The Vikings win baseball championship

The baseball championship is in the books. The Vezzie Vikings pulled out a hard fought win against the previously undefeated Dedham Demons, 4-1. The Vikings scored two in the first inning thanks in part to some solid defense by Surya Vel, Richard Watson, and Jason Curley. The Vikings struck again in the top of the 6th inning with a lead off hit by Jason Curley. Nolan Bagley drew a walk and both players eventually scored to give the Vikings a 4-0 lead.

Dedham put a blitz on in the bottom of the 6th and final inning with two hits and an error to get on the board but could score no more, when Richard Watson came in to close out the game forcing a pop-up and getting a K. The Vikings took the Championship win 4-1.

A point of interest: Vincent Chen, Patrick Carlisle, and Wyatt Chandler were key players in earning three Championships for the Vikings this school year in Coed Soccer, Basketball, and Baseball!

Veazie Town Meeting and Municipal Election set for June 14

Tuesday, June 14, will be a busy day in Veazie. It's Election Day for Municipal officers, School Committee members, and Sewer District trustees. Voting will take place in the Council Chambers. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Also on June 14, the Veazie Town Council will hold a regular council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Veazie Community School, followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 8 p.m., where citizens will vote on the municipal and school budgets for 2023-24, along with other items on the town meeting warrant (see pp. 14-15).

Two candidates, Paul Messer and David Ring, are running for two vacancies on the Town Council. Both are running for 3-year terms. Paul is currently a councilor, David is a former councilor.

One candidate, Bethany Tocci, is running for election to a 3-year term on the School Committee.

One candidate is also running for a 3-year term as a Sewer District Trustee. He is Matthew Miller, who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees.

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office. The deadline for picking them up is June 9, although they may be requested later under special circumstances. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14.

Bangor Band coming to Veazie for concert August 2

The Bangor Band is scheduled to perform in front of the Veazie Community School on August 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The area will be easy to access, and we hope both young and old come to listen. If you get there early, and get a good parking spot, you wont even have to leave your vehicle, but bring a lawn chair, a picnic or snacks and enjoy what will be a great evening of entertainment.

If the weather doesn’t cooperate the band will move inside the gym so the event will be held rain or shine, and the best part is the event is FREE!

The history of the Bangor band is rich with triumph, tragedy, burgeoning ranks and precipitous decline in membership and attendance. Yet, throughout the 161 years of its existence, the band has found the means and the determination not only to survive, but to thrive in the face of wars, depression, fire, and changing musical tastes. The advent of the 20th and 21st centuries has seen a decline in community or town bands. Indeed, many bands have disappeared from view with advancing age of members, declining membership, and community apathy to the literature of the concert band.

Yet, the Bangor Band has found the means to continue its legacy as one of the oldest continuous community bands in the United States. As they approach their 161st anniversary, they are mindful of those who have preceded them and the contributions they have made.

To date, the baton of the Bangor Band has been held by approximately 26 conductors. Membership (Please turn to page 3)
Town Manager’s message:

Municipal and School Department budgets, road projects, Town Meeting June 14

As I write this article the weather outside is beautiful. The trees and grass are green and winter is in the rearview mirror. Thank you to Black Bear Lawn Care for doing a great job keeping the roads safe and passable this winter and continuing to keep our community looking nice with the ground maintenance contract.

As in years past, I’m confident both the Municipal and School Department budgets were constructed this year with the future in mind. We started the budget process early and worked in coordination with the school to have a completed budget to be presented to the Budget Committee and ultimately to the Council and then finally for presentation at the Town Meeting. A budget summary for both the Municipal and School Department can be located elsewhere in this paper. By working together as a team, and under the guidance of the Council, I am happy to report we are projecting a reduction in the mill rate.

All of this has been completed with no loss of services for any departments; in fact, we will be adding another full-time firefighter and another full-time police officer. Although we are predicting a reduction in the mill rate, we have had to raise the valuation of homes to meet the State’s minimum guide lines to receive State benefits. This is due largely in part to the booming housing market and what homes are selling for in our community.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Assessor Birch if you need further explanation of how the assessment of your home is reached. He can be reached via email at bbrich@veazie.net. He is in the Town Office on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a capital paving project this year, the Council chose the reconstruction of Thompson Road and the extension of the sidewalk from where it currently ends to the intersection of Old County Road. The project was put out to bid and was awarded to Eastwood Contractor, Inc. for approximately $750,000.00. This road has been in need of repair for several years so it will be good to have this completed.

I’m continuing to work with the Water District to help them secure funding so we can replace the water main for this section of road at the same time.

I urge each of you to attend the Town Meeting scheduled for June 14th, 2022, at 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. I also ask you to come out and vote at the Town Office on June 14th from 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you remain uncomfortable coming to the Office to cast your vote, you may request an absentee ballot.

