

**Paul C. Gagliarducci, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

The 2004-2005 school year ended on a high note with many accomplishments and achievements. Each school year opens with great expectations and I am always amazed, but humbly honored, to watch each year's events unfold.

Change continues to be the dominant theme throughout the District. This year we witnessed the retirement of several long-term employees, including Minnechaug Principal Jack Logan. Mr. Logan devoted his entire career to making Minnechaug one of the most outstanding high schools in the State. The accomplishments listed in the high school's report on academics, athletics and the arts reflect just how effective Mr. Logan's leadership has been.

We continue to improve and change many programs throughout all grade levels. As you read the reports from the elementary schools, for instance, you will clearly see that we are focused on continuous improvement.

Technology remains a focus for our District. During the 2004-2005 school year our energies were geared toward assessing both strengths and weaknesses. Our goal was to develop an organizational structure that would support our staff as they integrated technology with daily instruction. Recommendations were made at the end of the year and once implemented will provide long awaited improvements. The School Committee supported these efforts and earmarked funds to replace many outdated computers and make improvements to the infrastructure.

Finally, under the direction of the School Committee, the District made many improvements in the area of building security. With the help of a Federal grant secured by Mrs. Gina Kahn, Risk Prevention Services Coordinator, and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Donna Scanlon, we reviewed procedures and plans needed to protect our students on a daily basis. We also able installed many security devices at all schools which eliminated gaps in our facility security plans. The emphasis on this issue has received much attention and positive comments from parents and school staff.

As the 2004-2005 school year came to a close, we also began to see signs that the State's fiscal problems were beginning to improve. Slight increases in State aid provided some relief to the communities. There is hope that the 2005-2006 school year will continue a return to fiscal stability. In the title Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, the term "expectation" refers to a potential legacy. The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District certainly has a proud past and as we look to the future we certainly have the potential for great expectations.

## **Curriculum**

### **Donna M. Scanlon, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development**

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has a rich and rigorous core curriculum, as evidenced by students' excellent accomplishments. The curriculum renewal process is ongoing and ensures continuity and consistency in grades PreK-12. The allocation of grant and local funds has allowed the District to establish equity in access to high quality curriculum materials and resources in every classroom. All teachers use these assets to design powerful, standards-based learning opportunities that actively engage students in the learning process. The narrative below highlights current elementary and middle school programs in technology integration, reading, mathematics, and science.

Strengthening the integration of technology into instruction to improve learning is a high priority. The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee approved a plan to improve staffing, infrastructure, equipment, reliability, and professional development so that all students have suitable access to technology. Research tells us that technology makes learning more interactive, enjoyable, and customizable, and this improves students' attitudes toward the subject and their interest in learning. Our goal is to ensure that students maximize their learning while developing the technology competencies needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Through sound planning, incremental investment, and creative allocation of staffing, information centers are becoming the hub of every school with grades 2 and higher. Each school's information center is considered a "dynamic agent of learning." These centers feature a library with a collection of both fiction and non-fiction, a research section with traditional print media and a bank of computers for Internet searches, a computer lab with at least twenty five computers and publishing media tools for the development of presentations or productions. The level of technology integration and professional development across the curriculum has intensified with full-time information specialists and paraprofessionals to support assimilation efforts.

Our current elementary reading program incorporates National Reading Panel recommendations for curriculum, instruction, and assessment which address the five components of literacy learning: vocabulary/oral language comprehension, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and reading comprehension. The core program, based upon the Houghton-Mifflin *Invitations to Literacy* (1997) balanced literacy series, is supplemented by classroom libraries and a steadily increasing number of leveled books for guided reading at the primary grades. *Accelerated Reader* is also available to encourage children to focus attention on careful reading of books, which improves students' critical-thinking skills and builds an intrinsic love of reading. Finally, to complete the Language Arts program, Collins Writing is consistently used in grades PreK-8 to support writing to learn across the curriculum.

Given the National Reading Panel recommendations, there is a need to find the right

tools and use them with the right children. HWRSD supplemental regular education, Title 1, and/or Special Education reading interventions for students who are experiencing difficulty include: *Reading Recovery* and small literacy groups for first graders who are performing at the lowest 20% of their class, *Soar to Success* and *Story Grammar Marker* for students in grades 3-6 who need support in developing habits of mind for improving comprehension, and *Phonographix*, for students who need explicit phonics instruction.

The HWRSD mathematics curriculum is designed to develop understanding of mathematics concepts through student-centered activities while developing skills through meaningful practice. Rich, rigorous, in-depth units of study are balanced by direct instruction, selected textbook activities, and varied opportunities to review and practice skills. *Investigations* and *Mathematics* published by Addison-Wesley Scott-Foresman are used as the primary resources at the elementary level, while *Connected Mathematics* is the primary resource for students in grades 6-8.

Though the general curriculum is designed to invite inquiry by diverse learners, there is often a need to provide extra support or challenge to meet student needs. The District has adopted *Accelerated Math*, a technology based resource to address this problem.

