

M.S.A.D. # 72

Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden

ANNUAL REPORT and 2016-2017 BUDGET EXPLANATION

Annual Budget Meeting
Wednesday, May 25, 2016 7:00P.M.
Molly Ockett Middle School
James R. Anderson Gymnasium



The detailed 2016-2017 proposed Budget is available online at the District web-site www.msad72.org

FY17 Budget Summary

The proposed FY17 budget for MSAD 72 is **\$17,199,140**. This represents a **2.13%** increase over the current budget without the debt service for the school construction project and a **4.71%** increase overall. The process we utilize to create the budget relies on staff members, administrators, and the Board of Directors working together to assure that our budget supports the needs of students and staff members while at the same time being fiscally responsible.

There were many financial challenges presented by this year's budget. The first challenge was a \$468,000 loss in subsidy. According to the Department of Education, this is because "the costs for education have increased at a higher rate than the available State subsidy." This means that more of the costs for education are passed on to local towns.

Impacts on next year's budget include: a \$423,000 increase to make two interest payments on the bond for the building project, a \$185,000 increase to cover our contractual obligations to Fryeburg Academy for secondary education costs, a \$315,500 increase in special-education costs, \$52,000 to purchase a new bus to maintain the integrity of our fleet, \$38,000 for a new (used) plow truck, and the fact that we have \$150,000 less Balance Forward to apply to this year's budget. Through close scrutiny of all part of the budget and careful planning, we have reduced this potential \$1,163,000 increase to an overall increase of \$773,500 dollars.

We strongly believe that a **4.71%** budget-to-budget increase, with 2.58% of that being debt service for the building project, is reasonable as it helps us maintain key positions, helps us continue to meet the needs of students, and helps us minimize the increased demand on local taxpayers. This **4.71%** increase in the budget results in a **5.17% (\$588,920)** increase in costs to our towns, which is unavoidable given the decrease in available State funding for education. I hope that you come to the May 25th Budget Meeting at Molly Ockett Middle School to support this budget.

Jay Robinson
MSAD 72 Superintendent

Frequently Asked Budget Questions

Q: What is budget-development?

A: Starting in late fall, we collect feedback from all employees regarding budgetary needs. Those requests are submitted to administrators in late December. Starting in January, the administrative team reviews the requests, asks clarifying questions as needed, and produces a preliminary budget. Throughout April and May, the school board reviews each cost center and each line of the budget. The superintendent and business administrator for the district also adjust the budget based upon State budgetary information, which is in flux sometimes even after the budget is finalized. This year, for example, the State funding for education probably won't be finalized until mid-July, well after we have completed the budget process and citizens have voted. Ultimately, the board votes to approve a final budget, which is then presented to the voters in a series of public meetings. The public then approves of the budget at the district budget meeting, which will be held on May 25th at the middle school (7 PM).

Q: What factors drive the budget?

A: The budget is determined by the State using the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model. The State sets a statewide mill rate (8.30 this year) that every town is required to raise for its share of education costs. For each town, those costs are determined by the percentage of pupils. If the town's costs within the State formula are in excess of its share, based upon pupil count and the town's valuations, then the State pays the remainder of education costs. Because of high valuations, four of our towns (Denmark, Lovell, Stoneham, and Sweden) do not receive State subsidy.

Q: How much State support do we receive?

A: As mentioned in an earlier answer, the State contributes to educational costs for a town when the town meets the established State mil rate (8.30). In our District, only three towns reach that mil rate, and those are Brownfield, Fryeburg and Stow. Those towns are receiving the following in State funding:

Brownfield	\$1,147,447
Fryeburg	\$3,005,795
Stow	<u>\$207,737</u>
Total:	\$4,360,979

Q: Are there other costs assigned to towns?

A: Yes. Because the State-funding model is an "adequacy" model, meaning that the intent is not to provide all of a district's educational needs, districts include warrant articles for additional local funds. In our case, we pay higher secondary tuition costs as part of our contract with Fryeburg Academy, which exceed the costs recognized within EPS. We also have higher special-education costs than are recognized by the EPS model, and due to the geographic size of our District, smaller class sizes and higher transportation costs than are recognized by the model.

Q: What is the local tax impact for FY17?

