



# Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 March 2014



Students at McGraw Skype with Ian Heyse, Hampden Academy graduate who is working with sled dogs in Wyoming.

## Recreational trail project taking shape, thanks to volunteer labor

The Hampden School Recreational Trail Project is taking shape, thanks primarily to a lot of volunteer labor.

The goal is to create a four-season multi-use recreational trail that can serve as a cross country course for high school and middle school teams, a venue for cross country skiing events in the winter, and as a center for community recreation in Hampden.

Currently, a mile-long loop has been cleared and groomed for cross country skiing, primarily through the efforts of Dan Perkins, vice president of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club.

Mr. Perkins also serves on a trail committee, along with

Assistant Superintendent Emil Genest, Hampden Academy senior Dustin Ramsay, Hampden Academy Athletic Director Mike Bisson, Hampden Academy cross country coaches Dick Balentine and Bill Leathem, Reeds Brook cross country coach Rob Burke, and Peter Buzzini, a ski club member and for

*(Please turn to page 2)*

## McGraw students Skype with sled dog musher

Students in Debbie Collins' and Jane Litwack's classes at Earl C. McGraw School spent several weeks during January and February learning about sled dogs, with help from Ms. Collins' son, Ian Heyse, a Hampden Academy graduate who is

currently working with sled dogs in Wyoming.

At the end of the unit, the students talked with Ian via Skype and asked him a lot of questions about sled dogs.

While Skyping with the students,

Ian had one of his dogs with him. He showed the dog to the class and also showed the students the food his dogs eat.

"He did a fabulous job talking with the kids and answering their  
*(Please turn to page 14)*

## Band parents' goal: soundproof practice room at Reeds Brook

Community members of all ages enjoyed an evening of swing dancing to live music provided by the Brian Nadeau Big Band and bid on silent auction items to help raise money to soundproof a practice room at the Reeds Brook Middle School.

The two-hour jazz social, which was held on Feb. 6 in the Reeds Brook gym, raised nearly \$2,000 to help soundproof the small practice room next to the stage.

A soundproofed room is needed at the school so that band students can practice their instruments during study hall and after school.

Becky Mallory, Director of Bands at Reeds Brook, said the students often practice with SmartMusic, a software program where students can interact with the computer, which "hears" the music they're playing and gives them scores and individualized instruction that they don't get in a large group.

"SmartMusic helps them learn on their own," she says, "but we can't have them using that [in a non-soundproofed room] while I'm running rehearsal."

Most middle school band students have had only a year or two of learn-

ing. The school band program begins in 5th grade, which is when most students start playing an instrument. Private music lessons can be expensive, so most students only receive instruction during band class. Being able to practice on their own with instant feedback greatly improves their playing ability at a faster pace.

The benefits of soundproofing the practice room reach beyond the band program. Students in the Music Technology class need a soundproof environment in which to record. Students are often looking for a quiet place to record their group projects for

Language Arts class, chorus and show choir participants would like a private place to rehearse, and the school's speech therapist could use it when working privately with students. Students for years to come will benefit from this. Band students who take advantage of the soundproof room will enter high school with higher playing abilities, so it's a benefit for the Hampden Academy music programs as well.

Gary Walker and Peter Buzzini, fathers of RBMS music students, have volunteered to install the soundproofing, with assistance  
*(Please turn to page 11)*



Wagner 5th grader Thomas Knott (center) honors the service to our country of both his mother and grandfather.



The 5th and 6th grade chorus serenades the veterans.

## 5th graders at Wagner Middle School honor area veterans

About 45 veterans of every major conflict since World War II were honored by 5th graders at Wagner Middle School on November 8, the Friday before Veterans Day.

The 5th graders sent invitations to family members and others who had served in the military in any capacity.

The veterans included members

of all branches of the military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. Many of them were fathers and grandparents of the 5th graders, along with

mothers, uncles, cousins, and neighbors.

The event was organized by 5th grade teacher Sheridan Rawcliffe,  
*(Please turn to page 7)*



**Superintendent's message**

**Strategic Planning, Collective Bargaining, MIYHS, and the Budget**

By Rick Lyons, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 22

**Strategic Planning**

The RSU 22 Board of Directors has approved the Strategic Plan for 2013-2016, which outlines the district's vision for the next two to three years.

The plan has been posted on the RSU 22 website. It was developed during two evening meetings last fall with the help of a facilitator from the Maine School Management Association. The Board and the administrative team looked at both the successes that we've seen in recent years and the opportunities for improvement. The Board and the Administrative Team reflected on the considerable assets of the district and how they can be utilized to strengthen district initiatives.

The discussion led the Board to adopt the following five goals:

Goal #1: Student Learning and Outcomes: To improve individual student engagement and achievement.

Goal #2: Stewardship and Development of Resources: To provide adequate resources (human, capital, fiscal, and time) to support our mission.

Goal #3: Governance and Policy: To provide effective governance to achieve our mission.

Goal #4: Communications and Public Relations: To communicate with and engage residents of Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, and Frankfort.

Goal #5. Research and Development. To discover and create new knowledge of identifying and enabling development of valuable new products, processes, and services.

In addition to the goals, the Strategic Plan also lists the action strategies for achieving the goals, the resources needed, the person or persons responsible for achieving the goal, the target completion date, and the progress indicators that would show whether the goal is being achieved.

**Collective Bargaining Contracts**

The Board of Directors has approved two contracts—a two-year contract with the teachers' bargaining unit, which covers the current year (2013-14) and next year (2014-15), and a three-year contract for support personnel, including cooks, secretaries, custodians, and educational technicians.

The teachers' contract includes a component for performance-based compensation that supplements the traditional scale. As a result, in next year's budget, the district will have to determine how much money will be dedicated to performance-based compensation.

Traditionally, once we develop a salary scale, the scale portrays the exact dollar figure. With the new contract, we will have to consider how many teachers will earn performance-based compensation, and how much that will add to the budget total. Last year, we paid about \$32,000 in performance compensation.

The support staff contract includes salary increases (in the previous contract, salaries were frozen), and health coverage is shifted to the Standard 500 health insurance plan.

**The Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS)**

As part of the funding agreement that allows RSU 22 to employ a school health coordinator, students at Hampden Academy, Reeds Brook Middle School, and Wagner Middle School are required to participate in the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey every other year.

Student responses to the survey provide valuable insights with

respect to their perceptions about school, the culture and environment of the schools they attend, and about substance abuse issues in children. RSU 22 will be working cooperatively with the Bangor Region Wellness Area to address the noted deficiencies.

On a positive note, we will be working strategically to take advantage of our assets (for example, the survey showed that students rate both the school environment and the support they get from teachers as very favorable). On the other hand, the MIYHS has consistently reported over the last 8-10 years that RSU 22 has a relatively high percentage of students using alcohol, as well as a number of students participating in substance abuse.

The bottom line is that RSU 22 had 743 students (from Hampden Academy and the two middle schools) responding to the survey. We also had small focus groups at Hampden Academy, Reeds Brook and Wagner Middle Schools. We have to take all of the information that has been developed very seriously and look at it. We need to stand back and be concerned about alcohol and substance abuse and how it affects our students, but we also need to recognize the positive influences and values that RSU 22 offers our students. By looking at both our virtues and shortcomings, we can develop an action strategy that will provide an even more positive future for our students.

**The Budget**

We have been working on the 2014-2015 budget internally. We've been waiting for the initial state subsidy figures, and our first public budget meeting will be in the latter part of March or early April.

From now and until mid-May, we'll develop our budget numbers and prepare a formal presentation to RSU 22 voters at the budget

meeting in early June and at the budget referendum later that month.

The initial indications about our 2014-2015 budget are favorable.

- Our state valuation has shown a slight decrease, which is in line with the statewide valuation figures.

- Our student population is up 172 students, so if everything stays as is—i.e., no curtailment, no serious deterioration of general purpose aid—we should be able to at least maintain our current state subsidy level.

- As students and families in school choice communities start talking about their desires for high school attendance next fall, our projections for Hampden Academy are looking very favorable. Three years ago, we had no tuition students attending Hampden Academy. Currently, we have approximately 25 tuition students at HA, and for the coming year, that number could increase. An increase of tuition students would increase revenue. Currently, we send a shuttle bus to Brewer High School to pick up and drop off students from SAD 63 (Holden, Eddington, Clifton) who attend Hampden Academy. We will be looking at similar transportation arrangements for students from Veazie, Glenburn, and Orrington.

**Retirement**

Carla Leathem, Principal at McGraw School, has decided to retire after 41 years of service in SAD 22/RSU 22. She started as a teacher in SAD 22 and served as Director of Special Services and Principal at Smith School before moving to McGraw.

A committee is preparing to interview candidates for her replacement as McGraw School Principal, and we're optimistic that we'll be able to bring a candidate to the Board of Directors in May.



The dotted line shows the location of the new cross country trail, which is located on land owned by RSU 22 and the Cushing Family Corporation. The Cushing property (G) is in the center of the map. The new Hampden Academy is at the top of the map; McGraw and Reeds Brook are on the right; and former town property that was swapped for the old Hampden Academy site is at the bottom of the map.



