

THE BEACON



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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Within its local community, the Seacoast School of Technology is well-known as a leader in service. Each and every program at SST participates in service activities throughout the year. It is simply who we are and what we do. Just some of the community service initiatives we have taken part in or initiated ourselves this year are described in this newsletter.

- For six years running, Animal & Plant Science students Adopt-a-Spot in front of the Exeter Town Offices, keeping it beautiful all year long.
- Digital Media Arts students filmed and edited a video for a local entrepreneur that will be part of an online magazine – at no charge!
- Automotive Technologies students have started an initiative known as Car Cares. The cost of services performed by our students, such as an oil change, is reduced when customers bring in food to be donated to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry.
- Building Construction Technologies is building a 16'x60' storage shed for the Exeter Seahawks.
- Welding Technologies students fabricated and installed an aluminum jib crane for their shop. The crane was fabricated entirely out of donated aluminum scrap from a local community member. The students then outfitted the crane with a rolling trolley, electric cable winch and a lifting magnet all purchased by means of recycling their own waste - saving taxpayer money.
- Culinary Arts students prepared and served 12 different chocolate desserts for over 400 guests at the American Culinary Federation scholarship dinner “Chef’s on Parade,” held in Eliot, Maine in January.
- The Computer Science Club hosted *An Hour of Code*, a worldwide initiative to give all students the opportunity try coding. On three nights in December students worked with 62 community members as they earned 143 hours of coding experience. Our guests were assisted by 18 Computer Science program students.
- The Marketing Technologies program heads up a school-wide food drive each year and this year was the biggest ever, with 2,247 food items collected and donated to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry.
- Health Science Technologies students chose the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as their charity for this year. The students made a donation to the Foundation through proceeds from the Santa Spaghetti Supper.

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

- SST is working to grow the relationship with our new neighbors, the YMCA. Ours will be a mutually beneficial relationship – one in which our students will be able to serve YMCA members while honing skills related to their SST programs.
- Along with Marketing Technologies, the Early Childhood Education program collected food for the End 68 Hours of Hunger initiative, which strives to ensure needy students have food between the time they leave school on Friday and return on Monday.
- Dozens of people working in local business and industry volunteer their time to provide opportunities for students in all 12 SST programs.
- For the tenth year in a row, Computer Science and Pre-Engineering students continue to mentor Technology Fun Night attendees. This school year alone, over 200 middle school students have participated in this activity which not only fosters a real interest in pursuing careers in STEM-related fields, but has also generated over 800 cans of food for the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry. The fee to participate in these events is three cans of food.
- Digital Media Arts students are creating digital portraits for the *Memory Project*. Students have already created and sent a portrait of an orphan in Cambodia and they are currently working on portraits for six more orphans in Nepal. Our students will receive a video of those children as they receive their portraits.
- Building Construction Technologies students recently built a wheelchair ramp and several picnic tables for the Seacoast Learning Collaborative.
- Culinary Arts students donated time and labor when they made 100 dozen rolls for an SAU 16 initiative which highlighted local foods. All ingredients were donated.
- Early Childhood Education and Digital Media Arts students along with students in the Wright Start Preschool created Holiday Cards for the Troops. This is part of an initiative in which stockings were made and filled for our troops who are serving overseas. The handmade cards were put in the stockings.
- Animal & Plant Science students unloaded a truck of 800 pumpkins at the Exeter United Methodist Church. Early Childhood Education students then volunteered evenings to sell the pumpkins to raise money for End 68 Hours of Hunger.
- SST seniors serve as mentors to Cooperative Middle School students once each month when the CMS students attend the SST programs they are interested in pursuing.
- Early Childhood Education students volunteered at the Live and Learn Learning Center’s “Exploring a Sense of Place” conference in Lee, New Hampshire.
- Digital Media Arts students made a temporary 36’ x 84” sign for the *Second Chances* resale shop which is being operated by the Great Bay eLearning Charter School. Our cutter plotter will be used to create a permanent, vinyl store-front window sign.

