To the Editor:

The Oyster River School District is in the process of finalizing plans for a new state-of-the-art middle school. The current middle school dates back to 1937 and has been added onto four times over the years. Many of the structures are so old that when parts break, they must be custom made, at a substantial cost to the district. It has been estimated that renovating the current building to bring it up to code would cost more than building a new structure.

The new building is being designed not only to meet the academic and social emotional needs of the students, but also to be sustainable. It will incorporate geothermal heating and cooling and solar panels to sharply reduce fossil fuel consumption. The building is also being designed to improve traffic flow and to increase security.

The district will receive a guaranteed maximum price on the project by the end of November. In the meantime, the school board has taken steps to mitigate the increase in taxes. Design and preconstruction costs of \$800,000 were included in this year's budget. As a result, should the bond pass on March 10, 2020, construction will start in May. In addition, the board has gradually increased the annual capital budget. With interest rates at historic lows, it is anticipated that annual budget increases will stay within 3.5%, inclusive of the bond.

For more information about the proposed middle school, visit www.ORCSD.org and click on the quick link.

Denise Day Durham, NH

Oyster River students to tackle single-use plastics

DURHAM — Oyster River Cooperative School District is looking to reduce single-use plastics systemwide, and its students are leading the effort.

Members of the Oyster River High School Sustainability Club will spend the current school year gathering data about the volume, sources and impacts from disposable plastic within their school. They'll present their findings to the School Board next year in hopes of influencing policies that contribute to plastic consumption.

Although the plan is in its early stages, the high school leaders plan to work with their counterparts at the Oyster River Middle School interested in conducting a similar plastic audit. Efforts also are planned at Moharimet and Mast Way elementary schools.

"The whole school district is committed to solving the single-use plastic problem," senior Abbey Palmer said following a recent Sustainability Club organizational meeting at the high school.

Roughly 20 students gathered Thursday, Oct. 31, in science teacher Jon Bromley's classroom for the club's organizational meeting. The meeting took place during flex time, a relatively new daily period that allows students to get extra help with classwork or pursue enrichment activities.

During the 45-minute session, Bromley encouraged students to think critically about single-use plastics. "If you go and look at the trash cans and recycle bins around the school what will you see?" he asked students.

"Plastics," many students answered in unison, before offering several examples, such as bags, bottles, wrappers, straws and food containers.

"Yes, there is a lot of plastic, but plastic comes in a lot of forms," Bromley said, trying to guide students to think about what forms of plastic they encounter, whether it should be considered "single-use," and what its effects might be.

Oyster River has a deep commitment to sustainability. Initiatives include a longstanding contract with composter Mr. Fox, and multi-million dollar investments in energy efficiency. The effort around reducing single-use plastics is different in several key ways from those initiatives. Most significant is the fact that it is organized, led and carried out by students as an extension of classroom learning, explained district sustainability coordinator Maggie Morrison.

For now, the students are developing plans to better understand, and also quantify, plastic waste within the high school and other buildings. Senior Brunda Katikireddy said students likely will likely pick several classrooms to monitor plastic waste, then use those figures across to estimate waste volumes from other classrooms in the school.

Students expect to collect and weigh the total single-use plastics they collect to generate raw data on the types and volumes within the school, explained senior Marlon Grandy. Those figures will be shared with the School Board and the broader Oyster River community. The information also will be used by Sustainability Club members next year to develop an action plan around reducing plastic waste.

"We want to make a presentation to the School Board that shows them this is an issue worth working through," Palmer said, noting that sales of drinks in single-use plastics such as bottles of water raise money for the school.

Their data will also help "educate people that may not understand the impacts of pollution and climate change," Grandy added.

Palmer, Grandy and Katikireddy expect to have plenty of support from fellow Oyster River students, for whom questions about climate change and the effects of single-use plastics are mostly settled. Yet their knowledge of the problem doesn't always translate for their peers into appropriate behavior, with some still choosing not to recycle.

"By educating people into realizing that changing your behavior may not be as extreme as they think it is," Katikireddy said, "it would help elevate how much we can help the environment."

