



# Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort

24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444

March 2020



*Evan King, freshman at Hampden Academy, with the Mike Ripley Award for posting the fastest time in the Level 4 Super G competition at the Maine Special Olympics 2020 Winter Games, which was held at Sugarloaf in January. Story on p. 3.*

## Matt Madore, Amy Hanson honored as National Board Certified Teachers

Two teachers from RSU 22 have been honored as National Board Certified Teachers at pinning ceremonies on January 28 in Augusta.

They are:

- Matt Madore, music teacher at Earl C. McGraw School and George B. Weatherbee School.
- Amy Hanson, Kindergarten teacher at Earl C. McGraw School.

The pinning ceremony was attended by Gov. Janet Mills and Commissioner of Education Pender Makin.

Regan Nickels, superintendent-elect of RSU 22, attended to show her support for Mr. Madore and Mrs. Hanson and for the National Board Teacher Certification process.

To achieve National Board Certification, the teaching profession's highest credential, teachers must pass a computer-based assessment of content knowledge and provide portfolio entries that include student work samples, assessment practices, and videos of teaching, along with in-depth written reflections. This process allows teachers to provide evidence of their ability to advance student learning and achievement. Fewer than 3 percent of Maine teachers are



*Matt Madore*



*Amy Hanson*

National Board Certified Teachers.

The certification process for individual teachers is specific to the subject they teach and the certification they are seeking. Teachers have five years to complete the certification process.

Mr. Madore was certified in Early Childhood Music with a Vocal Emphasis. Mrs. Hanson was certified as an Early Childhood Generalist.

Mr. Madore said Sue O'Brien, an Instructional Coach for RSU 22 who received her NBCT certification in 2015, was very helpful  
*(Please turn to page 2)*

## HA Library completes pilot program of 30-minute presentations by UTC students

The Hampden Academy Library has completed a six-week pilot program of 30-minute presentations by HA seniors who are in the trades programs at United Technologies Center and the Robotics and Engineering programs at HA.

Library Media Specialist Leslie Rosenblatt said the goal of the program, called "Real World," was to expose the younger students to high-interest, real-world careers, hobbies, and experiences.

Freshmen in study halls 3B and 4B were invited to attend.

The "Real World" presenters were:

- Hannah Muir, a student in the UTC Culinary Arts program, who demonstrated the cake decorating  
*(Please turn to page 16)*



*Seniors Trey Smith and Jordan Castro-Long introduce an electrical wiring activity.*



*Seniors Bella Soucy, Sydney Brown, and Kellie Armstrong speak about health occupations.*

## Winterport Water District builds new tower at Wagner

The Winterport Water District has completed a \$1.46 million project to construct a new water tower next to the soccer field and back parking lot at Wagner Middle School.

RSU 22 gave the water district a permanent easement to build the pre-stressed concrete structure on school property at no cost.

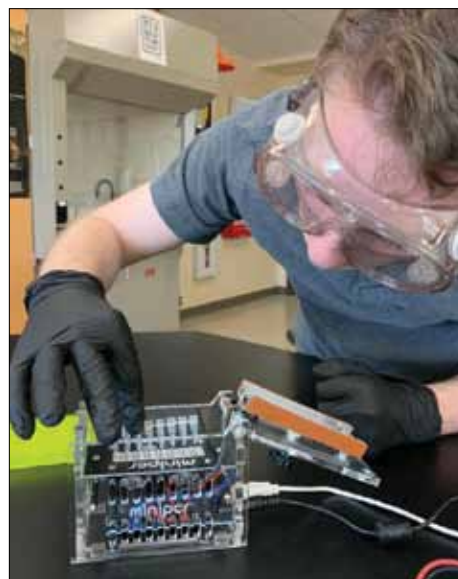
The elevation of the new tank is 15 feet above that of the old tank, which was located behind left field of the Wagner baseball field. As a result, Water District customers,  
*(Please turn to page 2)*

## HA Biology students learn genetics lab techniques

Understanding personalized genetics is increasingly important in the discovery and treatment of disease, and thus, it is imperative for high school students to engage and gain experience in these topics as they represent the next generation of healthcare consumers and biomedical scientists.

The Biology teachers at Hampden Academy, Peter Wagner, Logan Huston and Amy Sidell, wanted to be able to introduce students to common molecular genetics laboratory techniques and allow them to gain a greater understanding of the role of genetic information in their lives.

In order to do this, over  
*(Please turn to page 6)*



*AP Biology student Chris Persinger places the sample tubes in the PCR machine that will make copies of the DNA in the samples.*



*AP Biology students Eliza Parker and Mackenzie Patterson use a micropipette to transfer reagents during preparation of DNA samples for analysis.*



# Matt Madore, Amy Hanson honored as National Board Certified Teachers

(Continued from page 1)

in guiding him and Mrs. Hanson through the certification process.

“She held informational sessions and acted as a mentor,” he said. “We were the only district that had someone like Sue on hand as a coach. Candidates from other districts could get help from the Maine Educational Association in Augusta, but we never had to make that trip because we had Sue here. She was so helpful.”

Mrs. Hanson said, “The process of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher was the most valuable and transformative professional development I have ever received. I continually honed my teaching practices and



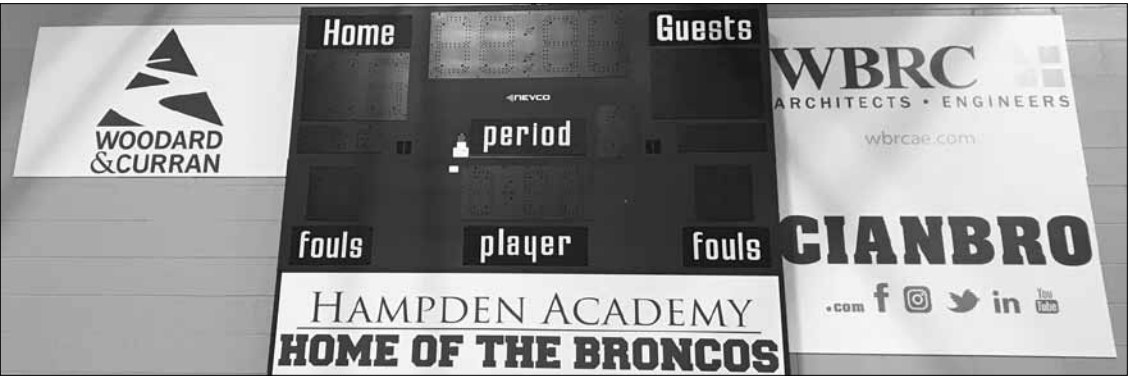
National Board Certified Teachers, including Matt Cyr (front left) and Amy Hanson (standing, second from left) celebrate at pinning ceremony with Maine Governor Janet Mills (center).

reflected on individual student learning needs throughout the two-year process. It was a rigorous and incredibly time-consuming process but the

impact it has had on my teaching practices has been immeasurable.”

There are currently seven National Board Certified Teachers in RSU 22. In addition to Mrs. Hanson, Mr. Madore, and Mrs. O’Brien, they are Jason Kash, 7th grade teacher, Reeds Brook Middle School; Hillary Hoyt, 3rd grade teacher, Leroy H. Smith School; Kelly O’Brien Weaver, School Counselor, George B. Weatherbee School; and Jill Kenney, School Counselor, Hampden Academy.

There are also 10 additional teachers in the district who are currently working toward National Board Teacher Certification.



Woodard & Curran, WBRC, Cianbro signs next to the Hampden Academy Gym scoreboard.



Greenway Equipment Sales sign on the Gym wall.



Cyr Bus sign on the Gym wall.

## Sponsorship campaign: 2 businesses add 3 signs

The athletic facility sponsorship campaign that is underway in RSU 22 continues to gain momentum, as two more businesses have added three new signs.

Cyr Bus and Cianbro Corp. have sponsored signs on the Hampden Academy Gym wall and scoreboard.

In addition, Cianbro will have a sign installed on the fence of the Multi-Purpose Turf Field when weather permits in the spring.

HA Athletic Director Fred Lower says the sponsorship campaign to date has raised \$36,200 from signage.

Other sign sponsors include Kobe Steak House and Downeast Orthopedics, which have signs underneath the scoreboard at the Turf Field; Levesque Business Solu-

tions, which as a sign on the fence at the Turf Field; Greenway Equipment Sales and Woodard & Curran, which have signs on the HA Gym wall and scoreboard; and Governors Restaurant, which has a sign on the ticket sales sandwich board.

Mr. Lower said RSU 22 has been talking with Husson University about securing an intern from a marketing course to assist in identifying potential sign sponsors.

Interested businesses, alumni, or individuals are encouraged to contact Athletic Director Fred Lower at Hampden Academy to inquire about remaining signage locations and pricing. The seeking of financial support toward RSU 22 athletic facilities is a continuing and ongoing effort.

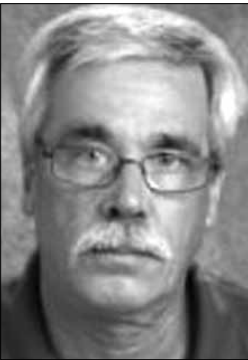
## HA custodian Guy Rolfe enrolled in Adult Ed . . . ‘and I love every minute of it’

When Guy Rolfe was hired four years ago as a custodian at Hampden Academy, he did not have a high school diploma.

Today, he’s still working as a custodian, but he’s enrolled in the RSU 22 Adult Education program, working on completing his high school education.

“Yes, I’m in adult ed,” Guy told *Link-22* during a recent interview. “And I love every bit of it.”

Guy started working on his diploma at Hampden Academy in November, after Assistant Superintendent of Schools Regan Nickels introduced him to Rebecca Cross, the new Adult Education Director for RSU 22, who in turn set him up with Terry Deane, an Adult Education instructor.



Guy Rolfe

Guy meets with Ms. Deane for an hour every Tuesday and Thursday at HA before he goes to work.

He’s currently working on his reading and history with Ms. Deane, which he says has gone very well.

“I’ll be 60 years old in April, and I’m finding out that I know more than I thought I did,” he says.

He’s not sure how long it will take him to get his diploma. The next step is to connect with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor, which will provide a tutor to help him with math.

Guy says he has no particular goal related to getting his diploma. “I just want to get it so I can say I accomplished something in my life that I should have done a long time ago,” he says.

Guy was raised in Connecticut and Maine. He went as far as 7th grade in Connecticut, but going back and forth between Maine and Connecticut, he never went to high school in Maine.

Before coming to Hampden Academy, Guy worked as a custodian at Ellsworth High School.