#### *Accelerated Math*

- Supplements the core curriculum;
- Meets NCLB definition for scientifically based research;
- Is a vehicle for individualized instruction;
- Generates unlimited practice assignments tailored to each student;
- Gives immediate, individualized feedback;
- Lets teachers and students know that all objectives are being mastered;
- Automatically scores all assignments and tasks;
- Helps students practice the skills needed to move ahead at their own pace.

*Accelerated Math* incorporates an assessment instrument called STAR Math. It is a helpful resource for Title 1 support programs, Academic Support Services, Special Education, after school and summer programs, and enrichment, but is also used within the regular classroom.

The STAR Math assessment component provides norm-referenced achievement information, a good complement to the criterion referenced MCAS information.

The elementary science program is designed to help students develop scientific reasoning as they investigate and solve complex real-world problems using the tools they need. Standards-based science units are studied in the classroom and are enriched through a weekly science lab with a specialist.

### **HWRSD Academic Performance**

**Donna M. Scanlon, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent  
of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development**

Since its inception in 1998, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) has increasingly become a major source of information with regard to student achievement, curriculum evaluation, and diagnosis of individual student strengths and weaknesses.

The chart below displays a summary of MCAS performance data for 2002 - 2005.

Grade/Subject Tested	Percent of Students Scoring <i>Advanced/Proficient</i>				Percent of Students Scoring <i>Warning/Failing</i>			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Grade 3 Reading	85%	87%	77%	80%	2%	0%	3%	2%
Grade 4 English Lang. Arts	71%	64%	75%	62%	4%	3%	2%	4%
Grade 4 Mathematics	50%	56%	58%	50%	10%	5%	5%	7%
Grade 5 Science/Engineering	N/A	70%	76%	72%	N/A	4%	3%	4%
Grade 6 Mathematics	60%	65%	59%	61%	8%	9%	9%	8%
Grade 7 English Lang. Arts	77%	77%	83%	77%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Grade 8 Mathematics	39%	56%	54%	65%	18%	13%	14%	11%
Grade 8 Science/Engineering	N/A	62%	51%	59%	N/A	10%	14%	6%
Grade 10 English Lang. Arts	77%	77%	75%	86%	4%	2%	2%	2%
Grade 10 Mathematics	66%	65%	70%	78%	10%	7%	3%	3%

Members of the graduating class of Minnechaug are required to pass both the grade 10 English Language Arts and the grade 10 Mathematics MCAS tests as one condition for receiving a high school diploma. Starting with the graduating class of 2010 students must pass a Biology test in order to satisfy State regulations.

The District is proud to announce that for the last two years, 90 or more students were eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Students qualified for this award by scoring in the Advanced category in English Language Arts or Mathematics and Advanced or Proficient in the other subject area on the grade 10 MCAS. If they accepted the award, students received a tuition waiver to State colleges and universities for four years.

It is important to note that the percentage of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who scored at the Failing level in English Language Arts has decreased from 23% to 2% since spring of 2000, and the percentage of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who scored at the Failing level in Mathematics has decreased from 36% to 3% since spring of 2000. These improvements are attributed to ongoing refinements of programs and the relentless pursuit of excellence throughout all levels of our educational system.

The State's testing system has been evolving continuously for the last eight years. By 2006, the MCAS program will test all 3-8 grade children in reading and mathematics each year. This change is required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Other subjects will continue to be tested in the targeted grades.

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. The table below provides longitudinal SAT results for students graduating from Minnechaug Regional High School:

MRHS	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Verbal Mean	531	534	512	517	506	519	518	529	529	531
Math Mean	535	536	519	523	515	527	530	517	550	550

Consistent with other achievement tests, these MRHS results are above the State and National average. In 2005 the State Verbal Mean was 520 and the Math Mean was 527. The National Verbal Mean was 508 and the Math Verbal Mean was 520.

In order for students to be appropriately prepared for high stakes tests as well as for multiple career and educational options in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is essential that teachers, administrators, parents, community, and students work together knowledgeably over the long term. Fortunately, the necessary partnerships in the District are vigorous and effective, with a shared commitment to continuous improvement at all levels.

**MRHS Class of 2005**  
**Carolyn Lewis, MRHS Guidance Director**

The Class of 2005 granted degrees to 307 graduates of which 93% were accepted and attended college. Many of those students were admitted to highly competitive colleges and universities including Barnard College, Boston University, Bucknell University, Carnegie Mellon University, Colby College, Cornell University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Mount Holyoke College, New York University, Purdue University, Tufts University, US Military Academy at WestPoint, Villanova University, and Wake Forest University. Seven students received National Merit Letters of Commendation. The program of studies at Minnechaug prepares students to make the transition to and meet the demands of college-level academic work or further study.

