

M.S.A.D. # 72

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

ANNUAL REPORT and 2015-2016 BUDGET EXPLANATION

Annual Budget Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2015 7:00P.M.
Molly Ockett Middle School
James R. Anderson Gymnasium



The detailed 2015-2016 proposed Budget is
available online at the District web-site www.msad72.org

FY16 Budget Summary

The proposed FY16 budget for MSAD 72 is **\$16,425,555**. This represents a **1.32%** increase over the current budget. 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. Increases included teacher retirement costs for both District and Fryeburg Academy teachers of \$248,768, step increases for all employees of 2%, a health insurance increase of less than 1%, 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.

We strongly believe that a 1.32% 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 1.32% increase results in a **.69% decrease** in costs to our towns. I hope that you come to the May 27th 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 a district budget meeting, which will be held on May 27th 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 mill rate (8.48 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 (8.48). 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	\$1,018,688
Fryeburg	\$2,885,858
Stow	<u>\$204,609</u>
Total:	\$4,109,156

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 FY16?

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

Brownfield	.18%
Denmark	1.69%
Fryeburg	-.23%
Lovell	-4.97%
Stoneham	7.06%
Stow	1.49%
Sweden	-3.70%

Key Budget Information FY16 Budget

Proposed Budget:	\$16,425,555
Current Year's Budget:	\$16,211,892
Difference:	\$ 213,664 (1.32%)

What is driving the increase?

<u>Fixed Cost Drivers:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary Increases	\$(19,740)
Health Insurance Increases	\$(47,643)
Fuel Increase	\$(15,683)
Heating Oil	\$(10,000)

<u>State-Imposed Costs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Teacher Retirement Costs	\$248,768 (Increase of \$51,649)
*Increased from 2.65% to 3.36%	

<u>Proposed Additions</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Two Busses	Aging Fleet	\$175,500
Replacement Equipment	Food Service Needs	\$19,400
ESL Position	Student Need	\$27,700
Tutors	Previously Unbudgeted Need	\$32,000

<u>Proposed Cuts</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Educational Technicians (3)	Case Driven	\$75,000
Technology Hardware	Non-Critical Expenditures	\$30,000

<u>State Aid</u>		<u>Required Local:</u>	
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

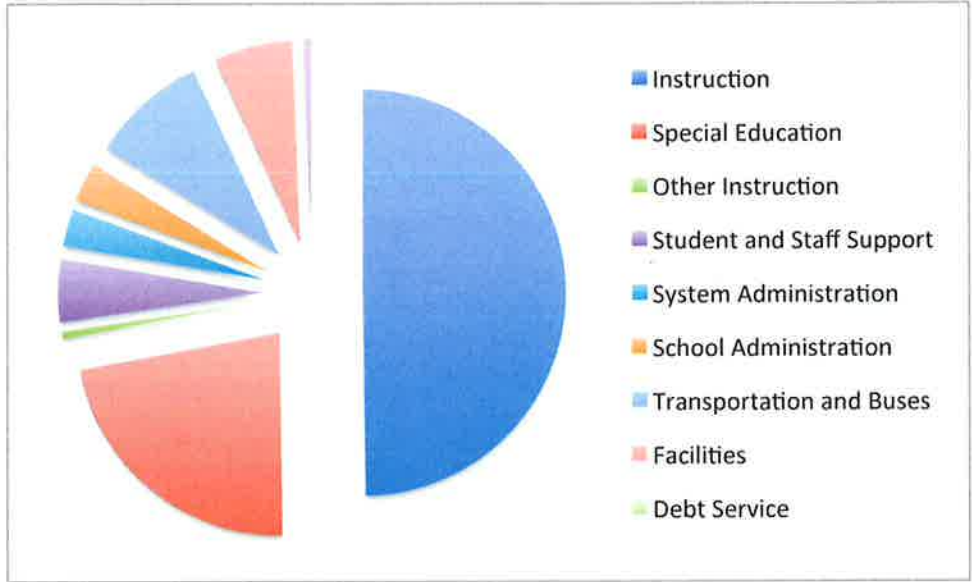
<u>Impact on Local Taxpayer</u>		
Brownfield	(3,123)	.18%
Denmark	31,504	1.69%
Fryeburg	(8,859)	-.23%
Lovell	(120,635)	-4.97%
Stoneham	33,785	7.06%
Stow	6,909	1.49%
Sweden	(25,300)	-3.70%
Total:	\$(79,474)	-.69%