One of the signs on the recreational trail project.

**Recreational trail project taking shape, thanks to volunteer labor**

(Continued from page 1)

mer member of the RSU 22 Board of Directors.

The existing trail is located on RSU 22 property east of Reeds Brook Middle School and land owned by the Cushing Family Corporation south of

the new Hampden Academy.

Phase 2 would widen the trail and expand it to a three-kilometer course (just under two miles). The estimated cost would be \$35,800—\$8,300 for permitting, \$20,000 for clearing and leveling, \$6,000 for

bridge construction, and \$1,500 for trail signs.

At this point, no funds have been allocated for Phase 2.

“The issue now is how to get funds,” said Mr. Genest. “We may look for grant funding or commu-

nity fund raising.”

Mr. Genest said the Penobscot Valley Ski Club is currently grooming the trail.

“They’ve done a lot of work on the trail,” he said. “They deserve full credit for it.”

# Curriculum Office Update

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

## New tests from Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to replace NECAP, SAT in 2014-15

New tests will replace the SAT and the NECAP in 2014-2015

Beginning next year, students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will participate in new tests created by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. No longer will students in grades 3-8 be taking the New England Comprehensive Assessment during the month of October. The SAT will also be replaced by the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The new assessments will be administered near the end of the school year.

Students who plan to attend college may still be required to take the SAT as an admission test. However, it will not be used as a state assessment. Families will make choices whether or not their children will take the exam.

RSU 22 students have been participating in the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Assessment) testing three times a year. The new Smarter Balanced Assessments will include some similar test items which are common to our students. We are fortunate that our students are familiar with that portion of the test structure and the required technology. That portion of the Smarter Balanced Assessment is called computer

adaptive testing. Students are given a question at their approximate grade level and then more questions will get easier or harder depending on students' answers.

Other examples of types of questions that may be asked of students over the 3-8 and grade 11 spans:

- Response types: selected response and constructed response
- Multiple choice with one correct response
- Multiple choice with multiple correct responses
- Two part multiple choice questions
- Matching tables
- Yes/no or true/false tables
- Fill-in tables
- Select or order text or graphs
- Graphing
- Equation or numeric responses
- Short text – students need to be able to write what they are thinking
- Long Essay (only ELA)
- Extended projects
- Online research, group projects; presentations (require 1-2 class periods)

Here are a few tips to apply in everyday life and conversations

with your children, in addition to helping with homework.

- Ask why when children tell you they want something or want to do—or not do—something.
- Use the word “because” after saying “no” or “not tonight.”
- Give reasons—you to them, and them to you.
- Encourage questions and explore answers, especially questions with answers that are not yes or no.
- Explain and discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood and community. Brainstorm solutions.
- Compare how things are alike and different, such as videos, movies and food.
- Look for patterns.
- Describe and categorize things and ideas. Encourage your children to use higher-level words that might describe how they feel about something.
- Tell your children what you think and why.
- Encourage and celebrate opinions.

### RSU #22 Strategic Plan

As a result of the 2012-2013 community steering committee work and this fall's school board

retreat, RSU 22 has a new strategic plan now in place. We included input from staff, students and community members to craft our plan. Last year's forums and surveys helped guide goal #1. Goals 2-5 were developed by the school board, administrative council and some community members.

Listed below are the goals. The full plan is available on our RSU 22 web site.

Goal #1: Student Learning and Outcomes: To improve individual engagement and achievement

Goal #2: Stewardship and Development of Resources: To provide adequate resources to support our mission (human, capital, fiscal and time)

Goal #3: Governance and Policy: To provide effective governance to achieve our mission

Goal #4: Communications and Public Relations: To communicate with and engage residents from Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport and Frankfort

Goal #5: Research and Development: To discover and create new knowledge of identifying and enabling development of valuable new products, processes and services

## News from RSU 22 Adult Education

### GED Being Replaced:

The State of Maine has announced that it has contracted with Educational Testing Services to provide its High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) as a replacement for its GED Test starting in January 2014. The new HiSET will essentially cover the same academic material as the GED and will be offered by pen-and-paper or electronically. Maine is one of seven states to contract with HiSET for its high school equivalency credential program. Please contact our office (862-6422) if you have any questions about the HiSET or want to schedule HiSET testing in Hampden starting in mid-February.

### High School Completion Courses:

Our program continues to provide adult learners with the opportunity to earn an Adult Education High School diploma through our partnership with RSU 26 in Orono and RSU 34 in Old Town. Class

sizes are small and an experienced team of instructors provides courses designed to meet the different needs and learning styles of our students. Most of our courses start the week of January 27, but we do accept students into our program throughout the academic year on a rolling admission basis. We also offer free one-to-one basic literacy and ESL tutoring to adult learners throughout the year.

### New Career Training Programs:

We are, again this winter, excited to be able to offer our residents access to a wider variety of career training courses through partnerships with Orono Commons and OHI such as Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA), PSS, CRMA, and MHS. We are now able to also offer a series of new health occupations courses that will allow students to pursue careers such as Pharmacy Technician, Dental Assisting, Medical Coding & Billing, Electronic Health Records, Phlebotomy Technician and Medical Terminology.

These courses offer a combination of online and live laboratory work that allows students to prepare for national level certification tests in six to twelve months. To view our new online vocational courses, please visit us at: [www.riversideadulthoodpartnership.com](http://www.riversideadulthoodpartnership.com).

### Distance Learning Courses:

We are excited to be able to offer nearly 500 interactive online courses to our residents. A wide variety of professional development and personal enrichment courses are now available to register for at: [www.ed2go.com/rsu22](http://www.ed2go.com/rsu22). All classes are instructor-led, fit into convenient six-week formats and are affordably priced. Some of the more popular courses are: Microsoft Excel and Word; QuickBooks; Effective Business Writing; Assisting Aging Parents; Creating Web Pages; A to Z Grant Writing; Digital Scrapbooking; Buying & Selling on eBay; Beginner Blogging; Math Refresher; Navigating Divorce; Genealogy Basics; Teaching with SMART Boards; Grammar Refresher; Test Preparation Courses: LSAT, SAT, ACT, Praxis, GRE.

### Our Growing Adult Education Partnership:

For five years now, RSU 22 (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport, Frankfort) has partnered with RSU 26 (Orono) to provide residents of these school communities access to a greater variety of quality programs for adult learners. We are genuinely excited that this fall, RSU 34 (Old Town, Alton, Bradley) has now agreed to work with us as well as school districts representing Veazie, Glenburn, Milford and

Greenbush. To access courses and programs being offered by all of our adult education partners this winter, please visit us at: [www.riversideadulthoodpartnership.com](http://www.riversideadulthoodpartnership.com).

### Personal Enrichment Courses:

The following is a partial list of enrichment courses that we are offering to our residents this spring. Most of these classes start in late April or early May.

- Boston Quincy Market Trip
- Boston Flower Show Trip
- Boating
- Basic Guitar
- Digital Photography
- Beekeeping
- CPR / First Aid Training
- Self-Defense for Women
- Bicycle Tune Ups
- Fly Fishing / Fly Casting
- Soccer Officiating
- iPad / iPhone
- Organic Gardening
- First Aid for Pets
- Caring for Your Cat
- Pet Dental Care
- Zumba
- Yoga
- Kayaking
- Grant Writing
- High School English
- Hula Hoop Dance & Fit
- Ballroom Dance
- Introduction to Painting
- Fabric Art
- Rug Hooking for Beginners
- Floral Arranging 101
- Cooking / Baking
- Book Binding
- eBay
- Lifeguarding Certification
- Wilderness First Aid
- Maine Driving Dynamics



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Students in Serena Morris's AP Environmental Science Class use some of the equipment that was purchased with \$14,400 in grants from the College Board and J. Crew.

## HA gets \$14,400 for science equipment, thanks to College Board, J. Crew

Hampden Academy has been able to purchase \$14,400 worth of science equipment, thanks to a grant from the College Board and the generosity of J. Crew, the clothing retailer.

Science teacher Serena Morris had expected to receive \$7,200 from the College Board—funds that were intended to “jump start” Hampden Academy’s AP Environmental Science program.

However, when she listed her course and her equipment needs on *www.DonorsChoose.org*, a website that tries to match teachers and their projects with donors who are willing to fund them, J. Crew said it would fully fund the project.

Listing the course on DonorsChoose was the College Board’s idea. They said Ms. Morris could obtain the College Board grant by signing in on the DonorsChoose website and giving them a gift card number from the College Board.

When she did that, however, she noticed that J. Crew had read her

proposal and agreed to fully fund it. At that point, while she was wondering what to do, she received an email from the College Board, saying, “Great news—you’ve been fully funded by J. Crew, but you still have \$7,200 coming from us.”

So, instead of \$7,200 to purchase equipment for her AP Environmental Science course, she had \$14,400.

Some of her equipment needs were specific to environmental science, such as field testing equipment for water quality, including dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrates, and phosphates. She also purchased Secchi discs, to measure the turbidity of water samples; aquatic nets, to do biological sampling; and a growth chamber, which controls temperature and humidity so that students can grow organisms in a controlled environment.

