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Upcoming Schedule

3/12 Workshop Day

3/22 Workshop Day

4/22-26 April Break

5/27 Memorial Day

6/7 Graduation

6/11 Last Day of Classes



Monadnock Education Matters

The Official Newsletter of MRSD

SPRING 2024

Dear Monadnock Community,

What a year it has been! I am humbled and excited to serve as your new Superintendent of Schools, after having been a part of this district for 22 years. Starting all those years ago as a fourth grade teacher at Emerson School, I have seen first hand the incredible dedication and talent of our educators, the boundless potential of our students, and the commitment to our schools from our families and community.

To our students, you are the reason why we are all here. Every day we are inspired by the curiosity, resilience, and creativity that you bring to our schools. As superintendent, my top priority is ensuring that your voices are heard and that we create a learning environment that not only supports but encourages you to chase after your goals and dreams.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our remarkable teachers, staff, and administrators who make it their mission to create an environment in which students can thrive. I assure you that your dedication day in and day out to our students is seen and very much appreciated. I often find myself in awe of your steadfast commitment to the success and well-being of every child and I am honored to work alongside each of you.

And finally, I need to acknowledge the support of our families and community members. Your partnership is essential to the success of our schools. I am dedicated to continuously finding new ways to communicate with you and I value the feedback and input that you provide. I welcome the emails and calls that I receive regularly and look forward to talking with you all whenever we have the chance.

Though there has been a lot of change and challenges, this year has also brought many things to celebrate- the passing of the bond that will fund our Elementary Building Project, many new faces, both staff and students, to all of our district schools, and the continued success of our students in all of the extracurricular activities that they choose to participate in.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our schools, our teachers and staff, and most importantly, our students.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Rathbun
Superintendent of Schools

EMERSON

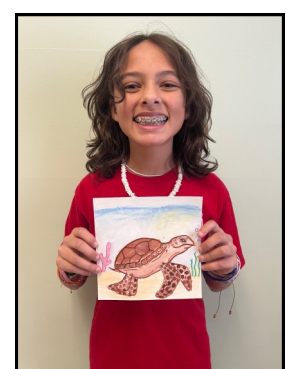
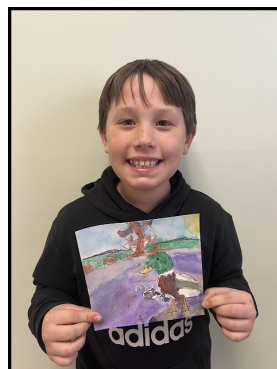
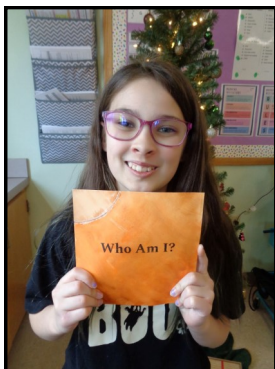
News from First and Second Grade:

In first and second grade we just wrapped up a social studies unit called “Long Ago and Today.” The children learned about what life might have been like more than one hundred years ago in rural New Hampshire. They began by reading *Oxcart Man*, which tells the story of a farmer and his family who make and grow items throughout the year such as candles, birch bark brooms, mittens, apples, root vegetables and maple syrup. The farmer takes the goods to a market in Portsmouth to sell. Many staff members brought in antique items for the children to look at, handle, and guess at the intended use. We compared tools, toys and communication from the past and now. Students and their families also created a timeline for each child to show that child’s life from birth until the present. This unit met several learning standards and was highly engaging for the children and teachers.




Whale, Hello There from 5th and 6th Grade!

For our latest science unit, students in 5th and 6th grade focused on animals with picturing writing. They researched an animal of their choice, finding information about its habitat, diet, predators, and other interesting facts. From there, they painted 3 different pictures using crayons and watercolor paints. They painted a close up of its fur/skin/outer covering, a close up of its eye, and a scene of the animal in its environment. Students then wrote 2 poems, one I-poem and one acrostic poem. They also wrote an “About the Author” page. We put everything together to create beautiful animal trifolds. Students enjoyed showcasing these projects to their family and other Emerson students.



TROY

Troy Library & Makerspace Winter News



A graphic novel form, Raina Telgemeier relates her struggles with stress and anxiety as a child.

I really liked this book and i just love their characters. I think you could really learn a lot about this book. The family goes on so many adventures.

Abigail

Our library classes have been busy this month creating a school-wide slideshow of our favorite books. You can view last year's district reviews on our library website: <https://www.mrsd.org/Page/559>. The 2023/2024 collection should be ready before February break!



Makerspace has been busy with cooperative building challenges. Sixth grade has started their next projects including coding, 3D printing and K'nex Education amusement park constructions. Grades 3-5 have started football challenges to make a scaled football field with goalposts, then engineer the best footballs to 'kick'.

