



2023-24 BUDGET INSERT INSIDE
 Budget Meeting Information.....pp. 7-10
 Budget Referendum Sample Ballotp. 10

LINK-22

RSU 22 + HAMPDEN + NEWBURGH + WINTERPORT + FRANKFORT 24 MAIN ROAD NORTH, HAMPDEN ME 04444 MAY 2023

Unified Club Hosts Students vs. Staff Basketball Game

By: Andrea Turgeon

After attending the Youth Leadership Experience as part of the Maine Delegation at the USA Special Olympics Games in Orlando, Selina Turgeon came back with ideas on how to spread awareness and inclusion in her school and community. She and her brother Drew Turgeon were given the opportunity to apply for a \$500 grant through a partnership with KPMG and the National Special Olympics. They wanted to start a Unified Club with the mission of raising awareness, building comradery between students with and without intellectual disabilities, and providing mentorship.

(Please turn to page 5)



RSU 22 Budget Meeting June 8; Referendum set for June 13

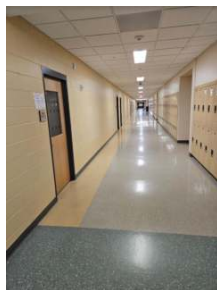
The RSU 22 School Board unanimously approved the proposed 2023-24 (FY24) budget on May 10, 2023 following public comment and discussion. The RSU 22 Budget Committee presented a line item budget totaling \$37,285,027.16 with a gross increase of 3.19% over the previous year.

RSU 22 voters will vote on the budget at the District Budget Meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at the Hampden Academy Gym. The budget that is approved on June 8 will be voted on again in the District Budget Validation Referendum on Tuesday, June 13.

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Skehan Recreational Center, Newburgh Elementary School Community Building, Victoria Grant Center, and Frankfort Town Office. An open letter to town leadership and community members can be found on page 7 of this newspaper. A summary of the Budget, a copy of the warrant articles, and a sample ballot for the June 13 referendum can be found on pages 8-10.

Hampden Academy Expansion Near Completion

Crews from Nickerson & O'Day are near completion on the 3rd floor expansion project at Hampden Academy. The expansion has created space for a STEM floor with classrooms focused on Science, Math, and Computer Programming, as well as open space for new programs, such as the National Navy Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC, which is a precursor to NJROTC), a MakerSpace, and extra-curricular club eSports. The project cost of \$1.99 million, all of which was paid through federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, with no local cost or repayment.



Maine State Police and Bangor Bomb Squad Provide Hampden Academy Students a Real World Robotics Experience

By: Todd Moore, Technology Instructional Leader

On March 10th, 2023 the Maine State Police and Bangor Bomb Squads provided real world robotics experiences to the students of Hampden Academy. Bangor Bomb Squad Detective Sgt. Timothy Shaw and Maine State Troopers Pat Pescitelli, Dave Barnard, and Keith Barton brought in their robots and provided the students with real world experiences using their robots.

Mr. Moore and Mr Huff's classes as well as members of the Hampden Academy Robotics Team listened, watched and remotely operated the four robots and learned the requirements of work in this field. The students gained a lot of knowledge and were able to see how these departments use robots to help them and others stay safe.





The Farm and Sea to School program had a great inaugural year. The committee and students are excited to grow the program during the 2023-2024 school year. As the 2022-2023 school year comes to an end, we would like to share highlights from the second half of the year. There have been many activities in the classroom, cafeteria and community.

Classroom

Our elementary students at Smith, McGraw, and Weatherbee enjoyed the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom book *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* written by Candance Fleming. During the month of March and April, 430 students in 23 classrooms learned about the life cycle of honeybees and taste tested local honey from Newburgh bees!



Late March third grade students at Smith and Weatherbee were introduced to the Bonnie Cabbage Program and received their cabbage seedlings. Students completed a variety of activities that helped inform them what cabbage seedlings need to survive and thrive! Bonnie Plants picks a 3rd grade student winner from each state and the student receives a \$1,000 scholarship. Weatherbee School had the state winner last year!



6th graders pet calves at RSU 22 School Board Chair Heath Miller's farm

The 6th grade students at Reeds Brook Middle School have been busy finishing up a school year that has focused on the dairy industry and native pollinators. 6th graders read two common texts as part of our FSTS programming, *MOO* about a girl who moves to Maine and connects with a cow and *Zinnia and the Bees* about a girl who has honey bees that think her head is their hive. They learned about soil and germination in Science classes and explored primary sources about farming in Social Studies classes. Students participated in Cowapalooza assemblies, visited a local dairy farm, and held a cutest cow contest. Reeds Brook Middle School entered a National Dairy Council competition and won! Our students choreographed and performed a dairy based music video and placed 1st out of 150 national entries.



Help Wanted - Food Service
Part time, School year positions

George B. Weatherbee - 10:30-1:30
Sub positions also available

For further information contact Kathy Kittridge
kkittridge@rsu22.us

Cafeteria

So many fantastic things have been happening in our school cafeterias this year! As we move into the final stretch of the 2022-2023 school year the RSU 22 nutrition department has increased our local product usage to 5%. We will be continuing to build on that number. All of the school cafeterias have served local Maine fish from the Fishermen Feeding Mainers program and twice a month students enjoy items from the Harvest of the Month program. The cafeterias are learning labs where students have made pasta and learned how to pickle. The students have had input into what meals are served in the cafeteria at Reeds Brook Middle School!

Community

Reeds Brook's Garden Club is currently working on prepping and planting pollinator gardens in the front of the school. These gardens are being financially supported by a grant through Maine Agriculture in the Classroom. If you come by Reeds Brook this summer, check out the new gardens!



Reeds Brook Middle School hosted Maine School Garden Day on May 13, 2023! Maine School Garden Day is the kick off of the school gardening season and is put on by the Maine School Garden Network. The mission of the Maine School Garden Network is to promote and support educational gardens for youth, and to encourage school programs which teach healthy eating and environmental stewardship. The 100+ participants couldn't have asked for better weather, a better agenda or a better meal! It was a great event, and we are honored to have been a part of it.



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Christine Boone, Assistant Superintendent for District Development

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Message from Director of School Nutrition

By: Kathy Kittridge

Summer Meals - We will not have summer meals in our district this year. To find a location serving summer meals check out the hot lunch summer website map here <https://www.maine.gov/doe/hotlunchsummer>

School Year Food Service Wrap Up

We had a successful year implementing more scratch cooking, new recipes, and local Maine products into our meals.

- Purchased food from over 14 Maine farms/businesses
- Provided over 30 Maine menu items not including items featured on our fruit & salad bars
- Many more from scratch homemade items were prepared
- Held numerous taste tests to introduce menu items to our students
- There were smoothies developed by students and served at lunch
- Implementation of bulk milk at Hampden Academy preventing over 27,000 milk cartons from entering the waste stream.
- After school cooking classes were offered at Wagner Middle School

Free and Reduced Meal Forms

Free and reduced meal forms will be available after July 1. We will mail those home with a return confidential envelope. Please fill those out and if you qualify you may also qualify for additional future EBT benefits. These also help us with other school funding.

Reg Ruhlin - Named the New Principal of Hampden Academy



RSU 22 is excited to announce that Reg Ruhlin will be the new principal at Hampden Academy.

He brings with him 29 years of experience as an educator mostly in the high school setting. Prior to teaching he was an electrical engineer in the Portland area. He served as principal at Orono High School for five years and is now wrapping up his time as superintendent for School Union 93 (five districts on the Blue Hill peninsula).

He has been visiting Hampden Academy once a week during the month of May.

Observing the school in action, getting a feel for the climate and culture, and beginning the process of getting to know both the staff and students.

5 From Hampden Academy Earn Medals in State SkillsUSA Competition

By: Todd Moore, Technology Instructional Leader

Nine Hampden Academy students competed in the annual State Skills USA competition which was held at United Technology Center on March 17th, 2023. This all day skills competition is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel by providing educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education in the nation's classrooms. This year the following 4 students did an outstanding job representing Hampden Academy and United Technology Center in their respective competitions.

- Arabella Aceto - Restaurant Services
- Cheyenne Nadeau - First Aid/CPR
- Alexis Scott - Digital Cinema Team H
- Nathan Welch - Digital Cinema Team H

The following 5 students were able to bring home medals in their respective competitions.

- Gold medal winner - Gracie Baker - Criminal Justice
- Gold medal winner - Owen Brown - Heating
- Silver medal winner - Brock Dean - Heating
- Silver medal winner - Brock Grove - Electrical
- Bronze medal winner - Aidric Rogers - Diesel Equipment

Due to Heating being a state only competition, Owen Brown will not have the opportunity to compete at the national level. Gracie Baker will be competing in the national SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta, GA, June 19th-23rd. All competitors did an outstanding job in all of their competitions. We wish Gracie the best of luck next month at nationals.



Gracie Baker, Senior



Owen Brown, Senior



Brock Dean, Senior



Aidric Rogers, Junior



Brock Grove, Senior



HAMPDEN ACADEMY

Ruey Yehle, Principal
862-3791



Hampden Academy Hosts Career Fair

Guidance Director, Kelly Weaver organized a Career Fair at Hampden Academy on March 29th from 1:00 to 3:00 targeted to juniors and seniors. Students traveled from table to table to meet and greet potential employers. At each table they received a stamp on the roadmap. If they received enough stamps (visited enough tables) then their names were put into drawings for some really fantastic prizes. All prizes were donated by the business partners in attendance. It was well done and will only get better each year.