From:

kelsey@jgpr.net on behalf of Kelsey Bode <kelsey@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Thursday, November 7, 2019 4:17 PM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Oyster River Students Lead Charge to Study Single-Use Plastic Waste

Display problems? Open this email in your web browser.

Oyster River Cooperative School District SAU No. 5 Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive Durham, NH 03824



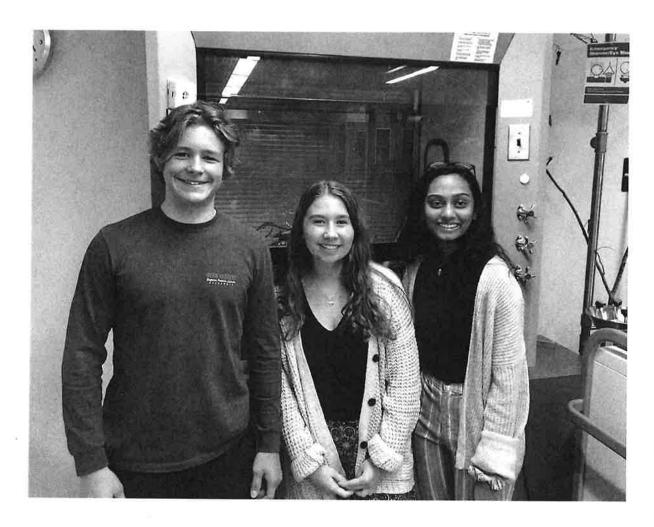
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

Media Contact: Kelsey Bode

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: kelsey@jgpr.net

Oyster River Students Lead Charge to Study
Single-Use Plastic Waste



From Left: Marlon Grandy, Abbey Palmer and Brunda Katikireddy are co-leaders of the Oyster River High School Sustainability Club, and will spend the school year studying single-use plastic consumption in the school district. (Courtesy Photo Oyster River School District)

DURHAM -- A group of students are leading an initiative this school year to study the impact of single-use plastics at Oyster River Cooperative School District.

Approximately 20 student participants of the Oyster River High School Sustainability Club, guided by science teacher and club adviser Jon Bromley and Sustainability Coordinator Maggie Morrison, plan to spend the coming months collecting and weighing single-use plastics at Oyster River High School, and will also gather data about the sources and impacts of that plastic waste.

In an effort to influence district policies surrounding plastic use, the students will present their findings to the School Board next school year. The students also plan to develop an action plan to reduce plastic waste next fall.

"We want to make a presentation to the School Board that shows them this is an issue worth working through," said Abbey Palmer, a senior and co-leader of the club.

"By educating people into realizing that changing your behavior may not be as extreme as they think it is, it would help elevate how much we can help the environment," said Brunda Katikireddy, a senior student and co-leader of the club.

Although the plan is in its early stages, the club also plans to work with students at Oyster River Middle School, who are interested in conducting a similar plastic audit. Efforts also are additionally planned at Moharimet and Mast Way elementary schools to better understand the impacts of single-use plastic at each facility.

"The whole school district is committed to solving the single-use plastic problem," Palmer said.

In addition to this year's efforts to study single-use plastic consumption, Oyster River Cooperative School District has a variety of sustainable initiatives already in place, including a longstanding composting contract and recent investments in energy efficiency including LED lighting at Oyster River High School, Moharimet and Mast Way Elementary schools; new windows at both elementary schools; solar panels on the district's maintenance building; HVAC system automation controls, energy efficient copiers and computers. The proposed middle school building project also seeks to include designs to reduce energy and operating costs.

"We're deeply committed as a district to sustainability, and to see our students take this initiative upon themselves demonstrates the dedication they feel to preserve our environment and address potentially harmful habits our society has developed, such as single-plastic use," Superintendent Morse said. "It's a wonderful learning opportunity for all grade levels, and we look forward to learning more as the school year goes on."