- Wright Start Preschool students participated in the Annual SST Food Drive.
- Early Childhood Education students provided volunteer babysitting services and Welding Technologies students repaired a workbench for the kitchen of our friends and neighbors at the Exeter Inn.
- Our Automotive Technologies students were the first in the state to experience the Driving Toward Zero presentation given by the New Hampshire State Troopers, a program designed to eliminate fatalities, reduce crashes and increase awareness of the hazards of the road for new and inexperienced drivers.
- Digital Media Arts students are partnering with the fourth graders at the Kensington Elementary School to film their submission to the New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism Development's *Class Act Video Awards Contest!* All fourth grade classes are invited by Governor Maggie Hassan to create a video promoting our great state.
- UNH's Computer Science Department frequently sends mentors in the form of college students and professors to serve as mentors to middle school students at Technology Fun Nights.
- Animal & Plant Science students, members of the SST FFA Chapter, created and manned a Seacoast School of Technology booth at the Stratham Fair last summer – the first ever!
- Culinary Arts students are collaborating with the YMCA by preparing 70 batches of cookies to be given to potential donors as the YMCA continues its fundraising efforts. This is a 5-month project. Teens from Exeter's New Outlook Teen Center will also be involved in this venture.
- Welding Technologies students fabricated new swing gates for Lincoln Street School because the old ones had been damaged by snow plows.
- Building Construction Technologies students are building a goat barn for the Farm at Eastman's Corner in Kensington. This 32'x40' two-story pole barn will serve the community for years to come and is part of the philanthropic, nonprofit mission of the Farm, which also helps to support Sawyer Park.
- Marketing Technologies students raised \$549 and volunteered at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in October.
- Many SST staff members serve on boards and committees in the region and around the state.
- Welding Technologies students built handrails for a senior citizen in Exeter.
- Thirty-six Animal & Plant Science students made a float for the Exeter Holiday Parade and 25 of them walked in the parade.
- Automotive Technologies students performed an oil and filter change free-of-charge for a needy family.
- Culinary Arts students participate in the Festival of Trees in Exeter each year and donate cookies and hot chocolate to all participants.

- Animal & Plant Science students paired up as pen-pals with second graders at Swasey Central School once again this year. The pen pals will meet each other at the end of the year when the second graders come to SST to experience several programs and spend time with their pen-pals.
- Early Childhood Education students worked on a Saturday in November to collect and deliver Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need.
- Health Science Technologies students are being trained to receive an emergency preparedness certification to help the seacoast region in the event of an emergency. This training is funded through a National Association of City and County Health Officials Grant for the Medical Reserve Corps.
- Culinary Arts students volunteered as judges at the Wentworth Douglas Hospital's Healthy and Local 4-H food event. The competitors were elementary and middle school students who created dishes which were judged on color, texture, flavor, technique and presentation.
- SST opened its doors during New Hampshire's Manufacturing Week so that local businesses could see our School and learn the ways in which we are preparing students for the multitude of career opportunities in the advanced manufacturing field. Manufacturing is the number one industry in New Hampshire.
- Eight FFA officers from the Animal & Plant Science program taught two lessons on parliamentary procedure to a local 4-H group.
- Culinary Arts seniors volunteered to create a one-hour American Culinary Federation training program on sous vide cooking. ACF attendees received one credit hour of continuing education.
- Both SST and Wright Start Preschool students showed incredible generosity when they learned that one of our three-year-olds in the Wright Start Preschool has cancer. Students held a Hat Day, in which \$1 was donated to the cause in order to wear a hat to school on the appointed day. What happened in terms of giving and generosity was overwhelming and truly spoke to the kind of caring, giving culture that *is* SST. To date, more than \$2,800 has been raised for our young student.

This compilation is not complete and does not include countless service activities that will take place later in the year. None of these service activities would be possible without the generosity of our teachers who volunteer in every community service activity in which their students participate. Service is the bedrock of the Seacoast School of Technology. It always has been and it always will be.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal