

# EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE NEWS

**NOVEMBER 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)).

## **H1N1 Virus**

The NH Department of Health and Human Services has released a vaccine distribution schedule subject to the availability of vaccine. Please note that in some cases the vaccine may require two doses and a nasal spray vaccine will be provided unless it is medically not indicated.

1. Phase 1 - Pregnant women, emergency health care workers, and children with medical conditions. This phase has been approved. If you or a family member meets these criteria, please contact your medical provider.
2. Phase 2 – Children 6 months to 4 years, persons caring for infants less than 6 months old, partners of pregnant women, and young adults 18 to 24 with medical conditions. This phase has been approved. If you or a family member meets these criteria, please contact your medical provider.
3. Phase 3 – Children 5 to 24, all healthcare workers, and adults 25 to 64 with medical conditions.
4. Phase 4 – General public.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> a free H1N1 vaccine clinic will be held from 11 am to 3 pm at the Tuck Learning Campus, 30 Linden Street, Exeter. This clinic is ONLY for young adults ages 18 to 24 with medical conditions, adults living with or taking care of infants under 6 months of age, and adult partners of pregnant women.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the NH Flu Line at 211 or visiting [www.nh.gov/h1n1](http://www.nh.gov/h1n1).

Last week student absenteeism data showed that all schools have peaked and are returning to normal absenteeism rates. It is important to note that NH Department of Education has stated 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.

## **ETV School Programming**

The startup plan is to have consistent school programming including a weekly game of the week, monthly school news (one school a week), bimonthly school board meetings, and special school events. If you are planning a special student project/event, please let the ETV/Communication Coordinators know so that arrangements can be made for taping. Eric Anderson is the ETV District Coordinator. School Communication Coordinators are Cheryl MacLeay, Sue Thompson, and Eric

Anderson. **Please help to celebrate Epping Schools by letting us know of special student programming in your classroom!**

### **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, [mswiperbliss@sau14.org](mailto:mswiperbliss@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.

### **Health Insurance**

The Local Government Center has notified the district that the estimated health insurance rates for 2010-2011 may increase 27.7%. LGC reported that this increase is due to significant medical and prescription claim history.

### **2010-2011 Budget**

The estimated health insurance increase will significantly impact the 2010-2011 budget. This school year the state also transferred part of their retirement cost to the district. The district will continue to pick up this retirement cost plus more for the 2010-2011 school year. Benefit increases alone will add \$543,319 to the budget. This Saturday the 2010-2011 budget will be presented to the Epping Budget Committee at which time they will provide input to increase/decrease the budget. More information will be available following the Budget Committee meeting.