

# The Raymond Road Runner

ECRWSS

A Jordan-Small School & Town of Raymond Publication

Volume III, Issue III

POSTAL CUSTOMER

MARCH, 2000

## Raymond Pond Watershed Survey Completed

By: John Rand

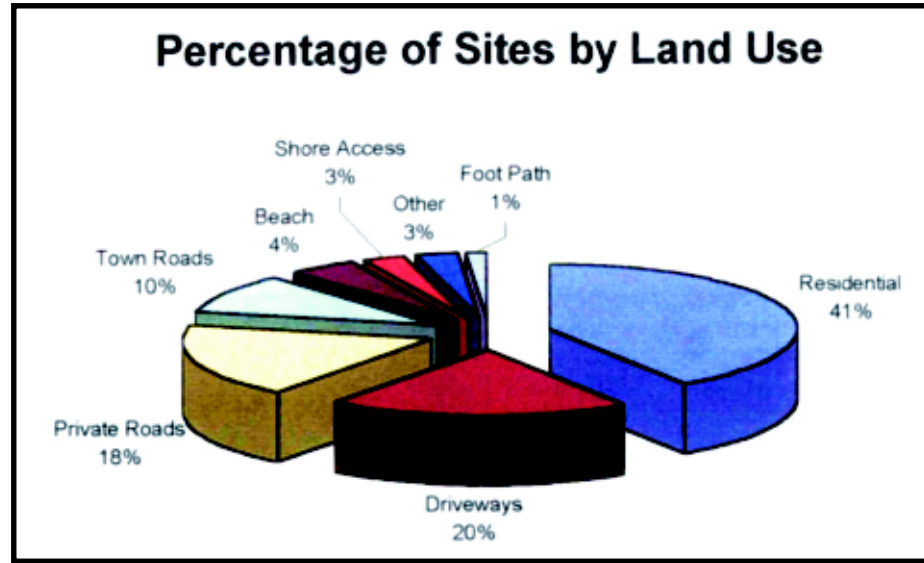
With help from 16 dedicated volunteer Raymond citizens, the Raymond Conservation Commission and Maine DEP have completed a survey of the Raymond Pond Watershed. The purpose of the survey was to identify soil erosion sites and other "non-point sources" of pollution that pose a threat to long term water quality of the pond. Of equal importance was raising awareness among property owners of the connections between land use and water quality and encouraging people to become active stewards of land and water resources.

The survey identified 71 sites that are impacting the water quality of Raymond Pond. The sites consisted of a number of different land uses. (Please see the pie chart for a percentage breakdown by land

use.) Most of the sites are located on private shorefront properties and on camp roads and driveways. Town roads, beach and shore access areas represent a smaller but significant number of the erosion sites.

maintaining or replacing old septic systems helps reduce the phosphorus load to the pond. Less well known is that naturally occurring phosphorus is attached to fine sand, silt and clay particles that make up our soils. Bare

over the land and in streams, contributing a real and substantial load of phosphorus to the pond. Indeed, pond and lake water quality problems result from numerous low to moderate impact sites, not from one or two high impact sites.



The next step in the process is to fix the erosion sites. The Conservation Commission is considering applying for grants to demonstrate erosion control remedies at several visible sites. This effort would also educate the public about erosion and water quality. Our hope is that road associations and private landowners will come forward for help in remedying their own sites. Depending on resources, technical assistance will be available to help design road maintenance practices and shoreland plantings that protect water quality. We have copies of the survey report available for interested, action minded stewards! For more information contact John Rand (655-4277, jbr@maine.com), Elizabeth Algeo (655-6965, era@ime.net), or David Ladd at Maine DEP (822-6300, David.Ladd@state.me.us).