MSAD 72
Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden
Proposed Budget for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

		FY15	FY16	Difference	Increase
Instruction					
	K-8	3,779,466	3,835,041	55,575	1.47%
	GT	95,982	106,334	10,352	10.79%
	9-12	4,117,835	4,237,686	119,851	2.91%
	Total	<u>7,993,283</u>	<u>8,179,062</u>	185,779	2.32%
Special Education					
	Instruction, Special Ed	3,661,156	3,657,288	(3,868)	-0.11%
Other Instruction					
	Co-Curricular	76,624	89,409	12,785	16.69%
	Summer School	7,928	7,983	56	0.70%
		<u>84,552</u>	<u>97,392</u>	12,841	15.19%
Student and Staff Support					
	Guidance	214,733	215,617	884	0.41%
	Health	86,708	87,625	917	1.06%
	Technology	259,652	265,701	6,049	2.33%
	Other Student Support Services (504)	11,736	14,305	2,569	21.89%
	Improvement to Instruction	45,822	58,637	12,815	27.97%
	Library	147,270	151,448	4,178	2.84%
	Assessment	46,444	34,306	(12,137)	-26.13%
		<u>812,365</u>	<u>827,639</u>	15,275	1.88%
System Administration					
	Directors	24,123	22,348	(1,775)	-7.36%
	Superintendent's Office	464,119	465,614	1,495	0.32%
		<u>488,242</u>	<u>487,962</u>	-280	-0.06%
School Administration					
	Office of the Principal	523,778	518,119	(5,659)	-1.08%
Transportation and Buses					
	Transportation	1,452,790	1,523,840	71,050	4.89%
Facilities					
	Operation and Maintenance	1,085,726	1,015,853	(69,873)	-6.44%
	Minor Capital Projects	20,000	19,400	(600)	-3.00%
		<u>1,105,726</u>	<u>1,035,253</u>	(70,473)	-6.37%
Debt Service					
	Debt Service	0	0	0	
All Other Expenditures					
	Food Service	90,000	99,000	9,000	10.00%
	Total Budget	<u>16,211,891</u>	<u>16,425,555</u>	213,664	1.32%

Cost Centers

Instruction	8,179,062	49.79%
Special Education	3,657,288	22.27%
Other Instruction	97,392	0.59%
Student and Staff Support	827,639	5.04%
System Administration	487,962	2.97%
School Administration	518,119	3.15%
Transportation and Buses	1,523,840	9.28%
Facilities	1,035,253	6.30%
Debt Service	0	0.00%
Food Service	99,000	0.60%
Total	16,425,555	100%



**Estimated Revenue: General Fund
2015-2016**

	<u>Local</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance Forward	600,000		600,000
Tuition:			
Chatham, NH	313,000		313,000
Albany, ME		24,500	24,500
State Subsidy			
EPS Funding Model	9,196,707	4,109,156	13,305,863
Local Share Debt Service	0		0
Miscellaneous	7,000	200	7,200
Additional Local Funds	<u>2,174,992</u>	<u> </u>	<u>2,174,992</u>
	12,291,699	4,133,856	16,425,555

Increase in Town Assessments

2015-2016 Valuations	1,538,333,333
2014-2015 Valuations	1,552,175,000
2013-2014 Valuations	1,570,250,000
2012-2013 Valuations	1,597,300,000

THE BALANCE FORWARD AS A TAX REFUND

Many people ask, "If the District does not spend all of the money in its budget what happens to the extra money; does the Superintendent spend that money for what he wants?" The answer is: The district returns that money to the tax payer. It returns that money through the Balance Forward in the next year's budget (see Estimated Revenue: General Fund above).

Thus the Balance Forward, which is the unspent money from the previous budget subtracted from the amount to be raised from the towns to support the proposed budget.

In addition, a Finance Committee of School Board members reviews and approves every individual payment (check) made by the District, the School Board approves the budget itself, and the District employs an independent Certified Public Accountant to audit its books at the end of each fiscal year.

