



# Lincoln Akerman School Newsletter

Judith A. Deshaies, Principal

## Deliberative Session and Voting Coming Up Soon!

Decisions about the budget and operation of the Hampton Falls School District and Lincoln Akerman School will be made by the voters of Hampton Falls in the next few weeks. The **Deliberative Session**, where the warrants to be moved forward to the voters are finalized, will be held on **Thursday, February 4, at 7 pm** in the LAS gym.

Among the issues under consideration are the operating budget for the school, funding for the professional staff collective bargaining agreement, and upgrades to the facility to meet Life Safety Code requirements. At the deliberative session, voting will be conducted on the

wording and dollar amounts of the warrant articles to be put forth to the voters in the **ballot voting** scheduled for **March 9, 2010**.

There are very few changes proposed in the operating budget this year. The special education tuition account for out of district placements is down, the request for textbooks is up, and two support staff positions which were budgeted as full time benefitted positions last year have been reduced in hours and benefits for the next budget. Increases in health insurance premiums, retirement stipends for staff members who have announced their

retirements effective June 2010, and other contracted increases are included in the proposal. There are no raises proposed for non-union staff for the 2010-2011 school year. This includes administrators, office personnel, custodians, and kitchen staff. Teachers and assistants have collective bargaining agreements which govern salary and benefits as approved by the voters.

All community residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to participate in these important decisions. Again: LAS Gym 7 p.m. February 4th and Tuesday, March 9 to decide the funding for our school district for 2010-2011.

## School Board Positions Open

There are two positions on the Hampton Falls School Board open for election this year. They are both three year terms. Information on the positions is available from James Gaylord, Superintendent of Schools (926-8992). Information on the process of filing a candidacy for any of these positions is available from the Town Clerk's office.



## Winter Weather

With the cold, icy, and snowy weather we are experiencing, it is important for children to come to school dressed for the temperature. We have lowered the thermostats in the school to save energy, and we also want children to be able to play outside during recess periods. Playing in the snow requires jackets, hats, gloves, boots and snow-pants. If you need financial assistance in outfitting your child, please call me in confidence. We have funds available.

## Vacation Planning

We continue to be **very** concerned about students' absences due to family vacations while school is in session. Please make it a priority for your child to be in school every day, except in the case of illness or family emergency. The learning in our school is very active. The learning experiences in the classroom cannot be replicated.

Family vacations are wonderful, but please schedule them outside school time.



# Eighth Grade Transition Activities

Winnacunnet High School has many transition activities scheduled for incoming ninth graders. Among these are a parent orientation night, on January 20th at WHS. Parents of present eighth graders are invited to attend this session. High School staff and administrators will share important information regarding the transition process from elementary/middle school to Winnacunnet High School. In the works are dates for eighth graders to visit the high school for orientation tours, and opportunities for high school counselors to come to each sending school (of which Lincoln Akerman is one), to meet with students and staff about course selection and other preliminary decisions affecting the ninth grade year.

We have long enjoyed a good working relationship with Winnacun-

net, and welcome this year's even stronger program to ease the way for our departing eighth graders to the world of high school. We certainly encourage students and parents to take advantage of the opportunities to learn more about the offerings at the high school, to enable good decisions to be made as your child moves off to high school.



Historically, students from Lincoln Akerman School have done very well at WHS, as their learning experiences here have served them well in the high school environment. Our eighth grade teachers and guidance counselors collaborate with high school counterparts to set the stage for a very positive transition to the larger world of WHS.

If you have any questions please call Leslie Dolleman at WHS (Director of Guidance) or Michele Corti here at LAS. Although it may seem like graduation for your eighth grader is a long way off, experience tells us it will be here in the blink of an eye. We hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to get more information about the many choices available for students as they move on to high school.

We will be sending home more information about activities surrounding the end of year activities for eighth graders as the various activities draw near. Watch for announcements about the class trip and graduation events in the coming months.

## Destination Imagination Takes Off Again!

LAS has eight teams working toward the Destination ImagiNation regional competition scheduled for March. A "Rising Stars" team, made up of early elementary grade children has begun work on their solution to a challenge problem. Seven other teams of upper elementary and middle level students have chosen their challenges and are hard at work. Their creative solutions will be presented

during regional competition in March. They will be joined by other students from the region who have been working on their own solutions to the same problems. Children write their own scripts, design and make costumes and scenery, and are responsible for every aspect of their demonstration. Eight is a record number of teams for our school. In the past we have had teams advance to global competition

at the University of Tennessee. This is a great exercise in teamwork and creativity for our students. Good luck to our DI teams!



## Schoolwide Activity Period for Grades 1-8

During third quarter, student in grades one through eight will engage in community service activities in mixed grade groups. Some of the activities include Writing to Soldiers, Invisible Children of Uganda, completing Mr. Sanborn's walking trail at LAS, preparing a concert for an area nursing home, working for the SPCA in Stratham, creating journals and books for underprivileged children, learning about bees and their importance to the economic activities of Hampton Falls, working on the LAS yearbook, and publicizing the activities of the various groups through web design and press releases. The activities start January 22nd,, and will be carried out for forty-five minutes every Friday afternoon through April. Ask your child what he or she has chosen as a community service project.