

# M.S.A.D. # 72

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

## ANNUAL REPORT and 2014-2015 BUDGET EXPLANATION

Annual Budget Meeting  
Wednesday, May 28, 2014 7:00P.M.  
Molly Ockett Middle School  
James R. Anderson Gymnasium



The detailed 2014-2015 proposed Budget is  
available online at the District web-site [www.msad72.org](http://www.msad72.org)

## **FY15 Budget Summary**

### **“Balancing Student Needs and Ability to Pay”**

The proposed FY15 budget for MSAD 72 is \$16,211,892. This represents a 2.15% increase over the current budget. The MSAD 72 Board of Directors has done its due diligence in preparing this budget, and the culmination of those efforts is a budget that we feel supports quality programming without placing unreasonable demands on local taxpayers. To better understand the proposed budget, I would like to provide you with the context for decisions that were made prior to approval.

There were many financial challenges presented by this year’s budget. Some of those challenges included increased needs for students with disabilities that drove a \$400,000 increase in our budget. These needs are driven by students’ Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and we are legally required to provide those students with an appropriate education. Additional increases included step increases for employees of 2%, health insurance increases of 9.5%, the need to purchase two new busses to replace aging vehicles, and the fact that we have less Balance Forward to apply to this year’s budget. All told, these amounts represent an increase of \$1,215,000.

The next logical question is, “Why didn’t the budget increase by that amount?” Rather than ask taxpayers to increase our budget by 8% to cover the costs of those increases, we constantly search for efficiencies or methods to reduce the tax impact. Cutting non-essential positions is unfortunately a necessity when taxpayers don’t have unlimited funds to apply to education. In the case of foreign language, we have worked with Fryeburg Academy to maintain consistent, high quality instruction for eighth graders so that we don’t lose the program altogether. In the case of industrial arts, we are just not in a position to maintain four teachers for 25-30 students in the MESA Program, regardless of the quality of the teacher or program. We are advocating for critical needs in the budget process and not anything that could be deemed an “extra.”

One positive impact to the budget includes the recently ratified Fryeburg Academy contract. Due to a change in billing practices, we have saved roughly \$90,000 this year in what has been paid for tuition costs in the past. State subsidy has also increased slightly even though our local effort continues to increase.

Given all of the budget increases, we feel that a 2.15% budget-to-budget increase 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. In addition, the 2.15% increase only results in a .89% increase in costs to our towns. I hope that you come to the May 28<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting at Molly Ockett Middle School to support this budget.

Jay Robinson  
MSAD 72 Superintendent

**Key Budget Information  
FY15 Budget**

Proposed Budget: \$16,211,892  
 Current Year's Budget: \$15,870,863  
 Difference: \$341,029 (2.15%)

What is driving the increase?

<u>Fixed Cost Drivers:</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Salary Increases	\$184,000	2%
Health Insurance Increases	\$180,000	9.5%
Fuel Costs	\$26,500	14%

<u>State-Imposed Costs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Teacher Retirement Costs*	\$142,500

\*Does not include Fryeburg Academy

<u>Proposed Additions</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Two Busses	Aging Fleet	\$69,000
Special-Education Staff 9-12	Minimize Out of District Placements	\$110,000
Special-Education Staff K-8	Addition of Two Case Managers	\$120,000
Foreign Language Support	Maintaining Programming	\$12,000

<u>Proposed Cuts</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MOMS Foreign Language	Staff Ratios	\$46,000
MOMS MESA Position	Team Size	\$46,000
MOMS Secretarial Position (.5)	School Population	\$10,500
Technology Hardware	Non-Critical Expenditures	\$32,000

<u>State Aid</u>		<u>Required Local:</u>	
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	(1,045)	-.06%
Denmark	(42,743)	-2.24%
Fryeburg	(4,225)	-.11%
Lovell	40,188	1.68%
Stoneham	63,182	15.22%
Stow	(5,656)	-1.21%
Sweden	51,328	8.12%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$101,029</b>	<b>.89%</b>

