

SECTION III

A GLIMPSE OF OUR SCHOOLS



Central Tree Middle School
281 Main Street
Rutland, MA 01543
Principal: Judith K. Evans

Starting in the spring of 2003, the staff at Central Tree Middle School has been meeting regularly to examine the instructional methods and find ways to improve. The staff has worked hard at challenging all students and promoting critical thinking skills; students are enjoying more varied activities in their classes. Starting in September, all of the grade five students have been required to spend fifteen minutes per day on the math component of the software program *SuccessMaker* which offers students the opportunity to progress at their own pace. Starting in January, a home component was made available to families so that children could work on this program at home as well. This academic focus extends to students at each grade level, all of whom have been involved with extensive test preparation practice.

The climate of the school has been enhanced by a more active Student Council, which meets regularly and is involved in various community service projects such as Sweetpea and the Heifer Project. The Student Council ran its annual Senior Breakfast during the holiday season where over ninety Rutland senior citizens enjoyed being served by Student Council students and entertained by the school band and chorus. The Student Council will continue to find ways to become more visible and take on more leadership roles in the Rutland community. The National Junior Honor Society has also contributed to the community through a variety of fundraising activities such as its student-created Halloween and Valentine's Day treat bags.

The staff and students at Central Tree are excited to be having its first Science Fair this year. Through the generosity of a grant received from the Rutland Cultural Council, eighth grade students will each be responsible for an original project which will be showcased at the Rutland Town Library in May.

As the Rutland schools continue to grow in enrollment, it is

important that we keep the feel of a close, small community that the town has enjoyed for so many years. Grade level family breakfasts have been attended by families and teachers; proceeds from these have been donated to various community projects that each grade level chooses.

With the encouragement of the Superintendent, the parent-teacher organization of Central Tree formed its own group, the Central Tree PTO. Before the establishment of the Central Tree PTO, F.O.R.E (Friends of Rutland Education) served both Naquag and Central Tree. With its own parent-teacher organization, the school has been able to focus exclusively on activities and issues appropriate to middle school age students. Although this is a new organization, the members have worked hard to bring in educational as well as social programs to the school.



Chocksett Middle School
40 Boutelle Road
Sterling, MA 01564
Principal: Marguerite D. Snow

Chocksett Middle School welcomed 465 students in September 2003. Students returned to a school where the educational program is designed to meet the needs of students making the transition from childhood to adolescence. During the course of the year the staff emphasized experiences that fostered growth toward students becoming independent learners who are motivated and self-directed. The core values of the school stress educational excellence and individual potential, emphasize ethical behavior and productive effort, promote the acceptance of human diversity, and reinforce respect and responsibility.

The instructional program throughout the 2003 - 2004 school year continues to be grounded in the State Curriculum Frameworks and reflects outcomes that address what students should know and be able to know. The expectation is that all students will succeed and the faculty at Chocksett work hard to ensure that they do. Chocksett Middle School students continue to perform well on the State mandated MCAS tests.

Chocksett Middle School provides an atmosphere that is intellectually challenging, yet recognizes that students have other physical, emotional and social needs that should be addressed. Throughout the school year, students participate in challenging and motivating enrichment programs. They develop self-confidence, enhance their physical abilities, and practice team building when they participate in the school's Project Adventure Challenge Course. Students also take part in a hands-on approach to learning music in the school's twenty-station electronic piano lab. Fifth grade students spend time each day on *SuccessMaker* math software, a program providing practice and acceleration for all students. In addition, a home component has been added allowing students to access this program from their home computers via the Internet. The Chicago Math series provides the base for mathematics instruction throughout the middle grades. Developed by the University of Chicago and endorsed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, this mathematics program reinforces basic skills while challenging all students to think critically and creatively. Sixth grade students are tested at the end of the year for algebra readiness; those who are able, move to algebra in the seventh grade and geometry in the eighth grade.

Chocksett Middle School builds time into the school day for students to take part in creative exploration and enrichment. During academic enrichment time, students can take part in the recycling club, art club, join Junior Gardeners, work on the yearbook, visit the library or practice strategy in the chess club. Teachers are available for extra help and students use this time to make up quizzes or tests. In addition, the various grade level chorus and band groups meet during this time to practice.

