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Governor Wentworth Regional School District

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Helping Each Child Create the Future

April 19, 2024

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

As we enter the spring season, I hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with anticipation for the warmer days ahead. Before we embark on the final stretch of the school year, I would like to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude to each member of our community for your resilience and unwavering support during one of the most challenging April storms our region has ever experienced.

During the recent storm, our communities faced unprecedented challenges, with power outages, downed trees, and closed roads affecting us all. In the face of adversity, our first responders, employees, and community members rallied together to assist those in need, exemplifying the spirit of unity and compassion that defines our district. To each individual who lent a helping hand, offered support, or extended kindness to their neighbors, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

I am pleased to share important updates regarding the end of the school year. **The GWRSD School Board has approved Friday, June 21st, as the last day of school, with a half day scheduled. For MES, the last day will be Thursday, June 20th, also concluding with a half day.**

Now, turning our attention to our ongoing initiatives, I am thrilled to present the insightful findings derived from the recent Portrait of a Learner survey. This comprehensive endeavor engaged a total of 1,198 votes across various segments of our school community, including students from Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, parents, staff, community members, and School Board.

The primary goal of the survey was to discern the attributes collectively valued and prioritized in our learners. The results unveiled a consistent consensus on certain attributes, with "Critical Thinking / Problem Solving," "Collaboration and Communication," and "Strong Academic Skills" emerging as the top-ranked attributes. These findings were gleaned from a diverse pool of respondents, with each attribute receiving significant attention from our stakeholders. Looking ahead, the Portrait of a Learner team will present the comprehensive findings to the School Board at the meeting in May, providing an opportunity for further discussion and alignment on our shared educational goals.

As we continue to navigate the remainder of the school year, I am immensely grateful for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by our entire school community. Together, we will continue to uphold our commitment to excellence and ensure that every student thrives.

Sincerely,



Caroline Arakelian, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
carakelian@SAU49.org

Summer Camp Reimbursement Update

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who took the time to complete our recent survey regarding summer camp interests. Your participation is invaluable and will directly influence the allocation of resources and the design of our upcoming summer programs.

As we eagerly await pending state approval for grant funds, we wish to assure you that your input is instrumental in shaping our plans. Rest assured, we will provide updates promptly following the April break regarding reimbursement and other pertinent camp information.

Upon receiving grant approval, our intention is to reimburse families at a rate of \$1,000 per student registered for state-approved summer programs. Furthermore, we are excited to announce our plans to reserve slots at Bearcamp in Tamworth and fully fund Camp Invention. Additionally, our commitment to providing district-based programs, including special education and Title 1 services, remains unwavering.

Your ongoing support and engagement are vital as we navigate these endeavors. We deeply appreciate your partnership in ensuring enriching summer experiences for all our students. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

School Spotlights

As winter turns to spring, students continue to learn and grow! Here are a few highlights:

- **Carpenter School:** Several Carpenter kindergartners presented their reading skills at April's School Board meeting. It was wonderful to see students demonstrate their understanding of letter sounds and formations and blending together their knowledge to read a book. Students in all Carpenter grades are making great progress with their reading skills. Ask your child to read to you! For more highlights and upcoming events, read the [Carpenter School Connection newsletter](#).
- **Crescent Lake School:** CLS recently hosted their school-wide spelling bee and are very excited to send two sixth graders and a fifth grader to the District Spelling Bee on May 1. Students from all grade levels also came together to perform Dig It, a drama production that focused on ancient civilizations. For more information on CLS happenings, see the latest [Crescent Lake Connection newsletter](#) or the school's Instagram account @clsotters.
- **Effingham Elementary School:** Effingham students showcased their skills at a recent Talent Show, and students learned about respect through an entertaining juggling show. The school also hosted kindergarten registration this past week; we are eager to welcome our youngest learners to EES next September! See [Effingham's Snippets](#) for more celebrations and upcoming events.
- **Kingswood Regional High School:** Kingswood began the fourth this month, after several adjustments due to the April winter storm. Advanced Placement students are finishing final preparations before taking AP tests in early May, and the 11th graders will be taking the state science assessment next month, as well. To learn more about KRHS happenings, see the [KRHS website](#).
- **Kingswood Regional Middle School:** Several middle school students qualified to attend the SkillsUSA national competition based on their terrific performance at the state level. We are excited to be building programs and multiple pathways to graduation that start in middle school.

Other students qualified for National History Day; it is terrific to see so much academic success! Find other information and upcoming events on the [KRMS Website](#).

