

142 Cranfield Street
PO Box 228
New Castle, NH 03854

Maude H. Trefethen Elementary School

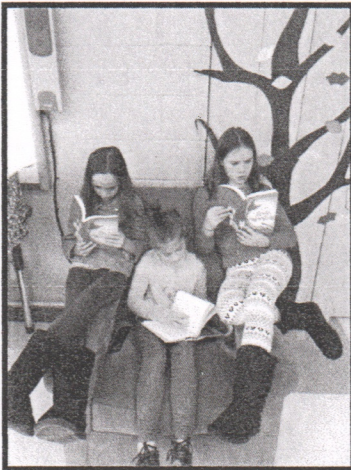


David W. Latchaw, Principal

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"Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me... Anything can happen, child. Anything can be."

— Shel Silverstein

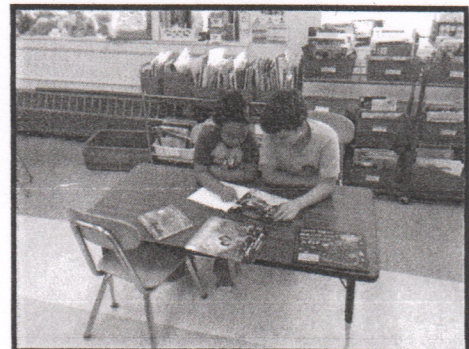


The Maude H. Trefethen (MHT) School has continued to flourish during the 2017-2018 school year. In addition to seeing a 10% jump in student enrollment this school year, students have also benefited from new academic offerings and opportunities with the creation and implementation of two new positions: a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)/Extended Learning Teacher *and* a School Counselor/Special Education Teacher. Furthermore, with the strong buttressing from MHT staff, parents and community members, students have also continued to benefit from specialized learning opportunities designed to ameliorate the core academics already occurring. In short, MHT sustains its

inimitable learning experience!

Mr. Yi Fu Han, MHT's School Counselor/Special Education Teacher was welcomed with open arms by staff and parents. MHT is fortunate that we have such a talented individual who can seamlessly bounce between offering his counseling services and providing the federally mandated special education services MHT students require. And, as expected, Mr. Han has wasted little time getting to work, with many new and exciting initiatives including:

- Bringing in the body safety group, HAVEN, to better educate our students and parents on establishing and respecting personal boundaries and understanding personal body safety;
- Weekly student lunch groups to develop and foster strong and healthy social relationships;
- On-site collaboration with Northeast Passage, from the University of New Hampshire (UNH), to provide school-based recreational therapy;



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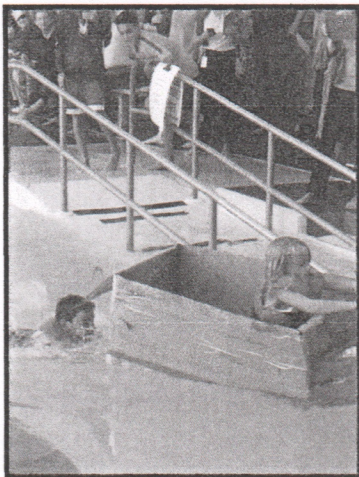
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- Counseling for individuals and groups of students;
- Peer mediation;
- Classroom counseling lessons;
- Co-teaching in classrooms and special education based academic interventions for students;
- Facilitation of a peer mentoring program between the 5th/6th grade class and the kindergarten/1st grade class with field trips and reading buddies.

Mr. Justin Mayrand, MHT's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)/Extended Learning Teacher has also made quite the positive impact. For example, his lessons on simple and complex machines, gear ratios, robotics, solar panels and electricity were the perfect compliment to the science already occurring in the classrooms. Furthermore, a surfeit of course offerings that combined

STEM/Extended learning opportunities with other grade levels and core subjects (e.g. math, science, social studies and language arts) occurred such as:

- Constructing a puppet theatre with the kindergarten and first grade;
- Designing and fabricating bat houses with the second graders;
- Studying buoyancy, ballast, water displacement etc. with the third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders in order to engineer and assemble one and two person occupancy cardboard boats for testing and launching at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool;
- Map orienteering and compass navigation with the fifth and sixth graders.



Madame Jennifer Bell, MHT's World Language Teacher, has made great strides with offering students extraordinary academic and extended learning opportunities. In Madame Bell's core teaching, she covers the study of Central and South America with a focus on speaking, listening and writing (in Kindergarten through grade 2); Spanish speaking and French speaking countries with a focus on speaking, listening, reading and writing (in grades 3-4); more in-depth (i.e. instruction in the target language)

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Spanish and French conversation (for fifth and sixth graders), with an introduction to basic grammar concepts with and an expectation that students reach a higher level of proficiency in the language by the end of the sixth grade program. However, Madame Bell has also provided some pretty noteworthy extended learning opportunities, which included a:

- Discussion and presentation of the traditional Peruvian cuisine, *alfajores*, by MHT parent, Lisbeth Walker;
- Seminar on the history and intricacies of Colombian coffee, with accompanying coffee brewing and tasting by MHT parent, Max Pruna;
- Field trips to El Rodeo (for Spanish class) and La Maison Navarre (for French class);
- A visit and demonstration by classically trained French Chef, Michael Whelan on fine French cuisine;
- A discussion by native Spaniard, Maribel Raro de Valencia.



Recently, Mrs. Vitali (Art), Mr. Purcell (grade 5/6) and community member and volunteer extraordinaire, Deb Tillar, collaborated on an Egyptian Hieroglyphics project, which highlights best just how MHT seamlessly integrates multiple grades, subjects and the skillsets of our many volunteers. Besides giving students the opportunity to learn how the ancient Egyptians wrote and formed words and sounds through a hieroglyphic writing exercise, students also created personalized, 2-dimensional cartouches, which were then carved into linoleum, pressed into clay and fired in the new kiln. Finally, the cartouches were painted into sparkling gold medallions, and they are now prominently displayed in the school's showcase as museum quality pieces!



