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# THE BEACON



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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

While the months of November and December are natural times to think of others, at the Seacoast School of Technology giving to others and community service are part of who we are each and every day of the year. Whether our students are using their skills to provide a service, giving as a part of their Career & Technical Student Organization or simply being generous and thoughtful, the donations of time and energy by our students and their teachers is nothing short of impressive. What follows are just a few examples:

- **Digital Communications** students are designing a new logo for the Northern New England Poison Center. This image is designed to attract the attention of high school and college-aged students and it will have an embedded QR code. It will be an edgy image with information about the dangers and consequences of inhalant abuse and prescription drug abuse. The students are doing this important work free of charge under the direction of teacher, Kristine Groleau.
- The **Automotive Technologies** program has partnered with New Generation, Inc., a local shelter for pregnant women, mothers and infants. Students have done work for these women whose cars present a variety of problems from needing new brakes to new tires. Students swapped out parts on cars we own (thanks to the generosity of those who have donated cars to SST) often making the cost of such repairs free. Bob Nienhouse and Fritz Arseneau are the teachers behind this good will.
- Last March, **Animal & Plant Science** students began growing New Jersey Tea plants from seed in the SST greenhouse. In June, New Hampshire Fish and Game took the mature seedlings and planted them in Concord to help restore the native habitat for the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. The Karner Blue is the official state butterfly of New Hampshire. Teacher, Anne DeMarco, coordinated this project.
- Our friends at Riverwoods have received assistance with technology from **Computer Programming** students in past years and this year will be no exception. Sawyer Begin, Epping, has volunteered to help Riverwoods residents with questions ranging from setting up emails to texting.
- The St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry recently moved to its new home. Thirteen **Culinary Arts** students, along with teacher, Jim Collins, rolled up their sleeves on a Saturday morning moving our neighbors from one location to another. Students moved food, toiletries, furniture and office supplies.
- **Health Science Technologies** teacher, Linda Cutler, led twenty-six students to the Fisher Cats Stadium at 6:00 a.m. on a recent Sunday morning. Their mission was to set up for and participate in a 3-mile walk to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Year after year, her students support this organization and have become known as hard workers and great fundraisers for this worthy cause.

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

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- **Front Office Administrative Assistant**, Laurie Eldridge, volunteers her time to add atmosphere and good cheer at many SST events, from the Small Business Showcase to the Santa Spaghetti Supper, in affiliation with Party Time DJ.
- **Marketing Technologies** students recently completed their annual food drive for the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry, collecting 1,410 food items. Teacher, Sandy Flannigan, has led this initiative for the past four years.
- **Welding Technologies** students, under the direction of teacher, Jonathan Theberge, completes ongoing projects for members of the local community throughout the year. Recent projects include: Kubota four-wheel-drive front axle cast iron repair; John Deere tractor loader arm repair; new stool bases for three leather chairs; wood stove extension; John Deere cast iron exhaust manifold repair and aluminum car wheel repair.
- Last summer, **Early Childhood Education** members of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) donated \$150 in gift cards to Seacoast Family Promise, a community program that assists homeless families. They decided to give gift cards at that time because donations are typically down during the spring and summer months. Carla Ranks teaches this program and supports this and countless other service activities initiated by her students.
- **Animal & Plant Science** members of the FFA continue to landscape the Exeter Town Office building through the Adopt-A-Spot program. For the past four years, FFA students have donated materials and labor for plantings in the spring and fall and care for the plants all year long – including the summer!
- **Culinary Arts** senior from Exeter, Kelsey MacDonald, may well be the most outstanding volunteer ever! Kelsey has been volunteering most of her life and this year alone has accrued hundreds of hours in service to those in need. She recently arranged for her classmates to prepare and serve dinner to the homeless at Crossroads House in Portsmouth. There was so much interest in this project that two shifts had to be arranged for all students to volunteer!
- **Biotechnology** students spent an afternoon recycling presentation boards. The boards, old presentations that had been sitting in the closet, were cleaned up so they could be used for other projects. This helped students who could not purchase a presentation board and reduced waste. Teacher, Pat Bonaventura, was behind this effort.
- **Pre-Engineering and Computer Programming** students have been refurbishing old computers and providing them to Exeter Adult Education students on an ongoing basis.
- For the sixth year in a row, **Digital Communications** students who are members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) are raising money for the Make-A-Wish-Foundation. Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