Your vote will be counted the same as if you voted in person.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the 2022 graduating class of the Veazie Community School. I look forward to watching each of you continue to grow and posi tion into high school and beyond.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate Superintendent Cyr on his position to the RSU 54 (Alton, Bradley, and Old Town) School System.

He has been a great leader for the Veazie Community School and will surely be missed. With that, I look forward to working with the new Superintendent/Principal, Tim Tweedie, and I’m certain he too will be an asset to the School and Town.

Finally, I always want to remind all citizens about the text message and/or email notification service we offer. Please go to the town’s website to sign up for these important notification services or contact the town office and we will sign you up. These are additional ways we can effectively communicate with you. As always if you have any concerns, comments or suggestions do not hesitate to contact me at 947-2781 or via email at mleonard@veazie.net. I wish you a happy and healthy summer.

— Mark Leonard

Town Manager

Budget message:

Municipal, School budgets approved unanimously by Council, Budget Committee

First, I hope you and your loved ones are healthy as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Preparing the FY2023-2024 budget during these trying times was challenging, but I remain optimistic that better days are ahead. As in years past, we started the process early. Supt. Cyr and I remained fiscally responsible and are certain all departments have met the directive of the Council.

The final proposed budget was approved by the Budget Committee and presented to the Council on April 14, 2022, for review and approval to move forward to the public hearing scheduled for May 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

The summary sheets below were included with the proposed budget and show an increase of $447,701.00 in the Municipal and $216,531.77 in the School Budget. The Budget Committee and Town Council unanimously approved the proposed budgets.

As always if you have any concerns, comments or suggestions do not hesitate to contact me at 947-2781 or via email at mleonard@veazie.net. I wish you a happy and healthy summer.

— Mark Leonard

Town Manager

Proposed School Budget:

Description | Budget | Increased/Decrease
--- | --- | ---
Regular Instruction | $2,554,461.64 | $312,645.23
Special Ed Instruction | 1,992,500.25 | 62,673.14
CTE Instruction | 43,664.00 | 1,307.66
Other Instruction | 278,921.69 | 22,830.60
System Administration | 174,059.73 | 26,329.41
School Administration | 141,418.38 | (11,359.68)
Transportation | 197,325.00 | 2,800.00
Facilities Management | 388,782.65 | (200,714.81)
Debt Services | 0.00 | 0.00

*Additional Local Funds needed for expenses not in State Funding*

| Description | Budget | Increased/Decrease |
--- | --- | ---
Food Services | 40,000.00 | 0.00 |
Adult Ed | 1,639.10 | $16.23 |

Total Proposed Expenses: $5,013,428.84 | $216,531.77 |

Proposed School Revenue:

Description | Budget | Increased/Decrease
--- | --- | ---
State Allocation | $1,217,017.91 | $30,070.60
State Debt Service |
State Agency Client |
Reimbursement | 144,992.50 | 125.00 |
Food Service | 40,000.00 | 0.00 |
Prior Year Balance | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
Local Allocation | 1,765,415.00 | (130,848.33)
Local w/o State Participation | 1,546,003.43 | 217,168.28 |

Total Proposed Revenues: $5,013,428.84 | $216,531.77 |
Memo to Matt Cyr: You’ll be Missed

By Mark Leonard
Veazie Town Manager

As you know, after 7 short years our Superintendent/Principal Matthew “Matt” Cyr is leaving to become the Superintendent of RSU 34, which is the school district for Alton, Bradley, and Old Town.

I first came to know Matt in 2015 when he was hired for the position of Principal for the Veazie Community School (VCS). The community was looking for someone who could lead VCS—someone who was confident, enthusiastic, humble, credible, ethical, and empathetic. Since hiring you as the Principal and now Superintendent of VCS, I have found you to be extremely fis...
Superintendent’s message:  
A busy summer ahead at Veazie Community School

The 2021-22 school year continued to spotlight the perseverance of students, staff, parents and the community as we ‘learned to live with’ an unprecedented pandemic. Veazie Community School joined many other schools in Maine in becoming a critical piece of the public health care system. 

By the time the school year ends, we will have conducted more than 5,000 PCR COVID-19 pooled tests, and administered more than 1,000 rapid tests in an effort to keep people safe and maintain in-person learning.

Despite significant staffing shortages related to illness, the only thing that caused us to close school this year was a good ol’ snow storm. As I write this memo, masks are now optional, case numbers and hospitalizations are relatively low, and nearly all school programs and activities have returned to pre-pandemic status.

All of this is very exciting and feels like a giant breath of fresh air.

Regardless of the pandemic, Veazie Community School continues to shine in more ways than one.

Our robotics team once again took top honors at the state competition winning the Global Innovation Award. Despite a small middle school group, our co-ed soccer team and basketball teams both won the league championship; and, our largest cross-country team in years won the league sportsmanship award!

Our spring sports teams have thus far been equally as competitive. We had a handful of students enter into the regional and state math competitions and ended up having three students finish in the top 30 within the state, with one finishing in 6th place!