**Green Meadows Elementary School**  
**Deborah Thompson, Principal**

Last year was an exciting one for Green Meadows Elementary School! We began the year entering into the last phase of the building project. After a very hectic summer of construction and a delayed opening, we had the joy of seeing this wonderful new building completed. Teachers settled into their new classrooms and the Library/Media

Center was opened. State-of-the-art computers were installed in each classroom and the new lab. The computer lab houses 24 student computers, teaching station, SmartBoard and projection unit. This technology allows teachers to access new and stimulating ways to present material to students. In addition to the stationary lab, Green Meadows also has a mobile laptop lab that can be moved into different classrooms with its wireless Internet connections that teachers and students can utilize for online research activities. All of this new technology helps students learn the skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

On May 25, 2005 Green Meadows School celebrated the completion of the building project with a rededication ceremony. Many honored guests such as State Representative Brian Lees, Hampden Selectmen, Building Committee members, OMR Architects, School Committee members, Dr. Gagliarducci, and Dr. Scanlon attended. Students, faculty and staff publicly thanked the community of Hampden for their generous support of the building project. The most special part of the event was the rededication of the various memorials at Green Meadows School. The families of Helen Enslin, Green Meadows School's first Principal; Richard Moriarty, Building Committee Chair; Charlotte Miller; Todd Rumpalik; and the Ross family were invited for the rededication of the memorials in honor of their loved ones. Each person was remembered for his/her contribution to Green Meadows Elementary School and the family was presented with a special plaque. It was a very touching moment when our new Information Center was named in honor of Richard Moriarty who donated years of his time supporting Green Meadows School and was instrumental in getting the building project approved.

Green Meadows could not accomplish all that it does without the tireless help and dedication of the many volunteers. The PTO, VIPs and parents who donate hours working in classrooms, running special programs and chairing fundraising activities are all greatly appreciated. In addition, the exemplary teaching staff at Green Meadows provides an excellent education for the youngsters of our community. Teachers also incorporate the essential value of community service in their lesson plans. This year students participated in several community service activities that provided toys for the needy, food for the hungry, and generous donations for hurricane victims. We are proud of the fine values of our school community.

**Memorial Elementary School  
Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal**

Having completed my first year as Principal at Memorial Elementary School, I am very proud to be the leader of this special learning family. I have spent a great deal of time during the past year working with and getting to know the students, families and staff.

In April, Memorial School was fortunate to have a totally upgraded technology lab installed in our building, which includes a Smart Board. Staff and students have been receiving training with this new equipment, and all students are utilizing the lab at least

once a week. In addition to this, every classroom is now equipped with a television/computer link so technology is part of daily instruction and enhances our curriculum.

Last spring we submitted a grant to the Wilbraham Hampden Academic Trust (w.h.a.t.) Foundation to implement a project entitled “Wild over Wilbraham” (W.O.W.). The purpose of the project was to expose the students to the history of Wilbraham with various historical data being studied at different grade levels. The generous grant financed our artist-in-residence, Rona Leventhal, who worked with us in the study of our community. Our fifth and sixth graders were taught interviewing skills which they practiced by interviewing many prominent people in town. They used their data to create stories, skits, and tableaus which were shared with the community during a W.O.W. celebration.

Our annual school wide community service project was collecting non-perishable food items for the Community Survival Center, and we proudly presented our donation of 790 pounds of food!

The goals in our School Improvement Plan include continuing to implement writing across the curriculum, improving our math scores on MCAS tests, improving/increasing the use of technology and creating a stronger sense of community within our school environment. Our ultimate goal each and every day at Memorial Elementary School is to make our school a great place for our children to grow and learn.

### **Mile Tree Elementary School**

**Lynne Kimball, Principal** (through summer 2005)

**Rosemary Brosnan, Principal** (beginning fall 2005)

Mile Tree Elementary School is home to 370 students in grades PreK – Grade One. It is Wilbraham children’s first step in their educational experience in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

Mile Tree School’s mission is *all children can and will learn well*. Dedicated staff members collaborate to provide the highest quality early childhood educational experience for all Mile Tree students.

This past year Mile Tree Elementary School earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals. NAEYC created its accreditation program in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education and to help families identify high-quality early childhood programs.

To earn NAEYC’s accreditation, the Mile Tree School staff conducted a self-study to determine how well the school was meeting the standards. In May, the school’s program was observed by a professional validator and reviewed by a national panel.

In July administrators were notified that Mile Tree Elementary School had achieved NAEYC accreditation for providing a high quality program for young children and their families. This accreditation is valid through May 31, 2010.

Mile Tree Elementary School is proud of its rich, developmentally appropriate learning experiences in all physical, social, emotional, language, aesthetic and intellectual areas.

To support the educational program Mile Tree School's PTO sponsors many interactive assemblies, math and science nights, "Anything Goes" nights, roller skating parties, holiday craft activities, Life Care Center visits, monthly guesstimate contests to reinforce the Investigations Math program, Saturday pancake breakfasts, family fun walks, and field trips at all grade levels.

### **Soule Road Elementary School**

**Rosemary Brosnan, Principal** (through summer 2005)

**Stephen Hale, Principal** (beginning fall 2005)

Soule Road Elementary School serves 337 students in grades two through six. Dedicated staff members collaborate to provide the highest quality educational experience for all Soule Road Elementary School students and families.

The mission of the Soule Road Elementary School community is to provide the best possible education available to its students. With this in mind, the Soule Road School Council developed the School Improvement Plan. The plan's goals ensure that our education environment is a place where all students thrive and achieve to the best of their abilities. The following goals are being implemented: Improve the ability of all students to write well and increase the education capacity to meet the individual needs of all student learners.

