

## Superintendent's Monthly Report May/June 2018



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| <b>MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018</b>   | <b>Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL</b>   |
| <b>TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018</b>  | <b>SAU16 Appreciation Reception - Exeter Inn</b>                              |
| <b>THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018</b> | <b>SST Certificate Ceremony – EHS Gym</b>                                     |
| <b>MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018</b>  | <b>Sixth (6<sup>TH</sup>) &amp; Eighth (8<sup>TH</sup>) Grade Move Up Day</b> |
| <b>FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018</b>  | <b>Exeter High School Graduation</b>  |
| <b>MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018</b>  | <b>Last day of School for students</b>  |
| <b>TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018</b> | <b>Professional Day for SAU16 Professional Staff</b>                          |

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF PAUL FLYNN**

The Family of the late Paul Flynn has extended an invitation to all SAU16 community members to join them in a Celebration of Life for Paul on Sunday, June 24, 2018, from 2 - 5 p.m. at The Red Barn at Outlook Farm (and golf course) at 310 Portland Street, South Berwick, Maine.



### **SAU16 APPRECIATION EVENT**

In April 2018, some veteran teachers shared that SAU16 used to hold an annual end of year appreciation celebration. During this discussion, the teachers mentioned how much everyone enjoyed ending the school year this way and wondered if we would consider doing it again. As a result of this conversation, the SAU is having a **celebration of appreciation** for everyone on **May 29, 2018 at the Exeter Inn from 3-6:00 PM.**

Among those being celebrated this June:

#### **Main Street School (MSS)**

**Nancy Cooke**, a talented reading teacher who has inspired many students to love to read, has been working at MSS for 28 years. Nancy has willingly shared her knowledge and passion for reading with not only children, but was also a great resource for staff. Eternal optimist **Paul Sandler** is a skilled and thoughtful school psychologist who has worked at MSS for 22 years, teaching each child he has worked with to understand the important message that they need to believe in themselves. **Nancy Powers-Daniel** who worked at MSS for 23 years was known as the “feelings” teacher. Nancy was a listening ear for children, parents and staff and was someone you could rely upon and trust. These three veteran staff members have given many wonderful years of service to the students of MSS and will be missed.

MSS will also be saying goodbye to Administrative Assistant **Je Marrs** this spring. Je has done a remarkable job handling the many demands of the front office, in addition to taking care of payroll, purchase orders, and many other administrative responsibilities, along with welcoming daily visitors and helping staff. We thank Je for her many years of dedicated service.

### **Lincoln Street School (LSS)**

Assistant Principal **Jan Smith** has been an employee for the Exeter School District for 43 years. Her commitment to the children and families of Exeter is significant and the staff, students, and community will miss the devotion and integrity she brings to school every day. Fifth grade teacher **Mary Scherer** has been at Lincoln Street School for 24 years and the care she provides for her students is beyond compare. Students and staff alike will miss these two long time LSS employees.

### **East Kingston (EKES)**

Three East Kingston staff members are retiring in June. **Betsy Schulthess**, the School Counselor has served the East Kingston community for 19 years. Art teacher **Merrilyn San Souci** has been at East Kingston for 13 years and Administrative Assistant **Paula Rolfs** is a 20-year employee. It is always difficult to say goodbye to people who have made a difference in our lives.

**Emily Darby**, EKES Curriculum Coach (previously Literacy Coach) is leaving EKES at the end of the 2017-18 school year, as the coaching position was cut from the budget. Mrs. Darby was instrumental in bringing various teaching methodologies and programs to EKES. School wide teachers use *Words Their Way* and the *Calkins' Units of Study* in reading and writing. Her work with the Competency Based Education committee within the school and the broader SAU has had a significant impact on EKES. Most recently, her attention to implementing the PLC approach to professional development has supported teacher conversations about the work.

### **Newfields Elementary School (NES)**

Newfields Elementary School Teacher, **Barbara DuPont** will retire this spring after nearly 38 years of esteemed service to our students and community. She has worked with two generations of Newfields' families and just loves working with kids. Each year, students of all ages regularly come back to Newfields to visit with her and share their life's journey. Congratulations and best wishes to Barbara in her retirement!

### **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)**

Stratham Memorial will say goodbye to three long time educators. After serving as the Stratham Preschool Coordinator, **Meg Driscoll** was hired to serve as the Director of Special Education in 1989. Meg job shared the Director role before assuming full Director responsibility for the last ten (10) years. **Donna Maher** started her teaching career at SMS in 1979. She taught at every grade level, before settling in for the last 20+ years as the 'Frog' kindergarten teacher.

