

school news

Field Trips and Special Events Dominate Spring Schedule

By JoCarol Ratti

The months of April, May and June flew by with its usual pomp and circumstance, many celebrations, and learning as well!

On Wednesday, April 25, Mrs. Wilson's third grade class and Mrs. Whittaker's fifth grade class took a great field trip to the New England Aquarium in Boston. The thirty students and eight chaperones rode in style on a coach bus equipped with a DVD player and bathroom. Both classes had prepared for many weeks for this visit, which directly related to the WSESU standards: third grade-Aquatic Environments and fifth grade-Ecosystems. The classes broke up into small groups and explored the aquarium and then met for lunch outside. Afterwards they watched a 3D Imax show called *Deep Sea Adventure*. For many children it was their first 3D movie and first Imax show. While this was a fun day with lots of new things to see, what made this field trip so valuable was that it connected classroom learning to the real world. After reading about horseshoe crabs and sea urchins and how they survive, our students could actually pick them up and hold them. The penguin exhibit let the students see and hear what they had studied earlier in the year. The Imax movie showed the interdependence of sea life and the effect that people have on their ecosystem. This trip was funded by a third/fifth grade raffle, proceeds from the third grade store, and a generous grant from Entergy.

In May we celebrated the Dummerston School GeoBee Team who came in second in the Vermont state GeoBee competition in Northfield, Vermont. Team members included Sam Grubinger, Theresa Glabach, Jesse Brown, Galen Finnerty, Hannah Reichel and Matthew Dews. We also applauded Dummerston students Maureen Spicer (grade eight) and Kelsey Parker-Root (grade three) as well as Ms. Parker, the school counselor, for donating their long ponytails to Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18 who suffer from long-term medical hair loss from any condition.

Our vocal music concert was held on May 9th. This year the concert's theme was developed in conjunction with our school health action committee and was centered on good nutrition and making healthy choices. The band concert was held later in the month. I hope everyone had an opportunity to see the



Members of Dummerston's graduating class in Boston this spring during the annual eighth grade trip. Students are (from left): front row—S. Giren-Van Leewen, J. Butts, A. Wolfe, K. Annis, R. Bristol, M. DOrinkse, E. Hausrath, I. McBean; middle row—T. Evans, A. Murphy, T. Elliot-Knaggs, S. DavisLane, A. Homancy, S. Finnerty, C. Waterman, C. Brown; back row—M. Spicer, E. Stachura, A. Korenewsky, T. Walior, T. Momaney, K. Wood, L. Field, T. Emery.

Dummerston School Marching Band at the Strolling of the Heifer's parade in June. They were great, as usual!

On Thursday afternoons in May, Mrs. Whittaker's fifth grade class and Lynn Levine, a local educational consultant, worked on a nature trail project. They studied many of the trees and leaves that grow along our ball fields. They finished the project by clearing a trail and writing a nature trail guide called the Dummerston School Nature Trail. This wonderful guide is available for your reading enjoyment at Dummerston School. It is full of descriptive essays about the different types of trees that we have on our school grounds. It is also beautifully illustrated by the students. A special thanks to the PFTO who helped fund the project and to Mrs. Clements for her help with printing the illustrations.

In May, the Hannaford supermarket presented Dummerston School with a check for \$1,000.00 as part of the Hannaford Helps Schools program. How does the Hannaford Helps Schools program work? Each September we receive information from Hannaford with the names of food vendors who participate in the program. We pass this information along to the community through newsletters, and we post it on our website. When you purchase four participating products, you receive one three-dollar school dollar certificate at the checkout register. If you purchase eight participating products you will receive one six-dollar school dollar certificate and so on.

You can either send the certificates directly to the school or you can donate them in-store, to the school of your choice. At the end of the thirteen-week program, schools turn in school dollars to the store with which they are registered. In March the school received a check for the total amount of school dollars collected during the program. In addition to the funds raised by Dummerston School, each Hannaford Supermarket awarded an additional \$1,000 dollar education grant to the registered school that raises the most dollars, which this

continued on page 10



A representative from Hannaford's Supermarket presents Dummerston School principal Jo Carol Ratti with the Hannaford Helps Schools check. Students present are (from front left) Alexis Rivera, Lila Flynn, and Cora Stocker.