Enrollment to start the year had us topping 160 students for the first time in 5 years. We are one of only two schools in Penobscot County to have student enrollment increase every year for the past 4 years— even with the pandemic where many districts saw significant declines. Successful grant writing has helped to re-engineer our main entrance patio, replace large sections of the exterior school wall, and upgrade our school network and student 1-1 devices. We have established two additional reserve accounts—tuition and technology—to join our established capital reserve. With these reserve accounts and our healthy fund balance, Veazie Community School is well positioned to face future challenges.

This will be my last Viking update— after 7 incredible years in Veazie, I am taking on a new leadership challenge closer to home.

I want to thank the citizens of Veazie for their continued support throughout my tenure. I look forward to following the future successes of VCS.

— Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent of Schools & Principal
Veazie Community School

“Small School, BIG Heart!”

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TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

Veazie will be having its TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE June 17, 18, and 19. This Yard sale will be permit-free for Veazie residents. Yard sales will be at residences throughout Town.
## FY23 School Budget: many challenges, including very large kindergarten, energy cost increases

By Matt Cyr, Superintendent and Principal, Veazie Community School

FY23 budget development presented several challenges, including addressing the needs of a growing student population along with the same energy cost increases we are all feeling in our wallets.

Six years ago we made significant staff reductions in response to declining student enrollment. Since then, our enrollment has slowly and steadily increased every year. To date, we have been very creative at responsibly balancing program needs and class sizes.

Looking ahead to the 2023-24 school year, we must address the learning needs of a very large kindergarten class, along with challenges associated with a multi-age class that is now in middle school.

Article 1 (Regular Instruction) includes the most significant increase ($12,645.23) in the FY23 budget. Nearly half of this increase supports increased tuition costs at all high schools. VCS is adding an additional 1st grade teacher (splitting the current Kindergarten class into two classes for 2022 -23). We are also adding 20% of a music teacher to help build a balanced specials schedule for the entire school.

Article 2 (Special Education) required increases in out-of-district placement costs. Article 5 (Student & Staff Support) saw an increase largely because of online subscription costs/fees.

Article 6 (System Administration) and Article 7 (School Administration) were both adjusted to better match duties and responsibilities of school and central office staff. The end result required that we reallocate funds out of one account and into another.

Article 9 (Facilities Management) saw a significant decrease of $200,714.81, or 34.05%. Over the past five years, we have successfully replaced and/or updated key facility needs, including exterior wall repair, window replacement, interior flooring, and landscaping. We feel strongly that our facility is in good shape, and this budgetary result required that we reallocate funds out of one account and into another.

On the revenue side, we saw a slight increase in our state allocation due to increasing enrollment ($30,070.60). We also decided to increase our reliance on the fund balance by $100,000 or 50%. The end result is a modest 2.64% ($86,336.19) increase in local contributions to the school’s FY23 budget, and a 4.51% ($216,531.77) increase in the total operating budget.

I wish to note that we currently use federal COVID relief funds to pay for 80% of our school nurse, and 20% of a middle school teacher. The source of these federal funds will expire in two years and consideration for how to move forward will need to be addressed at that time.

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Introducing candidates for Veazie Town Council, School Committee

David King, Town Council

David King, who has served on the Veazie Town Council for 11 of the past 16 years, is running for a three-year term on the Council in the June 14 election.

David, a Veazie resident for 72 of his 74 years, was most recently elected to a two-year term in 2018. Before that, he served from 2006 to 2012 and then from 2014 to 2017. He retired from the Orono-Veazie Water District in 2009 after 30 years of service. He also served as a part-time police officer in Veazie for 11 years, from 1988 to 1999, and as a Trustee for the Veazie Sewer District.

Paul Messer, Town Council

Paul Messer, who has served as a Town Councilor for the last six years, is seeking a third term.

Paul has been a Veazie resident since 2003 where he lives with his wife, Erica, and their two daughters, Olivia and Avery.

“I have served as a Town Councilor for the last 6 years and I’m seeking a third term,” he says. He says he is involved with or supports various local organizations, including Good Shepherd Food Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Food Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the local organizations, including Good Shepherd Food Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the

8TH GRADER SAMUEL WARDROP was awarded the Middle Level Schools Scholar Leader Award on May 25. The award honors a graduating 8th grade student who exemplifies the following attributes: excellent attitude towards learning, provides service to classmates and school, is a positive role model for peers, takes responsibility for own behavior and learning. Congratulations Sam!

VCS to partner with Dirigo Reads

By Martha Shannon, Library Media Specialist

We are so excited to announce that Veazie Community School has been selected to partner with Dirigo Reads for the 2022-23 school year. Starting in the fall, each of our first-grade students will receive a new book every month to take home and keep.

Dirigo Reads began in 2019, and its goal is to expand access to books for students in all Maine public school first-grade classrooms by 2025. Co-founders Dan and Karen Cashman, along with other local business and organization sponsors, understand and value that the excitement and enjoyment of reading can open several doors to learning and creativity.

