooking, and strengthening our current curriculum through garden/outdoor based activities and experiences.

A strong Farm and Sea to School program will foster community partnerships, environmental stewardship, and student success through a unique approach to project-based education.



# Winter Concert at HA

The Wagner Middle School chorus and band performed a winter concert at Hampden Academy on December 19th.

First, the grades 5-6 chorus sang songs for the audience, then grades 7-8 chorus, and finally the 6-8 band performed several holiday songs as well.



**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**

## WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kristi Charette, Principal, 223-4309



## New Staff at Wagner

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence**

### Mason Walling Physical Education

Mason Walling, who spent the last two and a half years working as an Ed Tech III and Special Education in the Bangor Regional Program, has joined the staff at Wagner Middle School as a Physical Education teacher.

Mr. Walling is engaged and set to be married in June to his fiancé, Kyleigh. He also has two sons, Myles and Holden, from his previous marriage. Currently they live in Milford, but they are searching for a home to call their own.

Mr. Walling grew up in several states, as his father was serving in the Navy. He was born in Wisconsin, spent time in Virginia, and ended up in Brunswick, Maine, where he graduated from high school in 2005. He then studied Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Maine.

Since then, he has served seven years with the Maine Army National Guard, as well as many years working various positions within restaurants, including a tour as the general manager of the Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Brewer.

During this period, Mr. Walling took courses at UMaine to prepare himself for a career in education.

Outside of work he enjoys golfing, fishing and hunting as well as spending time with friends and family. He also says he's looking forward to settling down into a teaching position he has wanted to pursue for many years.



### Anna Jackson 5th Grade

Anna Jackson, who grew up in North Carolina and attended Grand Canyon University in Arizona, has joined the staff at Wagner Middle School as a fifth grade teacher.

Mrs. Jackson graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Deaf Blindness from Eastern Carolina University and plans to start working on a Master's degree in Education over the summer.

She is married and lives in the Bangor area with her husband, who is originally from Ellsworth. They met while attending college in Arizona and decided to move back to Ellsworth in 2020, when the Covid pandemic began.

Mrs. Jackson was able to complete her student teaching in RSU 24 (Sullivan). She was also hired as a long-term substitute teacher for kindergarten, first grade, and physical education in the Mountain View School in Sullivan. Before moving back to Maine, she worked in special education as a paraprofessional around Northern Arizona.

In her free time she enjoys baking and gardening. She likes to complete math and memory puzzles for fun. She and her husband are highly competitive with each other, and they like to host board game nights. They also enjoy golfing.



## Winterport Wonderland

All Winterport students celebrated together the day before vacation at Wagner Middle School.

Students from Smith partnered with older students to

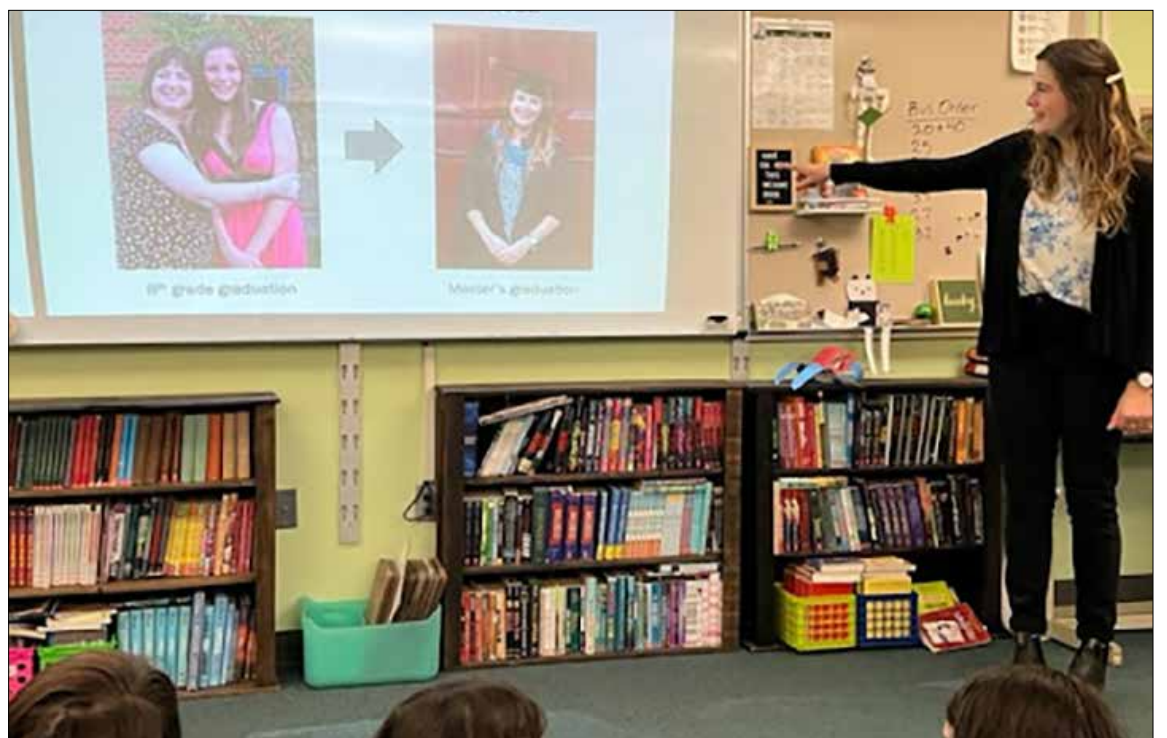
create a craft and then enjoyed a concert in the gym.

Both the Wagner Jazz Band and the Chorus performed for all 490 students.