Additionally, long time SMS Principal **Tom Foshier** will be retiring. Beginning in July 1995 and over the next three years, Tom served an Assistant Principal, Interim Principal and Acting Principal. Twice he was a runner up for the NH Principal of the year and was recognized as a Role Model Principal in NH on two occasions. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, Tom plans to enjoy his children and grandchildren with an extended stay on Chestnut Pond.

### **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)**

**Sue Tremblay**, a beloved Social Studies teacher at the Cooperative Middle School, is retiring after 21 years of inspiring CMS seventh graders to learn more about the world around them. As a retiree, Sue plans to continue her passion for social studies by traveling the world. Administrative Assistant **Cheryl Hodgson** has been overseeing the front office and managing what at times can be a rather hectic place for the past eleven (11) years will also be retiring. We will miss Cheryl's friendly smile and wish her all the best as she plans to travel and enjoy life's next adventure. Sue and Cheryl will be dearly missed at CMS.

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

Three long time staff members will be retiring from Exeter High School this year. **Dr. Kathi Atwood** has been an outstanding teacher and special educator who has given over 40 years to EHS and will be leaving and spending more time with her grandchildren. British born **Dr. Angela Lennox**, a tremendous science teacher and mentor to students and her fellow teachers, has been an educational leader at EHS for over 30 years and will depart EHS to continue her sailing exploits and visiting family in the UK. After being with EHS for ten (10) years, funny, no nonsense **Ms. Ann Taylor** has been instrumental in revamping the business program at EHS and has a vacation in Aruba on her agenda along with many other business and personal endeavors. All three educators will be greatly missed at EHS.

### **SAU Central Office**

Assistant Superintendent **Bill Furbush** will be departing SAU16 to begin the next phase in his career path as the Superintendent in Pelham – SAU 28. Bill served as Principal at the Cooperative Middle School from 2011 through 2016 when he left to join the SAU16 Central Office Administrators as an Assistant Superintendent. We wish Bill all the best in Pelham.

### **NEW CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS TO BEGIN SUMMER 2018**

On July 2, 2018, the SAU16 community will welcome the new superintendent, **Dr. David Ryan** and the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment, **Mr. Chris Andrisky**. **Dr. Tom Campbell**, our new Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources will begin on August 1, 2018. Also, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, **Esther Asbell** will assume her new responsibilities as Associate Superintendent for SAU16.



### **SAFETY AND SECURITY IN SAU16**

#### **Safety Forums**

Safety forums have now been held in many of the SAU communities. The purpose of the meetings was to share with parents and community the work that has been taking place to enhance safety and security features in all of our school facilities, as well as to explain some of the procedures and protocols that are in place in our schools around safety and security. A listing of safety measures that have taken place in the district is posted on the SAU16 web page: [http://www.sau16.org/content/Safety\\_and\\_Security\\_Information\\_2018\\_for\\_Web.pdf](http://www.sau16.org/content/Safety_and_Security_Information_2018_for_Web.pdf) Many of the presentations and discussions at the safety forums have been videotaped and are posted on the school web sites.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Because of questions that parents and community members have raised, Director of Security Rich Kane and Assistant Superintendent Esther Asbell have compiled a list of *Frequently Asked Questions about Safety*, which is posted on the SAU16 web site.

[http://www.sau16.org/content/FREQUENTLY\\_ASKED\\_QUESTIONS.pdf](http://www.sau16.org/content/FREQUENTLY_ASKED_QUESTIONS.pdf)

## **Quick Tip Digital Hot Line**

SAU16 makes the safety of all students and staff in our schools a top priority. In our continuing efforts to improve the safety at all SAU16 schools, the SAU has introduced a new service - a Quick Tip digital hot line that is an anonymous reporting system. This "See Something, Say Something" tip line allows anyone to communicate concerns about unsafe behavior within the SAU16 community. A link to the Hot Line is on the SAU16 web page:

<http://www.sau16.org/index.php/home/quick-tip-hotline>

The tip line instructs an individual to fill out a form with contact information being optional if you chose to remain anonymous. The line is monitored 24/7. There have already been several "tips" that enabled administrators and counselors to intervene.

## **Safety and Security Task Force**

The Safety and Security Task Force for SAU16 met on May 9, 2018 at Exeter High School. The Task Force meeting was well attended with about forty members coming together representing local and State first responders, along with numerous SAU16 board and staff members. The agenda was lengthy and there were good discussions. As a result of this meeting, action items were developed:

- Create a subcommittee of members to review current lock down procedures and if necessary, make revisions to procedures.
- Communicate with the Seacoast School of Technology's graphic arts department to see if "see something, say something" posters can be created highlighting the newly established SAU16 tip line.
- Conduct a tabletop exercise with SAU16 Safety and Security Coordinator Rich Kane and the transportation companies First Student and Seacoast Learning Collaborative.
- Local police chiefs will meet to discuss how to create communication protocols for the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) and Exeter High School's (EHS) School Resource Officers involving information from all towns in SAU16.
- Have the SAU16 Social Emotional Learning Committee present early next fall the survey of needs data to the SAU16 Joint Board to help prepare for the 2019-2020 budget season.
- Have the ERCSD team attending the National Behavioral Intervention Association certification training give an update in the fall of 2018 to the Safety and Security Task Force.