The programs and activities from the writing and differentiated instruction goals provide numerous opportunities to enhance student performance in all areas. As they develop their diverse potentials, students will be encouraged to become capable problem solvers, able to cope with and adapt to the ever-changing world about them.

At Soule Road Elementary School, it was a very exciting year for our students. Some of the highlights from the past year included: In January, 27 students were nominated by their classmates for the "Peaceful and Kind Student Awards" because they personified the qualities of courage and non-violence echoed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The third annual *Souleto Festival*, sponsored by the PTO, was held in May and highlighted students' artwork, photography, poetry, short stories, drama selections, instrumental and dance performances. The Technology Committee sponsored their third annual raffle, and proceeds enabled the committee to purchase computers, printers, Accelerated Math scanners, computer supplies and software programs for the classrooms and computer lab.

The year was also the year of grants at Soule Road Elementary School. A \$1,600 Wilbraham-Hampden Academic Trust (w.h.a.t.) grant brought the Bamidele Drummers & Dancers for a two-week residency. These musicians worked with our teachers and students, and then held a lively performance for the whole community. We also received a grant from Pratt & Whitney's "Power of One" program which provided \$4,000 to purchase a Smart Board and computer to enhance our technology integration program. With other funding received from our PTO and the w.h.a.t. organization, a physicist was invited to do a residency at Soule Road. Mr. Jeff Reardon worked with our Science program performing interesting physics experiments with our students.

In summary, it was a very successful year for the Soule Road Elementary School community in which local support, grant funding, and the help of our PTO helped to create lifelong educational experiences for our students.

### **Stony Hill Elementary School Rebecca S. DeSmith, Principal**

Stony Hill Elementary School is energetically moving ahead with its school improvement goals and continues to join with the District's major initiative to increase writing skills across the curriculum. Instruction in the area of topic development continues to improve as teachers implement techniques shared at faculty meetings and from professional readings. Goals in writing are aligned with Massachusetts Department of Education curriculum standards for English Language Arts.

Writing is tied closely with our building goal of advancing our knowledge and use of technology. Stony Hill formed its first technology committee which organized a technology raffle modeled after the success at Soule Road School. The monies generated supplement the district's technology expenditures. Using the Collins Writing Program standards, technology focus correction areas are in place at each grade level, and children are learning specific computer skills and programs appropriate for the grade. The Smart Board is popular with staff and students as they enthusiastically embrace this form of technology for writing classes and in content areas. Our laptop lab, housed in our library, is up and running. We are working diligently to align our building technology instruction to district, state and national standards because using technology in educating students is not an option in today's world. Our challenge is keeping up and moving forward at a rate which makes our students competitive.

In addition to our efforts in writing and technology, Stony Hill continues several successful programs, including the popular Country Bank savings program for students in which they are learning valuable life skills. Our sixth Senior Citizen Breakfast was held in December and our sixth graders showed their leadership and service skill by interacting with, entertaining and serving breakfast to senior members of our community. We were delighted to partner again with eighth grade students from Wilbraham Middle School in a math mentoring program where older students work individually with students in grades four and six to prepare for math MCAS exams. Our Stony Hill Enrichment Program serviced nearly 100 students with programs in drawing,

writing, physical education, scrapbooking, computer use and more. Stony Hill is an exciting place for learning. Teachers, paraprofessionals and students alike are engaging in meaningful learning activities. Our PTO and School Council support and help to guide our efforts, and we are grateful for their generous participation.

**Thornton W. Burgess Middle School**  
**Noel Pixley, Principal**

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School's Improvement Plan focused on four strategic goals. Improving academic growth in the area of language arts continued to be a major focus. Teachers continued to implement the Collins Writing Program, which is "developing writing and thinking skills across the curriculum." In other words, this technique requires students to "think on paper." Teachers in all grades received training and materials necessary to put the writing program in to practice. Data collected from the fall and spring writing prompts was used to strengthen our writing curriculum and to show students where improvement was needed in their writing samples.

In addition, the school improvement goals also addressed the need to promote a safe and healthy school climate for staff and students. Under this goal, the School Council completed phase three of the beautification project for the exterior of the building. The stone wall structures in front of the main entrance were downsized and capped, and a beautiful new sign welcomes people as they enter the school premises. A "Core Value" program was developed to foster respectful behavior among members of the school community, and students worked closely with the faculty in "Mix it up at Lunch", "Kindness Counts", "Advisor/Advisee" and other programs.

In preparation to move the fourth grade back to Green Meadows Elementary School for the 05-06 school year, the staff reviewed middle school philosophy and created a student schedule to promote middle level education. A plan was devised to reorganize classroom locations to better reflect the middle school model and a transition plan was developed accordingly.

Teachers continued to immerse themselves in a variety of professional development opportunities, specifically focusing on learning more about technology and how to integrate it into the classroom and work environments. Preparing students for the MCAS and addressing their increasing challenges in each grade level was a focus for all staff. Teachers and administrators continued to be actively involved in various grade level study groups, curriculum review, curriculum mapping and various other professional development activities.