Fifth and sixth grade teachers continue to use Responsive Classroom strategies with students. Teachers hold morning meetings, develop classroom constitutions, and guide students' awareness about rules and logical consequences.

Extracurricular athletic activities include field hockey, track and field, cross-country, basketball and cheerleading. Students also participate in student council, act as eighth grade class officers, and take part in food drives at holiday time and fundraising activities throughout the year. The Chocksett Student Council once again raised money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, sponsored school dances, worked on the school's Mission Statement, and raised money for the end-of-the-school-year eighth grade field trip.

While the year was full of bright moments, the entire Chocksett community was saddened by the sudden death on December 3, 2003 of seventh grade student Christopher Paskell. Students and staff thought highly of Christopher and to honor his memory, Chocksett students dedicated the 2003-2004 yearbook to him. Students also sponsored a dance and a Hat Day, where the funds raised were put towards a permanent memorial at the school. Christopher

was a special person who will be deeply missed by everyone at Chocksett.

The Chocksett PTO provided enrichment programs, field trip transportation, and mini-grants to teachers, and volunteers for the classrooms. Programs they sponsored included presentations by the Gerwick Puppets, a presentation titled *The Roots of American Dance*, and myths and folk stories performed by the Nappy Puppets. The PTO also sponsored a presentation by a costumed Galileo, a program for eighth graders presented by Old Sturbridge Village, and a program for sixth and seventh grade students on bullying. In addition, the parent teacher group sponsored the school play, *Wonderland*, as well as the *Red Cross Babysitting Program*. Another local organization, The Sterling Children's Fund, sponsored a program called *If the World Were a Village*. Clearly, the commitment shown by the parents and the community enriched the educational experience at Chocksett Middle School during the 2003 - 2004 school year.



Davis Hill Elementary School
80 Jamieson Road
Holden, MA 01520
Principal: Karen J. Gaskin

Davis Hill Elementary School, a community school with students in kindergarten through grade five, has a high regard for enhancing the knowledge of all its students. By providing a safe and caring environment, with the active participation of parents and staff working together, the school produces students who are not afraid to be risk takers, are cooperative and respectful, and learn at a level that challenges them to meet their highest potential. The staff and administration value its focus on learning, cultural diversity programs, and community service projects.

School-wide programs such as *SuccessMaker*, Writers' Workshop, Independent Investigation Method (IIM), and the University of Chicago's Everyday Math Program afford students instruction based on research and mathematical standards. *SuccessMaker* educational software provides students the opportunity to work at their individual level on math, reading, and writing skills, enabling success and

progress for a diverse community of learners. Writer's Workshop is a writing process program that is used in all classrooms. Students learn the steps of writing from pre-writing activities through publication of a finished product. The Independent Investigation Method guides students through the research process, where students learn a set of skills that allows them to gather, analyze, and share information. Everyday Math is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. The spiral instructional approach encourages students to go beyond arithmetic, building their mathematical knowledge from the basics to higher-order thinking and critical problem solving skills.

Additional programs include the Title I Program, Second Step, and Foundations. Title I provides additional services after school to address the further improvement of student reading and math skills. Second Step is a violence prevention program in kindergarten and grades one and two. The Wilson Foundations program has been introduced in the primary grades. Foundations is a phonological/phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling program for the general education classroom. Other learning opportunities include the fifth graders' weeklong Boston University program at Camp Sargent in Hancock, New Hampshire. The program is dedicated to teaching skills involving multi-sensory learning, science of the woodlands and waterways, team building, adventure activity, and environmental protection issues. The program provides children with positive experiences of how they can make a difference in the social and environmental future of the world. The school also sponsors Destination Imagination teams for the International Problem Solving Tournament. This program uses the multiple intelligences of students to build skills, such as problem solving, teamwork and divergent thinking.

Unfortunately, the present budget cuts have reduced the school's art, music, and physical education programming. The change in the specialists' schedules has also eliminated common planning time for grade level teams, reduced enrichment classes for students, eliminated fourth and fifth grade chorus, and reduced or eliminated grade level performances and concerts. The kindergarten students no longer have art, music, or physical education classes with a specialist. The school has reduced its educational support staff by two aides and has reduced, by one half, the services of the school psychologist. Budget reductions are also having an impact on the purchase of educational and library materials.

A variety of programs are offered annually, many by the PTA, which foster an awareness of cultural differences. Some of these have included: Adventure Africa; Joey, a Kangaroo's Tale; and Inca Son.

