

# HAWK PRIDE



## THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW submitted by Principal Tremblay

About ten days ago, we brought an end to Daylight Saving's Time as we pushed into the month of November. Students and parents alike were all excited at the thought of getting an extra hour sleep to help cope with fatigue from our busy schedules. Moving the clocks back also serves as a reminder to me that we are heading into one of my favorite times of year...Thanksgiving. It is a time to celebrate things we truly appreciate in life such as family, friends, and the good fortune we individually and collectively share as part of this school community. From my window, I see so many things to be thankful for at Exeter High School.

As a school community, let us always be grateful for the 1,700 Blue Hawks who bring respect, hard work, spirited thoughts, and pride to EHS every day; the over 200 faculty and staff who dedicate their passion in support of our students; top-notch facilities and resources provided by our community for the best education and opportunities for our children; dozens of athletic teams, with devoted coaches and supportive fans, who provide healthy competition and an environment of positive sportsmanship; exhibitions and performances in music and arts that showcase the jaw-dropping talents of our kids; community stewardship from our co-curricular organizations whose committed advisors encourage service to the towns of SAU16; and, endless opportunities for academic, social, and civic growth for our students around every corner.

Ultimately, let us be most appreciative that we have great kids working with great adults in a great school. EHS is a great school because of the people. Day in and day out, great things are happening here because these great people care.

As we head into Thanksgiving, please remember those in our community who are food insecure, and do our part to take care of our special community. EHS wishes you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving...that's the view from my window.

- November 23-25  
Thanksgiving Recess  
No School
- December 14  
Band Holiday Concert with  
CMS
- December 15  
Chorus Holiday Concert
- December 21  
Orchestra Holiday Concert  
with CMS
- December 26-January 2  
Holiday Recess  
No School



Eight members of the EHS Honors Choir were invited to perform with the Army Band & Soldiers Chorus on the evening of November 3. Together, they performed "El Capitan" by John Philip Sousa. The students were thrilled to have had this honor. Submitted by teacher Roxanne Papp.

## **COUNSELING DEPARTMENT submitted by Jaime Sawler**

Kristie Torbick partnered with the health teachers, Paul Landry and Karlyn Supple, to implement Signs of Suicide curriculum into the health classes. She delivered three lessons to Karlyn's classes last week and will begin with Paul's classes this week. The curriculum is broken into three different components. The first day begins with a pre-survey about the topic and then the students viewed a TED Talk of Kevin Briggs, who worked on the Golden Gate Bridge intervening with those who were suicidal. The second day involved curriculum and discussion on the Signs of Suicide. On the third day, the students completed a final project, either a poster sharing what they have learned or a letter to a trusted adult thanking them for support or disclosing a personal struggle. At the end of the third day, there is a post-survey where students demonstrate their understanding. Kristie is planning on delivering the same lessons to the second semester Health classes as well, so that by the end of the school year, all students taking Health will be exposed to the Signs of Suicide curriculum.

## **CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT submitted by Cynthia Freyberger**

Teachers in SAU 16 are turning to performance tasks to measure what students know and can do with the information they are learning in their classes. In contrast to traditional exams, which typically test isolated application, facts, or memorized data, performance assessments ask students to pull together and apply what they have learned to solve a real world problem. The goal is for teachers in all content areas to administer one common performance task each semester.

Performance assessments build on students' content knowledge, process skills, and work habits. The assessments are strategically placed after a sequence of lessons. Tasks can range from short activities to multi-step projects. Oftentimes, the tasks have more than one correct answer. The move to performance tasks is a shift from the traditional method of assessment that many teachers are most familiar with. To help with the transition, the District is offering professional development to assist teachers as they design quality performance tasks.

Recently, Grade 9 science teachers met to develop a task that involves engineering a water treatment process. The new performance task will fall at the end of a chemistry unit. Students in Mark Kinton, Patrick Gile, Catherine Thorn, Annie Gonsalves, Deb Kimball, and Amy Gendreau's classes have studied atomic structure and physical and chemical properties of elements. Students will be asked to apply their knowledge and design prototypes of water filtration processes. In light of the recent drought and reliance on well water, ensuring quality drinking water is an authentic issue in the SAU 16 community.

When the performance task is introduced, students can expect transparent evaluation criteria. Learning expectations and outcomes are made clear. Along the way, students have opportunities to practice the knowledge and skills they will need to complete the performance task. Students will be able to evaluate their own work and get feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their design. At first, students may struggle to identify a solution, but that is part of thinking and learning. Teachers are there to help students through the challenge but not to supply the correct answers.

In summary, a well written performance task gives students ownership of learning and provides teachers and administrators feedback on curriculum and instruction. This form of assessment measures depth of understanding and recognizes that students can demonstrate what they know in many different ways. As a result, teachers, students, and parents are given specific and direct information about student learning.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES submitted by Geoff Simard**

On November 7, the US Government Club, lead by teachers Jackie Catcher and Heather Saluto, ran a mock election at Exeter High School. The Government Club set up six mock election booths loaded with a digital ballot, which collated and tallied the results. Throughout the day, Social Studies classes met at the booths and went through the voting process. With over 1,000 votes cast, students seemed to be very enthusiastic about participating! Here are the results of that mock election: President: Clinton, Governor: Sununu, Congress: Guinta, Senate: Hassan.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION submitted by Kathi Atwood**

The Unified Sports Teams at Exeter High School (EHS) are brilliantly coached by Sharon Orchard and associates and supported by the talented EHS Cheering Squad, coached by Lisha Rowe. Unified Soccer and Unified Basketball teams are made up of a uniquely balanced blend of students with and without a broad spectrum of disabilities. Teams practice, travel and play together with the ultimate goals of sportsmanship, collaboration and lasting memories that only the EHS experience can produce through consistent dedication to the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectations.

Teams have the opportunity to play for a NHIAA High School Championship. For the second year in a row, EHS Unified Soccer grabbed the State championship. This year, the sweet victory was 10-5 over Winnisquam. Go Blue Hawks!

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT submitted by Dan Violette**

Ms. Catcher's CP Freshman English classes participated in the National Writing Project's Letters to the Next President, an initiative that empowers students to research and write about issues that matter to them in the presidential election. Students' interests ranged from increased gun control to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. EHS Youth and Government Club used excerpts from the project to represent students' hopes for the future in an artistic display during the school-wide Mock Election. You may find the published letters online at <https://letters2president.org/sites/608>.

## **MATH DEPARTMENT submitted by Sherry Belcher**

The Math Department updated their courses in the course selection guide in preparation of sign ups in the Spring. Suzanne Scippa received her Master's Degree in Educational Technology this Summer from Leslie University. Many teachers from the math department helped host a Math Meet on November 2. Thirteen schools from across the State of NH attended.

