

40 Linden Street, Exeter, NH 03833

www.SeacoastTech.com

THE BEACON

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

The fall of 2009 has been an exciting time for those of us at the Seacoast School of Technology. Our students continue to make me proud with personal accomplishments in their programs and through their tremendous generosity. I have featured some of the service-oriented and charitable acts completed by our students in the few short weeks since my last writing. None of this would happen without the impressive spirit of giving, which every one of our faculty and staff members seem to possess. We continue to be grateful for the generosity of countless adults who support our school. You will read about some of these invaluable people in my letter. You should know:

- The Building Trades Trust has been supporting the Building Construction Technologies program since 1973. At a recent meeting, the Trust voted to give up to \$75,000 to the program for the construction of an addition to be built on the SST campus from which modular homes will be built. We are truly grateful to the members of the Trust for this generous act. Some of the modular homes will be for charities and some will be for sale. The Building Construction Technologies program is growing and with the ability to build modular homes, students will have the opportunity to learn all of the construction trades in more depth. If you would like the opportunity to make a gift in support of this project, please contact me.
- The Animal & Plant Science program has received a \$5000 USDA grant through the National FFA Learning to Serve program. This grant will allow our students to work with the Paul Memorial Public Library in Newfields and the Newfields Elementary School 4th grade class to restore the landscaping at the library. During this year-long project, the Animal & Plant Science and Technology Careers students will work with experts from the NH Cooperative Extension, a local landscape design consultant, the Paul Library Board and local businesses to design and implement the plan. The students will be involved in community presentations on native and invasive species and the threat of the Asian Longhorn beetle. Credit and thanks go to Animal & Plant Science teacher, Anne DeMarco and Technology Careers teacher, Andy Andersen, for writing this grant and bringing another great opportunity to our students and the community.
- Long time friend of SST and mentor to Biotechnology students, Dr. Vaughn Cooper, UNH Microbiology and genetics professor, recently secured a \$1 million grant through the National Science Foundations. As a result, Biotechnology students will have the opportunity to conduct research as part of a major study on evolution. Equipment will be purchased and housed in our Biotechnology lab enabling our students to complete research on an experimental evolution project that was started at his lab last year. Teacher, Courtney Wrenn, is collaborating with Dr. Cooper on this exciting project.

The Seacoast School of Technology is a regional career and technical center serving Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools.

- Kathleen Totten of Stratham has been recognized by the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board as a Champion for Children. Ms. Totten has worked tirelessly with our teachers for more than a dozen years so that they can offer “bigger and better” things to our students such as Running Start courses, articulation agreements, always-being-updated competencies and Career Pathways Plans of Study (CPPOS). We are truly fortunate to have Kathy Totten working for us at SST.
- Steven Baum of Exeter has been recognized by the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board as a Champion for Children. Mr. Baum has been a member of the Culinary Arts Advisory Board for two years. He made a personal donation of \$12,000 for the purchase of a Point-of-Sale System. We purchased a system used in many colleges and restaurants. Without Mr. Baum’s generosity, our students would not have the opportunity to be trained on this state-of-the-art, essential equipment.
- An exciting new initiative is taking place between boys at the Cooperative Middle School in Stratham and boys at SST. Twelve boys from CMS travel to SST once each month to shadow and learn from their mentors, seniors in various SST programs. Senior volunteers include: Automotive Technologies student, Chris Michel, Winnacunnet; Culinary Arts student Jake Peterson, Exeter; Digital Communications students Nick Mertinooke and Evan Woss, Exeter and Chris Lanseigne, Sanborn; Health Sciences student Mike Morin, Exeter; Marketing Education student Jacob Randlett, Exeter; Welding Technologies students Coady Leach and Anthony Nadeau, Epping, Corey Rogness, Exeter, Kyle Fuller and Jeff Mills, Sanborn.
- We are very grateful to Biotechnology Advisory Committee member John Nowak. When he learned that our -80 degree freezer broke, he made arrangements with his employer, Wyeth, to ensure that we received a replacement. This gift saved the School thousands and thousands of dollars. Without a -80 freezer, the program’s curriculum would have had to change.
- Enrollment season for 2010-2011 is officially underway! Student Services Coordinator, Sam Bruno, will be visiting all sending schools and making presentations to all prospective students prior to February. During the week of February 8, we open our doors to all prospective students for a tour enabling students to get a closer look at programs of interest. All applications for 2010-2011 are due by March 5.
- Go to SeacoastTech.com to view the 13-minute video made by students in Digital Communications. The video highlights all programs at the Seacoast School of Technology. The video may also be viewed on Channel 22.
- Technology Fun Night is the place to be if you are in grades 5-9. One Friday night each month forty middle school students spend the evening learning about engineering, graphic arts, programming and robotics. The initiative, now in its sixth year, is under the direction of Norm Messa, Computer Programming and Pre-Engineering teacher. Other teachers involved include: Kristine Groleau, Digital Communications; Vaso Partinoudi, Computer Programming and Pre-Engineering; Marilyn Kellogg, Career Advisor and Maryann Wortley, Equity Counselor. All teachers volunteer their time to make these events possible. SST students, professors and graduate students from UNH and members of the society of Women Engineers also volunteer to make these events truly exceptional. The cost of admission is three cans of food. Mr. Messa makes several large donations to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank each year.
- The Seacoast School of Technology currently offers college credit through Project Running Start. About 250 students are currently taking at least one of the 24 college courses we offer.

- FFA students from the Animal & Plant Science program fared well at the national conference. The Agricultural Issues Team of Alex Banat, Ashley Jones, Elizabeth Strasser, Exeter '09 and Chelsea Van Thof, Sanborn '09, earned a silver medal. The Agricultural Sales Team of Tim Miller, Pat Kirby, Exeter, Jessica Stygles, Sanborn and Tyler Smith, Raymond, won a Bronze medal. The Dairy Foods Team of Lilly Hufmann, Jessica Bick, Sarah Walstad and Maggie Daley-Dolloff, Exeter won a Bronze Medal.
- Digital Communications teacher, Kristine Groleau, is one of sixteen educators chosen from a competitive application process to take part in a course entitled, "*Museum in Your Classroom: Teaching with Art Online*" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. This year-long class will bring new online opportunities to the students in her program. As an art major, Ms. Groleau is highly qualified in art.
- Our College Fair took place on November 20. Fifty representatives from colleges, the military and organizations providing internship training filled the Talbot Gymnasium for this annual event. All students had assignments to meet with post-secondary representatives and learn about opportunities offered at their institutions. A luncheon for our guests was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts students. The Great Bay eLearning Charter School, Exeter Alternative High School and Exeter Adult Education students also participated.
- Students in Digital Communications recently attended the 38th Annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Fall Leadership Conference held at Daniel Webster College in Nashua. There were a variety of leadership and networking activities in which students participated. The Seacoast School of Technology team won 3rd place in The Egg Drop; a Team Challenge led by Grace Bailey of Exeter. Tausha Chareunchit, of Newmarket, created a water jug display to symbolize the \$163 our chapter raised for the Make a Wish Foundation. Students also attended a keynote presentation by Richard A. LaBell entitled, "Part of the Plan," which encouraged adopting a powerful, positive mindset to create a positive, successful life.
- Health Science & Technology students participated in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in October and raised \$320 for the cause. Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) recently hosted the annual Santa Spaghetti Supper. Local children were able to meet Santa, have a photo with Santa and enjoy a spaghetti supper with their families.
- Charities supported by our students this fall include: In support of the Cooperative Middle School Builder's Club, the Wright Start Preschool collected 285 food items to make three complete Thanksgiving Baskets; Marketing Education students collected 77 pair of jeans for Do Good Denim. They also collected 1002 cans for the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry through a school-wide drive. Technology Fun Night brought in 200 cans at the November event.
- One of the finest events at our School took place on November 4. The Annual Business Roundtable, sponsored by the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, brings students and business people together in a unique way. Forty-five students and 45 adults participated in this event which was emceed by Chamber president, Michael Shidlovsky. Students were placed in rooms with adults working in businesses or industries related to their career interests. "Speed interviewing" is what happened next. Students were able to spend up to 12 minutes interviewing with up to 12 business people. The result was an exciting evening in which students learned how to interview and they learned what employers are really looking for. Business people got a glimpse of the future, a bright future. All parties involved request that we do this type of event more often! Career Advisor, Marilyn Kellogg, plans and organizes the entire event.

- For the 12th year in a row, students from the Technology Careers and Animal & Plant Science programs participated in the Exeter Holiday Parade on December 5. Students spent the afternoon and evening before the parade building a float that won first place in the Youth Jr./Sr. High School category. The float featured the Peanuts characters in keeping with the parade's theme "Holidays Through Time." Students and their teachers braved the cold, rainy and snowy night to represent the FFA and SST. Nearly fifty students participated in both events.
- More than 40 scholarships were given away at last year's Certificate Ceremony. Seniors in all programs will attend a scholarship assembly on January 8 at which they will receive information about all Seacoast School of Technology scholarships, application procedures and deadlines. However, there are many additional scholarships available to our students and one of them is offered through collaboration between the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association (NHADA) and the New Hampshire Automotive Education Foundation (NHAEF). All seniors will receive detailed information about this scholarship in January. If you would like information about this scholarship before January 8, please contact me.
- Two Early Childhood Education students supported the Squamscott Community Commons' Road Race on Saturday, October 31. Lizz Kenyon and Kait Wheeler both from Exeter High School, dressed up as Spiderman and an autumn fairy, respectively, and offered face painting to youngsters attending the event.
- As an added safety measure, amber beacons have been placed on the side of the Automotive Technologies building and on the front, Linden Street corner of the Seacoast School of Technology Building. The amber beacons will be activated when we are in a lockdown. If you approach the School and see these beacons flashing, please do not attempt to enter our buildings and leave school grounds.
- Students from Early Childhood Education, Marketing Education and Digital Communications travel to the Main Street School in Exeter each morning to spend time with children in kindergarten and first grade as they prepare for the day. SST Breakfast Buddies eat breakfast and help with combing and brushing of hair and brushing of teeth with students who may not have received such assistance at home. The Breakfast Buddies program is ten years old.
- Animal & Plant Science students had a fine showing at the Deerfield Fair. The results are: Dairy Cattle Judging, 1st Place Novice Team, Lynda Langlois, Epping, Maegan Wysocki, Exeter, Shawna McGahey, Raymond, Nicole Penta, Sanborn; 2nd Place Experienced Team, Julia Guidoboni, Jesse Gutierrez, Mikaela Spencer, Jessica Stygles, Sanborn; Top individuals out of 200 FFA members, 1st Place Shawna McGahey and 2nd Place Maegan Wysocki; Dairy Cattle Showmanship Experienced, 1st Danielle Gabree, Winnacunnet, 3rd Nicole Rieder, Exeter, 4th Sam Estelle, Newmarket, 5th Ariel deFisser, Exeter; Novice, 2nd Andrea Batchelder, Exeter, 3rd Alayna Perkins, Winnacunnet, 4th Dakota Clifford, SLC Strafford, 5th Brianna Brand, Winnacunnet; Floral Design Novice, Blue Ribbon Tim Miller, Rebecca Podszus, Exeter, Sam Estelle, Jesse Gutierrez; Household Plants, Blue Ribbon, Lilly Hufmann, Exeter.

Enjoy the season!

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal