

Superintendent of Schools Annual Report

For July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

It is my honor and pleasure to report to the community that the Hermon School Department had another stellar year! Our dedicated staff continues to provide students in Hermon a wonderful educational experience by building strong relationships with them and by challenging all students to excel academically and grow exponentially as clear and effective communicators, creative and practical problem solvers, responsible and engaged citizens, integrative and informed thinkers, and self-directed and life-long learners.

Students had a very exciting year at the **Hermon Middle School**. Thanks to community and staff support, they had the privilege of participating in many enriching experiences both academically, socially, and personally. New Principal Micah Grant was honored to lead such a fine group of young people and a staff that displayed great enthusiasm and professionalism. Students experienced many successes, as a group and as individuals, including but not limited to the following:

- As a school, students maintained over 95% daily attendance rate for the entire year!
- Albert Bai and Ben Lord finished 1st and 2nd place respectively in our Spelling Bee on February 1. Albert, a sixth grader, finished third at the state Spelling Bee competition.
- Amber Stokes, Izaak Swartz, Mathew Putnam, Maclaren Davis, and Ainsley Carr were selected to represent HMS at the Maine Science Festival at the Cross Insurance Center for their inventions and presentations at our local Invention Convention. Amber finished as the State runner-up and Izaak Swartz was recognized for best technology use and data collection.
- Lydia Morris won the 2018 Civic Oration contest with her topic "How Pacemakers Have Improved Quality of Life."
- Jason Wickett won the school Geography Bee and represented us at the University of Maine at Farmington in the state Geography Bee.
- The sports teams had a tremendous school year in the Eastern Maine Athletic League, highlighted by the girls' soccer team who finished undefeated! The cheerleading team did a tremendous job finishing 2nd and 1st in their last two competitions!
- A high percentage of students regularly participated in events to support their community including: "Socktober" (socks to donate to homeless shelter and Shaw house), a luncheon to celebrate cancer survivors, fundraising activities to assist a family who had lost their home to fire, the purchase of 61 turkeys from Danforth's Supermarket to support the town office effort to help those in need, the collection and purchase of items for Christmas distribution, food drives to fill the shelves of the local food pantry, and over \$7,300 for the "Hoops for Hearts" program.

Veteran Principal Brian Walsh would like to share with the community some of the highlights and successes that occurred at **Hermon High School** during the 2017-2018 school year:

- Hermon High School students enrolled in multiple Pathways courses earned over 300 college credits and recorded a 4 Year Graduation Rate of 90.58%, which continues to be well above the state average.
- At graduation time, Hermon High Seniors earned over two-million dollars in scholarships and awards.
- Hermon High School performing arts student selected for second consecutive All-State Chorus
- The Boys' Varsity Basketball Team won their first state title in the programs ninety-year history.
- Student athletes won five individual State titles in Boy's Track.
- The Cheerleading Team won their eighth State title.

Hermon High School programs, both academic and co-curricular, have been developed in support of our mission – *to prepare students for personal success in college, career, and community*. As a school community, we value and understand the importance of our stakeholders' voices and believe that the continuous evaluation of our programs is necessary to maintain progress towards the standards of excellence that we want for our students. We truly appreciate the role the Hermon Community plays in supporting our Mission and our school.

The **Patricia A. Duran School** staff was quite busy last year and are very proud of all of their accomplishments. Principal Jenny Perry reports:

- The new addition project, which included 10 classrooms, several offices, an all-purpose room, a library/media center, and a new art room, broke ground in the fall of 2017, and construction really ramped up in the spring of 2018. The project was on track to open to students at the beginning of the 2018-19 School Year. (The new addition did open on time and is 99.9% complete as of the date of this report)
- Due to increased enrollment, the Pre-K program was expanded to include an additional classroom, which provided 32 more spots for students in the fall of 2017. All 64 spots were filled by September 1.
- The teachers developed and implemented a standards-based report card K-4.
- Professional development was provided for all staff on standardized instruction and assessment through the Great School Partnership-GSP.
- Teachers implemented the Reader's Units of study (reading program) and Words Their Way (phonics/spelling program) schoolwide.
- Technology: Interactive projectors and document cameras were installed in all classrooms. Laptops were placed in the hands of our teachers. Two laptop carts were distributed to the 4th grade team.
- Administration implemented a new volunteer agreement process, which includes a background check and a confidentiality agreement, and had over 100 approved volunteers.
- The PAD and HMS administration implemented the first 4th grade step up day. Fourth grade students had the opportunity to spend a ½ day at the middle school to meet the 5th grade teachers and get an idea of what middle school life is like.

- The PAD administration worked in collaboration with the PAD PTA to organize our annual Helping Hands Donation Drive. We were able to support 31 kids in need during the holiday season.

At the district level, we are excited to welcome new staff to our team! Brandy St. Pierre retired after providing many excellent years of service to the Hermon School Department and Cindy Badger is our new Special Education Director; English Department Head Melissa Davis has arrived in central office from the high school to become the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, replacing long-time Hermon educator Gail Gordon; Jenna Burnham brings her expertise in finance to central office to support our business department.

We have fully implemented School Messenger in an effort to improve communication with our parents and community in case of an emergency and we continue to work on building physically, emotionally, and socially safe schools for our students and staff. We have updated and continue to add to the Hermon School Department website (hsd.hermon.net) to provide all stakeholders important information about our schools, including the new adult education partnership we have joined with the Riverside Adult Education Partnership (riversideadultedpartnership.com).

On December 19, 2016, the Hermon School Committee voted unanimously to rename the Hermon Elementary School as soon as the new addition was completed. On August 30th 2018, the name officially changed from the Hermon Elementary School to the **Patricia A. Duran School**.

Mrs. Patricia A. Duran is a life time Hermon resident who has dedicated her personal and professional life to the schools and community of Hermon. The School Committee was unanimous in their support of the name change, with the intent to not only honor her, but to have her life's journey serve as an inspiration to future students and the entire community.

Mrs. Duran spent over 40 years as a distinguished educator in Hermon, serving as a 3rd grade teacher from 1972 through 1993, when she left the classroom to become the Principal of Hermon High School. In 1999-2000, she held the role of assistant superintendent, then became the interim superintendent in the fall of 2000. In March of 2001, she became the superintendent of schools, and held that office until her retirement in the spring of 2017. As the superintendent of Hermon, Mrs. Duran earned the admiration and respect of educators in our region and across the State and positively impacted the lives of thousands of Hermon students and staff. Under her direction, the Hermon Schools have built an excellent reputation for providing a safe, caring environment for students to flourish in.

I look forward to another fantastic year in Hermon and want to thank the many individuals, businesses, and parent volunteers who support the schools every single day. Working together, let's make the 2018-19 school year another great year in Hermon!

Sincerely,

Gary J. Gonyar
Superintendent of Schools