

SAU # 7

# Superintendent Report December 2021

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## Welcome to Winter!

Our landscapes become sculpted with snow and ice in winter! What a beautiful sight!

I would like to provide you with an overview of the process we use to determine if school delays, early releases, or closures are required due to inclement weather. We have provided this information on our website: [School Cancellation Procedure](#).

## Welcome, New Director of Technology!

We are pleased to announce that Shane Cloutier has been appointed by the SAU 7 School Board as Director of Technology for SAU 7. Shane comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in google applications, programming, web development, cybersecurity, and software training and implementation. He served in SAU 58 as Technology Director for five years. Shane was appointed by the SAU 7 School Board and began his new role on November 29 following Justin

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Falconer who resigned in October. We appreciate Chris Paquette's continuing service and dedication as IT Coordinator.

## **SAU 7 BOARD UPDATE**

Our SAU 7 School Board will hold its next meeting on December 8th at 6:00 pm in Stewartstown School. The SAU Board approved the proposed SAU 7 budget on November 10. The Budget will be presented for final approval on December 8 at the SAU 7 meeting at Stewartstown Community Office. The meeting will feature the public hearing and vote on the SAU 7 Budget for 21-22. Other agenda items include board policy updates and Business Administrator transition. Mr. Cloutier and our SAU 7 Administrators will attend the Board meeting on December 8th.

Our SAU 7 Strategic Plan was presented to the Board in November and Dr. Taylor has been sharing the updated plan with school staff and community members. She continues her monthly virtual office hours, visits schools and classrooms weekly, and is supporting our new administrators. Schools and SAU 7 are also contributing information to local media to keep our community informed about school activities.

## **BUDGET SEASON**

This month, we are preparing school budgets for presentation to the school boards. Meetings are underway with principals and we are considering how our ESSER III funds will support our schools in the coming year as well. We have just received our Adequacy Aid estimates for 22-23. We have received preliminary notice of the health premium increase, not to exceed 8.2%. We will provide timelines for budget development, public hearings, and town meetings to each school board meeting in December.

## **COVID - 19 UPDATE**

SAU #7 is organizing an in-school vaccine clinic for Friday, December 10th. Based on the number of enrollees, vaccinations would be provided at each individual school. Parents were notified last week. Only students with signed permission may receive the vaccines. Staff is welcome to sign up for COVID-19 initial or booster vaccination, as well as Influenza vaccines. Vaccines will be given by each school nurse during the school day. Thanks to Mrs. Devon Phillips and our medical partners at UCVH for coordinating this effort.

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## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### Colebrook Academy and Elementary School

Colebrook School Board has appointed a Building Expansion Committee to address the shortage of classroom space due to increasing enrollment and the 2019 closure of Colebrook Academy. The committee has held two meetings and includes 25 members including school board members of Colebrook and Columbia, parents, community members, administrators, teachers, and support staff. An RFP for architectural design has been disseminated. Bids are due on December 17.

In response to the growing need for more career and technical education programs for our students in our schools, the Colebrook School Board asked the Superintendent to request permission from Commissioner Edelblut for Colebrook to become a designated CTE center for Northern New Hampshire. The intent is to provide programs that complement those in the Canaan Career Center. Our student enrollment at the Canaan Center has been low over the past several years. The School Board and SAU 7 Strategic Plan identify vocational and technical education as a priority. This designation would provide us with the opportunity to upgrade our existing curriculum in small engines, welding, woodworking, and consider other needed areas such as culinary, hospitality, and extended learning opportunities with local businesses. Our goal is to provide industry certificates and more dual enrollment opportunities to our graduates and to assign our existing high school staff to these positions on a part-time basis.



Colebrook extends A BIG thank you to students, families, and staff! ✨744✨ That's the number of food items donated to the Student Council Thanksgiving Food Drive which filled the 30 boxes for families, and the rest of the food went to the food pantry.

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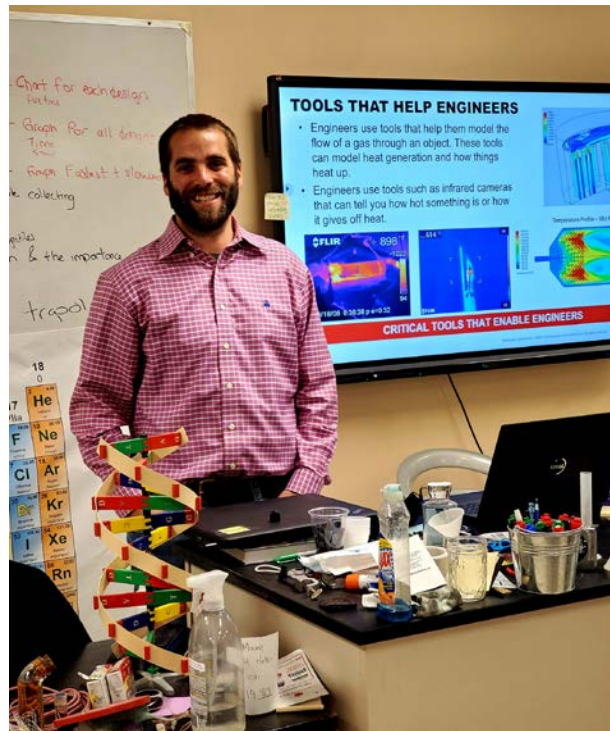
The Colebrook School Holiday Concert will be held on December 16 with the elementary students performing at 6:00 pm and the high school students performing at 7:00 pm. This event is free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required.

