

# NEWS

## from our Schools

### Reading, Dr. Seuss's birthday celebrated in Rangeley

RANGELEY — Read Across America was celebrated in a big way at Rangeley Lakes Regional School recently with over 175 folks from the school and the community at large attending.

During the day there was a school-wide reading time for a half hour during which time some classrooms had guest readers.

The special evening event included a pizza dinner provided by the Rangeley PTA and School Spirit Fund.

After dinner, children participated in different reading activities and crafts: face painting, Cat in the Hat puppets, Fancy Fish, drawing Dr. Seuss characters, fishing for rhymes, making bookmarkers, birthday cards and making a Lorax garden.

The highlight of the evening was singing the Dr. Seuss birthday song with Seve Deraps on violin and Coach Danforth on guitar. The Rangeley High School choir sang Green Eggs and Ham and then everyone was treat-

ed to birthday cake.

There was also a book drawing for children in grades K-5. The books were provided by Rangeley Teacher's Association, Rangeley Friends of The Library and the Elementary Fund.

Mrs. St. Louis organized the event along with Mrs. Schrader, Mrs. Michelle Laliberte, Mrs. Susan Damm, Mrs. Donna Brown, Mrs. Georgia Campbell, Carmen Glidden, Ms. Kelsey Orestis and her 8th grade class, Ms. Wendy Steward, Mrs. Shelia Raymond, Ms. Barbara Jennings, Mrs. Debbie Frost and Ms. Lily Gacki. Also assisting were parents Beth Eastlack, Alissa Grumprecht, Kara Wilson, John and Jill Crosby, Daphane Millbury, Amanda Wilson, Rebecca Schinas and students Jackson Blythe, Emma Christensen, Kelsey Linnell, Emma Inman, Blayke Morin, Taylor Esty, Hannah Maheu Shelby Elmes and Mrs. Schrader's reading group.



Priscilla St. Louis cuts the Dr. Seuss birthday cake. (Jackson Blythe photo)

### Variety show in Strong

STRONG — The Strong school will present a fun filled evening of music, comedy and drama at the school March 28, beginning at 7 p.m.

Admittance is a \$5 per person donation, which includes a brownie ice cream sundae.

Proceeds will benefit the Strong school 8th grade class trip.

### USM announces dean's list

PORTLAND — The following full-time students have been named to the University of Southern Maine dean's list for the 2008 fall semester.

Students from Franklin County who were named to the list are: Travis White, Phillips; Krista Jamison, Rangeley; Kate Matthews, Stratton.

To be named, students must earn a grade point average of 3.4 or above, and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

USM serves some 10,000 students with campuses in Portland, Gorham and Lewiston-Auburn.

### Next week... Honor rolls and more!

### SCIENCE

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on a Web site.

Poland Spring's Tom Brennan participates in regular Water Resources Planning Committee meetings headed by the Maine Geological Survey.

At these meetings, Brennan offered data that they collect in the water monitoring process from their spring water sites to collaborate as part of the statewide effort.

"Snowpack monitoring helps in the prediction of flooding as well as a tool to monitor recharge to aquifers," LaPlante said.

"When you're outside it makes me want to learn more," said junior Katie Bushman who compared it to classroom learning.

Bushman was joined by classmates, Nola Dixon, Andrew Cummings, Martin Clariage and Aaron McGinness who are now all part of the survey.

In the woods they took 10 samples using a snow tube for snow depth and eventually for water content analysis. A weighing device is then used to measure how many inches of rain the pack would represent if it all melted.

Heavy rain mixed with warm temperatures can trigger a flood watch potential here in Maine. Measuring the snowpack water storage capacity and water content is instrumental in predicting spring floods.

Last Tuesday the students found there was an average of 32.8 inches of snow on the forest floor. They also determined that this would represent 8.66 inches of rain if it all melted.

"This winter's snowpack, ice conditions, stream flows and headwaters storage have combined to create flood potential that is near normal for the time of year," according to Maine's River Flow Advisory Commission.

Based on what's to come in terms of snow, rain and rapid warm temperatures in future weeks, the flooding potential may elevate. "The snowpack, though substantial, is not alarming for the time of year," said Bob Lent,

District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey and co-chairman of the Commission. "However, we are not likely to lose any snow over the next few weeks, and may gain some. That will likely mean an elevated flood potential later in the spring."

MTA along with Poland High School are the only high schools in the state who participate in this survey designed to warn people of flooding before it happens.

Both are community schools near Poland Spring operations.

"We're always looking for ways to interact with the students and bring science into the schools," LaPlante explained. "We started thinking about the survey early fall last year and started to interact with the school. The school is always looking for hands-on activities and they were very receptive."

LaPlante said the students are getting a full understanding of what the NGS and USGS does for science in Maine. Bringing this type of science to the students may help them decide that they want to pursue a career in these fields.

LaPlante said that Jim Caldwell (USGS) and Bob Johnson (MGS) have both participated in the program to teach students. "I definitely think that more high schools should consider this as a potential teaching exercise for students to learn more about the world around them," LaPlante said.

"This is our first year of involving students," Caldwell explained. "It has worked out very well thus far. The information has come in on time and the values have agreed with other measurements in their area. We try to have the data compiled by Tuesday evenings and get the maps posted to the internet by Wednesday mornings. We haven't had any trouble receiving the data and have not had any outliers with their data," Caldwell said.

"I'm really proud of the relationships we have made with the schools in the communities that we are involved

in and also the company's commitment to be 'good neighbors' in the communities that we work in," LaPlante explained. "It has been a wonderful experience so far and hopefully we will be able to continue to grow these programs to get students more involved in their surroundings and also for them to have a better understanding of their surroundings."

Caldwell said the relationship with students creates a true "win-win" situation. The teachers and students get a chance to be involved with hands-on data collection and can use the statewide data from the Web site in school projects. "For us, receiving data from many parts of the state gives a clearer picture of what the snowpack depth and water content is throughout the state. The database and the program are in place. More data is no trouble, it is better."

The cost of equipment, which can range from \$800 to \$1,400 (depending on model and scale type) is the only prohibitive aspect of more school involvement.

"As you know this is the: 'Statewide Cooperative Snow Survey.' It is a cooperative effort between international, Federal and State agencies and private companies —and now, schools," Caldwell said.

"The equivalent water content in the snowpack is used by the State's River Flow Advisory Committee and are used by a number of agencies for forecasting flood potential, estimating inflow to storage reservoirs, and planning long-term flow management. The observed extremes in Maine's snowpack during more than 90 years, at many locations, is also of interest to engineering design professionals, biologists and others."

The data, which includes Mt. Abram High School as contributors, can be found on the River Flow Advisory Commission's Web site located at [Maine.gov](http://Maine.gov).

"It's just a really great opportunity," MTA junior Nola Dixon explained from within the woods. "We are so lucky that we are able to do this with Poland Spring."