

HAMPDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2012, the Hampden Volunteer Fire Department responded to 97 calls. We report each call electronically to the National and Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System utilizing the following categories for calls and the breakdown is as follows:

1 – Special Incident

15- Service Calls

2– Rescue/EMS

10 – Hazardous Condition No Fire

7 – Good Intent Call

36 – Fire

26 – False Alarm & False Call

Hampden firefighters continue to follow a rigorous weekly training schedule to develop and maintain skills to protect and promote public safety. Additionally 15 firefighters are also state certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter can find information as well as an application on the fire department page of the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Gorski
Fire Chief
Hampden Fire Department

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL

DISTRICT

2012

FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

D. John McCarthy, Chairman

On August 29, 2012, the new Minnechaug Regional High School opened its doors for the first day of school. Thanks to the citizens of Hampden and Wilbraham who voted to build the new school and to the hard work of too many people to thank individually, we now have a state-of-the-art high school and community building that we can all be proud of and that will maintain property values and make our towns more desirable places to live.

The School Committee has begun the process of setting up a capital fund to insure that future school committees will have the resources for capital expenditures that will inevitably be needed so Minnechaug will continue to serve our communities for years to come.

The School Committee has also worked hard to provide all HWRSD teachers with the tools needed to ensure academic achievement in a safe and healthy environment, while at the same time exercising fiscal responsibility.

On behalf of the entire Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee, thank you for your support in helping us give our students some of the best schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a state with a reputation for having some of the best schools in the nation.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

M. Martin O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools

The vision of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District is to develop an "interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility and respect for each individual."

The following reports, I believe, demonstrate our commitment to this vision. Beyond this, the reports provide evidence of the:

- Professionalism and dedication of over 500 District employees.
- District-wide focus on building and sustaining healthy and safe learning environments.
- Commitment to developing HWRSD as a true "community of learners."
- Emphasis on meeting the needs of all learners by providing a range of academic experiences and services.
- Active involvement of our parent community in the educational process.
- Well-coordinated and aligned program of curriculum and instruction.
- High levels of achievement and accomplishment in the academics, athletics, arts and community service by the 3,500 of students of Hampden and Wilbraham.
- An administrative commitment to working with all stakeholders to provide educational excellence in a cost-effective, efficient manner.

The most notable HWRSD event in 2012 was, of course, the opening of the new Minnechaug Regional High School. Technologically-advanced, safe and highly efficient, this new 240,000 square-foot facility will provide the students of HWRSD with an opportunity to learn and grow in a 21st century learning environment.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the District, I extend my appreciation for the support we receive from the townspeople of Hampden and Wilbraham.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Beth L. Regulbuto, Assistant Superintendent for Business

The theme for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District's FY12 budget was "Facing Current Realities and Future Needs." The goals for the budget were to accept that there are new economic realities, to reiterate that there are needs to be met to safeguard the District's mission, to acknowledge that the demand for educational excellence has not changed, and to realize that even in fiscally challenging times there is opportunity to make the District stronger.

Guiding Principles:

- Protect the mission and priorities of the District
- Develop a cost effective budget that promotes student well-being and achievement
- Adjust to new economic realities while remaining focused on continuous improvement
- Obtain adequate funding while recommending assessments to the towns that are manageable

The District has continued to sustain high academic achievement while facing challenging economic conditions. The reality of the fiscal situation is that we are charged with the difficult task of developing a budget in a financially constricted environment at both the local and national level. Our communities have high expectations for student achievement, but they, too, have reductions in their resources available to fund the school and town programs. Our budget was a balanced plan that incorporated the economic realities of the District and the towns, while meeting the needs of our schools in a fiscally responsible way. The District heeded the towns' requests to maintain limited operating assessment increases for the last several years. Our budget objectives were met by presenting a minimal operating budget increase, by using grant funding wherever possible, and by instituting cost cutting measures throughout the budget.

The District works closely with its stakeholders to maximize efficiencies and provide the best possible educational experience for the children in our communities by utilizing all resources available. It is the District's hope that Hampden and Wilbraham will continue to sustain the quality of their school system through their continued generous support.

CURRICULUM

Timothy W. Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District designs a rich and rigorous curriculum in order to develop the unique talents of each individual student. The curriculum renewal process is ongoing and ensures continuity and consistency in grades PreK-12. Access to high quality curriculum materials and resources is equitable throughout the District's schools. The level of technology integration across the curriculum has intensified with improvements in staffing, infrastructure, equipment, reliability, and professional development. The focus on differentiated instruction and inclusive practices to meet the needs of individual learners provides all students with an appropriate level of challenge and support.

Below are some highlights from across the curriculum areas:

- The *Responsive Classroom* (elementary level) and *Developmental Designs* (middle school level) programs have been implemented in every classroom in order to create learning environments where children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
- The District utilizes a research-based elementary reading and language arts program which incorporates the five components of literacy learning: vocabulary/oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and reading comprehension.
- The *Writing Across the Curriculum* program is a learning strategy implemented at every level in order to enhance the development of literacy, content knowledge, and thinking skills.
- The mathematics curriculum supports the development of conceptual understanding through communication, problem solving, making connections, and meaningful practice.
- The science program advances scientific reasoning as students investigate and solve complex problems using the appropriate tools. Standards-based science units are studied in the classroom and are enriched through regular science labs at the elementary level.
- The history, geography, civics, and economics concepts and skills are addressed through interactive units of study in each grade.
- The arts play a central role in human development for children at all ability levels. Cognitive, language, and social-emotional development are positively impacted by participation in the arts.
- The health and physical education learning opportunities are an integral part of the total educational process and promote a lifelong physically active lifestyle, as well as respect for self and others through a safe school environment.
- The School Resource Officers in both Hampden and Wilbraham have established an important presence in the schools. This asset promotes safe schools and aligns with the principles of prevention research.

Academic Performance

Since its inception in 1998, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) has increasingly become a primary source of information with regard to student achievement, curriculum evaluation, and diagnosis of individual student strengths and weaknesses. The chart below provides a comparison of the District's recent results:

Grade/Subject Tested	Percent of Students Scoring Advanced or Proficient				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012
	HWRSD	HWRSD	HWRSD	HWRSD	STATE
Gr. 3 Reading	74	78	79	78	61
Gr. 3 Mathematics	75	81	80	63	61
Gr. 4 English Language Arts	61	69	47	71	57
Gr. 4 Mathematics	51	47	39	64	51
Gr. 5 English Language Arts	73	71	75	62	61
Gr. 5 Mathematics	54	57	64	59	57
Gr. 5 Science/Engineering	72	71	73	70	52
Gr. 6 English Language Arts	84	82	81	79	66
Gr. 6 Mathematics	71	67	68	71	60
Gr. 7 English Language Arts	86	87	81	80	71
Gr. 7 Mathematics	70	71	62	66	51
Gr. 8 English Language Arts	88	91	90	92	81
Gr. 8 Mathematics	63	67	59	58	52
Gr. 8 Science/Engineering	51	52	44	48	43
Gr. 10 English Language Arts	90	88	93	97	88
Gr. 10 Mathematics	85	84	85	89	78
Gr. 10 Biology	73	82	77	84	69

In addition to MCAS performance, HWRSD educators use a range of information to monitor student achievement. One example of the data considered to be relevant is SAT scores. Score trends rather than results from any one year are considered most relevant. The table below provides longitudinal SAT results for students graduating from Minnechaug Regional High School.