He lives in Eddington. He has three daughters, two of whom he raised for 17 years, and six grandchildren. Four of the grandchildren live in Orrington and two in Eddington.

## Winterport Water District constructs new water tower next to Wagner Middle School parking lot

(Continued from page 1)

including Wagner Middle School, have increased water pressure and Winterport Village residents have significantly improved fire protection.

Construction began in April 2019 and was substantially completed in October 2019.

The new water tank was brought on

line on November 11.

The district engineer, Olver Associates Inc., performed life-cycle cost analyses of the options to repair and paint the existing tank over its life, versus the life-cycle cost of a new tank. The result of the analyses was that the best option, both technically and economically, was to replace the old carbon-steel tank with a taller,

pre-stressed concrete tank installed at an elevation above that of the old tank.

There was no rate increase for the Water District and no increase in town taxes as a result of the project.

Annaleis Hafford, project engineer for Olver Associates, said some finish work will be done this spring, including coating the exterior of the tank with a green-gray shade that was selected by the staff at Wagner Middle School.

The school will also be hooking up to a pre-planned hydrant in order to operate a self-propelled sprinkler on the Wagner



The Winterport Water District’s new water tower, which provides much better water pressure for Wagner Middle School and the Village of Winterport.

athletic fields during the summer months.



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# Curriculum Office Update

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

## 2018-2019 State Assessment Results

2018-2019 State Assessments are now available on the RSU 22 website. All of our schools have scored on the Tier I level. That simply means that we have not been identified for any specific school improvement programs.

Grades 3-8 students are assessed in both English Language Arts and mathematics. As you look at the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) school and district reports, you will see some indicators for each school. In grades 3-8, the schools are judged on progress being made in both

English Language Arts and mathematics as well reflecting the school's achievement levels. Finally, schools are judged on the percentage of chronic absenteeism. The Grades 3-8 test is referred to as eMPowerME assessments.

The high school continues to utilize the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) to determine student achievement. That SAT is only administered at grade 11, so you will not see progress indicators. You will see achievement results for both English Language Arts and mathemat-

ics. In addition, chronic absenteeism is scored and both the 4 year graduation rate and the 5 year graduation rate are listed on the report.

The link to this year's assessment results can be found at:  
<https://www.rsu22.us>

Steer to resources, scroll down to the Curriculum and Instruction page and finally click on Assessments and Reporting:  
[https://www.rsu22.us/resources/curriculum\\_and\\_instruction/assessments\\_and\\_reporting](https://www.rsu22.us/resources/curriculum_and_instruction/assessments_and_reporting)



Mary Giard

## Federal funds to support RSU 22 students and staff for 2020-2021

RSU 22 receives federal funds that bolster our district educational programs and professional development. Two of our schools receive Title I money. The funding formula for Title I programming is based on socioeconomic indicators, student achievement and need. In RSU 22, that money will be allocated for literacy teachers' positions at Smith, an after school

program at Samuel Wagner School, and a part time math tutor at Wagner school.

We also receive Title IIA funds that are dedicated to educator professional development. Funds will support projects in technology, teacher leadership initiatives, National Board certification work, curriculum and assessment work, diversity and social emotional initiatives.

We are the recipients of a third federal grant, Title IV, as well. The funds will be dedicated to technology, student health and well-being and other identified needs for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please direct any questions or comments to Mary Giard at [mgiard@rsu22.us](mailto:mgiard@rsu22.us).

## Robots in Middle Schools

We are purchasing robots for use with the middle level students. Last year, we purchased Dash and Dot robots made by Wonder Com-

pany. We are expanding by purchasing some more advanced robots called Cues.

Stephanie Shtierman, Tech integrator for

McGraw and Weatherbee schools, has been supporting students as they participate in some robot challenge competitions. The children love it.

## Continuing to address RSU 22 math scores

Each school has focused on student mathematics needs during the 2019-2020 school year. For struggling mathematicians, we have developed opportunities to pre-teach and reteach concepts to help them gain confidence and improve their skills. We have created active teacher committees addressing needs and reviewing data on a regular basis.

Several teachers participated in math professional development offered by the state math association and through our regional professional development partner, Penobscot River

Education Partnership. Our instructional coach and our math coach-in-training have teamed up to provide professional development to RSU 22 teachers and have provided coaching support for math teachers.

For students who are excelling in mathematics, we have provided acceleration opportunities and have ensured that high-level math courses are available to our students. Our math teams have excelled this year, winning several math meets.

We intend to send one high school math teacher to a math coach-in-training program

beginning in July. Continued math professional development opportunities will be sought out and our teachers will have opportunities to participate in more training during the 2019-2020 school year.

## Curriculum Review

Maine has recently updated state standards for social studies. Teams of teachers will review the new standards and we will adjust our curricula to address the changes. Work has begun and will continue the week that school ends in June.

# Sportsmanship and Champions

Three athletes on the Hampden-Winterport Special Olympics Team traveled to Sugarloaf for the Special Olympics Maine Winter Games, where they competed in the Alpine skiing events.

Evan King, a freshman at Hampden Academy, competed in three Division 1 events, taking 1st place in the Slalom, 5th place in the Giant Slalom, and 1st place in the Super G. His time in the Super G was 35:44, which was the fastest run on the hill.

Dillen Lavin, a sophomore at HA, won 1st place medals in two events, the Division 9 Slalom and the Division 7 Giant Slalom, and 2nd place in the Division 8 Super G.

Keller Naughton, a 5th grader at Weatherbee School, took 6th place in the Division 10 Slalom, 5th place in the Division 7 Giant Slalom, and 5th place in the Division 9 Super G.

\* \* \*

Scott King, volunteer coach for the RSU 22 Special Olympics Alpine team, said being on the hill with Level 4 alpine skiers at the Maine State Special Olympics at Sugarloaf this year was an amazing experience.

He tells the story as follows:  
"It was the making of champions. The alpine skiers have been looking up to one athlete, AJ, for as long as I can remember, and he's been the fastest skier on the hill for six years in a row.

"At this year's time trials, when the athletes were grouping into divisions, they all competed fiercely on the race course, and joked as friends off the course. Entering into the finals, the Giant Slalom came first, and Evan was the last racer to run in Division 1. As Evan was one of the fastest qualifiers, everyone waited at the bottom of the course to see how the times would shake out.

"Evan entered the race great with one of the fastest starts I've ever seen from him. However, when he reached the lower course he was carrying too much speed and slipped an edge, sending him sliding on his shoulder below his gate. Evan climbed back up the hill and made his gate, but he finished the race in the last D1 spot. The other racers were shocked to hear his time, as they had not been able to see his crash from their vantage point. They asked what happened, and when they learned that he had climbed back up after missing the



Keller Naughton, Evan King, Dillen Lavin and Coach Scott King at the Special Olympics Maine Winter Games at Sugarloaf, where Keller, Evan, and Dillen competed in the Alpine skiing events.

gate—and, as a result, was not disqualifying—the other racers burst into cheers for him. Evan earned the respect and admiration of his friends and competitors.

"Moving into Day 2 of competition, Evan refocused and placed first in both the D1 slalom and the D1 Super G. He had the fastest run on the hill, winning the Mike Ripley Award.

"Since he had previously won the Mike Ripley Award (the highest honor in Special Olympics Maine Alpine) AJ asked to personally present the trophy to Evan, who then brought the traveling trophy home to HA for the first time ever.

"The conduct and actions of these Athletes make them True Champions and worthy role models for all their peers. There were hundreds of examples like this throughout the Special Olympics Program; the athletes make us as parents and coaches very proud to be part of their journeys.

"All the Athletes from the Hampden-Winterport Team represented our schools with great integrity and sportsmanship. We are proud of all the Athletes."

\* \* \*

The Mike Ripley Award is named after a high school student from the town of Lovell who died tragically in an automobile accident. Mike was an outstanding alpine skier. As a result of Mike's love for Maine winters and the Special Olympics Maine Winter Games, this award was established in Mike's memory by his many friends. The award is presented annually to the athlete who records the fastest time in the Level 4 Super G competition. In addition to the individual trophy, a rotating school trophy is also presented to the athlete.

# 7 AFS students from Chile, Austria, Japan, Argentina, Italy, Germany, attending Hampden Academy

Hampden Academy has been a partner with the American Field Service (AFS) for a number of years, both bringing AFS exchange students here and sending HA students into exchange programs elsewhere in the world.

This year, seven AFS students are attending Hampden Academy. They are:

- Camila Vasquez, from Chile.
- Juliana Diez de Onate, from Argentina.
- Dario Lofranco, from Italy.
- Jasper Buzello and Nikoleta Papadopoudou, from Germany.
- Tetsushi Okada, from Japan.
- Sophia Mathi, from Austria.

Erika Oliver, school counselor at Hampden Academy, says the AFS students are staying with host families in the Hampden area.

Host families receive a modest stipend to feed their exchange students, who also receive funds from home for living expenses.

Mostly, the host families are volunteering their time and housing for the international students while helping them navigate their new surroundings.

Ms. Oliver says when the exchange students talk about their transition, they all say that the culture in America is different, and they've had to make adjustments

for winter weather in Maine. But now that they've been here for a while, they say they've made great friends, their English is improving, and they're having a wonderful experience.

Hampden Academy students are welcome to apply for one of the many AFS exchange programs, but none have done so in recent years.

Ms. Oliver says one of the reasons is probably the cost of most AFS programs.

"It's expensive," she says. "It costs around \$13,000 for a year-long program—but if a student applies early enough, there are a lot of scholarships available."

If a family is thinking of sending a student on an AFS exchange program, the student can pick where they go.

"AFS exchange programs are everywhere—Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, North America, wherever," she says. "It's global."

Exchange students are usually 16 or older. Most of the exchange programs are for a full school year, but 7-week and semester programs are available.

Ms. Oliver says Hampden Academy is always looking for host families for AFS exchange students.

"It's an opportunity to invite an international student to come into



AFS exchange students (l. to r.): Camila Vasquez, Chile; Juliana Diez de Onate, Argentina; Dario Lofranco, Italy; Jasper Buzello, Germany; and Tetsushi Okada, Japan. Not present for photo: Sophia Mathi, Austria, and Nikoleta Papadopoudou, Germany.

the home for the year," she says. "It's great for them to be immersed in our culture, but the host family also gets exposure to the exchange student's culture as well."

She says Hampden Academy has

had families who love being a host family and do it year after year, "but we're always looking to expand the program and introduce new host families."