**MSAD 72**  
**Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden**  
**Proposed Budget for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

	FY14	FY15	Difference	Increase
<b>Instruction</b>				
K-8	3,664,968	3,791,202	126,234	3.44%
9-12	4,573,183	4,117,835	(455,348)	-9.96%
Total	8,238,151	7,909,037	(329,114)	-3.99%
<b>Special Education</b>				
Instruction, Special Ed	3,140,300	3,661,156	520,856	16.59%
<b>Other Instruction</b>				
Co-Curricular	78,541	76,624	(1,917)	-2.44%
Summer School	10,263	7,928	(2,336)	-22.76%
Gifted and Talented	89,408	95,982	6,574	7.35%
<b>Student and Staff Support</b>				
Guidance	204,655	214,733	10,078	4.92%
Health	87,234	86,708	(526)	-0.60%
Technology	282,526	259,652	(22,874)	-8.10%
Improvement to Instruction	46,382	45,822	(560)	-1.21%
Library	142,424	147,270	4,846	3.40%
Assessment	46,345	46,444	99	0.21%
<b>System Administration</b>				
Directors	24,285	24,123	(162)	-0.67%
Superintendent's Office	466,367	464,119	(2,248)	-0.48%
<b>School Administration</b>				
Office of the Principal	509,465	523,778	14,313	2.81%
<b>Transportation and Buses</b>				
Transportation	1,341,926	1,452,790	110,864	8.26%
<b>Facilities and Maintenance</b>				
Operation and Maintenance	986,286	1,085,726	99,440	10.08%
Capital Projects	21,565	20,000	(1,565)	-7.26%
	1,007,851	1,105,726	97,875	9.71%
<b>Debt Service</b>				
Debt Service	64,740	0	(64,740)	-100.00%
<b>All Other Expenditures</b>				
Food Service	90,000	90,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total Budget</b>	15,870,863	16,211,892.00	341,029	2.15%

## Frequently Asked Budget Questions

### Q: What is the 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 (such as was the case last year with teacher-retirement costs). 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 a district budget meeting, which will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the middle school.

### 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 mil rate (8.10 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 (8.10). 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	\$853,926
Fryeburg	\$2,681,151
Stow	<u>\$117,862</u>
Total:	\$3,652,940

### 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 FY15?

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

Brownfield	-.06%
Denmark	-2.24%
Fryeburg	-.11%
Lovell	1.68%
Stoneham	15.22%
Stow	-1.21%
Sweden	8.12%

**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 composed 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 Maine School Administrative District No. 72, namely, 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 28, 2014 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting articles 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 \$7,909,037**

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

**School Board Recommends \$3,661,156**

**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 \$180,534**

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

**School Board Recommends \$800,629**

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

**School Board Recommends \$488,242**

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

**School Board Recommends \$523,778**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

**School Board Recommends \$1,452,790**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

**School Board Recommends \$1,105,726**

**ARTICLE 10:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

**School Board Recommends \$0.00**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.

**School Board Recommends \$90,000**

**ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 13 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:**

<p>Total Appropriated (by municipality):</p> <p>Town of Brownfield: \$2,249,151.44</p> <p>Town of Denmark: \$1,479,770.95</p> <p>Town of Fryeburg: \$5,654,256.25</p> <p>Town of Lovell: \$1,748,363.81</p> <p>Town of Stoneham: \$371,511.62</p> <p>Town of Stow: \$494,512.09</p> <p>Town of Sweden: \$553,502.10</p> <p><b>School District Total Appropriated</b></p> <p><b>(Sum of above)      \$12,551,068.26</b></p>	<p>Total raised (and District assessments by municipality):</p> <p>Town of Brownfield: \$1,395,225.00</p> <p>Town of Denmark: \$1,479,770.95</p> <p>Town of Fryeburg: \$2,973,105.00</p> <p>Town of Lovell: \$1,748,363.81</p> <p>Town of Stoneham: \$371,511.62</p> <p>Town of Stow: \$376,650.00</p> <p>Town of Sweden: \$553,502.10</p> <p><b>School District Total Raised:</b></p> <p><b>(Sum of above)      \$8,898,128.48</b></p>
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*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 \$2,561,044**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$2,207,629**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board recommends \$2,561,044 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$2,207,629: 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, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 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 \$16,211,892**

#### **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 **\$12,000** for adult education and raise **\$12,000** 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.