Mean SAT Scores 2002-2012

	District			State			National		
	Reading	Math	Writing	Reading	Math	Writing	Reading	Math	Writing
2002	518	530	n/a	512	516	n/a	504	516	n/a
2003	517	529	n/a	516	522	n/a	507	519	n/a
2004	529	550	n/a	518	523	n/a	508	518	n/a
2005	531	550	n/a	520	527	n/a	508	520	n/a
2006	501	526	509	513	524	510	503	518	497
2007	521	534	522	513	522	511	502	515	494
2008	520	542	526	514	525	513	502	515	494
2009	524	551	527	514	526	510	501	515	493
2010	518	544	523	512	526	509	501	516	492
2011	524	552	519	513	527	509	497	514	489
2012	518	543	523	506	523	500	496	514	488

Using all relevant data, the teachers, administrators, parents, students and communities are working together as effective partners. As a result, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District enjoys multiple opportunities to celebrate the excellent accomplishments of its students.

According to the high school Guidance Department, the graduates of the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2012 represented a group of academically accomplished students. Of this class, 94% were accepted to and planned to attend post-secondary institutions of higher education, with 63% enrolled in four-year colleges and 29% enrolled in two-year colleges.

Many of these students were admitted to highly competitive colleges and universities including: Bentley University, Boston University, Catholic University, Colby College, College of the Holy Cross, Connecticut College, Dartmouth College, DePaul University, Fairfield University, Fordham University, James Madison University, Northwestern University, St. Anselm College, Springfield College, Stonehill College, Syracuse University, Tufts University, Union College, US Air Force Academy, US Naval Academy, Vassar College, and Villanova University.

MILE TREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades PreK – 1)

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal

Mile Tree Elementary School is home to over 340 students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Grade. It is the Wilbraham children's first step in their educational experience in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

The mission of the Mile Tree Elementary School is to educate the children in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment by providing opportunities for social, emotional and cognitive growth while meeting the developmental needs of its early childhood community. Dedicated staff members collaborate to provide the highest quality early childhood educational experience for all Mile Tree students.

Mile Tree Elementary School provides rich, developmentally appropriate learning experiences in all physical, social and emotional, language, and intellectual areas.

Mile Tree's PTO supports the school in numerous ways. Proceeds from its fundraisers have been earmarked to update the school's technology materials, and the book fair profits are used to purchase leveled readers for the school library's special literacy corner. The PTO also sponsors many community-building and interactive assemblies, including special math and science nights, the Saturday pancake breakfast, the "Anything Goes" nights, family fun walks and monthly guesstimate contests to support the math program.

GREEN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades PreK – 4)

Deborah F. Thompson, Principal

Green Meadows School had an enrollment of approximately 270 students in grades preschool to grade 4. Our School Improvement Plan focused on two areas: 1) to improve the mathematical skills of all students using the Common Core State Standards; and 2) to provide a safe and effective learning environment that supports the diverse learning needs of all students. To meet

these goals, the faculty worked in grade level teams to review the new Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts. A Teacher Leadership team was formed with representatives from each grade level to lead this important study to determine what needed to be changed in our current curriculum to meet the rigorous goals of the new standards. To foster a safe and effective learning environment, teachers at Green Meadows participated in a year-long study group to develop a plan for introducing *Tiered Instruction* at selected grade levels. The goal of *Tiered Instruction* is to meet the individual learning needs of each child so that children needing additional assistance have access to extra help, and those needing enrichment have opportunities to expand their learning experiences. Members of the Related Arts Team (Art, Music, Science, and PE/Health) led a year-long school-wide study of Thornton W. Burgess. Students were read stories, learned about Thornton Burgess's early life and visited nearby Laughing Brook as a culminating activity.

Green Meadows also began the first year of the self-study for accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Teachers worked in teams to evaluate curriculum, instruction and assessment against standards provided by NEASC. The first part of the self-study, Learning Area Study, has been completed and the second phase of the self-study will be completed during the next school year.

The Hampden PTO, School Council and parent volunteers worked hard to support Green Meadows Elementary School through fundraising, daily support in the classrooms, and contributions to the development of our School Improvement Plan. The fundraising efforts of the PTO were used to purchase I-Pads for Green Meadows School so that each classroom teacher and specialist has an I-Pad to integrate into daily instruction. Web-based software programs such as Study Island, Reading Eggs and the universal screening tool, Aimsweb, were purchased to support curriculum and instruction. Our computers throughout the school were also upgraded so that on-line programs could be utilized within the classrooms, lab and library. The integration of this new technology has allowed teachers to differentiate instruction and better meet the unique learning needs of all our students.

STONY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades 2 – 3) **Sherrill Caruana, Principal**

Stony Hill Elementary School, built in 1957, refurbished in 1999, and reorganized in 2010, currently educated over 340 students in grades two and three. With seven second grade classrooms and eight third grade classrooms, Stony Hill makes each classroom a true "homeroom". All teachers have been trained in *Responsive Classroom* techniques and each day begins by celebrating the Stony Hill School community with Morning Meetings.

In education, change has one word: improvement. Our School Improvement Goals for the year were to deliver consistent, standards-based literacy and mathematical instruction that will improve student achievement. To achieve this, every day we aim to live by our school motto: "Share the brain, share the wealth, share the leadership". We all strive to do this in ways that promote teaching expertise, provide a positive educational climate and address the needs of the whole child: academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

As always, we are grateful for the efforts and support of our outstanding staff, active PTO and dedicated School Council. Without their involvement, all the many enriching, fun and memorable events that define us as Stony Hill Elementary School would not be possible.

SOULE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades 4 – 5)

Lisa Curtin, Principal

Soule Road Elementary School enrolled 320 students in grades four and five. Whether they are participating in academic classes, related arts or extracurricular activities, students are learning and demonstrating the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the world. Teachers have committed to building an even stronger school community through increased collaboration between teaching teams and grade levels. School-wide initiatives, such as the 25 Book Campaign, “Toys Come Alive” writing project and the 1,000 Acts of Kindness Campaign, encourage communication and help to establish a strong and supportive learning community. The entire Soule Road School staff works diligently to provide positive learning experiences while meeting the needs of the individual child.

To teach and foster positive social behavior, Soule Road Elementary School continued its commitment to *Responsive Classroom*. Teachers began each day with a Morning Meeting designed to teach and model positive social interactions and to help students learn how to solve school-related problems. In addition, character value lessons were introduced and studied school wide and culminated in an assembly to recognize individuals who were role models for each character value. As part of the program, specially selected books highlighting a particular character value were shared with all classes throughout the year. The School Adjustment Counselor facilitated the program by reading and discussing the books with each classroom, thus building a common experience and understanding that could be referenced during future lessons.

An active home-school connection is an essential component to a successful school community. From fundraising and volunteering in the classrooms, to promoting the implementation of our School Improvement Plan, the Soule Road School Council and PTO provided endless support to the students and staff. The PTO organized several fundraising events including the Scholastic book fair, Election Day bake sale and monthly dine-out nights. Fundraising proceeds help fund educational programs presented at school, as well as field trips to locations such as the Springfield Museums and the Sons and Daughters of Liberty tour in Boston. Soule Road School is very grateful for all the volunteers who gave their time and talent to enrich the lives of our students.

