

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**  
**JUNE 2016**

**Thank You For Your Service**

Seventeen members of the teaching and administrator staffs in the various SAU 16 schools retired at the end of this school year. These dedicated individuals represent a total of 348.5 years of service to their respective schools. Please recognize the excellent work of the following professional educators and celebrate their contributions to their students, families, and the community.

EXETER

Annie Littlefield - 12 yrs.  
Sharon Page - 21 yrs.

ERCSD

CMS

Wendy Harris - 20 yrs.  
Andy Littlefield - 36 yrs.  
Lyn Pudloski - 13 yrs.

EHS

Kathy Bean - 26.5 yrs.  
Cheryl Boucher- 12 yrs.  
Helen Friedman - 11 yrs.  
Carmen Miller - 15 yrs.

SST

James Collins – 13 yrs.  
Donna Paradise – 10 yrs.

BRENTWOOD

Jamie Marcello - 25 yrs.  
Patricia Peterson - 12 yrs.

EAST KINGSTON

Jim Eaves - 13 yrs.

NEWFIELDS

Elaine McLean - 26 yrs.

STRATHAM

Melody Chartier - 33 yrs.  
Nancy Guilbert - 23 yrs.  
Suzette Miller - 27 yrs.

## **Champions for Children**

Community members and school staffs continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of local individuals by nominating them for the SAU 16 Champions for Children Award. This Award is given to those individuals who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating significant involvement in programs and/or services that directly benefit the students and families of School Administrative Unit 16.

Recently the Newfields School Board honored **Lois Bailey** for her outstanding service to the children of Newfields Elementary School. For the past two years, Mrs. Bailey has held a Primary Hand Sewing Class once a week without charge as part of the after school enrichment program. Because of the high level of student interest by both boys and girls in the program, this nine-week course has been offered several times this year. Mrs. Bailey is a retired teacher and generously donates her time and all of the materials that the children need to be successful in this introductory course. Her donations have included fabric, buttons, and sewing kits. The children learn how to thread needles, knot thread, and sew three different types of stitches, use a thimble, pin and cut simple patterns, and make wall hangers, scarves, small bags, pillows, and more. Mrs. Bailey's passion and instruction for this important traditional life skill is enthusiastically received in the school community.

## **Did You Know?**

Lincoln Street School (LSS) began using Twitter as a communication tool and to “show off” its marvelous students and teachers. To date this Twitter account boasts 160 followers, 75% of whom are female. The majority of these followers are interested in politics and current events. Over the past month or so, LSS tweets have been viewed 8,000 times, and on May 23rd alone, their tweets were seen 634 times!

The Exeter High School Class of 2016 had 419 graduates. The featured Guest Speaker was Dr. Jason Holder, the Founder and Director of the Adventurelore Program—and a member of the EHS Class of 1966.

Mr. Dwight Davis of Newfields was the featured speaker this year for the Lincoln Street School (LSS) DARE graduation at the end of May and for the Fifth Grade Celebration for Newfields Elementary School in mid-June. Mr. Davis played professional basketball from 1972-1977. During those years he was a member of the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors.

Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBeCS) awarded high school diplomas to 30 students in its Class of 2016.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) had 88 students enrolled in Grades 1-6 on January 1, 1979. The 2015-2016 school year ended with 138 students enrolled at NES in Grades K-5.

From the Exeter School Board Policies of 1969: *“A student will be permitted to drive a motor vehicle (including a motorcycle or motor scooter) to Exeter High School for the following reasons only: 1. He needs his car for after-school employment; 2. He is a bus student participating in an after-school activity.”*

## **Exeter High School (EHS) Assistant Principals**

Edward Roundy (1955-1957)  
Louise Temple (Dean of Girls—1955-1964)  
John Duncklee (1957-1960)  
David W. MacDonald (1960-1963)  
Donald Elsemore (1963-1965)  
Frank Kozacka (1965-1967)  
David L. Mann (1967-1977)  
Linwood Saddler (1973-1975)  
Walter Borkowski (1975-1978)  
Chester Willey (1977-2001)  
Chester Jablonski (1979-1983)  
Michael Latvis (1980-2002)  
Daniel Guilmette (1983-1984)  
Cassandra Donovan (1985-2001)  
Eileen Sheehy (2001-2004)  
James Daley (2001-2009)  
Michael Monahan (2002-Present)  
Walter Garland (2002-2009)  
Kathy Newcomb (2004-2006)  
Carol Mastacouris (2006-2014)  
John LeSage (2010-2012 and 2014-Present)  
Marcy Dovholuk (2012-Present)  
Karen Pelletier (2014-Present)