Davis Hill students have participated in several community service projects. The school community makes monthly donations to the Wachusett Food Pantry. Students donated to Gazette Santa during the holidays. Teams of students

purchased holiday gifts for needy families and seniors. Students helped the Ronald MacDonald House acquire materials used by children staying at their facilities.

Community connections are valued at Davis Hill. Author's Day was held through the cooperative efforts of the school's library aide and the Arts Council. The PTA sponsors many family night programs and enrichment programs for the students. The Holden Fire Department and Holden Police Department teach safety lessons to students at all grade levels. Davis Hill has a Holden Police Officer assigned as school liaison to develop a positive relationship between school age children and the Department. Davis Hill also houses the Holden Recreational Department's Before School and After School Child-Care Program.

The administration and staff of Davis Hill thank members of the PTA and the many parents and seniors who come into Davis Hill on a daily basis to work with students and to assist teachers. The school has a richer environment due to the contributions of our community volunteers.



Dawson Elementary School
155 Salisbury Street
Holden, MA 01520
Principal: Charles T. Gruszka

Dawson School has 450 students who are actively engaged in a challenging educational environment as well as many projects that reach out to the wider community. This year Dawson students once again participated in Holiday Helper to purchase toys and clothing for children at Abby's House. Working together with the PTA, the Student Council collected food for the Wachusett Food Pantry. The Student Council also participated in the Pennies for Patients Program of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and sponsored a school-wide poster contest with the theme of positive ways to show caring and concern for others. The fourth grade had a candy sale for the Heifer Project and hosted a speaker from the organization.

These activities are linked to the Dawson philosophy of encouraging all students to be lovable, capable and caring. Regular school-wide assemblies are held to nurture this message and recognition certificates for positive behavior

and accomplishments of both students and staff are presented.

Academically, students utilize many programs based on the most current learning standards such as the Everyday Math Program, the Science Through Experimentation Program, the *SuccessMaker* Integrated Software Program and Handwriting Without Tears. Fundraising and grant writing efforts from the PTA provide numerous cultural learning programs that link curriculum study in science, music, literature and history. The PTA also supports transportation for field trips for each class.

Events that bring families to school, such as the Fall Welcome Back to School Festival and the Spring Family Pizza Party and Dance, are organized each year. Parents are involved through the PTA as classroom volunteers, as resource providers and guest speakers. Community resources also contribute to teaching and learning. Junior Achievement volunteers teach about economics in the community and Bay State Savings Bank sponsors a student coordinated banking program at the school and a field trip to the bank for third grade. Grants from White Oaks Conservation Society have been awarded to Dawson teachers to develop curriculum and purchase nature guides, books and other materials to foster outdoor education on the school's nature trail.

Dawson School organizes Continents Month annually. This is an integrated unit of study, where each grade level focuses on one of the continents. Students complete independent research projects and special art projects. Display days and nights are held where all classes and parents can view the projects. Students also study music related to the various countries. A Continents Challenge Quiz Bowl is held involving all students in grades 3-5 competing on multiage teams.

Each spring there is also an annual Genre Month where students learn about various types of poems and also about the many literary genres such as folk tales, fairy tales, biography and classics. In April the school publishes a collec-



tion of the students' poems. Authors and illustrators conduct writing and publishing workshops for all classes.



Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School
351 Bullard Street
Holden, MA 01520
Principal: John R. Locke

It is the mission of the Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School to educate, inspire, and empower all members of the learning community. Students and staff are committed to enhancing the lives of the school community and the lives of others by upholding the highest standards of quality and integrity.

Children at Mayo School are provided with a solid educational foundation necessary to be successful throughout their academic lives. Daily curriculum at each grade level is based on the Wachusett Regional School District Curriculum Frameworks, which are aligned with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks. Children develop a strong foundation in mathematics through the use of the Everyday Mathematics Program. Students benefit from a balanced approach to reading that provides a strong phonics foundation, coupled with the use of high quality trade books to foster a love of literature. The importance of literacy is emphasized through the school's ongoing Literacy Program. Mayo students hope to beat their last year's total of one million eight hundred thousand minutes read at home. Other literacy events have included visits by authors, illustrators, and storytellers and the school's annual Mayo Literacy Genre Parade. Students become involved in poetry while participating in the monthly Pod Poetry celebration, where they can read a favorite poet or original poem. Through programs such as this, children become excited in participating in the learning process.