###

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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From:

matt@jgpr.net on behalf of Matthew Reid <matt@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Thursday, November 7, 2019 11:22 AM

To: Subject: Wendy DiFruscio

MEDIA ADVISORY Oyster River High School to Host Vaping Awareness Community

Discussion

Display problems? Open this email in your web browser.

Oyster River Cooperative School District

SAU No. 5

Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive Durham, NH 03824

(T) 55-	_		
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

Media Contact: Jordan Mayblum

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: jordan@jgpr.net

MEDIA ADVISORY

Oyster River High School to Host Vaping Awareness Community Discussion DURHAM -- Superintendent James Morse announces that Oyster River High School will be holding a community night for the district to discuss vaping and the effects it has on the body.

WHEN:

Friday, Nov. 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

WHERE:

Oyster River High School auditorium, 55 Coe Drive, Durham.

WHAT:

The discussion will be put on by the non-profit organization Breathe New Hampshire. The night will begin with a presentation and end with questions and comments from the community.

"New Hampshire schools have seen an dramatic rise in the number of students using electronic vaping products in recent years," Superintendent Morse said. "We hope as many parents as possible attend this important community meeting to learn the facts about this dangerous activity."

As part of the presentation, parents will be instructed on what to look for in the home, in backpacks, and more.

All parents in the Oyster River Cooperative School District are encouraged to attend.

Members of the Oyster River High School leadership team recently met with School Resource Officer Thomas Kilroy and school nurse Kimberly Wolph to share information and concerns regarding the increase in vaping among the middle and high school population across the country. The group wanted an organization with experience presenting on the rise of student-age vaping, and chose Breathe New Hampshire.

"Vaping is rampant among school aged children in New Hampshire and nationwide, and ORHS and ORMS are not immune to that trend," Wolph said. "It is an issue of serious concern, which is why we invited Breathe NH to come and present and educate our students, parents and faculty. With all of the health issues surrounding vaping, it is

imperative that our school community works together toward reducing the number of school-aged children who are vaping."

This past summer the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement on the dangers of youth vaping. It highlighted the New Hampshire Partners Against Youth Vaping in Schools, a network of community partners that was formed to provide outreach and education about new and emerging tobacco products.

Read the full statement here.

###

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

Unsubscribe | Manage subscription John Guilfoil Public Relations LLC 8 Prospect St. Georgetown, MA 01833 617-993-0003

From:

kelsey@jgpr.net on behalf of Kelsey Bode <kelsey@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 11:24 AM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Children's Book Author to Visit Oyster River's Moharimet Elementary

Display problems? Open this email in your web browser.

Oyster River Cooperative School District SAU No. 5 Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive Durham, NH 03824



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019

Media Contact: Kelsey Bode

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: kelsey@jgpr.net

Children's Book Author to Visit Oyster River's Moharimet Elementary

MADBURY-- Principal David Goldsmith is pleased to announce that Oyster River Cooperative School District Alumnus Lincoln Peirce, an author of children's books and graphic novels, will visit Moharimet Elementary School this November.

Media are invited to attend.

WHO:

- Author Lincoln Peirce
- Principal David Goldsmith
- Moharimet Third and Fourth Grade Students

WHEN:

Thursday, Nov. 7 from 10-11 a.m.

WHERE:

Moharimet Elementary School, 11 Lee Road, Madbury

WHAT:

Lincoln Peirce (pronounced "purse") will visit third and fourth grade students this November to talk about his books and writing career.

"Excitement has been brewing for weeks as our students prepare for cartoonist and author Lincoln Peirce's visit," said Library Media Specialist Margaret Kelley. "Mr. Peirce's "Big Nate" series continues to fly off of our library bookshelves, and his newest book, a first in a series, "Max & the Midknights," is equally engaging. His presence as a published writer and cartoonist, and an alumnus of our school district, will enhance students' love of reading and expand their vision of what is possible for them; and for that we're forever grateful."

Peirce will begin his visit to the school with a presentation on cartooning and storytelling, as well as how his early interest in those disciplines led to his books "Big Nate" and "Max & the Midknights." He will also discuss his career, and share a few drawings he made as an elementary school student.