“These are very sensitive and very expensive meters,” Ms. Morris said. “We never would have been able to purchase these without support from the College Board.”



In addition to the instruments that she needed specifically for environmental science, Ms. Morris was able to purchase half a dozen digital balances (scales) for about \$1,000 each. “These will allow us to measure to a level of precision that we have to have if we’re going to do high-quality lab work,” she said.

She said her current AP Environmental Science students are using the growth chamber to grow plants in four different ways, and they’ll use the digital balances to measure the weight of the increased plant growth

Ms. Morris, who has a degree in environmental science, started teaching the environmental science course last year, but this year it became an Advance Placement course.

All of the field work that the students are doing is designed to prepare them for the AP exam, which they will take in May.

After that, the class will be going to the Schoodic Point Educational Research Center (SERC) to do field testing with researchers from all over the U.S. on global climate change—in particular, ocean acidification.

## Winter Carnival yields 38 pairs of jeans, \$346 for ‘Hug It Forward,’ and lots of fun

Hampden Academy students collected 38 pairs of jeans, raised \$346.49 for “Hug It Forward,” and enjoyed a variety of indoor and outdoor activities prior to February vacation, thanks to the Winter Carnival celebration that was organized by the HA chapter of the National Honor Society.

NHS members Sammi Brown and Katelyn Lyons, both seniors, said the idea behind the Carnival was to “drum up school spirit during a time when the student body is ready to go on break.”

The Carnival included a series of competitions between the four classes that were scheduled for before school, during lunch, and after school.

Before-school activities included daily Jeopardy games, snow-flake making, lip synching, a riddle hunt, and a ping pong tournament.

Lunchtime activities included a snow gear race, a limbo contest, a whipped cream eating contest, and a contest to see who could do the best impression of a Hampden Academy teacher. During one lunch period, social studies teacher Joel Hills asked students if they had



Building class snow sculptures was one of the Winter Carnival activities.

random objects, such as a 1990 penny; if they did, they were awarded

points for their class.

All four classes had collection jars

for Hug It Forward, a charity that is being supported by Main Office secretary Jeanette Evans. The money collected in the jars totaled \$346.49; the individual classes received points for all the pennies that were put in their jars, while points were subtracted for other coins and dollar bills that were donated.

All four classes also built snow sculptures with Disney movie themes and collected jeans for Jeans for Teens.

As of Feb. 14 (Friday, Feb. 15 was a snow day), the senior class was ahead in the overall point competition. If that holds, “Class of 2014” will be engraved on a plaque that will list the winners of the Winter Carnival class competition for the years to come, and class members who participated in Winter Carnival activities will be eligible for an ice cream social.

The juniors are currently in second place, followed by the freshmen and the sophomores.

The jeans were taken to the Aeropostale store in the Bangor Mall, whose parent company is a sponsor of the Jeans for Teens campaign, along with DoSomething.org.



## Drama Club to present 'The Plain Princess and the Lazy Prince' at PAC

The Hampden Academy Drama Club will welcome students from five elementary schools to the Performing Arts Center on April 2 and 3 to see four performances of *The Plain Princess and the Lazy Prince*, an original fairy tale by Joseph Schank.

Students from Herman (grades K-2), Etna-Dixmont, and Weatherbee Elementary Schools will come on April 2, while students from Smith, McGraw, and Hermon (grades 3-4) schools will come on April 3.

The April 2 and 3 performances are for elementary school children only. A total of 1,475 students and about 100 teacher chaperones will see the four performances.

Parents, siblings, and the public are invited to an open dress rehearsal, which will be held at the Performing Arts Center at 3:30 p.m.



*The Dragon (Keenan Soule) and the Prince (Justin Hatch) come to an agreement regarding the rescue of the Princess, while Dr. Gray Matter (Mikayla Burrigde) looks on.*

on April 1. The dress rehearsal performance will be free.

*The Plain Princess and the Lazy Prince* is being directed by Jenn Guare, English teacher at Hampden

Academy.

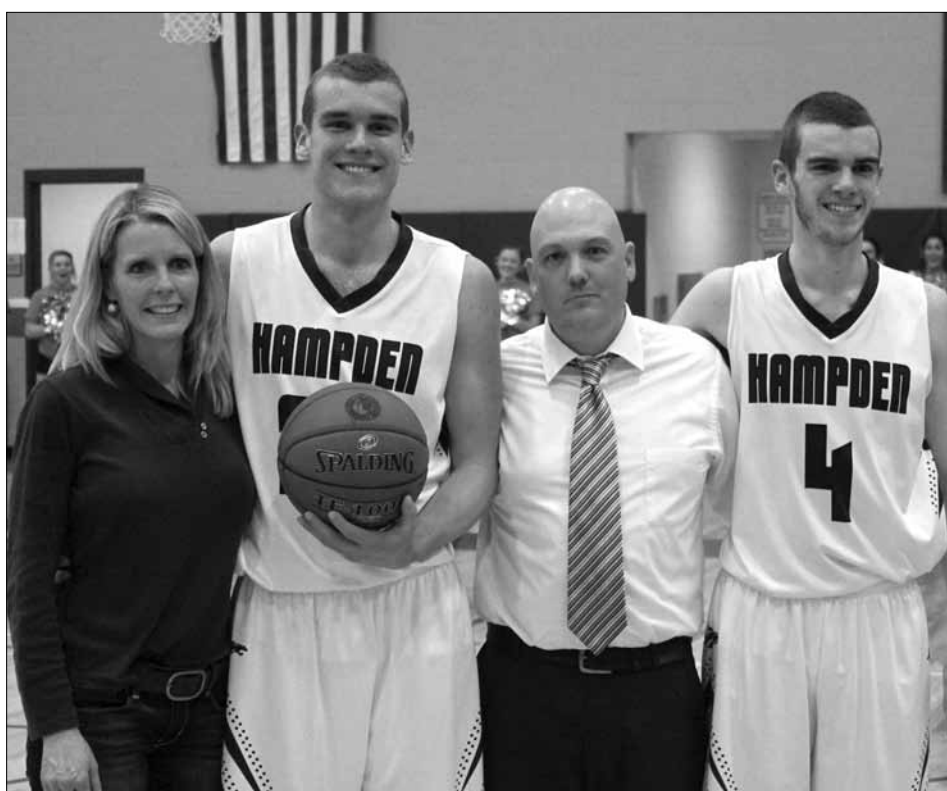
Ms. Guare said she selected it because the play is "humorous in a gentle way," it has a lot of parts for student actors, and it offers a lot

of opportunities to have fun with costumes, make up, hair, set, and scenery.

"It's a nice, energetic play for elementary school children," she said.

Cast members are: Mikayla Burrigde, Ruby Ramsay, Justin Hatch, Sam Biddlecom, Erin Jeter, Tien Mislner, Keenan Soule, Miles Martin, Meredith Prescott, Paige Malkow, Mikayla Holmes, Avery Maietta, Megan Morin, Beth Parsons, Sabrina Hatfield, and Jayme Bickford.

The student directors are Ethan Casavant and Rosie Frost. The stage manager is Krystal Grant. The backstage crew includes Jacob Beaulieu, Marissa Donovan, Lydia Tilley, Lizzy Loxterkamp, Olivia Plowman, Reba Sands, Jazmine Miller, Emily Parent, and Jo Southland.



Zach Gilpin (holding ball), with his mother, Carol Gilpin, Coach Bartlett, and brother Nick Gilpin.

## Zach Gilpin gets 1,000th point during Senior Night basketball game

Very few high school basketball players score 1,000 points or more during their high school careers.

Even fewer play four years of varsity basketball without losing a single home game.

Zach Gilpin, 6'5" forward on Hampden Academy's undefeated basketball team, achieved both of those milestones this year, when the Broncos beat Mt. Blue, 71-30, Feb. 4 on Senior Night.

"Zach's teammates were feeding him that night," said Hampden Academy athletic director Mike Bisson. "The guys really wanted him to get his 1,000th point here on Senior Night, rather than at the last away game at Skowhegan."

Mr. Bisson said the biggest reason for Zach's success has been his work ethic.

"He's really committed to basketball," he said. "He does a tremendous job of leading by example. When one of your best players works as hard or harder than anybody and is also unselfish, that sets a great tone for the whole team. I think that's the key to Zach's success."

Mr. Bisson says Zach usually plays power forward on the team, but adds that he's very versatile.

"He can do anything," he says.

"He can handle the ball, drive to the basket, and shoot threes [three point baskets]."

As of Feb. 12, Zach was averaging 23 points and 11 rebounds per game for the 2013-14 season.

Zach's younger brother, Nick, is a sophomore on the basketball team.

The Broncos have won 39 home games in a row—a streak that dates back to January 2010, when Zach was in 8th grade.

## 'Sea of Purple' is Hike for Homeless goal

The annual Hike for the Homeless, the major fundraiser for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 12, and Rob Kissinger is hoping to see a "Sea of Purple" walking from Hampden Academy to the Bangor Waterfront.

The hike starts at four different points—Hampden Academy, Bangor High School, Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems in Brewer, and the Sports Authority in Hermon.