Students at Mayo gain knowledge and skills through the use of technology. All students receive reading and math instruction tailored to their individual needs through the *SuccessMaker* Integrated Software Program. Networked computers and SmartBoard projection units are utilized for

teacher demonstrations, instruction, and student presentations.

In order to address classroom achievement and MCAS preparation, Mayo offers its students an after-school MCAS Academy Program. The Academy, a School Initiative Program, is offered on a fee-for-service basis to all fourth grade students to strengthen test-taking strategies and to provide opportunities for practice with MCAS-style questions. Over forty-eight children are participating this year! These types of academic support programs give children a boost in self-confidence and, most importantly, a better chance to be successful in school.

Mayo School is proud of the working relationship it enjoys with the community. The partnerships formed between the staff, parents, and other community members insure that the important adults in our students' lives are working from a shared set of values and goals. This year, the school is particularly proud to announce that the Mayo PTA was awarded several awards by the Massachusetts PTA including the following: The Voices for Children Award, honoring the PTA which displays excellence in advocacy for children in the community, The Outstanding Programs Award, in recognition of programs or projects that were of benefits to parents and/or children in the community, and The PTA Newsletter Award, for units which display excellence in their publication and content of a regularly distributed newsletter. The Mayo PTA was also one of only two PTAs to receive the Outstanding Local Unit Award, an award given to honor a local unit which has, in its service to children, "gone significantly beyond the standards of excellence and demonstrated the kind of exceptional qualities that merit replication by others." The Mayo PTA has provided many services including sponsoring the Reflections Art Program, Mayo Night at the Ice Cats, Outdoor Family Fun Day, The Annual Fall Craft Fair, and transportation to all field trips.

Mayo staff continues to inform parents through a successful and well-attended series of presentations at monthly PTA meetings. This year's offerings have included sessions on Standardized Testing and Assessments, Responsive Classroom, and Everyday Math Games. The school is fortunate to have such a dedicated and student-centered group of supporters and partners in education!

Community values, beliefs, and attitudes such as discipline, tolerance, care for the environment and social cooperation are promoted throughout Mayo School. This encourages students to become involved in the broader community, to prepare themselves for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive working lives. The school welcomes community partnerships through participation in grade three senior citizen pen pals and through our Holiday Helpers Program in which students provide holiday gifts for the needy in the community.



Houghton Elementary School
32 Boutelle Road
Sterling, MA 01564
Principal: Anthony M. Cipro, Jr.

Houghton Elementary School is a child-centered school focused on learning. The school has a population of more than five hundred students within a grade span of K-4. The school seeks to provide its children with a strong foundation in basic skills and opportunities to extend the thinking of young minds. By matching children's natural curiosity with literature, mathematics, science/technology, the arts, and the environment, the school helps foster life long learning for the citizens of the twenty-first century.

Houghton promotes and reinforces social values that exist in Sterling and society: respect, responsibility, kindness, honesty, and cooperation. Children, like adults, are social beings. Therefore, Houghton is a place which endorses a true sense of community where children care to learn and learn to care.

Staff, parents, volunteers, and guests need to serve as appropriate models for young children. The responsibility of public education is significant and must be shared by all. Together, the children are the future.

Houghton Highlights of the 2003-2004 School Year

1. Continued training of grade K-4 staff with *SuccessMaker* software in reading and mathematics;
2. Implementation of *SuccessMaker* software in reading for grades K-4;
3. Implementation of home access to the school's *SuccessMaker* software;
4. Expansion of the children's book collection in the school library to over 12,000 books;

LEARN TO READ
READ TO LEARN

5. K-4 staff summer training opportunity on Responsive Classroom;

6. Implementation of the BenBow Cursive Writing Program for grades 3-4;

7. Re-dedication/celebration of Houghton School's Peace Pole to the world community;

8. Involvement of children in the beautification of grounds with Earth Day activities;

9. Extensive involvement of the Sterling community in the school, including: Community Reading Day, Sterling Historical Society for local history, donation of mulch by Sterling Peat, donation of ice cream by Davis Hill Farm, grants from Sterling Children's Fund for a total school trip to the Nutcracker, and funding from Sterling's Women's League for anti-bullying program;