- **Lakes Region Technology Center:** LRTC is pleased to announce that their nursing assistant students passed their State Competency Testing and are now eligible to apply for their license and begin working as LNAs. Additionally, in conjunction with the wider district and SAU Office, LRTC hosted a GWRSD Job Fair to encourage more people to join the GWRSD team. Find more updates on the [LRTC website](#).
- **Middleton Elementary School:** Middleton welcomes many future students at kindergarten registration; students were excited to see their future classroom and teachers were eager to meet the young learners. In May, MES will host a School Art Spotlight to feature their amazing young artists! Follow the [MES Facebook page](#) for other celebrations of student learning.
- **New Durham School:** NDS students participated in a variety of activities to learn about the solar eclipse, culminating in an afterschool viewing party attended by many staff and students. The school hosted a high-energy juggler to talk about respect and helping stop bullying; NDS is also holding its School Spelling Bee right before vacation. Students from Grades 4-6 are working on a school newspaper, and in May, third graders will be learning local history and taking a historical tour of their town. Learn more about NDS celebrations and upcoming events in the [NDS School Newsletter](#).
- **Ossipee Central School:** Like other schools, OCS hosted its School Spelling Bee and will send three students to the District Bee in early May; we have some strong spellers! OCS geared up for April break with an exciting Spirit Week, which included a Crazy Hair Day and Sports Day. Finally, our youngest learners will showcase their musical talents at the K-3 Spring Concert on May 3. For more events, see the [OCS Newsletter](#).
- **Tuftonboro Central School:** This past month, students at TCS made eclipse hats and learned about the science of what happens during such a monumental event. They also hosted a successful spelling bee and welcomed children's author Marty Kelley as a guest reader. In May, students will participate in Bike Safety Day, which combines the physical wellness portion of our PE curriculum with personal safety. For more TCS happenings, see the [TCS School Newsletter](#).

Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
5/6-5/10	<i>National Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week</i>
5/6/2024	<i>Joint Boards Meeting @ Skylight Dining 6:00pm Followed by GWRSD School Board Meeting @ KRMS 7:30pm</i>
5/7 and 5/9	<i>Carpenter School Kindergarten Registration</i>
5/8/2024	<i>Middleton School Board Meeting 6:00pm</i>
5/11/2024	<i>Kingswood Regional High School Prom</i>
5/22/2024	<i>Gold Scholar Luncheon</i>
5/27/2024	<i>No School - Memorial Day</i>

~ Go to <https://www.gwrSD.org/calendar> to view the full 2023-2024 GWRSD & MSD Calendar ~

Previously Shared Information

The following information was shared in a previous newsletter and may still be of interest to families.

GWRSD/MSD ESSER III Funds Survey

“ESSER” stands for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. These are funds that have been allocated to the schools from the federal government for financial assistance during COVID. The funds have been allocated in three phases. They are intended to assist schools with certain circumstances associated with the pandemic, such as personal protective equipment, staffing, safety in school buildings, keeping schools open, supporting academic growth, and social and emotional learning. ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III grants are posted on the GWRSD website for the public to review.

As we look to allocate the final of the ESSER III funds, the School Board proposed and approved to improve the air quality in schools after soliciting community input for more than one year. Middleton is considering several projects including storage solutions. Of this final phase, 20% (GWRSD \$1.2 million; MSD \$40k) must be allocated toward mitigating “learning loss” as a result of the pandemic. ESSER III must be spent by September 30th, 2024 unless the district applies for a late liquidation waiver for an additional few months.

We have compiled a list of needs across the district and will provide that here as well as in a survey to parents. We are soliciting community input on this list and any other items families would like to provide. You may elect to complete the survey, email us directly, or call the school or SAU office. We hope you will provide input as to your thoughts on how the funds should be spent.

GWRSD Identified needs:

- Transportation: Replace seven vans mainly used for out of district placements. They are on average ten years old with approximately 300k miles. Replace one 24 passenger bus. Replace cameras on all buses.
- Supplies for all schools.
- Technology: student chromebook replacements.
- Summer Professional Development & materials
- Training: behavior de escalation/ safety / special education topics/ Assessment (Academic Achievement)
- Summer Programming open to all students.
- Summer Materials for all students: books, supplies, STEM kits.
- Onboarding for online platforms.
- Safety materials for classrooms
- Other strategic plan activities such as the wellness and equity audits/ data collection.

GWRSD/ MSD ESSER III Funds Survey: [Click here to take the survey.](#)

Email: sau49@sau49.org [title the email: ESSER III]

Call: SAU Office (603) 569-1658 or your local school.

Go to www.GWRSD.org About > ESSER Funds to find all of this information.

NH Education Department Information

- The **American Battle Monuments Foundation** is hosting its [Past Is Prologue Essay Contest](#). Eligible students ages 11-18 may compete for prize money ranging from \$1,500 to \$10,000. Essays are due April 12.
- ConvenientMD has opened its applications for **student scholarships**. It will be awarding five, \$2,500 scholarships to students in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The [scholarship](#) is open to high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education in healthcare. The deadline to apply is April 30.
- **Manchester Community College** is hosting a campus tour and automated manufacturing and bio-fabrication Q/A panel with industry experts from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 9. The [event](#) is open to high school students looking for career opportunities in all aspects of the manufacturing industry.
- Summer is just around the corner! NHED recently launched its fourth year of **ReKINDling Curiosity** – a program that encourages and provides financial assistance so that every child can experience the benefits of a fun and engaging summer camp adventure. Registration remains open and we encourage school leaders to share this [flyer](#) with families.