Through teacher meetings, professional development and curriculum planning, at both the school and district levels, teachers are reflecting on their practice and collaborating with one another to increase student learning. Teachers at Soule Road School not only work tirelessly within their classrooms, but also beyond the school day on initiatives such as the Instructional Leadership Team, the School Safety Team, and the Student/Teacher Assistance Team, which are all essential to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment. Our goal is to provide students with rich and rigorous educational experiences that will result in proficient readers, writers and mathematicians with the interpersonal skills to successfully navigate the 21st century.

THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5 – 8)

Noel Pixley, Principal

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School enrolled 292 students in grades 5 - 8. Acting as our blueprint, the School Improvement Plan focused on two strategic goals: 1) To improve instruction and student learning; and 2) Maintain an environment that is emotionally nurturing, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive.

Goal 1: To improve instruction and student learning:

In mathematics, teachers throughout the building consciously wove mathematical concepts in to their curriculum and provided targeted instruction to meet the specific needs of students who struggled in certain areas. Enrichment activities were provided to students who had mastered grade-level topics, including small-group instruction that focused on collaboration. As a result, MCAS scores in the previously under-performing area of Special Education showed meaningful growth this year.

In English Language Arts, teachers continued to work on improving instruction and performance across the curriculum and throughout the building. Students in all disciplines engaged in writing assignments, including reflections and open responses in mathematics. Longer writing projects were not only assigned by English teachers, but also in classes such as science, history and Spanish. Small-group instruction was utilized to provide focused instruction for students who struggled in specific areas. MCAS scores continued to show the same high level of performance as previous years.

To address the District's goal of providing students with 21st Century skills, Thornton W. Burgess Middle School implemented the following initiatives:

- Edline trainings presented by faculty members to help staff effectively use the service and all its functions
- Library added third computer lab
- SMART Personal Response system provided by the PTO
- Electronic progress reports replaced traditional paper ones
- Computer classes resumed through a scheduling change which allowed the computer teacher to share her time between Thornton Burgess and Wilbraham Middle School
- FARR Program has acquired several iPads for student use
- File locker capability added to Edline and students trained
- Students learned to touch type in 8th Grade Strategies
- Grammar and structure in Spanish class reviewed by creating videos and editing them using digital nonlinear editing software

Goal 2: Maintain an environment that is emotionally nurturing, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive:

Through the efforts of the building's staff and with the aid of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, Thornton W. Burgess Middle School provided an environment where students were increasingly comfortable and enthusiastic about coming to school every day. The school culture encourages students to take healthy risks and challenges them to work to their potential. A myriad of programs were available to address student needs, and the faculty was attentive in addressing issues that developed.

- School Adjustment Counselor hired to provide additional support for students with emotional needs
- Faculty trained in *Developmental Designs* to provide social education for students
- Assistant to the Principal hired to address student behavior and communicate with parents
- School Council survey for parents through SurveyMonkey to collect data to continue to improve school environment
- After-school programs, such as MATHCOUNTS, Student Council, strategy games club and after-school cooperative/competitive games continued to provide students with opportunities for guided social interaction
- School Resource Officer from Hampden Police Department helped students create positive relationships with community police
- Students provided opportunities to participate in variety of extra-curricular activities such as Student Council, morning music lessons/ensemble practice, faculty/student basketball game, and badminton competition

In addition, the FARR Program, created to address the needs of students with profound learning disabilities, has been a great success. Students throughout the school have volunteered to work with the students in the program. Additionally, FARR Program students have had opportunities to participate in a variety of regular-ed classes, particularly related arts classes such as music, physical education and art.

WILBRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 – 8)

Daniel D. Roy, Principal

Wilbraham Middle School served 605 students in grades six, seven and eight. The school had a very exciting year full of wonderful opportunities for students and has made great strides in our mission to meet the needs of our students academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

The school has a new student-created motto, "*Wilbraham Middle School...Teachers Teach, Students Learn, Everyone Grows,*" which has been a strong driving force for many of our educational programs this year. These include flexible grouping in 7th and 8th grade math classes, the introduction of benchmark assessments in English Language Arts and Math, and increased common assessments for all subjects.

All teachers at the Wilbraham Middle School have now been trained in *Developmental Designs*. This powerful program focuses on the social and emotional growth of adolescents and is a major attribute of the Wilbraham Middle School culture.

Our students enjoyed various enriching activities during the year: the 6th graders toured the Boston Museum of Science; the 7th graders went to Springfield College for a day of team building activities; the 8th graders visited Symphony hall to enjoy a drama production of some short stories they had been reading in class; and all students enjoyed the carnival themed Field Day.

Thanks to creative and successful fundraising efforts, the Wilbraham Middle School installed interactive whiteboards in the 8th grade Math and Science rooms, which enhance classroom instruction, encourage collaboration, and expand student learning.

Through positive collaboration between administration, teachers, students and their families, it was another enriching and successful year at the Wilbraham Middle School.

MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9 – 12)

Stephen M. Hale, Principal

From the Principal: Minnechaug Regional High School continues to excel in the academic, social, and physical education of its students. The faculty and administration remain firmly committed to the school's mission of "providing a safe and academically challenging environment that promotes the growth and well-being of all community members as we become active world citizens who demonstrate integrity, responsibility and respect." The major goals of the School Improvement Plan developed by the School Council are: 1) To integrate the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to increase student participation in rigorous reading, writing, and researching specific to each area of the curriculum; 2) To create a minimum of two common assessment tools in every course at Minnechaug, with at least one being a formative assessment designed to evaluate student learning progress and resulting in appropriate adjustments in instruction; and 3) To create rubrics to provide meaningful, formative feedback on instructional practice to teachers from parents and students, using the MRHS Student Learning Expectations (SLEs), Standard 3 "Community and Family Engagement" of the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System, and Standard 3, Instruction Indicators from the New England Association of Schools as the guide.

The following reports from the various departments highlight just some of the many commendable educational activities at the high school.

The **English Department** offers rigorous, skills-based curriculum for freshmen and sophomores and a variety of rigorous courses for juniors and seniors in preparation for college and career. Honors level English was added for sophomores and seniors. Our MCAS scores are exceptional, with a passing rate of 100%. The department continues to involve the school community in arts and culture and to engage in community service. Emeralds Literary Magazine 2011 won national awards including the "Silver" rating from Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA), and the 2012 magazine earned an "Excellent" rating from The National Council of Teachers of English by the Program that Recognizes Excellence in Literary Magazines (PRESLM). Our students continue to be honorably mentioned and awarded for writing on the local and national levels.