## Former student gives presentation about science

On December 14th, former Wagner student and Hampden Academy graduate, Helena Tatgenhorst, came to present to both 5th grade classes at Wagner Middle School. She recently completed her masters degree studying coastal and marine environments at University of Galway writing a thesis focused on seaweed off the coast of Ireland. Miss Tatgenhorst is currently employed at The Nature Conservancy working to explore coastal resilience. This visit was a continuation of student learning from their trip to Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland where 5th graders learned about what is happening in the Gulf of Maine.

Miss Tatgenhorst presented a PowerPoint with all of her travels and studies in science. She also brought along lots of collections to show students, including rocks from different areas of the world. Students enjoyed the 40 minute presentation that tied into what had been learned at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in November.



# RSU 22 5th graders enjoy trip to Portland for GMRI ‘LabVenture,’ a hands-on ecology lab on the changing Gulf of Maine ecosystem

All 5th grade students in RSU 22 traveled to Portland in November to experience the LabVenture program at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Operational Excellence, Community Partnerships**

The five 5th grade classrooms at the George B.

Weatherbee School were bussed down to GMRI in Portland on November 1, 2, and 4.

The two 5th grade classrooms at Wagner Middle School made the trip on November 16.

The LabVenture program is a hands-on, interactive, authentic



Wagner Middle School 5th graders compare the size of two lobsters at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.



Chris Yablonsky, 5th grader at Wagner Middle School, holds a lobster at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

investigation of the changing Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Students

use authentic tools of science and methods of inquiry to explore many of the same questions about the Gulf of Maine that research scientists at GMRI are addressing.

Each year, GMRI hosts nearly 10,000 Maine middle schoolers in the LabVenture

program.

The students clearly enjoyed the lab experience.

Kamilla Joens, Wagner 5th grader, said she was able to hold a live lobster.

“That was really fun,” she said. “We saw a blue lobster and a calico one too. We learned that lobsters are moving away into colder waters. Black sea bass are moving into the Gulf of Maine because where they lived before is too warm for them, but ours is just right.”

Weatherbee principal Jen Cyr

and Wagner principal Kristi Charette said they wanted to thank the Gulf of Maine Research Institute for providing this free opportunity for ALL fifth graders in Maine to participate in the ecology lab.

“Students enjoyed a comfortable ride down to Portland on a Cyr Coach Bus, and being together enhance a powerful experiential learning experience,” they said. “Special thanks to our grade 5 teachers for their organization and planning to make this event a success.”

## Bethany Smith joins Riverside Adult Ed as program-wide advisor

Bethany Smith has joined Riverside Adult Education as a program-wide advisor, assisting Director Rebecca Cross.

Bethany comes from a non-traditional education background, and has been involved in education at many age levels since 2009. Her role is to advise students as they work towards their education and career goals.

In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, making art, learning new things, spending time with family, and playing story-driven video games.

You can reach Bethany at [bsmith@rsu26.org](mailto:bsmith@rsu26.org).



Owen Isenhour, Eli Marquis and Micheal Melia of RBMS compete during the team round of the Eastern Maine Math League Fall meet.

## RBMS, Wagner students compete in EMML Fall meet

On the morning of November 8, RBMS hosted the Eastern Maine Math League (EMML) Fall meet. We welcomed the Wagner Math Team to compete in the cafeteria with us. About 80 RBMS and Wagner students participated this year.

Students compete in three rounds—Individual, Special and Team. Our scores are then compared to other schools in our division. RBMS

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**

is in the large school division of the EMML competing against 9 other schools in Eastern Maine. Wagner is in the medium-school division.


Mathletes finishing in the top 10 in their division:

Sixth grade—RBMS: Keira LaFrance, Elena Domina, Finn Allen, Owen Barnes. Wagner: Riley Baron, Anthony Larrabee.

Seventh grade—RBMS: Khloe Hellum, Mason Franz, Mason McPheters, Henry Samoluk, Lucien Paradis.

Eighth grade—RBMS: Beckham Rand, Christian Zhang; Wagner: Sarah Sweeney, Clyde Hodgdon, Jase Deans.

The winter math meet is scheduled for February 7th at Wagner Middle School.



## Maine Adult Education

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • ENRICH

Riverside Adult Education: We are here for you!  
RSU 22, 26, 34

High School Completion—Higher Education/Certificate Program Support—General Education

What are your goals are you interested in pursuing? We are excited to support you!  
Have you heard the news about FREE college? Contact us or find information here:  
<https://www.mccs.me.edu/freecollege>

Our academic services are tailored to your needs and schedule. All academic services are always free of charge to Maine residents!

Contact Rebecca Cross at [rcross@rsu26.org](mailto:rcross@rsu26.org) for program information.

**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 Readiness and Support 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!

Interested in becoming a certified CNA or a Behavioral Health Professional? Contact us to learn about these certificate programs, available at low or no cost.

**Community Enrichment:** Fall community enrichment catalogs will arrive via USPS in October 2022. Until then, check out ongoing courses through our *distance learning partners*:

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



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



Ben, Cosette, and Ridge spread kindness with their light bulb words of wisdom.

## Team Harbor 4th Grade Kindness Challenge

By Lee Birmingham

Fourth graders at Weatherbee School participated in “A Month of Kindness Challenge” during December.

Each team did something slightly different. The following is what Team Harbor accomplished:

Students focused on different groups in our community to do a kind deed for each week.

- The first week of December we were kind to each other by anonymously going around and writing down something that the students like about each other on a paper.