- **Animal & Plant Science** students raised \$700 in this year's SPCA Pawswalk, money that will go toward the care of thousands of New Hampshire animals.
- FCCLA members in the **Early Childhood Education** program donated toys and books to the classrooms at The Birchtree Center in Newington. The Birchtree Center, serving children with autism, was in the process of setting up a new classroom and in need of appropriate books and toys.
- **Welding Technologies** is currently undertaking the following projects for the community: trailer fenders; twenty-foot tilting trailer for SST; Kubota tractor bucket snow plow fabrication; exterior awning for steel storage and weld repair on four chairs.
- **Early Childhood Education** FCCLA members adopted a local family for Thanksgiving, filling a basket with all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner. These students also participated in the CMS Holiday Food Basket Drive and collected items for a holiday dinner for an SAU 16 family in need.
- **Computer Programming and Pre-Engineering** students are working with teacher, Norm Messa, to install a server at the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry.
- Several **Marketing Technologies** students volunteered their time at the Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk this fall.
- **The Wright Start Preschool** students collected more than 100 canned goods during their "Cans For Our Castle Drive" in November! Not only did they collect the cans, but they sorted, stacked, counted and delivered them to the Marketing Technologies program to add to their collection. This made for a great lesson for teachers, Janel Holmes and Stacey Jordan, to teach to the preschool students. Teamwork at its best!
- Several **Culinary Arts** seniors have volunteered to serve as peer tutors in culinary math.
- **Building Construction Technologies** students built shower stall doors for the Exeter Parks and Recreation Department, under the direction of teacher, Jim Klingensmith. They also built a new well house for the James House in Hampton. The oldest known structure in New Hampshire, the James House is an historic landmark in Hampton.
- Once again, most of the proceeds from the annual Santa Spaghetti Supper, hosted by the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) in the **Health Science Technologies** program, will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- **Computer Programming** students, along with their teacher, Vaso Partinoudi, collected more items than any other class in the recent food drive held by Marketing Technologies.
- **Welding Technologies** has made a mailbox post and some hanging planters for the SAU 16 offices. **Animal & Plant Science** decorated the main entrance to SAU 16 for the holidays with beautiful wreaths and greens made by the students.

- FCCLA members from the **Early Childhood Education** program participated in Holiday Stockings for Troops. The students made 57 stockings filled with candy, crackers, granola bars, dried fruit, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, paper, pencils, playing cards and other goodies for our troops in Afghanistan. Each stocking was filled to the brim. Special thanks to Donna Schlachman (D, House of Representatives, Rockingham County District 13) for coordinating this effort and bringing our stockings to Concord.
- **Marketing Technologies** is currently holding a school-wide winter clothing drive for the Wonderland Thrift Shop. They have also been big supporters of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Students participated in the MDA Summer Camp, volunteered at the MDA Telethon and are also going to participate in the Muscular Dystrophy Walk in January.
- FFA members in the **Animal & Plant Science** program have written business letters to science teachers from their respective high schools requesting old science textbooks. This is in response to a request from former student, Ryan Keith '03, Exeter, Peace Corps member and science teacher at a school in Kenya.
- **Welding Technologies** students are rerouting air-lines in the Building Construction Technologies shop so that students will have better and safer access to compressed air. This is one of many in-house jobs done by our students saving taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.
- **Pre-Engineering and Computer Programming** students have been providing mentoring assistance at Technology Fun Nights for several years. This has not only inspired over 2,000 middle school students to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) but it has provided more than 3,000 cans of food to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry over the past three years!
- While attending the National FFA Convention, in Indianapolis, Indiana, eleven **Animal & Plant Science** students and FFA members volunteered to work on the Courtesy Corps. At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 22, SST students worked at the Eighth General Session held in the Lucas Oil Stadium (where the Colts play). SST students were working backstage at this huge event and got to meet and have photos taken with the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack – all because they volunteered!

This is just a small sampling of the work our students and teachers do in service to our community. We do it all the time, all year long. It is who we are.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan  
Principal