## **The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service**

Each year at **Exeter High School** (EHS) the English Department invites a member of the community to talk with students about writing. This series is entitled “Writers on an EHS Stage.” Over the past several years, guests have included journalists, poets, video game designers, and even famous author Stephen King! For the first time this year, EHS welcomed back a repeat author: Johannah Spero, author of *Catcher’s Keeper*, who introduced the students and teachers to her latest novel, *Forte*. Ms. Spero read from both novels and took questions from the students before working one-on-one with two English classes. She mentored a class of 9<sup>th</sup> graders on their own writing and then spent time talking with a group of 10<sup>th</sup> graders who had read *Catcher’s Keeper* as a class earlier this year. This experience for students is becoming an important tradition at EHS.

According to the Buck Institute for Education, and professional development training with national consultant Rose Colby, the **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) staff has focused some of its recent curriculum work on essential components, which are needed to ensure effective Project Based Learning. In response to this training, many NES teachers have planned, refined, and implemented grade level units to give students the opportunity to be immersed in meaningful inquiry and practical applications which engage minds in adding depth and rigor to learning. Project Based Learning is more significant when students and parents view it as personally meaningful, a task that is so important that students want to excel at it. NES teachers Mrs. Jodi Bennett and Mrs. Tracy Hager have worked collaboratively to adjust their Interdisciplinary Immigration Simulation to include

essential elements of meaningful projects. Ms. Sarah Rosenbleeth and Mr. Matt Bennett have also worked collegially to ensure the same elements are included in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Historical Wax Museum unit.

These four teachers included the importance of significant content, driven by Social Studies and English Language Arts standards. The content reflects what skills they believed were essential for deeper understanding. Another element is engaging student interest. This resulted in increased student driven research and inquiry, at a higher depth of knowledge. With a compelling student project, the reason for learning becomes clear and students understand the importance of the work. They are given the opportunity for student voice and choice, using 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, collaborating and communicating, questioning and researching, role-playing and performing. Finally, both Project Based Units allowed students to publicly present their learning to one another, other students, and their families. Students were proud to answer questions based on their meaningful work shared with a real audience. (More information on this important topic may be found in the monthly journal *Educational Leadership*, [www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org))

Integrated Arts Night at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) was celebrated in mid-May with the major focus on highlighting music, art, and physical education. Professional artist Eleanor LaBranche and Exeter High School art students Roger Detzler and Ashley Platt provided a display of their artwork in the LSS library. Music Teacher, Sue Noseworthy displayed her program via video in the music room, and in the cafeteria, the physical education teachers presented a variety of dances that they have been studying. Art teacher, Ms. Debra Wheeler-Bean decorated the entire school hallways with student artwork and each student displayed a special art piece and a related writing in their classroom. The evening was a big success and greatly enjoyed by parents, students and staff.

The third, fourth, and fifth grade students at **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) on the *Girls on the Run* team reached out to the community in June to collect food, toys, and anything else a cat or dog might need to be healthy and happy. A collection box was in the school's lobby and the students collected items through the middle of the month. *Girls on the Run* is a non-profit program that works to encourage pre-teen girls to develop self-respect, healthy lifestyles, and community mindedness through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games, culminating in a celebratory 5K run. The EKES team completed their 5K run in Concord recently along with 2,000 other girls from around the state.

Students at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) used the last several weeks of school to focus on various projects in their art classes. First graders built and decorated kites as they learned about the concept of symmetry in the mediums of paint and cut paper. Second graders worked on a stained glass ocean project that will culminate in fish printing. Third graders learned about the work of Vincent Van Gogh. They created their own sunflower paintings in the Van Gogh style while learning about the artist's life and artwork. Fourth grade students explored a unit on color theory and then studied about the life and art work of Georgia O'Keefe. They created giant flowers in her style. Fifth graders explored a variety of painting techniques and created tall ships to place in an ocean collage. Student portfolios of much of the year's artwork were provided to parents to show the wonderful progress that the children made during the school year.

**Kensington Elementary School** (KES) held its annual Memorial Day Breakfast and Celebration at the end of May! Fourth grade students served breakfast to over 40 community members, including several local veterans from the Kensington American Legion Post #105. Following breakfast, Flag Bearers lead their classes to the multi-purpose room where the entire school community remembered our fallen soldiers and gave thanks those who have served in our Armed Forces. Students sang various patriotic songs including *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *We Remember*, and *Yankee Doodle*. A special dedication of the Cultural Passport Flags was made in memory of beloved community member, Mrs. Joan Drew. The flags, which were purchased with donations made when Mrs. Drew passed away this winter, beautifully adorn the KES multi-purpose room and serve as a lovely reminder for students about the countries they have "traveled to" over the years. Several of Mrs. Drew's family members, including her daughter Wendy Lawler who is a KES teacher, were in attendance for the presentation of the plaque. Associate Superintendent Paul Flynn spoke eloquently about Mrs. Drew since he worked with her throughout the many years that he has been the SAU representative to KES.