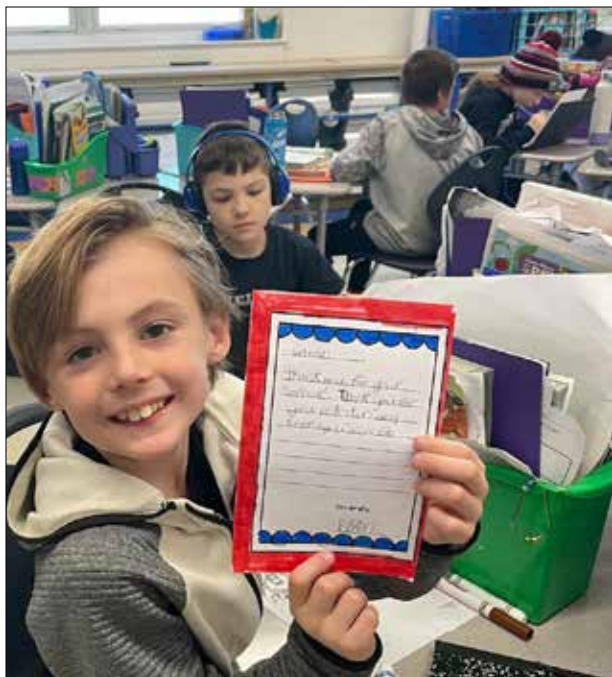
Students’ smiles were evident as they read the wonderful things that their classmates noticed about them. Also that week, we “lit up our hallway with kindness” by creating light bulbs that explain how we can help each other.

- The next week, we focused on our community. We concentrated on both first responders and service members and the people in our school community. Students created thank yous for service members and first responders and created “Elf Notes” for people in the building.

Our service thank yous will be sent to people across the United States. Our kind elf notes were delivered to adults’ doors and other children’s coat hooks and stuck there to brighten someone’s day with a nice note.



Ledger creating a letter to a service member or first responder.



Flynn writing a thank you note to a veteran.

- The third week, we focused on our families with a gift to thank them for their care.

- For the final week, we finished our family gifts. We had planned to make dog toys, but unfortunately we ran out of time.

Each day there was a suggested kindness gesture that students could do to make someone’s day better. December flew by, and the kindness was contagious!

## New Staff at Weatherbee

RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence

### Melissa Erickson SEAL class

Melissa Erickson, who has served as a school counselor at McGraw School for the past 14 years, is now teaching the SEAL (Social Emotional Academic Learning) class at Weatherbee as well.

Mrs. Erickson and her husband have raised their three children in Hampden.

She grew up in Glenburn and attended John Baptist Memorial High School. She received her undergraduate degree in Child Development and her Master’s degree in School Counseling, both from the University of Maine.



### Paula Graham 5th Grade

Paula Graham has joined the staff at the George B. Weatherbee School as a 5th grade teacher.

She grew up in Berlin, NH and Mil- linocket, ME. She graduated from Stearns High School in Mil- linocket and attended the University of Maine in both Orono and Farmington.

After working in hos- pital settings in the field of nutrition, she went back to school to obtain her teaching credentials. She taught at All Saints Catholic School in Bangor and at the Brewer Community School before coming to Weatherbee.

She lives in Brewer with her husband and daughter. Her stepson and his wife live close by with their three beautiful children.

In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, biking, traveling, reading, and most especially, spending time together as a family.

### Anne Carchedi Technology Integration

Anne Carchedi has joined the staff of RSU 22 as Technology Integration Specialist at George B. Weatherbee and Earl C. McGraw Schools.

She grew up in Bangor and attended high school at both John Baptist and Bangor High School. She completed her undergraduate work at Bentley University in Waltham, MA, and received her Master’s de- gree in Education from UMASS Boston.

Ms. Carchedi worked as a Network Analyst for Duke Energy for 15 years. Then she switched from business to teaching and spent more than 20 years teaching at a PreK-8 school in Boston.

She now lives in Veazie. She has two adult children who live in Colorado and South Dakota. Her parents live in Brewer.



Ms. Carchedi loves to travel, espe- cially to visit her daughters. She also enjoys reading and the beach.

She says relocating back to Maine this past summer was a huge decision, but she has been delighted with the move.

“I feel especially welcomed by the RSU 22 community,” she says.

### Samantha Anderson Math Interventionist

Samantha Anderson is the new Math Interventionist Teacher at George B. Weatherbee School.

Previously, she taught fifth grade at Weatherbee for five years, and before that, she taught fourth grade in an- other district. She has also served as an ed tech in a couple of districts.

She’s origi- nally from Massachu- setts but grew up mostly in Dexter and graduated from Dexter Re- gional High School in 2007. Ms Ander- son lives in Brewer with her husband and their three-year-old daughter.

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2011 and her graduate degree from the University of Maine in 2020. Outside of work, she loves to spend time with her family and friends. She also enjoys crafting, cooking, and being silly with her daughter.



### Lindsay Dysart, RN School Nurse

Lindsay Dysart, RN, BSN, is the new School Nurse at George B. Weatherbee School.

Mrs. Dysart graduated from Nursing School at the University of Maine in Orono. She started her nursing career as a Medical- Surgical Nurse at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center.

In addition to her nursing duties at Weatherbee she also covers at McGraw.

She says the greatest satisfaction of her job is “working with young children and educating them daily on ways to stay healthy.”

Mrs. Dysart and her husband have a 2 year old daughter and a chocolate labrador named Gemma.

As a family they most enjoy spend- ing time outdoors, between going to camp and doing all the seasonal activities Maine has to offer. She also has a passion for photographing families.

Mrs. Dysart is currently hoping to wel- come home their baby boy any day now.





Six teams from Mrs. Ross' class with the pinball games they designed using Lego Spike Essential.

## Weatherbee students build pinball games

Grade 5 Weatherbee students have been working in teams to build pinball games with Lego Spike Essential. Once the game is designed and initially built, code is written to program both a motor and lights. The team then works to both improve and perfect the

design and the code. Weatherbee students are very appreciative of this mobile computer science lab from the #MaineTeachesCS initiative. Thank you Maine DOE!