Following the presentation, Peirce will give a drawing demonstration. He will also conduct a question and answer period with students, and will be available to sign books for students at the end of his visit.

###

From:

jordan@jgpr.net on behalf of Jordan Mayblum <jordan@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Monday, September 23, 2019 12:14 PM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Oyster River High School Earns Sportsmanship Award

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Oyster River Cooperative School District

SAU No. 5

Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive

Durham, NH 03824



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019

Media Contact: Jordan Mayblum

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: jordan@jgpr.net

Oyster River High School Earns Sportsmanship Award



From left: NHIAA Executive Director Jeff Collins, ORCSD Athletic Director Andy Lathrop, Superintendent James Morse and NHIAA Executive Council Vice President Steve Beals. (Courtesy Photo)

DURHAM -- Superintendent James Morse is pleased to announce that Oyster River High School was presented with a sportsmanship award by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA).

Oyster River High School was honored with the 2018-2019 NHIAA Division 2 Sportsmanship Award, recognizing its display of sportsmanship across all sports programs.

The award reflects the good sportsmanship of each Oyster River team, as well as coaches and spectators over the course of the last year. ORHS was selected for the honor from 24 Division 2 schools throughout the state.

"This is an extraordinary honor that reflects the value that our entire high school athletic program places on good sportsmanship and respecting the values of competition," Superintendent Morse said. "I'm proud of our student athletes, coaches and the entire ORHS community for earning this recognition."

ORHS was presented with a banner recognizing its achievement at a ceremony at the NHIAA annual meeting in Concord on Monday, Sept. 16. The banner will hang alongside the school's championship banners in the gym.

The school previously earned the honor in 1992.

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A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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Fr	om:
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jessica@jgpr.net on behalf of Jessica Sacco <jessica@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:27 PM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Oyster River Educators Attend Regional Competency Based Education Training to

Expand District Services

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Oyster River Cooperative School District

SAU No. 5

Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive Durham, NH 03824



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Media Contact: Jessica Sacco

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: jessica@jgpr.net

Oyster River Educators Attend Regional Competency Based Education Training to Expand District Services

×	

Assistant Superintendent Todd Allen goes over Oyster River's problems of practice during the summer institute. (Courtesy Photo SAU 5)

DURHAM -- Oyster River administrators and teachers recently came together for a student-centered learning summer institute.

Student-centered learning is a component of competency based education -- an instruction model focused on providing a customized educational experience for all students.

On July 9-11, 194 teachers and administrators from Oyster River, SAU 16, Portsmouth, Raymond, Hampton, Newmarket and SAU 44 gathered at Exeter High School for inspiration, learning and to develop "problems of practice" (an area to work on and improve) for the upcoming school year.

"At Oyster River we want to look at ways that we can improve the dialogue with community members," said Assistant Superintendent Todd Allen, who attended the workshop. "We've been transitioning to competency based education for more than a decade and we want everyone to understand that we're doing this to better meet the needs of students and prepare them for life after high school."

<u>2Revolutions</u> -- an education design lab that works with schools to implement new learning models -- designed and led the learning institute.

"What we're trying to do here is give everyone in the room the tools and resources they need to embody competency based education," 2Revolutions Founder/Partner Adam Rubin said. "Our goal is to help educators build their capacity on the ground and create a system that is sustainable as they continue with this work for years to come."

During breakout sessions on Thursday, July 11, educators got to work developing their problems of practice, outlining areas where their districts could support their peers in deepening their practice, as well as areas for leadership to engage stakeholders more strategically through improved internal and external communication.

Oyster River developed three problems to focus on for the next school year:

- Refine the district's vision so that all beliefs are together in one core message that can then be shared and embodied by students, faculty, staff and community members.
- Develop new outreach strategies (emails, website posts, information given out at open houses, etc.) so that people can better understand competency based education and the model the district is trying to create.
- Promote innovative ideas so that when a teacher or student has a really great unit or project that showcases a component of competency based education, people know about it.