Community Business partners included:

Air National Guard
Aquatic Development -
Swimming pools
Bouchard Cleaning
Citizens of Maine
GE Gas Power - General Electric
Lee Residential Care
Maine Tourism Association
Maine Vocational and
Rehabilitation Associates
Municipal Government
Northeast Technical Institute
Northern Light
Quirk Auto Group
U.S. ARMY
USPS

Darling's Auto Group
H.O. Bouchard
Bangor International Airport
F.W. Webb
Northeast Paving
Maine Society of CPA: Pick
your Path in Accounting
Hampden Public Safety
Hamlin's Marine
AtWork Personnel
Bangor Savings Bank
Husson University College of
Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Sand Dollar Spa and Pool
St. Joseph's Hospital
C and L Aviation/NAA



Heidi Corliss retiring after 40 years teaching, 35 years at HA

Heidi E. Corliss earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree, a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Maine and a Certificate of Fine Arts Administration from Fitchburg State University. This completes her 40th year teaching, 35 of them in RSU22. Through those years, she has taught classroom and choral music at all levels. For the past 20 years, she has been 9-12 Fine Arts Team Leader. Her choirs have performed at community events, regional festivals, the Maine



All-State Conference, New York City, and Walt Disney World. Mrs. Corliss is active in the Maine Music Educators' Association and American Choral Directors' Association having held various state positions in each. She has been adjudicator for All-State auditions and jazz/show choir and large group festivals, directed summer music theater, and has been guest conductor for numerous district festivals. In spring of 2001 and again this year, Heidi was awarded the Russell-Cox Distinguished Choral Director Award by the Maine chapter of ACDA for "outstanding attributions, vision, and dedication to the choral arts in Maine." Next year, she will be working with student teachers at UMaine, is advocacy chairperson for Maine Music Educators' Association, will be doing some adjudicating for music festivals, and spending time with family.

HAMPDEN ACADEMY CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION SPEAKERS



VALEDICTORY ADDRESS - Corina Arimond will deliver the valedictory address. Corina is the daughter of John Arimond and Amy Gilman of Hampden. While at Hampden Academy Corina participated in Field Hockey, Swimming, Tennis, Junior Classical League, Key Club, Math Team, ASB Leadership, and National Honor Society. Corina also was a Student of the Quarter, received a Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Science and Math, is a Field Hockey Academic All State student, is a Penobscot Valley Conference Scholar/Athlete, and received the Maine Principal's Award at Hampden Academy. Corina interned at the University of Maine in computer science and recently starting lifeguarding at the Lura Hoyt Pool. In her spare time Corina enjoys spending time with friends and family including her pets, taking care of plants, reading, and playing the piano. Corina plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology for Electrical Engineering.



SALUTATORY ADDRESS - Madison Steigert, daughter of Lee and Michelle Steigert of Hampden, will deliver the salutatory address. While at Hampden Academy, Madison participated in Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Swimming, Varsity Softball, and Varsity Indoor Track. Madison also participated in Key Club, Concert Choir and volunteered with the Big Brother/Big Sister school program, the Hampden Food Cupboard, and the Pound the Pavement 5K for Pancreatic Cancer while attending Hampden Academy. Madison is a member of the National Honor Society, inducted during her senior year, and a Penobscot Valley Conference Scholar/Athlete. Outside of school, Madison holds a part time job with a local clothing retailer. In her spare time, Madison enjoys spending time with friends and family, taking spontaneous road trips, cuddling with her dog, and being active outdoors. Madison plans to study Nursing in the fall at the University of Maine.



HONOR ESSAYIST - Quincy Rock, son of Steven and Dara Rock of Hampden, is the Honor Essayist for the Hampden Academy Class of 2023. While at Hampden Academy, Quincy participated in Cross Country, Junior Classical League, Freshman Math Team, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Band. Quincy was a peer tutor in the writing center, has been awarded the Seal of Biliteracy for the State of Maine in Latin, and is a Penobscot Valley Conference Scholar/Athlete. During high school, Quincy also volunteered at the Hampden Food Cupboard. In his spare time, Quincy enjoys long distance running, writing prose fiction, and reading. Quincy plans to study Scientific and Technical Communications at Michigan Technological University in the fall.



The Seniors to Seniors Project

By Stephanie Clisham

The idea for the Seniors to Seniors project was born after a routine student representative meeting with Mrs. Boone and Mr. Raymond. The idea of a senior service project was proposed to me; one that fosters kindness and community connections. The Seniors-to-Seniors project was just that. It provided senior citizens with a bucket of de-icing salt, or two, to prevent slips and falls this past winter. The whole motive was that seniors in high school were helping senior citizens.

The first month consisted of a lot of behind the scenes work. I spent a lot of time making phone calls, writing emails, calculating how many buckets and how much salt we would need, as well as how to best market this initiative to the senior student body. There were also many afternoons spent picking up 5-gallon buckets graciously donated by S.W. Cole in Hermon. Mrs. Moore created the flier that we eventually hung throughout the school, which definitely helped attract more students to the interest form sent to their school email. I was also able to coordinate with Mr. Moore, the senior class advisor, and Mrs. Johnson, our NHS advisor. Many of the participating students signed up through NHS.

I was very lucky to be able to work with my parents, the owners of New England Salt Company in Bangor, who donated all the salt used for this project.

The town offices of Hampden, Frankfort, Newburgh, Winterport, and the Winterport Women's Club all aided in providing contact lists of potential senior residents that would appreciate a bucket of deicing salt. They really helped bring this project to life.

As the snow came in December, so did the deliveries. By that time, students had already been assigned a senior citizen that resides in the town closest to them. Students were able to fill a bucket at their convenience and deliver the bucket to their assigned senior resident at a time in which they coordinated. What was great about this project was that it was very student led, not only by me, but by all thirty-five students that participated. They had to make the call, or text, to their assigned senior citizen and coordinate a good drop-off time.

Another great aspect of this project is that it goes hand in hand with our new strategic plan, specifically the third pillar, community partnerships. This project made a difference. We ended up delivering around 25 buckets of deicing salt to senior citizens in Winterport, Hampden, Frankfort, and Newburgh. While that number may seem small, that's 25 smiles, and 25 less slips and falls.

All in all, it was a good first year for this project. I truly enjoyed spearheading this. I hope that next year it can reach more elderly residents of Hampden, Winterport, Frankfort, and Newburgh. Many thanks to Mrs. Boone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Johnson, S.W. Cole, the Winterport Women's Club, the four town offices and New England Salt Company.



Unified Club Hosts Students vs. Staff Basketball Game

(Continues from page 1)

Community Partnerships

The Unified Club has had 2 or 3 meetings and an activity each month since it started in November. The students have come up with ideas for these activities. They have had a great time making pet toys for the Bangor Humane Society, bowling, playing board games, and tubing. It is important for the students to feel heard and take ownership in the club.



The Unified Club planned an event to include the whole school from the beginning of the year, but they really were not sure what it would look like. The school already had a connection through the Unified Basketball team. The students have special bonds with many staff members, and they have attended staff games at other schools. They thought a game against the staff would be a good way for them to shine and bring in the school community, as well as the whole RSU 22 community.

The staff was very responsive. Mr. Lower put the word out at the staff meeting, and we had staff members signing up before we even officially put the letter out asking the staff to participate! Mrs. MacDonald quickly started organizing the staff with amusing activities during the game. Mrs. Emerson organized the staff uniforms and helped the Unified Club make and get out posters. The Life Skills Program got involved with the concession stand. The kids wanted to bring back Mr. Kimball and Mr. Raymond as referees. They have been very supportive of the Unified Basketball Team and refereed many games before. Superintendent Raymond was instrumental in helping Hampden Academy achieve the ESPN Unified Champion School status when he was Assistant Principal at Hampden Academy.

It was great to see the crowd come out and support everyone. It was a lot of fun and it had a warm atmosphere. We are hoping to do the event again next year and expand events to other schools in the district. The RBMS Sixth Grade Fans in the Stands really made a difference in many of the students' understanding and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities. The students look back fondly on that time and feel awful that this year's freshman class and future classes never got to have that experience due to the interruption of Covid. We are going to start focusing on building that back up, and we hope to expand it to include Wagner as well.



RSU 22 Students Bring Virtual Reality to the Community

By: Nate Savage, Director of Technology



If you've ever wanted to go fishing, take a 3D ride, paint a masterpiece or immerse yourself in a concert, the kids in RSU 22 can arrange it.

The students from Reeds Brook Middle, George B. Weatherbee, Leroy H. Smith, & Samuel L. Wagner Middle schools have spent months studying virtual reality technology — and now they're using it to brighten the lives of people in the community.

The folks at the Frankfort Assisted Living Center and Avalon Village in Hampden were eager to test out the devices behind the instruction and guidance of RSU 22 Elementary and Middle School students. It was so much joy to see the smiles on their faces. Not just from the VR experience but also from the students and staff of RSU 22 taking time to spend with them.