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**



Mr. Plaisted's classes picked and harvested apples from the RSU 22 orchard and then used the apples to make cider. Students have produced over 25 gallons of cider. As a result, we are able to serve cider during morning breakfast and lunch times. Congratulations to our students.



Fire Safety Week: Thank you to the Hampden Fire Department for their partnership. During the October they came in to teach Weatherbee students about fire safety and prevention. Students asked great questions and even had a tour of the fire truck!

## Weatherbee invites parents to meet Specialist team, enjoy scavenger hunt

This is the second year Weatherbee hosted Specialist's night. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet our Specialist team and see what happens in our Library, Math Lab, Gifted and Talented program, Music, Art, Physical Education, STEAM and SEAL classrooms.

Each family received a scavenger hunt program to help them navigate to all of the rooms and enter in a drawing for a family prize.

It was a great celebration of learning.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships**

Mrs. Fagone (Librarian) joins our Specialists' Night Scavenger Hunt winners Warren Reinhardt (grade 4), Violet Paulsen (grade 5) Spencer Beale (grade 3) and Mr. Plaisted. Each student won WB Maple Syrup, a Smicker and Smencil for joining our family night on November 7th.



## Emma Curtis grows 3 lb., 6 oz. cabbage

Our very own Emma Curtis has earned the distinction of being the 2022 Maine State winner of the National Bonnie Plants' 3rd Grade Cabbage Program!

Last year, Emma and all of our third grade students learned about the program during Maine Day with Ms. Layman, our District Health Coordinator. At the end of the presentation, each student received a cabbage and a challenge to bring it home and plant it.

Emma not only took the challenge on, but she learned some invaluable lessons.

"I learned that it was hard to plant a cabbage by yourself and to get help," she said.

When her cabbage wasn't growing well, she went to her family. Together they tended to her plant and did some trouble shooting. When it wasn't doing well, they transplanted it to her grandfather's garden so that it could thrive...and it did! This fall, when her cabbage was harvested, it weighed in at 3 pounds 6 ounces. "To be honest, I didn't know how big a cabbage could get so I wasn't sure if that was big or small," she said. "It was a surprise to win the contest. We didn't have a greenhouse; it was just in the ground."

She thought others would have the advantage but the odds were in her favor. Emma has won a \$1,000 scholarship for her post secondary studies.

We are so proud of Emma for going above and beyond and embracing this wonderful learning opportunity!

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**



## Weatherbee Chess

The Weatherbee Bobcat Chess team has competed in every tournament in the Maine Grand Prix League this season. In addition, they played in two other fundraising tournaments.

Their first tournament was held on National Chess Day at Hampden Academy. The Hampden inaugural tourney had the highest attendance ever recorded.

The Bobcat chess team has 12 teammates who will compete in the March State Tournament. They placed 1st in the 2020 season and are looking to win again this year, after placing 2nd last year.



At the All Saints Catholic School tournament on Jan. 2, 2023, Bobcats Braddock Stansauk (left) and Harrison Pennell (right) tied for 1st place in their division.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Student Success**

## New Staff at Smith

### RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence

#### Katharin Cheney Special Education

Katharin Cheney, who grew up in Germany and has family in Brazil, has joined the staff at Leroy H. Smith School as a Special Education teacher.

Mrs. Cheney graduated from the University of Maine at Machias with a B.A. degree in Psychology in Machias.

She completed her Master's degree in Special Education with a concentration in Specialized Instruction at the University of Southern Maine in 2021.

Before joining RSU 22, Mrs. Cheney worked as a behavioral health professional with families and children in residential and community settings.

She joined the Smith School special education team in 2019 as a special education technician. She enjoyed working with children in the special education setting and decided to get her teaching certification and now works at Smith School as a Special Education teacher.

Mrs. Cheney lives in Orrington with her husband and three children. She attended high school in Germany, but most of her maternal family lives in Brazil.

She enjoys traveling and hopes to visit family members in Germany and Brazil soon. She loves to spend time with her children and husband, and they enjoy camping, hiking, and swim-



ming. She also loves cultural cuisine and cooking, but most of all, she enjoys exploring the local beaches in Maine with her girls to read and relax.

#### Ryan Conway K-4 Music

Ryan Conway is the new K-4 Music Teacher at Leroy H. Smith School.

Mr. Conway was raised in Pepperell, MA, and went to school at North Middlesex Regional High School. After high school, he studied at the University of Maine, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a Vocal Concentration.

While he is one of the newest teachers in the district, this is actually his third year of being a member of the RSU 22 family.

For his final semester at UMaine—January to May 2021—he was the music student teacher in RSU 22, working under the mentorship of Heidi Corliss and Dana Ross.

During the 2021-22 school year, he was a substitute teacher at all of the schools in the district from September to January, and from February to June, he was the long-term substitute PE teacher at Earl C. McGraw School.

He is very happy to still be in RSU 22 during his first year as a Music Teacher. Outside of teaching, some of his favorite activities include singing in choirs and bands, hiking, snowboarding, watching the Boston Celtics, playing

soccer with his friends, and attending concerts.

Mr. Conway currently resides in Orono.



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

#### Liz Kilhefner Special Education

Liz Kilhefner, who worked as an Ed Tech in RSU 22 for the past eight years, is now on the staff at Leroy H. Smith School as a Special Education teacher.

Ms. Kilhefner grew up on the Jersey Shore and graduated from Brick Township High School. She went on to attend Arcadia University in Glenside, PA, graduating in 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

She started working in RSU 22 as an Ed Tech in 2007. However, at the end of 2009 she moved to Washington State and California. In 2014 she returned to Maine and came back to work in RSU 22 as an Ed Tech until this year when was hired as a Special Education teacher at Smith.