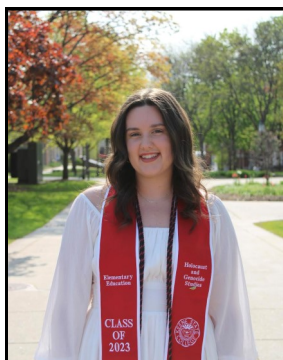


We have new equipment at our school to use with students! We were able to purchase a new 3D printer to use with Tinkercad, our CAD software. Students create original 3D designs and see the process of creation from design to printing the piece. We also are housing the new Glowforge laser printer to be used with elementary Makerspace students across the district! Students will use Google Drawings on their chromebooks to design objects and print that can be cut into wood and cardboard. We are excited to feature current technology that inspires students to create and innovate!



Are you looking for hands-on challenges to continue the learning at home? Try Exploratorium.edu and choose Explore Activities for great ideas!

Introductions.....



Courtney recently started at Troy Elementary School as one of the full time Title 1 teachers. She graduated this past May from Keene State College with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Bachelor of Art in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She is currently in graduate school at Keene State working towards an M>A in Genocide Prevention and Human Security. Last school year she had the opportunity to student teach at Emerson Elementary and then finish out the year as their Title One teacher. After her short break this fall she is so happy to be back in the district and back in the classroom getting to know all the wonderful students and staff at Troy!

TROY Continued



Deirdre Nero started at Troy Elementary School as a full-time paraprofessional in the Kindergarten class. She is a college graduate with a major in criminal justice/forensics and a minor in psychology, weapons, and tactical defense. Deirdre is a mother of two children ages 13 and 10. In her down time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. She can almost always be found in her garden or at the ocean shores during the summer months. Deirdre looks forward to continuing her education and growing her knowledge base with a focus on special education and autism. Her favorite quote is “kindness is free, let your light shine today and always”



Michelle Blais is the new Title I Instructional Assistant at Troy Elementary School and at Gilsum STEAM Academy. Prior to working here, Michelle spent the last 17 years teaching world language and culture, as well as served as an advisor and coordinator for several school clubs and programs. Currently, she is pursuing her ESOL certification and is teaching an adult ESOL class through Project Home. Michelle holds a B.A. in French and in Communications and a M. Ed in Curriculum and Instruction, with a concentration in social justice. In her free time, she loves to travel, to read and of course, to spend time with her two young children. Michelle is very excited to be working in the District and is looking forward to working with the learners, faculty and staff at MRS D.

CUTLER

“No Blaming, Just Growing.”

Cutler’s theme this year has been “No Blaming, Just Growing.” This theme has been a consistent message shared at our school-wide assemblies and classes about personal responsibility, owning their learning, and always trying to improve academically, behaviorally, and socially.



Students and staff continue to refine their usage of the new **Illustrative Math** program. The Illustrative Math program focuses on mathematical discourse, teachers facilitating student learning rather than merely providing direct instruction, and problems showing real-world connections.

Students have participated in academic field trips and extension opportunities throughout the year. Examples include visiting the **Swanzy Historical Museum** and **Stratton Free Library**, a visit from the **NH Historical History**, local author **Natalie Kinsey-Warnock**, and the



Ashuelot Concerts Assembly, where students heard great music composed by Mozart and Tchaikovsky (played on a Stradivarius Cello from 1692!) and learned the valuable lesson: *“Don’t confuse something being new with being difficult.”*

As part of Cutler’s work on responding to behavior concerns as an educational need, staff recently received professional development on **Proactive Behavior Strategies and Responses** from Ms. Danielle Cole, a local applied behavioral analysis group member.

Cutler staff have received professional development to build their capacity on specific responses to academic concerns, especially in reading. Teachers have created easy-to-utilize resource links to multiple sources of reading material and presented them at staff meetings. Several Cutler staff are participating in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (**LETRS**) training.

NUTRITION



The SAU 93 Monadnock Regional School District Wellness Policy Committee has scheduled the following meetings for 2024.

Below is our virtual meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year. Meetings take place over zoom and in person at the:

Wilcox Meeting Room, 633 Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey NH 03446

Monday, Feb 26	3:45 – 4:30 pm	Zoom Meeting ID: 88912126768
Monday, March 25	3:45 – 4:30 pm	Zoom Meeting ID: 82636579165
Monday, May 13	3:45 – 4:30 pm	Zoom Meeting ID: 89614454583

The committee was created in 2006 to promote wellness across the District for students and staff. The policy encompasses policies & goals for nutrition education and promotion, physical activity, staff wellness, food marketing, and nutrition guidelines for all foods sold to students.

Read the School Wellness Policy

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nh/mrsd/Board.nsf/Public#>

For questions or more information, contact: **Thomas Walsh, Director** – twalsh@mrsd.org
(603) 903-6818

GILSUM STEAM ACADEMY

Growing Together



This year, Gilsum STEAM Academy is focused on Growing Together. In the fall we spent time outdoors preparing our gardens for spring. During these winter months we are learning about timelines and preparations needed to grow our plants successfully.

Our K-2 classes are conducting an experiment with decomposition and growth in a contained environment with our decomposing jack-o-lantern. They are also beginning to prepare some of the more hearty plants, like potatoes, broccoli and kale for our greenhouse in the spring.

Our 3-6 classes are working together to grow trout with the Trout in the Classroom program. Students are learning about the life cycle of trout and how to care for them as they hatch and grow.

