During the last month there was a strong focus at Project DRIVE on “Career Preparedness.” The students learned about interviewing skills during Career Skills Day which built off of last month's lesson in filling out job applications. For Career Day, Officer Michael Barritt came to Project DRIVE with K-9 officer Barry to teach the students about their career and responsibilities.

Open House

During Open House on February 13th, the students displayed their museum projects with their poster board, written paper, and museum piece that they researched and created in their American Studies class. The students worked on the projects for the entire
first semester and were thrilled to display their work for staff and parents.

**Bread Lab**

In science, the students are currently participating in a bread lab to emphasize the importance of washing their hands. Students prepared five specimens of white bread, each of which was handled differently (no contact, hands on, after hand sanitizer, after washing hands and wiped across a computer keyboard). The results will be available after February break and the students will engage in conversation about their current hygiene habits and the implications.

**Bridges**

The Bridges organization came for their monthly group with the high school students. This month the focus was on self-care and being good to ourselves. Bridges will continue to meet monthly with the high school students to focus on relevant topics that are important to the students. The weekly Restorative Justice circles are continuing to strengthen and the students are becoming more invested in their community and learning to work together. In that vein, students participate in a monthly service project. This month the students prepared another community meal for SHARE, using their culinary skills to prepare the vegetables for the dinner.

**LSCI**

For the February professional development day, the Project DRIVE staff finished their final day of Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI) training which began at the end of the last school year. LSCI is a research based training and certification program that teaches professionals how to turn crisis situations into learning opportunities for at-risk students with chronic patterns of self-defeating behaviors.

**What’s Next**

March has continued Career Skills activities, a Career Day, and Post-Secondary tour. There will also be continued Restorative Justice Circles, another lesson from Bridges, and they will be creating vision boards that will include their hopes, dreams, positive self-affirmations, and goal setting. - H. Laquerre
Experimenting with Hydroponics in the Innovation Lab

There are great things happening in the Innovation Lab. We received a hydroponic AeroLab, last month, through a grant. Braden Sullivan was instrumental in putting it together and planting our first crop. He loves to garden with his family and is very knowledgeable about gardening. We are learning how hydroponics differs from traditional gardening. We are experimenting with lighting, fertilization and watering. We are comparing germination rates of the different plants. We started with romaine lettuce, sweet bell peppers and green beans. Today we added cherry tomatoes, basil and chives. We are testing what plants will grow best in our lab. The best part is we get to everyone the fruits of our labor.

Gardening is Taking Root at MMS

Last fall, we purchased a grow lab to experiment with hydroponics. It has been an eye opening experience. We started romaine lettuce, sweet bell peppers and green beans. They were amazing! We yielded five gallon-sized bags of lettuce. We have since moved on to various types of lettuce, cherry tomatoes, basil, dill, and chives. Our tomatoes and peppers have grown so large; we’ve had to put them in pots using a growing medium. This brought us to the next level of hydroponics. We are now experimenting with lighting, nutrients and a small pump system for water. We just harvested our first tomatoes and peppers and enjoyed a healthy Caprese salad. Our plan is to continue with the tomatoes and peppers and venturing in strawberries and herbs. We have purchased a few strawberry crowns and also planted a few seeds. We want to compare which will grow better. Our goal is to create a strawberry tower.

The hydroponic lab is going extremely well and we are having so much fun, we want to expand. We have been given permission to move into the old school store at the middle school. Since we are so new
to gardening and hydroponics, I called in a specialist from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, Jonathan Ebba, to help us design the area and plan materials for the expansion. Once we have the plan, then we will need to find funds. The students are very excited! Braden Sullivan checks in on the plants every day. Kyleigh Jones, Jaden Jodoin and Hunter Jones join us a few times a week. It will take hard work and require us to raise money. We will be looking for sponsors and volunteers to help us in our new hydroponic nursery. We will keep you up to date with the new nursery and our strawberries. We have our own “Grow It Green” team. - Pam Moreau, Innovation Lab

MathCounts

MathCounts is a program in which students from across the country match their abilities in arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and statistics. This year's team members include Caleb Cote, Daniel Sixon, Lakota Dodson, Morgan Peterson, Aidan Weissensee, Beth Brooks, Brady Crossman, Charles Cevasco, Collin Linderman, Riley Weis, Dakota Devine, Nika Bouchard, Sarah Barisano-Leaor, and Jason Cevasco.

