

## **EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE NEWS**

**DECEMBER 2009**

*The mission of the Epping School District is to focus on the potential of every student and engage each to be passionate, confident learners who demonstrate competence and have strength of character to reach their highest aspirations and thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world.*

Welcome to the Epping School District Office News. Feedback is always welcome. Please contact Paula ([pvangundy@sau14.org](mailto:pvangundy@sau14.org)).

### **Paychecks**

Due to the timing of the holidays, paychecks will be available on Wednesday, December 23. Paychecks will be dated for December 23.

### **Holiday Office Hours**

School and district offices will be closed December 24 to January 3 for the holiday. You may contact office staff by leaving a message by phone or email. Please note, however, that some staff will be working on a limited basis while others have elected to take this time as vacation time.

### **United States Census 2010**

The US Census has employment opportunities with the 2010 census. The positions are temporary, part-time with flexible hours, close to home, and pay \$15 per hour. If interested please call 1-866-861-2010 or visit [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov).

### **Slips and Falls**

Just a reminder that winter is upon us. Be extra cautious when getting in and out of your car, walking in the parking lots, and on the sidewalks. On wintry days please be aware of the weather conditions and dress appropriately and watch out for your surroundings. We want everyone to have a safe winter season with no injuries.

### **H1N1 Virus**

The Greater Exeter Region Public Health Coordinator has reported that the H1N1 influenza vaccine is now available to all NH residents age 6 months and older. She will be coordinating community based clinics to dispense the vaccine. The Epping School District has volunteered to be a site and more information will be forthcoming after the holiday break.

Please remember that schools will be dealing with influenza illness for the remainder of the school year. Please continue to follow proper respiratory etiquette, wash hands frequently, stay home if sick, and remain home for at least 24 hours following a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication. Additional information may be obtained by calling the NH Flu Line at 211 or visiting [www.nh.gov/h1n1](http://www.nh.gov/h1n1).

### Delays and Closings Procedure

Please note that when a storm is predicted, but has not actually started prior to 6:00 am, the district may call for a 2-hour delay to determine the accuracy of the forecast. The district may then change the delay to a cancellation by 8:00 am. This practice was put in place after a previous situation in which the storm prediction was inaccurate and school was cancelled for the day. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we attempt to make good decisions regarding school delays and closings.

### Prescription Drug Benefit Changes This January

Prescription drug benefits/procedures will be changing this January. Refills at a retail pharmacy will be limited to two refills. Long-term medications will need to be submitted using the mail service. Use of a non-participating retail pharmacy (outside the CVS Caremark network) will require full payment of the prescription price at the pharmacy. To obtain reimbursement you will need to submit a paper claim form. There are also new regulations regarding generics. Please review the prescription drug benefit communications sent directly to your home from the Local Government Center.

### Slice of Life Activation Kit Mailings Go Out in January

Each year, all LGC HealthTrust subscribers and their medically covered spouses are eligible to take the *Slice of Life Program's Get Healthy Personal Health Analysis (PHA)* between **January 1 and March 31**. The PHA is a simple questionnaire designed to identify specific health risks. It can be completed on line, which earns participants a \$75 incentive. A paper PHA can be completed to earn a \$50 incentive; call 866.564.5237 to request a paper version.

After completing the PHA online, participants can immediately download a detailed Personal Wellness Report which determines their eligibility for a low, moderate or high health risk program. Gordian Health Coaches are then available to guide, educate and encourage those with specific lifestyle risks or chronic conditions and help them manage and improve their health. The Health Awareness reimbursement program is also available to subscribers and spouses who complete a PHA in 2010.

### 2010 IRS Mileage Rates

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2010, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be **50 cents per mile for business miles driven**. The new rates for business purposes are slightly lower than last year's. Last year the rate was 55 cents per mile. The mileage rates for 2010 reflect generally lower transportation costs compared to a year ago. Please calculate mileage to and from school when submitting mileage reimbursements.

### 2010-2011 Budget

A review of the district's 2010-2011 budget was presented to the Budget Committee. The main expenditure focus was on increasing health insurance premiums of 28%. The main revenue focus was on attempts to make up for the large fund balance returned from last school year. Comments and questions were offered on health insurance, student data, and cost per pupil. It was noted that grade 3 to 8 student proficiency in reading and mathematics as measured by NECAP has significantly improved. It was also noted that the district cost per pupil is considerably higher than state average and attributable to declining student enrollment. The Budget Committee approved the school district

budget as proposed with a unanimous vote (10-0). The public hearing will be held in January followed by the deliberative session in February. The public may adjust the proposed budget at the deliberative session for the ballot vote in March.

### **ETV School Programming**

Thank you for helping with the ETV initiative to increase school programming. Please let the ETV/Communication Coordinators know if you are planning a special student project/event. School Communication Coordinators are Cheryl MacLeay, Sue Thompson, and Eric Anderson. **We need to get out the word about the good things happening right here in Epping!**

### **Website**

The district and school website has a new professional look to provide easier access and more information. Check it out at [www.sau14.org](http://www.sau14.org). We plan to gradually add new information throughout the school year. If you are planning a special event, please let the Website Coordinators know so that your event may be placed in the district/school calendar. School and district contacts are Cheryl MacLeay, Kyle Repucci, Jon Altbergs, and Paula VanGundy. **We welcome suggestions and feedback on how we can improve!**

### **Professional Development Committee News**

The District Professional Development Committee met to discuss the status of the PD Master Plan. The following issues/concerns were discussed and subcommittees formed to research the issue/concern and report back to the larger committee on January 7th.

1. Allied Health certified staff are subject to two certification processes – the district and allied health.
2. Paraprofessional certified staff are subject to two certification processes - hours and district plan.
3. The need for exemplars for PD forms at each school.
4. Approval of revised Master Plan to match the PD Guide.

### **Love & Logic<sup>®</sup>**

The District will be offering another 6 session workshop on Love & Logic<sup>®</sup>, facilitated by Ken Munger. This parenting series is scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8pm and will begin January 5.

We are looking for staff members that are interested in providing child care for parents attending the workshop. Please feel free to contact Melissa Swirbliss, [mswirbliss@sau14.org](mailto:mswirbliss@sau14.org), if you have any questions or are interested in assisting with childcare.

### **Go Green!**

At the end of the school day please take a few minutes to turn lights out, turn off all computers and other electrical devices, and lock the classroom door. This practice will reduce our energy consumption and insure security of our computers and equipment and make for better functioning

computers. Computers that run all night pull in dust causing computers to overheat. Also please help us in insuring the safety of students and staff by not propping open doors.

**From the District Staff**



*To you and your loved ones,*

*Happy Holidays and  
Happy New Year!*

*From,*

*Martha and Melinda  
Cathy and Melissa  
Pete and Dan  
George and Ronnie  
Barbara and Paula*