# 2013 - 2014 DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## ACADEMIC

- The District's overall proficiency for reading in grades 3-8 matched the State average of 69%.
- Reading proficiency at Brownfield-Denmark Elementary School remained strong at 78%. Reading proficiency at C. A. Snow also increased to 71%, up three percentage points from last year.
- New Suncook Elementary School is continuing to analyze data to provide targeted instruction to best meet the needs of individual students. Classroom assessments are showing very positive growth based upon pre/post assessment.
- Molly Ockett students in grades seven and eighth increased their reading proficiency by 4% and 5% respectively.
- Students' proficiency in math increased in grades four and six by 6% and 5% respectively.
- Students in all schools and at all grade levels are being provided with opportunities for additional support so that all students can meet the standards in each content area. We believe strongly that providing this additional support rather than moving on to new content is the best approach to help all students succeed.

## RECOGNITION

- Molly Ockett students Owen Burk, Ciara Neidlinger, Morgan Seebeck and Michael Shubert auditioned and were selected to the District II Honors Middle School Band.
- New Suncook 5<sup>th</sup> Grader Luna Barrionuevo was the state winner of the PTA Reflections Art Award. Her artwork has gone onto the national level competition and we are anxiously waiting word for the results of that competition.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade MESA student, Malina Voter, was the winner of the Maine Water Environment Association poster contest. Not only was Malina the winner of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade contestants but she was the winner of the overall contest competing with over 500 other students across Maine.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grader, Kyle Mercier was the winner of the Molly Ockett GeoBee.
- MESA teacher, Roger Wheeler, not only won the State Award of Excellence in Technology Education but the International Technology Engineering and Education Association Program of Excellence Award as well.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, Jade Fox was the winner of the Molly Ockett Spelling Bee and 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Sam Darling was the runner-up. Both went on to compete at the Oxford County Spelling Bee held in February.
- Christian Martin, Jessica Frum, Ciara Neidlinger, Elise Richardson, Erin Richardson and Gracie Vaughan auditioned and were accepted into the District II Honors Middle School Chorus.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Students at Brownfield/Denmark School collected Pet Food and Supplies for the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter.
- Students in the MESA program worked with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association and built about a dozen Loon nesting boxes to be used on Kezar Lake.
- Students at the CA Snow School held a "hat" fundraiser for a family in need.
- Students at Brownfield/Denmark School held a Penny Drive to raise funds for Leukemia research. They raised \$575.00.
- Molly Ockett EarlyAct members volunteered over 250 hours at more than a dozen community events such as Dinner Bell, Camp Sunshine Cleanup Day, Socks for Soldiers and the Polar Express. Many members also went without food for 30 hours to get a taste of hunger and raise funds to help save lives while learning about hunger, poverty and social justice issues as part of the "30 hour famine".
- Students at Brownfield Denmark School hosted Veteran's Day lunch to honor our local Veterans.

## **Molly Ockett Middle School 2013-14 Highlights**

**Molly Ockett Middle School staff has worked diligently supporting all students in various strategies throughout the school year:**

**In the Classroom:** Students were engaged in a variety of learning experiences focusing on grade level standards. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms participated in experiences such as fieldtrips to Tin Mountain, the State Capital, and Saco River. Students researched science and social studies topics working cooperatively. They presented their learning in a school-wide science and decades Family Night, but also presented their work during the school day to groups of student audiences. Students were awarded monthly recognition for academic and work habits through grade level awards as well as through the citizenship awards from the Fryeburg Rotary Club.

Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students focused on the importance of water with many local outings providing hands-on learning in math and science. They hosted their first Family Engineering Night with great success and enjoyed having a winning student recipient of a Maine state water poster contest and teacher recipient of the International Technology Engineering and Education Association Program Excellence Award.