The **Fine Arts Department** offers seven classes in music performance, a music history class, and a music composition class utilizing the new Mac music lab in the new high school. Classes are offered in introductory art, ceramics, advanced drawing and AP Studio Art. The band and choirs presented assemblies to the entire school body, performed evening concerts, and played a central role in graduation ceremonies. The marching band presented a half-time show at a home football game and marched at the Big E. Twenty-four students were selected by audition to the Western Massachusetts MMEA Senior District Festival, and four were accepted to All-State. Seven band students were accepted to the Quabbin Valley Senior High Music Festival, and one was accepted to the National Honors Band. The band and choir groups continue to be highly visible in our communities performing at the Wilbraham Senior Center, Rotary Club, and Memorial Day ceremonies. The jazz band and madrigal singers both took part in the "First Night" activities kicking off Wilbraham's 250th Anniversary celebration. Art students were accepted to Art All-State and represented in the *Springfield Republican* newspaper's "Talented Teens in the Arts". Several art and music students successfully completed AP exams in Music Theory and Applied Art and many chose to major in art or music in college. The art faculty compiled multi-media presentations of student work and presented them at evening music concerts and during student assemblies. The music department invited adult singers from all community and church choirs to join the high school band and choirs in a performance of "America, The Beautiful" at their final concert in the original Minnechaug auditorium.

The **Foreign Language Department** continues to prepare students for the advancement of language learning at the college level, and an appreciation of other people, cultures, and the complicated world in which they live, by promoting language learning for job preparation or military service. In today's society, with an emphasis being placed on global learning, it is the department's goal to prepare our students with strong skills in a foreign language so they may study and/or work in a culturally diverse environment. Through language learning, students begin to reflect on the world and themselves through another language and culture. Most students complete at least two years of their chosen language and many continue to study the languages through the higher levels. In addition to the use of literature, film, and media through interesting activities and projects, we have added the use of technology to enrich the experience of the students within the language classroom. By utilizing the new language lab, students have fostered greater confidence in listening and speaking in the selected language. The foreign language students, staff, and entire student body continue to honor and celebrate National Foreign Language Week. The department enjoys participating in the FACES Homestay program, allowing 12-15 French high school students to join our student body for two exciting weeks. In the past, this program has been a very positive and rewarding cultural experience for all involved.

The **History and Social Sciences Department's** main goal is to assist students in developing critical thinking skills through research, analysis of primary and secondary sources, and evaluation of events from various points of view in historical context -- all of which are essential parts of the Common Core State Standards. The department's intent is to instill in students the importance of participating in civic literacy, while developing global awareness and effective communication and technology skills, which are vital in the 21st century. Teachers have increased the amount of technology used in their classrooms, thanks to the new computers on wheels and Wi-Fi. We registered 26 students in the Fall Voter Registration drive and held a

mock presidential election. Students were provided with first-hand accounts of various historical events and practices provided by guest speakers, including local veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam; a police officer; a former student who discussed the fields of psychology; and a psychology professor from a local college. Several classes participated in field trips, which enhanced the time period and materials studied. Destinations included: Springfield Armory, Massachusetts State House, Freedom Trail, Armenian Genocide Museum, JFK Museum, Osborn Correctional Institution, Hyde Park-FDR and Newport mansions. The department's clubs, Model Congress and Mock Law, were again successful at their yearly competitions. Members of the History Department participated in various pedagogical workshops, and attended classes at local universities, which led to new degrees for several members. The department also hosted two student teachers and added two new courses: American Studies and Global Terrorism and International Response.

Interscholastic Athletics: Throughout the year, Minnechaug's student-athletes competed and excelled in 29 athletic offerings. Our program continues to be one of the most competitive and comprehensive programs in the State. This year will approach the 1,300 mark for student participation over the three sports seasons! Our athletes continue to strive for excellence in the classroom and understand the importance of a well-rounded education. All sports teams continue to help those in need and participate in numerous community service projects over the course of the school year. As always, we appreciate all the fans and parents for their support of Falcon Athletics!

The **Mathematics Department** has been actively involved with curriculum revisions in order to align to the newly adopted Common Core State Standards. All math courses challenge students while aiding in the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills. The department has developed common assessments and pre- and post-evaluation tools, which will be used to gain valuable feedback allowing for revising curriculum outlines as necessary to best meet the needs of all students. Department members continue to use technology to present material and enrich classroom lessons. Ten of our mathematics classrooms have the newest TI-Nspire calculator technology, which allows students to interact with the teacher and receive essential feedback through use of the calculator. Eno boards, projectors and document cameras allow for the presentation of online materials and computer software programs, such as Mathematica, within the classroom and have become an integral part of everyday instruction. Four Advanced Placement BC Calculus students represented Minnechaug in the Annual WPI Invitational Mathematics Meet and placed in the top third of the competing schools. In our Advanced Placement Calculus and Statistics courses, 100% of all students who took the Advanced Placement exam earned a qualifying score of 3 out of 5 or higher, making them eligible to receive college credit. Our Mathletes team completed their season in seventh place out of 22 competing schools.

The **Physical Education/Health/Family and Consumer Sciences Department** continues to revisit and revise lessons, classroom activities and assessment strategies that incorporate Common Core learning standards and that will also meet the new Student Learning Expectations. The department maintains its strong working relationship with local colleges and universities by supervising undergraduate students during their practicum experience. The department

continues to offer valuable hands-on learning experiences for high school students enrolled in Child Study and Preschool Management.

The **Science Department** continues to revisit and revise lessons, classroom activities, and assessment strategies to reflect 21st century learning goals such as critical thinking, critical reading, and project-based learning; the four Student Learning Expectations as defined by the Minnechaug faculty; and the integration of the Common Core. Two new courses were added: Forensic Science, which is a multilevel upperclassman elective, and Global Science, a freshman offering. These courses were created with 21st century learning goals in mind, as well as the Common Core and Student Learning Expectations. The department continues to enhance school-to-home communication through the use of Edline and has been actively integrating introduction to the research process into all courses with the assistance of the school's Information Specialist.

Student Activities facilitates over 55 co-curricular student activity programs with 600 participants gaining experience in fundraising, community service, and academic competitions with state and national awards. MRHS students donated over \$15,000 to local and national charities, provided over 5,000 hours of community service, held numerous food and clothing drives, provided over 250 hours of tutoring, and gave over \$2,000 in scholarships. The department has experienced great success in the third year of the Peer Mentoring program for all freshman and transfer students, and the nationally-recognized Raising Student Voice and Participation (R.S.V.P) program, which provides our student body with the opportunity to create civic action plans to better our school, community, and world. The Student Council received the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Gold Council of Excellence Award for the second consecutive year, and for the third year in a row, a Minnechaug student served as President of the Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (WMASC).

The **Business, Computer Science and Technology Education Department** enjoyed another productive year. Students in the Electronics/Robotics class implemented the Lego Tetrix Robotics System that included programming software and assembly of Lego Robot. Student teams competed with one another with their finished products. An after-school program with the Robotics culminated in students attending First Robotics, a statewide competition. Students in the Business classes competed in the STCC Business Plan Competition and earned first and second place. The Business Department also received a \$20,000 commitment from Chamber of Commerce for new technology! Computer Science students competed in two programming competitions, earning first place at the WNEU High School Programming Competition and third place in the WPI High School Programming Competition. Students from the Technology, Business and Computer Departments traveled to Disney World to participate in the Youth Educational Series (YES) and its many different activities including: Careers, Life Management, Physical Science and Technology, and Arts and Humanity. Disney employees and cast members facilitated the program and students enjoyed seeing behind-the-scenes activities and the day-to-day workings of the famous resort.

The **Counseling Center**, formerly known as the Guidance Department, continues to offer a variety of programs to our students and their parents. Some of the community outreach services provided include welcome calls to the homes of all freshmen, College Financial Aid Night,

College Night for juniors and their parents, follow-up program for seniors and their parents, Orientation Program for eighth grade students and their parents, and reception for transfer students. A College Fair for juniors and seniors was held with representatives from 100 colleges participating. Many students take on line courses and many of our seniors take college courses through joint admission programs at select local colleges. The SAT Reasoning and Subject tests, ACT, PSAT, ASVAB and AP exams are all administered at Minnechaug. Our Internship Program for seniors has grown to over 100 students, many doing double internships. Our School-to-Career Specialist and Guidance Counselors cover topics in developmental guidance classes such as transition to high school, career readiness, and financial planning. All students use NAVIANCE to complete interest inventories and to research colleges and careers. The department also hosted a Credit for Life Fair where seniors learned about money management. Our five Guidance Counselors, two Adjustment Counselors and one Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Counselor meet individually with students to assist in developing course schedules, making career and college choices and dealing with personal issues. All Counselors are members of our Student/Teacher Assistance Team (S/TAT), which is a prevention and early intervention program.

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Mike Roy, Director

The Adult Community Education and Recreation Program, New Beginnings, provided diverse enrichment opportunities for all age groups in the community. Our new facility has sparked increased interest in many areas and we continued to offer new courses in the computer strand. These have proven to be popular as more and more people are being connected via more complex devices. The Yoga program continued to be a success and the new Watercolor class received tremendous support. As we continued to work through the construction and demolition phase at the high school, our summer programs were relocated to Spec Pond. As a result, we have formed a great working relationship with the Recreation Department to offer programming for our younger population over the summer months. As always, we strive to find new and exciting programs to offer our adult and young population and encourage suggestions.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND STUDENT SUPPORT

School Health Services

Teri Brand, RN, BSN, NCSN, Nurse Leader

The HWRSD school nurses support student learning, achievement, and well-being by providing comprehensive school health services to our students. School nurses promote health and safety, intervene with actual and potential health problems, provide case management services, administer first aid and emergency care, monitor students with complex health needs, verify immunization compliance, conduct communicable disease surveillance, perform mandated health screenings, and offer health counseling and education.

During the year there were 44,674 student health encounters for nursing services. Due to nursing interventions that assist students to remain in school, our calculated return-to-class rate was 94.9%. The nurses administered 18,494 doses of medication to students, including insulin,

asthma medication, psychotropics, anticonvulsants, antibiotics, analgesics, and other over-the-counter medications. School nurses performed 10,379 procedures for student assessment and treatment, such as blood glucose testing, carbohydrate/insulin calculation, auscultation of lungs, blood pressure measurements, and scoliosis brace care.

In collaboration with the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT), several wellness programs were made available to District employees including: employee health fair, incentivized health promotion programs, exercise and relaxation programs, incentives for completing health screenings, and access to smoking cessation support. A Weight Watchers-at-Work Program was held in the district with several participants in each session. The school nurses continue to administer flu vaccines to District employees.

As always, the school nurses are grateful to the members of the Wilbraham Women's Club who volunteered to assist with the vision and hearing screenings in the Preschool, Kindergarten and tenth grade students. Also appreciated is all the help from parents who assist in administering the fluoride mouth rinse program selected grades at Mile Tree, Stony Hill, and Green Meadows.

In addition to their school nursing responsibilities, several of the school nurses and school nurse substitutes are active members of the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC unit is part of a local collaborative effort that is prepared to assist with small and large-scale public health events and emergencies.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students

Gina Kahn, Director - Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program

The District's commitment to providing pathways to success for all learners includes strategically seeking and utilizing grant-funded resources. Several initiatives were advanced through both new and continuing State and Federal grant programs totaling over one million dollars. These highly competitive awards have allowed the District to implement innovative, research-based and data-informed programs and services that recognize the interconnections between safety, wellness, social-emotional development and academic achievement.

Of particular note, the District's Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant program continued to gain momentum. In its third year of implementation, the positive impact of this federally funded project is visible throughout the school and community environments. The first element focuses on school safety. With the help of our police and fire department partners, we have refined safety audits and emergency response procedures and improved our radio communication systems. In the element of substance abuse and violence prevention, our School Resource Officers and counselors have worked with our health teachers to implement the Lifeskills Curriculum in grades 3-9. The student support emphasis of the grant has allowed us to reinforce positive behavior through *Responsive Classroom* and *Developmental Designs* strategies, and has expanded the availability of after-school programs at the middle and high schools. The mental health and early childhood components of the project have developed a referral network of community-based counseling services and have supported the efforts of the Community Partnership for Children.

The project has also launched resources that solidify the connection between social-emotional wellness and academic achievement. In October, the District became one of only 60 districts to receive a federal Elementary Counseling grant. The District will receive \$366,733 each year for the next three years to hire school psychologists and implement tiered interventions for academic and social/emotional success. This new grant builds upon the Safe Schools/Healthy Students infrastructure with its emphasis on promoting resilience, respect and coping skills for all students. It will also increase our school and community-based mental health referral capacity, including suicide and self-injury prevention and critical incident response resources, and will expand parent education opportunities. With our Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative as a cornerstone in the District's goal of safety and well-being for all students, these enhanced programs are visible in all components of our educational mission.

Student Services

Debra L. Tobias, Ed.D., Director

Student Services is responsible for the coordination of all special education services for the District. Our commitment is to provide a full range of interventions for students who demonstrate challenges in learning. In addition to special education teachers and educational inclusion paraprofessionals, Student Services employs school psychologists, speech/language pathologists, school adjustment counselors, physical therapists, occupational therapists and several consultants specializing in various areas of educational programming.

Initial interventions for our students begin with general education teachers who are able to provide a continuum of instructional accommodations to assist students with diverse learning styles. Each school has its own Student/Teacher Assistance Team (S/TAT) comprised of building professionals dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of the learning process for each student. In the event that the interventions do not result in the anticipated improvements for the student, the S/TAT will make a referral for a special education evaluation to determine if there is an educational disability undermining the student's ability to make effective educational progress. As needed, specialized instruction, support services, and/or specific therapies may be recommended and provided to the student in the least restrictive environment determined.

As a District, we continue to develop and support special education programs in all our schools to meet the unique needs of our learners. School psychologists are now building based and in addition to their scheduled evaluations, they are available to provide daily consultation and support services, including academic and social/emotional interventions that they have researched or learned through various trainings and professional workshops.

In addition, our school adjustment counselors continue to provide counseling services to our students, as well as suggestions and guidance to our families in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Through May 2012

Scott R. Chapman, Chairman

William Bickley, Jr.