As in the past, the administration and faculty would like to recognize the parents, PTO, and VIPS for their continued support. Through their remarkable and continued sustenance, the school is able to offer meaningful field trips and in-school programs. Volunteers in these groups helped in countless ways throughout the school year.

**Wilbraham Middle School**  
**Barbara L. Lukis – Principal**

Wilbraham Middle School continues to benefit from a committed staff, dedicated PTO, and caring community who all support the academic, social and emotional needs of our student population.

Constantly striving to improve and expand upon our curriculum needs, we were fortunate to add a 7<sup>th</sup> grade component to our successful MCAS math program. With all staff trained in the Collins Writing Program, we are now implementing Writing Across the Curriculum to include all content and specials areas.

In reaching out to access community resources, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students benefited from a “scientist in residence” program in affiliation with the University of Massachusetts and organized by Ms. Maureen Lessard.

With the support of a w.h.a.t. grant and our generous PTO, Ms. Cindy Zielenski piloted the Turning Point Technology remote cards with a Smart Board program. This technology allows students to play a more interactive role in their education and assists teachers in creating interactive PowerPoint Presentations, such as “Science Jeopardy.” This interactive learning increases student attentiveness and comprehension.

Ms. Zielenski and Mr. Josh Farber, our Information Specialist, are working together to bring United Streaming Technology, an educational “video on demand” program, throughout the building. Advances in technology have also impacted the social studies program with the availability of the ABC Clio web reference and curriculum resources, which are also supported by the Media Center staff.

All this new technology helps students become more adept at working in a complex and ever-changing global society, which is an important part of the Wilbraham Middle School mission statement.

As we continue to see the blending of curriculum and technology, our staff is excited about the possibilities for new programs in the future. Everyone at Wilbraham Middle School continues to strive for academic excellence in all content areas.

**Minnechaug Regional High School**

**John K. Logan, Jr., Principal** (through summer 2005)

**M. Martin O’Shea, Principal** (beginning fall 2005)

**From Principal M. Martin O’Shea:** 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 “striving to prepare students to be responsible, creative, and productive world citizens who can live and work in a global society.” The major goals of this year’s School Improvement Plan,

developed by the School Council, are to increase the effectiveness of reporting student progress to parents to better enable them to support student achievement; to continue our efforts to incorporate our mission and our stated “expectations for student learning” into every classroom; and to improve the writing of our students. The following reports from the various departments highlight just some of the commendable educational activities offered at the high school.

**Science Department** teachers are adjusting the existing science curricula to align with the most recent Massachusetts Science and Technology /Engineering High School Standards. The scope and sequence of freshman and sophomore Science classes have been modified to ensure all Minnechaug students are prepared to meet the new requirement beginning with the 2010 graduates that all high school students pass the MCAS Biology test. In the inaugural semester of Nutrition and You, students had the opportunity to work with the educational piece of the federally mandated Nutrition and Wellness Policy. AP Physics graduated its first seniors, with thirty percent scoring a perfect five on the AP exam. The Environmental Club attended the Mass Envirothon competition and finished in eighth place among forty teams and the Science Olympiad team finished first in Western Mass and eighth in the State among forty competing teams.

The **Family and Consumer Sciences Department** continues to integrate academic and applied knowledge from math, science, social studies and the arts into its courses. Students from the Principles of Baking classes showcased their talents and knowledge with baking demonstrations on the Wilbraham Cable Access channel, and the Culinary Arts classes practiced their catering skills by providing a retirement feast for Mr. Logan. The Minnechaug Preschool participated in a district wide arts initiative with local preschools entitled "What's Outside My Window", which culminated in an exhibit at the Scantic Valley Y.M.C.A. Seniors in the Child Study and Preschool Management III class continue to create portfolios showcasing their work. Various guest speakers visited classes to discuss the school-to-work learning transition, as well as career options and educational requirements in various fields of interest.

The **Mathematics Department** remains active with curriculum revisions throughout the year. Curriculum coordinators, whose function is to facilitate regular curriculum discussions, are assigned to each course. Currently level 1 Algebra 1 teachers are involved in developing a mapping and ancillary materials for the new textbook. As lab space allowed, more intermediate classes used the computer portion of the Carnegie Cognitive Tutor, which seems to lead to increased MCAS results. A new mobile lap top/NEC projector/printer unit was added to the department's technology, which allows more teachers to incorporate the Geometer Sketchpad and other valuable software in to their lessons.

The **Physical Education/Health Department** continued to provide knowledgeable speakers in health-related areas such as alcohol, substance abuse, smokeless tobacco, nutrition, human sexuality, and sportsmanship. Two of our physical educators earned

certification in Project Adventure and then helped their students develop leadership skills in this adventure-based programming. Each month eight physical education students are selected students of the month because they exemplify a positive attitude, fairness, respect, effort, and sportsmanship. The department members are all certified in CPR, automated defibrillators, first aid and life guard training.

The **History and Social Science Department** was active throughout the year with its display case, guest speakers, and implementation of the new U.S. History curriculum. Teachers and students participated in programs dealing with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, the Mt. Vernon/George Washington Seminar Lectures, the Women's Professional Development Conference, the Iraq War, Media Fest, the Phi Alpha Theta State Historical Conference, Model U.N., Model Congress, and Mock Law.