The Special Services team work diligently providing experiential learning opportunities for students. This year students learned to be responsible alpine skiers, vegetable gardeners in the school greenhouse, workers at local businesses and operators of a school deli. This included the planning, preparing and serving of delicious, healthy lunches to school district staff.

**Clubs, Sports and Activities:** Molly Ockett continues to support and encourage student participation in a variety of Clubs, Sports and Activities. This year students had the opportunity to join First Act, Student Council, and Yearbook where they participated, planned and coordinated school-wide and community events. The music program this year prepared students for several concerts; students performed musical pieces in band and chorus for audiences at both the school and at the Performing Art Center. More than 10 music students auditioned for prestigious District II Honors Instrumental Music Festival. They worked very hard to prepare their solos and scales with their music teachers and on their own for at least six weeks before the audition. Four students were selected as finalist through audition and performed in the District II Honors Instrumental Music Festival in the Middle School Band. More than 50 students participated in the drama musical performance of "The Music Man". Our athletes this year had 10 different teams including soccer, field hockey, cross-country, basketball, Nordic skiing, alpine skiing, cheer squad, baseball, softball, track and field.

**School-Wide Activities:** In addition to specific classroom activities, school-wide activities encouraged academic, social, physical fitness, environmental and social awareness. The fall Turkey Trot, sponsored by PTO, had all grades and staff running with close to 100% participation. School-wide Recycling decreased lunchtime landfill waste by students composting and recycling. Academically, students participated in a GeoBee and Spelling Bee with 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> winners respectively. Students showcased their superior spelling and geography skills in an impressive school-wide performance. Other activities included lunchtime sporting tournaments, Penny Wars, talent show, school dances and dress-up days keeping students positively engaged.

### **Special Education Highlights**

**Denmark School:** Incorporated some American Sign Language in the Kindergarten Program

**C. A. Snow School:** Initiated "Handwriting Without Tears" programming in Kindergarten Program

**New Suncook School:** Expanded the Essential Skills program to include students requiring self-contained programming (50% or more of the day)

**Molly Ockett Middle School:** Initiated job exploration and placements/volunteer work in two programs; The Essential Skills Program incorporated the following experiences for students:

- Weekly community learning experiences in the local community-students learn consumer skills
- Weekly community based job placements at local businesses-Students had weekly jobs stocking shelves at Thriftway Market.
- The Maine Adaptive Ski Program at Shawnee Peak
- The Raider's Deli-student run restaurant
- Making & selling Caribbean Green Seasoning Sauce from peppers grown in our greenhouse
- Workshop at a local Pottery Studio to make ceramic bowls for the soup and bowl fundraiser at MOMS

## **New Suncook Elementary School 2013-2014 Highlights**

New Suncook School has continued to be a strong learning community this year. As we have continued our work to meet the needs of every child through a standards based/learner centered environment, students have shown growth academically, emotionally and socially. They are better able to set academic and behavioral goals for themselves and to talk about their learning and their work.

One of the ways we have supported this work is through a new writing program we are using called Units of Study in Opinion, Information and Narrative Writing developed through Columbia University's Teacher's College. The improvement in the content and style of writing K-5 has been remarkable. Not only is the writing better, but students are excited about their writing and have used their skills outside of writing class to write for a variety of purposes. In addition to the writing students bring home to share, parents have also had several opportunities to read and hear the writing from various classes on formal invitation days when a "writer's share" is held in a classroom. We are proud of our work in this area and look forward to further developing this writing and reading program.