For more information visit dirigoreads.com.

VCS 8th graders join Cemetery Committee at work

On Tuesday morning, May 23, the members of the Veazie Cemetery Committee were joined by members of the 8th grade class of the Veazie Community School to help place the flags on the graves of our veterans in preparation for Memorial Day.

The students were a big help in planting the flowers on the lots that receive them as well. It was a nice sunny day and with the wind to help keep the bags away it was not too bad a morning.

The Committee hopes that this partnership can continue as the members of the committee are not that young. They also hope that the students might also have learned a little bit about some of our Veazie veterans.

VCS 1st graders enjoy Museum with trip Trudi Plummer

First Graders spent a day at the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor. Trudi Plummer, Director of Education and Veazie resident, spent time sharing her knowledge about a couple of inhouse reptiles. Students enjoyed hearing facts and getting up close with a bearded dragon and a skink. This was one of the many field trips that our PTO sponsors.

CLEAN-UP HELP—Eighth grade students from Veazie Community School were decked out with safety vests when they helped Veazie town employees with a general town cleanup. Cara Belanger, Project Scientist with Stillwater Environmental Engineering, said the students learned a lot about storm water, storm drains, and trash. “They now have a better understanding about where water goes and what happens when trash is left outside,” she said.

News from the Veazie Church

The members of the church sent out thanks to all the community members who have supported our fund raising efforts this spring. The funds we raise help us to maintain our 178 year-old meetinghouse.

Our kitchen recently had some updates and now the dining room area is currently being renovated and we hope to have in house church suppers in the fall. If you would like to be notified by email about our suppers and other events – please send your email address to czechurchhlecker@gmail.com and we will add you to our list. The menus for fall will be: October, beans and all the fixings; November, roast pork; and December, turkey pie.

The church will take part in the town wide yard sale on June 18. We will have many yard sale items, lots of books and a bake sale as well. We will take donated items – contact the church clerk at the email above if you have something to donate.

The congregation has happily welcomed visitors to our Sunday worship services lately. These folks have been looking for a church and decided to give us a visit. We hope to see them often in the weeks ahead. If you are looking for a church or are curious about the only church in town, please join us for a worship service – Sunday mornings at 10:00.
Town Forester offers information, advice about browntail moths

By David Wardrop, Veazie Town Forester

As we conclude Arbor Week in Veazie with various forest and tree-related questions, I thought this might be a good time to share some thoughts and tips with the community. Remember the good ole days when the greatest perceived threat to our forest was wildfire? We now have various other threats to consider, from invasives to little pests that can wipe out entire stands of trees.

Enter the browntail moth caterpillar!

Every family I know in Veazie felt the itch of the browntail moth caterpillar hairs last year, and unfortunately, based on what I am witnessing in our trees, they will come back stronger this year.

Across town, from Stillwater Avenue to the river, the nests are easily visible across the tops of our tallest oaks, as well as other host trees. Veazie is blessed with maturing pine-oak forest types, but this blessing also comes with pests that enjoy and even target this forest community, including browntail moth, spiny moth and yes, ticks. 

What can we do about the browntail moth caterpillars? The simple answer is to heed prior warnings and destroy nests during late winter/early spring, prior to the caterpillars emerging... perhaps plan for next year. Unfortunately, I don't know many people willing to climb 70+ foot tall oak trees to pluck nests. Professional services, town-wide, would be very costly. Various natural control methods are being explored by UMaine and the Maine Forest Service, including fungal pathogens, pheromone disruption and natural predators. We even have additional ideas that include drones, long vacuums, and even flame throwers. 

They are not only creating ecological disruptions, but some species are also linked to increased presence of ticks.

Volunteer and monitor with us. Let us know what you see and where you see it. Perhaps educate your neighbors on invasives present on their property and offer to help remove them.

This is a good time to look for pests and hazards as well. Always seek landowner permission first! The Town of Veazie is always looking for volunteers to help with invasive removal on town-owned lands. Remember, many hands make light work.

With social media and risky videos inundating our kids lives, it is important as ever to teach children to NEVER touch ANY wild animals (including caterpillars), and to give them space. I’ve heard several cases of kids touching the browntail moth caterpillars and paying the price. This goes for all wild animals.

Get in tune with your natural environment. Play and learn with your kids, as they are our future leaders and natural resource managers. Merlin Bird ID, created by The Cornell Lab, is an app that can record bird songs and ID the bird species in real time, teaching you what you are hearing. This app seems to be loved by all age groups, is educational, and can be enjoyed with others while outdoors.

The Town of Veazie

I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations. In the Town of Veazie, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands. 

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Signed: Mark Leonard
‘Peak Performance and Wellness’ opens at Sports Academy building

A new café that caters to people with a passion for healthy food and living has opened in the Eastern Maine Sports Academy building at 1017 School Street in Veazie.

The café, called Peak Performance and Wellness, specializes in smoothies, smoothie bowls, energy fusions/teas, specialty toasts, protein shakes, and hot coffee and tea.