Tax Impact History

	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10	FY9	FY8	Average
DISTRICT	(0.69)	0.89	0.65	2.87	1.90	1.57	0.06	4.02	1.90	1.46
Brownfield	0.18	(0.06)	4.15	3.66	5.77	6.57	8.48	7.66	3.67	4.45
Denmark	1.69	(2.24)	(5.02)	5.16	3.36	(1.82)	(14.46)	(1.84)	6.05	(1.01)
Fryeburg	(0.23)	(0.11)	4.26	0.06	2.28	4.73	4.22	7.85	0.64	2.63
Lovell	(4.97)	1.68	(4.78)	3.50	(2.15)	(1.93)	0.20	(2.23)	0.10	(1.18)
Stoneham	7.06	15.22	23.40	8.84	0.49	(9.45)	(11.71)	17.12	(5.91)	5.01
Stow	1.49	(1.21)	0.85	3.57	6.39	14.10	5.70	7.97	1.92	4.53
Sweden	(3.70)	8.12	(2.16)	4.26	(0.63)	(4.49)	6.99	17.97	4.00	3.37

Proposed 2015-2016 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	0.14055504	305,706	0	2,811	1,445,557.34	1,754,075	1,750,952	3,123	0.18%
Denmark	0.15132496	329,131	0	3,026	1,566,100.08	1,898,257	1,866,753	31,504	1.69%
Fryeburg	0.32156504	699,401	0	6,431	3,087,144.00	3,792,977	3,801,836	(8,859)	-0.23%
Lovell	0.25889197	563,088	0	5,178	1,737,745.71	2,306,012	2,426,647	(120,635)	-4.97%
Stoneham	0.04236399	92,141	0	847	419,134.69	512,123	478,338	33,785	7.06%
Stow	0.03594611	78,183	0	719	391,493.34	470,395	463,486	6,909	1.49%
Sweden	0.04935289	107,342	0	987	549,532.13	657,861	683,161	(25,300)	-3.70%
Total	100%	2,174,992	0	20,000	9,196,707.29	11,391,699	11,471,173	(79,474)	-0.69%
		2,174,992	0	20,000	9,196,707.29	11,391,699	11,471,173	-79,474	
	12-13 over 11-12		13-14 over 12-13		14-15 over 13-14		15-16 over 14-15		
Brownfield	59,423	3.66%	26,379	1.57%	(1,045)	-0.06%	3,123	0.18%	
Denmark	98,645	5.16%	(100,866)	-5.02%	(42,743)	-2.24%	31,504	1.69%	
Fryeburg	2,182	0.06%	62,494	1.71%	(4,225)	-0.11%	(8,859)	-0.23%	
Lovell	84,712	3.50%	(119,725)	-4.78%	40,188	1.68%	(120,635)	-4.97%	
Stoneham	27,339	8.84%	78,727	23.40%	63,182	15.22%	33,785	7.06%	
Stow	16,055	3.57%	(7,841)	-1.69%	(5,656)	-1.21%	6,909	1.49%	
Sweden	26,432	4.26%	(13,979)	-2.16%	51,328	8.12%	(25,300)	-3.70%	
Total	314,788		(74,811)		101,029	0.89%	(79,474)		

**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 27, 2015 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 \$8,179,062.00

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

School Board Recommends \$3,657,288.00

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 \$97,392.00

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

School Board Recommends \$827,639.00

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

School Board Recommends \$487,962.00

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

School Board Recommends \$518,119.00

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

School Board Recommends \$1,523,840.00

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

School Board Recommends \$1,035,253.00

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 \$99,000.00

**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:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):	Total raised (and District assessments by municipality):
Town of Brownfield: \$ 2,464,245.83	Town of Brownfield: \$1,445,557.34
Town of Denmark: \$ 1,566,100.08	Town of Denmark: \$1,566,100.08
Town of Fryeburg: \$ 5,973,001.91	Town of Fryeburg: \$3,087,144.00
Town of Lovell: \$ 1,737,745.71	Town of Lovell: \$1,737,745.71
Town of Stoneham: \$ 419,134.69	Town of Stoneham: \$ 419,134.69
Town of Stow: \$ 596,102.67	Town of Stow: \$ 391,493.34
Town of Sweden: \$ 549,532.13	Town of Sweden: \$ 549,532.13
Total	School District
Appropriated	Total Raised:
(Sum of above) \$ 13,305,863.02	(Sum of above) \$ 9,196,707.29

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.