"You can use it to help a lot of people in different ways, like if people are sick or isolated, it can bring joy to them." Stephanie Fiske - Technology Integrator

Chris Beckwith, Technology Integrator, proposed this trip as a way to give back to the local community that has given so much to us. RSU 22 recently invested in and received from grant funding a pair of Oculus Quest 2 VR Headsets for the schools mentioned above.

Ethan White, a fifth grade Weatherbee student, really liked the experience of showing others in the community how to use the virtual reality headset. He was surprised at how much the residents enjoyed the experience.

VR creates an entire digital environment, a 360-degree, immersive user experience that feels real. In a VR setting, students can interact with what they see as if they were really there. In addition to providing students with immersive learning experiences, other benefits of virtual reality in education include the ability to inspire students' creativity and spark their imaginations. And this can motivate them to explore new academic interests.



<p>RSU 22 24 Main Rd. N. Hampden, ME 04444 (207) 862-3255 www.rsu22.us</p> <p>Nicholas Raymond, Superintendent</p>	
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ESSA Grant Application
Public Notice 2023 - 2024
Every district is required under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to post the intended use for grant funds for the public to provide comments or ask questions.

RSU 22's Intended Use of Funds

Title IA: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

- **FY24 Preliminary Allocation \$364,398**
- **FY23 Actual Allocation \$378,639.04**
- This is a **decrease** of \$14,241.04

Required District Projects Include:

- Homeless
- Supplemental Instruction for Literacy
- Supplemental Instruction for Mathematics
- Family Engagement

What the funds can be used for:	What RSU 22 intends to use the funds for:
*Can be used K-12 *Close educational gaps that could exist due to socio-economic status	*Title IA staff at Smith and Wagner *Parent Nights for Smith and Wagner families *Homeless set aside funds

Title IIA: Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals

- **FY24 Preliminary Allocation \$104,368.03**
- **FY23 Actual Allocation \$86,098.85**
- This is an **increase** of \$18,269.18

What the funds can be used for:	What RSU 22 intends to use the funds for:
*Can be used K-12 *Professional Development *Retention & Recruitment *School Leadership *Class size reduction	*Recruitment efforts at career fairs *Retention efforts with "New to 22" monthly cohort *Professional development based on school and district CNA goals *Implementing new learning into teacher units of study

Title IVA: Student Support and Academic Enrichment

- **FY24 Preliminary Allocation \$40,609.93**
- **FY23 Actual Allocation \$36,930.86**
- This is an **increase** of \$3,679.07

What the funds can be used for:	What RSU 22 intends to use the funds for:
*Can be used K-12 *Well-rounded education *Safe & healthy students *Improve technology	*Transfer \$10,000 to Title IA to help cover the gap *Community Service Learning opportunities for students *PBIS support districtwide *Technology improvements & training

Title V: Rural Education Initiative

- **FY24 Preliminary Allocation \$0**
- **FY23 Actual Allocation \$24,285.81**
- This is a **decrease** of \$24,285.81

What the funds can be used for:	What RSU 22 intends to use the funds for:
*Rural education support Pick which other Title you will focus on (achievement, PD, technology, parent engagement, etc.)	*Although we have inquired with the DOE about our loss of these funds, we will not have access to this federal program for FY24. We may again in the future.

If you have any comments or questions about these funds, please call or email Jennifer Nickerson at the Superintendent's Office: jnickerson@rsu22.us or 207-862-0843. Comments and suggestions will be taken from June 15, 2023 until July 19, 2023.

Comments and Suggestions Form: <https://forms.gle/eqB2q45ywrQcKuc39>

Reeds Brook Middle School hosted the Eastern Chapter Competition for MathCOUNTS

By: Audrey Cliff, Math Teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School

Reeds Brook Middle School hosted the Eastern Chapter Competition for MathCOUNTS on January 28th. Nine RBMS Mathletes entered the competition. The mathletes who competed were: 6th graders: Owen Isenhour, Eli Marquis, Finn Allen. 7th graders: Christian Zhang, Samantha Houghton and Mason Franz. 8th graders Aaron Wentworth, Evelyn Oyler, Charlie MacDonald. They prepared with Audrey Cliff, the



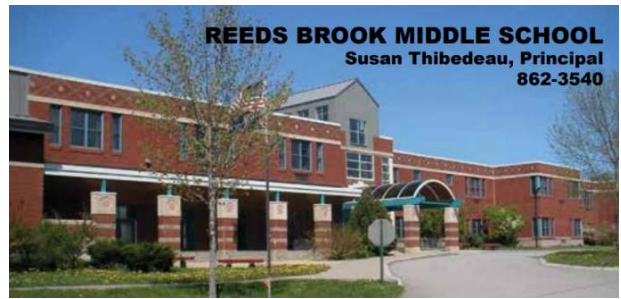
Chapter Competition

MathCOUNTS coach at Reeds Brook, during practices after school on Mondays.

The MathCOUNTS competition includes three rounds:

A Sprint Round that focuses on speed and accuracy. Students have 40 minutes to complete 30 math problems without a calculator.

A Target Round that focuses on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. Students receive 4 pairs of problems and have 6 minutes to complete each pair, assuming the use of a calculator. A Team Round that focuses on problem-solving and collaboration. Groups of 4 students have 20 minutes to complete 10 math problems, assuming the use of a calculator.



Eli Marquis says, "I liked the meet, it was really fun, it wasn't math the whole time. You got to talk to people and make new friends. But also, at the same time, be really competitive. I like to be competitive."

This year, four mathletes advanced to the State Competition: Aaron Wentworth, Christian Zhang, Samantha Houghton and Mason Franz. They competed among the top mathletes in the state of Maine! On March 25th, Christian Zhang finished 3rd at the state competition!

Christian competed on Team Maine at the National MathCOUNTS Competition on

May 15th. Congratulations to all MathCOUNTS mathletes on a very successful season.

For anyone who is thinking about joining math club next year, Owen Isenhour has some advice, "Don't be worried. Don't be shy. They are a lot of fun and there's not much pressure... and there are great snacks."



State Competition

Close to 100 Students from RSU #22 Participate in the Special Olympics Track & Field Meet at Hampden Academy

By: Susan Thibedeau, Principal

The Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Hancock Counties (PPH) held their regional track & field meet at Hampden Academy's track on Wednesday, May 17th. There were over 500 athletes and partners registered for this event which nearly doubled since last year! The Hampden-Winterport Special Olympics team had 24 athletes participating from McGraw, Weatherbee, Reeds Brook, and Hampden Academy. There were also 8 Unified partners that participated in the Unified 4X100 relay races - three relay teams from Reeds Brook and one team from Hampden Academy. The relay teams consisted of students that participate weekly in the Unified Club at Hampden Academy and Reeds Brook. Several students from Reeds Brook also participated as student helpers and were paired up with a Special Olympics athlete for the day to help them get to each of their events and cheer them on. Lastly, over 30 students from Hampden Academy - many of which are a part of the National Honor Society - volunteered their time to help make the meet a huge success. All of the participants from our district demonstrated our core values of respect, honesty, compassion, and responsibility and represented RSU #22 with pride. Hosting the PPH track & field meet is a huge honor for our district. We are looking forward to next May to host it again! Thank you all for your continued support of Special Olympics in our community.



Curriculum Office Update - Maine's New Through Year Assessment

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) was forced to find a new state testing solution as COVID-19 concerns cut the in-person school year short. It was then that the Maine DOE first partnered with NWEA to use the MAP Growth assessment statewide, which RSU 22 had been using for years. This assessment could be delivered remotely (at that time), provided feedback to schools quickly, and could be used for student goal setting in the classroom. However, MAP Growth could not be a long-term solution as it has not been explicitly tied to the Maine Learning Results.

Maine DOE created, in collaboration with NWEA and feedback from assessment coordinators from across the state, a new assessment that is focused on gathering data on student progress in Reading and Math in a way that is similar to MAP Growth. The Maine Through Year Assessment (MTYA) will continue to provide scores as a measure of student growth throughout the year and, at the end of the year, provide performance scores based on the state standards. In the past, we have been able to evaluate a student's growth using the MAP Growth test and compare the child's score to national benchmarks, but having the ability to determine proficiency levels that are directly linked to our specific state standards is exciting.

Students in grades 3-8 and second year of high school participated in the MTYA for the first time in May 2023. Then, beginning in the fall of 2023 students will take the MTYA in the fall, winter (3-8 only in RSU 22), and spring. This assessment is only one way we measure student performance in our district and is part of our overall assessment system.

Key Features:

- The assessment is computer adaptive. After a correct answer, a student may see a more difficult question. After an incorrect answer, a student may see an easier question. As a result, the assessment adapts to the learner and is unique to every student. MAP Growth was also adaptive, but the spring MTYA will adapt only one grade level above and below the student's placement. The fall assessment will remain fully adaptive.
- The assessment is designed to be untimed. This is the same as the MAP Growth assessment. On average, it will take a student approximately 90 minutes to complete each subject.
- The assessment continues to provide educators access to use immediate, actionable data to plan instruction and set student goals. Starting in the fall of 2023, schools will receive the data within 24-48 hours. This spring's data will not be released until August as the DOE will be working to create baseline benchmarks. Family reports will go home in the fall with students.
- A variety of student supports and accessibility features are available with MTYA, as they have been with MAP Growth. There are accommodations (such as a human reader for math portions) that are assigned for students with IEPs and 504 Plans, as determined by their educational team meetings. Other students may have "designated supports" (such as a small group setting) that are part of their intervention plan. Finally, all students receive "universal tools" such as a highlighter tool, math formula help sheet, and pop up calculators where appropriate.

