



SAU
63

Spotlight



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Volume 1, Issue 1

Serving the educational needs of students of New Ipswich, Greenville, Mason, Wilton and Lyndeborough ♦ www.mascenic.org ♦ www.wlcwarriors.net

Boynton Middle School News

BAND/STRING ORCHESTRA

(Jessica Coffey)

Each beginning band/string student is taught how to assemble his/her instrument, take proper care of it, and demonstrate proper posture. The ability to read notes and count rhythms is reinforced through band/string orchestra. In order to achieve proper intonation, each band student focuses on embouchure and breath support, while each string student focuses on left hand and bowing techniques. Daily practice at home is vital. Each student is required to bring instrument, pencil, and method book to each rehearsal. Band/Orchestra students rehearse during and after school and perform in concerts during the school year.

BOYNTON BUDDIES

(Esther Capes)

Boynton Middle School, working with other local agencies (Franklin Pierce College, Hutter Inc.) has been sponsoring a mentor program. Adults come into this school-based mentoring program and meet with students and engage them in a variety of activities that help them create a supportive bond. This year has seen a dramatic increase in the number of participants in the program, and it has expanded into the elementary grade levels.

READING PROJECT

(Ethel Swett)

Our Advertisements Unit initiates a study of cause and effect as it relates to literature as well as real life (preconditions, single cause, multiple cause, and no effect examples). This grows into a unit on advertising, including media input (current vs. historical), propaganda, both political and environmental, fact vs. opinion, Point of View, Author qualifications, etc.

We then form Advertising Agencies within each classroom using data from NECAP and NWEA results to tier the groups. Each agency had to fill jobs like copywriter, commercial artist, researchers, buyers, PR people, etc. Agencies had to keep track of their time with time cards and their weekly classroom grades were actual paychecks for constructive hours put in during the week. The monetary amounts on the paychecks were redeemable at the end of the unit at an in-class yard sale.

Each agency had to create a product on paper that does not currently exist on the market, investigate the demographics for their product, survey students for sales feasibility and establish a cost/profit ratio. They then had to build a "working" prototype of their product along with one print ad and one TV ad using as many of the 12 techniques of advertising as possible. They have to present both ads to the class while being taped.

The prototypes and print ads were displayed around the school and the entire student body voted by ballot on the product they would most like to buy. The prototype receiving the most votes won extra "money" to spend at the yard sale. Mrs. Pipp worked closely with us on this project and procured many items for our yard sale through her networking contacts in the business world. The project was such a success, when the sixth graders came to Reading this year, they wanted to be assured that they, too, could do such a project this year. Not only was it fun, it covered a myriad of GLE's.

LETTERS TO VETERANS

(Patricia Gerringe)

For the past three years, the 7th grade Language Arts classes have had a unit on letter/postcard writing. Included in this was the meaning of Veteran's Day, the different names it had been called over the years, how it originated, etc. Each year before Veteran's Day, the classes were writing letters/postcards and sending them to Veterans and active military overseas. Some were relatives of students at Boynton, others were from a list I got from networking. Students received responses from many (sent to the school only) and I received a few letters of appreciation for this. These men and women were thrilled to receive the letters/postcards. A few students received pictures and patches.

SCIENCE STUDY GROUP

(Kelly Stacy)

The science teachers at Boynton have formed a learning community and book discussion group using the book "Ready, Set, Science," a research based approach to teaching science in grade K - 12.

GLOBE

(Rhonda MacLeod)

Boynton became part of Project GLOBE through an MSP grant. As participants in the grant, the science teachers were trained in numerous GLOBE protocols which they were then able to bring back into their classrooms. The school also received a fair amount of equipment through the grant such as a GPS, digital weather station, digital pH probes, and an extensive activity guide.

RANDON ACTS OF KINDNESS

(Cathy Michaels & Deb Scott)

The Random Acts of Kindness bulletin board began as a Christmas time recognition activity for our Boynton students by Kathy Chase and Esther Capes. The bulletin board was well received by the staff and it was the feeling of everyone that it should become a permanent part of our recognition program.

Any staff member who observes a student showing respect, kindness, consideration, or helpfulness to another person writes the student's name and grade level on a piece of paper and turns the paper into the office. Mrs. Scott's 5th grade class is in charge of managing the names and making sure the

names are put on the bulletin board outside the main office.

Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Michaels (the principal's secretary) are in charge of the monthly themes for the Kindness Bulletin Board. At the end of the month, students are presented with a certificate in recognition of their act(s) of kindness. The 7th grade teachers hold a "mini" assembly at the end of each month to recognize their students for their "random acts of kindness". For some students this is the only time they might be recognized in a special way and they look forward to their certificates and seeing their name of the bulletin board.