A: The impact, or increase in dollars paid by each town over last year for each town, is:

Brownfield	\$91,582	5.22%
Denmark	\$162,471	8.56%
Fryeburg	\$179,996	4.75%
Lovell	\$172,733	7.49%
Stoneham	\$(23,127)	-4.52%
Stow	\$20,088	4.27%
Sweden	\$(14,823)	-2.25%

It is important to keep in mind that \$423,426 of the budget-to-budget increase is the bond payment for the building project. Without that, the increase from FY16 to FY17 is 2.13%, which demonstrates the District's ongoing attempts to maintain quality programming while keeping the taxpayers' ability to pay in mind.

Key Budget Information FY17 Budget

Proposed Budget:	\$17,199,140
Current Year's Budget:	\$16,425,555
Difference w/o Bond Payment:	\$ 350,159 (2.13%)
Overall Difference:	\$ 773,585 (4.71%)

What is driving the increase?

<u>Fixed Cost Drivers:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary Increases	3% (2% for Administrators)
Health Insurance Increases	\$0
Fuel Increase	\$(33,650)
Heating Oil	\$(61,100)
Fryeburg Academy Contract	\$185,000 – Projected 4% Tuition Increase

<u>State-Imposed Costs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Teacher Retirement Costs (3.36%)	\$300,500
Debt Service for Building Project	\$423,426

<u>Proposed Additions</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
One Bus	Aging Fleet	\$50,000
Minor Capital Improvements	Building/Grounds Maintenance	\$72,500

<u>Proposed Cuts</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Spec Ed Educational Techs (3.5)	Case Driven	\$120,000
Reg Ed Educational Techs (1.5)	Class Size	\$50,000
Reduction of Transportation Director	Covered by Contract	\$44,000

<u>State Aid</u>		<u>Required Local:</u>	
FY17	\$4,372,730 (32.89%)	FY17	\$8,888,268
	\$4,069,832*w/o project		\$8,767,741*w/o project
FY16	\$4,109,156 (30.87%)	FY16	\$9,196,707
FY15	\$3,652,940 (29.09%)	FY15	\$8,898,128
FY14	\$3,289,119 (26.97%)	FY14	\$8,907,171

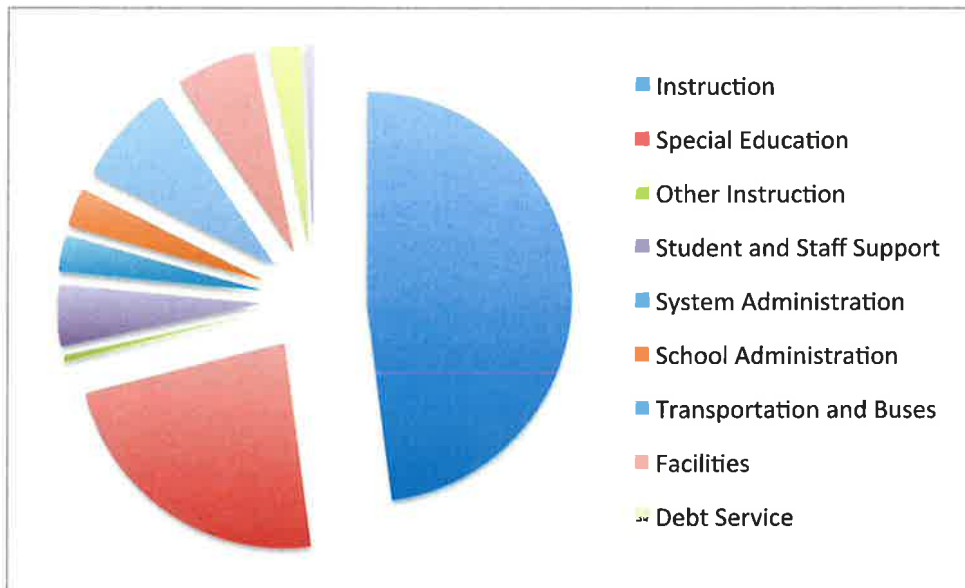
<u>Impact on Local Taxpayer</u>		
Brownfield	91,582	5.22%
Denmark	162,471	8.56%
Fryeburg	179,996	4.75%
Lovell	172,733	7.49%
Stoneham	(23,127)	-4.52%
Stow	20,088	4.27%
Sweden	(14,823)	-2.25%
Total:	\$588,920	5.17%

MSAD 72
Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden
Proposed Budget for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