The team competed on Friday, February 14th in the Keene regional competition. The team placed 2nd. Two of the members finished in the top ten. Congratulations to Dan Sixon who finished 4th and Charles Cevesco who finished 8th. They will now go to the state competition at Plymouth State University. - Principal Tony DeMarco
Spelling Bee

Fifth Grader **Maya Remella** won the annual Heron Pond Elementary School Spelling Bee on January 31st. The seven finalists had won their classroom competitions to compete in our school finals. The competitive group went a number of rounds with several challenging words. The students did a splendid job. Fifth grader, Maya spelled her final word “verandas” and was declared the winner. **Logan Dodson** was the runner-up.

The State Spelling Bee will be held in Plymouth, NH on March 7th. Winners from participating schools will compete to determine the final New Hampshire representative at the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in May.

Our finalists in the Spelling Bee were: Jonathan Rolanti, Lillian Breault, Libby Mello, Logan Dodson, Maya Remella, Natalia Metcalfe, and Parker Buchanan. 

*Also shown: Mr. Saunders, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Schedin, Spelling Bee Coordinator.*

Helping Hands-Winners

**Winners**

Lucas S., Ainslee T., Hannah C. & Addie C.
**Vex Robotics Team**

The Heron Pond Vex IQ Robotics team was invited to compete in the State Championship on February 16. The Heron Pond Tigers were one of nine elementary teams competing with forty-one teams. The teams skills and teamwork competitions were outstanding! Congratulations to James Crawford, Ryan Delli Colli, Ella St. Onge, Annika Guay, Eli Gies, Ryder Weis, Natalie Hartigan, and Luke Masse.

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**Weekly Behavior Skill**

**School-wide Behavior Skill**

**SHOWING EMPATHY**

*Empathy means understanding how others feel and caring for them.*

★ You can recognize how someone feels by looking at the person and noticing their body signals.

› How are they breathing?
› Are they tense?
› What expression is on the person’s face?
› Are they moving fast or slow?
› What are they saying and how do they sound?

★ Identify what may have happened to make him or her feel this way
★ Choose the feeling you think the person is experiencing
★ Think about your choices. You can:

› Ask the person how he or she is feeling.
› Ask the person if he or she needs help or wants to talk.
› Leave the person alone until he or she asks for help
Grade 2- Exploring fossils
The second graders at Heron Pond are in the process of finishing Module 2 in the EL Education program. Module 2’s topic is Learning through Science and Story: Fossils Tell of Earth’s Changes. A culminating task for this module had the students, in pairs, conduct a dinosaur dig. Our budding paleontologists applied the knowledge they learned throughout Module 2, as well as their skills of cooperation and teamwork, to complete the challenge of the dinosaur dig!

Grade 3- Annual Ellis Island Day Celebration
On February 20, more than 160 immigrants from all over the world became new citizens of the United States of America. They arrived and were processed via Ellis Island. Emotions were high with the promise of new opportunities in sight. Our “immigrants” had to wait in long lines, answer many different questions, and demonstrate they were ready, willing, and able to positively contribute to their new country.

Ellis Island Day was the last chapter in our third graders’ study of immigration and family heritage. Students enjoyed learning about the variety of reasons and ways people come to our country and the cultures and traditions they bring with them. They were able to share heirlooms, traditions, and heritage that make each family unique. Our third grade team knows this is an activity students and families look forward to and hope that they will look back on it fondly for years to come. Thank you to all of the parents and extended family members who helped their young immigrants prepare at home and those that volunteered to be inspectors for Ellis Island Day. We couldn't have done it without you!
Grade 4 - Musical show
The fourth graders at Heron Pond performed the musical “The World is Getting Smaller” on Wednesday, February 19th and Thursday, February 20th. The students rehearsed for many weeks to learn lines, song lyrics, and stage movements. The final product was enjoyed by families, students, and staff alike! Bravo to all the performers and to the music teachers Ms. Chaplin and Mr. Joyal for their hard work!