Ty Knappe, Claire Nickels, Caroline Beckwith, Matt Yost, and Phoebe Wagner rehearse a scene, with Jacob Smith in the background.



Grayson Koelbl, Emi Verhar, Matt Yost, Phoebe Wagner, and Claire Nickels rehearse a scene, with Mallory Parks and others in the background.

## Cast of 18, with crew of 4, perform 'Cheaters' in MPA Regional Drama Festival

A cast of 18 Hampden Academy students and a crew of four traveled to Mt. Desert Island High School March 6 and 7 to perform *Cheaters* at the Maine Principals Association's Regional Drama Festival.

*Cheaters*, by Don Dolidis, is a drama that opens with the teacher and administrator collecting the cell phones of everyone in the class and announcing that they've uncovered evidence of a cheating ring on the most recent exam.

Then they tell the students that if they don't come up with the names of the cheaters, the entire class will fail the course.

At that point, the teacher and administrator leave the classroom and allow the students to descend into psychological chaos as they attempt to force each other to confess.

"All of this happens in 40 minutes—real time, no jumps, or skips," says the director, English teacher Jenn Guare. "The audience watches

the entire thing unfold on stage."

Ms. Guare said the students enjoyed rehearsing for the festival.

"The students really wanted to do a drama," she said. "And what makes this play special is that each individual character has their own personality and their own arc and journey that they go through during the play. Everyone, no matter how many lines they had, was able to put a lot of work into character development. That was really positive and powerful for the actors."

Sarah Gass and Kaitlynn Raye, both seniors, played the teacher and administrator. The student characters were played by seniors Caroline Beckwith, Teodora Blejeru, Garrett Donovan, Denali Eyles, Ty Knappe, Grayson Koelbl, Claire Nickels, Adrien Sholes, Emi Verhar, Phoebe Wagner, and Matt Yost; juniors LillyAnne Keeley, Jacob Smith, and Ethan Suderley; sophomore Mallory Parks; and freshman Sammi

Brooker.

The lights were designed and run by senior Adrien Sholes and sophomore Jaiden Hanson. The sound was designed and run by senior Zach Scott. The backstage manager was senior Gracie Demchak.

Ms. Guare said this year's One Act production included many long-time Drama Club members, but it also attracted a number of



Teodora Blejeru and Kaitlynn Raye rehearse a scene, with Claire Nickels, Caroline Beckwith, and Phoebe Wagner in the background.

new participants, who were excited to experience the Festival for the first time.



# RSU 22 developing Athletic Hall of Fame for Hampden Academy

RSU 22 is in the process of developing an Athletic Hall of Fame for Hampden Academy, with nominations for the inaugural class to be submitted by August 1, 2020.

The Hall of Fame will recognize and honor Hampden Academy Student-Athletes, Coaches, Teams and Sports Contributors for their achievements and/or contributions to the Hampden Academy Athletic program.

The goal is to select the inaugural class this fall and to recognize them at a Hall of Fame Banquet and ceremonies during the 2020-21 basketball season.

The inaugural class will include 10 inductees—either individuals or teams. Future classes will be lim-

ited to no more than five individuals or teams.

The Athletic Committee of the RSU 22 Board of Directors is currently writing the bylaws and identifying the members of the Hall of Fame Committee.

Committee members will include: the Superintendent of Schools or designee, the Athletic Committee chair (currently Heath Miller), the Principal or Assistant Principal of Hampden Academy, the Athletic Director, a current HA coach, two HA alumni, and two community members at large.

Once the Hall of Fame Committee is formed, smaller subcommittees will get to work on the nomination/selection process, awards, publicity, fund

raising, and the induction ceremony.

The current plan is for the ceremony to include a banquet on Friday night, with recognition ceremonies being held during the intermission of a varsity basketball doubleheader

the following Saturday night.

For information on nominating an individual or team for the Hampden Academy Athletic Hall of Fame, contact Athletic Director Fred Lower.



Photos by HA Digital Communications students on display at Erickson’s Hardware in Hampden. The above photos were taken by Jake Lorenzo, Rachel Gardella, and Taylor Guerrette.

## HA Digital Photography students display works in community offices, businesses

Due to the generous support of the Tibbetts Bequest Fund, Hampden Academy’s Digital Communications course, taught by Melanie Crowe, received a grant to supply 72 11”x 14” wooden frames for the “Art in Our Community” 1st Annual Digital Photography show.

As a visual art form, it is beneficial for students' work to be seen within the community. This will happen thanks to the gracious support from the following community businesses and organizations: Waldo Peirce Reading Room Library, Winterport House of Pizza, Tea Maineia, the Winterport Town Office, Erickson’s Hardware, Hampden Town Office, and the Newburgh Town Office.

Students in the Digital Communications course curated their work and selected what they believed to be their most visually engaging and compositionally successful photographs.

Over the course of the semester, students in Digital Communications learned how to use a digital SLR camera, camera modes and their applications, and how to manipulate and control the aperture and shutter to create unique photographs.

They also learned how to use Adobe Photoshop and its applications to manipulate photographs, and over the course of the semester took over 200 photos.

“Art In Our Community” represents what the students feel are their best work. This is the first year that Digital Communications course has been taught within the Art Department, which has provided the opportunity for students to learn in depth about how photography is an art form, as well as the Elements and Principles of Art and Design along with visually engaging compositional layout.

The students’ work can be seen at the following locations:

- **Waldo Peirce Library, Frankfort**—Haley Smith, Matthew Southard, Madison Stupfer, Tory Porter, Olivia Scott, and Tyler Pinkham.

- **Erickson’s Hardware, Hampden**—Michael Delahanty, William Dacey, Meghan Ireland, Camila Vasquez, Kayli Varnum, Libby Hughes, Rachel Gardella, Taylor Guerrette, and Jacob Lorenzo.

- **Hampden Town Office**—Samantha Cram, Samantha Gauthier, Rose Chellis, Ryleigh Jones, Hayleigh Simpson, Mackenzie Yost, Cooper Ryan, Liam Castrucci, and David Kelley.

- **Tea Maineia, Winterport**—Wynter Zakariasen, Maggie Collins, Wyatt Stearns, Bryce DeRosby, Izzy Case, Jennah Lyford, Isaac Hanish, Brennan O’Keefe, and Makenna Tinkey.

- **Winterport House of Pizza, Winterport**—Brooklyn Kirkland, Garrett Donovan, Owen Flannery, Ryan Cote, Aidan Kristal, Marc Fachiol, Johnny Hansen, Max Polo, and Amber Engstrom.

- **Winterport Town Office**—Tyler Smith, Madison Lockard, Brennan Phillips, Jacob Roy, Dario Lofranco, David Kelly, Gabe Beswick, Sophia Mathi, Zachary Ogden, Madison Bourgoin, Lindsay Garrity, and Jim Garrity.

- **Newburgh Town Office**—Olivia Hashey, Patrick Weston, Jaykob Wildman, Sean McQuilkin, Eli Wilson, Naveen Jones, Emilee Ouellette, Maddie Mooers, and Jax McKay.

Please visit the community businesses that are supporting the visual arts and are displaying the “Art in our Community” photographs during the month of March, which is National Youth Art Month.

Thank you for supporting the visual arts!

## HAMPDEN ACADEMY

### Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Form

The Hampden Academy Athletic Hall of Fame exists to recognize and honor Hampden Academy Student-Athletes, Coaches, Teams and Sports Contributors for their achievements and/or contributions to the Hampden Academy Athletic program.

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitters Contact Info (address, phone, email): \_\_\_\_\_

Person Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Contact Info (address, phone, email): \_\_\_\_\_

Award Category: ☐ Athlete ☐ Coach  
☐ Team ☐ Contributor  
☐ Special Nominee

(PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM FOR EACH NOMINATION)

Background information on nominee:

Year graduated/retired from Hampden Academy: \_\_\_\_\_  
or Year of Accomplishment: \_\_\_\_\_

Years attended/served Hampden Academy: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s) participated in/coached at Hampden Academy: \_\_\_\_\_

Hampden Academy Athletic Honors/Special Recognition: \_\_\_\_\_

Records established/held at Hampden Academy: \_\_\_\_\_

Post High School activity:

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Achievements: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary Statement: (Use separate page for additional comments and/or supporting material, i.e. newspaper, yearbook, program, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Timeline: Individual Nominations by August 1st, Team Nominations by August 1st

Submit nominations to: Fred Lower, Athletic Director  
Hampden Academy  
89 Western Avenue  
Hampden, ME 04444  
Email: flower@rsu22.us  
Fax: (207) 862-4577

\*Nominations will only be considered with a completed form.



Andrew Barrett, tenor (left), and David Kelley, baritone.

## 2 HA students invited to sing in ACDA honor choirs

Two Hampden Academy students were invited to sing in honor choirs that performed at the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division conference March 7 in Rochester, NY.

David Kelley, a baritone and a junior at HA, sang with the High School Honor Choir, while Andrew Barrett, a tenor and senior at HA, sang with the Musical Theater Honor Choir.

Each group had about 150 voices.

Every other year, students from Maine to Washington, DC, have the opportunity to audition electronically for the two honor choirs.

HA choir director Heidi Corliss says the competition includes students from New York, Pennsylvania, and other states that have schools with huge music programs.

“Having two student selected was quite an honor for Hampden Academy,” she said.

## 4 of 5 HA Robotics Teams qualify for VEX Robotics State Championship in South Portland March 14

Four of the five Robotics teams from Hampden Academy are scheduled to travel to The Point Community Center in South Portland on Saturday, March 14, for the VEX Robotics Maine State Championship.

The A, C, D, and E teams qualified for the State Championship by winning awards at qualifying meets earlier in the season.

The participating teams are:

- A team: James Mahoney, grade 10, Builder/Designer; Bark Bowden, grade 9, Notebook/Helper; Hendrick Witt, grade 9, Builder; and Caleb Soiros , grade 9, Programmer.
- C team: Matt Southard, grade 12, Builder/Driver; Robert Brown, grade 12, Builder/Helper; Julia Brown, grade 9, Notebook; Ryan Dudley, grade 10, Builder; and Samson Courmane, grade 9, Programmer.
- D team: Miranda LaHaye, grade 12, Notebook; Austin Wilson, grade 12, Builder/Designer/Driver; Lexy Wilson, grade 9, Notebook; Zach Scott, grade 12, Builder/Designer; and Ryan Scott, grade 12, Programmer.
- E team: Owen Gray, grade 12, Builder/Designer/Driver/Notebook; Kearden Moncrieffe, grade 10, Programmer/Driver;

Matt Goodrich, grade 10, Builder/Designer; Hunter Pinkham, grade 10, Builder; and Spencer Dyer, grade 9, Builder.