Hampden hikers have the longest distance to travel—5.4 miles, compared to 4.3 miles for Hermon, 3.5 miles for Bangor, and 3.3 miles for Brewer. Despite the extra distance, Hampden usually provides more than its normal share of hikers.

## Noah Gardner advances to state finals in 'Poetry Out Loud' competition

Freshman Noah Gardner represented Hampden Academy in the regional Poetry Out Loud competition on February 12 after winning the local competition in December.

Noah recited "Hymn to God the Father," by John Donne, and "Israfel," by Edgar Allen Poe, in the school competition.

For the regionals, he added a third poem, "Fern Hill," by Dylan Thomas.

Poetry Out Loud contestants select their poems from a list on the Poetry Out Loud website, which offers hundreds of choices. They have to memorize the poems and recite them in front of a panel of judges.

Noah said one of his first two poems ("Hymn to God the Father") had to be under 25 lines, while the other had to be composed prior to 1900.

He said "Fern Hill" didn't fit any particular category, but he chose it because it was longer and more complex than the other two. He also wanted to include a 20th century poem, since his first two poems were composed in the early 1600s ("Hymn to God the Father") and 1831 ("Israfel").

Sophomore Lydia Tilley placed second in the Hampden Academy competition with her recital of "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley and "The New World" by Amiri



Noah Gardner at the Regional Poetry Out Loud competition.

Baraka in round two.

Senior Olivia Plowman placed third with her recital of "[i carry your heart with me(i carry it in)]" by e.e. cummings in the first round and "Is My Team Ploughing" by A.E. Housman in the second round.

The regional competition was held at Minsky Hall on the University of Maine campus in Orono. Noah was one of 10 students who won at the regional level and is now moving on to the state competition for Poetry Out Loud. The State competition was held on February 26 in Waterville.

Academy student, Bryce Arsenault.

During the past year, the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter has provided a clean, safe place to stay, a warm meal, and other supportive services to more than 2,000 individuals.

The shelter is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. People experiencing homelessness receive shelter, crisis intervention, hot meals and a safe environment as well as connections with special services including medical and psychiatric care.

State and federal funds only provide 21% of the shelter's budget of nearly \$540,000. Donations, including funds raised through the Hike, are what allow the shelter to stay open and provide assistance to so many people.

## Maine State VEX Robotics tournament at HA draws 29 teams

Twenty-nine robotics teams from across Maine converged on Hampden Academy on February 15th for the Maine State VEX Robotics Championship, which was sponsored by the Robotics Institute of Maine and the Black Bear Robotics Club from the University of Maine.

Two of the teams were from Hampden Academy. Team 9343A, which designed a robot with a bucket attachment (similar to a front end loader) designed to scoop up a ball and drop it into the scoring area, included Catherine Trojecki, Nick Hashey, Zack Connors, Tyler Junkins, and Dan St. Louis. Team 9343B, which designed a robot with an arm capable of grasping a ball and dropping it into or placing it on a scoring area, was made up of Zack Perry, Nate Haiden, Levi Nash, Dylan Noyes, and Krystal Grant.

Both teams received programming assistance from Jacob Beau-lieu, who also participates in the robotics program at United Technologies Center in Bangor.

Most of the team members are students in Todd Moore's and Charlie Huff's Technology Education program at HA but some are involved because they were either part of the pilot robot built last year or they just heard about the teams and wanted to join. Since mid October they built, operated, tested, and rebuilt their robots after school.

The two teams competed in two earlier robotics tournaments, the Central Maine Qualifying Tournament at the Augusta Civic Center in mid-December and the Erskine Academy Qualifying Tournament in

### HA basketball teams support Hoops 4 Hope

The two varsity basketball teams at Hampden Academy have raised almost \$1,500 for the Lafayette Family Cancer Center through Hoops 4 Hope, a Champion the Cure challenge event, with additional donations yet to come.

Both the boys and girls teams sold paper basketballs for \$1 and held bake sales as part of the campaign. The players sold 282 basketballs—pink to honor cancer survivors and purple in memory of someone who lost their battle with cancer—which were posted on the wall in the Hampden Academy dining commons.

Each team had a day when they sold baked goods both before and after school.

Hoops 4 Hope night was held on Feb. 4, a night when both the boys and girls varsity teams were playing Mt. Blue at home. It was also Senior Night. The players and cheerleaders all wore Hoops 4 Hope t-shirts. On the backs of all the t-shirts were names of people the players and cheerleaders wanted to honor or remember. The t-shirts were donated by H. O. Bouchard.

The cheerleaders held a 50-50 raffle during both games, with the proceeds going to the fund. The 50-50 winner for the girls game was Cameron Scott, a senior on the boys basketball team. The 50-50 winner for the boys game was Blaine Meehan, a former Bronco player. Both donated their winnings to the fund.

mid-January. At these competitions, teams do not compete by themselves; they are always competing as an alliance with another team. During the elimination rounds, they compete as a three-team alliance.

At the Augusta tournament, the two teams finished 6th (Team A) and 7th (Team B) out of 26 teams in the Qualification rounds. Team A's alliance was eliminated during the Quarterfinals and Team B was eliminated during the semifinals. At Erskine Academy, Team A placed first, while Team B placed 21st in the Qualifications rounds. Team A's alliance went on to win the tournament while Team B was eliminated in the quarterfinal round.

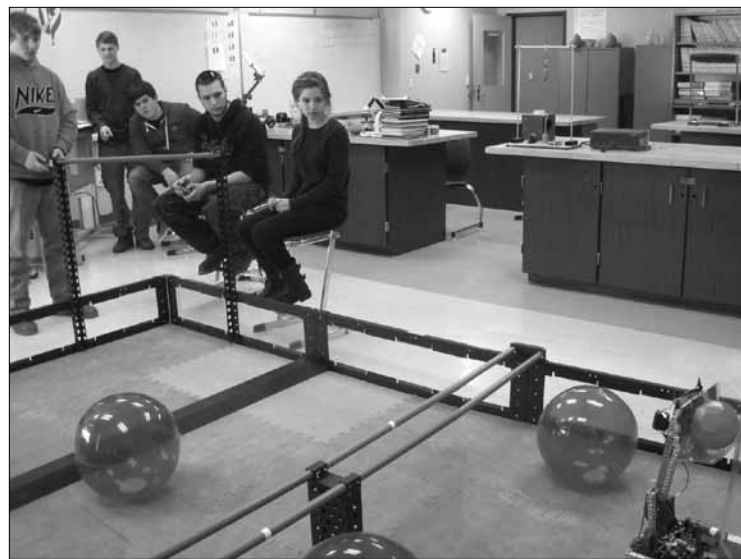
At the state meet, Team A placed 16th and Team B placed 29th during qualifying. Neither team made it to the elimination rounds as this tournament had only two team alliances.

Each match is two minutes long, with the robots in autonomous mode for the first 15 seconds and driver-control for the last minute and 45

seconds. The competitions are played on a 12' square playing field that's divided into three zones, which are separated by a 2" bump and a pair of rails 12" above the floor. The robots are typically designed so they can be driven over the bump, and under the rails.

Points can be scored in several ways—by pushing, placing, or throwing a small bucky ball into one of two scoring zones or into a scoring cylinder, or by pushing, placing, or throwing large balls into scoring zones or placing them on top of the scoring cylinder.

The robot alliance that scores the



Team members practice with the Team 9343A robot, using the VEX Robotics playing field that has been on loan from the Robotics Institute of Maine.

most points during the autonomous mode receives a 10-point bonus.

In addition to fielding two competitive teams, the robotics program at HA has been able to raise enough money to buy eight more VEX robotics kits, which will allow robotics to become part of the Technology Education curriculum this year.

### Congratulations, Class A Eastern Maine Champs!



**HAMPDEN ACADEMY VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL**—Standing (l. to r.): Zack Boss, Cam Scott, Matt Martin, Zack Gilpin, Isiah Bess, Conary Moore, Deshaun Jones, Drew Kelso, Kneeling: Jake Black, Brendan McIntire, Elliot Simpson, Nick Gilpin, Nick Chasse, Brandon Maillet, and Max Moore.

### Congratulations, Eastern Maine Indoor Track League Champs!



**HAMPDEN ACADEMY BOYS INDOOR TRACK**—First row (l. to r.): Austin Nute, Tanner Dunham, Paul Casavant, Tyler Macdonald, Will Webb, Wyatt Lataille, Josh Redmond, and Alex Charette. Second row: Jon Seymour, Colby Hollis, Derek Jesiolowski, Jake Maltz, Kurt Speed, Tyler Moore, Max Trostel, Jacob Bailey, Avery Miatta, and Dan Good. Third row: Holden Dudley, Alex Hollis, Jeremy Kelsey, Cam Prescott, Keegan Quigley, John Chen, Jeff King, David Felix, Oakley Kilgour, and Josh Hoch. Fourth row: Tanner Bisbee, Sam Donnelly, Spencer Canham, Robert Frye, Justin Cottle, Isaiah Olsen, Wil Huston, Caleb Lord, and Max Iannazzi.