Colebrook Juniors and Seniors in Mrs. Griffin's Marketing class just finished a business plan unit and did a "Shark Tank" pitch to present their businesses. They negotiated offers, invested in each other's companies, and demonstrated knowledge of business concepts. Melody Oakes & Liam Shaw created Mad Beans Coffee Co.

Ariana Lord created Coos Dessert Express.

Matt Crawford created Odd Jobs Matt

Forrest Harrington, a 2002 CA graduate works for Honeywell Aerospace in Massachusetts. He was home for Thanksgiving and visited students to talk about engineering as a career and the role of technology based on the work he does-- Mechanical Engineering working with alternative energy and hydrogen fuel cells. He shared with students that he works in a very tech-heavy job and has a strong background in applied chemistry, physics, math, and a solid understanding of all the engineering disciplines and how they are applied across a broad spectrum of industries. The students really enjoyed his visit.



Colebrook Basketball season is underway. This year, Northeast Sports Network has announced that they will be covering ALL Colebrook Academy and Elementary School Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball HOME Games this upcoming season. Fans will be invited to the games, provided that they mask and practice social distancing. Athletes are not required to wear masks this year in NH while playing. Go Team!

## Pittsburg School

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We welcome Mrs. Debbie Lynch as incoming Principal of Pittsburg School. Mrs. Lynch retired from Canaan last year where she successfully served as principal for thirteen years. She was appointed by the Pittsburg School Board following Elaine Sherry's resignation and began in her new role on November 15. Mrs. Lynch brings vital knowledge and experience to the role. She is looking forward to a smooth transition and to getting to know our Pittsburg School students, staff, and parents.



Students in Pittsburg School's Healthy Living Class are having Cupcake Wars: They made cupcakes, but with the challenge of incorporating a vegetable! World Foods students worked on braiding and basket weaving pie crusts! How enjoyable and creative!

Our Pittsburg students are very thankful this year. When asked what they are thankful for this was their response: family, friends, food, stuffy, everything, momma, everybody, school, mom, love, and my Grams! Happy Thanksgiving!



Basketball season has begun and our Pittsburg/Canaan Team will hold all home games at Pittsburg School this year. Fans will be invited to the games, provided that they mask and practice social distancing. Athletes are not required to wear masks this year in NH while playing. Go Team!

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## Stewartstown Community School

Stewartstown Community School afterschool program has been up and running with 20 students some days. Students work on homework and do a daily craft and other activities. It has been a great success.

During November, we had a presentation in each classroom from the Christa McAuliffe Science Center. The presenter visited each classroom where she led students in a hands-on science activity. Grades 6&7 worked with magnets, grades 4&5 worked with light, Kindergarten worked with magnifying glasses, Grades 2&3 investigated habitats, to name a few. Each class had a wonderful experience.



Students from Stewartstown, Pittsburg, and Colebrook will participate in six weeks of snowshoeing and skiing at Burke Mountain beginning in January. All are looking forward to it!

Mrs. Hemon's Kindergarten class had some fun with Candy Math. The kindergarten class had two identical bags of candy. Their job was to figure out a way to find out if the bags really had the same amount of each kind in them. They created two teams, then worked as a team to make a plan of how to solve the problem. After sharing ideas of ways this could be accomplished, they broke into groups and got right to work. This picture shows them sorting and counting each type to compare the groups. They discovered that both bags had more than advertised, and all but one kind had the same amount in each bag. They had a taste test of one of each of the minis, then voted on their favorites. Twix won unanimously. (Our introduction to voting for next week's election day.)



Our 8th grade Stewartstown students are planning a holiday spirit week before winter break! There will be schoolwide caroling, hot cocoa, themes, and more!

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## Superintendent Update



Holidays in December are my most favorite and I am inspired by the season.

We can reflect with tenderness for the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future.

Be well and take good care.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra Taylor, Ph.D.  
Superintendent