As of May 2012

D. John McCarthy, Chairman

Lena Buteau

Marianne Desmond
D. John McCarthy
Lisa Morace
Peter T. Salerno
Gilles Turcotte

Marianne Desmond
Marc Ducey
Michelle Emirzian
Lisa Morace
Peter T. Salerno

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the School Councils and to thank them for volunteering their personal time to pursue a commitment to the education of young people. We would also like the community to recognize the services rendered by these parents and citizens:

Mile Tree Elementary School	Rebecca Lewis
Rosemary Brosnan, Principal	Virginia McKeon
Patricia Colkos	Eric Panasci
Marcia Jackson	Damion Pisacane
Wendy Labbe	Warren Schoonover
Pamela Pearson	Amy Shank
Toni Wall	Lori Trask
Green Meadows Elementary School	Wilbraham Middle School
Deborah Thompson, Principal	Daniel Roy, Principal
Amy Bostian	Karen Anti
Ellen Collins	Beth Cebula
Heather Jolicoeur	Sinel Franco
Duane Mosier	Dan Handzel
Dawn Marie Sheldon	Liane Kendall
Emily Shimansky	Louise Moore
Soule Road Elementary School	Kelly O'Malley
Lisa Curtin, Principal	Chrissy Plumb
Cathy Mahoney	Lisa Simon
Marguerite Myers-Killeen	Georgina Trebbe
Ellen Schmutte	Minnechaug Regional High School
Anne Sleboda	Stephen Hale, Principal
Stony Hill Elementary School	Kurt Anderson
Sherrill Caruana, Principal	Cathy Belleville
Mary Beth Laliberte	Jamie Card
Lisa Gasteyer	John Derosia
Michele Mistalski	Griffin Doyle
Kathy Palermo	Robyn Dunn
Chrissy Plumb	Katie Farrell
Meghan Saunders	Nancy Hunt
Esta Sobey	Melanie LaFlamme
Thornton W. Burgess Middle School	Tommy Mehlich

Noel Pixley, Principal	Bill Metzger
Karen Burzduk	David Robinson
Lynn Byrnes	Georgianne Small
Mary Beth Lanoie	Nicky Smith
	Kate VanDolson
	Lisa Vartanian

RETIREMENTS DURING THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Carole J. Alderman	Minnechaug Regional High School
Diane C. Baron	Green Meadows Elementary School
Donna A. Berrouard	Minnechaug Regional High School
Judy A. Carr	Soule Road Elementary School
Phyllis C. Ervin	Minnechaug Regional High School
Diane M. Fontaine	Stony Hill Elementary
Judith A. Ingerson	Central Office
Susan H. Long	Wilbraham Middle School
Virginia M. McKeon	Mile Tree Elementary School
Ellen J. Muse	Minnechaug Regional High School
Christine L. Niederpruem	Wilbraham Middle School
Joanne W. Rostowski	Stony Hill Elementary School
Diane K. Scott	Green Meadows Elementary School
Judith Bowerman Slezak	Minnechaug Regional High School
Andrea S. Tarczyński	Minnechaug Regional High School

FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Grade	2007-2008			2008-2009			2009-2010			2010-2011			2011-2012		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	42	139	181	49	179	228	50	156	206	44	144	188	37	152	189
1	72	147	219	46	141	187	50	179	229	47	154	201	41	147	188
2	68	181	249	71	158	229	53	152	205	49	180	229	46	159	205
3	63	195	258	72	186	258	74	159	233	51	150	201	50	180	230
4	72	188	260	63	199	262	76	193	269	70	157	227	51	156	207
5	72	200	272	69	194	263	67	200	267	73	202	275	75	160	235
6	61	213	274	69	199	268	70	195	265	66	193	259	72	207	279
7	71	208	279	65	215	280	70	210	280	69	187	256	66	192	258
8	75	216	291	70	220	290	65	215	280	68	205	273	66	187	253
9	73	236	309	77	245	322	71	236	307	67	233	300	75	216	291
10	72	206	278	65	220	285	76	225	301	64	219	283	69	225	294
11	62	195	257	67	204	271	67	217	284	76	216	292	66	216	282
12	87	227	314	61	191	252	67	198	265	60	212	272	75	211	286
Other			73			74			65			60			49
TOTAL	890	2551	3514	844	2551	3469	856	2535	3456	804	2452	3316	789	2408	3246

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Central Office

M. Martin O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools
Beth L. Regulbuto, SBO, MCPPO Assistant Superintendent for Business
Timothy W. Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Debra L. Tobias, Ed.D., Director of Student Services
621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-3884
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Green Meadows Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 4)

Deborah Thompson, Principal
38 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-3263
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Mile Tree Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 1)

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal
625 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-6921
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 –12)

Stephen Hale, Principal
621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9011
School Hours: 7:35 a.m. to 2:05 p.m.

Soule Road Elementary School (Grades 4 – 5)

Lisa Curtin, Principal
300 Soule Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9311
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Stony Hill School (Grades 2 – 3)

Sherrill Caruana, Principal
675 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 599-1950
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School (Grades 5 – 8)

Noel Pixley, Principal
85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-8950
School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wilbraham Middle School (Grades 6 – 8)

Daniel Roy, Principal
466 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9061
School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HWRSD Center for Health and Safety

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School

85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 - (413) 566-5060

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In 2012, using Hampden's annual apportionment of Ch.90 funds from the State, one road construction project was completed. Wilbraham Road was reconstructed from the Town Line to Raymond Drive. This 1.3-mile section had all drainage structures adjusted and repaired. Then the road surface had an average of 2-inches of pavement milled off. The surface was cleaned and a tack coat of asphalt was applied prior to paving the new surface. Finally, all driveways were adjusted and aprons paved as needed. The millings that were generated from this project were used to resurface gravel sections of both Rock-a-Dundee and Hollow Roads. This will eliminate the need for annual grading and make the roads much easier to plow and maintain in the winter months. The project had a total cost of approximately \$260,000.

With budgeted funds the remaining 900-feet of Mountain Road were shimmed and leveled, completing last year's project, and a large section of the Highway Department parking lot was rebuilt. Normal maintenance projects consisted of several collapsed catch basins being repaired, patching of potholes, streets were swept, roadsides were mowed, some catch basins were cleaned and stop lines and crosswalks were repainted. Maintenance and repairs were made to all of the department's equipment as needed.

Much of the Highway Department's work in 2012 was still related to the unusual storm of October 2011. There were only six other winter storms last season, which was the least on record. This was fortunate for us, as it allowed work to continue all winter trimming and removing trees throughout the town.

The members of the Highway Department are often are required to work long hours both day and night clearing the roads and making them safe for traffic. I would like to thank the department members; Robert Richards, John Ouellette, Lauren Comstock and Matthew Frederick, along with all the supplemental workers that are used on a regular basis for their service, support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hampden Housing Authority meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Community Building at 26 Springmeadow Lane. Meetings are posted with the Town Clerk and are open to the public.

The Housing Authority Board consists of five members. Four are elected, and one is appointed by the Governor. The four elected members of the Board are as follows: George Stone, Patricia Clark, Lucretia Hembdt and Kathleen Flynn. We currently do not have a Governors appointee. The Hampden Housing Authority employs four staff members. Executive Director is Christine Evans; Maintenance Manager, Jim McQuillan, Maintenance Assistant, John Piechota and Administrative Assistant, Lisa DiFranco.

It is the mission and responsibility of the Hampden Housing Authority under Mass. General Law to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing at an affordable rent. Rentals are based on 30% of net income as determined by HUD guidelines. Maximum contract rents are adjusted by HUD annually and are currently set as follows: 1 bedroom-\$591; 2 bedrooms-\$674. All eligibility and occupancy standards are in keeping with the established guidelines and regulations set forth by HUD and the Department of Housing & Community Development. All procedures and records of the Hampden Housing Authority are subject to review by the Office of the State Auditor.