Please reach out to your child's school for more information.



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June 2023: School District Budget Process

DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING - Thursday, June 8, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. Hampden Academy Gymnasium

DISTRICT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM - Tuesday, June 13, 2023 - 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Skehan Recreational Center, Hampden
Victoria Grant Center, Winterport**

**Newburgh Elementary School/Community Center
Frankfort Town Office, Frankfort**

On May 10, 2023, the RSU 22 Board of Directors unanimously ratified a proposed school budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 in the amount of \$37,285,027.16, which represents a 3.19% increase (\$1,153,318.18) from last year.

The proposed FY 2023-2024 budget has been developed to prioritize immediate and future needs for our students, staff and organization, as well as considering the impact to the local communities. The recently approved five-year RSU 22 Strategic Plan focuses on several areas of district growth which the proposed budget addresses.

Students are the priority in this latest funding effort due to the focus on student achievement and foundational skill development.

As previously mentioned, the budget development process also prioritized a funding model to offset local taxation. RSU 22 was able to utilize a significant amount of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds last year to help reduce costs to the local citizens. With much of that having funding expired, or expiring soon, the district wanted to be cognizant of what our budget for next year would do to the local communities, considering the large increases they have seen in their respective valuations in the last year. Our four communities saw an increase in town valuation by almost \$78,000,000. We feel that the district has met its responsibility to prioritize student needs yet also be attentive to taxpayer relief.

Each town will see a local increase between 4.47% to 8.88% compared to last year. Even though our gross budget increase is 3.19%, the impact of the individual valuations is more than what we have seen as of late.

RSU 22 is committed to once again dedicating \$650,000 from our unallocated fund balance to offset local taxation. We have also chosen to expend funds from an existing technology reserve fund, Pre-K grant, and ESSER fund for the upcoming budget. This, along with a reduction in the mil rate, which is 6.97, will help reduce the local shares.

- \$650,000 - Dedication of unallocated fund balance to offset local taxation
- \$50,000 - Technology Reserve Fund
- \$163,394.59 - Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds to purchase new furniture for the Hampden Academy 3rd floor expansion
- \$142,150.16 - Pre-K Educational Technician hours and busing of students

The following local shares are proposed to support the FY 23-24 school budget, with town assessments changed in accordance with the chart below:

Change in Town Assessments				
	2023 Assessment	2024 Assessment	Budget \$ Change	Budget % Change
Hampden	\$7,650,402.04	\$8,218,942.42	\$568,540.37	7.43%
Newburgh	\$1,322,479.94	\$1,449,288.05	\$126,808.12	9.59%
Winterport	\$3,140,868.31	\$3,363,123.51	\$222,255.20	7.08%
Frankfort	\$1,006,647.97	\$1,065,718.95	\$59,070.98	5.87%
Total	\$13,120,398.26	\$14,097,072.93	\$976,674.68	7.44%

It is essential that school budget goals and expenditures align with the mission of what is best for students. Goals for the 2023-2024 budget include (specific projects that were funded through ESSER are marked with an asterisk*):

- Student Success: Pre-K Educational Technicians, National Navy Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC)*, .5 Math Teacher at Reeds Brook, Social Work services for all K-8 schools, Special Education Educational Technicians and a Teacher to support student needs, Summer School experiences*.
- Support Services: .7 FTE registered nurse increase* (.6 Weatherbee, .1 Newburgh Pre-K, Health Aid 15 hours per week at Smith and Wagner Schools), Wellness and School Safety Coordinator services*, and .4 Speech and Language services*.
- Operational Excellence: Continue to fund our maintenance lines appropriately for upkeep and preventative maintenance to our buildings and grounds throughout the district.
- Professional Excellence: Built a budget to continue to support our teachers in their pursuit towards National Board Certification.

As you are likely aware since all budget meetings are public and recordings archived at <https://www.rsu22.us/> budget information, RSU 22 established the pathway to funding many goals and priorities for students and simultaneously realizing taxpayer stability through effective and evaluative budget processes.

In addition to a state subsidy increase of \$877,511.73 and changes to revenue such as federal E-rate and State of Maine Learning Technology Initiative reimbursement, RSU 22 benefits from a steady projection of regional tuition students continuing to seek Hampden Academy as their high school of choice.

These revenue streams, in addition to the use of outside grants and funding sources have all come together to provide a win-win budget for students, staff and our communities.

In regard to reserve fund dedications, proposed transfers from the district's unallocated fund balance will include the following:

- Capital Reserve Fund dedication of \$375,000 for facility safety and security improvements, preventative maintenance projects, playground upgrade needs, fencing repairs/replacements, ramp repairs/modifications, and more.
- Athletic Facility Capital Reserve Fund dedication in the amount of \$150,000 related to proactive savings for the eventual athletic turf replacement and turf retaining wall reconditioning.
- Technology Reserve Fund dedication of \$50,000 for upcoming district-wide accounting software transition and district technology needs.
- Fuel Cost Stabilization Reserve Account dedication of \$50,000 to address potential fuel cost escalations.
- An in-person District Budget Meeting will be held at Hampden Academy on Thursday June 8th at 7:00 p.m. The referendum vote will occur on Tuesday June 13th at polling locations designated by each town.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

(Explanations of variances are noted below each article.)

Article 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **REGULAR Instruction** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$13,088,171.23**
Explanation: The Regular Instruction account includes expenses related to classroom teaching and learning, such as salaries for teachers, substitutes, and paraprofessionals, and classroom instructional materials and supplies. Also included are expenses related to Alternative Education, English Language Learners (ELL), and Gifted & Talented Programs.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 1 - Regular Instruction	\$13,147,060.99	\$13,088,171.23	(\$58,889.65)
Subtotal Elementary	\$5,694,684.65	\$5,444,014.56	(\$250,670.09)
Subtotal Secondary	\$4,097,946.60	\$4,153,723.77	\$55,777.17
Subtotal VHS	\$36,047.20	\$38,603.90	\$2,556.70
Subtotal K-2	\$2,301,191.46	\$2,483,654.99	\$182,463.53
Subtotal Pre-K Program	\$539,935.79	\$484,110.47	(\$55,825.25)
Subtotal ELL	\$15,492.73	\$15,308.94	(\$183.79)
Subtotal Alternative Education	\$172,966.03	\$185,048.95	\$12,082.92
Subtotal Gifted & Talented	\$288,796.53	\$283,705.76	(\$5,090.77)
Total Article 1 Regular Instruction	\$13,147,060.99	\$13,088,171.34	(\$58,889.65)
Total Variance:			(\$58,889.65)

- Increases:**
- Wages and benefits for staff and substitutes
 - Instructional software moved into instruction
 - Retirement costs from 3.84% to 4.47%
 - Instructional supplies
 - JMG contract
 - Waldo CAP contract
- Decreases:**
- Unfilled Ed. Tech. in Regular Education (wage and benefits)
 - Tuition reimbursement (3-year average)
 - Copier service contract
 - Changes in personnel (wages and benefits)
 - Pre-K agreement with private program

Article 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SPECIAL EDUCATION Instruction** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$7,935,179.83**
Explanation: The Special Education Instruction account includes expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 2 - Special Education Instruction	\$7,423,297.75	7,935,179.83	\$511,882.08
Subtotal Resource	\$2,945,657.25	\$3,517,262.77	\$571,605.52
Subtotal Summer Special Education Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Self Contained Classroom	\$2,811,251.11	\$2,746,200.93	(\$65,050.18)
Subtotal Hospital/Homebound	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Social Work	\$166,341.26	\$126,005.76	(\$40,335.50)
Subtotal Student Psych Services	\$242,925.03	\$251,077.25	\$8,152.22
Subtotal Speech & Language Services	\$509,346.28	\$534,970.95	\$25,624.67
Subtotal Student Occupational Therapy Services	\$190,717.17	\$178,339.79	(\$12,377.38)
Subtotal Student Audiology Services	\$71,163.48	\$73,270.28	\$2,106.80
Subtotal Student Physical Therapy Services	\$72,500.00	\$70,000.00	(\$2,500.00)
Subtotal Student Adapted Physical Education Services	\$53,619.90	\$47,658.23	(\$5,961.67)
Subtotal Special Education Administration	\$332,776.27	\$363,393.87	\$30,617.60
Total Article 2 Special Education	\$7,423,297.75	\$7,935,179.83	\$511,882.08
Total Variance			\$511,882.08

- Increases:**
- Wages and benefits for staff and substitutes
 - Seven Educational Technicians
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Retirement costs from 3.84% to 4.47%
- Decreases:**
- Changes in personnel (wages and benefits)
 - Tuition reimbursement (3-year average)
 - Tutors (2-year average)

Article 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **Career and Technical Education Instruction** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends \$0
Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to the Career and Cooperative Education Programs.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 3 - Career and Technical Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
Career and Technical Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Variance			\$0

Article 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **Other Instruction** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,103,535.05**
Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for Co-Curricular, Extra-Curricular, and Summer School Programs.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 4 - Other Instruction	\$1,044,687.49	\$1,103,535.05	\$58,847.56
Subtotal Summer School	\$3,203.10	\$3,205.00	\$1.90
Subtotal Elem. Co-Curricular	\$76,968.60	\$76,210.56	(\$758.04)
Subtotal Secondary Co-Curricular	\$121,792.42	\$119,844.60	(\$1,947.82)
Subtotal Graduation	\$8,800.00	\$8,800.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Elementary Extra-Curricular	\$188,514.05	\$197,860.66	\$9,346.61
Subtotal Secondary Extra-Curricular	\$645,409.32	\$697,614.23	\$52,204.91
Total Article 4	\$1,044,687.49	\$1,103,535.05	\$58,847.56
Total Variance:			\$58,847.56

- Increases:**
- Wages and benefits
 - Stipends for coaches and advisors
 - Officials (high school)
 - Facility rentals
 - Supplies and equipment (lacrosse, cheering, netting, scoreboard)
 - eSports
 - Transportation
- Decreases:**
- Officials (middle schools)

Article 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **Student and Staff Support** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$3,490,252.61**
Explanation: The Student and Staff Support account includes expenses for student support services (intervention, guidance, health, library services and instructional technology) as well as staff support services (improvement of instruction, instructional staff training and student assessment).