Several other high schools will have multiple teams at the state tournament, including York High School, six teams; John Bapst Memorial High School, four teams; and Cape Elizabeth High School and the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, three teams each.

Up to 50 teams may compete in the tournament. As of February 19, 33 teams had registered.

The robotics teams started practicing in September and participated in qualifying meets at John Bapst, Old Town, and Monmouth Academy.

A Team qualified by winning the tournament championship at Old Town; C Team won the skills challenge award at John Bapst; D Team qualified by winning the excellence award at Old Town; and E Team won the design award at Old Town.

Teams competing in the State Championship in South Portland can qualify for the World Championships by winning the tournament championship or by winning the excellence award or the design award.

## HA Biology students learn advanced molecular genetics lab techniques

*(Continued from page 1)*  
the last three years, all three HA Biology teachers have attended an intensive week-long course run by Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor to train high school teachers in molecular genetics laboratory techniques that can be conducted in a high school classroom.

The Jackson Lab program provides reagents necessary for conducting analyses for all teachers who have completed the training, and also have a few classroom sets of equipment available to borrow for very short periods of time.

However, the demand for these sets is quite high and the borrowing windows don’t allow the time necessary to include the students in all of the introductory and AP biology classes at HA. As a result, the teachers wrote a grant proposal to acquire a classroom set of molecular genetics equipment, including micropipettes, a heat block and centrifuge, a thermal cycler and gel electrophoresis system. They recently received funding from the Tibbetts Fund, which is administered by the HA Library, to purchase these pieces of equipment for use in their Hampden Academy classrooms.

Some of the funding came from the HA Science Department budget.

Ms. Sidell says the equipment will allow HA students to perform specific molecular genetics analyses in school laboratories. The equipment can be used each year with a new group of students, extending the impact of the experience to over 200 students annually.

“We hope to extend students the opportunity to analyze their own DNA for particular genes, although participation will be completely voluntary,” she says. “As part of this lab opportunity, we are able to launch discussions regarding privacy concerns surrounding genetic information as well.”

In the past couple years, Ms.

Sidell says HA biology classes have done some genetic analyses using equipment borrowed from Jackson Labs. However, she says it’s becoming harder and harder to borrow the equipment because Jackson Labs has been adding new teachers to the program.

Last year, HA students were able to analyze their DNA for particular genes, including the ACE gene, which codes for a cardiac enzyme and has been linked to increased athletic endurance.

This year, Ms. Sidell says she’s hoping her students will be able to look at a gene that’s associated with whether someone is a night owl or a morning person.

“That could be a springboard for talking about circadian rhythms, and for students to tie genetics into their own personal experiences,” she says.

Another gene that Ms. Sidell’s and Ms. Huston’s students will be looking at this year is linked to a person’s ability to taste a bitter-tasting chemical compound called phenylthiocarbamide (PTC) and to taste bitter compounds generally.

Ms. Sidell says this gene might be related to why some people don’t like the taste of cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli.

“Some people really like broccoli, but some can’t stand it because it’s too bitter,” she says “The ones who don’t like broccoli are often the ones who are able to taste this compound and bitter compounds generally. The ability to taste bitter is evolutionarily helpful to humans, as many poisons found in plants have a bitter taste.”

Ms. Sidell says experiments with this gene could spark some interesting classroom discussions about how plants and animals have evolved in response to one another.

“It could tie in with a number of different topics in biology,” she says. “If you hate broccoli, there may be a genetic reason.”

## Substitute Custodians Wanted \$14.98/hour

RSU 22 would like to find people to work as substitute custodians at RSU 22 schools when a member of the current custodial staff is absent.

Applicants can agree to work at any of the six RSU 22 schools:

- Hampden Academy, 5 custodians
- Reeds Brook Middle School, 3 custodians
- Wagner Middle School, 2 custodians
- Weatherbee School, 3 custodians
- Smith School, 2 custodians
- McGraw School, 2 custodians

Applicants can specify which school they prefer to substitute at, and at which school they would not be willing to substitute. A background check is required.

Substitute work assignments are based on the availability of the existing staff. If a custodian calls in sick, a substitute may receive a call in the morning to come to work in the afternoon. If the school knows ahead of time that a custodian will be absent, the substitute may get several days’ or a week’s notice.

Custodial work in RSU 22 schools is primarily focused on cleaning and most of the work is done after the students have gone home. The custodial staff does very little maintenance work beyond changing an occasional light bulb. Most maintenance work, such as electrical and plumbing, is performed by local contractors.

Applicants can submit a single application, which will cover all six schools. When a substitute custodian is needed, the building principal or designee will contact the substitute.

If you are interested, please contact:

**Marie McCaw**  
**RSU 22 Superintendent’s Office**  
**mmccaw@rsu22.us**  
**862-3255**



# Hampden Academy hosts District V High School Honors Festival

Hampden Academy hosted the District V High School Honors Festival January 24 and 25. The festival brought together music groups from 18 high schools in an area from Searsport to Millinocket to Greenville, west of the Penobscot River. The competition included choral groups (SATB), treble choirs (SA) and instrumental groups. HA had the largest contingent, with over 30 students. The students rehearsed Friday and Saturday, with a concert at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Hampden Academy students who sang in District V Choirs were: LillyAnne Keeley, Alaina Bates, Morgan Ramsay, Victoria Boyorak, Helen Shearer, Mackenzie Patterson, Mallory Parks, Robert Brown, Alex Kennard, Sam Parsons, Miranda LaHaye, Mikayla Stillman, Grayson Koelbl, Caden Buchanan-Wallace, and Brock Deane. HA Students who played in the District V Band were: Will Airey, Jonathan Fenders, Justin Breton, Samantha Quesnel, Josie Gilmore, Smantha Brooker, Jacob Brown, Meghan Mallory, Olivia Ferriter, Manisha Oebel, Mikayla Shayne, Hannah Bowie, Emma Hawkins, Kenneth (KJ) Morse, Amelia Plant, and James Mahoney,



Hampden Academy District V instrumentalists.



Hampden Academy District V vocalists with Kevin Rhein, guest conductor from Messalonskee HS.



Caroline Beckwith with a Cheer Package.

## HA senior sends ‘cheer packages’ via GoFundMe

In the spring of 2019, Caroline Beckwith of Hampden saw a post on Instagram about a 3-year-old girl who had neuroblastoma and decided to send her a care package. The girl was staying at a Ronald McDonald House in New York, and her mom gave Caroline their room number. Caroline sent a package with several hand-crafted items, and a few days later, the girl’s mom sent a video of her opening it. “It was the cutest thing I’d ever seen in my entire life,” she said. After that, Caroline sent a couple more care packages, purchasing items and paying for shipping with her own money or by collecting donations at birthday parties. She started to discover many more children on social media that she wanted to help, and she started a GoFundMe campaign called “Caroline’s Cheer Packages.”

Responses were slow at first, but donations picked up after she was featured on an Instagram page called “Global Positive News.” So far, she’s received a total of \$1,770 from 42 donors through her GoFundMe page. As of February 28, she had shipped 19 packages, with


## HA to form club lacrosse teams for boys, girls

Lacrosse is currently one of the fastest growing sports in the US, with teams popping up throughout the region, including Bangor High School, John Bapst, Nokomis, Brewer, and starting this spring, a club right here in RSU 22. Hampden Academy will be forming both a boys and a girls lacrosse team this spring. Per district policy, the teams will be run as club sports for the first two years and if interest is sufficient, will be reviewed for varsity-sport status in the spring of 2022. While still under club status, the teams will be open to all interested RSU 22 middle school and high school students and will assist athletes in learning and honing fundamental skills. RSU 22 is lucky enough to already have several volunteers from within the community who will coach the boys and girls teams. Dan Crowe, an experienced lacrosse coach and the head custodian at the Smith School, will coach the boys team. Dan has coached lacrosse in southern Maine for several years and is excited to help bring the sport to our district. His wife Melanie, an art teacher at Hampden Academy, and Hampden Academy graduate herself, will be helping out as well. Dan and Melanie have two young RSU 22 lacrosse players who attend Wagner Middle School and Smith School and are thrilled to see a lacrosse program start up.


Karla Thayer, an experienced lacrosse coach whose daughter plays lacrosse and attends Reeds Brook Middle School, will be heading up the coaching on the girls side. She will be joined by Steph LaChance of Hampden, a former collegiate lacrosse player, current lacrosse coach and official and mother to a young lacrosse player who attends Wagner Middle School. Both teams will be supported by Molly Hamel of Newburgh, a former collegiate lacrosse goalie and current lacrosse goalie coach. Tremendous support from the community and the school board has been evident in the initial organizational meetings and there is a group of dedicated volunteers made up of community, staff and board members working to get the program off the ground.

six more in the works.

Each package Caroline assembles takes into account the personal interests of the specific child, including a hand-drawn piece of art featuring the child’s favorite movie character, plus several other small toys, accessories or creative supplies to entertain the child while they are undergoing treat-



# HAMPDEN ACADEMY LACROSSE



## Club lacrosse is coming to Hampden Academy this spring!

We will be forming **separate** women’s and men’s teams that will practice through the spring and possibly scrimmage other area teams by the end of the season.



**All RSU22 middle school and high school students are welcome.**

**No experience is necessary!**

To stay in the loop, sign up using one of the links below:



### Women’s Lacrosse

<http://bit.ly/HAWomensLacrosse>




### Men’s Lacrosse

<http://bit.ly/HAMensLacrosse>



### Lacrosse Fans

<http://bit.ly/HALacrosseFans>



Sign up to be added to the mailing list or to volunteer

ment. The total cost is \$20-\$30 per package, plus shipping. So far, Caroline has never met any of the kids she’s sent packages to, because they all live too far away. The closest recipient was the first package she sent—to the girl at the Ronald McDonald House in New York. She says she’d like to send some

care packages to local children with life-threatening illnesses or conditions, and she’s hoping to find someone at Northern Light Health, which has nine hospitals and 100+ locations throughout Maine. To contact Caroline, send an email to [carolinescheerpackages@gmail.com](mailto:carolinescheerpackages@gmail.com).



# Reeds Brook 6th graders enjoy international food buffet

On Wednesday, February 12, there was an international food buffet at Reeds Brook Middle School, and sixth grade students were able to sample more than 100 recipes from countries around the world.

The sixth grade students had been studying world cultures, and each of them had picked a country to study. For their country, they created a slideshow with information that included the type of government, geography, religion and beliefs, customs, daily life, economic structure, historical facts, traditional foods, etc.

As a culminating activity, students were asked to select and bring in a traditional or staple dish from their country to be served as part of a “Foods Around the World Buffet.”

The entire sixth grade was invited, and Linda McConnell, sixth grade social studies long-term substitute who organized the event, said many students went back for seconds and thirds.

The recipes included bratwurst from Germany, pierogies from Ukraine, churros from Spain, kotopita (chicken pie) from Greece, crayfish boil from Sweden, onigiri (rice balls) from Japan, and many, many others.

Ms. McConnell said the students took their recipes home for parental approval—and many parents got the chance to cook and taste a new food with their student. Participation in the buffet was voluntary.

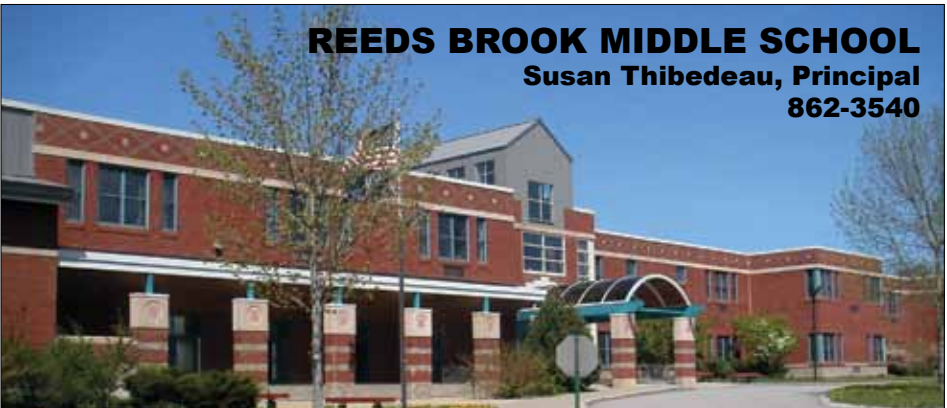
A large number of parent volunteers came in on the day of the buffet and helped to make the project a huge success.



Reeds Brook Middle School 6th graders could choose from among 120 selections at their International Food Buffet on February 12.

The cultural buffet was originally developed by Kim Haggan, the previous 6th grade social studies teacher at Reeds Brook. Mrs. Haggan, who is now Dean of Students at Reeds Brook and Wagner, helped Ms. McConnell organize this year’s event and volunteers.

“Students had an opportunity to try many different delicious dishes,” Ms. McConnell said. “It was a lot of work, but certainly a lot of fun. It was worth it to see the smiles on all the kids’ faces.”



## Student Council holds warm wear drive

The Reeds Brook Middle School Student Council initiated a warm wear drive in early December, and in just two weeks, the entire student body came together and collected over 300 items of warm clothing to help people stay warm this winter!

The majority of items were brought to Penquis by Jason Kash and Kelsey Stoyanova.

Penquis published a thank-you message on their Facebook page: “Way to go, Reeds Brook students and faculty! We appreciate you!”

Mr. Kash and Ms. Stoyanova, the Student Council faculty advisors, reported that the people at Penquis were overwhelmed by the number of items that the students collected.

“They said they were in such a dire need of items that they were about to go on local news and plead for help,” the advisors shared. “The Student Council’s donation made a huge difference.”

The items included a lot of winter gear—jackets, boots, hats, mittens. Some of the items, such as mittens and scarves, were handmade.

The clothing drive was conducted as a homeroom competition. The winning homeroom was Mrs. Freeman’s 7th grade homeroom.

The Student Council also held a food drive just before Thanksgiving break. The food items collected were donated to families in RSU 22.



Student Council faculty advisors Jason Kash and Kelsey Stoyanova with clothing items they brought to Penquis.

The Student Council looks to continue their efforts this spring in fulfilling their mission of service to the school, service to the community, and service to the world.



Asher Valentine, Lucas Pattershall, Trew Thomas, and Alexander Wilcox

## Reeds Brook hosts ‘Mathcounts’

Reeds Brook Middle School hosted the Eastern Chapter Competition for Mathcounts on January 25.

Sixteen middle schools in eastern and central Maine entered teams. The Reeds Brook team included one 7th grader, Lucas Pattershall, and three 6th graders, Trew Thomas, Alex Wilcox, and Asher Valentine.

Audrey Cliff, the Mathcounts coach at Reeds Brook, said the team didn’t place, but the students did very well considering that it was their first or second Mathcounts competition.

The competition was held on a Saturday; the team practiced after school on Mondays in December and January.

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 six minutes to complete each pair, allowing the use of a calculator.
- A Team Round that focuses on problem-solving and collaboration. Students have 20 minutes to complete 10 math problems, allowing the use of a calculator.

Miss Cliff says Mathcounts provides real challenges for middle school contestants.

“The questions are really tough,” she says. “They’re not straightforward computation; rather, they are application-based. These are challenges the students don’t usually see in the regular classroom. This is what makes Mathcounts such a great opportunity for the students who participate in it.”

Miss Cliff said she’s really proud of what the team accomplished, especially considering their youth.

“They seemed excited about the competition,” she said. “I think they’ll be coming back next year.”





WAGNER CHEERLEADERS—Front row (l. to r): Breann Downs, Caroline Gerry, Allie Corriveau, Lydia Powers, Lily Taylor, and Mariah Robbins. Back row: Samantha Young, Gabby Smith, Lily McLeod, Jordan Hardy, Sadi Rich, and Maurice Goodwin

# Wagner cheering team places 2nd in PVML competition

A very young Wagner Middle School cheering team placed second in the Penobscot Valley Middle League competition on February 13 after winning a small-school competition at the James F. Doughty School in Bangor earlier in the month.

Cheering coach Jen Michaels said the team raised its score by 4.8 points in the PVML competition.

Center Drive School in Orrington was the PVML winner. Wagner finished ahead of Bangor Christian, Orono, Holbrook, Caravel, Glenburn, and Milford.

In the Bangor competition, Wagner placed first ahead of Orono and Bangor Christian.

Ms. Michaels said the team worked hard to develop the skills required for cheering competition.

The team has 12 team members (11 girls and one boy), including one 8th grader, two 7th graders, and the rest 5th and 6th graders.

She said practices started in mid-November, with the team performing at all of the boys and girls basketball games.

The routine the team uses at basketball games is limited by the fact that they're performing on a hardwood basketball court.

"There are a lot of rules about what cheerleaders can do on a hardwood floor vs. mats," Ms. Michaels said. "We can do a lot more on the mats."

She says that cheer teams normally have one routine that they work on during the entire season.

"Competitions are held on mats, but since we're going to basketball games early in the season, we have only a couple of weeks to prepare," she says. "Going to games supports the basketball teams, but it doesn't involve the skills we need to learn for competitions."

Having so many 5th and 6th graders on the team added to the challenge, she said.

"It's hard to start learning a routine in the middle of the season with kids who haven't done much cheerleading," she says. "Many 5th graders don't have the body awareness they need for cheering."

Ms. Michaels says the team improved a lot over the course of the season.

"At the beginning, we had nothing—no tumbling or stunting—and some of them had never seen the jumps we do," she said. "By the end of the season, they were doing fairly advanced skills."



Wagner Middle School cheerleaders practice their routines in the Hampden Academy gym (left) and on a mat (right).

**WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Don Roux, Principal, 223-4309



**March 21, 2020**  
**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**  
**Wagner Middle School**

**3rd Annual Wagner Pride Pack**  
**Mini-Indoor Golf Event**

**Admission \$3.00**  
**Children Ages 3 and under Free**  
**(all children must be accompanied by an adult)**

**Enjoy Unlimited Play on**  
**Indoor 9-Hole Course**

**Concessions will be on sale**

**Hole-In-One shot for wide**  
**range of great prizes**



**For details and updates, please follow us at**  
**Wagner Pride Pack on Facebook**



**A portion of the**  
**proceeds to benefit**  
**the 8th Grade Class Trip**



## School Food Service Accounts

Please remember to pay off any past due meal balances on your students food service account. Payments can be sent into the school or made electronically at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com). Myschoolbucks.com allows you to see your students balance and keep the account up to date. We encourage you to utilize this electronic payment system. Please help us by paying off your student account before the start of the new year.



# Civil Rights Team develops ‘Wagner Welcomes Everyone’ billboard

The Wagner Middle School Civil Rights Team has developed a “Wagner Welcomes Everyone” billboard in the school’s main hallway to encourage everyone at Wagner to feel safe, respected, and welcome.

Civil Rights Team members are:  
Fifth grade: , Anne Jordan, Jayden Jewell, Jayden Wengrzycki, Val Woods, Chloe Sarnacki, and Evaline Harvey.

Sixth grade: Charity Parks, Rya Woods, Dorian Hills, Lionel Hills, Iola Nute, Lilyanne Harriman, Owen Reynolds-Harvey, and Gavin Labonte.

Seventh grade: Maggie Metzler and Caitlin Murphy.

Eighth grade: Raeven Chapman, Madison Ginn, Olivia Chase, Lindsay Littlefield, Ruby Tracy, and Elena Reynolds.

The Civil Rights Team advisors this year are Spanish teacher Danny Lobo and 6th grade ELA teacher Lauren Lumm.

The team is a participant in the Civil Rights Team Project, a school-based program in the Maine Office of the Attorney General. More than



WAGNER CIVIL RIGHTS TEAM—Front row (L. TO R.): Iola Nute, Lilyanne Harriman, Anne Jordan, Jayden Jewell, Jayden Wengrzycki, Val Woods, Owen Reynolds-Harvey, and Gavin Labonte. Middle row: Charity Parks, Rya Woods, Raeven Chapman, Maggie Metzler, Madison Ginn, Olivia Chase, Lindsay Littlefield, Dorian Hills, and Lionel Hills. Standing: Faculty advisors Danny Lobo and Lauren Lumm. Not present for photo: Ruby Tracy, Elena Reynolds, Caitlin Murphy, Chloe Sarnacki, and Evaline Harvey.

175 schools are currently participating in the program, which is avail-

able to all Maine schools, grades 3 and up, at no cost.

Student civil rights teams engage their school communities in thinking and talking about race and skin color, national origin and ancestry, religion, disabilities, gender (including gender identity and expression), and sexual orientation.

“The kids work to identify and address behaviors and practices at Wagner that might impact someone’s ability to feel safe, welcome and respected, based on their identities, or the identities of their loved ones,” says Mr. Lobo.

