

# THE BEACON



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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Just as today's most successful companies care about more than just profits, I believe our best schools care about more than just test scores. Besides teaching Culinary Arts, Automotive Technologies and Computer Programming, our teachers are also responsible for teaching literacy skills and mathematics, as well as our most important task of ensuring the safety of all students at all times. Because harm might come from a power tool being used in the Building Construction Technologies shop or from an unwelcome intruder, our teachers and students frequently rehearse both the safe use of equipment *and* ways to be safe in the event of a situation requiring the School to lockdown. Today, more is expected of companies and more is expected of schools. Findings on the social impact and environmental performance of companies can be found in the annual Corporate Social Responsibility Report. Consider this SST's abbreviated annual Social Responsibility Report.

- The **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation** is the National Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) charity this year. Health Science Technologies students donated a portion of the proceeds from the Santa Spaghetti Supper to this charity.
- On a Saturday morning in October, nine FFA members of the Animal & Plant Science program helped to unload 1,200 pumpkins for the Methodist Church in Exeter. The FFA, well-known for its boundless commitment to serving others, was asked to help with this project. The pumpkins, grown in New Mexico on Native American land, are distributed to churches around the country. Money raised from the sale of the pumpkins will go to **fill oil tanks** of needy families in the Seacoast Area.
- The Welding Technologies program **recycles more than 7,000 pounds of heavy metals**, aluminum, copper, stainless steel and brass each year. Both the quantity and types of materials recycled by this program increases each year.
- Whenever the Main Street School has a **PTO Meeting**, Early Childhood Education students are there volunteering free child-care services for those attending the meeting.
- First-year Pre-Engineering students are collaborating with the **Exeter Conservation Committee** to teach the value of our local environmental resources and in particular, the Exeter River's importance in our everyday lives. Students have the unique opportunity to learn how to use scientific equipment and contribute to their local community simply by donating their time once each month.

- Each program at SST has **recycling** containers. Cans, plastic bottles and paper are collected by appointed students each week and brought to the central recycling bins on our campus.
- Over the past nine years, students from Computer Programming, Digital Communications and Pre-Engineering have mentored middle school students who attend **Technology Fun Nights**. Roughly 5,800 students have attended Technology Fun Nights over the years. Not counting the repeat customers, over 3,000 unique students have taken part in these events. Students have been introduced to various aspects of technology including: computer sciences, mathematics, science, engineering, robotics and computer graphics, to name a few. The SST students who serve as mentors not only give assistance as needed, but also serve as strong role models to younger students.
- Earlier this year, Health Science Technologies students made donations to the **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation** and walked and raised money in the **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** walk.
- Thirteen Animal & Plant Science students earned spots to represent our school and the state of New Hampshire at the **National FFA Convention** in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ten of our students served on the **Courtesy Corps** on the national stage, assisting some of the more-than 55,000 FFA members and their chaperones at the largest student event in the world!
- Digital Communications students who are members of the Future Business Leaders of America sold books at a Barnes & Noble Book Fair. A portion of their profits went to the **Make-A-Wish Foundation**.
- At the beginning of each year Health Science Technologies students conduct **First Aid** training for students in other programs. For instance, Welding Technologies students are taught First Aid training for injuries most likely to occur in the welding shop. This not only provides a great service to other programs, but it gives our students a broader perspective on what their peers are learning while at SST.
- Students in Marketing Technologies and Early Childhood Education volunteer two mornings each week at the Main Street School in a program, started many years ago, called **Breakfast Buddies**. Our students help children at MSS get their day off to a bright start by having breakfast with them and taking care of things that may not have been taken care of at home like brushing their hair.
- Saving the taxpayers perhaps \$2,000, Welding Technologies students designed and fabricated a much-needed wood **storage rack** for the Building Construction Technologies program, creating greater storage capacity and a safer environment for students.
- The Exeter Town Offices continue to be the **Adopt-A-Spot** of choice for the Animal & Plant Science program. Students care for plants in the spring and summer and plant in the fall.
- Culinary Arts students recently prepared and delivered a bread display with 30 dozen whole wheat rolls to the North Hampton School as the school celebrated **National Food Day** in a very big way. Senior Mary Lambert demonstrated to the children how to “have fun” with food, spotlighting many whole-grain products. This event was put on in conjunction with the nation’s commitment to **battling childhood obesity**.