		FY16	FY17	Difference	Increase
Instruction					
	K-8	3,835,041	3,711,505	-123,536	-3.22%
	GT	106,334	108,246	1,912	1.80%
	9-12	4,237,686	4,423,581	185,895	4.39%
	Total	8,179,062	8,243,332.43	64,271	0.79%
Special Education					
	Instruction, Special Ed	3,657,288	3,972,852.14	315,564	8.63%
	Regular Class PI	353,952	216,265	-137,687	-38.90%
	Resource Room	768,313	714,465	-53,848	-7.01%
	Self Contained	1,712,804	2,100,880	388,075	22.66%
	All Other Programs	613,812	653,542	39,730	6.47%
	OOP	208,408	287,700	79,293	38.05%
Other Instruction					
	Co-Curricular	89,409	84,928	-4,481	-5.01%
	Summer School	7,983	7,224	-759	-9.51%
		97,392	92,151.42	-5,241	-5.38%
Student and Staff Support					
	Guidance	215,617	219,180	3,563	1.65%
	Health	87,625	91,615	3,990	4.55%
	Technology	265,701	285,603	19,902	7.49%
	Other Student Support Services (504)	14,305	5,455	-8,850	-61.87%
	Improvement to Instruction	58,637	61,599	2,962	5.05%
	Library	151,448	151,560	111	0.07%
	Assessment	34,306	26,392	-7,914	-23.07%
		827,639	841,404.08	13,765	1.66%
System Administration					
	Directors	22,348	22,516	168	0.75%
	Superintendent's Office	465,614	476,008	10,394	2.23%
		487,962	498,524.07	10,562	2.16%
School Administration					
	Office of the Principal	518,119	532,802.05	14,683	2.83%
Transportation and Buses					
	Transportation	1,523,840	1,390,306.36	-133,533	-8.76%
Facilities					
	Operation and Maintenance	1,015,853	1,016,643	790	0.08%
	Minor Capital Projects	19,400	72,530	53,130	273.87%
		1,035,253	1,089,172.83	53,920	5.21%
All Other Expenditures					
	Food Service	99,000	115,169.00	16,169	16.33%
	Total Budget	16,425,555	16,775,714.38	350,159	2.13%
Debt Service					
	Debt Service	0	423,425.62	423,426	2.58%
			17,199,140.00	773,585	4.71%

Cost Centers

Instruction	8,243,332	47.93%
Special Education	3,972,852	23.10%
Other Instruction	92,151	0.54%
Student and Staff Support	841,404	4.89%
System Administration	498,524	2.90%
School Administration	532,802	3.10%
Transportation and Buses	1,390,306	8.08%
Facilities	1,089,173	6.33%
Debt Service	423,426	2.46%
Food Service	115,169	0.67%
Total	17,199,140	100%



Proposed 2016-2017 Town Assessments

Town:	Town's % used for local share above EPS	Local share above EPS	Local only Debt Service	Adult Ed	EPS Funding Formula (Local Required)	Total of Adult Ed and EPS	Prior Year's Total	Impact in Dollars	Percentage Impact
Brownfield	0.14368986	441,466	0	2,874	1,401,316.66	1,845,656	1,754,075	91,582	5.22%
Denmark	0.15424896	473,907	0	3,085	1,583,735.86	2,060,728	1,898,257	162,471	8.56%
Fryeburg	0.32232156	990,285	0	6,446	2,976,241.66	3,972,973	3,792,977	179,996	4.75%
Lovell	0.25524046	784,188	0	5,105	1,689,451.25	2,478,744	2,306,012	172,733	7.49%
Stoneham	0.04063086	124,832	0	813	363,351.37	488,996	512,123	-23,127	-4.52%
Stow	0.03581679	110,042	0	716	379,725.00	490,483	470,395	20,088	4.27%
Sweden	0.04805151	147,631	0	961	494,446.61	643,039	657,861	-14,823	-2.25%
Total	100%	3,072,350	0	20,000	8,888,268	11,980,619	11,391,699	588,920	5.17%
		3,072,350	0	20,000	8,888,268	11,980,619	11,391,699	588,920	
		13-14 over 12-13	14-15 over 13-14		15-16 over 14-15		16-17 over 15-16		
Brownfield	26,379	1.57%	-1,045	-0.06%	3,123	0.18%	91,582	5.22%	
Denmark	-100,866	-5.02%	-42,743	-2.24%	31,504	1.69%	162,471	8.56%	
Fryeburg	62,494	1.71%	-4,225	-0.11%	-8,859	-0.23%	179,996	4.75%	
Lovell	-119,725	-4.78%	40,188	1.68%	-120,635	-4.97%	172,733	7.49%	
Stoneham	78,727	23.40%	63,182	15.22%	33,785	7.06%	-23,127	-4.52%	
Stow	-7,841	-1.69%	-5,656	-1.21%	6,909	1.49%	20,088	4.27%	
Sweden	-13,979	-2.16%	51,328	8.12%	-25,300	-3.70%	-14,823	-2.25%	
Total	-74,811		101,029	0.0089	-79,474		588,920		

**WARRANT TO CALL MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 72
BUDGET MEETING
(20-A M.R.S. §1485)**

TO: Heather Sheehan, a resident of Maine School Administrative District No. 72 (the "District") composed of the Towns of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within the District, namely, the Towns of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden, that the District Budget Meeting will be held at Molly Ockett Middle School, 25 Molly Ockett Drive, Fryeburg, Maine at 7:00 P.M. on May 25, 2016 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting articles for the 2016-2017 fiscal year set forth below.

ARTICLE 1A: To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Board Recommends \$8,243,332.43

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board Recommends \$3,972,852.14

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.

School Board Recommends \$0.00

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Board Recommends \$92,151.42

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Board Recommends \$841,404.08

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Board Recommends \$498,524.07

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Board Recommends \$532,802.05

- ARTICLE 8:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.
School Board Recommends \$1,390,306.36
- ARTICLE 9:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.
School Board Recommends \$1,089,172.83
- ARTICLE 10:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.
School Board Recommends \$423,425.62
- ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.
School Board Recommends \$115,169.00

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14
RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the District will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the District will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.
Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):	Total Raised (and District assessments by municipality):
Town of Brownfield: \$ 2,548,763.98	Town of Brownfield: \$ 1,401,316.66
Town of Denmark: \$ 1,592,645.96	Town of Denmark: \$ 1,583,735.86
Town of Fryeburg: \$ 5,982,036.57	Town of Fryeburg: \$ 2,976,241.66
Town of Lovell: \$ 1,689,451.25	Town of Lovell: \$ 1,689,451.25
Town of Stoneham: \$ 363,351.37	Town of Stoneham: \$ 363,351.37
Town of Stow: \$ 587,462.25	Town of Stow: \$ 379,725.00
Town of Sweden: \$ 497,287.45	Town of Sweden: \$ 494,446.61
Total Appropriated:	Total Raised:
(Sum of above) \$ 13,260,998.83	(Sum of above) \$ 8,888,268.41

Explanation: The District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the District must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required). To see what sum the District will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$3,072,350.42**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$2,707,353.50**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board recommends \$3,072,350.42 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$2,707,353.50: The District has higher secondary private tuition costs than are recognized by the Essential Programs and Services funding model. The District also has higher special education costs than are recognized by the model, and due to the geographical size of the District, smaller class sizes and higher transportation costs than are recognized by the model.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the District's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the District budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the District will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017 from the District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Board Recommends \$17,199,140.00

ARTICLE 15 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 15: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 16: To see if Maine School Administrative District No. 72 will appropriate **\$20,000** for adult education and raise **\$20,000** as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

Given under our hand this day, May 18, 2016 at Fryeburg, Maine.

Maria Straven
Jane Turnbull
John L. Jones
D. School
Edward J. Brown
Besteller
Quinn
Laurie Weston

Mitchell H. Dunder
Norma R. Snow
Kathleen Dymman
Claude Nipback
Laura K. C.
J. H.
J. H.

A majority of the School Board of Maine School Administrative District No. 72

A true copy of the Warrant, attest: Heather Sheehan
Heather Sheehan, Resident
Maine School Administrative District No. 72

Brownfield Denmark Elementary School 2015-2016 Highlights

Students: This year our students have been very focused on learning all of the grade level standards. In addition to this hard work, we have held some other learning experiences. Our first event was a 5-2-1-0 Healthy Day where students learned about topics such as yoga, creating healthy smoothies and sugars in common drinks. Another activity that we were able to participate in, through a grant that Ms. Zahn pursued, was listening to the Portland Symphony Orchestra. In the afternoon, the students were able to engage in a unique experience called Get Air! During January we supported children with Lymphoma and Leukemia by raising monies through a program called Pennies for Patients. We raised \$1030.16. As we moved into winter we worked on our theme of Perseverance. Students earned a game time if they earned a Perseverance ticket. Some of the reasons students were given the tickets were working through a difficult project, working out an issue with their classmates or struggling with a problem in an academic area. Shortly after, a four week March Into Reading event was held which culminated with Laura Marsh, an author from National Geographic for Kids, joining us for the day to explain the process of creating a book. Each student left that day with an autographed book from Mrs. Marsh. Our last activity of the year will include a Career Day which will be held in June and will involve many community members teaching children about their profession.