10. Increased involvement of outside organizations in environmental education: the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) with the study of trees and Audubon Society's teaching of pond life;

11. Cooperation between Houghton and Chocksett PTO's with major fundraisers (magazine drive and Box Tops for Education), as well as quarterly meeting between the officers of both organizations;

12. Increased curriculum and cultural enrichment opportunities for children to complement classroom instruction with guest speakers and programs funded by the PTO;

13. Improvement in MCAS scores in tested grades 3-4;

14. Improvement in MAT-8 (Metropolitan Achievement Tests) scores in grades 1-4; and

15. Increased involvement and responsibility of fourth grade children in total school community by participating in the school's daily office morning announcements and weekly school paper recycling efforts.



Mountview Middle School
270 Shrewsbury Street
Holden, MA 01520
Principal: John F. Sullivan

Mountview Middle School is comprised of approximately 725 students in grades six, seven and eight, forty-five teachers and another twenty support staff who work together to foster a safe and educationally vibrant environment. The students actively participate in a rich academic program, anchored in a comprehensive District-wide curriculum. Mountview's students represent a diverse group of learners, socially, intellectually and developmentally. To meet the challenge of addressing the individual and global needs of students, the school employs a host of different strategies such as curriculum compacting, technology education, thematic approaches to curriculum, and integrated, interdisciplinary teaching. Accelerated reading and math programs, as well as a myriad of special education programs, support a balanced approach to serving students.

Opportunities exist for students to participate in a variety of additional activities, such as: the National Geography Bee, the Science Olympiad, the Social Studies Olympiad, Math Counts, New England Mathematics League, Boston Globe Scholastic Arts Awards, the Quabbin Valley Music Festival, the Central District Music Festival, Mountview Mentors, Seventh Grade Career Day in conjunction with Anna Maria College and the DARE and PAAD programs to name just a few. Students participate in many satellite education field trips such as trips to Salem, Boston, Plymouth, Lowell, Newburyport, America's Stonehenge and Mount Wachusett. Students also actively participate in Poetry Nights, Winter Concerts, Spring Concerts, Student Council, Mountview Players and other performance-based opportunities.

In addition to these academic opportunities, students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Mountview's sports program includes soccer, track, cross-country, field hockey, basketball and cheerleading. Mountview also offers baseball and softball teams for students during the spring. Students participate in the Lego Robotics League competitions, chess clubs and intramural sports activities. Mountview students participate in community outreach programs and events such as the Senior



Breakfast, Easter Seals fundraiser, Thanksgiving Day Basket program, and the Holiday Angel program. Students have developed and supported additional civic minded activities such as the Stuff the Bus food drive, the Operation Mustang support program of the armed services personnel and a volunteer program supporting the Special Olympics.

Parental involvement is a key component in the school's success and is evident in many aspects of daily life at Mountview. Parent volunteerism is encouraged through the PTA, School Council, Coffee and Chat forums with the principal, the magazine drive, participation in the yearbook committee, chaperones, activity volunteers and in many other ways throughout the year.

Mountview is proud of the range of opportunities that are offered to students, as well as the students' active participation and achievement.



Naquag Elementary School
285 Main Street
Rutland, MA 01543
Principal: Darryll A. McCall, Ed.D.

Naquag Elementary School continues to strive to provide the students and families of Rutland with a solid educational background from which they can grow. Student performance on both the MCAS and MAT-8's ranks Naquag extremely high at the District and State levels. In 2003, Naquag students achieved the highest scores in the District in both English Language Arts and Mathematics on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System at fourth grade.

One of the highlights of Naquag's academic program this year is completing the final phase of the conversion to the Open Court Reading Program. With the program in place from kindergarten through grade 4, students will develop a more consistent understanding of phonics, phonemic awareness and, ultimately, literary comprehension. All of the classroom teachers new to the program this year were trained by Open Court in the fall. In addition, to enhance writing skills at Naquag, fourth grade teachers were trained in the John Collins Writing Method attending two full day sessions during the year.