Grade 5 - nature’s Classroom
Fifth grade students have been learning about a program at the middle school called “Nature’s Classroom.” The planning for this outdoor education program, a favorite of our sixth graders which takes place for a week in October, begins now! Fifth grade students attended a presentation on Nature’s Classroom during school on Wednesday, February 19th. Fifth grade families were invited to a Nature’s Classroom information evening on Thursday, February 20th. Deposit and registration forms are due by March 12th. If you have further questions, please contact Doreen.Danhof@Milfordk12.org or at 603-673-5221 x1403.

Read Across America Week 2020
Read Across America week was great fun! Students enjoyed our daily activities and guest readers. Students voted on their favorite Dr. Seuss books using a makey-makey in a fun display.
As part of Read Across America Week, students at Heron Pond worked together in our library to build a mosaic of the Cat in the Hat using six hundred Rubik’s Cubes! Our community of readers worked hard throughout the week to complete the design using cubes borrowed from Rubik’s. Older student experts were able to help younger students to finish their sides. Everyone worked together, and their perseverance paid off!

~ Ms. Meg Peterson
Thoughts from the Superintendent

Our schools continue to shine with wonderful accomplishments by students and staff across the district.

Dear Milford Community:

It’s been a fast-flying month of February, and I hope everyone was able to catch their breath with a nice Winter Break. As you can see, our schools continue to shine with wonderful accomplishments by students and staff across the district. Some highlights for me this month were the opportunity to spend the day at Jacques Memorial and take part in Read Across America. In the same week I was able to spend the morning serving as a substitute for Mrs. Doherty’s 6th Grade English class at Milford Middle School. It was so much fun to have that time with students, and I even got to attend advisory with Mr. DeMarco and Mrs. Lane. The Ellis Island event was certainly another highlight of the month. A huge shout out to all the staff and volunteers who made the day a success. Mrs. Michaud and I really enjoyed hearing from all the little immigrants about their experience, “coming to America.” I’ve also had the opportunity to get out into the community the past couple of weeks. These discussions with folks have focused on the great things happening in the Milford School District, our vision moving forward, and how continuing to strengthen our schools benefits everyone.

I’m very excited to share that for the first time, we now have a High School PTO. I want to thank Mr. Vetack for all of his efforts to increase parent engagement at the High School level. We know how important that is. I look forward to working closely with this group to continue to connect our High School with the broader community.

I also want to thank everyone for their feedback on the 2020-21 School Year Calendar survey. We received nearly 1000 responses. WOW! We will be presenting the results at the next School Board meeting, and hopefully finalizing the calendar for next year.

Welcome to March! The countdown to the end of the year is on, and I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our students, staff, and administration. Our success is truly due to a strong partnership with all of you.

Best Regards,
Dr. Jessica Huizenga
We hope you all have enjoyed the mid-winter break by spending some quality time with your child(ren) while they were home from school. Our recent weather has certainly proved the old adage, “March ROARS in like a lion.” Hopefully we are in store for more “lamb” like days at the end of the month!

On Friday, February 7th over 80 families came together for dinner and literacy fun. All who attended enjoyed literacy activities facilitated by our Title 1 interventionists: Liisa Palance, Jackie Kelly, Kristen Kelley, and Shannon Cote, Reading Specialist Kim Kelliher, Miss B and Mr. O. The Wadleigh Librarians brought Lily, the reading therapy dog. We want to thank Milano’s Pizza, Wadleigh Library, Mile Away Restaurant, Amato Center, and the Milford High School Honor Society volunteers.

We are still looking for the Class of 2033! Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year is well underway. Kindergarten Registration will be ongoing throughout the Spring at Jacques Memorial School. Registration packets can be picked up at Jacques Memorial School or accessed through the district website milfordk12.org.

