

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
JUNE 2013

Thank You For Your Service

Seventeen members of the teaching staff in the various SAU 16 schools are retiring at the end of this school year. These dedicated individuals represent a total of 377 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

Kathy Bean—Main Street School—24 years
Barbara Egan—Main Street School—23 years
Glenn Russell—Lincoln Street School—20 years
Carol Simard—Lincoln Street School—31 years

Exeter Region Cooperative

Linda Cutler—Seacoast School of Technology—17 years
Paul Delnero—Exeter High School—18 years
Elizabeth DeSimone—Exeter High School—10 years
Robert Jordan—Cooperative Middle School—32 years
Terry Moher—Exeter High School—34 years
James Huebner—Exeter High School—15 years

East Kingston

Judith Hayes—16 years

Kensington

Mary Knightly—42 years
Nancy Roffman—19 years

Newfields

Linda Vander Els—15 years

Stratham

Yvonne Bates—6 years
Karen Hadfield—19 years
Donna Lee—36 years

Fifth Graders Moving On

Almost 440 students in SAU 16 celebrated the completion of Fifth Grade and are preparing to move to middle school this fall. The vast majority of these students will be attending the Cooperative Middle School, but a few will be moving out of the area or enrolling in a charter school or a private school. Each of the six elementary schools within SAU 16 honored and celebrated the accomplishments of their fifth graders in their own respective ways. Notice the different sizes of our fifth grades—listed here from smallest to largest:

Newfields Elementary School—16 students
East Kingston Elementary School—35 students
Kensington Elementary School—47 students
Swasey Central School (Brentwood)—70 students
Stratham Memorial School—102 students
Lincoln Street School (Exeter)—169 students
TOTAL—439 students

Student Population Shifts

The total number of students in our SAU 16 schools has a direct impact on the number of teachers that are needed, the number of courses that are offered, and how each of these impact the annual operating budget. Enrollment figures for each grade in the SAU may be found on the front page of the SAU website (www.sau16.org). A careful review of this information shows that four years of monthly data are available.

The four smallest elementary schools in the SAU are continuing to experience an overall decline in enrollment. Brentwood, East Kingston, Kensington, and Newfields have experienced rather dramatic declines over the past five years. More enrollment decline at the elementary level in these communities is anticipated. Exeter and Stratham have maintained consistent enrollment.

Consider these June total enrollment numbers in the elementary schools of the SAU:

2010—2634 students
2011—2665 students
2012—2610 students
2013—2520 students

What is interesting to note is that the number of incoming sixth graders (439) is just slightly higher than the number of students exiting the eighth grade (425). Essentially, this translates into very little change in anticipated student population at the Cooperative Middle School where the new school year will begin with approximately 1,370 students in grades 6-8.

The situation at Exeter High School is almost the same—with little change in current enrollment expected. The number of seniors leaving the school this year is 420 students.

The number of incoming ninth graders is approximately 425 students. Traditionally, some students will transfer from the Cooperative Middle School to private or charter high schools. This may translate into a slight decrease in the overall population of Exeter High School. The enrollment at the end of the 2011-2012 school year was 1,662. The 2012-2013 school year began with an enrollment closer to 1,750 students. This was the largest enrollment in the history of Exeter High School. Due to transfers and early graduation, there are currently 1,705 students registered there this month. Current projections anticipate 1,700 students at Exeter High School in the fall. When the “new school” was opened in the fall of 2006, its student capacity was listed at 2,000 students.

Channel 13—the SAU 16 Educational Channel

The SAU 16 Educational Channel is completing its second year of service to the six towns that comprise the SAU. Thanks in large measure to the Town of Exeter and the cooperation of Comcast and the neighboring communities, all Comcast subscribers in the towns of Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Kensington, Newfields, and Stratham are able to view school-related programs on Channel 13. The efforts of Channel 13’s primary coordinators, Doug York and Jim Fellows, are greatly appreciated because they have been able to substantially increase program offerings and bulletin board announcements relating to all of the schools within the SAU.

This year saw a large increase in programming, including a series of interviews with various Exeter High School alumni and staff. Over 25 interviews were conducted and included such notables as Exeter Town Manager Russ Dean (EHS ’87); Funeral Director Dan Stockbridge (EHS ’75); Florida Entertainment Reporter Allison Walker (EHS ’99); Professional Cyclist Ted King (EHS ’01); retired Exeter Fire Chief and State Fire Marshall Bill Toland (EHS ’60); and retired Exeter Area Junior High teacher Florence Condran (Robinson Female Seminary ’48).

Coordinator Doug York has worked very hard to make Channel 13 a solid source of information about school events and activities. Along with EHS Stage Manager Jim Fellows, they have demonstrated how to develop and nurture a strong educational media opportunity for students while benefitting the community at large.

Continue to tune in!

State Championships at Exeter High School

Accolades are given this year to six Exeter High School State Championship teams for capturing honors in Football, Girls Soccer, Girls Alpine Skiing, Boys Swimming and Diving, Bass Fishing and Baseball. The student athletes and their coaches are commended for their outstanding sportsmanship and for the excellent recognition that they have brought to the strong Blue Hawk tradition.

Summer Institute at Exeter High School

The first annual Exeter High School Summer Institute begins at the end of June and will offer credit bearing courses in four subjects: *A Proper Pencil: A Memoir Writing Workshop*; *French Immersion*; *History of Sports in America*; *National History Day Contest Boot Camp*. Approximately 40 students and four teachers from the Exeter Region Cooperative School District will make this exciting opportunity a reality and will lay the foundation for future years.