**Interscholastic Athletics:** Throughout the year, Minnechaug's student-athletes competed and excelled in 30 athletic offerings. Eight Western Massachusetts Championships and a State Championship in Boys' Lacrosse were testaments to this very competitive and diverse athletic program. Academic excellence continued to accompany athletic success. Virtually every team, at every level, received the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's Academic Excellence Award, recognizing the teams' grade point average. Sportsmanship and a winning tradition were at the core of Minnechaug's comprehensive, well-respected, and successful program.

The **English Department** offers skills-based courses for freshman and sophomore year and a broad range of courses for juniors and seniors, including AP English, Shakespeare plays, Blues and Literature and American Literature. Our MCAS scores are exceptional with a passing rate of over 98%. Two students were finalists for the Nancy Thorp Poetry contest, and five students won awards from the prestigious Scholastic Writing Awards, which has 50,000 entries with 3,000 chosen for national competition.

**Student Activities:** Our 47 student activity groups enjoyed another successful year with the following programs winning championships or taking individual honors: As Schools Match Wits, Chess Team, FBLA, Computer Team, Model Congress, Model UN, One Act Plays, and Science Olympiad. Journalism honors were awarded to the Smoke Signal and Emeralds. Significant dollars were raised to support school programs and donate to local charities. Many of our programs, especially our Key Club, contributed about 15,000 hours of community service! State, private, and local grants, as well as private donations, funded many programs. At the Evening of Recognition 182 students received academic awards, service awards, and/or scholarships.

**Language Department:** Enrollment in French, Latin and Spanish has increased, and two Latin 1 classes were added. The formation of a study group has facilitated curriculum collaboration among foreign language teachers at Thornton Burgess,

Wilbraham Middle School and Minnechaug. Some French students took the Grand Concours National French Exam and some participated in a Boston cultural program. Latin students traveled to the Gardner Museum in Worcester and some took the National Latin Exam. Ping Geng, a Chinese instructor at UMass and Putnam High, gave an introduction to the Chinese language to a Spanish class. Interest is growing among students and faculty to add Chinese to our course of studies.

**Guidance Department:** The department continues to offer a variety of programs to serve students and their parents. Services include: a guidance brochure, a “welcome” telephone call to all freshman, a test taking strategy session for freshman, an introduction to the Choices Planner computer program and the Tech Prep program for sophomores, a workshop on writing college essays, college financial aid nights, a college night for juniors, sophomores and their parents, a follow-up program for seniors and their parents, an orientation program for eighth grade students and their parents, a reception for transfer students, “Coffee with Counselors” morning, prep sessions and practice tests for SAT Reasoning and Subject tests and ACT and administering of the SAT, ACT, PSAT, AP & ASVAB. The internship program for seniors continues to grow, and the Tech Prep program has expanded. The counselors meet with their students to assist in developing course schedules, making career and college choices and dealing with personal issues.

**Media Center:** Last year, the Media Center had a computer upgrade with 12 replacement computers, all with online services. More than 900 classes visited the Media Center, with another 8,100 individual visits. Several hundred dollars were raised through the collection of empty printer cartridges and used to supplement the book budget. Also adding to the book collection were two ongoing monthly donations of books – one from former English teacher, Sue Kline, and one from the Falcon Corner Store – both of which are on display throughout the year.

**Technology Education/Computers/Business Department:** These three combined departments continue to evolve with the State Frameworks and present a diverse offering of technical, applied, and fine art classes at many levels in many subject areas. Because of our long-standing interdisciplinary and differentiated learning approach, we are in a unique position to assist students in preparing for all areas of the MCAS test. Of particular interest this past year: An entrepreneurship student took first place at the annual Springfield Technical Community College Business Plan Competition and received a college scholarship; computer students took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Western New England College Programming Contest for the second year in a row; graphics students took first place in the experimental animation category at the Freedom Video Awards; “Technology and Engineering,” a preparation course for the upcoming MCAS Science test was introduced; a major technology upgrade is underway in the Technology Department computer lab; and all three departments are taking an active lead in the use of Manhattan Virtual Classrooms at Minnechaug through a joint effort with WNEC.

**Fine Arts Department:** Over 700 students were involved in the Fine Arts Department’s

22 courses during the school year. Art offered 11 courses that provided opportunities and experience in a myriad of art forms and techniques. Thirteen art students were nominated for **The Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award**, three students were chosen for “**Talented Teens**” segment in the Springfield newspapers, and one art student was selected for **Art All-State**. Music courses were offered to over 400 music students in 11 courses. The three choirs had 137 students, while the three bands blossomed to 180 strong! Continued intense fund-raising helped the bands achieve their goal of purchasing marching band uniforms! MRHS choral and band musicians dignified their school and community at the **Western District, Quabbin Valley, Plymouth State, and All-State** music festivals.

### **Student Services Department** **Thomas Philpott, Director**

Student Services comprises special education (specialized instruction) and English as a Second Language services. In addition, the department provides related services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, and school adjustment counseling, which are all designed to assist students make effective academic and social progress within the regular education classroom.