To start these processes, Oyster River will construct a community survey to see what type of information residents want and how they want to receive it. Administrators will also look to re-organize the district's website and create video vignettes explaining different concepts of competency based education.

"I have always believed that we have the internal capacity to address any problem or issue that may arise within the district. We just need the time for creative energy to flow," Assistant Superintendent Allen said. "This three-day learning institute was a great jump start to these efforts."

###

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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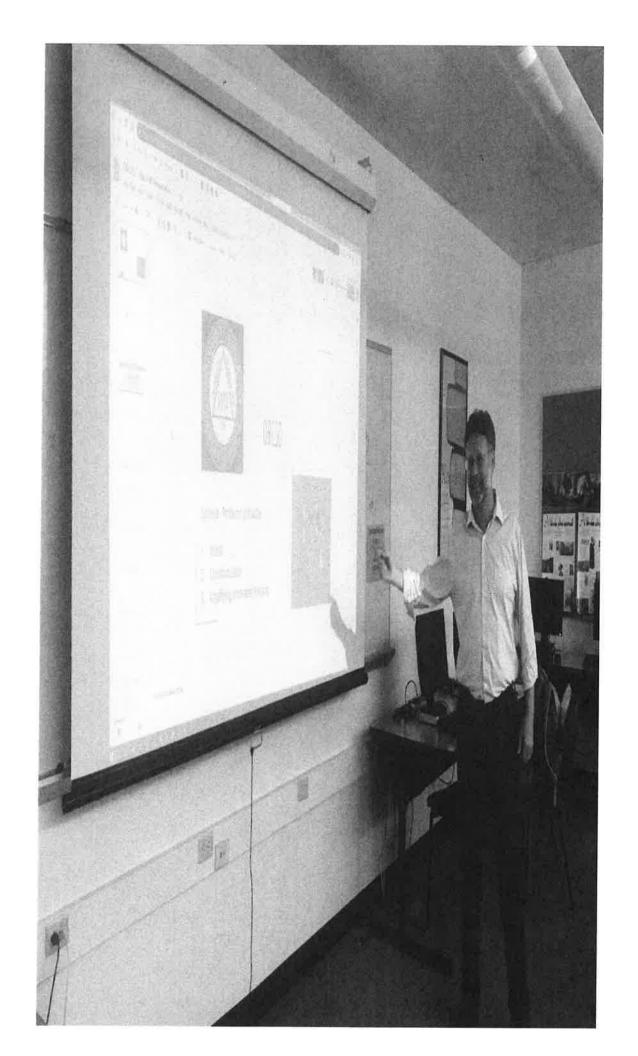
Thursday, July 18, 2019

Media Contact: Jessica Sacco

Phone: 617-993-0003

Email: jessica@jgpr.net

Oyster River Educators Attend Regional Competency Based Education Training to Expand District Services



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###

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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John Guilfoil Public Relations LLC
8 Prospect St.
Georgetown, MA 01833
617-993-0003

Jessica Sacco Account Executive

From:

jordan@jgpr.net on behalf of Jordan Mayblum <jordan@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2019 1:54 PM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Letter: Oyster River Cooperative School Board Urges Support for Increased State

Education Funding

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Oyster River Cooperative School District

SAU No. 5

Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive

Durham, NH 03824



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 27, 2018

Media Contact: Jordan Mayblum

Phone: 617-993-0003

Email: jordan@jgpr.net

Letter: Oyster River Cooperative School Board Urges Support for Increased State Education Funding

Dear Editor,

We appreciate legislators' support of increased school funding in this year's budget. We agree that access to excellent K-12 public education is absolutely necessary to ensure the future success of our state, nation, civic life, and the economy.

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board is encouraged that State legislators are committed to improving the quality and accessibility of public education in New Hampshire while also reducing the significant disparities that exist because of current under-funding of education at the state level.

The State Senate's version of the budget this year proposed much less education funding than the House's and did little to reduce the over-reliance on local property taxes for education funding.