- All SST faculty members serve on **local committees** dealing with everything from safety to budgets to mathematics. Many serve on similar **boards** at the state level.
- The costs to attend Technology Fun Night? This popular event designed to get middle school students excited about technology, in its ninth year, costs three cans of food – if you are able to make such a donation. In the past four years alone, Technology Fun Night has donated more than 5,000 cans of food to the **St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry**.
- All SST teachers offering Running Start courses through the Community College System of New Hampshire are given a voucher equal to the value of one CCSNH course. Pre-Engineering and Computer Programming teacher, Vaso Partinoudi, recently **donated two vouchers** to a New Hampshire student who lost an athletic college scholarship due to an injury sustained in an accident.
- Late last spring, students from Digital Communications, Computer Programming and Pre-Engineering built computers for the Digital Communications program at a **savings of more than \$42,000** to the taxpayers.
- Ten dozen whole wheat rolls were made and delivered to **Crossroads House** for their Thanksgiving meal. Product to make these rolls was donated to SST and, in turn, Culinary Arts students donated the fruits of their labor.
- At least once each month a group of students from the Cooperative Middle School come to SST to spend time with seniors who have volunteered to serve as mentors to these younger students. Middle school students work with seniors in programs in which they have an interest in this initiative, in its fourth year, known as the **Middle School Mentor** program.
- Every program at SST was, once again, a part of the **Annual SST Food Drive** organized by students in the Marketing Technologies program. More than 1,200 “cans” were donated to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry in Exeter.
- Early Childhood Education students **adopted a family** for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. This means that they were given information about members of families in need (for instance, a family might have a newborn, a four-year-old girl, a seven-year-old girl and a ten-year old boy) and donated items accordingly.
- Automotive Technologies students continue to be at the service of New Generations, Inc., a local shelter for pregnant women, mothers and infants. They have done a number of **repair projects**, free-of-charge, for women at the shelter.
- A **Personal Care Item Drive** for the homeless shelter took place in the Early Childhood Education program this fall. Items such as shampoo and toothpaste, often overlooked during food drives, were the focus of this drive.
- Twenty-six FFA members of the Animal & Plant Science program volunteered 52 hours of service during the **November election**. Students greeted voters, directed them to the polling area, assisted with wheelchairs as needed and distributed “I Voted” stickers.

- Welding Technologies students were presented with a **wheelchair** with failing legs. Students redesigned and fabricated stronger legs for the wheelchair, giving the owner a safer and much more functional means of transportation.
- SST was present at the **Festival of Lights** in downtown Exeter thanks to the Culinary Arts students who made 300 cookies and prepared hot chocolate and cider to share with all participants.
- More than a dozen **scholarships** in the form of vouchers covering the cost of one course at any of New Hampshire's Community Colleges are donated by SST teachers to support our students in their post-secondary educational pursuits each year.
- Much **paper is shredded** in order to ensure student confidentiality. That shredded paper (sans staples!) is used in animal cages in the Animal & Plant Science program. This not only recycles paper but it reduces the amount of paper and wood chips needed to line the cages.
- SST has played and will continue to play an active role at the state level in trying to ensure **funding** for Career and Technical Education is maintained.
- Health Science Technologies students have started a new public health education initiative known as the **Disease of the Month**. Each month students choose a disease or a medical issue, research the disease and educate all members of the SST community by posting small, informative flyers throughout the school.
- Digital Communications students are currently designing a website for the **Exeter Arts Committee**.

As I said when I started this letter, this is an abbreviated list and does not include all the important work our School does in service of others for the community-at-large. Service comes naturally to us at SST. It is part of what we do and part of who we are.

One final note – SST is about to enter enrollment season for the 2013/2014 school year. Please spread the word about our School and be sure to encourage all eligible regional students to apply for a seat in their program-of-choice. All such students will see a presentation on SST in January and have a chance to visit us during the week of February 4. As you already know, Career and Technical Education makes a real difference in the lives of our students and in the fabric of our community. An Open House for anyone interested in learning more about SST will be held on Wednesday, February 13. First-Year applications are due on February 15. Please refer to our website, [SeacoastTech.com](http://SeacoastTech.com), for all important dates related to enrollment.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan  
Principal