

HOLDERNESS CENTRAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

This year was about exciting growth, achievement, and loss. Our student numbers have grown to 241 as we begin 2005. Five staff members added to their families and we welcomed long-term maternity substitutes Cathy McKay, Chet DeVarney, and Martha Aguiar to our staff, along with our new nurse Ruthann Kline Smith and support staff members Bobbi Dross and Erin Druckenmiller. We were proud that Melody Funk was honored as the State's Art Teacher of the Year, and Officer Mark Nash as D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year. We have a new website courtesy of our Best Schools' work and outstanding parent volunteers like Sarah Daniels-Campbell and Alicia Abbott. We again won the Blue Ribbon Award for our Parent/Volunteer Program and the PTA again contributed greatly to our programs as well as the award. An exploratory committee investigated potential foreign language programs for our school, and we piloted new regional (NECAP) testing. Sadly, we also grieved the loss of Dr. John True, Superintendent of Schools this November. John's patience and caring set a positive tone in the SAU, and he is missed. We welcome Mark Halloran as our new Superintendent and Kathy Boyle who will join Ethel Gaides as Assistant Superintendent this next year.

We became one of two schools in New Hampshire to pilot an integrated music program in conjunction with the New Hampshire Music Festival. We are just starting to receive resources and guidance from nationally known, published experts to implement music in conjunction with early reading and math instruction. The research has proven that this develops the skills needed for reading and wires the brain to think mathematically, dramatically increasing achievement in both subjects. Our music teacher has been working in the classrooms closely with our kindergarten and first grade teachers during reading time and all have gone to training along with our art teacher on how to increase academic learning through art and music.

We continue to provide extracurricular sports, a winter program, and enrichment activities as well as early morning help sessions. We successfully developed a new, free summer school program with grant money and a new fifth grade environmental school experience right here in Holderness. Report cards were changed, continuums developed, and benchmarks created to provide parents with more information on their children's progress.

Our computers were all upgraded and a new sound system and cameras were purchased with grant money. Middle School students are learning movie making and other technology skills to present their research results. The community's support of all our functions from concerts to the Holiday Fair is so appreciated. We again provided holiday food baskets and winter essentials to community members and involved our students in our "Giving Tree" collection. Students in our middle school service learning class and student council all helped organize initiatives to help others. We began monthly full school assemblies run by students to promote leadership skills and to showcase learning and held our first presidential mock election to teach citizenship.

Our S.T.A.R.S program, which connects students from different grades in mentor/teacher capacities, is active as is our continuing Best Schools' work on the facility, community relations, math, and literacy. In addition, several staff members participate on SAU-wide curriculum committees. The whole staff participated this fall in a self-analysis on six criteria of excellence. Our application as a school of excellence was mailed in January. We have been busy trying to continually improve what we do. It's all about meeting students' needs and increasing achievement.

I hold open meetings monthly to garner your feedback and suggestions. Your input is always appreciated and welcome, especially now as we begin a long-term strategic plan for Holderness Central School.

I thank a most hard-working, dedicated, professional staff and school board. We will continually strive to provide a top quality education in a warm, caring atmosphere for every child. This school is a reflection of a wonderful community. Thank you for your incredible support.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra L. McLaughlin
Principal

HOLDERNESS CENTRAL SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICE REPORT

During the Fall of 2004, the Health Office at Holderness Central has seen a flurry of activity.

Plymouth Pediatrics conducted sports' physicals as students signed up for soccer teams and field hockey teams.

Students were weighed, measured and screened for pediculosis (lice), and baseline audiograms completed.

Immunization records have been reviewed and updated to meet the State of New Hampshire requirements for 2004/2005. The immunization status of students throughout New Hampshire are reported annually (November) to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services.

The annual flu shot clinic at HCS met the cancellation fate of others statewide and we started flu prevention measures promotion with emphasis on covered coughs and sneezes, and hand washing.

Mrs. Barbara Laverack, a registered dental hygienist affiliated with Speare Memorial Hospital, provided a dental education program for all of our HCS students. Additionally, parents had the opportunity to include children for a dental screening (52), and a dental cleaning/fluoride treatment (38), as well as the weekly fluoride rinse program in grades 1-5 (64).

As we transition to winter activities, screenings will continue, including vision and postural screening, as outlined by the New Hampshire Department of Education guidelines for School Nurses.

On an average day in the HCS Health Office, students stop by for first aid, prescribed medication, screening, and to discuss concerns and/or describe symptoms of illness. Faculty and staff work together to promote health and wellness in our school community.

Please consider the HCS Health Office as a resource for your questions or concerns. I welcome community input.

Remember to take time for your health.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruthann KlineSmith, R.N.
School Nurse

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2004

We were all saddened by the sudden passing of our long time superintendent, John True. We lost a friend, a colleague and a true advocate for children.

A sudden change like this allows us the opportunity to take stock of our schools and the entire structure of SAU #48.

You will be pleased to know that at the beginning of this school year, John and I discussed thoroughly the strength of staff contained within our districts. We felt that we've never had such a strong and competent group of administrators as we have now working on behalf of your sons and daughters. You should know also that the quality of teachers working in our districts is outstanding. We both believed this can be attributed to the political and financial stability provided by the voters. It is because of your support that we have been able to attract and retain outstanding candidates for positions as they become vacant. These individuals, joining our loyal and veteran staffs, have made us a very desirable location in which to work and live.

As with any change of leadership, there will be changes, but please know that John and I shared many core beliefs, namely creating and maintaining a climate in which students and teachers can thrive.

Joining us at the central office in July will be Kathy Boyle, a long-time teacher and administrator in the Plymouth School District. Kathy brings significant experience to the role of Assistant Superintendent.

Jon Francis will assume the newly created position of Facilities Director for all of our schools. Jon has worked at the high school for a number of years and will bring his considerable skills to our communities. We will look forward to these two talented individuals impacting all of our schools on a daily basis.

Your school board members have dedicated themselves to providing the finest educational opportunities for our children within the economic reality of our region. All of us know the sacrifices property tax payers in our communities make on behalf of our students, faculty and staff. The interests of all are measured carefully by your board members.

All of us have been blessed by the community spirit of those who volunteer to be members of our local school boards. The dedication of these gracious public servants should be respected and admired.

Finally, please let me thank all of you for the support and best wishes I have received recently and, quite frankly, over the past fifteen years. There is no better place to live, work and raise a family.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark J. Halloran

**HOLDERNESS SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES REPORT
PER RSA 32:11-A**

	Fiscal Year 2002/2003	Fiscal Year 2003/2004
Expenditures	\$504,402	\$524,224
Revenues	\$165,776	\$147,382
Net Expenditures	\$338,626	\$376,842
\$ increase/decrease		\$38,216
% increase/decrease		11.29%