I want to take an opportunity to thank all of the parents and community members who visited Jacques in late February to share their love of literacy with our students during the annual Read Across America Celebration. We are so pleased that so many participants including: Superintendent Dr. Jessica Huizenga, Assistant Superintendent Christi Michaud, Principal Tony DeMarco, Principal Chali Davis, Assistant Principal Mike Tenters, Captain Shawn Pelletier, SRO Rich Addonizio, and the members of the Milford Fire Department; Captain Jason Smedick, Joey Coffey, and Mike Goldstein. It is great to have such support from our community the children enjoyed their time with all of them.
Students at Jacques will be participating in the Speeding to Read Program. Speeding to Read is an incentive based, motor sports themed program sponsored by the New England Motor Speedway. This program encourages our students to read or be read to at home and at school. Classes will work together to earn prizes as they read, including tickets to a race this summer!

Report cards for the Second Trimester will be issued on March 6th. It is important to discuss with your child his or her progress. Please remember that if you have concerns about your son’s or daughter’s progress, you can always schedule an appointment to have a conference with the teacher.

This year has been, and continues to be, a success due to the collective efforts of all in providing opportunities for our students to succeed and grow. Thank you for your continued support as we move into this very busy time of year. Thank you for reading the March issue of CONNECTIONS and for your continued support in our partnership to provide the best education for your child!

- Principal Timothy O’Connell
Milford School District Celebrates Read Across America

During the week of February 17th-21st, Jacques Memorial School students and staff celebrated Read Across America week. All joined in the fun of various Dr. Suess themed days including Cat in the Hat day when students and teachers got creative by making their own hats or wearing an old favorite. The whole school dressed up in green on Tuesday for Green Eggs and Ham day. Everyone dressed up for Wacky Wednesday; even Mr. O’Connell wore a crazy wig! Goofy Socks were worn for Fox in Sox Thursday, and Friday topped the week as all wore PJ’s to school. The major highlight of the entire week was all our enthusiastic school community guest readers.

Jacques Memorial Literacy Night was a Success!

On Friday, February 7th over 80 families (over 300 people) came together for dinner and literacy fun. All who attended enjoyed literacy activities facilitated by our Title 1 interventionists, teachers, Ms. B and Mr. O. The Wadleigh Library brought Lily the reading therapy dog who got lots of attention throughout the night. Mr. O’Connell concluded the night by reading everyone a bedtime story. Special thanks to Milano’s Pizza, Wadleigh Library, Mile Away Restaurant, Amato Center, Shaw’s and the Milford High School volunteers for all their support and helping to make JMS Literacy Night a success!

Milford Middle Schoolers Succeed at MathCounts Competition

Congratulations to the MMS team for their award-winning performance! Middle School students finished 2nd in the region at the MathCounts competition held at Keene State College earlier this month. The MMS team including Daniel Sixon, Morgan Peterson, Charles Ceyesco, Lakota Dodson and Caleb Cote will be competing in the statewide MathCounts competition at the state finals at Plymouth State University on March 7th. We are very proud of the students and their accomplishments and wish them good luck on March 7th. Also, a big thank you to Dr. Frankiewich for his continued support and coaching of the Milford Middle School MathCounts Team.

Milford Educators Focus on Social-Emotional/Behavioral Challenges

The February PD day allowed MMS educators to trial and participate in team-building, problem solving, and communication type activities that could be integrated into their Responsive Advisory student groups. Some staff members led activities with their colleagues, and facilitated discussions about how each activity could be used with students. Educators concluded that the activities would provide students with important skills that build confidence, develop communication and problem-solving skills, strengthen interpersonal skills, and promote teamwork. The PD day continued as educators viewed portions of the documentary "Who Cares About Kelsey?", and considered individual needs of students. Through an activity called The Power of Being Seen, staff gathered in grade-level teaching teams and discussed ways to support students who exhibit social-emotional/behavioral challenges.
English Language Learners Participate in ACCESS Assessment

For English learners and their teachers, February and March means spending some time devoted to the **ACCESS assessment**. This online assessment measures the progress of English learners in mastering academic English. It is an involved test; it has distinct sessions devoted to listening, reading, speaking, and writing, and it covers academic content like science and math.