School Board recommends \$2,174,992.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$1,818,166.00** : 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 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 \$16,425,555.00

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 13, 2015 at Fryeburg, Maine.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

A true copy of the Warrant, attest: _____

Heather Sheehan, Resident
Maine School Administrative District No. 72

Brownfield Denmark Elementary School 2014-15 Highlights

Students

- Read into March activity where students had the opportunity to earn ribbons; Top reader read for 102 hours where the individual earned a gift certificate to a local book store
- Doing a joint Alternative Learning Day in May with the CAS
- Mr. Bryan has put together one of the largest elementary bands with over 50 musicians from all 3 elementary schools. Their concert is on May 19th.
- Students have used the building after school for PKA and basketball.
- Several community events to include Veteran's Day celebration, Music performance, talent show and awards ceremonies.
- Students participated in Pennies for Patients and raised \$1,252.32 for individuals with Lymphoma and Leukemia, collected can tabs for the Shriners and collected over 100 items for Harvest Hills.
- Students are getting more frequent computer literacy opportunities this year beginning in first grade.
- 5th graders have been involved in a mentor group for younger students to recognize random acts of kindness.
- Fourth graders have been Reading Buddies with the K students.

Staff

- Professional Development has included work on grading/report cards, developing and implementing writing instructional strategies, student behaviors, developing learner-centered classrooms, suicide prevention and learning about the new teacher evaluation system.
- Completed two lockdown drills (one announced and one unannounced) in addition to multiple fire drills

Parents

- 4 parents regularly volunteer to assist students during the school day.
- The parents have joined us to celebrate student performances and presentations such as Talent Show, Musical Program and the Tea Party.

C. A. Snow Elementary School 2014-15 Highlights

Students

- In March the 4th grade did an Iditarod reenactment
- March Read-A-thon activity where students had the opportunity to read books as part of a school fundraiser. Prizes were awarded to a number of students.
- Doing a joint Alternative learning day in May with the BDES
- Mr. Bryant has put together one of the largest elementary bands with over 50 musicians from all 3 elementary schools. Their concert is on May 19th.
- Students have used the building after school for PKA, Girl Scouts, and basketball.
- Several community events to include Veteran's Day celebration, Music performance, Grandparents Day, and awards ceremonies.
- Once a month, we divide the students into 27 small community groups led by a staff member. These K-5 groups provide an opportunity for student to connect with others students doing non-academic tasks.
- Students are getting more frequent computer literacy opportunities this year beginning in first grade.
- Students are making great progress with the new reading curriculum which has some technology components.

Staff

- Professional Development has included work on grading/report cards, learning and implementing a new reading curriculum, developing learner-centered classrooms, and learning about the new teacher evaluation system.
- Several mid-year staff changes have required changes in duties, schedules, and parent connections. Staff has done a great job with the adjustments and flexibility.
- Completed two lock down drills (one announced and one unannounced) in addition to multiple fire drills

Parents

- To date we have had 4 Principal Advisory Councils. Approximately 20 parents have taken a part in one or more of the meetings. Topics have included: learner-centered classroom, peer relationships in school, student behavior strategies for school and home, and report cards.
- Parents are actively involved in the Parent-teacher organization (PTO) who have sponsored many events this year and will be sponsoring an upcoming Science Day in June.
- 5 parents regularly volunteer to assist students during the school day.

New Suncook Elementary School 2014-15 Highlights

Our theme this year at New Suncook has been Celebrating Community. We have worked on building a strong, productive learning community within our school throughout the year with activities such as Morning Meetings (daily), Community Circle with our school counselor (weekly), Reading buddies (weekly), school walk (weekly) and our School Community meeting (monthly). During our School community meeting, students are recognized who have been seen being safe, respectful and responsible. We have added many “stars” to our wall of fame in our entry way for those students who have been recognized for an abundance of acts that were safe, respectful or responsible. In addition, we have partnered with Connections for Kids which provides counseling services in the school (covered by insurance) which allows for a greater connection between the counselors and school staff in implementing strategies students can use to help them be more successful in school.

Several organizations also worked very hard to support the students in our school. The New Suncook PTA has been very active as always with fundraising activities such as the Silent Auction and the Italian dinner where fifth graders are the servers. These activities help to defray the costs of field trips such as the overnight trip the fourth and fifth graders take every other year to Plimoth Plantation and Lexington and Concord. The PTA also sponsors many events in collaboration with our after school program (PKA) such as family dinners, Harvest festival and a craft night which encourages families to be more involved in the school. The PTA also organizes our Alternative Learning Day which allows our students to work with community members to learn a new hobby or a possible career option. They also organized our school spelling bee and our Reflections program. Two of our students’ artwork won recognition at a state wide level from this program. Our afterschool program (PKA) also has utilized community members and resources this year such as 4-H, Tin Mountain and weekly trips to the Charlotte Hobbs library.