“It’s a brand new venture for us,” says manager Liela Johnson of Holden, who says the café’s motto is “Eat Well, Feel Well, Perform Well.”

She describes Peak Performance and Wellness as a “family adventure” involving her husband, Jim; their adult children, Will Johnson and Erin MacKenzie; her sister, Rebecca York; and a family friend, Colby Brooks.

“When we first learned about the opportunity within the Eastern Maine Sports Academy, we knew we wanted to establish a health-minded, quick-stop cafe that would offer nourishing fuel to those in and around the community,” Liela said.

“After much research and experimentation with our favorite family recipes, we have developed a menu that has been well received. The owners of the building, Matt MacKenzie and Sean Demaray, helped shape our offerings with their favorites, Orange Crush Smoothie (banana, mango, orange juice, and Bullet Proof Immune Defense) and Shark Bait Energy Fusion (strawberry and Blue Lotus energy tea).”

Liela said Jim was responsible for the build-out of the café, from the initial demolition and everchanging planning phases to the actual construction, while Erin and Will shared their ideas and organizational skills.

“From start-up and fine tuning of our family-favorite smoothies and smoothie bowls to assisting with company business needs, my kids have been amazing,” she said.

Liela added that with Colby’s help, she has been able to hire a great crew of employees who share our passion for healthy food and living.

“With skilled training, all of our crew now enjoy greeting customers and making fresh smoothies, smoothie bowls, specialty toasts, and vibrant energy drinks both for people who work out at Eastern Maine Sports Academy and for customers who come in from outside,” she said.

Initially, most of the customers came from within the building, but as word has gotten around, the café has attracted more and more people from the Veazie community, as well as people from Holden, Bangor, Old Town, and Orono.

Liela says the most popular smoothie flavor is Alpine Blue, which includes banana, mango, pineapple blue spirulina, and almond milk. Another favorite is the Acai Ascent Smoothie Bowl, which includes acai, mixed berries, banana, and almond milk (blended), topped with granola, coconut, chia seeds, and honey drizzle.

Other smoothie flavors are Strawberries and Cream Protein, Chia Berry Belly, Golden Milk, Orange Crush Protein, and Salted Caramel Coffee Lotus.

Bowl flavors include Strawberry and Cream Protein, PB (peanut butter) and Cocoa Slime, Vegan Vanilla with Activated Charcoal, Berry Beet, and Green Machine.

Specialty Toasts include Avocado Smash (avocado spread, cherry tomato, feta, balsamic glaze), PB Banana Crunch (peanut butter, granola, banana, honey drizzle), and Cream Cheese & Bruschetta (cream cheese, bruschetta, feta, balsamic glaze).

Liela says the difference between smoothies and smoothie bowls is the thickness.

“Smoothies go through a straw, while smoothie bowls are eaten with a spoon,” she says. “They share many of the same flavors.”

The regular hours for Peak Performance and Wellness are 6 a.m.

(Please turn to page 10)
12 VCS readers in grades PK-4 get new bikes and helmets through Maine Masons’ Bike for Books

Students in PreK through Grade 4 participated in Bikes for Books, a reading incentive program sponsored by the Maine Masons. During the month of April, students read as many books as they could at home.

After reading each book, either independently or with a family member, they submitted a raffle ticket to win a bike.

The result was a lot of reading—more than 2,000 books or chapters in all!

PreK student Tobias L. read over 500 books and was recognized as our top reader.

Twelve readers were awarded new bikes and helmets donated by the Masons.

The winners were:

- Kayson B.
- Noura A.
- Bradley M.
- Marin S.
- Tengxiao L.
- Alex M.
- Vincent P.
- Makenna S.
- Colson B.
- Ainsley H.
- Kirk B., and
- Ava R.
Spring has Sprung in the VCS Garden

By Nicole Richard
Educational Technician II

Gardening is underway here at the Veazie Community School. We have several groups of green thumbs this spring: a crew of 3rd graders who joined us after school garden club, Flex Friday Garden group, and some other classroom helpers. All are eager to get their hands dirty, fascinated by earthworms, and amazed at the growth process.

The Garden Club has been very busy preparing the garden beds for spring planting. They have been weeding, cultivating, and squishing grubs. They have also started lettuce, cucumbers, and zinnias by seed in the greenhouse. Their peas have sprung outside a favorite treat during the summer program) and they are also working on an herb garden. We prepared hot cups of homemade mint tea from the mint leaves we harvested and dried last fall. The kids always seem to appreciate their hard work when they can reap the benefits. We were very fortunate to receive some started veggie plants from Mr. Cleveland Bemis, a Veazie resident who had an abundance and shared his tomatoes, Chinese cabbage and onions sets. They have been planted and are thriving! Thank you Mr. Bemis.