We again extend our sincerest thanks to the Town of Hampden's Highway, Police and Fire Departments for their continued cooperative efforts to ensure the safety of the residents of Centennial Commons.

Applications for our housing program are available at the Hampden Housing Authority office at Centennial Commons OR by calling 566-8157. Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00A-3:00P and Thursday mornings from 8:00A-12:00N. We are closed Mondays and Fridays.

Respectfully,

Christine Evans,
Executive Director/Secretary to the Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

THE HAMPDEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2012, The Hampden Public Library

“THE ONLY THING THAT YOU
ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO KNOW, IS
THE LOCATION OF THE LIBRARY.”

— ALBERT EINSTEIN

continued its ongoing commitment to excellence by providing traditional library services as well as a host of programming options for patrons of every age. As the economic climate continued to falter, it was clear that the Library is still very valuable and relevant to the children, adults and families of the Hampden community. Along with the dedicated support from the Library Trustees, Friends of the Hampden Public Library, the residents of Hampden and the State of Massachusetts, the staff has spent the year working passionately to pursue our mission:

Providing materials and services to satisfy the informational, entertainment and educational needs of our patrons and larger library community. This spirit of collaboration has been critical to our success throughout the year. Thank you to the many volunteers that contributed to the library in many ways throughout the year. They have given generously of their time, talent and resources. Gratitude is also extended to our many town residents who have been supportive throughout the year, not only with their steady usage, but also with their tax dollars and generous contributions to the Friends' fund raising efforts. Our library would not be able to operate without them!



FISCAL YEAR 2012 CIRCULATION STATISTICS

Total Circulation for FY 2012	23,982
Interlibrary Loan Circulation:	
▪ Received from other libraries	2,963
▪ Provided to other libraries	4,916
Registered Borrowers	2,422



Programs and Resources for Everyone

This past year saw the library offering many new programs and some old favorites as well! For our adult patrons, the library hosted several sessions of the Adult Knitting Club, Book Clubs, Meet the Author Series - hosting six different inspiring author visits, Summer Reading challenges and a celebration party, Beginner's Guitar Workshop and a Child Service Resource Fair. The Library also provided e-reader support, as the demand for digital books has continued to grow! Our library also is home to an ever changing art gallery, with original artwork provided by local artists from the Hampden Art Guild. Always looking to provide the latest information about our newest materials and news from the publishing world, the Library continued to provide two services to our patrons. *The BookPage* - a monthly newspaper connecting patrons to great book reviews and author interviews is available free of charge to our patrons. Also, we offer an automatic email update called *Wowbrary*- which enable our patrons to receive messages as soon as our new materials are catalogued and ready for circulation!

For our youngest patrons, the Library hosts an Infant & Toddler Time program, a Preschool Lunch Bunch Story Time and monthly seasonally themed literature programs. Additionally, we continue to welcome our middle school students to our Homework Club three days per week. We've enjoyed providing a quiet study area, homework assistance and opportunities for the students to meet for group project work and report research. Seasonally, the Library hosted a variety of special child and youth friendly events such as the ever-popular Summer Reading Program, Red Cross Babysitting Certification Course, RAD Self Defense Course for young women, Key Club and National Honor Society Volunteer projects, Grandparents Day Celebration, Winter Holiday Extravaganza, visiting with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Polar Express Fun, Preschool Story Walks and a Toddler Play and Grow Activity Group. It certainly has been an enlivening year for our youth!



Looking Ahead

In an effort to keep our libraries on the cutting edge of technology and service, libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts upgraded their circulation software this year. This migration to a more staff and patron friendly user format took place in the first quarter of the year, with its

reporting and circulation. Despite the continued uncertainty of many things in our communities today, the Hampden Free Public Library will continue to operate as an essential resource for our residents. While providing information, entertainment and support for all patrons, the Library serves as an important cornerstone institution for the cultural and educational needs in the town. Next year, we plan to continue focusing on

FISCAL YEAR 2012 OPERATING BUDGET

Total Operating Budget	\$108,868.00
Revolving Fund	- \$1,000.00
Trust and Endowments	- \$1,000.00
MEG (Mass Equalization Grant)	- \$3,000.00
Appropriated Budget	<u>\$103,868.00</u>
Additional Appropriation at Town Meeting	\$0.00
Total Final Appropriated Budget	<u>\$103,868.00</u>

official launch occurring over the Memorial Day holiday. Behind the scenes, our library staff worked diligently preparing patron and collection material records, readying them for the transfer of information to our new system. Our efforts paid off, as our patrons saw little disruption in their library services and the new Evergreen software continues to provide opportunities for resource sharing,

our mission to provide the community with

excellent services and relevant collections.

We are looking forward to growing our patron usage and sharing all that your public library has to offer!

*Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the
Hampden Free Public Library:*

Beth Burger, Kathy Hutchison, Chair and
Kirsten Lipkens

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Although the Parks & Recreation Commission was granted funding to commence the three part restoration project at Memorial Park, further approval was required by the Army Corps of Engineers. Unfortunately this delayed the project commencement until 2013. We are on target to have this major project completed in the upcoming year.

The commission bid farewell to their Vice - Chairman, Robert White, as he decided not to seek re-election. We would like to thank Bob for his years of service. Marty McQuade was re-elected for another term, and the commissioners welcomed newly elected member Rich Joseph. Jay Ray was re-appointed as the Chairman, and Fred Frangie was appointed as Vice-Chairman. Kathy Korabowski returned as the gym attendant for the winter basketball season.

The commission was able to purchase professional landscaping equipment to improve and maintain the ball fields.

The goal of Parks and Recreation is to offer a wide array of age and skill appropriate programs that will develop sportsmanship and skills in a positive, nurturing atmosphere. We thank our coaches and individual sports coordinators for the support and time they give to the youth of our town. Because of them, hundreds of Hampden children participated in our baseball, basketball, soccer and softball programs this year.

Our five week summer recreation program at Memorial Park opened again this season with extended hours. Almost 150 children attended, and many youth from town worked as counselors-in-training and counselors at the park, under the guidance of returning program director Sara Gay.

Although there have been a variety of challenges and costs, the spray park has continued to provide the town with a recreation area that has proven to be extremely popular.

We could not sponsor the programs we do without the Recreation Association of Hampden. RAH's committed volunteers raise needed funds that are integral to the growth and stability of youth sports in Hampden, and we are thankful for their involvement.

If you'd like to get involved, please join us at our meetings; we welcome anyone with an interest in our youth sports programs and encourage your volunteerism.

In closing, we are pleased with where we've been in 2012 and look ahead to an even more successful 2013.

Respectfully submitted:

Jay Ray, Chairman, Fred Frangie, Vice Chairman, Michael Cronin, Marty McQuade

Rich Joseph, Cindi Connors, Clerk

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and consists of five active members as follows: Donald Collins, Chair, Thomas Argenio, Richard Ayers, Carol Fitzgerald and William Gouzounis, Secretary. The primary function of the Personnel Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen on proper personnel practices within the Town. During the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 the Personnel Committee met at four publically posted meetings, February 13, 2012; May 21, 2012; June 18, 2012 and December 3, 2012, respectively. Additionally, Committee members participated in direct presentations with the Board of Selectmen to report on activities and receive direction on two occasions, January 23, 2012 and July 2, 2012, respectively.