He said the Wagner Civil Rights Team members say they’ve heard a lot of jokes around the school that might hurt other students’ feelings.

“They’re going to tackle a word a month for the rest of the year, starting with the ‘R’ word—retarded,” he said. “They want students to use the word correctly, or not use it at all.”

Mr. Lobo said Civil Rights Team members “want kids to be aware of the potential impact of using certain words inappropriately—in ways that can impact others’ emotional well-being.”



Coach Ian Daniel Hall (far left) practices with 5th grader Sawyer Castro-Long.



The Wagner Middle School Chess Team with Coach Hall.

# Wagner Chess Team earns 3rd place in Penobscot Valley tournament

The Wagner Middle School chess team finished third in the Penobscot Valley tournament this year.

The team played very well in the first round. After a disappointing loss to Glenburn in the semifinal round, the team came back to beat Center Drive School for third place.

Ian Daniel Hall, 5th grade teacher and coach of the chess team, said he was very proud and excited about the team’s enthusiasm this year.

“Once they started winning, they just exponentially wanted to get better,” Mr. Hall said. “They were really driven.”

In the regular season, the Clippers beat Caravel, Holbrook, and Center Drive but lost very close matches to Orono and Glenburn.

The top four teams qualify for the tournament. This was the first time in 14 years that Wagner qualified.

Mr. Hall said the team’s top four players—7th graders Cayden Genever and Charles Smith and 8th graders Joshua Medina and Skyler Zachariasen, are pretty evenly matched.

“Cayden is a little more consistent, but it’s hard to say which one is

going to be better on any given day,” Mr. Hall said.

The other chess team members are 5th graders Sawyer Castro-Long and Harrison Burnham and 6th graders Ellis Cuddy, Kyer Brawn, and Lucus Mann.

Mr. Hall said practice time for the chess team was increased to two hours a day after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the season, which starts in mid-November and ends in early February.

Last year, the team practiced one hour a day two days a week.

Mr. Hall said he also urged team members to explore more aggressive chess openings, and relied heavily on the top chairs (the team’s best players) to instruct the beginning players.

Mr. Hall said he has grown as a chess player and coach as well.

“I’m at the point now where I can really instruct the game, thinking multiple steps ahead and creating different scenarios for the players to play their way out of,” he said.



Wagner Middle School chess players in action. Left photo: Harrison Burnham; center photo: Joshua Medina; right photo: Ellis Cuddy (left) and Kyer Brawn.





Ronnie Simmons

## Ronnie Simmons new PE teacher at Wagner

Ronnie Simmons, who taught physical education at Mt. View High School for 24½ years, has joined the staff at Wagner Middle School as the new PE teacher, effective December 18.

Mr. Simmons said he had to think long and hard about leaving Mt. View after that many years, and also about switching from high school to middle school.

But after heartfelt good-byes at Mt. View, Mr. Simmons said he felt very welcome at Wagner.

“I felt like I have always belonged here,” he said. “Everyone made me feel good.”

Mr. Simmons grew up in Newburyport, MA, and taught PE at Newburyport High School for nine years, including two years in grades 5 and 6,

“Newburyport’s logo is a clipper ship, their nickname is the Clippers, and their colors are green and white—the same as Wagner,” he said. “I didn’t realize that beforehand, but when I walked in for my interview, I said ‘Wow!’ It made me feel right at home.”

Mr. Simmons received his B.S. degree in Education from Plymouth State College in New Hampshire and then taught PE at Whittier Tech, a vocational school in Haverhill, MA.

After moving to Maine, Mr. Simmons taught in the behavior room at Skowhegan High School for two years, and then moved to Mt. View.

Football has been a big part of Mr. Simmons’ life. He played football in high school and college and coached at Newburyport and Skowhegan. Then he started the football program at Mt. View.

Mr. Simmons said he and Wagner Middle School Principal Don Roux have known each other since they coached track together at Mt. View, where Mr. Roux was a math teacher.

Mr. Simmons lives in Unity with his wife and former high school sweetheart, Tammi. They have three daughters, all grown, and five grandchildren—three in Unity and two in Texas.

Mr. Simmons enjoys home improvement projects, lifting weights, and working with youth and serving as an elder in the Church of Christ in Unity. He and Tammi also enjoy boating and swimming.

## Wagner 8th graders visit State House, Holocaust museum in Augusta

About 80 eighth graders from Wagner Middle School visited the State House and the Holocaust museum in Augusta on February 25.

The 8th graders were split into two groups, with one group starting at the State House and the other starting at the Holocaust museum.

The students were welcomed by Rep. Scott Cuddy (D-Winterport) and Rep. David Haggan (R-Hampden). Rep. Cuddy was a member

of the RSU 22 School Board, while Rep. Haggan is a social studies teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School.

Both Rep. Cuddy and Rep. Haggan met with the 8th graders at Wagner for an hour on Monday, February 10, talking about their role as State Representatives and telling them what to expect when they visit the State House.

The Augusta trip was organized

by Kim Haggan, Dean of Students for Wagner Middle School and Reeds Brook Middle School.

While the 8th graders were touring the State House, they were invited to watch the House of Representatives from the visitors’ gallery. Rep. Cuddy then recognized them from the floor of the House.

The students are studying state government in social studies.

## RSU 22 ADULT EDUCATION - SPRING 2020

[www.riversideadultedpartnership.com](http://www.riversideadultedpartnership.com)

A wide variety of educational, professional development and personal enrichment courses will again be made available for people to take through our program during the spring academic season. To contact us directly you can call our office at 866-4119 or email our program director at: [rcross@rsu26.org](mailto:rcross@rsu26.org)

### Personal Enrichment Courses

Once again, this spring, we will offer a variety of personal enrichment courses and workshops.

Dance and Music  
Crafting and Art  
Languages

Personal Wellness  
Technology  
Hobbies and Special Interests

Health and Fitness  
Cooking and Baking  
Motor Coach Bus Trips

To view our complete Spring 2020 course schedule, go to <https://orono-hampden.coursestorm.com/>

### CNA Training

Certified Nursing Assistants help patients or clients with healthcare needs, working under the supervision of an approved nurse. Demand for CNA’s in the healthcare industry is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations! We host several certification classes each year at \$500 a session. You can even pay as you go! Call 866-4119 or email [rcross@rsu26.org](mailto:rcross@rsu26.org) for more information.

### High School Diploma and HiSET (GED)

For adults looking to earn a high school diploma, a HiSET Certification or to improve basic literacy and ESL skills, we offer year-round opportunities for advancement. If you are interested in earning your Adult Education High School Diploma, you should get a copy of your high school transcript and schedule a meeting with one of our staff. You may be closer to earning a diploma than you think. In January 2014, the HiSET replaced the GED and became Maine’s State High School Equivalency Diploma. Since then, our program has helped many of our residents earn this life-changing credential. Again, just contact our office at any time if you have questions about or interest in the HiSET

### Distance Learning Courses

We continue to offer, through a partnership with Education to Go, nearly 500 interactive personal enrichment online courses to residents of RSU 22 and neighboring communities. All classes are instructor-led, fit into convenient six-week formats and are affordably priced. A complete list of all courses can be found at: [www.ed2go.com/rsu22](http://www.ed2go.com/rsu22). Some of the more popular course titles include:

A to Z Grant Writing  
Blogging & Podcasting for Beginners  
Business and Marketing Writing  
Adobe / Acrobat Photoshop  
Grammar Refresher  
PC Troubleshooting  
Introduction to Statistics

Introduction to Interior Design  
Beginner’s Guide to Getting Published  
Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint  
Buying & Selling on eBay  
QuickBooks  
Real Estate Law  
Music Theory Made Easy

Become a Veterinary Assistant  
Introduction to JavaScript  
Computer Skills for the Workplace  
Accounting Fundamentals  
Test Prep: GRE, LAST, SAT, Praxis  
Writing for Children

### Online Health Occupations Courses

In 10 to 20 weeks, you can become nationally certified in these portable, high demand healthcare jobs through our partnership with the Academy of Medical Professions. Students who complete their program also receive assistance with job searching and resume writing.

Dental Assisting  
Medical Office Specialist

Medical Transcription  
Pharmacy Technician

Medical Coding & Billing  
Hospital Coding & Billing

For more information about any of these courses, including payment plan options and specific certifications awarded per course, please contact us at 862-6422.

### College Transitions

Our College Transitions Program is designed to help students successfully prepare for college. We help adult learners who are earning their high school diploma or their HiSET certificate successfully transition to college. We also help students who already have a diploma prepare for their college experience.

This spring, we will also a course, “*The College Experience: Year One.*” This is a 24 hour blended (live and online) course which allows students an opportunity to earn one free credit from Eastern Maine Community College.

Contact us if you would like to discuss with us some of the following College Transitions services that we offer.

Career Exploration & Planning  
College Readiness Course  
Accuplacer Prep & Testing

Academic Advising Services  
Academic Courses: Algebra / Biology / Writing for College  
College Application Assistance

## Riverside Adult Education

**For more information, contact:**

**Rebecca Cross**  
**Riverside Adult Education**  
**RSU 22/26/34**  
**(207) 866-4119**





Miss Nightingale's reading classes show off their animal reports before sharing with the rest of the class.



# 3rd graders finish back-to-back units on non-fiction, celebrate with animal reports, 'fort reading'

Third graders at Weatherbee School finished two back-to-back units on nonfiction reading recently. In Torrie Nightingale's class, the students did research on one of five different animals—spiders, penguins, whales, snakes, or frogs—and created animal reports displaying information they gathered on the animals they selected. The students collaborated in "research clubs," groups of 4-5 students who were researching the

same animal. Miss Nightingale picked the animals based on the books that were available, and then the students picked an animal based on their interests. She said most of the students were able to get their first or second choice. The animal reports included information and student-drawn illustrations about the animal's species, habitat, babies, and food, and how it adapts to its environment. The final pages included a drawing of the animal with body parts identified and a list of fun facts about the animal.

Miss Nightingale said the animal reports allowed the students to celebrate their reading units by creating something that they could take home and show their parents and share with their classmates. "The unit says the students are supposed to become experts on the topic," Ms. Nightingale said. "They felt like they were the experts and taught some-



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

one else about their animal."

\* \* \*  
In Robin Gagner's class, students also practiced informational reading skills in their animal research clubs.