This assessment does two important things. First, the assessment helps to answer important questions such as how students are progressing, are students getting the right kind of support, in which areas are students currently strongest, and where is extra attention needed? Second, the ACCESS results are a measure of accountability for the state of NH, and ensures that Milford School District is strongly supporting our English learners, as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The ACCESS test has high standards for student success. It is not enough for a student to "know English" in the sense of chatting with friends or reading a familiar comic, as these skills alone will not make them ready for college or a job, nor fulfill Milford's own Portrait of a Graduate. Rather, students need to master the challenging academic genres and vocabulary necessary for success in higher education and professional careers. This is the standard of the ACCESS assessment and the goal of our English learners program in Milford.

**KEEPING YOU INFORMED**

Ensuring a safe, supportive, and positive school climate reflects our school district’s core values and is essential to high quality learning for every student. On all our school campuses, we continue to be vigilant in cleaning common areas such as bathrooms, water faucets, classrooms, playground equipment, and cafeteria to minimize the spread of germs. We provide our staff and students with regular reminders about staying home when sick and following sound hygiene and health practices as listed below. As a reminder to our families, if your child is sick, please keep them home from school.

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Stay home when sick.**
- **Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**
- **Individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional.**
- **Get vaccinated every year.**

**LET'S HELP KEEP OUR MILFORD STUDENTS AND STAFF HEALTHY & WELL**
Inside Milford High

by Principal Chali Davis and CTE Director Vasiliki Partinoudi

FBLA
During FBLA Week, February 10-14th, members participated in a variety of activities. Club members raised money for Make-A-Wish through raffling off a box of chocolates with a teddy bear and collected items for SHARE. Members brought in goodies for teacher and staff appreciation, held a get-together event with members, and dressed for success. Students are preparing for the State Leadership competition in March.

Spartans Sports News

★ Feb 9, 2020 Renee Wilson defended her title by winning the Division 2 Indoor Track Long Jump championship

★ Feb 15, 2020 Andrew Bartolomucci won the Division 2 Swimming championship in two events. He won the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle events.

The Annual NHIAA and NHADA Scholar-Athlete Award will be presented on Monday, April 6, 2020 for member schools in Division 2 at 11:30 a.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH. This award is presented each year to high school seniors who have excelled in athletics as well as academics while demonstrating outstanding school and community spirit and leadership. Congratulations to the following Milford High School recipients:

Mykaela Cederberg  Samson Hodges  Sophia Renda
Trevor Coyne  Cora Holtshouser  Elisabeth Roadcap
Lorelai DeMambro  Sydney Kolasinski  Joseph Shepard
Kyle Forsley  Robyn Krafft  Gavin Urda
Matthew Hannon  Michael McGuire
Sean Hanrahan  Cameron Mitchell
Sarah Hill  William Nichols
Interact Club
Thank you to everyone who participated in the sock drive for Share! All the donations were greatly appreciated. In total, we collected 269 pairs of socks! The winning class who collected 147 pairs is... *Mr. Thibault!!!* Again, thanks to everyone for making this a successful drive!

Active Minds
Active Minds is pleased to share that MHS participated in Granite State Respect Week during the week of February 10-14, 2020 alongside dozens of other NH schools. Granite State Respect Week is a teen centered prevention and awareness campaign designed by the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Messaging and activities throughout the week intended to raise awareness regarding teen dating violence, connect teens to local support services, promote healthy relationships and encourage a respectful and caring environment within our school. Students particularly enjoyed receiving a chocolate Hershey kiss from the “Kisses for Consent Booth” displayed in the cafe. A special thank you to *Bridges of Milford* for tabling during lunches and providing students with valuable prevention materials and treats.