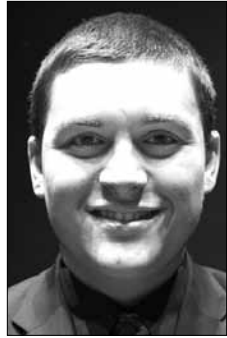


## UMaine Concert Band to perform at Wagner March 20

It will be a homecoming for two University of Maine students when UMaine's Concert Band performs a run-out concert Thursday, March 20, at Wagner Middle School in Winterport.



Aaron Beaulieu



Jay Baines

Ross, who conducts the UMaine concert band and is band and chorus director at Wagner Middle School.

"It's safe to say the without him,

Aaron Beaulieu, a first-year mechanical engineering student, began playing the trumpet in the fifth grade. Jay Baines, a civil engineering major also in his first year at UMaine, began playing percussion at the same time. Both students have returned to the direction of their first teacher, Dana



The Wagner Middle School Band, which will perform with the UMaine Concert Band March 20 and at the Maine Legislature March 25.

I wouldn't be where I am today in my music," Baines said.

The Concert Band will perform at an afternoon assembly at the school and at a free public concert at 7 p.m. The performances will feature arrangements by Clare Grundman, Henry Fillmore and Frank Ticheli. Wagner's band will join UMaine's Concert Band for the finale.

The music program at Wagner includes more than 100 instrumentalists and almost 100 vocalists, out of a total student body of 220.

Mr. Ross is in his fourth year as conductor for the Concert Band, a nonauditioned group that performs both on and off campus in a variety of

communities, especially public schools.

Mr. Ross said the Wagner band has been invited to perform at the State House in Augusta March 25.

### WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL



## 5th graders at Wagner Middle School honor area veterans

(Continued from page 1)

who wanted her students to know that Veterans Day is more than just a day off from school.

"Veterans Day has a purpose," she says. "Now, the 5th graders have a much better understanding of why we celebrate Veterans Day."

She said she wasn't sure how many veterans would participate in the event, since it was the first time the 5th graders had invited them.

"It ended up being a wonderful day," she said.

Attendance was greater than expected, as veterans in the Winterport-Frankfort area apparently talked with each other, learned that their friends were going, and decided to go as well.

When the veterans arrived, they met by 5th graders who held flags and lined the hallway as they came in. Each veteran had an escort—a son, daughter, or grandchild if the veteran was related to a student; if not, a 5th grader was assigned.

The veterans were taken to the library for coffee and donuts. Once everyone had arrived, they watched a video that the 5th graders had made about why they're proud of Wagner School.

"Many of the veterans had never been to Wagner Middle School," said Ms. Rawcliffe. "A lot of our 5th graders are the oldest child in the family.

### 50 senior citizens attend luncheon

About 50 senior citizens enjoyed roast pork with all the trimmings at the Wagner Student Council's annual Senior Citizens Luncheon in December.

The lunch was prepared by the kitchen staff and served by Student Council members.

The grade 5-8 choral students serenaded the seniors, and a community volunteer brought in wreaths that were used to decorate the tables. The seniors took the wreaths home as door prizes.



Eighth grade trumpet players end the day by playing "Taps" in front of the school.

After the video, the veterans were escorted to the three 5th grade classrooms, where the students asked the veterans about their service and about their lives before and after their time in the military.

In preparation for the visit, the students and their homeroom teachers talked about questions that they felt would be appropriate to ask veterans.

Ms. Rawcliffe said she was touched by some of the answers.

One student asked a veteran why he joined the Army, and the veteran said he joined "because that was the only way I was going to be a success in life." He said he didn't do well in school, but when he joined the Army, he found a purpose in life.

"That's what saved me," he said.

Another veteran, who brought a number of medals that he had earned for service during the Korean War, including a Purple Heart, said he joined because "it was the right thing to do." He said he was too young to enlist at 17, so he lied about his age.

Ms. Rawcliffe said some of the Vietnam veterans said they felt a sense of brotherhood with their fellow servicemen in Vietnam, but that it was hard when they came home.

"They felt sad because they were in Vietnam doing what they felt was right—and what their country asked them to do—but they were criticized



Fifth graders learn about being in the military from the veterans, as well as from some active duty members of the National Guard.

when they returned home," she said.

After the question-and-answer period, the 5th graders brought the veterans to the cafeteria, where the tables had been decorated in red, white, and blue by the kitchen staff.

In the cafeteria, the 5th graders entertained the veterans with a series of presentations, including:

- Essay readings by several students on why they were proud of their veterans.

- A slide show about flag etiquette.
- A skit prepared and performed by 5th graders on the topic, "What is a Veteran?"

- A performance by music teacher Dana Ross of the anthems of all five branches of the military.

- A performance by the 5th-6th grade chorus of "America the Beautiful," which included a poem that was read by the 5th graders.

"Some of the veterans said they had never felt so honored—so touched," said Ms. Rawcliffe.

After the presentations, the students served the veterans dinner—roast pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, and rolls—and then sat down and ate with them.

When everyone finished, they went outside to the flagpole, and a couple of 8th graders played Taps.

Three soldiers from the Army National Guard brought a Humvee and

allowed the students to climb all over it. The Guardsmen told Ms. Rawcliffe how proud they were to listen to the veterans who had gone before them.

"This was a special day for them to see that," Ms. Rawcliffe said. "It was a great day all the way around."

### Student Council food drive 'most successful ever'

The most successful food drive ever at Wagner Middle School brought in "boxes and boxes of food" last November and December that benefited food cupboard clients in Winterport and Frankfort.

The food drive was the Student Council's community service project for November.

The drive benefited from a pledge by food service director Brenda White, who challenged the Student Council to "bury Brenda" with food items.

Ms. White said if the students were able to "bury Brenda" by bringing in enough food items to complete cover the window into the kitchen, she would provide every student who brought in food with a whoopie pie.

Student Council advisor Julia Patterson said the food drive was "wildly successful," and the students really enjoyed their whoopie pies.



## Wagner basketball teams win PVML Sportsmanship Awards



**WAGNER BOYS BASKETBALL**—Kneeling (l. to r.): Keagan Danforth, Kergan Perkins, Jay Hatch, and Blake Ramirez. Standing: Wyatt Harriman, Wyatt Lord, Ted Harris, Jordan Patterson, Kenny Brewer-Fraze, Jordan Collins, Evan Thomas, and Dylan Dinardo.



**WAGNER GIRLS BASKETBALL**—Kneeling (l. to r.): Jordan Lockard, Camryn Bouchard, Catrina El-Hajj, Libby Nute, Alydia Brilliant, Zara Mislser, and Emily Murphy. Standing: Cassie El-Hajj, Kayley Parker, Nicole Dunton, Chelsea El-Hajj, Josey Trojecki, Kaylee Harnish, and Charissa Astbury.



Catrina El-Hajj (left) and Elise Dudley serve hot chocolate at the Wagner Schol Store.

## Wagner students selling hot chocolate in school store

Students at Wagner Middle School have been operating a school store since early January, and in February they started serving hot chocolate.

“The students are really enjoy-

ing their hot chocolate,” says Chris Gould, 6th grade teacher who has been supervising the store. “It’s a first for Wagner—a new privilege.”

Although Mr. Gould oversees store operations, he says students do all the work.

“The students run the store, and they make the hot chocolate,” Mr. Gould says. “All I do is count the money and purchase the inventory.”

The store is open three days a week—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—first thing in the morning during homeroom and also during lunch.

In addition to hot chocolate, the store offers healthy snacks, school supplies, and other merchandise.

However, no food items (including hot chocolate) are available during lunchtime, because the store doesn’t compete with the school lunch program.

Mr. Gould says the goal of the school store is to support school functions and to encourage “Wagner Pride.” “If we see someone doing a good deed or demonstrating



**UGLIEST SWEATER**—Fifth grade teacher Sheridan Rawcliffe has the ugliest sweater at Wagner Middle School. That was the conclusion of voters who cast their ballots in the school’s Ugly Sweater Contest the week before Christmas break. Fifteen teachers entered the contest by placing a photo of themselves wearing their sweater on the outside of a jar. Students and staff members voted by putting money in the jar of their choice. Each sweater represented a charity, but all of the money raised went to the winning sweater’s charity. Mrs. Rawcliffe’s charity was the Lafayette Family Cancer Center, which received about \$200.

## WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL



## 6th graders probe comet at Challenger Learning Center

Sixth graders from Wagner Middle School traveled to the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor February 10, 11, and 12 to participate in the center’s “Rendezvous with a Comet” mission.

Students prepped for the mission by learning about outer space, comets, meteors, meteorites, asteroids, and planets. They also discussed why it is important to probe comets, which would be their mission at Challenger.

While at the center students spent half of their time in Mission Control and the other half on the Space Station. The center provides a simulated mission complete with problems and challenges that the students must overcome to have a successful mission. Just like on a real space mission, students have different jobs with different duties and responsibilities. Some of the jobs were: Communications Officer, Navigation Team, Remote Specialists, Robotic Specialists, Medical Team, Isolation Team, Life Support Specialists, and Aeronautical Engineers.