Mrs. Frazier and I were thrilled to have so many kids interested in our “Garden” Flex Friday Group. Our first meeting started with a dianthus flower, hand potted with love for Mother’s Day. We also learned how crucial the milkweed plant is to the Monarch Butterfly’s life cycle and how valuable this famous pollinator is to plant cycles. Without pollinators, our own food sources would be in jeopardy. We enjoyed spreading donated milkweed seeds that they harvested the previous fall. They are always amazed when they return as first graders that their little seeds magically turned into 10-foot tall bright yellow sunflowers. Mrs. Hileman’s 4th graders requested more cucumbers in the salad, so cucumbers it is!!! They had a fun time preparing the soil and planting the seeds. Mrs. Humphrey’s 2nd graders planted some green beans, which we hope to enjoy during the summer program!!

Our goal is to be able to utilize most, if not all of, our home-grown vegetables in the cafeteria, but also for students to be able to do as much as the planting as possible, so timing for a September harvest is tricky. We are lucky to have such a positive group of students who are so excited to learn about growing their own food that make this goal achievable. Stop by and see their hard work!

1st, 2nd grade students read to cats, kittens at Bangor Humane Society

First and Second Grade students read to the cats and kittens at the Bangor Humane Society today as a part of the school’s Flex Friday program. The cats and students both enjoyed themselves immensely! The Bangor Humane Society has done so many upgrades. If you haven’t been in awhile, go check them out!

‘Peak Performance and Wellness’

(Continued from page 8)

to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. However, they’re often open later because of events at the gym or elsewhere. They’re closed on Sundays, but they’re open for special events. Lia says Peak Performance and Wellness is located in the Sports Academy’s “wellness wing” between Body Dynamic, a massage therapy clinic operated by Ryan Bennett, and Healy Chiropractic and Physical Therapy, operated by Pat Healy. The Eastern Maine Sports Academy opened last October in the former Collabric building at 1017 School Street in Veazie. It is home to Results Basketball, which offers programs to help develop the fundamental and advanced skills of Maine basketball players, and Queen City Athletics, which offers a variety of sports performance and personal training programs with individual, semi-private, and large group sessions.
First Graders welcomed parents back into the building after two long years of Covid restrictions. Families and friends came to watch students perform the play, An Earth Day Carol. This play had been an annual event that first grade does each year during their Rainforest and Environmental Study. Students prepare for a month. They learn lines, paint scenery and rehearse with microphones on stage. Parents are invited back to the room after the play to enjoy rainforest snacks, see the room that had been transformed into a rainforest and hear stories their child has written. It was wonderful having people back into our school!

Grade 2 went to “Camp Read a Lot” on May 7th! The weather was great and the learning was fun! Second graders read camping-themed stories, did camping math, studied animal tracks, played camp bingo, and ate s’mores. It has been a WONDERFUL year in second grade!
**One Spring Day**

_by Kason Bagley, grade 8_

One day when the leaves are blooming on the big trees, we will know spring is here.

One morning when we hear the birds chirping, we will know spring is here.

One morning when the flowers start to blossom, we will know spring is here.

One morning when you feel the cool breeze outside, we will know spring is here.

One afternoon we will hear the roar of a lawn mower, we will know spring is here.

One afternoon when you see the bees getting pollen from a tree, we will know spring is here.

One afternoon when you go see your first home run hit, we will know spring is here.

One night when you have S'mores over the bright red fire, we will know spring is here.

One night when you hear the sound of the crickets creaking, we will know spring is here.

One night when you hear the raindrops on the roof, we will know spring is here.

One night when you fall asleep with your windows open, we will know spring is here.

One day you will know spring is here.

**SWEPT**

_by Liam MacDonald, grade 8_

Towers fall to the ground like dominoes, overtaken by time and the frozen storm.

Their iron base begins to crumble without stabilization, without care or presence from the creators.

Latched to the cities like a parasite is Winter.

The machines and their puzzling purpose chokes out into the night.

Engulfed within their own faults and the snow.

Questions, along with their metallic skeletons, fade away into the dark, frozen depths.

Winter, a season that knows no hope.

Winter, a nightmare which never ceases until the end.

A brief moment of silence, overturned by the frozen depths of ancient times.

In a forest of ancient cities,

And ancient coffins.

But from this sorrowful mis-happening a new age comes in like the tide.

Winter, ripped from its roots violently, screaming and howling into the darkness.

It gleams with warmth and salvation for society despite its rot and rust seasons passing by and by.

But no other looks as glorious as spring.

Bringing a wave of colors, blooming new life into the world.

The metal gods that walked the world before will remain a mystery forever.

For centuries, as the world recovers from such taint.

The iron palaces and safe havens built will fall and rust.

As the times continue to die, retreating to the depths of the Earth, the world falls silent.

With the final breath of winter and the youngest birth of Spring.

And the world awakens once again.

**Spring's First Bloom**

_by Hunter Seguin, grade 8_

Dandelion, oh dandelion,

You're such a small seed,

You must grow to be

As yellow as the sun,

As your mother,

And father,

And sister and brother,

You must grow to be as yellow as the sun.

Dandelion, my dandelion,

Oh, how you have grown,

You are about to bloom,

Let your true colors show,

For you must be

As yellow as the sun,

My dear dandelion,

Let your true colors shine!

Oh, my dandelion!

You have grown to be,

You have let your true colors show!

Until you have grown as old as dust,

You shall be the brightest one!

Oh, my dear dandelion,

Your time has come,

You've been the brightest for so, so long,

But it's time to say goodbye,

Watch as your wishes fly,

Fly away with the wind,

Now, your last sight will be

Brighter than you've ever seen.

**The Sun Rise**

_by Sam Wardrop, grade 8_

After an endless sleep

The blanket fades away

Tulips sprout, awake

Ready to face another day

As the Robins leap

The lively platter squirms

The rest complain, for heaven's sake

The early bird gets the worm.

Soon the sleek spring showers seep

Straight into the soil, plants sprayed

Tears raining down on pleasing snakes

The lion is brutal, critters need aid

Listening to the peepers peep

Cozy, like climbing into sheets

The next day kids use mud for cake

Then the cycle repeats
Soul Construction
By Kylee Barker, grade 8

Her eyes are blue
Like summer skies
She has a blooming personality
She’s like flowers if they had eyes

She is bold and bright
Just like the sun on a nice summer day
Her hair flows
like ocean waves

Her skin is freckled
Like dandelions scattered in a field
She smells like rainbows after rain

She stands tall like
Trees in the forest
Her eyes glitter
With galaxies behind them

She’s as sweet as honey
And everything I’m becoming

Dragonfly
By Piper Parker, grade 7

Warm summer breeze
Chirping of birds
Buzzes of bees
Warm lake waves hitting the shore
The sound of a dragonfly buzzing through the air
Racing with each other
Racing with birds
Playing tag with fish in the lake
Then others that choose to rest on slimy lily pads

All three eyes glimmering in the sun
Sitting so pretty
Sitting so settled you only notice when they speed away
Flying down to sit next to you in the warm glistening sun
Giving you company
Bringing a friend or two

So many different colors
Crimson red
Dark dusty black
And sapphire blue
But the rarest one
A little pink dragonfly
Rests by my side

Hushed when they land
A tingly feeling when they land on your nose
It’s surprising at first
After they go
You’re left with good luck

7th, 8th grade ELA students enjoy virtual visit from author Todd Strasser

Seventh and eighth grade ELA students enjoyed a virtual visit on March 30th with Todd Strasser, author of over 140 novels, including the middle school class book The Wave. This international bestseller is based on an actual history class experiment in a California high school in 1969, when a teacher showed students how the type of “blind following” during the Holocaust could happen again.

During the question and answer format, Todd shared that he wasn’t always a strong reader and writer, having repeated the third grade, but he enjoyed creating stories. His journalist mother, a house “filled with books” and a family who valued literacy all helped to spark his interest in reading and writing. Todd emphasized the importance of being a good reader and writer in any occupation and discussed how it could make the difference between being a worker and being the boss. He stressed the value of research when writing, explaining if, as an author, you want to get the reader to “buy into” your story and your message, then you need to make sure your research is accurate.

When asked how he wants to be remembered, Strasser said “as a good parent” - and as someone who tried to make the world a better place by helping with literacy and education.
Veazie Town Meeting Warrant and Town Budget and School Budget

State of Maine, County of Penobscot, ss

To: Mark Leonard, Chief of Police for the Town of Veazie, in said County of Penobscot, State of Maine

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Veazie, said County, qualified by law as voters in the Town affairs, to meet at the Municipal Building, in said Town, on Tuesday, the 14th day of June, A.D. 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and then and there to act on Article 3 through 36 as set out below.

TOWN BUDGET ARTICLES

Article 3: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Administrative and General Service and Other Commitments.

Article 4: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Police Department.

Article 5: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Reserve Accounts.

Article 6: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Facilities Maintenance.

Article 7: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Community Investment.

Article 8: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Capital Improvement Programs.

Article 9: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Economic Development Program.

Article 10: To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fixed/Variable Cost Items.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to fix a date when taxes are due and to set an interest rate, the amount to be compounded, on all real estate and personal property not paid on or prior to September 30th. Interest will commence on October 1st on all taxes not paid on or prior to September 30th.

Due Date Suggested: 60% of taxes

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to finance the voted expenditures as follows:

TAX COLLECTOR’S REVENUE

Total Tax Collector’s Revenue: $462,861.00

TREASURER’S REVENUE

Total Treasurer’s Revenue: $552,975.00

TOWN CLERK’S REVENUE

Total Town Clerk’s Revenue: $3,800.00

Exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by $1,544,364.33.