The connection between home and school has been another area of focus this school year. During the first month of school, the Friends of Rutland Education (FORE) was reorganized forming two organizations, one focused on Naquag and the other on Central Tree. The reorganization will allow each group to spend more time focusing their energy and commitment toward the unique needs of the students at both schools. An example of this is the very successful Read-a-Thon for Naquag School. The Read-a-Thon brought in over \$5,000 for the purchase of books for the Naquag library. To further enhance the home and school communication, teachers and administrators at Naquag have developed web pages that are regularly accessed by families from home. Utilizing the easy-to-navigate Teacher's Web program, students and families can easily retrieve homework and project information. Monthly newsletters continue to inform parents of event information and other items of importance at Naquag.

Naquag Elementary School, in conjunction with the Rutland Recreation Department, offered a variety of before and after school programs for students during the school year such as arts and crafts, karate and floor hockey.

The Naquag School community is also committed to bringing quality, educational programs into the school. Working in conjunction with parents, the Rutland Cultural Council and FORE, Naquag has hosted several wonderful educational programs such as the demonstration from the WPI Robotics Team, presentation by the Massachusetts Solar Ambassador to NASA, illustrator Ralph Masiello, a Native American storyteller, and more. In addition, Naquag will host its first Science Expo, presented by UMASS with the assistance of a grant from Omnova Solutions, in early May. The daylong expo will permit families the opportunity to experiment with high quality hands-on science activities usually reserved for museums.

Naquag has been fortunate this year to benefit from the District's upgrade of the *SuccessMaker* managed learning program. Teachers and students now have easier access to this individualized program, which focuses on math and reading. Naquag was the first school to implement the home component for *SuccessMaker* within the District. Many families now have access at home to the same program and reports available to the students and teachers during the school day.

Technology remains an important part of the educational programming at Naquag. With over twenty new computers in the building, newer programs such as the updated *SuccessMaker* have run flawlessly. Nine classrooms now have SmartBoards and projectors that are used daily by the teachers and students. Naquag recognizes the importance of continually updating outdated equipment and programs and will continue, within budget limitations, to upgrade technology, equipment and programs.



Paxton Center School
West Street
Paxton, MA 01612
Principal: Anthony M. DeFrino

The opportunities available to students for a successful learning experience at Paxton Center School continue to grow. Building on our programming modifications and the faculty's focus on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the District's Curriculum Guides, student achievement test scores on both the Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT-8) and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) continue to show high achievement by Paxton students.

Based on the results of the MAT-8 and MCAS, teachers at all grade levels have been restructuring instructional programs to provide a more challenging program for all ability students. Workshops were conducted for all teachers to provide them with instructional strategies, which can be employed to meet this objective.

A new program introduced this year is *SuccessMaker*, a computer program designed to help students develop academic skills at their own level as programmed by their classroom teacher. Paxton Center School is starting with grades K-5 and concentrating on mathematics and reading this year. This program continues through eighth grade and includes all content areas. The skills the students will be developing are aligned with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Students will be on the program for approximately forty-five to sixty minutes per week. A home component is also available to parents. Parents had the opportunity to enroll in the program and students are able to access the program from home.

The Second Steps Program, a social skills program, continues in grades K-2 and has expanded to include the grade 3-5 components this year. Such topics as anger management, impulse control and peer pressure will be taught.

Using technology to facilitate learning is also an integral part of the school's educational program. Teachers and students in the primary grades have learned techniques in webbing using the Inspiration software. Students will be

using this program to incorporate these techniques into the curriculum in all subject areas.

In sixth grade, students will receive instruction using the Star Lab program. Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will again participate in the Science Fair, involving students in the scientific methods, solving everyday problems, employing critical thinking and higher level thinking skills. These skills are very much part of the State Frameworks.

Paxton students and staff continue to be supportive in a variety of community activities. Seventh and eighth grade students are involved in helping Seniors become Cyber Seniors at the Senior Center. Middle school science students will learn about recycling by building a composting bin for the school. The Student Council hosted approximately ninety senior citizens at a holiday season breakfast, where guests were entertained by the school band. Students proudly represented their school and community in this annual event.

The Paxton Center School staff wishes to thank all members of the Paxton community for their continued support. Special thanks are extended to the Paxton Center School PTO, the Friends of Paxton Center School and all the parents and members of the community who have volunteered to work with the faculty and students.



