

TOWN NEWS – JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

HAMPTON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

L. M. Smith, Chairman; R. P. McDermott, Vice Chairman, J. E. Ziolkowski, Selectman

2018 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING

EVENT	DATES
Budget Hearing	January 3, 2018, 7 pm
Filing for Office	January 24 – February 2
1 st Session Town Meeting (Deliberative Session)	February 3 (Snow Date February 5)
2 nd Session – Town Meeting (Town Election)	March 13, 8 am – 8 pm

TOWN BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Effective March, 2017, dump stickers are only required for disposal of brush/ grass on Saturdays when the Brush Attendant is present. Self-cling, three-year dump stickers are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30 each. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing Christmas trees. The Brush Dump will be open on Saturday, January 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PARKING BAN & SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 15, 2017, no overnight parking (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) is allowed on any town roadway. This ban will be in effect until April 1.

A Selectmen's ordinance prohibits the plowing of snow onto public roads. It includes a fine for any person causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surface of the traveled portion of the road.

TOWN CLERK - Holly E. Knowles

TOWN CLERK HOURS

The Town Clerk's office only will re-open for business on Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-noon from January through May, 2018.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

-Please show photo I.D. for all motor vehicle transactions (for your insurance fraud protection).

-Renewals and transfers require the original, current registration(s) RSA 261:168 (copies are to be kept in your vehicle(s).)

-A notarized Power of Attorney is required when signing a title application for another person (even your spouse).

-Please allow time for processing your transactions by arriving as far in advance of our closing times of noon and 3:30 p.m. as possible (by 11:45 a.m. or 3:15 p.m. at the very latest).

-A limit of two "regular" vehicle transactions per person after 3:15 p.m. please. Financial closeouts are required daily at 3:30 p.m. Credit card transactions are closed at 3:15 p.m.

-All transactions may be done through the mail if you can't get in to our office (call 926-4618, Ext. 1 or E-mail us (townclerk@hamptonfalls.org) for instructions).

Only ONE check is required, payable to "Town of Hampton Falls" which now includes town and state fees for your vehicle registration(s).

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All Major Credit Cards (not debit cards) are accepted for payment. An additional credit card fee applies to credit card transactions.

Cash payments should be as close to the amount due as possible -- no large bills please (we keep limited change).

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

We recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet (E-Reg). Click on the plate link on the Town Clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org) for instructions, and we will send you your registration(s) and decal(s), (allow mail time before the end of the month). Renewals over three months late and residents wanting to complete transfers or obtain new plates will still need to come in to the office.

VITAL RECORDS AND THREE-YEAR DUMP STICKERS ON-LINE

You can request "Certified" copies of NH Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce certificates on-line by choosing Vital Records on the town web page which will take you to EB2Gov for processing.

FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE

Please call ahead to schedule an early afternoon time when coming to apply for a new marriage license. Limited staff prevents us from being able to process a license "on the spot." Please note the filing fee is \$50.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTION

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may apply in writing or in person to the Town Clerk any time prior to the March 13 Town Election. The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the election. Absentee ballots are subject to restrictions as to their proper distribution and return.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk or the Supervisors of the Checklist by March 2 for the March 13 Town Election or on Election Day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).

LD. IS NOW REQUESTED IN ORDER TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

(or fill out a challenged voter affidavit)

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Citizen's petitions for the 2018 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 9. Petitions must have twenty-five (25) legal voters' legible signatures on each petition (RSA 39:3) in order to be valid.

ELECTION FILING FOR OFFICE

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 3 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Lincoln Ackerman School gymnasium (snow date is February 5 beginning at 9 a.m. at Town Hall). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Town Hall. Hampton Falls voters vote all money articles and the annual budget by ballot. Town residents who are registered voters may file for any of the following offices with Town Clerk, Holly Knowles (or school positions only with School Clerk, Maureen Hastings) between January 24 and February 2, 2018. The Town Clerk is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and Friday, February 2, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for filing.

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<u>Officials</u>	<u># Positions</u>	<u>Term</u>
Cemetery Trustee	1	3 years
Library Trustee	1	3 years
Moderator	1	2 years
Planning Board	2	3 years
Selectman	1	3 years
Supervisor of Checklist	1	6 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	3 years

TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant

As of December 12, all unpaid property taxes are now delinquent and are accruing interest. Please call or check the website for the correct amount due before sending your payment. You can also pay your taxes online at www.hamptonfalls.org and by clicking on the view/pay taxes tab on the bottom right hand side of the home page. Please be aware there is a 2.95% charge to use your debit/credit card and a \$0.95 charge to use an online check. This fee is charged by the credit card company and bank, not by the Town of Hampton Falls.

Abatement applications for 2017 taxes are due before March 1. Anyone who qualifies for the veteran's tax credit or one of the exemption categories should submit their application by April 15.

BUILDING INSPECTOR / CODE COMPLIANCE / HEALTH OFFICER - Mark Sikorski

A Number Can Save A Life: Is your house number visible from the street? Is there a number on your mailbox? It could be as simple as the FEDEX driver being able to find your house yet if a threatening situation occurred it could mean the difference between life and death. Next time you are approaching your home look at it through the eyes of a first responder. Can you clearly see your address from the street? Precious seconds save precious lives.

We are deep into winter. The weather is cold. The windows are shut. Take a walk around the homestead. What conditions are my smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in? Is the power on to the units? Are the batteries in good shape? These units can save a life.

Today more homes than ever are connecting backup generator units to survive the more frequent power outages. These units create dangerous carbon monoxide fumes which left unchecked can be deadly. Take a moment and take a walk around. It could save a life. While you're at it take a moment to look over your generator connection for safe installation. If you are unsure contact my office. I can give you a quick review to ensure a safe and comfortable evening when the lights go out.

Planning to remodel or add on? Visit the town web site for links to frequently used permit applications. Applications can take time to approve if certain conditions exist. Please remember that smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are required to be brought up to current standards as part of any

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remodeling. Plan ahead and make the job easier for everyone involved. If you have questions or need help contact my office at 926-4618 ext. 5 or by e-mail at buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS - Jay M. Lord, Fire Chief

Non-Emergency Telephone Contact - 926-5752 or email chief@hffd.org

- With deep snow, remember to clear all vents (dryer, water heaters, pellet stoves, etc.) around your house to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in your house; also, remember if you don't have a CO detector, go get one, they are inexpensive and worth the investment.
- If you have an LP tank also clear snow from the regulator where it enters the house.
- Prior to the power going out, see the Town website/Fire Department page for generator safety tips.
- Space heaters need a three foot clearance to all combustibles.
- If pipes freeze, use a hair dryer or hot water to thaw them out. don't use a flame torch.
- Check your emergency kit supplies (for both your home and cars) – more information is available at Ready.gov or NHReady.gov.
- You can also sign up for NH Alerts at the NHReady.gov page. NH Alerts will notify you (text and/or call) if there is an emergency in your area (includes storm warnings, road closures, police action, and others.)
- Develop a fire escape plan and practice family fire drills. (Practice both in the daylight and dark.)

HAMPTON FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Anne Coombs, Secretary

The year of 2017 was another good year for the Hampton Falls Historical Society. The Salt Marsh Farming Exhibition was in its second year and visitors to the Museum found it most interesting. We also have the Boston Post Cane on display in its specially built case by Dan Barrette. A replica of the cane is presented to the oldest living resident of Hampton Falls. Beverly Powell Woodward was the last person to hold the replica. A presentation to the current oldest resident will take place in 2018.

We had planned our Christmas dinner for December 12th inviting the Brentwood and Stratham Historical Societies to join us. Karen Sabatini did a wonderful job of organizing the event and decorating the Museum only to have to cancel due to inclement weather. It was very disappointing but then, this is New England. For the Tercentennial in 2022, the Historical Society has taken on the task of updating the history of Hampton Falls. Brentwood and Stratham have written their Town Histories and we were hoping for advice from them on how best to go into this project. We will plan another gathering in order to discuss this.

Thank you to all who responded with generosity to our Donation Appeal letter to avoid a visit from “Witch Goody Cole.” These funds and those from Membership Dues help support our operational costs as we receive no tax based revenue to aid our efforts to “....illuminate the history of Hampton Falls and its people.” We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. Our membership renewal letter is mailed in April and the membership term is from May 1st to April 30th of the following year. Then in October, we mail our donation appeal letter. Please like us on Facebook and visit us at hamptonfallshs@.org.