MOON ROCKS

(Kelly Stacy & Rhonda MacLeod)

Kelly Stacy and Rhonda MacLeod underwent training and certification by NASA so that they could borrow moon rocks from NASA. They put together a program for the student body that included not only seeing the moon rocks and meteorite samples but also a brief presentation of the space program through the moon landings, hands on work in "clean boxes" that simulated how the technicians handled the moon rocks and other hands on activities related to the rock samples. Over a three day period all of the students at Boynton as well as many of the students at Mascenic High were able to participate in the program.

HORIZONS CLUB

(Cathy Proulx)

Boynton Middle School has established a new after school enrichment club called Horizons, open to all grade levels. It provides an opportunity for students to exercise creativity in planning and conducting independent inquiry projects. The club is held on Thursday afternoons from 2:25 to 3:30. Many of the projects focus on Social Studies-based activities. These enrichment activities are designed to stimulate creative thinking and problem solving.

FOLLOW THE CHILD

(Chip Mercurio and Karen Moorman)

Boynton Middle School has participated in the "Follow the Child" initiative during the two previous school years, with teachers from each grade level participating. We administered the My Voice Survey during the past two school years, and anticipate administering it this year and will, once again, take a close look at the results. Our staff has been very impressed with the features of this initiative, and they have developed a variety of strategies aimed at improving our school.

Although we are proud of our ability to get to know the students in our school, we are constantly looking for ways to make sure that we are supporting them as much as possible. The Follow the Child initiative will continue to help us to develop and explore additional strategies we can use to support and guide our students toward a happy and successful school experience.

Most of our students attend Mascenic Regional High School when they graduate from our 8th grade. We are very pleased that Mascenic is also committed to the Follow the Child Initiative. We have been coordinating our activities, and our staffs are working closely on developing strategies that promote this initiative. As we move forward, we anticipate continuing the dialog that we have developed between our schools. Although we may not have an abundance of resources available to us, we

take great pride in the dedication and spirit that distinguishes our staff and community.

RED RIBBON WEEK

(Ellen Blair)

Red Ribbon Week was started when friends of a Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique (Kiki) Camarena started to wear red ribbons to commemorate his life's work. Kiki Camarena was murdered by members of a Mexican Drug Cartel in 1985 while he was working with the DEA. Kiki grew to others, volunteering in the community,

recycling, obeying laws etc. Somewhere on the strip the students should write Boynton Middle School, their grade (and name if they want to). The students staple their strip (chain style) to another in the classroom until everyone's was connected. Each chain was connected within the school. Representatives took our chain to Rindge Middle School where it was connected to their chain. It is hope that the chain will continue to grow, adding more links from schools across NH.

Focus on Mascenic

By CHRIS LUND

Chairman, Mascenic School Board

I think it is generally known that we have to build a new elementary school in New Ipswich, but I'm not sure that we've clearly explained how we came to that conclusion or where we are in the process of developing a new school. That explanation is rather lengthy and can't be done in one article.

In this article, I want to explain why we need to build a new elementary school to replace Central and Appleton schools in New Ipswich. The short answer is that we don't have a choice:

- Both buildings have serious fire, life, and safety code violations;
- Both buildings are in their third year of a three year conditional approval by the Department of Education. DOE has identified Central and Appleton as two of the worst school buildings in the state. The school board has already been notified to appear before DOE next June to explain what we are doing to correct the situation.
- The Fire Marshall has given us a list of about 20 items that need to be corrected to buy us two more years before he takes enforcement action.

The longer answer to the "why" question begins in 2005. At that time, we received "unofficial" advice that all of our school buildings had code violations that needed to be addressed. These violations were due to the nature of the buildings, not lack of maintenance. Central and Appleton had glaring deficiencies, e.g. the central staircase in Appleton is a serious fire hazard. Some of the deficiencies had to be, and were, addressed immediately. It was strongly recommended that the school district hire an expert to go through all the buildings and make recommendations for repairs to bring them into compliance.

We took those recommendations seriously and put a warrant article on the March 2006 ballot seeking \$50,000 to hire an expert. That warrant article did not pass, the only school related article that didn't pass.

Because the school board felt that it had a responsibility to have the inspection done, the next year we included the \$50,000 in the operating budget and the budget passed. After interviewing several architectural firms, the board hired architect Kyle Barker to conduct the evaluation.