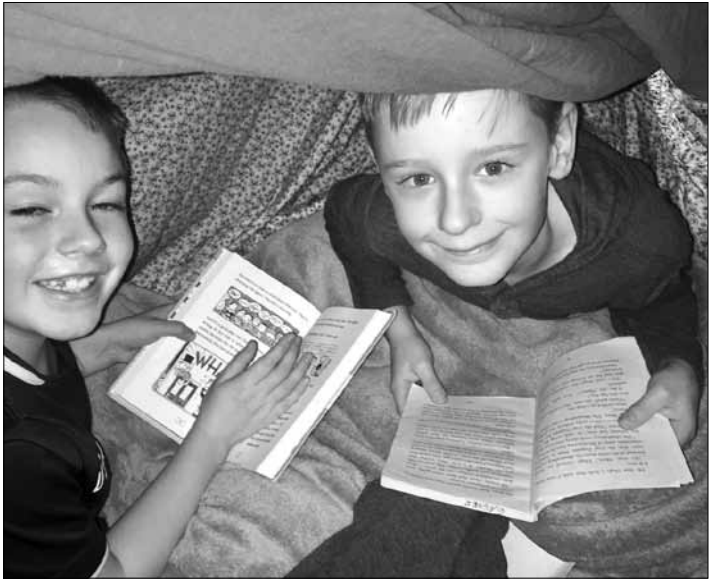
At the end of the unit, they shared their reports by doing a "walkabout," leaving positive feedback for peers on sticky notes. The class celebrated a month of hard work and learning by having a campfire-themed Fort Reading day! Students brought blankets, flashlights, and favorite books from home. They used teamwork to construct forts and shared some great stories next to the virtual campfire. "Celebrations are just one way to get students excited about reading!" Ms. Gagner said.



Audriana Wilcher shares her animal report.



Ms. Gagner's 3rd graders enjoy 'Fort Reading'





4th graders read homework papers to their favorite companions—their pets

When students in Lee Birmingham’s and Christy Whitehouse’s 4th grade class completed a recent writing assignment, they were asked to take their writing home with them and read it to someone.

The students asked, “Do pets count?”

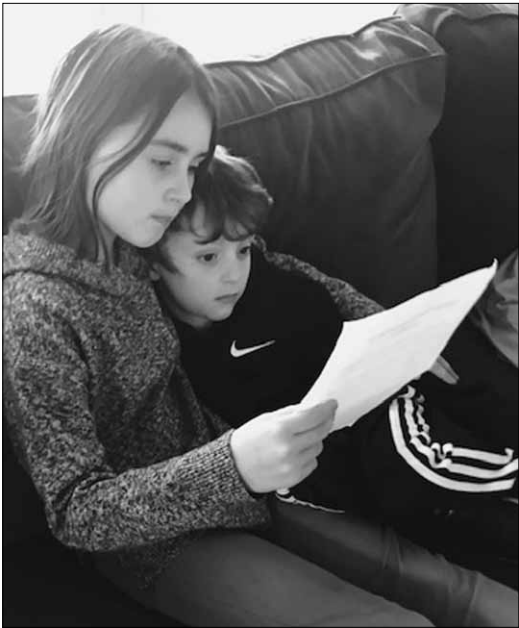
The answer was, “Absolutely!”

As a result, many of the students sent in photos of them reading to their pets, including cats, dogs and a parrot.

Not all photos involved pets—some showed the student reading to a sibling, a parent, or grandparents.

Mrs. Whitehouse said the 4th graders used to take papers home and bring them back showing that they got positive feedback, but students like this new format better.

“Taking a picture of the student reading with someone or with a pet—that got phenomenal results,” she said. “The students and faculty love to stop and take a look at the photos displayed in our hallways.”



4th graders read homework papers to their favorite companions—Top photos: Kyle Kilhefner and Quinn Bennett. Bottom photos: Leah Lapoint, Faith Getchell, and Zacharia Stevens.

Art teacher’s grant brings Penobscot Theatre educators to Weatherbee’s Maine Day

Deb Dequattro, art teacher at Weatherbee School, has received a grant from the Leonard and Renee Minsky Foundation to encourage art in the classroom. Instead of using the funding for a conventional visual arts program, Ms. Dequattro talked with 5th grade teacher Dorothy Dawson, and they decided that the students would really enjoy a program related to drama and the performing arts.

As a result, Ms. Dequattro approached Ben Layman, Director of Education for the Penobscot Theatre Company of Bangor, who agreed to come to Weatherbee on Maine Day, March 13, and present a series of five workshops in which students will learn how to imitate Maine animals found in favorite Maine books.

Mr. Layman will bring a second theater educator to assist, and they’ll

show students how to use their bodies and voices to portray the animals.

One workshop will be ocean-themed, with animals from the sea. The others will concentrate on animals found in the woods, on farms, in lakes and rivers, and in the circus.

“The circus might not seem to involve Maine animals,” Ms. Dequat-

tro said, “but Chris Van Deusen wrote a book about a circus ship what went down off the Maine coast, with many of the animals swimming to shore. It was a really fun book.”

Maine Day, an annual celebration at Weatherbee about things related to Maine, will include 32 different workshops.

Gabe Pennell wins Weatherbee GeoBee

Fifth grader Gabe Pennell won the Weatherbee School competition for the National Geographic GeoBee on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

A total of 22 students entered the competition. Fifth grader Alex Mayhew placed second, and 4th grader Lucien Paradis placed third.

The GeoBee competition is open to students in grades 4-8. This was the first year the competition was held at Weatherbee.

As the winner, Gabe took an on-line qualifying exam, where scored among the top 100 students from across the state. As a result, he will compete in the GeoBee state championship, which will be held March 27 at the University of Maine at Farmington. The state winner will represent Maine at the National GeoBee Competition in Washington, DC.

Dorothy Dawson, 5th grade teacher at Weatherbee, said the students worked very hard on the test.

“They practiced on Tuesdays, giving up their recess time,” she said. “They studied maps and learned about the rivers of the world—not just the rivers but how humans interact with the rivers.”

Ms. Dawson said Gabe was really



GeoBee winner Gabe Pennell and parents.

proud of his trophy. “It’s the first medal he’s received,” she said.

The school competition was the first round in the annual National Geographic GeoBee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students’ curiosity about the world. Questions cover not only geography, but also ancient and world civilizations, cultures, and physical features.

Recess Monitor

The Weatherbee and McGraw Schools have an opening for a recess monitor to work weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the two schools. The Smith School also has an opening for a recess monitor weekdays from 10:30 to 12.

Research says there are innumerable benefits for students to have recess. There are even more reasons for adults to join our wonderful elementary team—including fresh air, fun, healthy exercise, and enjoying our students at their favorite time of the day!

This is a paid position (\$12 per hour) that is a wonderful way to get involved and support our learning communities. Recess monitors are an integral part of the educational team on the playground to support the social, emotional and physical safety of students. This includes leading students to and from the school to the playground, monitoring play, responding to student needs, and communicating concerns to the office.

Background checks are required.

If you are interested, please contact:

Jennifer Cyr, Principal  
George B. Weatherbee School  
jcyr@rsu22.us  
862-3254

Kristen Briggs, Principal  
Earl C. McGraw School  
kbriggs@rsu22.us  
862-3830

Dawn Moore, Principal  
Leroy H. Smith School  
dmoore@rsu22.us  
223-4282





Smith School Family Night.

# Leroy H. Smith School Celebrates WinterKids in January

January was a month full of outdoor fun and learning for Smith School. Throughout January, Smith School participated in WinterKids (<https://winterkids.org/>). We had everything from speaker visits to a fun filled winter carnival morning. Smith School definitely put the winter in Winterport! #WeputthewinterinWinterport

\* \* \*

During the first week of WinterKids, the focus was on physical activity and science. We learned how to stay physical during the winter and the science behind winter.

Walking through the halls, you could feel the excitement of students, some making birdseed cookies and others learning how to be meteorologists with a live meteorologist (thank you Ryan Munn from WABD)!

Active learning was happening outside the building as well. Looking around our playground, you could see many “Al the Snowman” experiments going on. (Would a snowman under a white bag melt quicker, slower, or the same as one under a black bag?) Students recorded the change in their snowman and compared the results.

During PE class Mr. Bartlett led aerobic activities outside for all the grade levels. Our guest speaker, Lauren Jacobs, Outdoor Leadership Coordinator, UMO, shared with us

many outdoor activities we could do this winter!

It was a fun-filled week with fun activities to get our hearts pumping even through the cold weather.

\* \* \*

Our second week focused on nutrition and math. There was a certain buzz going around the Smith School Bee’s this week.

Students were especially excited to try out the Smoothie Bike. Classes turned pedal power into yummy and healthy smoothies.

Students in first grade got outside and learned about the food plate by creating a large model of one in the snow. In the fourth grade, students learned about traffic light foods by playing a nutrition game outside. Students were learning how to make healthy choices and what exactly is in the food we eat.

Heath Miller, a local dairy farmer from Newburgh, joined us as a guest speaker, talking to us about the work dairy farming entails and the products that are produced.

Mrs. Kittridge, Nutrition Director and Mrs. Layman, Wellness Coordinator, visited each classroom to talk about nutrition and make blueberry smoothies. Yum!

\* \* \*

Our third week was all about family engagement. We loved seeing everyone at the WinterKids Fam-



Sledding in the dark.



Twinning: Mrs. Moore 1 & 2.



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

ily Night. IT WAS AN AMAZING TURNOUT!!!

From building snow forts (with creativity, since the snow did not want to stick) to sledding, everyone had a blast.

During the week, families filled out bingo cards at home with winter activities on them (many cards were blackouts) showing how much fun students and their families had being active outside. Aislynn Sarnecki joined us from the Bangor Daily News (reporter for the “Outdoors” and “Living” sections) to share about family hiking in the winter. (Aislynn is a proud Leroy Smith alumni.)

\* \* \*

Our final week concentrated on technology and engineering. Students participated in a winter carnival with multiple stations including technology (pushing “snow” with robots, thank you Mr. Savage), orien-

teering (reading a compass, thank you Mr. Rowley), and engineering (creating structures with marshmallows and toothpicks, thank you Mr. Luna) and much more!

On Friday, January 31st we held our closing ceremony. Students took part in celebrating our amazing month by gathering outside and holding up large banners letting everyone know Smith School Is Going For The Gold! Thanks to Darlings (thank you, Steve Gray), we had a drone gather video of the wonderful celebration.

Although we did not win the gold (we came in 4th after a six way 1st place tie-breaker), we sure did win!

WinterKids was an amazing opportunity for the Smith School staff and students. We learned how important outside time is in the winter and how much fun winter can be! Thank you WinterKids!

