

Hampton Falls School District News

2009-2010 School Year

May/June 2010

Staff Retirements

Two long time employees, Judy Deshaies and Maureen O'Donnell, will be retiring in June.

Principal Judy Deshaies will be retiring after 15 successful years leading Lincoln Akerman School. Her dedication and caring for the children in Hampton Falls has been exemplary. Over the years she has provided strong leadership in the school and shown her dedication by attending hundreds of LAS events, often as the person who unlocked the gym door. Her knowledge and ability to deal with tight and ever changing budgets is a rare talent. In addition, her grant writing capabilities have been very beneficial to LAS.

Maureen O'Donnell has been a Speech and Language Pathologist at LAS for thirty-two years. Over the course of those years, her responsibilities have grown enormously in complexity and breadth, as more and more has been learned about the importance of speech and language acquisition in young children. Mrs. O'Donnell's kind nature and calm, quiet approach to working with children of the Hampton Falls community have been extremely helpful in developing these important skills. She works with students as young as three years old, and for many children, has provided services for all of their years at LAS.

As integral members of the Lincoln Akerman community, Mrs. Deshaies and Mrs. O'Donnell will be greatly missed. We wish them well in their retirement.

Principal Search

On March 2, 2010, the School Board selected Mark Deblois to be the next Principal for Lincoln Akerman School. Mr. Deblois began his career as a

classroom teacher at the middle school level and after earning his Master's Degree in Educational Counseling he worked for 20 years in the position of Director of Guidance at a high school. For the past 10 years he has served as principal in the K-8 school in Nobleboro Maine. He says he is most proud to have been a part of the establishment of a very strong school to community connection in Nobleboro and is looking forward to applying his skills and experience for the benefit of the Hampton Falls community.

As the school year comes to a close, Mr. Deblois and Mrs. Deshaies will be working together to ensure a smooth transition for the staff and students at LAS.

SAU 21 Superintendent Search

After the Joint Board's choice to replace retiring Superintendent James Gaylord decided against accepting the position of SAU 21 Superintendent, the Joint Board decided to re-open the search. Ten new applications were received and the original Screening Committee was re-convened to review them. Interviews were scheduled to be held the week of April 19th and the committee then forwarded recommendations to the Joint Board. Second interviews and school visits will be scheduled in early May after which a final selection will be made by the Joint Board.

Memorial Donation

An \$8,000 donation to Lincoln Akerman School was made in memory of Richard Bozzuto from the Richard Bozzuto Fund. The money will be used to purchase and install a state of the art projection and sound system in the gym. Mr. Bozzuto was an active member of the LAS technology committee for many years and his contributions to the

committee will be missed. A brass plaque will be installed inside the school in his honor.

Food Purchase Changes

For several years the SAU 21 Food Service Directors have worked together with the SAU Central Office to purchase common items cooperatively in an effort to increase buying power with larger orders. This year the group has decided to increase their buying power even more by joining The Buying Group of New Hampshire School Food Services. The Buying Group was established by New Hampshire Food Service Directors and currently consists of 19 school districts servicing over 53,000 students. Joining the group will not only reduce prices but will also streamline the bidding and ordering processes saving time and administrative costs at the SAU office and in each school district. The products will be the same high quality and will continue to be “school formulated”. To meet school lunch requirements all prepared foods must use whole grains, low fat cheese and not be pre-fried.

Sixth Graders Learn About Latin America

The 6th graders worked with Kelli Maynard in her Global classes and Cathy Jeffrey in her Spanish classes to create a marketplace in the tradition of an open-air market in Latin America. Each student group filled out a Latin America Market Day application in which they shared the story of the characters they would portray, described the products they would sell and how they planned to celebrate their chosen country’s culture. Color, music and dance filled the atmosphere as students sold trinkets such as worry dolls from Guatemala, coffee bean and woven bracelets from Central and South America, and dominoes from Cuba. In Spanish classes, the students had created replicas of Central American ceramic plates in traditional colors, paper quetzal birds and quipus, and felt hats traditional to groups living in the Andes

Mountains. As students from younger grades wandered through the market place, they had the chance to pet animals native to Latin America at the petting farm, enjoy a variety of traditional foods and drinks, and browse the variety of colorful displays of cultural artifacts, photos, slide shows, and maps. At the various stalls, they learned about what activities and games are popular in different regions. They also had the opportunity to purchase items at the different stalls. The 6th graders enjoyed selling their wares and bartering. They took pride in their products and growing business skills.

Adequate Yearly Progress

The State Department of Education announced that Lincoln Akerman School has met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards in Reading, Math and Attendance/Graduation rates. The 2010 AYP Reports are based on the October 2009 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) results for Grades 3-8 and 11, together with the 2008-2009 NH-Alternate Assessment results for Grades 2-7 and 10. AYP is calculated through an index system, with schools and districts receiving full credit for each student that scores proficient or better and partial credit for student scores below proficient.

Current Hampton Falls School Board Members

Ellen Christo, Chairwoman	echristo@sau21.org
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Robin Moyer Ratigan	rratigan@sau21.org
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The Hampton Falls School Board usually meets on the first Thursday of each month. Hampton Falls residents are encouraged to attend meetings. Information about meeting dates and times agendas and minutes are available on line at www.sau21.org.