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 5 - Student and Staff Support	\$3,221,712.05	\$3,490,252.61	\$268,540.56
Subtotal Student Guidance Services	\$783,116.09	\$962,144.61	\$179,028.52
Subtotal Student Health Services	\$486,172.80	\$523,010.77	\$36,837.97
Subtotal Instructional-Related Technology	\$836,694.10	\$1,055,109.40	\$218,415.30
Subtotal Charter School Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Section 504	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Other Student Support	\$62,500.00	\$92,500.00	\$30,000.00
Subtotal Intervention	\$58,069.82	\$36,378.00	(\$21,691.82)
Subtotal Improvement of Instruction	\$412,604.06	\$246,510.56	(\$166,093.50)
Subtotal Instructional Staff Training	\$99,442.77	\$71,705.08	(\$27,737.69)
Subtotal Library Services	\$391,111.63	\$407,231.92	\$16,120.29
Subtotal Assessment	\$92,000.78	\$95,662.27	\$3,661.49
Total Article 5	\$3,221,712.05	\$3,490,252.61	\$268,540.56
Total Variance			\$268,540.56

- Increases:**
- Wages and benefits
 - Retirement costs from 3.84% to 4.47%
 - Technology (projectors and PA systems - portion will be reimbursed)
 - Two social workers (McGraw/Weatherbee & Smith/Wagner)
 - Nursing and Health Aids
 - Contracted services with Acadia
- Decreases:**
- Instructional Coaches
 - Instructional software to Article 1
 - Substitutes (3-year average)

Article 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **System Administration** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,012,180.46**
Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent, and Business Office functions.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 6 - System Administration	\$1,071,118.47	\$1,012,180.46	(\$58,938.01)
Subtotal Board of Directors	\$150,276.41	\$150,628.05	\$351.64
Subtotal Staff Relations/Negotiations	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Executive Administration	\$542,629.82	\$557,363.87	\$14,734.05
Subtotal Central Office Fiscal	\$348,212.24	\$274,188.54	(\$74,023.70)
Total Article 6	\$1,071,118.47	\$1,012,180.46	(\$58,938.01)
Total Variance			(\$58,938.01)

- Increases:
 • Grant Writer position moved (wages and benefits)
 • Board Insurance

- Decreases:
 • Wages and benefits due to personnel changes
 • Professional development

- Increases:
 • Hampden Academy building (nothing to do with 3rd floor addition)

- Decreases:
 • Frankfort debt service (final payment for Frankfort in FY24)
 • Interest reduction

Article 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **School Administration** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,729,550.27**

Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of individual schools.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 7 - School Administration	\$1,657,072.05	\$1,729,550.27	\$72,478.22
Subtotal School Administration	\$1,657,072.05	\$1,729,550.27	\$72,478.22
Total Article 7	\$1,657,072.05	\$1,729,550.27	\$72,478.22
Total Variance			\$72,478.22

- Increases:
 • Wages and benefits for administration and office staff

- Decreases:
 • Administrative Assistant hours

Article 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **Transportation and Buses** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,694,720.67**

Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the transportation contract, fuel, and special education transportation services.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 8 - Transportation and Buses	\$1,564,813.37	\$1,694,720.67	\$129,907.30
Subtotal Student Transport	\$1,539,813.37	\$1,664,720.67	\$124,907.30
Subtotal Special Education Out of District Expense	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$5,000.00
Total Article 8	\$1,564,813.37	\$1,694,720.67	\$129,907.30
Total Variance			\$129,907.30

- Increases:
 • Transportation of Pre-K students to Newburgh
 • Contract increase with Cyr Bus
 • Gas/diesel costs
 • Special Education in-district transportation

- Decreases:
 • Vehicle repairs
 • Out of district transportation

Article 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **Facilities Maintenance** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$4,334,621.46**

Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of physical plant and grounds, minor capital construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment, and supplies.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 9 - Facilities Maintenance	\$4,199,513.37	\$4,334,621.46	\$135,108.09
Subtotal Operation of Buildings	\$1,347,167.10	\$1,524,658.90	\$177,491.82
Subtotal Care of Buildings	\$1,377,022.40	\$1,470,043.42	\$93,021.02
Subtotal Maintenance of Buildings	\$970,088.96	\$974,558.11	\$4,469.15
Subtotal Capital Renew & Renovation	\$460,234.91	\$320,361.01	(\$139,873.90)
Subtotal Architectural & Engineering	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Total Article 9	\$4,199,513.37	\$4,334,621.46	\$135,108.09
Total Variance			\$135,108.09

- Increases:
 • Wages and benefits
 • Solar project co-op (should be offset by savings)
 • Furniture in schools (moved from school budgets into maintenance)
 • Supplies and equipment needs

- Decreases:
 • Contracted services
 • Custodial substitutes (3-year average)
 • Central office custodial services (covered by current staff)
 • Principal/Interest payment (Honeywell FY11 project paid off)

Article 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$2,896,815.47**

Explanation: The Debt Service account includes expenses for state approved capital debt

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 10 - Debt Services and Other Commitments	\$2,802,433.44	\$2,896,815.47	\$94,382.03
1000-0000-5100-583100-900 Debt Service, Principal	\$2,411,821.81	\$2,351,668.56	(\$60,153.25)
1000-0000-5100-583200-900 Debt Service, Interest	\$390,611.63	\$545,146.91	\$154,535.28
Total Article 10 - Debt Service	\$2,802,433.44	\$2,896,815.47	\$94,382.03
Total Variance			\$94,382.03

Article 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **All Other Expenditures** for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$0**

Explanation: The All Other Expenditures account includes expenses for the food service operations.

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Variance
Article 11 - All Other Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food Service Transfer	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Variance			\$0

*Support of School Nutrition Program

**ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14
RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

Article 12: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):	
Town of Frankfort	\$2,185,234.52
Town of Hampden	\$17,379,212.45
Town of Newburgh	\$3,373,051.49
Town of Winterport	\$7,638,769.90
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$30,576,268.36

Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessment by municipality):	
Town of Frankfort	\$673,650.50
Town of Hampden	\$5,218,322.83
Town of Newburgh	\$ 913,070.00
Town of Winterport	2,123,178.17
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$8,928,221.50

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

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

School Board Recommends \$435,158.93

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Regional School Unit's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters.

Article 14: (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$4,733,692.49**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$4,733,692.49**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$4,733,692.49, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$4,733,692.49**. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive pre-K-12 educational program, such as (1) athletics/co-curricular program costs; (2) transportation for the athletics/co-curricular program; and (3) special education costs.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 15 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Article 15: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Board Recommends **\$37,285,027.16**

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

Article 16: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **\$80,849.95** for adult education and raise **\$36,000** as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

Article 17: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS AMONG COST CENTERS

Article 18: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

ARTICLE 19 ESTABLISHES AND AUTHORIZES CONTINGENCY FUND TRANSFERS

Article 19: Shall the RSU authorize the School Board to establish a non-lapsing contingency fund for periods of financial emergency pursuant to section 1482-B(3) of Title 20-A, and to transfer the RSU's unallocated balances in excess of 9% of the prior fiscal year's budget, as determined by audit, to that fund; and shall the RSU delegate authority to the School Board to expend sums in the contingency fund when the School Board determines by public vote that an emergency need exists, and to transfer sums in the contingency fund to the RSU's general fund for use in school operating budgets approved by RSU voters?

ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$375,000** from available year-end fund balances to the RSU's previously established Capital Reserve Fund and to expend up to **\$475,000** from the Capital Reserve Fund to fund capital projects in the RSU including the following:

1. Camera & security/IT upgrades throughout district
2. Window/door replacements district wide
3. Compressor, heat pump, unit ventilator replacements
4. Various paving, patching projects
5. Various envelope (building exteriors) throughout the district
6. Vehicle replacement/purchase – 2-3 vans and plow truck
7. Maintenance equipment – remote floor cleaning unit
8. Playground repairs/upgrades
9. Rekeying Hampden Academy interior doors
10. Ramp repairs/modifications at Weatherbee, Wagner and McGraw Schools
11. District fencing replacement/repairs
12. Riprap installations at typical plow damage areas
13. Sidewalk repair/replacement at damaged and failed areas
14. Exterior above ceiling Insulation in 3rd grade wing – Weatherbee
15. Roofing repairs (next year may be a replacement)
16. Natural light into room 207 – Smith
17. Main Entrance upgrades/repairs/enhancement to all schools
18. Football retaining wall in front of the bleachers

ARTICLE 21 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO THE SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 21: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer **\$150,000** from available year-end fund balances to the previously established School Athletic Facility Capital Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 22 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE TECHNOLOGY RESERVE FUND

Article 22: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$50,000** from year-end available fund balances to the previously established Technology Reserve Fund and to expend **\$50,000** from said reserve fund to update the equipment in the Hampden Academy Mac Lab?

ARTICLE 23 TRANSFERS FUNDS TO THE FUEL COST STABILIZATION FUND

Article 23: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$50,000** to the fuel cost stabilization fund from year end available fund balances?

Statutory Disclosure Statement relating to Fuel Cost Stabilization Fund: The fuel cost stabilization fund balance is currently \$150,000. If this article is approved as written, the fuel cost stabilization fund balance will be \$200,000. The amount used from the fuel cost stabilization fund in the last three years through the date this Article was prepared is as follows:

Fiscal year 2022-2023:	\$0
Fiscal year 2021-2022:	\$0
Fiscal year 2020-2021:	\$0

ARTICLE 24 AUTHORIZES THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUDGET

Article 24: Shall the United Technologies Center/Region 4 career and technical education operating budget as approved by the cooperative board for the year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 be approved in the amount of **\$4,159,421.61**?

ARTICLE 25 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET FOR THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL REGION THE LOCAL SHARE

Article 25: Shall the United Technologies Center/Region 4 approve a budget for adult education in the amount of **\$318,528.80** for the year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program and shall Regional School Unit No. 22 raise **\$7,617.04** as its share of the adult education budget?

DISTRICT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Skehan Recreational Center, Hampden
Newburgh Elementary School/Community Building
Victoria Grant Center, Winterport
Frankfort Town Office**

After the 2023-24 budget is adopted at the June 8 District Budget Meeting, district citizens will then have the opportunity to vote at the polls on June 13 on the following questions:

A sample of the June 13 ballot is outlined below:

SPECIMEN BALLOT	BALLOT	SPECIMEN
	STATE OF MAINE	
	REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 22	
	REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM	
	OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE TOWN OF HAMPDEN	
	JUNE 13, 2023	
_____ Chair of the School Board		

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

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

Yes	No	Article 1: Do you favor approving the Regional School Unit No. 22 budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest Regional School Unit budget meeting?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Maine Music Educators Association State Instrumental Jazz Festival

By: Becky Mallory, Music Teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School

On March 17th and 18th, 2023, the RSU22 music department hosted the Maine Music Educators Association State Instrumental Jazz Festival at Hampden Academy. Over the course of the two-day festival, 68 groups from schools across the state of Maine performed and 19 of them were middle school bands. The scoring for the festivals is very rigorous, making it very difficult to medal, let alone earn gold. There were only three middle school bands that earned gold: Reeds Brook Middle School, Wagner Middle School, and Houlton Middle School!

We are very proud of the fact that RSU22 has maintained vital music programs in the wake of the pandemic and to receive such high marks is outstanding!

The Reeds Brook Middle School Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Rebecca Mallory, performed four songs this year when the normal expectation is a three-song set. In doing so, there are risks and more chances to make mistakes and lose points, but the musical aspect of the programming was far more critical to the student learning. With this in mind, Reeds Brook's near-perfect score at the top of the gold medal rubric was a remarkable accomplishment!



In addition, several students earned top ratings for their solos:

Frederick Walsh-Trombone
Isaiah Shaw-Alto Sax
Beckham Rand-Trombone
Leif Isenhour-Trumpet
Zoelle Raymond-Trombone
Quinn Fleming-Trumpet
Daniella Madore-Trumpet
Elijah Pressey-Trumpet
Abigail Fanjoy-Trumpet
Jillian Blake-Bass Guitar

Beckham Rand was one of five musicians to earn an Outstanding Musicianship Award for his trombone playing.

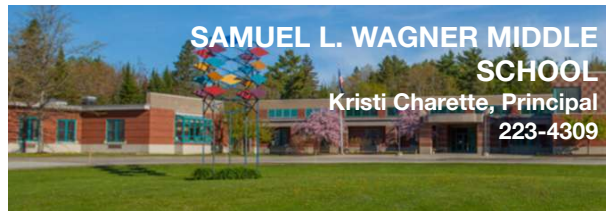
We are beyond proud of our students' dedication and commitment to have such high marks.

Reeds Brook Middle School Jazz Ensemble

The RSU #22 Middle School Music Programs unite in celebration!

By: Dana Ross, Music Teacher at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School

Thanks to the huge amount of generous sponsorships from families and area businesses, the Reeds Brook Middle and Wagner Middle Schools will be celebrating their hard work over this school year. In honor of their dedication, 7th and 8th grade band and chorus members will be spending a day getting to know each other and have fun with each other as they enjoy the amusements at Funtown in June. These are students that will be together at Hampden Academy as they continue their performing arts interests in bands and choruses in high school. The younger music students at both schools will do the same as they visit Moose Point in Searsport to play games, explore, eat ice cream, and dance. Congratulations and thank you musicians, as well as your families, for all



Green STEAM Club at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School

By: Samantha Poll
Grade 8 Math and Science Teacher

Wagner students were able to sign up for an exciting new club during this school year. The Green STEAM Club allowed students from grades 5-8 to participate in hands-on science activities during the after school club. The acronym of STEAM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math and these strands of content were interwoven throughout each activity as much as possible.



- Over the course of the year, students explored the following topics:
- Introduction to Engineering with hands-on engineering challenges.
 - Deep Ocean bioluminescence by creating circuits that would light up an LED bulb on a deep sea creature.
 - Coding and engineering design with Edison robots and their expansion packs.
 - Aerodynamics & physics by designing and launching water pressure rockets.
 - Chemistry basics by creating tie dye shirts after learning.
 - The chemistry behind the process of tie dye.



Maine Music Educators Association State Instrumental Jazz Festival

By: Dana Ross, Music Teacher at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School

Wagner Jazz Band, under the direction of Dana F. Ross, performed a varied repertoire including a swing piece, a ballad, and blues form. *Remembering Thad*, our ballad, featured Sawyer Castro Long on flugelhorn and *Bari-ed Alive!*, our blues, featured Kolby Hardy on baritone saxophone. The members of the 20 piece ensemble are some of the most dedicated students at Wagner. It is very rewarding to be recognized as one of the top groups in the state. A couple of attributes that makes the group so successful is their incredible work ethic and the generous support from the school personnel, the communities, and the families of these students.

(Please turn to page 12)

Maine Music Educators Association State Instrumental Jazz Festival

(Continued from page 11)

This group has the distinction of having many students willing to solo. Several of these students earned a top rating distinction for their soloing:

Caleb Shaw-Alto Saxophone
Franklin McKnight-Alto Saxophone
Valerie Woods-Clarinet
Kolby Hardy-Baritone Saxophone
Avah Nichols-Trombone
Andy Williams-tuba
Sawyer Castro-Long-Trumpet and Flugelhorn

Wagner was the only group in its division to earn 2 of the 5 Outstanding Musicianship Awards. Congratulations to both Sawyer Castro-Long and Andy Williams for this excellent accolade.

Introducing Lifelong Activities

By: Mason Walling
Physical Education Teacher

When I first joined Wagner Middle School in January to pursue my ideal career of teaching Physical Education, I came with the idea to introduce my students to new individual lifelong activities that anyone could participate in. The beauty of many individual lifelong activities is that it usually doesn't take a large investment to get started. One of these activities, which I have been playing recreationally and competitively for the last 15 years, and one of my greatest passions, is disc golf. For those who have never heard of disc golf, it is a fast growing sport in which players attempt to throw a disc into a target, using rules and etiquette similar to ball golf.

Once I knew I had been selected to join the RSU22 community, I began reaching out to over a dozen disc golf manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers. I was elated when I was contacted by MVP Disc Sports, Dynamic Discs, and Discmania, who were more than happy to assist with my cause to grow the sport of disc golf with the youth of our district. Overall I have received 122 discs for my students to use to learn the skills, rules, and etiquette of one of the fastest growing sports in the United States. Along with the generous donations from these companies, I was able to secure two portable disc golf baskets to use in my classes.

As the snow finally began to melt, revealing the soccer field that many students forgot existed during the long and cold winter, and the weather began to get nicer by the day; I knew the time had finally come to introduce disc golf to my students. Though it was initially met with confusion and hesitation, as many had never heard of disc golf, the challenge of learning a new skill slowly gained the interest of a majority of the students. We began our journey indoors as we waited for the soccer field to dry up and become playable, by learning how to put on a disc golf basket using a putter, the proper grip and either the straddle or straight forward putting stance. Knowing this isn't an easy skill to master, as I myself am yet to master putting, we spent multiple classes working on putting form and technique by playing a variety of putting games including relay races and horseshoes.



