

## SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT REPORT TO THE TRSB – MAY 7, 2015

### Atkinson Academy

- Atkinson finally finished up Smarter Balance testing. The week has started with a renewal of energy from both the teachers and students for the last six weeks left of school.
- DARE graduation was held Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the PAC for fifth grade students. Thank you to Atkinson Graphics and Freshwater Farms for sponsoring the program for Atkinson. Three students read their essays to the students, parents and family members. They received a DARE bear to cherish while all students received a t-shirt to remind them of their promise to not do drugs.
- Looking forward to our Kindergarten Renaissance Program, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the PAC. Would love to see you come and support this new program.

### Danville Elementary

- The Annual Arts and Academic Fair was held April 23. Many families, community members and alumni attended the event. This is a favorite for the Danville community! Students displayed work throughout the school. The Hawke news ran continuously in the library. Green screen projects ran in several classrooms focusing on science and social studies projects. The 'tape people' made their way back to Danville again this year. Fifth grade students work with Mrs. Rice, art teacher to create characters out of scotch tape. The students work in groups of two or three and build a life size model of a person. The tape people are dressed in character and bring appropriate props.
- Our book club for fourth and fifth graders continues to meet during lunch and recess.
- Many thanks to the District Technology Team for ensuring all computers needed for Smarter Balanced Testing were in great operating condition. Thanks to our staff, teachers, and most of all our students who endured a very long testing cycle.

### Pollard School

- Libby Wagnitz represented Pollard School and the TRSD in the NE Regional Invention Convention at UCONN this past Saturday, 5/2/15. She was one of seven NH students. (Chris Beyrent from Sandown Central also competed). She won two awards: the Eversource Energy Award and the Connecticut Environmental Forum Sponsor Award. Of 1000 students in grades 1-8 who participated, each of these companies only gave 6 awards! Each award also came with \$50 at Educational Innovations, so she can buy some fun science stuff. Her invention was the "Sleepy Switch," a headband that monitors your brain activity. So when you are reading in bed, and you fall asleep, it turns your light off for you. A complete list of reward recipients can be found at [http://www.ctinventionconvention.org/images/documents/TeacherMaterials/cic\\_awards\\_by\\_last-name\\_2015.pdf](http://www.ctinventionconvention.org/images/documents/TeacherMaterials/cic_awards_by_last-name_2015.pdf)
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade DARE graduation was held at Pollard School on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We want to thank Officer Pat and the entire Plaistow Police Department for helping to make this program a great success!
- Below are the winners for the Pollard School/Plaistow Arbor Day Poster and Poetry Contest. These students were invited to Monday night's Plaistow Selectman's meeting to read their poems and present their winning posters (which will be hung up in the main foyer at the Plaistow Town Hall). Pollard will be celebrating Arbor Day this Friday morning. We traditionally meet as a school outside around the flagpole for the pledge and to hear the poems. Then the fifth grade will be walking to the town library to plant trees at 9:30 (another tradition we have and share with the town) Plaistow Conservation Committee members and other dignitaries, will be meeting the fifth graders at the library to help plant the trees. The theme this

year was "It's All About the Trees!" A special thanks to Dolores Coyle-Quirk (5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) and Jill Center from the Plaistow Conservation Committee for organizing our Arbor Day festivities!

Poster Contest:

1st grade winner- Kyleigh Callery  
2nd grade winner- Spencer Brien  
3rd grade winner- Emma Sharp  
4th grade – Emma Soucy  
5th grade- Trysta Winkowski

Poem contest: (for 5<sup>th</sup> grade only)

1st place Akella Brianna Mysliwy  
2nd place Lexi Wagnitz  
3rd place Kendall Morrill  
4th place Lauren Hayes



Sandown Central

- During the New Hampshire Daughters of the American Revolution Spring Conference on April 25<sup>th</sup>: Reese Bower, Joseph Dube, and Graham Zambrowicz received first place certificates and two books to be donated to their school library for the Junior American Citizen contest. They created a banner related to the topic Focus on the Future.  
  
