



**Rye School District Administrator Updates**  
**Michelle Pitts, Principal, RES**  
**Anne Gilbert, Principal, RJH**

**May 15, 2024**

**Goal 1:** *Maintain a culture that is positive, welcoming, and supportive to all stakeholders, including staff, families, students, and community stakeholders.*

**Rye Elementary School**

- We want to thank Eileen Murphy for organizing the Earth Day assembly. This was an incredible culmination of songs, poems and education about the efforts of particular children from around the world who are making an effort to protect our Earth.
- We hosted a Scholastic book fair for students in PreK-4. Members of the community were able to visit the Book Fair and we were able to raise money for our Student Activities account, thanks to the PTA and Allison Salzer and Kelly Faulkner who organized the week-long event.
- Members of the Lions Club came to teach our fourth graders to play chess and even gave each child their own chess board. Each year this event brings this incredible organization into our RES community and it is always amazing how many children play chess regularly or already know how to play!
- As a community, we took a trip to the Seacoast Science Center to celebrate our Blue Ribbon win! While half of the children were in the center learning about the ocean and its inhabitants, the other half was searching for them while tide pooling. We had a performance from our Riptide Rhythms and school band during lunch and finished with a Lighthouse walk for grades 2-4 to raise money for the lighthouse.
- Our safety team met with Homeland Security to start planning a tabletop exercise in which we will play out a real life scenario and involve all important stakeholders so we can ultimately plan a full evacuation next year.

**Rye Junior High School**

On Thursday, April 18, all RJH students participated in an Earth day cleanup around our school. Each Science teacher took an area of the school and worked to clean up debris and trash to make our part of the world a bit more beautiful. Friday, we celebrated our Earth by recognizing different countries around the world by participating in the RJH World Cup.

The RES fourth graders and teachers visited RJH for an entire morning on April 30. Students were able to watch a quick presentation about what a normal day at RJH is like, and ask questions. They also received a student led tour, and heard from the Explore teachers so they can pick their classes for next year. The fourth grade teachers were able to spend some time in RJH classrooms in order to get a better understanding of our academic programming. That night, we invited fourth grade families in to hear a more in depth presentation about life at RJH. Afterwards, their students gave them a tour in order to become more familiar with the layout of the school. Their excitement and energy about being at the junior high was incredible- we can't wait to see them in August!

As a community, we have decided that fifth graders are a bit too young to attend dances. As an alternative, a small group of parents and I planned a fifth grade Big Night In. Students had dinner donated by Common Roots, were able to play board games and sing karaoke, and play dodge ball. The night culminated with a parent versus kid dodgeball game- and I'm not sure which team had more fun. Thank you to parent volunteers, staff volunteers, and Common Roots for making the night a success.

This event is part of a bigger effort to create an elementary school experience for our fifth graders, while still honoring their older age and desire to be a 'big kid'. Fifth graders also dress up for Halloween at school and trick or treat around the school, and exchange Valentines, two fun hallmarks of the elementary school experience. We will continue to build more novel experiences into the fifth grade year as a bridge between elementary and middle school.

<p><b>Goal 2:</b> <i>Ensure students have equal access to a rigorous and personalized learning experience.</i></p>
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### **Rye Elementary School**

-We are currently in full swing completing the last assessments of the year. The data will be analyzed on our last Data Day in June. We have been conducting Math running records, thanks to Sarah Holmes, which are giving us valuable information about students' number sense and the strategies they have learned and use when solving math equations.

-Kate Morrison and I recently conducted an audit of technology software that we had put into the budget in the fall. Knowing this is early to make final decisions, we wanted to revisit this list to ensure we had a variety of resources for research, intervention purposes and creation at each grade level. We also considered the teachers' feedback throughout this year, as they were reporting the web-based programs they found valuable for student learning.

-Kindergarten students are working on their NHSPCA writing research projects. These projects allow them to choose an animal to research and learn about from the NHSCPA and then present to their families and our community. This year the Kindergarten students will be ending this project with a walk-a-thon with grade 1 to raise money for this organization. The idea of blending learning and service has been a big hit!

### **Rye Junior High School**

The hard work is never done in schools, and this is true for RJH and social studies work. Using information and work with Portsmouth school staff, we are constantly reexamining our social studies program. We are adding research and notetaking skills to the classes, and will be working over the summer to explore research based methods for learning both strategies. Some of the other social studies decisions we are grappling with are the length of classes, and the amount of required classes students must take at each grade level. We are excited about the work, and look forward to continually improving our practice to benefit our students.

Sign ups for Explore classes will be completed on Friday. The Explore teachers have worked hard to provide equity and clarity to the process so students are picking classes that are interesting to them, while still fulfilling required class experiences like PE and Art.

**Goal 3:** *Prepare our students to be engaged citizens, understanding the impact they can make locally, nationally and globally.*

### **Rye Elementary School**

-Holly Warden received a grant from REF to host a program from Northeast Passage through UNH. This program is designed to build awareness, appreciation and understanding about a myriad of disabilities. Children learned about the paralympics, which tied in beautifully with our bilingual health/wellness focus on this summer's Olympics in Paris. Students learned that the Olympics will be followed by the Paralympics and they engaged in activities that asked them to identify the similarities and differences in photographs of these two side by side. In the end, the children played a game using wheelchairs designed for these Paralympic games.