Our 5-6 class continues to nurture a worm bin. Our worms have multiplied greatly from the beginning of the year and will be ready to help our garden beds in the spring.

In 3-6 the worms and the trout have become pen pals and students are having fun using their imagination as they practice their letter writing skills.

We are excited to see what spring brings!



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MONADNOCK REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARRANT FOR 2024-2025**

To the inhabitants of the Cooperative School District in the Towns of Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Richmond, Roxbury, Swanzey and Troy qualified to vote in the District Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Monadnock Regional Middle/High School on Saturday, the 3rd day of February, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon for the purpose of hearing an explanation of the following subjects and to carry on any discussion or debate with respect thereto, with said subjects to be open to amendment:

NOTICE: School District Officers will be elected at the second session of the Annual Meeting of the Monadnock Regional School District on March 12, 2024, in accordance with the statutory election procedures adopted by a vote of the District on March 11, 1996. The School District Warrant for the election of School District Officials will be posted in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 40:13 in each of the District's member Towns.

The polls will be open to voters in their towns of residence on March 12, 2024, as follows:

- Fitzwilliam- Town Hall, 11 am - 7 pm
- Gilsum- Gilsum Community Center, 1 pm -7pm
- Richmond- Veteran's Hall, 11 am -7 pm
- Roxbury- Meeting House, 6 pm - 8 pm (7 pm Town Meeting)
- Swanzey- Monadnock Regional Middle-High School Gymnasium, 8am -7pm
- Troy- Samuel E. Paul Community Center 10 am -7pm

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, totaling \$37,750,000 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$37,011,680 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XV, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Specialists of Monadnock District, SAU 93 for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing level. The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

YEAR	Estimated Increase
2024/25	\$28,805 - Salaries
	<u>\$ 7276</u> - Wage associated costs
	\$36,081
2025/26	\$27,085 - Salaries
	<u>\$ 6,869</u> - Wage associated costs
	\$33,854
2026/27	\$25,492 - Salaries
	<u>\$ 6,506</u> - Wage associated costs
	\$31,998

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$36,081** for the 2024-25 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wage and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the 2023-24 year. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE FOUR: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees, and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required)

2024-25 MRSD Warrant Articles Plain Language Version

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, totaling \$37,750,000 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$37,011,680 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

Article One Plain Language:

The proposed budget is \$37,750,000. This budget amount is \$738,320 more than the default budget, which is \$37,011,680. It includes staff salaries, teaching materials, and utilities for all district buildings. If the proposed budget passes (a YES vote), the district will be funded at the level requested by administration. If the proposed budget fails (a NO vote), the district would operate with \$738,320 less than was planned, and the administration and School Board would decide where the reductions will be allocated.

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Specialists of Monadnock District, SAU 93 for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing level. The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

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2026/27 \$25,492 - Salaries	
	<u>\$6,506</u> - Wage associated costs
	\$31,998

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,081 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wage and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the 2023-24 year. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

Article Two Plain Language:

The current agreement with the Specialists of the Monadnock Region, SAU 93 ends in June 30, 2024. This association includes professions such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, sign language interpreter, and school psychologists. School Board representatives and Specialists representatives have negotiated a new agreement presented above. This contract includes wage increases to allow the district to compete for these employees. Due to changes in plan offerings from the District’s health insurance carrier, there are changes to the health insurance plan in the second year of the contract. Only the 2024-25 costs of \$36,081 are included in this article. The cost for years 2025-26 and 2026-27 are displayed because if this article passes in the first year, the district is obligated to fund the next two years of the agreement.

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.)

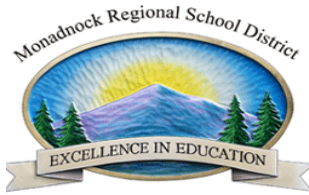
Article Three Plain Language:

This is a trust fund designed to give the district financial resources should there be unexpected special education costs. The balance in this fund as of December 31, 2023 was \$352,271.88. Adding \$54,000 will bring the fund to a comfortable amount of just over \$400,000, which could be the cost of one unforeseen out-of-district student placement.

ARTICLE FOUR: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees, and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required)

Article Four Plain Language:

This is for housekeeping, and does not require funding. It asks the voters to give the district permission to hire experts and professionals to consult on matters as long as they are disclosed in the Annual Report.



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Swanzey, NH 03446
(603) 352-6955**

**PR.SRT. STD.
PAID
Swanzey, NH
Permit #8**

**Postal Patron
Swanzey, NH 03446**

MT CAESAR



ADOPT A COW



This year Mrs. Shanks, Mrs. White, and Ms. Sault's classes from Mt. Caesar School are participating in the "Adopt A Cow Program". Our classes have adopted a live calf growing up on a dairy farm. Every month the host farmer sends live pictures, videos, and monthly updates about our calf. These updates include lessons and activities related to their growth, how she is cared for on the farm, and how milk is produced on the farm. We can email the farmer with any questions and at the end of the year we will have a live YouTube video with our calf and host farmer.

Our students are so excited to follow their journey on the farm while learning more about dairy farming.