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Library News-January/February 2018

We always start the New Year recognizing those who contributed to the Library in so many ways in the past year. Happily, the list grows each year!

In alphabetical order, they are: David and Elaine Ahearn, Cpt. Larry Anderson, John Ashak, Frank Aurelio, Nancy Axelson, Marilyn and Paul Ayles, all the bakers for the Book Sale and Santa Party, Carole Chanysk, Phil Chura, John Clemons, Linda and David Coe, Hannah Crooks, the Davidson Family, Chief Rob Dirsra, Frank Ferreira, Carol and Jack Fermery, Beth Forgione, Donna Gandt, Karen Gulla, Ann Haggart, Hampton Falls Police and Firefighters, Town of Hampton Falls Staff, Kerri Hanson, Shawn Hanson, Ardith Harvey, Lisa Hayes, Eric Holt, Kathryn Job, Glenn Johnson, Stacy Kinnaly, Matt Knowlton, Jodi Kriner, Thomas and Susan Lang, Joan Lenard, Lincoln Akerman 5th graders and parents, Lincoln Akerman staff, Chief Jay Lord, Elizabeth Malone, Amy Magnarelli, the Mah Jong Ladies, the Master Gardeners of Rockingham County, Karen McDermott, Richard McDermott, Kelley McLean, Skip Medford, Joanna Meighan, Kim and Paul Michael, Carol Moore, Beverly Mutrie, Donna and Tom Onacki, Tuesday Orluk, Shelley Parrish, the Pimentel Family, Laura, Michael and Ainsley Pouliot, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Town Administrator Lori Ruest, Tim and Anne Marie Samway, Gregg Sanborn, Hugh Schrier, Jane Shanahan, Building Inspector Mark Sikorski, Bonnie Sheets, Erin Sniderman, Beth Tamagnini, Sheila Tanguay, Traci Thompson, Abby Tonry, Danny and Marc Tosiano, Fire Marshall John True, Kari Tweito, Cam Wallace, Cammi Wagner, Lori Ward, T.J. Wheeler, Julie Williams, and Stacy Zaker.

In addition, we would like to thank the following businesses for their continuing generosity:

AM-PM Janitorial Service, ARTastic Playspace, Bead Creative, Book Outlet, Boston Museum of Science, Canobie Lake Park, Captain's Cove Adventure Golf, Carolyn Buckley Fusco, LMT, Coastal Living Paint and Hardware, Cinnamon Rainbow Surf Company, Confetti Toys and Gifts, Cowabunga's, The Creamery-Applecrest Orchards, Dodge's Agway, Drinkwater Flowers & Design, Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library, Carolyn Buckley Fusco LMT, Fiddlesticks, George and Phillips Sports Specialty Store, Hampton Falls Scout Troops, Hampton Falls Village Market, Hampton Rotary, Hannaford Supermarkets, Valerie Marshall of Usborne Books, Market Basket of Seabrook, Las Olas Taqueria, The Old Salt Restaurant, Prim Fashion Boutique, Quicksilver Fine Jewelry & Gifts, Santa's Village, the NHSPCA, Stepping Stones Reflexology, Story Land, Sweet Snips, Walmart of Seabrook, and Water Country.

We have entered into our coldest and darkest time of year. To entice you out, the Library has planned a variety of events and activities. We hope to see you soon!

TRAVEL PROGRAM

Images of Nepal

Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.; Snowdate Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Hampton Falls resident, Scott Faiia, spent many years living and working in Nepal. Join Scott as he takes us on photographic journey to this beautiful and exotic country. Ten of Scott's photos are currently on exhibit in the Library.

CHOCOLATE PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m.; Snowdate Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m.

What is it about chocolate that attracts us? Dr. Michael Cross, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Northern Essex College will explain the chemistry behind chocolate in “**Chocolate: The Secret Indulgence.**” Of course, there will be a chocolate tasting following the presentation.

WHAT WE ARE READING

The adult book group will meet on **Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss Kate Braestrup’s memoir, Here if you Need Me. After the untimely death of her husband, Kate Braestrup fulfills his dream of becoming a minister. Ultimately, she becomes chaplain for search and rescue workers. This uplifting memoir offers a rare glimpse into the lives of our first responders.