Please support the education funding level initially approved by the House of Representatives in HB 1 in the conference process to finalize the state budget. This is an important step toward reducing disparity between districts across the state.

Students and taxpayers in certain districts should not be disproportionately burdened in order to provide an adequate public education just because of factors of demographics, land ownership or geography.

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board joins many other school districts across New Hampshire in its belief that the current reliance on local property taxes (including SWEPT, which is an entirely local property tax burden) increases the inequity between school districts.

We have an opportunity right now to change the course of public education in New Hampshire. We ask our state legislators to advocate to improve schools AND provide local property tax relief. We can move in this direction by following the House budget course.

In service to our students and citizens,

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board

###

From:

kelsey@jgpr.net on behalf of Kelsey Bode <kelsey@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:54 PM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Oyster River Names Interim Mast Way Elementary School Principal

Display problems? Open this email in your web browser.

Oyster River Cooperative School District

SAU No. 5

Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive

Durham, NH 03824



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Media Contact: Kelsey Bode

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: kelsey@jgpr.net

Oyster River Names Interim Mast Way Elementary School Principal



Oyster River High School Assistant Director of Special Education Misty Lowe has been selected as Mast Way Elementary School's interim principal for the 2019-2020 school year. Lowe has four children, from left: Haley Manchester, Noah Lowe, Caleb Manchester, Misty Lowe and Taylor Neal. (Courtesy Photo Misty Lowe)

LEE -- Superintendent Jim Morse is pleased to share that Misty Lowe, assistant director of special education at Oyster River High School, has been selected to fill the role of interim principal at Mast Way Elementary next year.

Lowe has worked at Oyster River Cooperative School District for approximately six years, and will serve as Mast Way Elementary School's interim principal for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year. Her first day in her new role will be July 1.

The district began the search for an interim principal after current Mast Way Elementary School Principal Carrie Vaich announced this May that she would be leaving her post at the end of the school year.

An Arkansas native, Lowe moved to New Hampshire in 1999. Lowe has held a variety of roles throughout her career in education, and has worked as a paraeducator, elementary school teacher, middle and high school level special education teacher, building level coordinator, special education director and assistant principal.

"I feel driven to do this work and passionate about serving our children in the community," Lowe said. "My goal while at Mast Way is to first learn about the school community and become a part of it. I also want to honor the hard work that the staff, students and families of this school have done over the years to become a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School."

In 2018, Mast Way was also honored as the only <u>National Blue Ribbon School</u> in the state for its academic performance.

In addition to her career in education at Oyster River Cooperative School District, Lowe also serves on her local school board in Strafford.

"Misty has demonstrated a passion for education and student growth that makes her a wonderful fit for this role," Superintendent Morse said. "She has a knack for supporting students in reaching their goals and helping staff execute their best work. We're looking forward to having her join the Mast Way community."

The district will begin a search for Principal Vaich's permanent replacement for the 2020-2021 school year in November. The search will be a thorough process that will include a wide range of stakeholders.

###

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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8 Prospect St.
Georgetown, MA 01833
617-993-0003

From:

kelsey@jgpr.net on behalf of Kelsey Bode <kelsey@jgpr.net>

Sent:

Thursday, May 30, 2019 1:42 PM

To:

Wendy DiFruscio

Subject:

Oyster River's Moharimet Elementary Students Visit State Farming Museum

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Oyster River Cooperative School District SAU No. 5

Superintendent James Morse

36 Coe Drive Durham, NH 03824



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 30, 2019

Media Contact: Jordan Mayblum

Phone: 617-993-0003 Email: jordan@jgpr.net

Oyster River's Moharimet Elementary Students Visit State Farming Museum



From left: Fourth grade Moharimet students Avery Biggwither, Libby Bessette, and Sydney Keenum feed chickens during a field trip to the New Hampshire Farm Museum in Milton. (Courtesy Photo Oyster River Cooperative School District)

DURHAM -- Principal David Goldsmith is pleased to announce that students at Moharimet Elementary School visited the New Hampshire Farm Museum last week.