Ms. Kilhefner is currently working towards a Master's degree. She lives in Newburgh with her two children. For downtime, she enjoys playing games with her children and working on projects like crocheting and sewing.



#### Emily Ross Kindergarten

Emily Ross is the new kindergarten teacher at Smith School.

Ms. Ross grew up in Scarborough, and received her Bachelor's from Saint Joseph's College in Elementary Education in 2016. She earned her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University in 2020.

She is currently in her seventh year of teaching. She taught first grade in the Lake Region district for a year and spent the last five years teaching kindergarten and first grade in the Bonny Eagle School District.

When she's not in the classroom, she enjoys spending time with family, working out, reading, doing different DIY projects, and being outdoors.

Ms. Ross currently lives with her wife in Newburgh.



## Scot Cannon tells Smith students to "Be Positive, Be Productive"

Scot Cannon, a local musician, mime, and educator, performed his show "Be Positive, Be Productive" for Smith School students in December.

The show taught the children how to find what they love to do

with their time and take steps to make it part of their life.

Scot engaged Pre-K through 4th graders in singing songs, movement, and learning introductory mime poses to teach about positivity

and good life habits.

The students loved following along with his silly songs and spontaneously adding rhyming verses to a counting song.

Stella Davis, a Grade 3 student, said that her favorite part of the show was the mime moves because it was funny and something that

Scot enjoyed, so he shared it with the audience.

Scot also brought out his baby guitar for a fan-favorite performance of his original song "Baby Guitar." You can learn more about Scot by visiting his website ([scotcannon.com](http://scotcannon.com)) or seeing him in person at the Out On A Whimsey toy store in Belfast.

### RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships





Smith School Civil Rights Team members prepare posters for the school's Day of Welcome.



## Smith School Celebrates Day of Welcome

November 4th, 2022, was the state-wide DAY OF WELCOME! Schools and civil rights teams all across the state celebrated by finding ways to help make sure that all students and families feel welcome and included regardless of differences every day!

This year our Smith School Civil Rights Team includes 26 students from 3rd and 4th grade. To celebrate this day, the team created welcoming posters to hang around the school and added some to the display in our main lobby to help all feel welcome.

They shared these videos at an

all-school assembly prior to the Day of Welcome. They also created a great video to share with students and staff!

The Civil Rights Team is already planning our annual Welcome Week at Smith School. This week is always a lot of fun for students and includes activities, theme days, and read-alouds by civil rights team members.

Here at Smith School, we welcome everyone: All races and skin colors, all genders, all national origins and ancestries, all religions, all disabilities, and all families!

## Smith School selected to participate in WinterKids 2023!

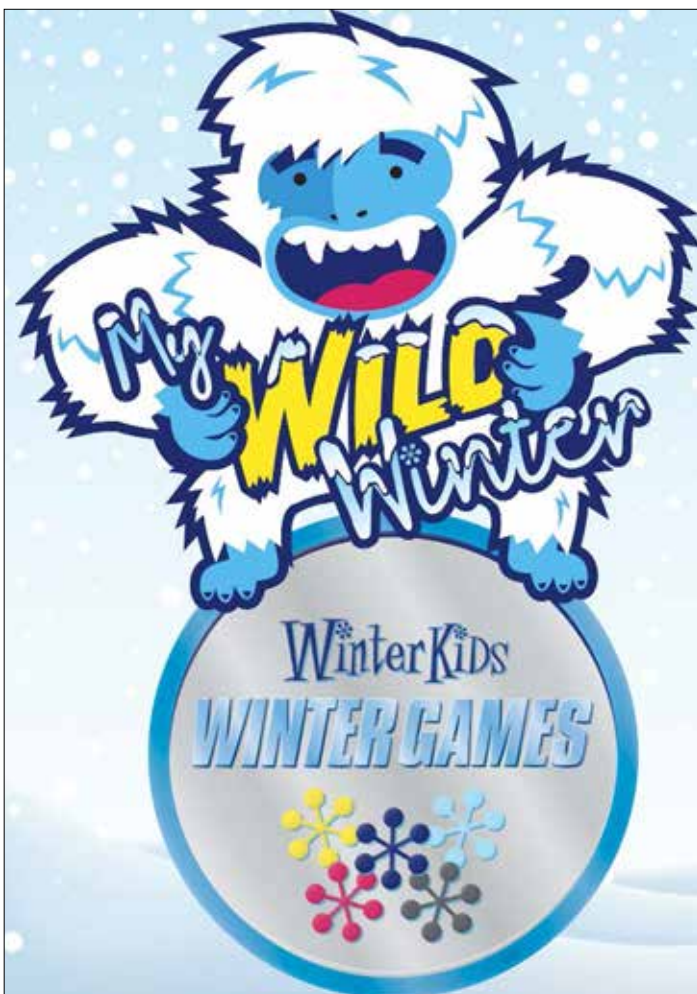
Smith School is excited to announce they will be participating in the annual WinterKids competition.

Smith School was selected from a pool of schools to represent Waldo County. We are extremely excited to be able to participate again this year.

We have guest speakers planned, special classroom events, many outdoor activities, a winter carnival, and a WinterKids Family outdoor night. The competition runs from January 9- February 3.

This year's theme, "My Wild Winter," encourages us to get wild and tune into nature - using imagination, prob-

lem-solving skills, and resilience. The four weeks include: Outdoor



physical activity, nutrition, family engagement, and winter carnival.

## New Staff on the RSU 22 School Nutrition Team

RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence

### Michele D'Amario Chef Manager, RBMS

Chef Michele D'Amario joined the School Nutrition team at Reeds Brook in September, filling the position of Chef Manager.