On Tuesday, **February 27**, we will read a love story, Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson. Major Pettigrew, a widower of a certain age and class in England, falls in love with Mrs. Ali, a widow of similar age, but different in many other ways. This charming love story brings up issues of age, race, class, and religion. Will love prevail?

CANDIDATES NIGHT

The Library will host its annual “**Meet the Candidates**” night on **Tuesday, February 20** with a snow date of **Tuesday, March 6** from **6:30 to 7:45 p.m.** This offers the perfect opportunity to talk with the individuals running for office in Hampton Falls so you can make an informed decision at the polls on March 13.

ART EXHIBITS

In past years, the Library has been privileged to display the artwork of local artists. We have received many positive comments on the art on display. Currently, the beautiful images of Nepal grace our walls. If there are more artists out there who would like to display artwork on the Library walls in 2018, please let us know.

WEATHER OR NOT

Should the Library need to close due to inclement weather (and we get our share in New England!), you can check WMUR storm closure alert. The station will list closings at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. In addition, closings are listed on www.wmur.com and the Library’s website www.hamptonfallslibrary.org.

PARTING THOUGHT

One kind word can warm three winter months. ~Japanese Proverb

Very truly yours,
Barbara Tosiano
Library Director

LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Story Times!

Story Time sign-up begins Thursday, January, 11th at 10 AM. You can sign up by stopping in or calling the Library at 926-3682. Also, please do not send an e-mail to sign up for Story Times. Thank you!

In case of inclement weather, please call the Library to check if we will be holding Story Time that day. If schools are closed, the Library may or may not be open, but programs will be cancelled.

The Baby-Toddler Story Time is designed for newborns through the 2's. It consists of short stories, nursery rhymes, fingerplays, music, and, of course, puppets! It is 25 – 30 minutes of a lot of activity! It is held on Tuesdays from 10:30 – 10:55ish AM. **It will begin on January 16th. There will be no Story Time on February 27th or April 24th. The Story Times will run through May 22nd.**

The Pre-School through Kindergarten Story Times will be held on Wednesdays from 1:30 – 2 PM and Thursdays at 10:30 – 11 AM. **They will begin on Wednesday, January 17th and Thursday, January 18th and run through May 23rd and May 24th. There will be no Story Times on February 28th March 1st, April 25th and April 26th.**

Kindergarten Club! This program is held on Wednesdays from 3 – 3:45 PM. It includes a snack, stories and a craft. **It will begin on Wednesday, January 17th and run through May 23rd. Space is limited. There will be no Kindergarten Club on February 28th and April 25th.**

The After School Story Time for 1st – 4th graders is held on Tuesdays. The program will run from 3 – 3:45 PM beginning January 16th. **Space is limited. There will be no Story Times on February 27th or April 24th. The last Story time will be on May 22nd.**

Book Discussion Group!

The Novel Ideas 5th – 8th Grade Book Discussion Group meets (usually) on the third Wednesday of the month from 6: 30 – 7:15 PM. Mark your calendars for January 17th and February 21st. New members are always welcome!

Special Programs!

Yoga!

The schedule is as follows:

Grades 5 – 8: Wednesdays, January 3rd and February 7th from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

K – 4th Grade: Thursdays, January 4th and February 1st from 4 – 4:45 PM

Ages 2 – 5 with a parent or caregiver: Fridays, January 5th, 19th, February 2nd, 16th from

10:30 – 11 AM.

Please sign up for each class individually in advance as space is limited.

Lego Club will be held on Thursday, January 25th and Thursday, February 22nd from 4 – 4:45 PM for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The Legos will be provided (but stay in the Library!) Come ready to use your imagination! Each program has its own sign up. You can sign up by calling or stopping in the Library. Please do not send an e-mail. **Please note, this is not a program that children should take the bus to the Library.**

Movie and Craft! Wednesday, February 28th at 2 PM. Details will be available at the Library. Please sign up in advance.

Summer Reading Program!

Yes! I have already begun planning for the Summer Reading Program! If you would like to fully or partially sponsor one of the Wednesday evening performance programs or special weekday programs that I am planning, please let me know. No amount is too small (or too large)! All donations to the program are very much appreciated! Please feel free to stop in or call me if you have any questions.

Thanks to all for your support of our many Library activities! It is very much appreciated!