The Student Services Department is also responsible for the comprehensive assessment of students each year in order to determine whether a student’s lack of educational progress is related to an educational disability or some other factor. Each of the District’s eight schools has Student/Teacher Assistance Teams established to provide immediate accommodations and strategies that may enable the student to become more successful in school. If a student has an educational disability that directly impairs the ability of the student to make effective progress in school without the help of specialized instruction or related services, an Individualized Educational Plan can be developed that determines the type and amount of intervention necessary to make academic growth in the least intrusive manner. In the Student Services Department there are usually no simple solutions and no one program will meet all disabled students’ needs.

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has established a reputation as providing quality educational services to students whose disabilities would inhibit school success without the support provided by the various educational and related services mentioned above.

Federal and State grants have allowed the expansion of our assistive technology resources creating an important link between the disabled student and his or her ability to access the general curriculum. These grants have also funded workshops and consultation services to District professional and paraprofessional staff to develop a better understanding of the impact educational disabilities have on a student’s learning capability. A State grant continues to support an Autism Specialist to develop programming that will enhance our ability to work with such students within the District,

thus reducing dependence on costly out-of-District programs and consultants. Central to the goal of ensuring that all Hampden-Wilbraham students make appropriate academic and social progress is the close cooperation between regular education and special education administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals. Regular education initiatives such as the Student/Teacher Assistance Team (S/TAT) and the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) are expanding the continuum of services the District provides students with diverse learning needs. The ability of our staff to work together and in concert with the support of the families in our two communities has resulted in a school district that we can all be proud of!

**Poppy Nelson, RN, BSN, NCSN  
Nurse Leader**

Our School Nurses had another busy year caring for the students and employees of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. First aid was given to 13,059 students, 16,875 illness assessments were completed, 11,746 student medications administered, and 4,908 parent phone calls and meetings accomplished. Overall, there were 51,328 student health clinic visits during the school year.

We were happy to welcome Michele Lavallee-Specht, RN, as the nurse at Mile Tree School and Mary Jennison, RN, as the part-time nurse at Minnechaug. Becky Gurney, RN, was hired as a part-time float nurse through the Essential School Health Services Grant.

Using a proactive approach to keeping our students and families healthy, we partnered with Springfield College, Patricia McDiarmid, and the health education students to provide instruction to elementary students on topics such as hand washing, nutrition, healthy snacks, exercise, and hygiene. We also partnered with Elms College to provide student nurses one day per week for six weeks at Minnechaug, Wilbraham Middle Schools, Thornton Burgess School, and Wilbraham-Monson Academy. We worked with Caroline Cunningham from Wilbraham Public Access TV and Wilbraham's Public Health Nurse, Claudia Considine, RN, along with our Community Service Learning Grant, to designate February 7-11 as "Hand Washing Awareness Week". Kiara Fryer, RN, School Nurse at Stony Hill School, along with several children in grades 1, 3, and 5, participated in making a video about proper hand washing techniques, which is an effective method for maintaining good health.

As part of our ongoing commitment to wellness, we offered the "Weight Watchers At Work Program" to staff and the "Calling It Quits" smoking cessation program to Minnechaug students, trained many administrators and staff in CPR/AED with the help of the Wilbraham Fire Department, administered the Hepatitis B vaccine 3 part series and flu shots to District employees, and provided the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program to first and second grade students with the help of parent volunteers.

As always, the nurses thank Marge Trimble, Betty Worthington, and the members of the Wilbraham Women's Club for volunteering to test the vision and hearing of hundreds of our children from pre-school through tenth grade.

**Adult Community Education and Recreation**  
**Ned Doyle, Director**

The Adult Community Education and Recreation Program, "New Beginnings," continues to provide diverse enrichment opportunities. Last year well over 2,000 participants enjoyed the program offerings and feedback was extremely positive. The "Summer Programs 'R' You," serving the youth of the area, was once again the most popular. However, the numerous spring and fall adult offerings were also well attended and afforded participants excellent enrichment opportunities. Classes included computer related subjects such as "Intro to Computers" and "Intro to the Internet", health and fitness offerings were "Pilates," "Yoga," "Water Aerobics," and "Community CPR, First Aid & Safety" and the fun and leisure courses included "Ballroom Dancing," "Folk Art Painting," and "Historic Homes." The "New Beginnings" program anticipates a very bright future as it strives to accommodate the many requests of the communities.

**School Councils**

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District wishes to acknowledge the effectiveness of the School Councils and to thank them for volunteering their personal time to pursue a commitment to the education of our young people. We would also like the community to recognize the services rendered by these parents and citizens of the HWRSD. The School Councils for 2004-2005 were:

***Mile Tree Elementary School***

Lynne Kimball, Principal  
Katy Anderson  
Amy Basile  
Patricia Boylan  
Beth Cebula  
Ginny McKeon

***Green Meadows Elementary School***

Deborah F. Thompson, Principal  
Carol Fitzgerald  
Melanie Patterson  
Beth Richards  
Heidi Schwendenmann  
Mary Ellen Shea  
Suzanne Simons  
Cheryl Willis