Thomas Prince School
170 Sterling Road
Princeton, MA 01541
Principal: Mary E. Cringan

Thomas Prince is a school where everyone comes together to promote learning and high academic achievement. Four hundred and thirty three students in grades kindergarten through eight and fifty-six teachers and support staff work together to accomplish the school's goals each school day. Thomas Prince School is truly a community of learners, a place where staff and students, along with parents, have a shared vision of what the school is seeking to accomplish. The school's mission continues to be a school comprised of a community of learners in which individuals

reach his/her maximum potential intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Students participate in a rigorous academic program, which has been adopted by the District. The District continually revises the curriculum guidelines based on the most current frameworks from the Massachusetts Department of Education. The MCAS tests are based on these frameworks and it is our responsibility to prepare the students for these tests. Thomas Prince students continue to demonstrate improvement in all test areas. The school has been able to provide Title I math and reading services for eligible students in first through eighth grades. Budget cuts, however, have forced the elimination of MCAS support services for students.

Many students at Thomas Prince are eager to help others in our community, as well as in the world. The students have collected money, clothes, toys, food and items for Abby's House, UNICEF, animal shelters, St. Jude's, local food banks, and other charitable agencies. Students have also collected pledges for Easter Seals and the American Heart Association. It is important to the school community that students see that they can help others less fortunate than themselves. Thomas Prince's student athletes compete on the highest levels. The track teams finished in first place this past season, with the girls winning the District Championship in cross country. Congratulations to the coaches and team members who gave their best efforts. Representative Lewis Evangelidis and Senator Harriette Chandler honored the students and their coaches during a visit to the State House.

During the summer of 2003, the Commemorative Butterfly Garden that was inspired by Lisa Beaupre was dedicated. This beautiful butterfly garden was a joint effort of parents, students, staff and community members. The PTA led the efforts and numerous hardworking parents and staff contributed monetary gifts, supplies, plants, benches and hours and hours of manual labor. Please take time to visit this peaceful garden.



Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street
Holden, MA 01520
Principal: Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.

Wachusett Regional High School continues to pursue its mission of preparing students for their lives after high school. This preparation entails providing all students with the skills they will need to continue their education. The mission is implemented in a number of ways. First, all students are held to a rigorous set of graduation requirements that ensures that they master a common core curriculum. In the first two high school grades, this core provides all students with the content and skills they will need in more advanced courses during their junior and senior years while providing solid preparation for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The outstanding performance of Wachusett students on MCAS provides testimony to the efficacy of this approach.

While Wachusett's lower grades provide students with a common core, the upper grades target the more particular aspirations of the older students. As such, the older students must complete either a traditional college preparatory program that conforms to the standards of the

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
FIRST EVER
SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS
WACHUSETT FOOTBALL TEAM

Massachusetts State Board of Regents or meet the requirements of the Wachusett Partnership Program. The Wachusett Partnership Program provides students who have a career focus with the background they will need to succeed in college. Each of the majors in this program has been developed in conjunction with colleges and universities, and successful students can enter colleges with advanced standing in their chosen field of study. With these programs in place, school staff are confident that all students who graduate from Wachusett have been prepared for higher education.

While college preparation is first and foremost at Wachusett, the Wachusett community takes seriously its obligation to educate the whole student. Health and physical education are important aspects of graduation requirements and speak to the belief in the importance of both a sound mind and a sound body. Wachusett also has an interest in providing students with an outstanding education in the arts. Wachusett has been repeatedly recognized as a Grammy Signature School based upon our participation in this national music adjudication process. The Wachusett stage is the scene for a number of outstanding theatrical performances each year and Wachusett's art students continue to produce excellent work that decorates the school and wins awards at art shows.

Wachusett is also proud of the participation and performance of its athletes. Wachusett fields forty-six teams comprised of approximately eight hundred fifty athletes who are very successful in all sports. Last year Wachusett, once again, won the Broderick-Honan Trophy given to the school with the best overall winning percentage in the very competitive Midland-Wachusett League. This year Wachusett is well on the way to exceeding that accomplishment having set a school record with twelve wins and a Super Bowl Championship in football, a league championship in swimming and District championships in boys and girls cross country and girls indoor track.

In the spring Wachusett will begin its long awaited building project that will provide students with the facility that they need and deserve. While the renovation of this facility will certainly provide challenges, school staff is ready to meet them in the interest of providing students with the best education possible. It is the hope of the Wachusett community that this year's budget will contribute to this end by providing the school with the staffing that is needed to provide adequate programs for the students of the Wachusett region.