-Carol Sanborn
Youth Services Librarian

Hampton Falls School District News
2017-2018 School Year
January/February 2018

A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

School Board News

The School Board wants to update the town on the recent issues at Lincoln Akerman surrounding bullying and harassment. This was not an easy conversation to have and the Board appreciates all the parents that have expressed their views and questions. Significant progress is being made through meetings, programming, and continued communication. Bullying and harassment are not new issues to any school. One of the difficulties that schools face today is how to manage the issue surrounding bullying and harassment especially given that much of the bullying is done outside of the school through social media. The School Board and the administration is focusing on better ways to educate children and parents on the dangers of social media and the consequences of bullying or harassment through social media. The school is also looking internally at better ways to monitor behavior in school and at more effective ways to discipline cases involving bullying and harassment.

The School Board will be presenting to the Hampton Falls community a master plan that addresses educational space needs. The plan was derived by a collaborative effort from members of the community, including two School Board members, local builders, members of the town that have historically not supported past School Board space plans and members of the town that have historically supported past School Board space plans. This private group, which reported its findings to the School Board, worked very hard at developing a compromise plan that meets the needs of the school and the taxpayers. This new plan will address all the identified and agreed upon educational space needs of the students at a much reduced price to the taxpayer. The plan will be presented at the Public Hearing on January 11, 2018 at 7pm.

The School Board has had long discussions at the work sessions for the 2018-2019 budget. The Board has again tried to reduce any and all parts of the budget that it controls while being mindful to the needs of students and staff.

REMINDERS

The School Board's **Public Hearing** for the budget and bond will be held on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**

The Deliberative Session will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2018.**

Attending either one, or both is the best way to make an informed decision.

Lincoln Akerman School Information

As mentioned above, the School Board, administration, and the LAS staff are all working together to focus on an improved climate in school and outside of school. Mr. Deblois sent the letter below to keep families informed and involved.

Dear Parents:

As I'm sure you are all aware, it has been a troubling past month here at LAS as confirmed incidents of sexual harassment, harassment and very disrespectful communications were revealed within our 7th grade class. While those incidents have been the focal point of disciplinary responses as well as specific interventions within that class, it has called the entire faculty of LAS to review our expectations, standards and internal reporting mechanisms. The entire staff at LAS cares deeply about the social environment of the building and wants to assure each student comes into a safe and welcoming school each day. During our last Early Release Day the entire LAS staff came together to focus on what led to the incidents we experienced in the 7th grade class and what we need to do as a staff to make sure that no such behavior ever reaches that level again. The following are some of the insights and determinations that came from that meeting:

- Negative communications from student to student, often taking the form of criticisms, insults, mocking, sarcasm and teasing, are the precursors to more serious harassing behaviors that can be so impactful on a child's school experience. The staff of LAS has been alerted to be even more vigilant in listening for and intervening whenever this type of communication is overheard. If we can stop this negative seed from taking root we stand a better chance of never seeing the later stage behavior. Parents can also listen to how their child communicates with his/her peers and step in if that negative tone is noticed.
- The LAS staff understands that they must be more persistent in pursuing conversations with students when they sense that something is not right. Please do the same at home when your instincts inform you that there may be an issue with your child relating to school. More often than not your instincts will be accurate and not accepting your child's first response as being reflective of the way he/she is feeling may reveal the true issue. If there is an issue in which your child is being targeted, harassed or bullied please refer it to me and I guarantee I'll follow up. If you are unhappy with my response you can contact the superintendent and a review will be conducted. Please just do not give up until you believe a satisfactory outcome has been reached.
- LAS staff will be reviewing, frequently, all behavioral expectation rubrics so that our expected behaviors are always clear in the students' minds. One major expectation is that no child should ever have to come to school feeling fearful or uncomfortable because of his/her treatment by other students.
- Staff members will also define for all students who their available resources are should they feel they are being targeted, harassed or bullied. These resources are a child's parents and all staff members. Our pledge to students will be that we will treat each reported incident seriously and provide an appropriate response to help. In the coming weeks all LAS students will be alerted to a new, confidential reporting mechanism that will assist any student who is uncomfortable or reluctant to speak directly with a staff member to be able to report directly with the LAS principal. This will start the process of looking into the concern stated.

- LAS has an internal reporting procedure for staff to report all natures of behavioral interventions. Staff has been asked to make sure they use this mechanism to report all incidents, even if they have resolved the problem themselves. This creates a record of incidents and also allows the administration to track patterns of incidents and provide appropriate interventions. Within this reporting mechanism a staff member can ask for “Principal’s Intervention Requested” that usually corresponds to more serious behavioral incidents. From this point on, staff members will receive a follow-up email indicating the actions taken by the administration and parents will receive a call or email reflecting the nature of the incident and the disciplinary actions taken.

- The LAS staff members, understanding that certain areas of the school are often viewed as being less safe (playground, cafeteria, hallways) have pledged to be more active in maintaining a “presence” within those areas. The LAS administration continues to coordinate with our transportation provider (1st Student) in supporting their efforts to maintain a safe and appropriate environment on the Hampton Falls buses. We have a formal referral form should a driver experience a dilemma with a student on the bus. With that being said, experience informs me that the driver’s main purpose is to safely operate that large vehicle and can sometimes not see or recognize misbehavior. I have found that parents, through talking to their child (ren), are often the ones that uncover bus-related problems. Please report anything you might learn to both the driver (or 1st Student) and the principal as well.

- The events with the 7th grade has illuminated for the LAS staff, and for parents as well, that the easy access to social media and the internet, as well as the influences of television, films and music, allow students to access concepts, images and information that far exceeds their ability to comprehend and compartmentalize. This certainly played a role in some of the forms of harassment and intimidation that has been uncovered. It calls on us all to monitor closely the information our children are accessing. In some cases it demands that we address uncomfortable topics so that children have an understanding about the appropriateness of the terminology they might be hearing or, in some cases, repeating without fully understanding the implications. Clearly, the flood of information that children today can access only makes all our jobs more complicated and demanding.

- The entire staff at LAS believes strongly that we achieve our best success when the school and the parents work in close partnership, both playing their designed roles. Communication is the key to maintaining that relationship. Over the past month, that has become very clear to me and I pledge to consider fully, in all scenarios, what parents should be alerted to when situations arise here at school. I ask you to make sure that the communication “highway” runs in both directions. Please do not ever feel that sharing a concern or insight or question is ever a burden for us. We welcome the input and rely on the assistance those communications provide.

While I still believe fully that Lincoln Akerman is a tremendous school, filled with great kids working with an amazingly talented and committed staff, we can never be fooled into believing that we are immune to the behaviors we have recently uncovered. This realization demands that

we reconsider our practices and double our commitment to remain vigilant should any of these behaviors present themselves in any form. With the school's and the parents' efforts combined, we have the opportunity to minimize the negative impact of any negative behaviors and assure the school environment we all want for our children. The school has begun our work to better understand and remedy these issues and we invite all LAS parents to join us in this effort. As a part of beginning these efforts, we invite all LAS parents to join us for a Parent Information Program on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 pm in the LAS Gym. The program will be facilitated by HAVEN NH (brochure of their programs included with this letter). HAVEN NH may be assisting us in providing awareness programming to students on the important topics listed within their materials. The program will run about an hour and is open to all parents but is more directed toward middle school parents.

As of this writing, the "Modular Music" classroom has one more test to pass before it can receive final occupancy. Hopefully it will be fully functional for the rest of the school year.

For more information on what is going on at LAS, check the school website. All community members are welcome at any event and are encouraged to attend.

Examples include:

Geography Bee

Spelling Bee Grades 5-8

Current Hampton Falls School Board Members

Mark Lane, Chair

mlane@sau21.org

Greg Parish, Vice Chair

gparish@sau21.org

Pamela Miller

pmiller@sau21.org

John Bailly

jbailly@sau21.org

Greg Marrow

gmarrow@sau21.org

The Hampton Falls School Board usually meets once a month for regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Hampton Falls residents are encouraged to attend meetings. Or, you can watch us on the internet, as we are streaming our monthly meetings live (you can also watch them later in the archive form as well). The online meeting video library can be accessed on the LAS home page (www.sau21.org/las). Information about meeting dates and times, agendas and minutes are available on line at www.sau21.org.

Current Hampton Falls Representative to the Winnacunnet School Board

David Gandt

dgandt@sau21.org

For the 2017 New Hampshire High School of Excellence

Winnacunnet School Board meetings are usually scheduled on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Meeting agendas, minutes and videos are available on line at www.sau21.org.