Taylor Oakley received a certificate, silver medal, and cash prize for her first place winning essay for the American History Essay contest with the topic of a Child's Journey through Ellis Island. Haley Donohue (a former student at Sandown Central and now at TRHS) received first place in the Christopher Columbus Essay contest. She also received a cash prize. All 5 students won at my DAR chapter level and were sent onto the state where they were also top winners at the State level. The boys were actually winners at the Northeast Regional level as well!  
  
A former Sandown Student, Genevieve Harnois, was also the sixth grade winner at the Chapter level. All the students will be honored again on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- At the Academy of Applied Science Inventors Competition in Concord, Christopher Beyrent won 1<sup>st</sup> place Sponsor's Choice Award, Fidelity Innovation Award, Electric Award, Caring for your Pet Award. Prize money totaled \$250.00 and an all-expenses paid trip to compete in the NE Regionals at Uconn. At Uconn, he won his judging circle (best out of 7).  
  
Christopher's invention is a cat bowl that deters other cats from eating from it. It has an Arduino microcontroller connected to a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader and a peristaltic pump. The microcontroller is programmed with a specific RFID code, which is embedded in an RFID tag. The tags are attached to collars that each cat wears. When the cat approaches the cat bowl, the RFID reader reads the tag on the cat's collar, and if the code does not match the programmed code, the microcontroller activates a peristaltic pump, which is attached to a water bottle and spray nozzle, and sprays water at the cat.  
  
Chris researched and built this project in ten days. He presented his project at the Sandown Central invention convention, and was selected as one of two representatives from the school to attend the state Young Inventors Program on March 28. Chris presented at the state convention, and was honored with the following awards: Fidelity Innovation Award, Sponsor's Choice Award, IEEE Electrical Engineering award

(1st place), Pet Care award (1st place). He was also selected as 1 of 7 inventors to represent New Hampshire for the first time at the Connecticut Invention Convention on May 2, held on the UConn campus.

- On Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Sandown Central Enrichment day.
- On Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> we will be having our DARE graduation.

#### Sandown North

- Our SPARKS team members are excited to complete preparations for their May 14<sup>th</sup> celebration! Our 2015 Team members are Alex Garone, Anthony Lafond, Alyssa Hoyt, Gabby Inserra, Joseph Gannon, Matthew Conte, Parker Landry, and Simone Faucher.
- The consolidation of the Sandown Schools has given us opportunities to reflect and to consider next best steps. With change there are always questions and some angst, but I am proud to report that the staff members are viewing the changes very positively, as an opportunity to grow, to learn, and to work collaboratively with our colleagues.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, our string students participated in the district concert. It is so amazing to see what young children can accomplish and to see how proud they are. Their practice certainly has paid off and they can see that it has. Alison Yankowskas, their General Music and Strings teacher, knows the students as individuals and is able to provide the scaffolding and specific praise that allows them to believe in themselves as musicians. The relationship she develops with the students certainly contributes to their phenomenal growth.
- The PTA sponsored the Father/Daughter Dance on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The girls and their “special guy” sang, danced, played games, and simply enjoyed their time together on a Friday evening at North.
- Our kindergarten students performed at the PAC on April 20<sup>th</sup>, along with the kindergarteners from Danville. The students were on-stage at the PAC and showed the audience what they have learned. Even after the performance, as different individuals have watched the vimeo, I have repeatedly heard how impressed they were but what they saw. Equally importantly, our students had fun!
- We have begun the screening process for our incoming kindergarteners. The day that the children visit is special for them and for the parents. Parents have a chance to meet some staff members, to talk about their child so we can better understand, and also have a chance to meet other parents of similar age children. It is a new beginning for all of us, full of possibilities!
- One of our students, Sean Violette, was on the Jimmy Fallon Show for his Paper Airplane Launcher Invention. The producer read about Sean’ invention and became interested in talking to him further. Sean was one of three students from kindergarten through grade 12 who was chosen to be on the show. His parents, Keith and Tanya Violette, report that it was a fabulous experience. Sean was fitted for his lab coat that he wore on the show, got balloons for his birthday, and learned about the broadcasting experience. At the end of the segment, each of the students was presented with a check in the amount of \$5,000 for his college fund. Sean’s father has given me permission to share Sean’s website with you. His older sister, Lauren, created it for him. The site is:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/seanviolettesproject/home>. The Jimmy Fallon show gave me permission to share this video: <https://youtu.be/AkNe5XHuV2w>.

#### Middle School

- John Halligan was the guest speaker for a grade 7 and 8 assembly on April 16<sup>th</sup>. John’s powerful anti-bullying message was received well by our students. This presentation is a proactive discussion of the ways in which bullying can be reduced if students think about the victim and know their role as bystanders.

- This week we are celebrating staff appreciation week. The PTSA, Student Senate and TRMS Administration Team are providing a staff breakfast, coffee and drawings for prizes. The week concludes with a staff luncheon.
- Grade 8 finishes Smarter Balanced testing this week. Grade 7 begins the test next week.

#### High School

- **May 4-8 - Teacher Appreciation Week**
- **May 4 - 8 - AP Testing - Monday** Chemistry, Environmental Science, **Tuesday** Calculus AB, **Wednesday** English Literature and Composition, Physic 1: Algebra-Based, **Thursday** Computer Science A, Spanish Language and Culture, **Friday** United States History, European History, Studio Art
- **May 9 - Car Wash** - Class of 2016 10:00am - 2:00pm outside mini gym
- **May 9 - Touch a Truck** – SAU parking lot 10:00am - 2:00pm sponsored by Project Hope
- **May 11 - 14 - AP Testing - Monday** Biology, **Tuesday** United States Government and Politics, French Language and Culture, **Wednesday** Statistics, **Thursday** World History
- **May 12 - 13 - NECAP Science Juniors**
- **May 12 - Art Honor Society Induction** 5:30pm High School Cafeteria
- **May 13 - District CPR & First Aid** 3:00pm High School Library
- **May 13 – Comedy Night** - English Honor Society presents Timberlane Comedy Club and Kenny Rogerson 7:00 pm TRHS cafeteria
- **May 16 - Electronics Fundraiser** (rescheduled) 9:00am-1:00pm High School front parking lot
- **May 18 – English & Rho Kappa Honor Society Inductions** 5:00 pm PAC
- **May 18 – 28 - Smarter Balance Testing Juniors**
- **May 21 - AP Testing** - Make Up testing
- **May 21 – Fatal Reality** 9:15am parking lot and gym and Senior Class meeting
- **May 22 – Senior Prom** 6:00pm Atkinson Country Club

#### Athletics

- The sports season is in full swing. Our teams are doing very well. Next week is “Operation Hat Trick Week” (OHT) in NH. Operation Hat Trick is a program in memory of Nate Hardy and Mike Koch, both Navy Seals who died in combat. Hats are being sold for \$15.00 with a portion of the purchase going to benefit the recovery, education and future employment of wounded soldiers in the State of NH. Baseball and Softball Teams throughout NH will be wearing these Operation Hat Trick Hats as part of their uniforms during the week of May 11.

#### Performing Arts

- Over April vacation, Music Department students and staff enjoyed their educational and cultural trip to Washington D.C.. The 4-day trip included:

Guided tours of the Lincoln, Jefferson, FDR and MLK memorials

Tours of the Newseum, Air & Space, Natural History and American History museums

Guided tour of Arlington Cemetery to visit the Kennedy Gravesites, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Changing of the Guard

Spirit Cruise along the Potomac River

Trip to Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA

- Our High Musical Production of Sweeney Todd-School Edition, opens this Thursday-May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center. Performances are May 7, 8 & 9 at 7:00pm with a Saturday matinee at 1:00pm. Tickets are on sale now at the PAC Box Office – 603-257-5257 or online at [www.mktix.com/trpac](http://www.mktix.com/trpac). Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

- **UPCOMING MUSIC/DRAMA EVENTS**

May 12 HS/MS Guitar & Rock Ensemble Concert

May 13 Elem/MS Orchestra Concert

May 18 HS Chorus Concert

May 19 HS Jazz Concert

May 20 HS Orchestra Concert

May 25 Memorial Day Parades

May 27 HS Band Concert

May 28 HS Music Awards Night

May 29 HS Drama Awards Night

June 1 HS Chamber Concert

June 5 Milkmen- Improvisational Comedy

June 9 MS Band Concert

June 10MS Chorus Concert

June 18-20 HS One Act Comedies

*(The play "You Can't Take It With You" originally scheduled for these dates, has been rescheduled to the 2015-2016 school year).*