The School Committee gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by $1,544,364.33. Essential programs and services funding model does not provide funding to fully cover the actual costs of special education programming, student transportation costs, and uncounted school environment costs. Annual state education funding per student is calculated based on a flat formula that does not accurately represent the curriculum and extra-curricular programming. If student enrollment remains static or declines, and/or property valuations continue to increase at a rate faster than the state average, the formula will calculate lower EPS total allocations and/or higher local contributions.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised over and above the proportionate local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, off state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the State Revenue Sharing Act (municipal functions only), and for capital outlay expenses, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

Veazie Community School/Town Council Recommends: $4,971,789.74

ARTICLE 22 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 23: In addition to amounts approved in this Article 22, the School Committee shall be authorized to expend any other receipts such as special education state and federal aid or grants required to fund the budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 27 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 29 RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

ARTICLE 30 AUTHORIZES THE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL BUDGET

ARTICLE 31 AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF ANY ADDITIONAL STATE SUBSIDY RECEIVED

ARTICLE 32 AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF ANY ADDITIONAL STATE SUBSIDY RECEIVED

ARTICLE 33: Shall the Regional Vocational Budget be approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of $3,682,608.18?

ARTICLE 34: Shall the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of the school nutrition program? A

ARTICLE 35 THROUGH 36 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 35 (requires a recorded vote): To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, and to see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommends: $3,682,608.18

ARTICLE 36: Shall the Town raise and appropriate $40,000.00 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of the school nutrition program?

ARTICLE 37 AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF ANY ADDITIONAL STATE SUBSIDY RECEIVED

ARTICLE 38: Shall the Regional Vocational Budget be approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of $3,682,608.18?

ARTICLE 39: Shall the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2033 be authorized to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of the school nutrition program?
Veazie Historical Committee hears Brian Swartz on Civil War

On May 5, 2022, the Historical Committee hosted speaker Brian Swartz. Brian gave a wonderful talk on the Civil War. He gave a lot of information about the war and Maine’s own Joshua Chamberlain. He had several of the books he has published, including his latest, *Passing through the Fire.* Brian also talked about several of Veazie’s own Civil War veterans such as Moses Goodwin and his brother-in-law Andrew Doe, Warren Day, William Babcock, Thomas Kent, John Kent, Harry Emery, half brother John and James Durbin, John Wentworth, and John and Lewis Wright.

The Historical Committee is always looking for speakers for future talks about Veazie’s history. If anyone knows someone who would like to talk about what they know about Veazie we would love to sign them up for a date to speak. There seems to be a great deal of interest in our town’s history as of late.

The Historical Committee has received recently a book by Ruth Kath about her grandmother Maud Davis. In the book she also includes information on some of Maud’s friends Addie Weed, Flora Weed, Bertie Turner, Florence Inman, Ida McPheeters, Blye Spencer, Mary Davis, and Lucy Buckley.

It is interesting to note as the Veazie School gets a new superintendent that Maud was the youngest superintendent of schools in the US, when she was appointed to the position in Veazie in 1906. A story about her ran in the Boston Globe on April 22, 1906 with a headline “Girl of 21 Years Head of Schools.”

* * *

The Historical Committee receives items from folks all the time. If you find anything about Veazie and would like to donate it to the Committee we would love to have it or make a copy of it. Now that we have a room of our own we are able to display items and as times goes on share it online.
Pre-K students learn about different cultures, practice writing their names in Arabic

Recently Pre-K has been learning about the different cultures and traditions of our friends. The preschoolers learned that people speak in different languages and that means they write different letters as well.

The children spent some time learning how to write their names in the Arabic language. They also spent time looking at and comparing the letters of the Arabic alphabet. We were so lucky to have our wonderful guest parent, Dina, come to teach us about Ramadan.

The preschoolers learned all about the traditions of Ramadan and Eid and we even had a celebration of our own by making lanterns and eating moon cookies!

By Tara Frazier

Many Thanks to our wonderful PTO group who helped our Fall Origami FLEX group’s idea of having every student and staff member represented in a single display in our building.

This has been a task many months in the making. In the Fall, the FLEX Friday Origami group folded hearts of various sizes in order to make enough for everyone who attended or works at VCS to have their name on a heart.

One of the things that our students wanted was for everyone to be able to feel that they were included and belonged here. As the leader of the FLEX group, I was so proud to watch as students of all ages K-8 were busy making the hearts until we had over 200 of them finished.

All that needed to happen then was for each one to have a name put on it, for it to be hole-punched, and for them to be strung up.

Mrs. Shannon generously suggested we put them in the front window of the library so that they could be seen from either side. We ended FLEX before we could finish this and the project was tabled until the PTO Helper group stepped in and saved the day.

They punched, labeled, and strung each one with meticulous care until the display was finished. What a great show of teamwork and a wonderful way for students to remember a fun activity.

As we head into the summer, we will all still be members of the Veazie Community School Family. On June 13th, the day of Grade 8 graduation, the display will come down and the hearts will go home with each student as a reminder that they are part of our Small School with a Big Heart.

Many Hearts and Many Hands

By Tara Frazier