## Smith Kindergarten students celebrate 100th Day!

Kindergarten students at Leroy H. Smith School had a fun day celebrating the 100th day of school! Students came to school dressed as if they were 100 years old!



Kindergarteners at 100 years old!

There were so many creative outfits. Some of these included wigs, canes, suspenders, robes, bow ties, glasses and so much more! Throughout the day students worked on 100 themed activities. We practiced counting to 100 by 1’s, 5’s and 10’s, made stacks of 100 cups, made necklaces out



Mrs. Kocik, Ms. Boss, and Mrs. Patterson in the future.

of 100 fruit loops, painted 100 dots, counted out 100 stickers and made gum ball machines. One of the more creative activities we did was write about what we think we would be doing when we are 100 years old! Some of these answers included; drinking coffee, picking up my grandkids, dancing in the streets and in the hospital. We had such a fun day in kindergarten! We are already counting down until next year’s 100th day!



100 cups for the 100th day.





McGraw School celebrates Winterfest 2020 with ‘Candyland’ theme

By Kristin Briggs,  
Principal, McGraw School  
WINTERFEST!!  
Many of you know that it is an annual tradition at McGraw to celebrate winter and all of the fun you can have outside. We call this Winterfest!  
Each year our special day has a theme and this year was no exception. Our theme this year was, “Candyland!”  
All of the activities had a reference to characters and parts of our favorite board game!  
• There was a Molasses Swamp, where we had to try to get through the swamp on our special stompers (aka large cans with strings attached).  
• We had a Peanut Brittle

House, where students created a house made out of “peanut brittle” (aka cardboard boxes).  
• And even a Gumdrops Toss!  
And what would a Winterfest day be without one of our favorite activities: Sledding!  
Our afternoon also included visiting the special photo booth for class pictures; a snowball fight in the gym, and a Door Decorating parade around the school to see what each classroom had created!  
Special thanks to Randi Edgecomb, the Winterfest Committee, and Danielle Johnson with her special group of Hampden Academy students, including Mychal Beaulieu, Robert Brown, Wade Brown, Robert Buzzini, Ava Dowling, Ellie



**EARL C. McGRAW SCHOOL**  
Kristin Briggs, Principal, 862-3830  
Graham, Claire Goff, Drew Hardwick, Adie Hughes, Maddy Humphrey, Kaitlyn Jipson, Abby Lyons, Aria Maietta, Bailey Mallory, Chloe March, Eliza Murphy, Claire Nickels, Eliza Parker, Emilee Ouellette, Carly Philbrook, McKayla Poulin,  
Samantha Quesnel, Kaitlyn Raye, Grace Thompson, Jonathan Turlo, and Amelia Verhar. They helped our day move so smoothly!!  
As always, we also want to thank our special parent volunteers who are always there to help!



Kindness Week brings special daily themes to promote kindness

McGraw celebrated Kindness Week during the week of January 27-31.  
Each day of the week had a special focus!  
**Monday:** Wear BRIGHT colors to remind everyone to use kind words that brighten other people’s day!  
**Tuesday:** Team Kindness! Wear

your favorite team shirt or jersey.  
**Wednesday:** Wild about Kindness! Wear your favorite animal print or a shirt with an animal on it!  
**Thursday:** Work Out Problems with Kindness: Wear workout clothes to remind everyone that kindness can work things out.  
**Friday:** Comfort in Kindness: Wear comfy clothes...like pajamas!!  
Mrs. Erickson provided the staff with kindness challenges each day to remind everyone how we can spread kindness in the simplest of ways.  
One example was: Write a note to a student to let them know you

appreciate who they are and what they bring to your class. Let them know you believe in them.  
If someone didn’t have time or couldn’t think of the words, there was kindness confetti in the hall with positive statements, so people could take one and pass it on.

100th Day of School!

On February 11, McGraw celebrated the 100th Day of School! Many students enjoyed activities and special treats! Classroom activities varied from reading 100 books, to creating collections of 100 items, to creating crafts involving the number 100. Kindergarten enjoyed a Collection Tour where they visited other kindergarten classrooms and see what kinds of collections their peers created. We all agreed that we are 100 Days Smarter!!!



Building a structure using 100 Dixie Cups.



Making necklaces with 100 pieces of cereal.



# RSU 22 WELLNESS REPORT

By Brittany Layman, RSU 22 Wellness Coordinator

## School Garden and Orchard

The garden season is fast approaching and RSU 22 is excited for Spring! On May 2nd Reeds Brook Middle School will be hosting the annual Maine School Garden Network Conference. The conference will gather a variety of educators and garden enthusiasts from across the state. We are looking forward to showcasing our outdoor beds, the greens and tulips growing in the hoop house, and the orchard and apiary.

During the month of March elementary students will have an opportunity to investigate gardening in Maine by exploring Maine Agriculture in the Classroom’s latest book *PlantME*. Brittany Layman will visit classrooms to read the book to the students and plant mini gardens in upcycled cherry tomato containers. Special thank you to Erickson’s Hardware for donating the seeds for this project.

## Wagner Wellness Days

Students at Wagner Middle School have begun their Wagner Wellness Days for 2020. On February 14, 2020 5th grade students learned about dental health, used their voices and bodies to tell a story with Penobscot Theatre’s Dramatic Academy, and taste tested Wild Maine Blueberries. Students used a smoothie bike to create a smoothie with local Maine ingredients: Wild Maine Blueberries from Wyman’s and maple yogurt from Milkhouse Farm. The series will continue in March where the 6th grade will head outside to explore nature, participate in storytelling with Penobscot Theatre and taste test a local Maine product. Thank you to our guest speakers who are volunteering their time.

## School Safety/Reunification

The District Safety Committee continues to explore and revise our comprehensive reunification plan. Leadership from across the district have completed the Introduction to Incident Command System 100 (ICS 100) course to better understand command structure in the event of a school or district wide incident. Tabletop exercises are being used to practice evacuation procedures along with ongoing discussions regarding roles and responsibilities. The safety of our students and staff is our top priority and these exercises assist in building skills and confidence.



# Maine School Garden Day

May 2, 2020



Join Maine School Garden Network and our partners for the 11th annual day-long celebration and training for school garden supporters!

Earn CEUs or contact hours for attending!

Reeds Brook Middle School | Hampden, Maine

Cost to attend is \$40 per person. Registration includes continental breakfast and local foods lunch.

Online & paper registration information at [www.msgn.org/msgd-2](http://www.msgn.org/msgd-2)



Scholarships available!

# ‘Real World’

*(Continued from page 1)*

skills she has learned at UTC. Hannah talked with the Grade 9 students about her experiences at UTC and why she loves the culinary arts. Then everybody ate the cake!

- Kellie Armstrong, Sydney Brown, and Bella Soucy discussed the Health Occupations program at UTC, describing the challenges, the fun, and the satisfaction of working with actual patients in the real world.
- Trey Smith and Jordan Castro-Long, students in UTC’s Electrical program, taught the 9th graders the real-world skill of wiring a household electrical outlet.
- HA senior AJ Wilson, who is in the Welding Program at UTC, talked to Grade 9 students about welding, explaining the different types of welding and discussing different types of home projects for which welding is useful. Some of the freshmen in the audience said they had already done some welding at home.
- HA students Caleb Woods, Genesis Ugaz, and Miranda LaHaye gave a presentation about HA’s Robotics classes and the Robotics team. Then the 9th graders drove the robots.

- Trey Smith, Kyle Lambert, and AJ Wilson talked about HA’s Engineering program and gave the 9th and 10th graders an engineering challenge: build a structure from one sheet of paper that could support heavy books five inches above the table. The winner was Edward Muir, whose paper structure held six books.

Ms. Rosenblatt said the Real World sessions covered a variety of skills related to trades and potential careers, but she said the presenters focused more on what excites them about those activities—what’s fun



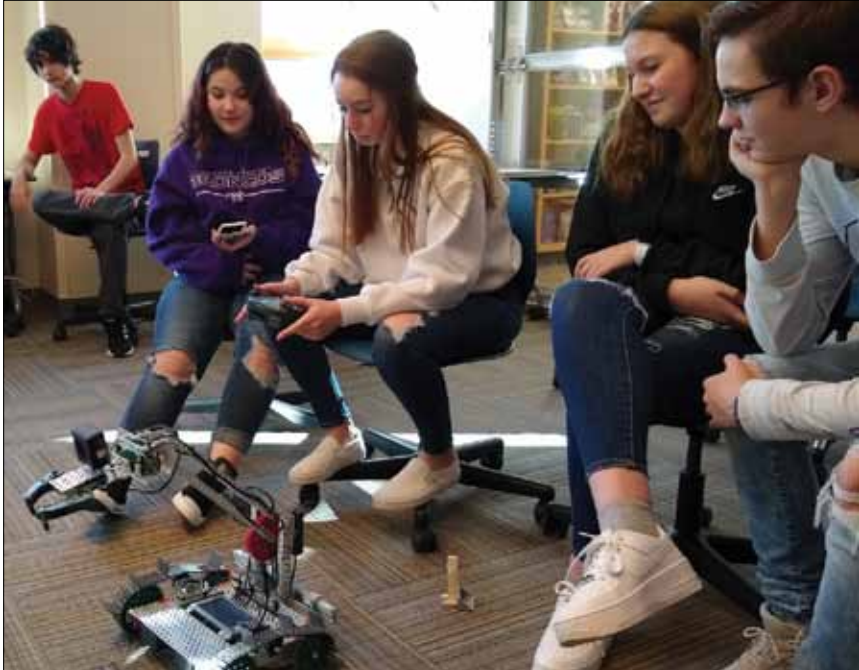
Freshmen Kailee Nevells and Mackenzie Gray wire an outlet.



Jordan Castro-Long helps Freshman Peyton Spahr start the wiring process.



Sophomores Otto Pressey and Aiden Conway test their paper structure.



Freshman Marnie Tracy drives a robot, as Kyra-Mae Brawn, Tessa Lemoine, and Tyler Fraser look on.

and how they can be used in real life.

She said an unexpected plus for the program was how much the presenters got out of it.

“They had to prepare their presentations and teach the younger students how to do things,” she said. “They had to learn how to

read an audience and adjust their presentations accordingly. It was a terrific experience for them as well.”

Ms. Rosenblatt says she’s planning to continue the Real World series in the spring semester, bringing in HA seniors to speak with freshmen and sophomores in study hall.

However, she said the program could be expanded to include presenters from the local community—law enforcement, the Warden Service, EMTs, the legal profession, and the health trades.

“We have a community that’s really willing to share,” she said.