## **SAU16 ADMINISTRATORS COMPLETE DIVERSITY AWARENESS TRAINING**

All SAU16 administrators - principals, assistant principals, special education directors and curriculum coordinators, as well as Central Office administrators - completed a diversity awareness training with Andrew Smith. Mr. Smith is currently the Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator for the state of New Hampshire, as well as a consultant specializing in diversity and inclusion, leadership development, change management and cultural transformation. Mr. Smith led the administrators through a series of activities designed to explore the meaning of diversity in our local, state and national context. The administrators appreciated the opportunity to reflect upon the meaning of diversity in our schools and community today, as well as to think about ways in which to increase understanding and action around issues of diversity and inclusion in our school district. This initial experience was designed to heighten awareness and administrators expressed interest in continuing this effort with staff, students and parents in the future.

## **NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOES INTO EFFECT IN SAU16**

This spring, teachers whose teaching certification expire in June 2018 have been participating in a new process to document their professional learning and growth over the past three years. All New Hampshire teachers are certified for three years. In order to be eligible for re-certification at the end of each three-year period, each teacher must present documentation of their professional growth that is aligned with district and school goals, as well as their own personal goals for increasing knowledge and expertise in their particular field. In years past, each teacher logged a required number of hours of professional activity. This year under the new SAU16 master plan, teachers are meeting with one of the Central Office administrators and presenting a portfolio of their work. The portfolio demonstrates not only what they have learned, but more importantly, how they have been applying this learning in their classroom practice. For example, a teacher who has been acquiring different strategies for teaching reading and writing in their classroom might present samples of student writing or recordings of their students reflecting on their reading as ways to illustrate how their professional education is impacting student knowledge.

## **SAU16 LEADERS SELECTED TO PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE**



CMS Principal **Patricia Wons**, ERCSD Curriculum Coordinator **Cindy Freyberger**, CMS Grade 6 Math teacher **Elise Catalano** and Math consultant, **Rob Lukasiak** were recently notified that they have been selected to present at the National iNACOL Symposium to be held in Nashville, Tennessee in October 2018. iNACOL is a nationally recognized advocate group focused on transforming learning. The annual conference this fall is October 21-24 at the Nashville Music City Center in Nashville, TN. This year's theme is "Driving the Transformation of Learning." The team's presentation is, "Making the transition from a traditional teacher-centered mathematics classroom to a more student-centered classroom in a competency-based educational model." Participants in their workshop will take part in

activities designed to stimulate mathematical thinking, reasoning, and discourse in today's competency-based classroom.

### **INDOOR AIR QUALITY REPORT ON SAU OFFICE**

Thank you to Dick Wendell who contracted with RPF Environmental Services to conduct a series of air quality tests for the SAU office areas. Testing was completed for several common Indoor Air Quality parameters, including radon, airborne fungal spores, airborne particulate matter, and dew points. The portions of the building that were included as areas of focus included the facilities office in the basement of Building A and the SAU office area located on the 1st floor of Building C. Additionally, employees in those areas were interviewed. In summary, all air quality results were within the relevant standards or guidelines. The report did recommend adding humidifiers to some areas where the relative humidity in winter was below the comfort range.

### **TRANSITION PROCESS AT CMS AND EHS UNDERWAY**

Principal Patty Wons and Assistant Principal Lauren McGrath have begun the series of transition meetings in the elementary schools for their incoming sixth graders. They have enjoyed meeting all the future sixth graders during their lunch periods. The district-wide Move-Up Day is Monday, June 11, 2018. On that day, the students will visit the Cooperative Middle School and meet with next year's teachers. On this same day, all the CMS 8th graders will board a bus to travel to Exeter High School to meet staff and tour the high school.



**Aaron Blais**, Social Studies teacher at Exeter High School (EHS), was selected to be one of the eight (8) semi-finalists for the *2019 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year*. During May, representatives of the Teacher of the Year Committee will visit Exeter High School, observe the teacher in class, and interview the teacher, colleagues, students, parents and supervisors. In June, finalists will be selected. During the summer months, finalists will be making oral presentations to the review panel and the announcement of the 2019 Teacher of the Year will be made in September. We wish Aaron all the best in this process.