Each year, Moharimet adopts a curriculum enrichment theme, and the school hosts assemblies and activities throughout the year to support that theme. This school year's theme was "Year of the Farmer."

"We chose farming as our theme this year because it is vital to our society and is an integral part of the New Hampshire seacoast in various forms," Principal Goldsmith said. "We hoped that students would increase their understanding and appreciation for farming, the work it requires, and its connection to a healthy environment."

Farming themed events at the school this year included a presentation by an oyster farmer, a herding demonstration with sheep dogs and a farmer's market that featured representatives from local fruit, vegetable, meat and plant farms.

The "Year of the Farmer" culminated last week for Moharimet students with a field trip.

On Wednesday, May 22, a group of 320 Moharimet students, 100 staff members and 30 chaperones visited the New Hampshire Farm Museum in Milton. Students in

kindergarten through second grade visited animals, took a tour of the farm house, went on a tractor ride, participated in a barn scavenger hunt, ate cobbler, visited a garden and played outdoor games. The students also learned about spinning, butter and candle making.

At the museum, students in third and fourth grades learned about tractor and engine repair, outdoor cooking, symbols of democracy, planting, crochet, basket making, soap making, weaving, quill writing, sewing and embroidery.

After visiting the museum, Moharimet students, staff and chaperones also visited McKenzies Farm, located across the street from the NH Farm Museum, to learn about fruit farming and grafting.

Administrators and faculty coordinated the trip with the help of Kagen Weeks, the head of the NH Farm Museum. Weeks helped the school organize the day and events, and also recruited volunteers.



###

David Maleham, a New Hampshire Farm Museum volunteer, cooks with a Moharimet third grade student during an outdoor cooking demonstration. (Courtesy Photo Oyster River Cooperative School District)



Moharimet fourth grade student Libby Bessette pumps water during a field trip to the New Hampshire Farm Museum in Milton. (Courtesy Photo Oyster River Cooperative School District)



Harper Hubbard, a fourth grade student, plants seeds during a visit to the NH Farm Museum in Milton. (Courtesy Photo Oyster River Cooperative School District)



From left: Kindergarten students Kayla Kavanagh, Natalie Sogard and Anevay Miller. (Courtesy Photo Oyster River Cooperative School District)

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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Oyster River Cooperative School District

SAU No. 5
Superintendent James Morse
36 Coe Drive

Durham, NH 03824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Media Contact: Jordan Mayblum

Phone: 617-993-0003

Email: jordan@jgpr.net

Oyster River High School to Host Annual Celebration of Freshman Students' World Cultures Work

DURHAM -- Superintendent James Morse is pleased to announce that Oyster River High School freshmen will take part in the annual celebration of their impact on the world around them.

The 12th annual Power of One: Students Creating Change will be held on Tuesday, May 28, and will serve as the culmination of a year's worth of work by 200 freshmen in their World Cultures classes.

One of the core goals of the World Cultures curriculum is to encourage students to become active participants within their own communities and give back on a global scale. In this spirit, The Power of One Project was created as a way to demonstrate to students how they can make a meaningful impact on the world.

"We hope to help them understand that what they say, do and think is critically important, and that they, like many of the people we have learned about, can effect change in the world," said ORHS social studies teacher Matt Pappas.

Students each chose an issue they are concerned about, researched the issue to better understand the root causes and impact it is having, and took action to address their chosen issue.

The focus of their projects include local, national and global issues, and they cover a wide range of topics, from focusing on local farming and homeless veterans to explaining the perils of shark finning and raising funds to combat Haitian poverty. Other projects focused on issues like land mines, ocean pollution, cancer, elephant poaching, water wells in rural Africa and food insecurity.

In the past, students have raised and donated over \$20,000 for local and international charities and educated thousands about critical challenges throughout the world.

The Power of One event will be held Tuesday, May 28th from 5-6:30 p.m. in the ORHS cafeteria. Students from Durham, Lee, Madbury and Barrington will participate in the Power of One. The entire event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

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A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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Best,

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