During this mission, team members worked as scientists and engineers in the study of our Solar System. The onboard astronauts,



Miranda LaHaye (in back), Alydia Brilliant (seated), and Jay Hatch at the Challenger Learning Center.

working with their counterparts in Mission Control, were tasked with sending a probe to intercept and collect new data in a well-studied short-period comet.

The Space Lab used for these rendezvous missions require lots of maintenance and care, providing plenty of challenges for the crews in space and on the ground. Navigating into the correct position for probe launches and sending a probe through the material surrounding an active comet required concentration and teamwork to successfully collect vital scientific information and complete the mission.

Wagner Pride, we may give them a gift certificate of a 25-cents-off coupon for the store,” he says.

Eventually, he says the store may provide financial support for student activities, but at this point, most of the store’s revenue is used to replenish inventory.

Mr. Gould says the store tries to get by with a modest mark-up on merchandise.

“We try to keep our prices reasonable,” he says. “I only buy items that can be priced reasonably so that students can afford them.”

Initially, the store was started as a 5th grade store when Winterport 5th graders move from Smith School to Wagner. Now, however, Mr. Gould says the store is operated as a school store, not a grade-level store.





Reeds Brook girls basketball team members at the Cross Center in Bangor with UMaine women's coach Richard Barron.



UMaine and Reeds Brook players in a shoot-around at the gym.

## RB girls basketball team supports UMaine women's team in cancer drive

The girls basketball teams at Reeds Brook Middle School have joined forces with the University of Maine women's team to raise money for the Play 4Kay cancer fund and

ensure that UMaine Coach Richard Barron would shave his head for the second year in a row.

A year ago, Coach Barron had challenged his team to raise

\$10,000 for Play 4Kay, saying that if they succeeded, he would shave his head, which he did.

When Coach Barron issued the same challenge this year, the Reeds Brook girls decided they would help the UMaine women meet the \$10,000 goal.

The girls held a shoot-a-thon in the Reeds Brook gym on January 28, at which they raised \$875 in pledges and donations.

When Coach Barron heard what the girls were doing, he brought seven of his players to the shoot-a-thon, where they helped count foul shots, gave the girls some pointers on their shooting, played some knockout, and

had a really good time.

Coach Barron and the UMaine players then talked to the Reeds Brook students about why they support Play 4Kay, which is named after Kay Yow, the University of North Carolina women's basketball coach who initially survived a battle with breast cancer but eventually succumbed to it.

Afterwards, Coach Barron invited the Reeds Brook girls to come to the Cross Center in Bangor on Feb. 9 and present their check at UMaine's Play 4Kay Pink Game against Binghamton. As an added bonus, since the UMaine women reached their \$10,000 goal, the girls were able to watch Coach Barron get his head shaved.



**REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**A BOYS BASKETBALL**—Front (l. to r.): Deakin Down, Drew Johnston, Michael Raye, Dustan Durrell, and Kory Winch. Back: Bill Hodgdon (coach), Dylan Stanley, Tait McKay, Connor Roy, Ian McIntyre, AJ Todd, Tommy Raye, Ross Webb, and CJ Upham (mgr).



**A GIRLS BASKETBALL**—Front (l. to r.): Kaitlyn Raye, Elise Linn, Hannah Ashmore, Sydney Hodgdon, Erin Mitchell, Natalie Sicard. Back: Grace Bennett, Brooklynn Scott, Peyton Smith, Sophia Narofsky, Marissa Gilpin, Braylee Wildman, and Daryl Couillard (coach).



**A TEAM CHEERING**—Front row (l. to r.): Alexis Spaulding, Claire Bowen, Zoe Bishop, Sydney Brown, and Taylor Iaderosa. Middle row: Kayla Buchanan, Emily Gonther, Madison Elliott, Sadie Ivers, Grace Plaisted, Ellie Graham, and Lindsay Clements. Back row: Kerrilyn Marzullo (coach), Aria Fasse, Christie Woodside, Chloe Thurlow, Emily Colter, Ashley Ricker, Paige Clifford, Zoe Ellingwood, and Emma Gagnon.



**B TEAM CHEERING**—Front row (l. to r.): Hannah Mann, Grace Rishton, Michaela Wheaton, and Jackie Webb. Middle row: Hannah Tash, Olivia Tolman, Denali Eyles, Megan Chasse, Fallon Crossman, Alslinn O'Keefe, and Sairah Damboise. Back row: Brooke Elliott (coach), Lexie Pressey, Emilee Ouellette, Mikayla Patel, Sarah Master-son, Madison Freeman, Gracie Hopper, and Megan Cleaves.

## What a season for Reeds Brook basketball, cheering teams!

This year the Reeds Brook Middle School teams had an unforgettable sports season. The A teams for both boys and girls basketball went undefeated.

The Reeds Brook B girls won 4 and lost 4 and the Reeds Brook B boys were 6 and 2.

The Reeds Brook A team cheerleaders won first place at the Golden Bucks Cheer competi-

tion and first place at the James F. Doughty A Team Cheer Competition. The B team cheerleaders took first place at the James F Doughty B Cheer Competition.



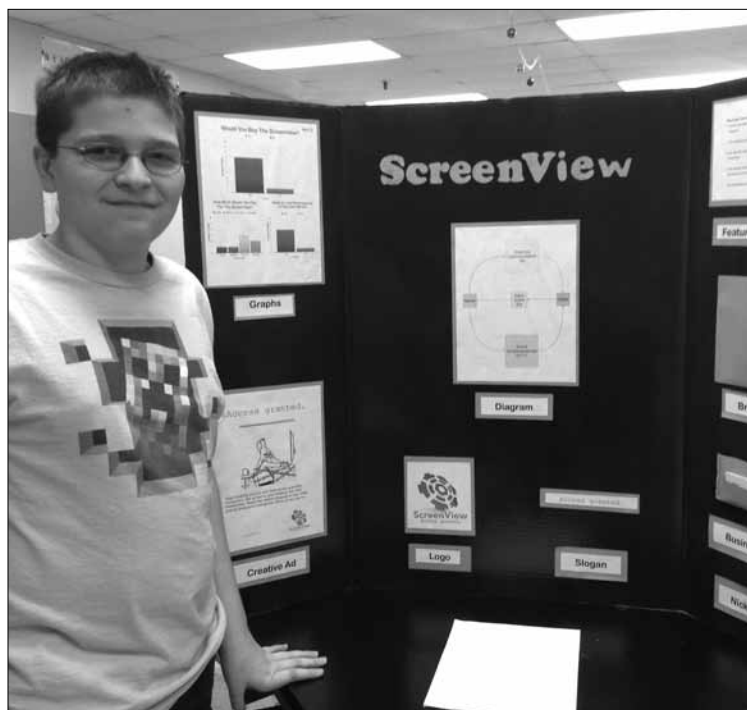
## 5 inventions selected to compete at state Invention Convention

Five inventions by 7th graders at Reeds Brook Middle School will be competing in the state Invention Convention at the University of Maine in May after they were selected by a panel of judges at Reeds Brook Invention Fair on February 12.

The winning students and their inventions are:

- **First Place:** Nick Gauthier—Screen View (a way to access your home computer through a tablet when you are away).
- **Second Place:** Cara Whitmore—Music Hook It! (a music stand that holds your instrument safely, specifically for a woodwind instrument like the flute).
- **Third Place:** Isaac Anderson—Anphambulance (an ambulance that can go on water and land for medical support).
- **Fourth Place:** Drew Johnston, Grace Bennett, Blake Barker, Isabella St. Clair, and Jacob Weston—Basketball App.
- **Fifth Place:** Rece Poulin—Vibe Visor (head phones that allow you to listen to music or audio without covering your ears).
- **Honorable Mention:** 6th, Andrew Tilley; 7th, Zoe Ellingwood; 8th, Sydney Jordan; 9th, Jackie Webb; and 10th, Parker Harriman and Lucas Flanagan.

The judges were: John Coggeshall and Amy Faircloth, RSU 22 School Board members; Dean Bennett, Community and Economic Development Director; Brenda Audet, community member and retired teacher, Reeds Brook Middle School; Mary Giard, RSU 22 Curriculum Coordinator; Tamara Cardello, 7th grade science teacher, Wagner Middle School; Duncan McFarland, Heather Haskell,



First place: Nick Gauthier, "Screen View."



Third place: Isaac Anderson, "Anphambulance."

and Andrew Henry, student teachers; and Linda Hake, Roland Crooker, and Jane Harburger, retired RSU 22 teachers.

Michelle Freeman, 7th grade science teacher, organized the fair at Reeds Brook.

She said all 7th graders are required to create an invention, either a new product or an improvement on an existing product.

