

## January “Did you know?”

### Hartland High School

Did you know that some students at Hartland High School are learning advanced levels of American Sign Language? HHS now offers the first two levels of American Sign Language and many students plan to continue next year when we will offer American Sign Language III.

### LEGACY

Legacy HS and HVA (Hartland Virtual Academy) graduated 10 “super-seniors” at the close of first semester. Congratulations to those students for staying in school and finishing strong! In addition, Legacy and HVA have enrolled 17 new students for the second semester of the 2013-14 school year.

### Hartland Middle School

Did you know that eighth grade history teachers Rob Lauzon and Christine Rutkowski are piloting in-depth formative assessment work at HMS? They participated in three days of training last summer as well as monthly training days throughout the school year. Rob and Christine have “deconstructed” their standards into specific learning targets and are providing students with daily feedback on what they can do and where they can do better. Students are more actively involved in their own learning, more willing to try again to improve learning, and less driven by grades. Teachers and students are more focused on specific learning targets. Results have been extremely positive and encouraging, so Rob and Christine have begun sharing their work with the HMS faculty.

### Farms Intermediate School

Farms students read over 8,000 books September through December of this year! This averages to approximately 9.5 books per student. Great job, Farms students! Keep up the good work!

Farms staff members also participated in a school-wide book club. As a staff, we read, **Making Your Teaching Stick**, which focused on strategies when teaching Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop. Each staff member read the book and, with administration, met for one hour to discuss how the reading and writing strategies could be implemented in the classroom. As a result of the book club, teachers and administrators will focus on talking points from the discussions to continue to drive professional development, training, and solid teaching practices.

### Creekside Elementary School

Did you know that we have a gifted and talented extension program called Creekside Crusaders? This parent/teacher directed program provides challenging activities for our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade gifted and talented students once a month. Activities include lessons on forensic science, communication, mining, math challenges, microbiology and more. We appreciate the support we get for this program from our parents, teachers and community. They provide support by organizing, teaching and providing the needed teaching materials. Our students enthusiastically look forward to Creekside Crusaders every month!

### Lakes Elementary School

Did you know that every morning, we start our day at Lakes Elementary with a short piece of classical music played over the PA system (a different piece by a different composer is chosen each week), and our “Words of Wisdom” read by Mrs. Smither? These short messages share stories and suggestions to help our students and staff reflect on building great character by focusing on such things as respect, responsibility, patience, work ethic, self-esteem, etc. On Mondays, we read the “Lakes Kids Care Promise” as a whole building that focuses on how we all Share the Care at Lakes by being kind and respectful and making good choices each day. Our morning music and positive messages take only 3-4 minutes, and are an excellent way to set the tone for the day in our school. Each message ends with: “With something to think about, this is Mrs. Smither. Make it a great day... the choice is yours”.

### Round Elementary School

Did you know that Round Elementary's PTO does an incredible job supporting staff and students through the holiday season? They created a student support system called "Email Angels" to help get winter clothes for students with financial hardships who need them. The PTO also sponsors a Cookie Walk for our staff as a holiday gift and runs the Santa Shop to provide a special shopping day for our students. The PTO is a valued member of the Round School culture and we thank them for all their hard work and dedication to our building during the holiday season.

### Village Elementary School

Through the support of our media specialist, Erin Dennis, and in cooperation with our second grade team, we are able to offer keyboarding to all second grade students. We plan to follow this year's second grade and expand keyboarding throughout our school for 2014-2015.