

School Board Report  
Epping Middle School & Epping High School  
11-18-11 to 12-15-11

MS Enrollment – 214 (+3 since Beginning of Year (BOY))

HS Enrollment – 274 (-3 since BOY)

**Progress Reports** – The middle school sent home progress reports for Q2 on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> and the high school will be sending home progress reports on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Parent Portal Update** – The parent portal has the ability to send parents progress reports as frequently as they choose. Currently at the MS 59 out of 214 students have automatic reports being sent home (18 -6<sup>th</sup> grade students, 20- 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, and 21- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students). At the HS 60 out of 274 students have automated reports being sent home (24- 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, 13- 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, 9- 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, & 14- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students).

**Online video tutorial** – In order to make parents more aware of the communication potential that exists within the parent portal I have created a short video tutorial to demonstrate how easy it is to set up the email notification system. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Eric Anderson for his help in producing the YouTube video. This video can be found on our school websites and will be included in our next parent communications.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/sau14epping?feature=mhee#p/a/u/0/VxYriA5bLQA>

### **Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment** –

The middle school has been working and collaborating on its 2011-2012 school goal of creating and implementing an integrate project period. The mission of the Project Period is to provide students with a positive project-based learning environment while capturing students' individual learning styles and passions. Students will lead and design their own projects which allow them to demonstrate *mastery* of essential grade-level curricula using 21 century skills and themes. Please see the attached draft of our project.

The high school has continued its work around authentic or performance assessments. In addition to this work, the high school has been meeting to collaborate on topics such as formative and summative assessments, and competency based grading and reporting. The goal for the high school is to redefine how it reports student learning in order to be in compliance with the NH Department of Education and NEASC. Please reference the staff survey that incorporates these topics. Our goal is to have a draft of a revised school reporting system to the school board by February.

### **Communication** –

**8th Grade fundraiser** – The 8th grade turkey fundraiser was a huge success raising over \$4,000. The amount of each ticket sold goes directly off the student's balance for Washington, D.C. Many thanks to Mr. Bruce Christie for coordinating this effort for our students.

**Book Fair-** On Sunday, December 11th from 12 - 4 pm, EMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students under the supervision of Ms. Hebert and parent and staff volunteers held a book fair at Barnes and Noble in Newington, NH. All proceeds benefited the Washington, DC trip. The chorus performed holiday classics, students manned free gift wrapping and ornament making stations. The North River Trio (Ms. Weisberg's husband's band) donated a performance to help build interest. .

Author Terri DeMitchell also attended to sign copies of her books from 3 - 4pm.

**EMS book swap** – organized by the Literacy team (Mrs. Thompson & Mr. Christie)

2,049 books have been donated:

Students donated 1,199 books

Faculty donated 300 books

Barnes and Noble & its employees donated 500 books

Harvey Mitchell Library donated 50 books

Students who donate a book earn a book buck for every book donated. Students use book buck to purchase new books for themselves or family members. Free gift wrapping is available

Books were sorted by level: adult novels, how and cook books, high school, middle school, elementary and pre-school.

**9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade teams** - Both the freshmen and sophomore classes had the opportunity to attend an all-day seminar at the Browne Center (UNH) in Durham. Students were challenged with various team building activities such as a ropes course, orienteering, problem solving games and service learning. The students really enjoyed themselves and learned quite a bit about effective communication and teamwork. Both teams are hoping to make this an annual event to build a strong sense of community for all.

**Financial Aid** - Thank you to all the families who came out for Financial Aid Information Night. If you couldn't make it but have questions about the financial aid process you can contact The NHHEAF Network's Center for College Planning at 1-800-525-2577 ext.119. They can answer all of your FAFSA and financial aid questions.

For families who would like assistance in filing the FAFSA, we will have a specialist here at the high school on February 13th to guide you through the process. We will have hourly appointments from 7:30-2:30. **Registration is required** to reserve a one hour time slot. Sign up starting January 1st by calling or emailing Julie Morin in the guidance office.

#### **HS National Honor Society induction-**

The Epping Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) held its annual Induction Ceremony on Wednesday, November 16th. Epping's NHS president Lisa Demaine led the ceremony by inviting four senior members to introduce the pillars for induction. Vice-President Sara Sturzo spoke about what it takes to maintain scholarship, Treasurer Alex Osgood talked about the importance of helping others in service, Secretary Stephanie Foster shared the benefits of being a leader, and Lauren Haley articulated the value of good character. Joining the ceremony as guest speaker was Ms Elise Annunziata, who shared her leadership and vast service experiences with the Peace Corps, the Partnership of Global Learning to Benefit the Environment, and the Women's Global Education Project, which is a Founding Board Member.

Current members lit the candles of the new candidates and shared in the NHS pledge to welcome them into this prestigious organization. In order to become an NHS member students must exhibit leadership, community service, be of quality character and have at least a 3.0 grade point average. This ceremony inducted four new members to the Epping National Honor Society and they are sophomores, Brittney Bullock and Jillian Venuti, along with seniors, Paul Holmes and Briana Williams. (24 students applied – 4 students qualified)

**2012 All State Music Festival** - Congratulations to junior Morgan King and sophomore Austin Pratt for being selected for the 2012 All State Music Festival Choir! Students auditioned at Manchester Memorial High School on Saturday, November 19th before a panel of judges who tested their knowledge of a memorized Italian aria, 4-part chorale, and vocal sight reading. Both students will take part in the combined Festival Choir culminating in a performance at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord on Saturday, April 14th. Way to go Morgan and AJ!"

**Project Grad** - thank you to Beth Deschane and parent volunteers...