In addition to all of these activities, Mr. Bryan, our instrumental teacher, has continued to work with an elementary school band and Ms. Zahn began a choral group for grades 4 - 5. We have also initiated a BDES Student Council where student input is used in some decisions at the school.

Staff: Our extremely dedicated and patient staff has put a huge amount of effort into supporting the educational and socio-emotional needs of our students daily. Some of our Professional Development time has included work on ways to support struggling students, improving student behavior, expanding learner centered strategies, improving instruction and building our understanding of the math curriculum.

Parents and Community: We have invited parents and the community to help us celebrate student performances and presentations such as the Talent Show, Musical Program and the Valentine's Day Tea Party.

Our PTO has worked very hard this year to provide us with support in many ways such as purchasing a membership to Ruth's Reusable Resources, purchasing a book for each of the children for our March Into Reading event, running two book fairs so teachers can purchase books for their classroom and provide end of the year prizes and fundraising through an auction where the monies are used on projects at the school.

We are collaborating with the Masons on a Bikes for Books Program where we will give away 12 bikes at the end of the school year.

C. A. Snow Elementary School 2015-2016 Highlights

This year at C.A. Snow school we introduced many new initiatives as well as continued with some old favorites.

Several teachers piloted a new teacher evaluation system which included frequent reflection on teaching style, curriculum and student progress. The hope is that this system will help teachers develop their professional skills which, in turn, will improve student progress.

The school initiated a new online report card system. This new system, called Jump Rope, collects student mastery data and analyzes it to show patterns of student growth. It allows teachers to more readily share lessons and data with other teachers. Additionally, Jump Rope offers a parent portal feature that allows parents to monitor student progress online.

In response to a fall parent survey, the school offered a number of activities for parents to attend during the school day. Among these activities were reader's theaters, monthly student awards assemblies, student project presentations, author presentations, and all-school talent show. All told, the school offered 23 events where students could "show-off" to parents during their school day.

Resources offered to parents this year were a book discussion group, weekly newsletters, and bi-monthly Principal Advisory Council meetings where parents could discuss current issues affecting their child's education.

The school brought in several guest presenters this year. In the fall we were joined by bicycle riders from all over the world as the Maine Biking Coalition stopped by on its Maine tour. Students were able to interview individuals from all over the world. In the winter, we were visited by children's book author, Amy MacDonald. Mrs. MacDonald met with each class to help students find their own writer's voice. In the spring, we invited Mad Science of Maine to share their enthusiasm for science with the whole school.

The Parent-Teacher Association supported a number activities this year including the Harvest Festival, Turkey Trot, Boy's Night Out, Girl's Night Out, Holiday party, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, two book fairs and multiple fund raisers. These events were well attended by students and their families.

Students joined some additional activities this year to support in their social/emotional and academic growth. Eighteen students participated in the community service club. Sixteen students were involved in the Girls on the Run program which had themed lesson designed to empower girls. Sixteen students worked with Tynker programming software to learn the basics of programming. Ten students sang with the elementary chorus and nine students played in the elementary band.

New Suncook Elementary School 2015-2016 Highlights

Gratitude has been our school-wide theme this year at New Suncook. It was chosen based on the work we did in July learning about how to support the social/emotional well-being of students. Throughout the year, we have taught students brain-based strategies for helping them to be focused and ready to learn when they are in school. As part of this work, students begin to look for small things to be grateful for which helps people have a more positive outlook and better be able to deal with life's challenges. We have had a "gratitude tree" in our school this year, where students, staff or community can add a leaf to record something they have been grateful for. Some of these have been posted on our Facebook page which is also new this year.

We have continued to work on our communication with families and the community with many posts and "likes" on Facebook. In addition we have hosted several family/ community events in conjunction with our PTA and Lovell Rec. These have included Alternative Learning Day, STEM family night, Santa's workshop, Italian Dinner, Silent Auction and several book fairs. To help promote summer reading, we are planning activities in June in conjunction with the Lovell Library.