We eventually worked up to learning backhands and forehands (flicks), using putters indoors as we continued to wait for the field to dry. From working on the multiple ways to grip the disc golf disc, footwork/placement and throwing "flat" shots for optimal performance.



As the weather finally cooperated with us, allowing more time to get outside to practice putting and throwing, I was able to create a simple yet challenging 9 hole disc golf course right here at Wagner using both baskets I had acquired as well as various permanent and movable structures already on location as targets. With the help of my principal, Kristi Charette, I was able to secure the use of a local disc golf course, D.R. Disc Golf in Orrington, for all the students to get the opportunity to play at no cost as a culminating event.

The beauty of disc golf is not only the low cost to start playing but many of the local courses are played on trails through the woods allowing one to enjoy nature. It can also improve mental and physical health. So if you are looking for a new sport to either play recreationally as a family outing or competitively, I recommend venturing to one of the many local courses where you can play a full 18 holes for less than \$10 per person.

Show Choir State Results

By: Dana Ross, Music Teacher at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School

On April 1st, at Stearns High School, the Wagner Show Choir, under the direction of Dana F. Ross, was able to perform highlights from *Wicked!* at the Maine MMEA State Vocal Jazz Festival and earned a Gold. This 30 member group performed as singers, dancers, and with some acting as well. This is a group that never stopped working! As with Wagner's Jazz Band, these are some really outstanding students. Under the same rubric as the State Instrumental Jazz Festival, earning a gold is a real challenge.



We are honored to have been recognized as a top-tier performing group in the state.

Show Choir families are crucial to the success of this ensemble. They volunteered many hours painting, lugging, traveling, food, make up, and so many other jobs! A big thanks goes out for their tremendous help. The show featured 3 soloists. All 3 of the soloists in the group earned the highest rating for their solos: Ava Beaulieu (Popular, What Is This Feeling?), Mason Worden (Wonderful), and Noelle Carter (What Is This Feeling?, Defying Gravity). Noelle was able to secure 1 of the Outstanding Musicianship Award of the 5 that were given. Congratulations to Noelle Carter on this distinction for her excellent solo work.

Due to the tremendous amount of work by the Wagner Jazz Band and Wagner Show Choir members, they have earned the unique distinction of being the only middle school in the state to have earned Gold in both their jazz band and show choir. Congratulations for setting such high standards for yourselves and displaying your Wagner Pride in your performances.

The East Coast Tour is back at Wagner!

By: Dana Ross, Music Teacher at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School

The award winning Wagner Jazz Band and Wagner Show Choir will be on the road to share their musical gifts in the Bangor area. The 3 school performance tour includes: Leroy Smith School, Glenburn Elementary School, and Hermon Elementary School. The Jazz Band will play several selections that they have learned, while the Show Choir will perform selections from *Wicked!* Thank you to the many generous donations to help make this tour a reality!

Exchange Concert

The Wagner Jazz Band and the Caravel Jazz Band will perform together at both Caravel and Wagner Middle Schools as an ambassador program across schools. We look forward to rehearsing together and performing with each other at our schools. Thank you to the staff for your flexibility and support.

4 Ways Riverside Adult Education can help you achieve your goals!

Searching for the next step?
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www.worcester-hampden-adult-ed.com/maineadulted.org

<p>Chat with an academic advisor</p> <p>We can help you find your next career move, make an education plan, or apply for college (and explore ways to fund it!)</p>	<p>Finish high school for free</p> <p>We offer flexible pathways to a high school diploma through individualized education plans, classes, tutoring, and the HSET.</p>	<p>Train for a new career</p> <p>Become a CNA (Certified Nurse Assistant), add on a CNA II credential, or become a BH (Behavioral Health Professional).</p>	<p>Enrich your life</p> <p>Learn to paint, dance, do yoga, use technology, and more! We offer a robust catalog of community enrichment classes.</p>
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MMAEA Director: Rebecca Christ rcrist@rsu22.org Site coordinator: Beth Soule bsoule@rsu22.me.us (207) 862-2422



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

Revolutionary War Tea Party

By: Christy Whitehouse
4th grade teacher



On Wednesday, May 3rd, students from Team Randall/Whitehouse celebrated their informational essays about the Revolutionary War with a tea party. After researching events like the Boston Tea Party, students thought it would be fun to celebrate their writing with a "real" tea party.

Coding Club at George B. Weatherbee School

By: Anne Carchedi
Technology Integration Specialist

Coders in the Coding Club at the George B. Weatherbee School have been having lots of fun and learning about programming with Scratch. More than 50 students have registered to take part in the after-school club. During each 5 week session, students learn Scratch programming and some of its more advanced features like text-to-speech and video sensing code. Students in grades 3 to 5 have created animations, as well as video sensing and pong games. Girls Who Code supports the club by providing a curriculum as well as a set of Micro:bits. These pocket-sized programmable circuit boards will soon be used during the club as well during the day in STEAM classes. We have also been fortunate to have the help of National Honor Society students from the Hampden Academy help out during club time. Overall, it has been a wonderful activity for new and experienced coders!

RSU 22 Chess Teams Compete at the National Level

It was an exciting season for the 24 kids from RSU 22 who won the 2023 Maine Scholastic Team Chess Championships and then went on to play at national tournaments. Students from Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden represented the State of Maine at the U.S. Chess Federation 2023 National Middle School (K-8) Championship. Just three weeks later, students from George B. Weatherbee Elementary School in Hampden competed at the 2023 National Elementary (K-6)

Championship. RBMS took 8th place in the Nationals, in the U700 section, out of 52 teams. There were tough teams from NY, CA, WA, TX, etc. Out of 386 players, Riley Richardson got 14th place. He's got a special top 25 medal award for that individual accomplishment. On Friday, May 12th, our K-5 Maine State Champions from Weatherbee showed up to the 2023 National Elementary K-6 Championships in Baltimore, Maryland. The team comprised of seven fifth graders and 3

Young Writers contest for an Ancient Adventures Anthology

By: Jen Cyr, Principal

Young Writers had a contest for an Ancient Adventures Anthology opportunity. Students were asked to think of a time period or historical event and write a short narrative (no more than 100 words) about a person or escapade that happened during that event or time period. Only using one hundred words was tough, and Lew worked hard to whittle his story down while still keeping it entertaining. His final piece about three men on the Titanic was selected to be part of the anthology! He received a certificate and a bookmark. The school will receive a free copy of the book. Lew is ecstatic about being published as one of his dreams is to become an author.

Titanic

Have you heard the story of Charlie, Mike and Bob? It's quite sad. They were on the Titanic in the same room and bad things happened the next morning! "Help!" "What was that?" As fast as they could they ran but stopped running because right there was a giant iceberg! All they could even think was, boats! They started to sprint down but Bob stayed, then he jumped and they didn't even notice! They only realized when they were on the seal As they cried they saw a fin. Then just like Bob and the Titanic they too were gone!

Lew McHale (9)
George B Weatherbee School, Hampden



Weatherbee Chess Team

Reeds Brook Chess Team

third graders had become headline news locally and then went viral. CBS's Steve Hartman had already come to visit in large part because of the unique position of their head Coach. Mr. Bishop was not only a perfectly named coach, but is our head custodian. It took no time for the news to make a connection to Netflix's,

"The Queen's Gambit". While the team was already a big deal, the story captured the hearts and minds of viewer across the country and beyond. The BBC, CNN, Bangor Daily, and NBC spread the word. While there has been some exciting fanfare, fifth graders: Derrick Johnson, Harrison Pennell, Erika Snyder, Avery Zhang, Pete Amon, Braddock Stansauk, and Liam Dolley and third graders Emi Snyder, Landon Godfrey, and Jordan Amon *just wanted to play*. And play they did! Out of 53 teams from around the country, the team placed 14th. Coach Bishop said, "Our elementary team had a great time in Baltimore at the elementary chess championships." Our community is so proud of both teams who received a warm homecoming at the May Board meeting.



Riley Richardson

Girl Scout Troop 1422 Playground Sign

By: Dawn Moore, Principal

Eight Girl Scouts from Smith School in Troop 1422 want to make a positive impact on their school community. Each school year they begin by deciding what they would like to learn, work on, and contribute to in their year of Scouting. They decided to embark on a journey to learn more about coding and technology. They played coding games, learned about women in the field of technology and learned to write an algorithm. At the conclusion of earning their badges, the girls wanted to give back to their school with a Take Action project. Girl Scouts of all ages are encouraged to plan and implement positive change in the world with Take Action projects. Troop 1422 decided to create a plan like an algorithm to design and purchase a metal sign for the Smith School playground.



Pictured (bottom): Aurelia Trombley, Emma Penney, Ella Tate, Maisy Aldrich
Picture (top): Desiree Caron, Auden Herrick, Stella Davis
Not Pictured: Palmer Taylor

They hope to inspire students and community members to follow the Smith School rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. The eight girls of Troop 1422, in Grades 3 and 4 at Smith School, met with principal Mrs. Moore to discuss the idea and proposed playground rules to be printed on the sign. Once their ideas were approved, the girls helped their troop leaders create the digital design. Bangor Glass & Graphics in Hermon generously took on the job of printing the sign and preparing it for hanging on the playground. "I really loved helping create the sign and it was really fun; the meeting with Mrs. Moore and getting to look for different sign companies," said Girl Scout Stella Davis. Emma Penney said, "I think it's cool because we got to pick out rules that will keep our playground a positive place." The girls are thrilled to see their sign ready for public display and hope it has a positive impact on the Smith School and Winterport community!