The committee's principal activities during the period consisted of:

- Reviewed employee salary rates for Fiscal Year 2013 and provided recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee for final approval.
- Completed a comprehensive review of the Policy and Employment Guidelines Handbook and submitted it to the Board of Selectmen for final approval prior to publication.
- Reviewed and made a recommendation on the salary rate for two positions as submitted by the Board of Assessors.

At the request of the Selectmen, the Personnel Committee activities for Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Finalize and issue the updated Policy and Employment Guidelines Handbook and provide for distribution to Town Managers and employees.
- Review the current employee salary rates as they relate to Fiscal Year 2014 and develop a timely recommendation for the review by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Collins, Chairman
Thomas Argenio
Richard Ayers
Carol Fitzgerald
William Gouzounis

PLANNING BOARD - 2012

There were no new subdivision plans submitted to the Planning Board in 2012. The Board continued administering one active subdivision approved in 2004, Scantic Meadows.

The Board continues to adjust their meeting schedule to align with the demands of the town. As the demand goes up, the Board will adjust the schedule appropriately to meet the needs.

The Planning Board worked with other boards in town to digitize zoning maps and have that data linked into the town purchased GIS system. The Planning Board was trained, and the system should be active in the spring of 2013.

The Ridgeline and Hillside committee continues to be administered admirably by John Matthews. The PVPC representative is Judge Robert Howarth, and the CPA representative is Charlie Dolben.

As always there are opportunities for interested citizens to get involved in Board-related activities and sub-committees. Community input is always welcomed and encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelius Flynn, Chair
John Matthews, Vice Chair
Judge Robert Howarth
Joseph Dolben
James Quackenbush
Deb House, Associate Member

Joanne Fiore, Clerk



REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2012 ended on a thankful note that we had a much quieter year than 2011! Our calls for service have stabilized after steadily increasing over the past 3 years. We have fully implemented our new emergency medical dispatch system for the town. This system will help us to better evaluate calls for medical service and provide callers with appropriate assistance prior to ambulance and officers' arrival to the emergency. The system that we are using, Priority Dispatch, is an industry leader in medical dispatch software.

I am also happy to report that I have worked with the Hampden County Sheriff's department to be one of the very few departments in our area to have an AFIS, automated fingerprint identification system. The system typically costs approximately \$26,000 however the Sheriff's department obtained a new system and I was able to purchase their existing system for \$500. This system will now allow us to electronically obtain and submit required fingerprint data to the State and F.B.I.

We saw veteran Officer Brett Purchas leave the department for another venture and thank him for his service to the community. Reserve Officer Michael Meany was hired full time to replace Officer Purchas. Officer Meany is attending the full time academy now and will assume his patrol duties in early July.

We continue to work toward a new police station. A spatial analysis was completed and our current facility was reviewed by Kastel Boos architects. The current station in the town hall is extremely undersized for our needs and expansion is not possible in the town hall. Our options are being reviewed for a new facility and information hopefully will be available for the town to review in the early spring.

I would like to remind residents to sign up for our emergency notification system, Connect-CTY, you may sign up at WWW.Hampdenpolice.com. You can enroll you home phone and/or cell phone to receive emergency notifications from the town. Also anyone with an alarm system please contact the police department or download an alarm form on our website to keep your information current, this allows us to more efficiently contact you should we respond to an alarm at your home.

In closing I would like to thank all the men and women of the Police Department for their continued dedicated service to our residents. Also a special thanks to the Hampden Volunteer Fire Department and the Hampden Highway Department for their continued support this past year.

Jeff W Farnsworth
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE RIDGELINE AND HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

The Ridgeline & Hillside Committee is a subcommittee of the Planning Board. Its function is to act in an advisory role, perform site reviews for the applicant, and make recommendations to the Planning Board and Building Department. The Ridgeline & Hillside District includes steep slopes averaging 15% or greater for 200 feet, and any land at an elevation of 600 feet or more above sea level. Please see Section 6 of the Town of Hampden Zoning Bylaws for more details. The Zoning Bylaws can be found on the Town website at www.hampden.org.

If you have questions as to the applicability of the bylaw to your property, please see the Ridgeline and Hillside District overlay map located in the hallway of the lower level of the Town Hall or in the Building Department office. If your project falls within the Ridgeline & Hillside District, you must file an application for review of the project. The application can also be found on the Town's website.

Respectfully submitted,

John Matthews, Chairman

SCANTIC VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

During 2012, the Scantic Valley Water District (SVWD) pumped 417,620 gallons of water from two wells on Massachusetts Audubon Society property, off Main Street in Hampden. There are nine (9) active water services in the SVWD, providing drinking water to eight homes and one Laughing Brook property. The SVWD is a registered community based Public Water System (PWS) in the Commonwealth and is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Water Supply.

The 2012 DEP water sampling schedule for the SVWD was accomplished with twelve Coliform, one Nitrate, one Synthetic Organic Compounds and one Volatile Organic Compounds samples taken at various locations in the distribution system. All water quality sampling results for 2012 indicate excellent water quality, meeting or exceeding standards set by the DEP. Documents filed with the DEP by this PWS for 2012, included the Annual Statistical Report, Consumer Confidence Report and master water meter flow test report.

The following items occurred at the pump house: the four cylinder For motor that powers the standby generator had a new engine block heater installed by Kinsley Power, Inc. (the original one lasted twelve years) and the oil and filter changed. Once a month the 3,000 gallon underground pneumatic water tank was flushed and the master water meter read. The nine residential water service meters were read twice; once in June and then again in December.

Respectfully submitted,

George Bouchard

Edward Hatch

Richard Jalbert

TAX COLLECTOR

Every year I like to remind taxpayers that several exemptions are available to resident homeowners who may qualify for a reduction in their real estate tax. If you are over the age of 70 and you have limited income and assets, or you've been deemed legally blind, or you're a Veteran, check the exemption criteria used by the Assessors. If you qualify, these exemptions can certainly help to ease your tax burden. Additionally, in 2010 the Town approved the senior tax work-off program for resident real estate tax payers over 60. Participants are given the opportunity to reduce their tax obligation in exchange for work they do for the Town.

Join the growing number of taxpayers who visit "hampden.org" and click on "taxes" in the upper right hand corner of the screen to take advantage of our Unipay Gold on-line bill payment service. Unipay offers a secure website that gives taxpayers the opportunity to pay your taxes at your convenience and from the comforts of home.

The tax rate for fiscal year 2013 was set at \$17.45 per thousand dollars of assessed value, representing an increase of just \$.58 over fiscal year 2012's tax rate of \$16.87, which was significantly lower than last year's increase. The one recurring reason for higher taxes is, like individual residents, the Town faces the ever increasing costs involved in meeting our daily expenses.

Calendar year tax collections for 2012:

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax:	631,299.47
Personal Property Tax:	251,623.77
Real Estate Tax:	9,293,806.95
CPA:	57,686.63
Interest:	39,868.64
Fees:	18,181.05
Total	10,292,496.51