Another way we have supported learners in becoming more self-directed is through a model known as the Collaborative and Proactive solutions approach developed by Dr. Ross Greene. Last spring we received a grant from the Juvenile Justice Group to support training of a core team in this approach. The team has worked with all of the staff and students to figure out what skills students are lacking that cause challenging behavior and how to work with students to teach the skills needed. We have seen some success with this model even in the first year and feel the philosophy fits well with the work we are doing at the school. For further information about this approach, please visit this website:

<http://www.livesinthebalance.org/about-lives-in-the-balance>

In addition to our daily work, we have had some special events throughout the year. One new event was our One Author, One Community month in March. The entire school community did an author study of Kevin Henkes. Students and their families were encouraged to read as many books as possible by this author. Classrooms used his books as read-alouds. At the end of the month, each class created a review/celebration of one of his books to share with the school. Our school librarian created an online discussion group for families, staff and students to share their thoughts about the books. If you would like to view the website, the link is <https://sites.google.com/a/msad72.org/one/>. Included in our activities during the month was a walk to the Charlotte Hobbs library in town where they did some activities with us. We also had a family literacy night supported by the PTA and PKA (after school program) that had over a hundred people in attendance.

This event highlights the collaboration that occurs throughout the year among the many groups that work with our students such as PKA, PTA, Lovell Rec and the Charlotte Hobbs Library. It creates a supportive, productive learning environment when the community has such a strong presence in the school.

Finally, it is with much gratitude that we say goodbye to three staff members who have worked at New Suncook School for many years. First is Christine Gillespie, who is moving to Denmark School to be closer to home. Her contributions to students' lives go far beyond feeding them breakfast and lunch each day. She has served as a mentor for several students, created a small business club to run the school store and started the backpack program to provide nutritional food to students over the weekend if needed.

The next two staff members have decided to retire. Annemarie Owens has been an ed. tech at our school for fifteen years. She has provided instructional support in the primary classrooms with great skill and humor. Linda Carpenter has worked in our school district for over thirty years, most of which has been at New Suncook. Her contributions in the area of curriculum, assessment and instruction will be long lasting in the district as well as her contributions to the educational lives of the many, many children with whom she has worked. Both of these staff members will be greatly missed, but we wish them well in their retirements.

## **C.A. Snow Elementary School 2014-15 Highlights**

### Successes

- Students are using new technologies such as Google Docs...
- School provided a number of extracurricular activities including Red Ribbon week, science day, K-5 concert and Alternative Learning day.
- Integrated technology into our math and reading curriculum (Moby Max)
- Increased the frequency of STAR assessment data collection.
- Implemented a team teaching model for all grade-levels
- Improved the overall frequency of technology use for students and teachers.
- Began using targeted assessment tools to identify the student skill deficits and narrow down instruction strategies.
- Students became leaders in community circles (grades 4 and 5)
- Use of new reading inventories to assess student growth.(QRI & PAST)
- Adjusted to the change of a new half-time principal and new secretary.

Teachers completed professional development in the following areas:

- Cross Cutting Practices, which helped connect lessons across content areas.
- Understanding Working Memory
- Technology integration
- Math teaching strategies
- Suicide prevention training
- Monthly grade-level Response to Intervention discussions (RTI)

### Community Service

- Held a “hat” fundraiser for a family in need.

## **Brownfield-Denmark Elementary School 2014-15 Highlights**

### Successes

- A number of student receiving (Title I) support for reading have made a year to one and half year's growth
- We have seen an increased willingness on some students to take a risk or to state what they tried that doesn't work
- We expanded the school Student Assistant Team to include more staff input to assist struggling students.
- Students are using new technologies such as Comic Creator, Porta-Portal, Primary Wall, Google Docs, and Google Earth.
- Teachers are incorporating language development into Math, Social Studies and Science lessons.
- School provided a number of extracurricular activities including a talent show, walking club, science day, K-5 concert and career day.
- Installed a brand new playground.
- Piloted the new “Smarter Balance” standardized test for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Adjusted to the change of a half-time principal and new secretary.

Teachers completed professional development in the following areas:

- Cross Cutting Practices, which helped connect lessons across content areas.
- Understanding Working Memory
- Technology integration
- Math teaching strategies
- Suicide prevention training

### Community Service

- Collected 75# of can tabs for the Shriners Hospital
- Penny Drive for Leukemia research (\$575)
- Collected 400 items for the Animal shelter food drive