Academically students have made strong growth in reading and writing which are both taught in a workshop model. Students participate in a "mini-lesson" as a whole group then have the opportunity to read and/or write about topics with individual or small group conferences for feedback and further coaching from the teacher. In math, students have focused on developing both their conceptual knowledge and efficiency in computation and problem solving. The problems students work on are often complex and multi-step, better reflecting more authentic uses of math in our daily lives.

Students have continued to learn about their world through science and social studies. This year we had a Current Events class for second through fifth graders. Students have had opportunities to read, debate and create projects reflecting current happenings both locally and globally. In addition, students have learned about Maine and American history. The fourth and fifth graders even went on a simulated Oregon Trail to learn about the hardships faced and how westward expansion affected the United States. In science we have continued our partnership with Tin Mountain with each grade level working on an ecological or natural history unit. In addition, students have worked on physical and earth science units as well as an engineering unit in grades 4/5.

It has been a very busy and productive year at New Suncook. We are grateful for the continued parent and community support we receive.

Molly Ockett Middle School 2015-16 Highlights

Staff works tirelessly incorporating learner centered strategies to support students in their academic and social well-being:

In the Classroom: In addition to classroom learning, students participated in hands-on opportunities at Tin Mountain, the Augusta State Capitol, Lake Region Career Fair, marine studies, University of Maine at Orono STEM Careers for Girls, University of Southern Maine information and campus tour and many others as they focused on grade level standards. Students presented their learning in the Science Fair and Invention Convention Night. 8th grade hosted its 2nd Annual Decades Film Festival and piloted a project based learning experience with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and the building project.

Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) focused their studies on trees, tree forms and Ecological Succession with many local outings providing experiential learning in STEM. They hosted and worked with many local scientists and community partners including Tin Mountain, Naturalists from Bryant Pond, Greater Lovell Land Trust, the National Weather Bureau in Gray, Pie Tree Orchard, Green Mountain Conservation Group, to name but a few. Their accomplishments included a well-attended Family Engineering Night, Speech Night, Ossipee Town Hall presentations, and much more as seen on their comprehensive website: <https://sites.google.com/a/msad72.org/mesa/>

Students Assemblies: The school as a whole came together quarterly to recognize students for their achievements in attendance, school work habits, academics, Unified Arts achievements and to showcase their art and musical talents. Monthly teams chose a "Student of the Month" - students who rose above others by contributing in a positive fashion to their academics, school and community. Our Rotary Citizen of the Month, together with their parents and family, were invited to join the Fryeburg Rotary Club as a guest for breakfast and were honored with a certificate of achievement and gift card to purchase a book. These students demonstrated outstanding character traits.

Advisory Groups (School goal) Students and teachers alike looked forward to morning Advisory time as it fostered meaningful connections and contributed to a positive school climate. Team building activities involved movement, discussions, competition, art, tracking of assignments, and goal setting in this small daily group meeting.

Safe School Ambassadors Forty students in grades 6th-8th were trained to recognize school-wide mistreatment among their peers and respond using Ambassador actions. Safe School Ambassadors met regularly with team leaders to further develop skills, gain support and maintain inspiration for encouraging a positive school climate.

JumpRope (School goal) reports were used school-wide to communicate student academic and work habit progress. This year the parents' portal was opened, enabling both students and their parents to logon and view progress.

Response to Intervention (RtI) (School goal) Through assessments and classroom observations, teachers identified students struggling in ELA, math and study skills and fine-tuned their instruction strategies to close the achievement gap of these students.

Clubs, Sports and Activities: More than half of our students participated in athletics this year including soccer, field hockey, cross-country, basketball, Nordic skiing, and alpine skiing, baseball, softball, and track and field. Students had the opportunity to participate in Early Act (middle school branch of Rotary), Student Council, Art Club and Yearbook. The music program provided students with the opportunity to learn instrumental music, sing in chorus, showcase their skills in band, MOJO, percussion club, audition at the prestigious District II Honors Instrumental and Choral Music Festivals and perform for audiences at school and at the Fryeburg Academy Performing Art Center. Actors had the opportunity to perform this spring in "Once Upon a Mattress", with approximately 50 students involved.

School-Wide Activities encouraged academic, social, physical fitness, environmental and social awareness. The PTO Turkey Trot got students and staff running with great participation. School-wide Recycling decreased lunchtime landfill waste by students composting and recycling. Most students participated in qualifying for the school Geo Bee and Spelling Bee with 6th grade and 8th graders respectively winning and representing MOMS regionally. Other activities included lunchtime sporting tournaments, Penny Wars, school dances and dress-up days keeping students positively engaged.