Mr. Barker inspected and reviewed all six buildings in the district, giving periodic reports to the building committee and school board. His final report was presented a couple months ago. In my next article, I will review his conclusions and the reasons that Central and Appleton cannot economically or feasibly be brought into compliance with current codes.

On an unrelated topic, now that Mason is leaving Mascenic, there is some discussion about whether we should change the name of our school district. "Mascenic" came from a compilation of the names of the three towns which created the regional school district—"Mas-" from Mason; "-en-" from Greenville; and "-ic" from New Ipswich. The board is taking an informal survey of the community's thoughts on this matter. We anticipate that it would cost at least \$50,000 to make the name change—mostly in changing sports uniforms, etc. If you would like to give us your opinion, go the Mascenic's website, www.mascenic.org, click on "Should Mascenic change its name?", and answer the questions. Be sure to follow the instructions at the end to verify your "vote." This survey is obviously not a binding referendum, but we'll be interested to know what people think. And we'll share the results of the survey in this column.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Musing on the passing scene

DEBORAH A. BEMIS
Special Education Director

The beginning of the school year is always an interesting time for the special education department: new families, new faces, new learning, new cases.

For all the discussion on the global economy, the millennial generation, and balanced scorecards, kids are still kids - they want to have fun and they want it now! So, across our districts, special educators and their peers are looking for ways to make that happen. Mason has incorporated the use of a SmartBoard in their first grade classroom. Touted as 'interactive plasma displays' the students in Ms. Belletete's room can explain science and math concepts in vivid detail simply by touching the screen or audio inversion.

Adults want to enjoy their educational environments as well. Though maybe not as much fun as a 'smart board', educators at Appleton and Central have been setting up the contours of a new professional learning community. Principal Marion Saari and some of her staff attended the DuFour Education Conference over the

summer to learn how to learn in a professional environment. A core concept here is 'continuous inquiry'. Special educators have known about this method for a longtime. We are continuously questioning our minds, our methods, our ability to draft that next Individualized Education Plan. We learn by knowing we don't even come close to knowing everything we need to know - but we also learn by tracking the evidence that we do have of student success.

To our great delight, we have learned that the Wilton School District surpassed, by one percentage point, the state average in math and reading for special education students taking the NECAP test for 2006-2007.

Just where is the fun at in Wilton? One opinion, is at school board and committee meetings. Come and be a part of this dialogue. When people talk about change, it is exciting. Lyndeborough and Wilton are talking about consolidating; building projects are on the agenda; our parents - here's the key - our parents have been both gracious and strong enough to take an active voice in community learning and decision-making. I'm not sure they count this as fun, but it is inspiring to watch.

SAU 63 Enrollments by School	
Mascenic High School.....	415
Boynton Middle School.....	404
New Ipswich Central.....	150
Appleton Elementary.....	131
Greenville Elementary.....	92
Mason Elementary.....	68
Wilton/Lyndeborough Coop.....	360
Florence Rideout Elementary.....	280
Lyndeborough Central.....	85

Superintendent's Administrative Team

VISION

Excellence for Everyone in SAU 63 Schools

Administrative Team MISSION

The Superintendent's Administrative Team will provide leadership and support to ensure the success of the District's strategic plans.

CORE VALUES

- Customer Satisfaction
- Data-Driven Decisions
- Learning for All
- Teamwork
- Visionary Leadership

Administrative Team GOALS

- Support and monitor the development of world-class learners and responsible citizens.
- Demonstrate and develop effective leadership.
- Obtain, align, and deploy resources to accomplish the District's plans.
- Increase stakeholder support of the District's goals and initiatives.

GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Continuous Improvement

Mascenic Education Association Officers for the 2008 - 2009 school year:

- Diana Griffin: President
- Amy Conrad: Vice President
- Cori Antinelle: Secretary
- Kerry Thompson: Treasurer

Each school in the Mascenic District has one or more Union Representatives on the Executive Board.

Our mission aligns with that of NEA-NH which services 16,000 plus teachers and support staff members across the state. Our mission is to strengthen and support education in our schools and to serve our members' professional, economic and advocacy needs.

The MEA is fortunate to work with such an excellent and supportive School Board and is delighted to welcome Dr. Leo Corriveau on board as Superintendent and Mr. Trevor

Ebel as Assistant Superintendent.

We look forward to having a positive and collaborative working relationship with both the School Board and administration to improve the educational opportunities for our students.

There is great anticipation and excitement at the prospect of constructing a badly needed new building for the elementary schools. The MEA will work diligently with the School Board and administration to see that it comes to fruition in the near future.

Diana Griffin, President MEA.