Michele is responsible for managing the kitchen at Reeds Brook, as well as working on district initiatives, such as increasing scratch cooking and helping with the development of our farm and sea to school program.

She graduated from Johnson & Wales University with a degree in Culinary Arts.

Michele has over 20 years of experience as a Chef in a variety of settings, including large volume catering, fine dining, and freelance Chef, as well as running a food service program for a private school in the Boston area.

She is getting to know our students by interacting with them daily and gets their feedback through our food committee and new suggestion box.

Michele resides in Hermon with her husband Bob and tabby cat Mittens.



### Bryan Mayo, Kitchen Manager, McGraw

Bryan Mayo joined the RSU 22 School Nutrition team in August at McGraw, Weatherbee, and Newburgh as the Kitchen Manager.

He is a graduate of the University of Maine as well as an alumni of RSU 22.

Bryan is responsible for managing the operations for these three locations, including coordinating production from the central McGraw kitchen.

Bryan comes to us with a variety of work and food service experiences, including cooking, customer service and restaurant management.

He understands his audience well, as he has a 4 year old and a baby on the way!

Bryan wears many hats, including running a Christmas tree farm. He resides with his wife and son in Winterport.





Mrs. Adams' class at the Challenger Learning Center.



Mrs. Chandler's class at the Challenger Learning Center.

## Weatherbee, Smith 3rd graders soar on space mission at Challenger Learning Center in Bangor

On four days in December 2022, Weatherbee and Smith 3rd graders went to the Challenger Learning Center for an important space mission! This immersive experience was made possible by grants from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

The Weatherbee grant was requested by Mrs. Adams, a 3rd grade teacher, who also secured funding for transportation through the Weatherbee PTO.

**RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships, Student Success**

Transportation for the Smith School third graders was already in the budget.

Weatherbee students went on their space missions on December 12, 13, and 14. Smith 3rd graders went on December 15.

The students learned about laboratory science and process skills, and they had the opportunity to try out various stations in the Mission Control and Space Lab simulators during this program.

\* \* \*

Students participated in a simulated space shuttle adventure. They learned about geology, along with using a balance and reading coordinates. They did labs to determine which rocks were magnetic, weighed and measured rocks. They also did a series of tests to determine how much to feed the mice, tried navigating, fitness



training, and practiced communicating and completing tasks during a simulation!

As Weatherbee third graders reflected, they shared some of their favorite moments:

- Evan: "I liked the robotic arm!"
- Hope: "I liked the fact that an astronaut has to exercise for two hours."
- Kolton: "My favorite part was the air chamber."
- Regan: "I learned that you can grow 3 inches in space."

- Aiden: "I learned I want to be an astronaut."

\* \* \*

Smith School teachers said their third graders had a "blast" of a time at the Challenger Learning Center.

"They blasted off into space and were part of mission control," Mrs. Bellefleur said. "They ran experiments on both sides and learned all kinds of 'out-of-this-world' facts,"

The third grade teacher said many students enjoyed testing parts of the astronauts' space suits and being able to hear their voices over the command intercom.



Students taking measurements of rocks.

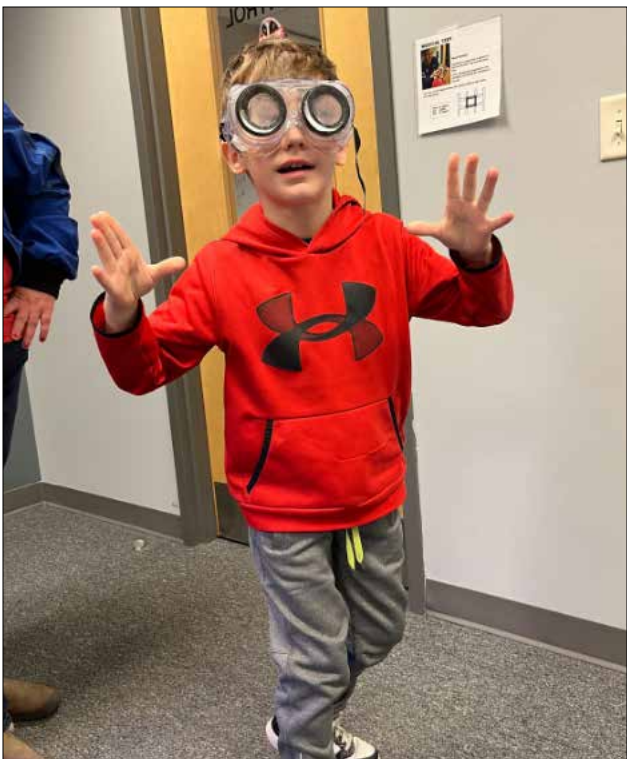
"We definitely saw some future scientists and maybe even astronauts working hard that day!" Mrs. Luna said.

\* \* \*

Thank you to Stephen and Tabitha King and the Challenger Learning Center of Maine for this fantastic experience!



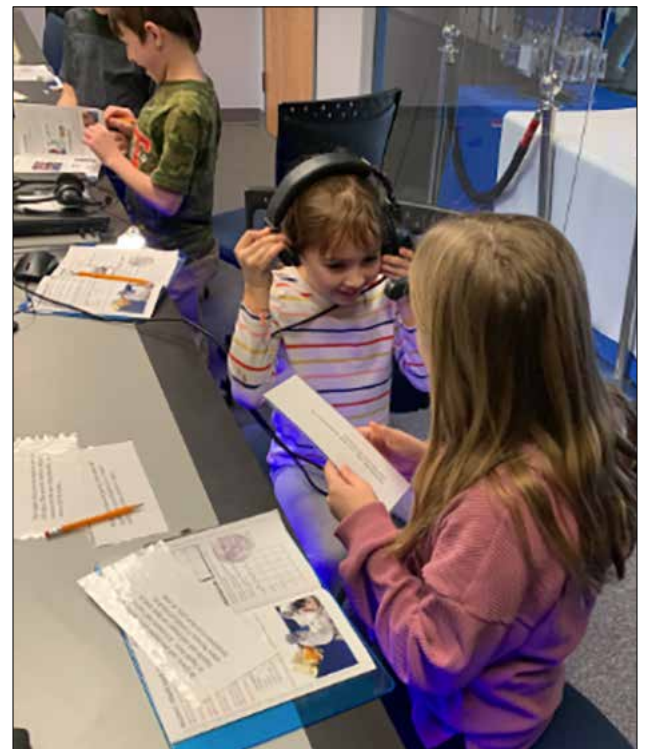
Hazel Adams doing an experiment in the exploration lab.



Students experienced what it was like to be in space and see how their depth perception was impacted.



Students practiced buckling and unbuckling their space suits.



Students reported from the space station to the base



## McGraw students, staff enjoy ‘Jammin’ in their Jammies’

By Matt Lindemann  
Principal, McGraw School

McGraw School had a blast during our annual “Jammin’ in our Jammies” assembly on December 22, 2022.

Students and staff members all participated

in a school-wide pajama day, with Mr. Madore leading our All-School Share.

Each grade level at McGraw had practiced a song during their weekly music classes to share with the other students. The assembly finished with all students singing the winter favorite

“Jingle Bells” and dancing and singing along to “Jammin’ in our Jammies.”

Thank you to Mr. Madore for all your work in leading this great community event for our school.

## New Staff at McGraw

RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Professional Excellence

### Jessica Bouchard 2nd Grade

Jessica Bouchard has joined the staff at the Earl C. McGraw School as a 2nd grade teacher.

Before coming to RSU 22, Ms. Bouchard spent five years as an administrative assistant to the Vice President of Nursing at the Northern Light Acadia Hospital in Bangor.

She did her student teaching and some substitute teaching at the Vine Street School in Bangor.

Ms. Bouchard lives in Bangor. She is married with an adult son and a grandchild on the way. She also has two dogs and two cats.

She grew up in Brewer and graduated from Brewer High School. She received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education, magna cum laude, from the University of Maine at Augusta.

Ms. Bouchard enjoys spending time with her family—parents, a niece and nephew, and cousins. She also leads a Girl Scout Troop in Brewer, and she likes to craft, sew, go hiking, and spend a lot of time with her dogs.



and attended John Bapst Memorial High School in Bangor.

She graduated from Wittenberg University in Ohio with a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Intervention Specialist.

Miss Leibfarth enjoys spending time with her family and boyfriend. She enjoys hiking outside with her two dogs, Diesel and Gus, and going to the beach. She also spends a lot of time with her 1 1/2 year old niece.

### Raeann Berry Physical Education

Raeann Berry is the new Physical Education Teacher at the McGraw Elementary School.

A native of the North Fork of Long Island, NY, she attended Southold Junior/Senior High School and graduated from the University of Maine in 2020.

She started her career as a long term sub at McGraw in 2021. She then worked at the Maine Bound Adventure Center as a part of their expedition staff, and at Old Town Elementary School as a PE/Ed Tech.

Outside of school, she says all of her hobbies are outdoors. She says she loves to go hiking, backpacking and downhill skiing. In the summers, she loves going to the beach and fishing with her family.



### Alexa Lacey 1st Grade

Alexa Lacey, who was an educational technician at McGraw School for five years, is now a 1st grade teacher there.

Mrs. Lacey grew up in Hampden and was a member of the HA Class of 2012—the last class to



EARL C. MCGRAW SCHOOL  
Matt Lindemann, Principal, 862-3830

### McGraw students enjoy meeting Mr. Drew and His Animals, Too

The McGraw School had the special treat of having “Mr. Drew and His Animals, Too” visit and present to our students on November 10.

The McGraw PTO funded this great enrichment

opportunity for our students (and staff). We were also excited to welcome our friends from the RSU 22 Pre-K program in Newburgh to McGraw for this event.

Mr. Drew brought a number of animals to teach our students about, including a tortoise, various lizards, insects, and more.

Students loved the show and had a chance to ask questions about Mr. Drew’s animals. Teachers and students had a great time discussing their favorite animals and what they learned.



RSU 22 Strategic Plan: Community Partnerships,

### Samantha Leibfarth Kindergarten

Samantha Leibfarth has joined the staff at McGraw School as a kindergarten teacher.

For the past three years, she taught Pre-K at the First Lutheran Children’s Program, a private school in Portland. Before that, she spent two years teaching preschool in Falmouth.

Miss Leibfarth grew up in Dixmont



graduate from the old building.

She received her associate’s degree from Eastern Maine Community College and her bachelor’s degree from the University of Maine.

She was the head teacher in a 1-year-old classroom at The Learning Garden in Bangor before taking the ed tech position at McGraw. She was an ed tech at McGraw for 5 years. She also served as a long-term sub in 1st grade for 9 weeks when staff and stu-

dents returned to school from hybrid learning during the Covid pandemic.

Mrs. Lacey is married to her husband Aaron. She also has a daughter, Ally, who is in 6th grade at Reeds Brook Middle School, along with a very spoiled golden retriever named Archie!

Her hobbies include running obstacle course races and reading good books!



## Nova Scotia Tree stops at Reeds Brook, Weatherbee en route to Boston

(Continued from page 1)

water, and medical supplies. Numerous personnel on the train were able to relieve the Nova Scotia medical staff, most of whom had worked without rest since the explosion occurred. A second train from Boston arrived in Halifax a day later.