Another way we have reached out to the community this year is our One Author, One Community event that occurred in March. This year we chose Cynthia Rylant as our author. Students, family members and community members (through the Hobbs library) were encouraged to read as many of her books as they could. Families could add to a blog about her books through our school library website. We also had three family lunches that were very well attended. At the lunches one of Rylant’s books was shared (When the Relatives Came) Parents and children then discussed focus questions that were similar to questions children would discuss during reading lessons in their classrooms. We also had a final celebration where students could choose an activity organized by a staff member that related to one of Rylant’s books.

Academically we have worked hard to build a learning community where students are engaged in their learning and given opportunities to make choices about their learning. Students learn reading and writing strategies that can be utilized when they are engaged with books of their choice or writing topics of their choice. In math, students are learning about persistence as well as math facts and strategies as they problem solve, justify their reasoning and apply the skills they are learning.

Our alternative program (LEAP) was new this year. Students in that program have learned many strategies for dealing with stress, anxiety or frustration that has allowed them to make great growth academically. This program will continue for five weeks this summer and then expand to include six more students next year.

Finally, another one of our community partnerships this year is with Lovell Recreation. They have worked to coordinate after school activities for our students as well as a summer program which will take place at the school in the afternoon. Part of this program includes breakfast and lunch which is coordinated through our school lunch program.

Our staff appreciates the support and collaboration with our community in support of our children so that they can be successful in school and hopefully grow to be effective citizens in our community in the future.

Molly Ockett Middle School 2014-15 Highlights

Staff works tirelessly supporting all students to increase their academic and social well-being:

In the Classroom: Middle School Students were engaged in a variety of learning experiences focusing on grade level standards. Students participated in experiential learning opportunities at Tin Mountain, the Augusta State Capital, Lake Region Career Fair, University of Maine at Orono STEM Careers for Girls, University of Southern Maine information and campus tour and more. Students used their reading and writing skills and researched topics in science and social studies working cooperatively. They presented their learning in a school-wide Science Fair and Invention Convention Night. 8th grade hosted a very successful 1st Annual Decades Film Festival both school wide and at a Family Night.

Students Recognition: Assemblies were held quarterly to appreciate students for their attendance, work habits, academics, Unified Arts achievements and to display their art and musical talents for families and students attending. Also teams honored two Students of the Month who stood out from their peers for demonstrating positive choices and efforts. Each month a team picked a Rotary Citizen of the Month, a student who demonstrated outstanding character traits.

Advisory Groups were new this year and met daily. Advisory gave students the opportunity to connect in small groups completing team building activities involving movement, discussions, art, keeping track of assignments, goal setting and much more. Many students looked forward to this small group time.

JumpRope is a type of progress report that Teachers researched and chose to pilot. Teachers communicated students' work habits and academic progress with parents using this new and innovative technology based system.

Response to Intervention (RtI) Teachers refined this program for students struggling in math, reading and writing. They determined students needing additional daily support and fine-tuned their instruction to close the achievement gap of many needy students.

Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA) students focused their studies on weather with many local outings providing experiential learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). They also hosted many local scientists from Tin Mountain, a Meteorologist from Channel 8 and Naturalists from Bryant Pond. Their accomplishments include a well attended Family Engineering Night, WCSH Channel 6 School that Shines Award, and much more as seen on their comprehensive website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/msad72.org/mesa/>

The Special Services Team provided many experiential learning opportunities: alpine skiing, greenhouse gardening, working at local businesses and operating a school deli which includes planning, preparing and serving delicious, healthy lunches to staff, friends and family.

Clubs, Sports and Activities provided opportunities to join Early Act, Student Council, Art Club and Yearbook. The music program showcased student musical pieces in band and chorus for audiences at both the school and at the Fryeburg Academy Performing Art Center. Students auditioned for the prestigious District II Honors Instrumental and Choral Music Festivals. Two students were selected as instrumental finalists and six students were selected for the chorus. More than 50 students participated in the drama musical performance of Charlie Brown. Our athletes this year had teams including soccer, field hockey, cross-country, basketball, Nordic skiing, and alpine skiing, cheer squad, baseball, softball, and track and field.

School-Wide Activities encouraged academic, social, physical fitness, environmental and social awareness. The PTO Turkey Trot got all grades and staff running with close to 100% participation. School-wide Recycling decreased lunchtime landfill waste by students composting and recycling. The winners of the GeoBee and Spelling Bee were 7th grade and 6th 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.