MHT continues to be blessed by a strong outpouring of volunteers who act as exemplars for students while enriching the academic experience. Elizabeth Graham has epitomized the volunteer culture being fostered at MHT with multiple examples of time being devoted to and for the students. For example, Mrs. Graham has become a regular fixture in the French world language class where she provides enrichment

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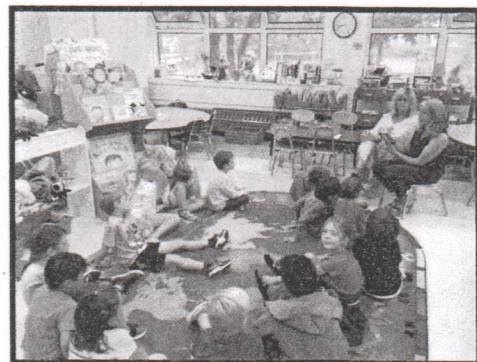
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with students and on different days she will join the other classrooms in order to make herself available to be read to. However, Mrs. Graham really left her mark when she organized and facilitated a schoolwide Gingerbread house building activity. This multifaceted program brought together students, parents and staff as kids designed and built their own holiday displays that were then put on display at the Discover Portsmouth Center, Gingerbread house exhibit.

For those that missed it, at the tailend of last school year, MHT was selected by **New Hampshire Public Television**, in cooperation with *Learniverse Media* and the *New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE)*, to be the **exclusive partner and launch site** for their new early elementary education STEM program! This initiative, *STEM from the START*, is specifically designed for young children and tailors to their innate curiosity while also being fully aligned with the next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Moreover, *STEM from the START* aligns perfectly with the existing Foss/Delta science curriculum that provides hands-on, experiential learning already in place at MHT as the core Science based teaching tool.

Once again, and on a yearlong basis this time, MHT was provided the wonderful opportunity to work with Northeast Passage and the University of New Hampshire. As with last year, Northeast Passage has provided a weekly school-based recreational therapy class, that offers goal-directed recreational activities to develop students' cognitive, motor, and social skills. MHT staff continues to enjoy collaborating with the facilitators and instructors associated with Northeast Passage and, or UNH and its clear the students are reaping the benefits of this special program offering!

Based on the recent STAR and Smarter Balanced testing, MHT students continue to lead the pack in academic excellence, both locally and statewide, which is a testament to the superlative instruction taking place. In order to further buttress the aforesaid teaching, staff has also fully embraced MHT's Habits of Work and Learning (HOWL's) that focus on students being a: Collaborator, Communicator, Contributor, evaluator, Learner,



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Producer, Technology User and Thinker. Moreover, students have benefited from extra educational opportunities both on and offsite that include:

- A league Championship by the third through sixth grade school coed soccer team that was coached by Mr. Purcell, Mr. Richey, Mr. Jewett and Ms. Walker;
- Walking field trips to the New Castle Post Office and New Castle Fire Department;
- Seeing a live showing of *The Cat in the Hat* at the Portsmouth Music Hall;
- A physical education and teamworking field trip to Zach's Farm and Corn Maze;
- Volunteer work at the Seacoast Half-Marathon;
- A science trip to the York Center for Wildlife;
- A school wide science and community building field trip up Mt. Agamenticus;
- An extended residency by the performing company and visiting artists, *Sticks and Stones* with subsequent live performance by students at The Commons;
- A multi-day stay at Merrowvista's science environmental camp;
- A field trip to UNH's *Browne Center for Innovation*;
- A field trip to Applecrest Farm;
- An onsite demonstration with the Borden's cider press;
- A visiting artist residency with Ms. Stephanie Lazenby with a subsequent

language arts and social studies performance written and performed by students on ancient civilizations and folktales;



- An annual community wide holiday luncheon at MHT with demonstrations and presentations of students' academics and skills, especially in Mr. Gene Guth's Music class;

- A lesson on civics and government by local and state officials: Bill Stewart, Kate Murray and David Borden;

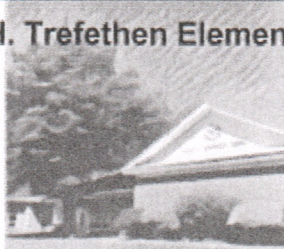
- A science lecture by Dr. Alex Hesquijarosa;
- A trip to the New Hampshire SPCA;
- A Trip to the New Hampshire State House,

Governor's Office and Christa McAuliffe Center;

- A presentation on Hanukkah by Laura Rubin and Nancy Russman;
- A presentation by HAVEN on body safety;

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- Weekly visits to provide small group math instruction by MHT parents: Jane Lannon, Randy Lynch and Dafney Phua.

Perhaps most impressive, is the work our students have done themselves, through their volunteering, that truly encapsulates MHT and the culture we foster. Time and time again, students stepped up with a pumpkin and bake sale to support Red Cross relief efforts (by the fifth and sixth graders), an item collection for *Area Home Care and Family Services* (by the second graders), and a food/toy drive and bake sale for the NH SPCA (by the kindergarten, first, third and fourth graders). The MHT community was especially proud that the second graders, in their aforementioned volunteer work, were prominently covered recently in *The Portsmouth Herald*.

In closing, I want to personally thank all the volunteers that gave, and continue to give, up their time to support the students and staff at MHT. If you are interested in being a part of MHT as a volunteer, please email hpapoutsy@sau50.org. And, a special thank you to MHT's PTO for their continued support in all the special happenings described herein!