



Superintendent's Corner

Gary S. Reese, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

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AEFI Evening of Giving

On Monday, I had the opportunity to celebrate education at the Amesbury Education Foundation Inc's Evening of Giving. It was a great opportunity to meet more members of our community. During this evening, AEFI awarded two scholarships to Amesbury educators to recognize and support innovative practices in education. The first scholarship, in the amount of \$5,000, was awarded to Maggie Furlong and Mary Mitchell. This award will help support their program entitled "Why Can't We Get Along", which focuses on opportunities for peer mentoring and mediation. The second scholarship, in the amount of \$10,000, was awarded to Catherine Hill. Catherine's proposal, 'The PowWow River, Amesbury's Artery', is a multi-disciplinary project which incorporates math, science, history and English, as students have the opportunity to explore the PowWow River. This scholarship is awarded in memory of Jordan Shay, a 2005 graduate of Amesbury High School who died in Iraq serving our country.

In our Schools

My school visit this week focused on Cashman Elementary. During my walkthrough the classrooms with Principal Charette, I was impressed with the use of technology, the involvement of the students in their learning, and the individualization of student learning opportunities. As we visited the fourth grade cluster of classrooms, all of the students were engaged in math. In one room, there was a student at the computer leading a class discussion as the students explored a problem that was projected onto the whiteboard. The word problem involved developing an understanding of part and whole relationships and determining relevant information presented in the word problem. In another room, students were working with partners to practice and reinforce math facts. As I circulated around the room, I noticed that one group was working on a different set of problems than the rest of the class. I overheard the teacher say, "We meet them where they are". This is such an important concept and a positive approach to learning. All of our students come in with different skills and strengths. Our teachers need to differentiate their instruction in order to help the students grow.

NECC

On Wednesday, I attended a breakfast sponsored by NECC at Quarrybrook Outdoor Learning Center in Windham, NH. NECC President Lane Glenn spoke about the various opportunities and collaborations with school districts to promote college level instruction for students in high school. Amesbury was often referenced during his speech – it made me feel proud that our community was a pioneer in Early College High School programming. We will continue to work with NECC to promote varied learning opportunities for our students at Amesbury High School.

Have a wonderful weekend!