One again this year, **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) staff members are collaborating with the Wiggin Memorial Library Children's staff, Lucia von Letkemann, Sam Lucius, and Sara Arnold to promote the public library's summer reading program. This has been an integral partnership throughout the past ten years and stresses the need for students to maintain their reading skills during summer vacation. SMS Library Media teacher, Mary Lou O'Connor, included the town librarians in the Great Stone Face Luncheon – involving 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who read 10 or more specific subject books during the school year. This year there were over 50 students who read a minimum of seven texts, while several students read all 20 books that were part of the 2016 Great Stone Face series.

**Main Street School** (MSS) held its annual "End of the Year Assembly" on the final day of school this year. This was the last opportunity for the whole school to come together and wish its second grade students the very best as they transition to Lincoln Street School (LSS) for grade 3. Students shared songs and enjoyed a slide show of some of the special events that took place this year in the lives of the second graders. MSS also recognized the many people who have helped the school in a special way this year: Christine Hodsdon, Jenn Welch, Kristin Smith, Ben Phinney, Tracy Bloom, Jessica Detorre, Sam Lyford, Lynn Arold, and Deb McLarnon. The MSS community also celebrated the wonderful people who are either retiring or moving on to a different career opportunity next year: Lauren Barrett, Deb Staples, Ann Killeen, Sharon Page, Jane Power, and Carmen Antal.

Student testimonials always inspire teachers to continue their work and serve as the best "thank you" that anyone can receive. The **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) hosts students from at least seven area high schools. Here are just two Newmarket High School (NHS) student testimonials about their SST experience:

"My junior and senior year I attended Seacoast School of Technology. I took Careers in Education and I love every minute of it. My class became a family and we all looked out for each other. We pushed each other to succeed. Careers in Education was one of the classes I would look forward to everyday. I would see all my friends who were interested in the teaching career. The children in the preschool were all so cute and smart. People

think that my class was just about watching a bunch of kids and we didn't do anything. There was a lot of professionalism involved and there is a lot of work that needs to be done.” (Tessa Couture)

“I ended my sophomore year with my acceptance into the Animal and Plant Science class. Little did I know that this class would change a lot in my life. Having hardly any idea what ‘agriculture’ was and absolutely no idea what ‘FFA’ was, I joined Ms. DeMarco’s class with a passion for animals and a plan to obtain a better idea of what I wanted to major in. Well Ms. DeMarco—AKA DeMa—had other things in mind. She had plans to push me to my limits and help me reveal to myself who I truly am...I won’t forget most of the days in that class...Attending SST was one of the best decisions of my life...Before the first quarter or two into my junior year I hated presenting and talking up in front of people. But Ms. DeMarco and the FFA shoved me out of my comfort zone and I found out I’m really good at presentations and public speaking!” (Wayne Fetterhoff)

**Exeter Adult Education** has just completed its 49<sup>th</sup> year of adult basic education and enrichment classes. Over the years, adult education has expanded to include English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Adult High School Diploma program, and post-secondary transitions. Altogether this means that individuals ranging from age 16 to 86 come to the Tuck Learning Campus to improve their math, writing, reading and English skills, complete their high school experience and/or strengthen their career and college opportunities. During this school year, the ESOL program enrolled students from 28 countries; 18 people earned an adult high school diploma, and 54 people passed the HiSET® test to earn a NH High School Equivalency Certificate. Graduation was held at the Exeter High School auditorium on June 8, 2016.

The **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** completed the first year of its Experiential Education Leadership course. All seventh graders had a nine-week course that helped them identify leadership style and develop their own leadership skills. Student feedback was extremely positive. The CMS community often stresses the importance of being a leader but, until now, there was no course to explicitly teach what does being a leader look like and how do individuals collaborate to accomplish their goals. Teacher Stephanie Frigon facilitated activities both in the classroom and on the ropes course that challenged students and helped to develop their leadership skills.

### **Reflection**

Every year when summer comes around, I think that it is so important for families to travel to at least one new place. Learn something new by going to a different lake or climbing a different mountain. Find an art gallery. Go to a ball game. Visit an historical site. Tour a national or state park. Take a risk. It will make life even more exciting and worthwhile!