We are also celebrating the recognition of EHS Business Teacher, **Anne Taylor**, who was one of seven teachers statewide to receive a *Running Start Champion Award* for the leadership she has provided in bringing college courses to students in New Hampshire school.

Congratulations also go to EHS English teacher, **Jackie Catcher**, who was recently awarded a grant from the Fund for Teachers to study at the University of Cambridge in England. Jackie will spend two weeks in England this summer studying gothic architecture and its impact on characterization within the novel, *Jane Eyre* - one of the novels her students study in Advanced Placement English. In addition, Jackie will be designing a project for her Freshman English class students to build replicas of Shakespeare's Globe Theater.



## TOP TEN STUDENTS GIVE THANKS

Each year the “top ten” students at Exeter High School and their families are recognized and celebrated at a special dinner event at the high school. What make this evening event special is that each student invites a guest to the dinner - someone who has made a significant difference to them in their academic journeys. This year, the following students thanked their special guests:

**Gregory Brock** introduced and thanked his AP History and Social Studies teacher, Lisa Chagnon;

**Alex Carbone** recognized his Social Studies teacher and advisor for four years, Sarah Jedrzejewski;

**Amanda Berke** described the impact her friendship with Weston Su has had on her through the middle school and high school years and...

**Weston Su** thanked Amanda Berke for her friendship since middle school;

**Gabrielle Brock** thanked her second grade teacher at Main Street School, Barbara Egan, who launched her love of reading;

**Meredith Eddy** singled out her long-time teacher at the Irish Dance Academy, Anne Murray MacRitchie;

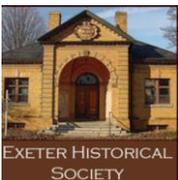
**Kelley Foley** thanked Kristin Groleau, her Digital Media teacher at Seacoast School of Technology, who provides her the opportunity to learn to do something well that she loves;

**Bryn Larkin** thanked her Spanish teacher at Exeter High School, Nicole Vernon;

**Vivian Reeder** recognized and thanked her friend, Maria Koch;

**Julia Work** introduced Concord High School student Brenna McNamara, whom she met at the St. Paul’s Advanced Studies Program last summer.

## CMS STUDENTS TAKE AWARDS AT EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S YOUTH NIGHT



At the Historical Society’s Youth Night, two Cooperative Middle School (CMS) 8th grade students received awards for their essays of historical topics. **EJ Murphy** placed second in the Malcolm Wetherbee Essay competition with his essay, *The Evolution of Youth at Work in Exeter*, and **Ellie Whelton** won first place in the middle school division for The Nancy Carnegie Merrill Essay, *Youth Workers of Exeter’s Factories and Mills in the 1840’s and 1850’s*. Congratulations to both EJ and Ellie!

## **EHS STUDENTS EXCEL ON NATIONAL SPANISH EXAMINATION**

Congratulations to Exeter High School students for their outstanding performance and national recognition on the National Spanish Examination. Students from EHS earned a total of three (3) gold, twenty-one (21) silver and seventeen (17) bronze medals, as well as thirty-four (34) honorable mentions. “Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Exam is very prestigious,” said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams, “because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with over 150,000 students participating in 2018.” Congratulations as well go to the students’ Spanish teachers Katherine LaPia, Nicole Vernon, Samuel Heath, Kathleen Bean, Jennifer Delorie and Christopher Donovan.

## **LINCOLN STREET ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TAKE FIRST PLACE IN TUCKER MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE**

Through a collaboration with the Exeter Elementary PTO and a generous donation from the Acorn Alcinda Foundation, Lincoln Street School (LSS) was able to purchase an evaporator and sugar shack to continue their earlier attempts at making maple syrup. With guidance from LSS teachers Keith Schmitt and Hallie Estle, the students entered the Tucker Mountain Challenge for the second time and were successful in obtaining the highest number of points for flavor with their maple syrup sample. Their first place win also came with an award of \$2,000 for the school that will be used for supplies and equipment to expand and continue the sugaring operation for years to come!

## **FINAL NOTE FROM INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**



As this is my final edition of the Superintendent Newsletter, I want to thank all of the SAU community for the warm welcome and continued support you have shown me as I have served as your Interim Superintendent this year. Given that my past district-level experience was in a single school district, I have learned a great deal about providing leadership for a multi-district SAU. SAU16 is very fortunate to have School Board members who are truly committed to providing excellent schools and programs throughout the SAU. You also have a team of highly dedicated school leaders, very talented teaching and support staff, informed and engaged parents, and proud community members - all working together to ensure that the programs and services provided are of the very highest quality for our students. I have also been blessed with great colleagues and support staff at the SAU office who have worked together to ensure that this year is successful. This year was truly a transition year marked at times by great sadness and loss, but also by hope and optimism for the future. Thank you.

*Chris Rath*