***Memorial Elementary School***

Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal  
Nancy Douglas  
Katharine Farnham  
Jeff Jones  
Susan Mederios  
Pat O'Connor  
Gail Smead

***Soule Road Elementary School***

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal  
Andrew Cohen  
Betty Howarth  
Becky Lefort  
Cathy Mahoney  
Linda Mitchell  
Georgianne Small

Lisa Vartanian

Georgina Trebbe

***Stony Hill Elementary School***

Rebecca S. DeSmith, Principal  
Stacy Gilmour  
Mary Beth Laliberte  
Shawn Lawrence  
Michelle Mistalski  
Nan O'Connor  
Kathy Reid

***Thornton W. Burgess Middle School***

Noel Pixley, Principal  
Diane Baron  
Donna Benoit  
Karen Burzdak  
Denise Fiedler  
Bonnie Howell  
Phyllis Hultstrom  
Charlene Normandeau  
Wendi Obuchowski  
Gina Pantuosco

***Wilbraham Middle School***

Barbara L. Lukis, Principal  
Christopher Eagan  
Sarah-Elise Field  
Dawn Fitzgerald  
Mary Goodwin  
Janice Flynn  
Judy LaBranche  
Katherine Murphy  
Mary Pajak  
Debra Vartanian  
Cindy Zielenski

***Minnechaug Regional High School***

John K. Logan, Principal  
Patricia Casey  
Patricia Gordon  
Sandra Himmelwright  
Wilbur Jenkins  
Clifton Johnson  
Meridith Malysz  
Gary Manuel  
Bruce MacDonald  
Patrick Moriarty  
Sarah Petzold  
Linda Pickreign  
Jane Robinson  
Gregory Schmutte

**Retirements During The 2004-2005 School Year:**

James C. Benoit - Soule Road Elementary School  
Katharine Farnham - Soule Road Elementary School  
Dawn Fitzgerald - Wilbraham Middle School  
Candice Haynes – Wilbraham Middle School  
Elizabeth Howarth - Soule Road Elementary School  
Sandra Jarvis – Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
Lynne Kimball - Mile Tree Elementary School  
Arlene Kotowski – Minnechaug Regional High School  
John Logan – Minnechaug Regional High School  
Gloria Laflamme – Minnechaug Regional High School  
Paul Olbrych – Wilbraham Middle School  
Lynn Schmitt - Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
Kathleen Taylor - Soule Road Elementary School  
Anne Turcotte - Central Office

Sonya Vickers – Minnechaug Regional High School  
 Barbara Walsh - Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
 Curtis Wing – Minnechaug Regional High School  
 Candace Woloshchuk – Wilbraham Middle School

<b>2004 - 2005 School Committee Members</b>	
<b><i>Through May 2005</i></b>	<b><i>As of May 2005</i></b>
Peter T. Salerno, Chairperson	Scott R. Chapman, Chairperson
Scott R. Chapman, Vice Chairperson	Peter T. Salerno, Vice Chairperson
William Bickley, Jr.	William Bickley, Jr.
Marianne Desmond	Marianne Desmond
D. John McCarthy	D. John McCarthy
Mary Anne Morris	Lisa Morace
Gilles Turcotte	Gilles Turcotte

**Five-Year Enrollment History**

Grade	2000 – 2001			2001 – 2002			2002 - 2003			2003 - 2004			2004- 2005		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	63	193	256	61	180	241	59	179	238	58	161	219	64	165	229
P-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	59	176	235	65	210	275	65	192	257	65	180	245	61	168	229
2	66	179	245	62	189	251	71	201	272	62	191	253	74	177	251
3	64	185	249	63	184	247	58	197	255	66	202	268	62	193	255
4	96	217	313	64	195	259	68	184	252	71	209	280	66	211	277
5	75	210	285	95	229	324	64	205	269	61	200	261	75	213	288
6	80	244	324	80	216	296	93	232	325	68	205	273	67	205	272
7	88	221	309	76	251	327	83	217	300	66	219	286	72	205	277
8	88	219	307	88	227	315	79	251	330	95	232	326	70	219	289
9	60	192	252	87	243	330	96	233	329	81	257	338	105	258	363
10	77	200	277	66	222	288	88	240	328	86	254	340	76	235	311
11	82	231	313	72	218	290	59	207	266	79	224	303	79	240	319
12	68	229	313	79	208	287	79	218	297	81	222	303	79	223	302
Other			85			87			72			79			75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>2696</b>	<b>3747</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>2772</b>	<b>3817</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>2756</b>	<b>3790</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>2756</b>	<b>3774</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>2712</b>	<b>3737</b>

**Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District - Directory Of Schools**  
**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.

**Green Meadows Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 3)**

Deborah Thompson, Principal  
38 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-3263  
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

**Memorial Elementary School (Grades 2 – 6)**

Marguerite Myers-Killeen, Principal  
310 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-6821  
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

**Soule Road Elementary School (Grades 2 – 6)**

Stephen Hale, 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 – 6)**

Rebecca DeSmith, Interim 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 4 – 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 7 – 8)**

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

**Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 –12)**

M. Martin O’Shea, Principal  
612 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9011  
School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

**Superintendent’s Office**

Paul C. Gagliarducci, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-3884  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.