Acadia National Park Ranger Joins Fourth Grade Virtually

Fourth graders have been learning about plant and animal parts, studying how they adapt to their environment in order to survive. We were very fortunate to have Ranger Brooke, from Acadia National Park, join us virtually to educate us on some local animals and their unique adaptations that keep them around. Students were amazed to learn that there are two different colored red-backed salamanders - one, black/gray, for hiding from prey, and one, red, for intimidating prey - even though they both have the same name!

Construction in Kindergarten!

Kindergarten has been so busy! We are finishing up our K for ME unit on construction. We have been learning about the ways that people plan and design buildings, playgrounds, parks, and even works of art. We practiced working as a group to plan and design playground pieces. We met with Mr. Booth, the facilities manager for RSU 22, in order to learn all the steps that go into the construction process. Each kindergarten



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



Leroy H. Smith School Celebrates Reading

Smith School celebrated reading all morning on April 14. Our day began with our Book Character Parade. Students dressed in their favorite book characters and paraded through the gym. We then had our annual Bikes for Books drawing. Students participated in a month-long readathon. For every 10 minutes they read, they receive a ticket which was put into a drawing. A boy's and a girl's names were chosen from each grade level to win a bike. (Congratulations to all our winners - and a BIG thank you to Howard Lodge #69!) Once the excitement of the bike drawing was complete, we began our reading day. Classes participated in reading activities all day. They began with milk and cookies (of course) while guest readers read to their classroom. Next was buddy reading and crafting with a partner class. And to end the day, students enjoyed the staff performing two Readers Theaters. It was a wonderful day of celebrating reading!

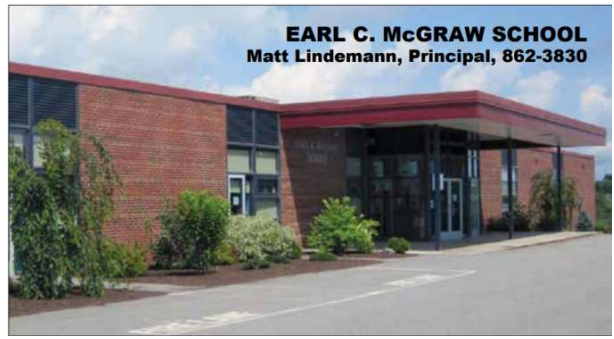


classroom planned out something new that they would like to see on the playground. They drew up plans, and Mr. Booth is bringing them to life! Before vacation, kindergarteners and Mr. Booth went outside on the playground and mapped out where our new sandbox and climbing wall would go. They measured and put up stakes, and Mr. Booth is going to work on it over vacation! Students have been loving learning all about the construction process, and we can't thank Mr. Booth enough!!

K for ME Construction Day

By: Matt Lindemann, Principal

Our Kindergarten students recently finished their unit centered on the theme "Construction." The unit provided many different hands-on opportunities for students to practice the engineering design process. Throughout the unit, RSU 22 Director of Facilities, Bill Booth, partnered with our kindergarten team for a culminating project. During his visits to McGraw, Mr. Booth talked with our students about the many steps involved in a construction project. Students had a chance to come up with ideas of what they wanted to add to the McGraw playground. Each class chose an idea of something to add and designed it in their classroom. On the final day of the unit, Mr. Booth visited again and our students and teachers donned construction vests to decide where their newly designed playground equipment should go. The experience was a great connection for our students to the first K for ME unit theme of Community. We are grateful for the time Mr. Booth spent with our students.



Mr. Booth brainstorms ideas for the McGraw Playground.



Kindergarten student deciding where the new playground equipment should go.

Kindergarten Field Trip to the "Garden Shed"

Our Kindergarten students had an opportunity to experience their first field trip on May 10th. Students and teachers traveled to Orono to visit "The Garden Shed," a greenhouse operated by McGraw parent Katie Brooks. Students visited several stations at the greenhouse and had an opportunity to make a bee craft, plant a flower, tour the greenhouse to see the different plants, play a hummingbird game, and make a seed packet to take home. Both students and staff had a great time. The trip connected to the last K for ME unit, "Our Earth." We hope to continue this partnership with The Garden Shed in the future.



Book Vending Machine at McGraw

McGraw students and staff have been excited to have "Inchy" the Book Vending Machine be a part of the McGraw School since February. When you visit McGraw, the book vending machine is hard to miss in the front hallway of our school. As soon as Inchy arrived, there was lots of excitement from our students, and the excitement grew as Inchy quickly filled with books.



We have been able to find lots of ways to use our new book vending machine to celebrate students. As part of our PBIS implementation, we have been able to use the book vending machines to add an additional layer to our recognition systems for students. Students have earned book tokens for demonstrating our school wide expectations at lunch, recess, bus dismissal, and in the classroom. Additionally, students have earned book tokens for showing the Habits of Mind we focus on each month at McGraw. We look forward to finding more ways to build excitement around reading at McGraw with the book vending machine and have a goal of each student earning a book token every year at McGraw.

McGraw Winterfest 2023

McGraw students and staff participated in our annual Winterfest on March 3rd. Students enjoyed activities planned around a "Candy Land" theme, and the McGraw PTO decorated our hallways to make our students feel like they were stepping into Candy Land. During Winterfest, students rotated through a number of activities including sledding, snow castle building, a "snowball fight" in the gym, and a book swap in the library. This event would not have been possible without the help of McGraw volunteers including several members of the UMaine Women's Soccer team. A special thank you to Miss Berry, McGraw PE teacher, Mrs. Lord, 1st grade teacher, and the rest of the Winterfest committee for planning.



Bikes for Books Program

McGraw is once again participating in the Bikes for Books program. This program is sponsored by the local Masonic Lodge.

During the month of May, students can earn tickets for the reading they do at home. At our last All School Share, two students from each grade will be drawn to win a new bike.

Additionally, we will draw runner up students to earn tokens for our Book Vending Machine. Students have been hard at work earning tickets!

Honorary Book Clubs



Community Partnerships

A local informal book club (CBCB), whose members are mostly, but not exclusively, RSU 22 retirees, wanted to remember two long-term members, Jessie Gower and Anne Worthley. With many of the club members being long-term educators and knowing Jessie's and Anne's love of books, the members decided to donate books in the two women's names. To personalize those donations, they selected the two elementary schools in RSU22 where each Jessie and Anne had taught for several years. Members also selected fourth grade classrooms as that was a grade level both Jessie and Anne had taught. With the generosity of CBCB members, a subcommittee was able to select a range of books to appeal to a range of readers. Donations also provided sufficient funds to give each classroom teacher a \$45 Amazon gift card to purchase more books for their classrooms. Jessie's and Anne's families also donated books from Jessie's and Anne's private collections. One CBCB member also donated bilingual books.



First Grade Music Concert

McGraw's first grade students put on a great performance at the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center on April 13th. Our music teacher, Mr. Madore, and first grade team of teachers led our students in the performance. Each class of students taught the audience about a different family of instruments throughout the concert.

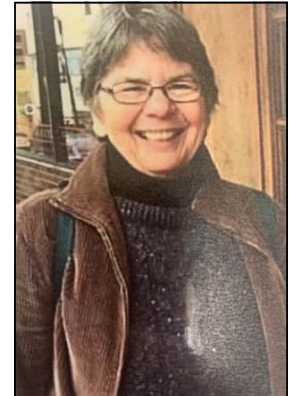
The students demonstrated their ability to read music and rhythms and performed a number of songs like "Shoo Fly Don't Bother Me" and "Are You Sleeping?" (in both English and French!). We were grateful to perform in front of a full auditorium at Hampden Academy!



Mr. Madore leads 1st grade students in a song.



Anne Weston Worthley taught fourth grade in the Newburgh, Hampden and Winterport schools for many years.



Jessie Gower taught fourth grade at Newburgh Elementary School and Smith School in Winterport for many years.

Mrs. Worthley and Mrs. Gower loved teaching their students, and they especially loved introducing them to a wide range of exciting, interesting, and memorable books. They believed that a good book had the power to transport readers into amazing adventures, introduce them to new ideas, or create a space for their imaginations.

Book club members (CBCB) have been reading over the last year to curate books for our fourth grade libraries at George B. Weatherbee School and Leroy H. Smith School. Mrs. Birmingham, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Whitehouse, Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Foran, and Mrs. Hay received their selections in addition to a \$45 Amazon Gift Card to select additional titles to add to their classroom libraries.



These books are dedicated in Mrs. Worthley's and Mrs. Gower's memory and honor their outstanding legacy as educators.



2nd Grade Classes Raise Money for Shaw House

McGraw's 2nd grade students worked this past winter to collect coins as part of a community service project to donate to the Shaw House. In January, we had two representatives from the Shaw House come to speak with our 2nd graders about what the Shaw House does for the community, answer questions, and receive our donation. Our 2nd graders collected close to \$500 and Maine Savings Bank contributed \$1,500 to bring our total donation to \$2,000. We are proud of the work of our 2nd graders and their teachers with this project!