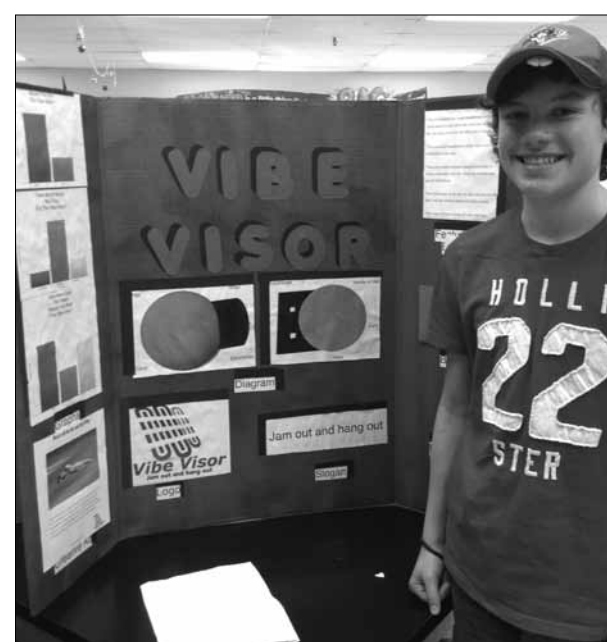
After they come up with the idea for their invention, they have to do a patent search to see if someone else has already invented it. Then they have to create a three-dimensional model or prototype of the invention, along with a trifold display board explaining it.

In addition, the students have to keep a notebook or log of all activi-

ties related to the invention, do market research to determine whether people will buy and use the invention, create an ad for the product, and prepare a two-minute presentation about it.

The students presented their inventions in class and received a grade. Then the inventions were put on display for Parent Night on February 11.

Students who entered their inventions in the fair gave their presentations to the judges on February 12.



Fifth place: Rece Poulin, "Vibe Visor."



Twenty-eight exchange students from 17 countries visited Reeds Brook Middle School for International Day on Jan. 31. Above, they introduce themselves in the Reeds Brook gymnasium.



## 28 foreign exchange students visit Reeds Brook for 'International Day'

Reeds Brook Middle School played host to 28 American Field Service exchange students from 17 countries during International Day, Friday, Jan. 31.

The exchange students have been attending high schools in northern and central Maine, including three AFS students who have been attending Hampden Academy.

The AFS students were from Albania, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Thailand.

Sylvia Williams of Orrington, an AFS volunteer who has been coordinating International Day activities in northern and central Maine for the past 11 years, said the AFS students visit one or more middle schools every year to highlight their

respective cultures.

"They bring the world to Maine," she says.

The day started with a school-wide assembly, where the AFS students introduced themselves to the Reeds Brook students. After the assembly, the AFS students ate lunch

with the Reeds Brook students and answered questions.

After lunch, teams of two AFS students visited classrooms, where they gave presentations about their countries, talked one-on-one with students, and answered more questions.

## Georgiana Piete awarded \$1,000 by Maine PSP

Georgiana Piete, 6th grade science teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School, has been awarded \$1,000 by the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership to purchase science materials for her classroom.

Ms. Piete earned the award by participating with the Maine PSP for two years and completing over 100 hours of professional development with Maine PSP.

The award is intended to support

high-quality science instruction in the classroom and in the district, and to reward Ms. Piete for the work she has done with the partnership.

Maine PSP is a partnership between the University of Maine and several Maine middle schools to improve teaching and learning in the physical sciences in grades 6-9 by developing a challenging, inquiry-based curriculum that encourages students to study more science and

The visit to Reeds Brook was part of a two-day AFS mid-winter orientation activity, which included a meeting of the exchange students in Bangor on Saturday, Feb. 1, to discuss their experiences during the first half of the school year.

to have fun doing it.

The partnership initially focused on grades 7 and 8 and then expanded to include grade 6.

Ms. Piete said she hasn't decided what she wants to do with the award.

"A lot of teachers use it to buy technology, but I'd like to get lab supplies," she said. "I'm still working on it. I want to spend the money wisely."





**REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## Band parents' goal: soundproof practice room at Reeds Brook

(Continued from page 1)

from Reeds Brook head custodian, Dean El-Hajj. Renovations to the room involve removing the drywall to add mineral wool insulation, a fire-resistant sound-dampening material. The insulation is a green building product made from natural recycled materials. Acoustic insulation panels will then be placed over the replaced drywall to ensure high-quality sound within the room. Sound-dampening tiles will replace the dropped-in ceiling tiles.

The money raised at the jazz social will cover the room and renovation expenses. However, additional funds will be needed to purchase the soundproof doors leading into the large music room, and to the back stage. A soundproof door is about an inch thicker than a regular door and contains sound-dampening insulation; the cost is about \$3,000 each.

Fundraising efforts will be ongoing to ensure the project is fully-funded and the practice room becomes a reality. Next up is a raffle of Monster headphones, donated by Best Buy.

Parents of band students have been discussing ways to help support the program and thank Ms. Mallory for all she does for her students.

"Becky's passion for music and teaching is inspiring," says Cynthia Buzzini, mother of an 8th grade band student and one of the organizers of the fundraiser. "She's the teacher students will remember later in life; the one who helped them set a course for success in life. Whether she's hosting free jazz sessions on summer nights to ensure her students don't stop playing during the summer break or spending extra time helping a student learn to play a difficult note, she's always dedicated to them, and they love being with her. She makes learning fun, so they don't quit."

Mrs. Buzzini and other parents of band students are hoping that the Brian Nadeau Big Band fundraiser will be the start of an enduring RBMS music boosters organization.

Last spring, both the MOJO jazz band and the B jazz band, the Cosmic Squirrels, qualified for the state jazz competition, but only the MOJO band was able to go because of the limited funds that were available.

"If we'd had a music boosters group last spring, we might have been able to send both bands," Mrs. Buzzini said.

\* \* \*

The Brian Nadeau Big Band is a community band made up of music majors and teachers as well as other local musicians who share an interest in big band music. The band members, enthusiastic supporters of music education in schools, donated their time and talent for the two-hour event.

"This was a huge gift to have them play for us," said Ms. Mallory.

"The students enjoyed a unique experience and were able to socialize and dance to the big band sounds and raise funds to help the music program. It was a great night."

The organizers are grateful to the many local businesses that donated items for the silent auction which brought in \$750 and to Ms. Mallory who donated numerous auction items including a few oversized stuffed animals, desirable items with the kids. Ticket sales, donations, and a \$100 grant from The Gifts of Music brought in an additional \$1,200. Refreshments were free thanks to the generosity of Hannaford, Sam's Club, Walmart, Target, and a few of the parents, including Sharry Woodside, whose eighth grade daughter, Christie, plays saxophone at Reeds Brook.

A wish list has been added to the school's website (<http://rbms.rsu22.us>) as a way to let music supporters know what is needed and how they can help the program. The music site is located under the "Academics" tab.

Auction donors were Angelo's

## Reeds Brook ski trip to Hermon Mt.

About 12 students from Reeds Brook Middle School and four chaperones enjoyed an afternoon of downhill skiing at Hermon Mountain on January 31.

The trip was organized by 8th grader Siena Probert, who received approval from cross-country ski coach Rob Burke and Principal Regan Nickels and then contacted Hermon Mountain.

She also prepared a flyer for the trip and made announcements inviting the student body to participate.



**REEDS BROOK SKI TRIP**—Sienna Probert (far right) organized a school ski trip to Hermon Mountain on January 31. A dozen students and four chaperones participated in the activity and enjoyed great skiing. Others in the photo (l. to r.) are A. J. Meo, Jarrett Osborne, Michael Sears, and Audrie French.

Hermon Mountain agreed to offer a group rate for skiing between 3 and 7 p.m.

Mr. Burke said the group had great ski conditions.

Pizzeria, Anglers Restaurant, Armstrong Tennis Center, Becky Mallory, Bugaboo Creek Steakhouse, Dunkin Donuts, Epic Sports, Five Guys, Gold's Gym, KoBe Ninja House, Lura E. Hoit Memorial Pool, Made By Survivors, Miguel's Mexican Restaurant, Olive Garden, Paddy Murphy's, Pizzeria Uno, Rock & Art Shop, Staples, Subway of Hampden, SweetFrog, and Wight's Sporting Goods.

\* \* \*

Donations of any amount of money and used or new instruments are

always welcome. The students and Ms. Mallory greatly appreciate the support and would like to thank community members by inviting them to hear them play; concert dates are listed on the music site. You won't be disappointed.

Checks should be made payable to RBMS and sent to the attention of Becky Mallory, Reeds Brook Middle School, 28a Main Road South, Hampden, ME 04444. Donations may be tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.