Nova Scotian children study the explosion in school and they know “Boston was one of the first responders, and really a lifesaver.”

In 1918, Nova Scotia sent a large Christmas tree to Boston as a way to say thanks for the help that the Boston Red Cross and the Massachusetts Public Safety Committee provided immediately after the explosion. In 1971, this tree became an annual tradition—a continuing expression of remembrance and

gratitude—which continues to this day

\* \* \*

Reeds Brook students enjoyed the great opportunity of having this piece of history visit their school. This tree traveled all the way from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and made a pit stop at the school’s front door.

David Haggan, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, shared a personal anecdote about his grandmother who lived in Halifax in 1917 and survived the blast.

The RBMS Band, directed by Music teacher Becky Mallory, serenaded the crowd with a “Infinity Concert March” by James Curnow.

Sixth grade teacher Stacy LaBree made a beautiful wreath that was presented to the Christmas Tree drivers to take to Boston, and the student body lined the driveway with GRATITUDE posters to show their support!

\* \* \*

After Reeds Brook, the tree was brought to Weatherbee School, where students greeted the truck with shouts of “Tree! Tree! Tree! Tree!”

\* \* \*

RBMS Principal Susan Thibedeau noted that the inspirational message of the Nova Scotia Tree came to light just as RSU 22 headed into Thanksgiving break.

“It was a wonderful message to reinforce the power of community and caring,” she said.

To see part of the event on YouTube, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikIxnjy9gmY&t=16s>



Mrs. Bracciodieta and her family went to Boston to see the tree on the Boston Common. She promised her students that she would find the Nova Scotia tree and take pictures. Photo by the Bracciodieta family.



Sign on the truck carrying the Nova Scotia Tree.

## School Oral Health Program now open to all RSU 22 students in grades K-5

(Continued from page 1)

participate. As a result, a total of 106 students at McGraw School and 97 students at Weatherbee School received dental screenings and fluoride varnish, as well as 126 students from Smith.

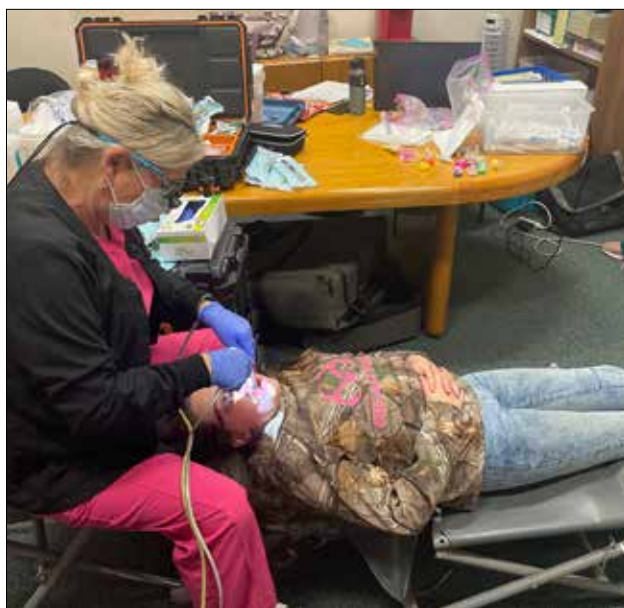
The School Oral Health Program is a voluntary program and students only participated with parental/guardian consent. These consent forms were sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. Between the three schools a total of 329 students received dental screenings and fluoride varnish treatments. In addition, 129 students were referred for further treatment by a dentist.

Natasha Adams, RN, school nurse at McGraw said she was very excited about the ability to offer the Oral Health Program at McGraw as dental health is a crucial component to a student’s health and overall well-being.

“Adequate dental care can significantly improve a student’s attendance rate which in turn enables them to be more successful in the classroom,” she said. “The students who attended the screenings did a really good job and seemed to have a lot of fun participating.”

The screenings and fluoride treatments at McGraw and Weatherbee were performed by two local registered dental hygienists, Colleen Jolley and Cathy Fearon.

Mrs. Jolley, who is also a member of the RSU 22 Board of Directors, says



Prevention Works dental hygienist Alissa Wade with Wagner student Natalya Cherry.

she was excited when she learned that the oral health program would be coming to McGraw and Weatherbee.

“As dental hygienists, preventative care is one of our greatest passions. We were very excited to have this opportunity to serve students in our community,” she said. “Access to care can be a great challenge. We are happy to help students’ families bridge that gap.”

Laura Norris, RN, school nurse at Smith Elementary and Wagner Middle School, says the oral health program is very beneficial to students overall well-being.

“Dental cavities is the number one disease in children and is five

times more common than asthma,” Mrs. Norris said. “Dental cavities are also preventable.”

She also noted that many people don’t seek regular dental care because of financial constraints, dental office access, and insurance restrictions.

In addition to the School Oral Health Program, Leroy H. Smith School and Wagner Middle School offers a dental cleaning program for students in grades K-8. Participating students received dental cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealant applications, and dental referrals if needed.

This program is offered by Alissa Wade of Prevention Works Dental



School Oral Health Program at McGraw: Colleen Jolley (left) and Cathy Fearon (right), both local dental hygienists who volunteered their time with the help of Dana-Jo Smith (middle), a parent volunteer.

Hygiene in Bangor. Her clinic accepts most dental insurances, MaineCare, and also provides discounted services to self-pay families. This fall, Alissa provided 114 of dental cleanings and 19 of those students were referred to dentists for further care.

“This is a very beneficial program and the health team at RSU 22 is hopeful that we can expand these services district-wide in the future,” said Mrs. Adams. “If your child attends one of these schools and you are interested in having them participate, please reach out to your school’s nurse as soon as possible. There will be a spring clinic in May.”