-Students are currently hard at work planting gardens! Thank you again to REF and the Clipper Grant for funding our Kindergarten ABC garden and our pollinator garden. These gardens are being designed and built by students and they are learning about all aspects of plant growth and the sustaining of a garden from the amazing Eileen Murphy.

-Portsmouth High School students met with grade 2 to teach them about composting and sustainability through a trash sorting activity and presentation. One of the students is going to school to be an environmental engineer while another is studying to become a teacher. Allowing these students the time to educate our students about the environment also allowed our students to see that their passions can become a reality through their experiences in school!

### **Rye Junior High School**

Every day, I work with students who are creating Genius Hour projects. The goal of these projects is to raise awareness around a certain community need. Many students work to raise money for local organizations. Others are working to bring about change in the school community. All of the projects are a direct result of students' interest, and their desire to connect and give back to the community. The diversity of projects, and the dedication of the students to bring about change, is inspirational.

Our eighth grade students are finishing out the Rye Junior High years with a unique social studies experience. All students are working with the eighth grade teachers on a culminating class titled “Adulting 101”. Students visited the town clerk to learn about managing a municipality and how a town hall supports citizens. They had a visit from Service Federal Credit Union to talk about different forms of banking, interest rates, and loans. A local CPA talked with students about the power of investing money in different ways.

The culminating activity for this civics and economics experience will be on June 7. In the morning, the eighth graders will be participating in a Town Hall simulation, hosting a mock deliberative session, and voting on an issue. In the afternoon, students will be visiting Seacoast Federal Credit Union to extend their knowledge of banking and investing. Thank you to our teachers and community members who will be supporting students in their learning Adulting 101!

### *Last but not least...*

#### **Happening at both RES and RJH...**

- State testing has been in full swing...again. Students have been testing in science (Grade 5), ELA and math.
- The calendar is filling up with enriching events for all students in Rye. Thank you to our generous community sponsors such as Rye PTA, REF, the Clipper Foundation, and generous donations that provide the support we need to finish the school year with excitement.

#### **Rye Schools would like to thank...**

- Our volunteers as we honored them at the PTA Appreciation event hosted by Common Roots. We truly appreciate everything they do for our schools and know we could not support our students the way we do without their help!
- OUR TEACHERS! Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week and we spent a week trying to spoil our teachers as much as possible. A huge thank you to the PTA and the volunteers that helped set up a surprise for them every day. We know how lucky we are to work with such a talented crew and we want them to know that extends far beyond this one week of recognition.

# Semi-Finalist Candidate Form (Superintendent to Interview)

For: **Conlin, Brooke**  
 Sent By: agilbert@sau50.org

Completed By: User - szadravec@sau50.org  
 Overall Status: Approved

Sent On: 4/29/2024 4:06pm  
 Completed: 5/1/2024 8:27am

For Job ID: **358 - School Counselor: One Year Position at Rye Junior High School**

\* Board Meeting Date:

Brooke Conlin is being recommended for [JobId] [PostingTitle] at [PostingLocation].

\* The reason for this vacancy is:

If other, explain:

\* Replacing:

<b>Anticipated Start Date</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>FTE</b>
08/26/2024	2024-2025	1.0
<b>Support Staff Hours per Day</b>	<b>Support Staff Days per Week</b>	<b>Support Staff Total Work Days Per Year</b>

\* License Verification:

\* Is this a budgeted position?

If no, was position approved by the Superintendent and Business Administrator?

\* Is this position funded by a grant?

If yes, name and year of the grant.

Justifications behind hiring this specific candidate.

\* Have you completed 3 reference checks?

By signing this form, I acknowledge the review and submission of complete and accurate information for this recommendation for hire.

<b>X</b>	Signed: <b>Anne</b> Stamped: 4/29/2024 3:07:29 PM; 216.107.225.34; User - agilbert@sau50.org - agilbert@sau50.org;
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## HR Approval

<b>Degree Stipend</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Recommended Salary</b>
MA	3	70,107

Budget Code:

Name of Account:

Do you approve this recommendation for hire?

If no, please explain:

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For Job ID: **358 - School Counselor: One Year Position at Rye Junior High School**

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HR Representative Signature:

<b>X</b>	<b>Signed: Jodi Wick</b> <small>Stamped: 5/1/2024 6:58:35 AM; 216.107.225.34; User - jwick@sau50.org - jwick@sau50.org;</small>
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Superintendent please sign here if you would like to proceed with 2nd round interview. Your signature will notify the superintendent secretary to setup interviews.

**PRINCIPALS - ONLY SIGN THIS FIELD FOR YOUR FINAL SELECTED CANDIDATE.**

Administrator has selected this candidate as the Finalist to be hired. Signing below will notify HR to send official offer to the Candidate.