## Hampden – Winterport Special Olympics Athletes

### State of Maine Winter Games at Sugarloaf, Speed Skating, Jan. 27, 2014

#### Hampden Academy

Krysta Cooper, 100 M = Silver, 300 M = Bronze, 800 M = Bronze

Shaughnessy Dalton, 100 M = Gold, 300 M = Silver, 800 M = Bronze

Zachary Ewing, 100 M = Bronze

Margaret Thurlow, 100 M = Bronze

Kelsey Tripp, 100 M = Gold, 300 M = Silver, 800 M = Silver

Justin White, 100 M (Sit Skate) = Bronze

Right: Hampden Academy Special Olympics athletes at the Winter Games, Sugarloaf  
Photo courtesy Ira Weissman



### Penobscot Area Winter Games, Hermon Mountain and Sawyer Arena, Feb. 10-11, 2014

#### Weatherbee School

Colby Gott (Alpine Skiing), Slalom = GOLD  
Hailey McPerson (Snowshoe), 25 M & 50 M  
Michael Samoluk (Snowshoe), 25 M & 50 M  
Selina Turgeon (Snowshoe), 25 M & 50 M

#### Reeds Brook Middle School

Evan Allen (Snowshoe), 50 M = 6th, 100 M = Gold  
Trevor Allen (Snowshoe), 50 M = 5th, 100 M = 5th  
Marcus Hernandez (Snowshoe), 25 M = Bronze, 50 M = 4th  
Colby LaHaye (Snowshoe), 25 M = Gold, 50 M = Silver  
Brianna Leneski (Snowshoe), 50 M = 4th, 100 M = 4th  
Joshua Leneski (Snowshoe), 50 M = Gold, 100 M = Gold  
Madison Mooers (Snowshoe), 50 M = Bronze, 100 M = Silver  
Mahayla Stone (Snowshoe), 50 M = 4th, 100 M = Silver

#### Hampden Academy

Krysta Cooper (Speed Skating), 100 M = Bronze, 300 M = Bronze  
Shaughnessy Dalton (Speed Skating), 100 M = Gold, 300 M = Gold  
Zach Ewing (Speed Skating), 25 M = Gold, 50 M = Gold  
Aaron Rush (Snowshoe) 25 M = Bronze, 50 M = Bronze  
Madison Springer (Snowshoe), 25 M = 50 M = Silver  
Margaret Thurlow (Speed Skating), 25 M = Gold, 50 M = Gold  
Kelsey Tripp (Speed Skating), 100 M = Silver, 300 M = Silver  
Justin White (Speed Skating – Sit Skate), 25 M = Gold, 50 M = Gold

#### Winterport - Smith

Garrett Hall (Alpine - Dual Ski), Slalom = GOLD  
Devin Twitchell (Snowshoe) 25 M & 50 M

#### Wagner

Colby Whitmore (Snowshoe), 25 M & 50 M

### Penobscot Area Candlepin Bowling, Bangor-Brewer Lanes, Jan. 14, 2014

#### Weatherbee School

Selina Turgeon (Unified)

#### Reeds Brook Middle School

Evan Allen, 47 = 1st  
Trevor Allen (Unified)  
Madyson Gray (Assisted Ramp), 46 = 1st  
Marcus Hernandez, 20 = 2nd  
Colby LaHaye (Unified)  
Brianna Leneski (Unified)  
Joshua Leneski (Unified)  
Madison Mooers (Unified)  
Trent Palmer, 26 = 3rd  
Mahayla Stone, 42 = 1st

#### Hampden Academy

Danielle Beauregard (Asst. Ramp), 55 = 1st  
Krysta Cooper, 40 = 1st  
Shaughnessy Dalton, 57 = 1st  
Aaron Rush (Assisted Ramp), 50 = 3rd  
Madison Springer, 8 = 3rd  
Kamren Starbird (Assisted Ramp), 41 = 2nd  
Margaret Thurlow, 31 = 2nd  
Kelsey Tripp, 38 = 2nd  
Justin White (Assisted Ramp), 51 = 2nd

#### Winterport - Smith

Garrett Hall (Assisted Ramp), 49 = 1st  
Devin Twitchell, 34 = 1st

#### Wagner

Colby Whitmore, 37 = 2nd

#### RBMS Unified Partners (Athletes)

Bryiana Mooers (Madison M.), 189 = 2nd  
Logan Christian (Josh L.), 189 = 2nd  
Julie Llerena (Selina T.), 183 = 2nd  
Christian Forsman (Colby L.), 183 = 2nd  
Grace Bennett (Brianna L.), 228 = 1st  
Evan White (Trevor A.), 228 = 1st

# Math Leadership Team's goal: improve rigor while meeting needs of struggling students

How can RSU 22 continue to improve the rigor of the elementary math curriculum for high-performing students, while meeting the needs of students who have been struggling with math concepts?

That's a question that a group of teachers at the George B. Weatherbee School has been wrestling with in recent years, and they think they may have come up with some answers.

The Math Leadership Team at Weatherbee was formed several years ago to ensure that Weatherbee staff stay out in front of the math needs of our student population. While Weatherbee has scores worth celebrating, this team continues to investigate how to better serve the approximately 20% of the student population that has not demonstrated proficiency in math.

The team is chaired by 4th grade teacher Shannon Peterson. The other members are Renita Downer, 5th grade; Kacey Cole, 3rd grade; and Valerie McCluskey and Cedena McEvoy, special education.

"During the last two years, we haven't made adequate yearly progress (AYP) on our NECAP test results in math, specifically for a small subgroup of our students," says Ms. Peterson.

Ms. Peterson says the district currently uses Everyday Math,

which seems to work well for most students. However, for students who struggle with math concepts, the team is researching potential additional layers of support.

"We need something else," she says.

One of the possibilities for helping struggling learners is Singapore math, a math curriculum based on the curriculum that is taught in Singapore, where students have historically had some of the highest scores in the world on standardized tests.

Weatherbee Principal Christine Boone had some personal experience and success with embedding Singapore math strategies in Every Day Math programming before she came to RSU 22 in the fall of 2013. The math leadership team also has done some research about the strategies and methods used in Singapore math.

RSU 22 Curriculum Coordinator Mary Giard sent a team of educators from all three elementary schools—Weatherbee, Leroy H. Smith School, and Earl C. McGraw School—to a training session on Singapore math in New Hampshire last fall.

The teachers who attended the training were enthusiastic.

"We came back with a lot of really great strategies that we want to



GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL

start using with our students," said Mrs. Downer.

One of the strengths of Singapore math was its model for helping students cope with word problems.

"Singapore math shows how teachers and students can approach any kind of word problem and work their way through it," she says. "Even though it's an addition or subtraction problem, students draw pictures to try to solve it. It's a method that works for everything."

Ms. Peterson says Singapore math emphasizes a "CPA" process—starting with the concrete, then going to the pictorial, and then moving to the abstract. By contrast, she says Everyday Math moves from the concrete to the abstract very quickly, sometimes in



McKayla Poulin and Jillian Wilde work together to solve math problems.

just a day or two.

She says the Singapore math approach is to make sure that students understand math concepts at the concrete level before moving forward.

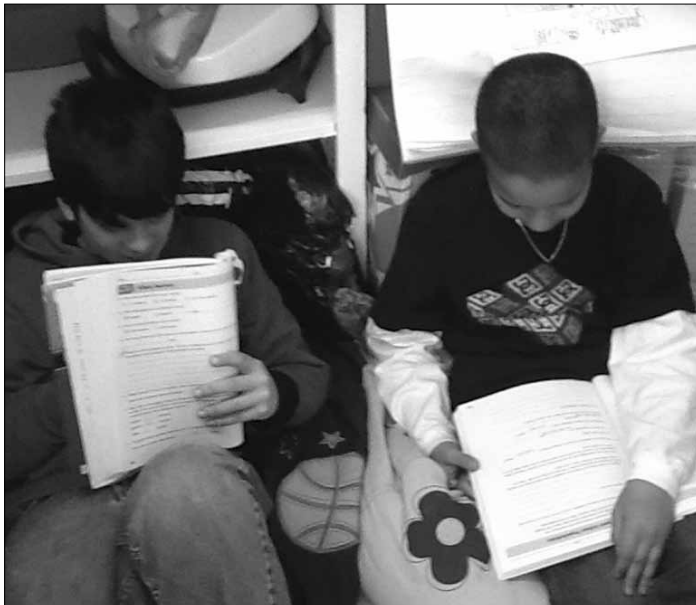
"This is more important for struggling learners," she says.

Singapore Math is not the only layer that MLT is investigating. Ms. Peterson says another change that Weatherbee may pursue is to investigate how they can restructure the delivery of math instruction to match what they're doing in reading.

"In reading, we use a workshop model," she says. "We start with whole-group instruction, and then break down into small groups so we're really differentiating our instruction. We think it makes sense to do this with math, as well." Guided Math could very well be a tool you see all teachers utilizing in years to come.



Marc Fachiol and Jeremiah Mann use pattern blocks to solve fraction problems.



Isaac Olson and Isaiah Dove work cooperatively to solve math problems.

## 4th graders adopt historical characters to learn public speaking

Abe Lincoln, Elvis Presley, Paul Revere, and Anne Frank.

Those are just a few of the characters that students in Christy Whitehouse's 4th grade classroom at George B. Weatherbee School adopted this fall as they prepared for an exercise that combines biography, English language arts, and public speaking.

"Each year, to help my students prepare for oral presentations as they get older, I have them read a biography and give a presentation where they take on the persona of that person," says Ms. Whitehouse.

The students read a biography about a person they are interested in. Then, they prepare a speech based on questions that Mrs. Whitehouse provides about the famous person. On the day of the presentation, the students come dressed as their person and give their oral speech as if they were that person. They work on things such as eye contact, volume, speed, and good introductory and closing remarks.



Cam H. as Abe Lincoln.



Nathan W. as Elvis Presley.



Jaclyn H. as Paul Revere.



Morgan R. as Anne Frank.