Did You Know?

Prior to this year, the last time that the Exeter High School Baseball Team captured a State Championship was 1981—32 years ago.

Mr. Edward Roundy was the Principal of Exeter High School from 1957-1963. He attended the recent graduation for the Exeter High School Class of 2013 and accompanied the members of the EHS Class of 1963 who are celebrating their 50th Year Class Reunion this year.

The six towns in SAU 16 encompass 81.66 square miles. This ranges from Exeter having 20.02 square miles to Newfields having 7.26 square miles.

Ms. Rhonda Caron was recently selected for the *Regional Heart of the Program Award* for her outstanding work in the Cooperative Middle School Cafeteria. Presented by the School Nutrition Association, Rhonda was described by her co-workers as “genuine, helpful, kind, and professional. As expert at preparing and showcasing fruits, vegetables, side salads and deli sandwiches, she also takes the next step and constantly reminds students to eat their fruits and vegetables and consume a balanced lunch. Rhonda is committed to her students’ needs and offers them a warm and welcoming environment in the cafeteria.”

HONORING THE PAST IN SAU 16

Swasey Central School (SCS) Principals

1980-1982—Harry Mangel

1982—M.L. Haney (Interim)

1982-1989—Margaret Griffin

1989-1991—Jay Cullen

September-December 1991—Robert Sinibaldi (Interim)

January 1992-1997—Diane Nockles

1997-2000—Nick Hardy

2000-2012—Joan Ostrowski

2012-Present—Ronald Kew

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

This year twenty kindergarten students from **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** were selected to participate in the Exeter High School Graduation for the Class of 2013. Continuing the important tradition of having the younger children march in the formal introductory procession with the graduates, the kindergarteners performed with the EHS Senior Choir and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. What an impressive welcome to the EHS Class of 2025!

Summer Reading Camp 2013 for students at **Main Street School (MSS)** will host over 120 students for 12 hours each week for four weeks beginning on June 25, 2013. This excellent opportunity for students supports the development of reading and math skills and serves to reinforce many of the academic skills that the children learn during the traditional school year.

Many varied and exciting learning activities were provided at the end of the school year for the students at **Lincoln Street School (LSS)**. This included an assembly with meteorologist Josh Judge from Channel 9 which was part of the Grade Four study of weather. Students in Grade Three participated in a very active simulation of Ellis Island as part of its study of immigration and how that influenced US History. Students in Grade Five focused on their own health and the values of being good citizens as developed through the DARE program which is coordinated with the cooperation of the Exeter Police Department with the significant involvement of Officer Ryan Venio.

Exeter Area Special Olympics at **Exeter High School (EHS)** continue to play a vital role in the overall education of students. Under the superb and dedicated leadership of veteran teacher and coach, Jim Tufts, teams this year competed at the NH State Games with 46 athletes and 127 peer coaches. During the Opening Ceremony, it was announced that the Exeter team was the recipient of the *Ray Kroc Spirit Award* for its outstanding sportsmanship and for the ways in which students actively and enthusiastically participated in this entire program.

As the school year began to wind down, the **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** gardens grew and harvested string beans that were part of the lunch menu as a community salad. The students were very proud of this project and took great care of their garden which is located immediately adjacent to the school. After the harvest, students planted pumpkin seeds that will grow throughout the summer. In the fall, the pumpkins will be decorated and sold. The proceeds will be donated to the 68 Hours of Hunger project that will help feed children over the weekend.

Using a variety of interdisciplinary techniques, **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** seventh grader, Amelie Signorel, was recently selected as an “Artist of the Week” by Artsonia because of her work on The Holocaust. Combining Language Arts, Social Studies, and Art, Amelie read the poem, “The Last Butterfly,” and connected that with the Houston Holocaust Museum’s *Butterfly Project* that honors the 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. Then she created a picture of a butterfly that captured the attention of Artsonia which awarded her a plaque for her outstanding

creativity and work. Artsonia is known as “the world’s largest kids’ art museum” and may be accessed at www.artsonia.com.

Field Day recently at **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** once again brought together students, staff, parents, and community members to celebrate the true spirit of engaging each other in a wide variety of activities that stimulate the mind and the body. Designed to be a celebration of the community which is Kensington Elementary School, children participated in a variety of team games that were intended to challenge and reward them for their various achievements and successes.

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) and **Swasey Central School (SCS)** have been selected as Partnership Schools with the Department of Education at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). Starting in the fall of 2014, SCS will join EKES which already participates in this partnership that provides seven or eight UNH graduate school interns to work in the school for a full year. This program is designed to prepare future teachers while providing additional adult support in the elementary schools.

This year students from the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** have been accepted at more than 135 colleges or universities and six branches of the US military. SST prides itself on preparing students to be “career and college ready” and this expansive display of college acceptances underscores this particular preparation. Some of the colleges or universities to which students have been accepted include Clarkson University, DePaul University, Eckerd College, James Madison University, Northeastern University, Purdue University, Stonehill College, Temple University, and the University of Alabama.

Personal Reflection

Personal and professional adversities impact each of us at various times. It is important to remember that as educators—as parents, as teachers, as lifelong learners—we should look for meaning in those difficult situations and try to become better people and better educators, through this process. Recent events at Exeter High School are one of these challenging times from which we can learn—and recommit ourselves to doing what is best for those entrusted to us.