STEAM Night
Over 120 elementary and middle school students participated in STEAM Night on February 12th. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who made this event a huge success. *Click here* to see a video about the Night’s events! We are looking forward to seeing you all on May 20th for our STEAM Night EXTRAVAGANZA event funded by our district, the Perkins Grant and our NH BioMade Seed Funding through UNH’s EPSCOR program.
Biotechnology students were challenged to show off their micropipetting skills by creating a rainbow using just red, blue, and yellow dyes. Next they will be investigating gene expression using restriction enzymes to test for variations in DNA samples.

Business students are getting hands on experience organizing and operating their chosen business and will problem solve and make various decisions about the company along the way.

Accounting students are analyzing transactions in a double entry accounting system (debits and credits) and learning how daily transactions affect the accounting equation and the value of their business.

Video Production students embarked on their first editing project - which incorporates Adobe’s Premiere Pro software - as well as their first “Live Broadcast” experience. Advanced students jumped right into the “deep-end” with a team project that tested their ability to light and film a movie scene based on a specific genre.

Congratulations to Graphic Arts students Brianna Leo (Honorable Mention) and Stephen Podd (Silver Key) for winning the Scholastic Art Awards of NH in the animation and comic arts categories!!!

Marketing 1 students are working on a food truck project where they will apply all basic marketing concepts to the opening of a food truck. Marketing 2 students will be using their product development and research skills in a “Shark Tank” style presentation at the end of the semester. Marketing 3 students are working on identifying underserved populations in the community and developing a community service project to benefit the identified groups. We are very excited to watch these projects take shape throughout the semester.

The month of February was Human Computer Interaction month for Computer Studies students, who were introduced to the importance of data collection for various purposes and explored different ways our data can be used, both for good and for harm. Additionally, they created YouTube videos to explain educational social media websites.
Precision Machining and Welding students are getting ready to perform single point threading on the lathe and learning to stick weld in the flat.

Construction Technology students are completing their shed buildings and are currently learning how to do milling trim molding work on a window.

Advanced Pre-Engineering students are actively working with Mrs. Hagamen's English 12 Honors students to develop kinetic poetry while Engineering Design students are learning solid modeling and Robotics is building its first VEX robots.

Save the Date for our Open House
Manufacturing Exploration & Externship

Parents & students are welcome to attend the Open House!
To register, email: Frank.Xydias@milfordk12.org by March 2nd!
Please indicate in your message which sites you will be able to attend.
Learn how the ME & E class prepares students for the future!

No course prerequisite! No experience necessary!
Classroom training is 3 days a week.
Rotate between three sites - 6 weeks at each site, 2 days a week.
$12.00 hour salary
7 College Credits - FREE
Requisite Job Readiness Skills

This is an opportunity to explore what a career in manufacturing and engineering entails.
**CONNECT WITH US**

**District Office**
603-673-2202
Superintendent: Dr. Jessica Huizenga
Asst. Superintendent: Christi Michaud
Business Administrator: Jane Fortson

**Milford High School**
603-673-4201
Principal: Chali Davis
Asst. Principal: Stephen Claire
Michael Tenters
ATC Director: Vaso Partinoudi

**Milford Middle School**
603-673-5221
Principal: Anthony DeMarco
Asst. Principal: Colleen Hackett

**Heron Pond Elementary School**
603-673-1811
Principal: Chantal Alcox
Asst. Principal: Chris Saunders

**Jacques Memorial Elementary School**
603-673-4434
Principal: Tim O’Connell

**Project DRIVE**
**Office of Special Education**
603-673-6709
Director: Michael Hatfield
Assistant Director: Santina Thibodeau

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**MSD Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning Team**

Christi L Michaud
**Assistant Superintendent**

Leslie Brigagiano
**Jacques Memorial School, Curriculum and Title 1 Coordinator**

Meg Peterson
**Heron Pond Elementary School, Curriculum and Title 1 Coordinator**

Beth Gibney
**Milford Middle School, Curriculum Coordinator**

Mike Tenters
**Milford High School, Assistant Principal**

Denis Jobin
**English Language (EL) Teacher**

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**#WeAreSAU40**

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If you have questions on content you would like posted to the district social media pages, please contact maria.marien@milfordk12.org.

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