It is well documented in Maine and around the country (and world) that phosphorus causes water quality problems in ponds and lakes. Using zero phosphate detergents in and around our homes and waterfront camps, and

soils that are exposed during construction projects, that are present on our camp roads and driveways, and that are exposed by uncontrolled foot traffic can easily erode. Soil eroded during rain storms and snow melt migrates downhill

**RoadRunner Articles Due**  
Articles for the next edition of the RoadRunner newsletter are due by March 15th. Please provide them by any of the following methods:  
**E-Mail; Diskette; Paper**  
Articles should be saved in Rich Text Format (RTF)  
**Send School Related Articles To:**  
n.richard@raymondmaine.org  
or drop at Principal's Office  
**Send Town related articles To:**  
nathan.poore@raymondmaine.org or drop at Town Hall

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**RoadRunner Staff:**  
Roger Pignataro Nathan Poore  
Norma Richard Kevin Woodbrey  
**Visit Us on the Web**  
Make sure to see the on-line archives at the Raymond, Maine web site:  
<http://www.raymondmaine.org>  
Look under Events & News  
*Raymond, Me.*

## Principal's Corner

By: Norma Richard

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jordan-Small School parents for their support of our school program and for their continuing involvement in their children's education. As I watch our students share their learning at Good News each month and receive recognition each quarter for their honor roll grades, I feel a wonderful pride in their achievements at school and in the support they receive out of school. Learning today is a life-long experience. We can not even begin to imagine the opportunities for our students when they reach adulthood. Many of these oppor-

tunities have not even been invented yet. What we, teachers and parents, can provide our students with is a solid foundation in basic skills, including team work and collaborative skills, and the desire to make learning an important part of their lives.

I would like to share an important safety advisory with parents concerning popular small toys that children attach to their clothing or backpacks. These toys, Pokemon, Furby, Bean Babies, etc., pose a potential safety hazard for children as they can be snagged on a school bus handrail or door component. Michael Martin of the School Bus Information Council notes that these toys are very popular with children today and that

children understandably want to show them off. Unfortunately, any toy that dangles off backpacks or clothing is every bit as dangerous as loose drawstrings, straps, and other items that have caused deaths and injuries in a number of situations. He advises that parents be aware of the danger and remove these toys from their children's clothing and backpacks immediately. I agree with Mr. Martin, and would rather err on the side of caution. We will be checking all students at school and will have them remove all toys or other items that are hanging off backpacks or jackets. We ask for your cooperation and support in this effort.

## New Elementary School On Schedule

By: David Johnson

The latest update provided by Design Alliance and Payton Construction Company indicates the new K-4 school construction will be completed as planned in June. Summer will be busy for administration and staff as they finalize preparations for opening of the new elementary school in Fall, 2000.

You may have monitored construction progress over the last several months, as you drove by the Route 85 site. Or, maybe you don't travel that way frequently, so instead visited the Town's website and viewed the construction project photo album ([www.raymondmaine.org](http://www.raymondmaine.org), government, committees). Until recently, it was fairly easy to see progress as the site work

evolved into foundations, walls and roofs. Now that the building is closed in, progress is less public - but certainly continues!

As of mid-February, exterior brickwork was complete on all but the front center sections, with all interior masonry finished. Roofing progressed as exterior walls were completed. The Fire Department has already begun to use the new water storage tank (located underground near the driveway entrance).

Interior wall studding has been up for several weeks, about one third of the sheet rock is installed, and many windows have been installed. Ductwork is

## New Website For Raymond Kids And Teens!

A group of teens met in early February to help design a new website aimed at connecting kids and teens with community events, programming and information they may be looking for. With the help of Communities for Children member Mike Reynolds, several Raymond teens worked on developing a calendar of events, a page listing volunteer/community service opportunities, a job page and a page about Camp Kieve, a youth leadership program. You can find the web site at ([www.raymondmaine.org](http://www.raymondmaine.org)). Anyone interested in assisting with the Raymond

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# Raymond Extended Day 2000 Summer Program

By: Joni Merrill

The Raymond Extended Day Program is beginning to gear up for its summer program. This will be RED's 5th summer and we are looking forward to another exciting session. If you are interested in having your child involved in this program, enrollment packets will be available on March 27th. You may pick them up at the Jordan-Small School cafeteria from 6:30-8:30 a.m. or 3:15-6:00 p.m. or call 655-3203 and leave your name and address or your child's name and home room teacher and a packet will be sent home. Deadlines for enrollment will be as follows: "RED" families must have their applications in by April 11th to be given priority. We will be accepting applications from

Raymond families not currently enrolled in RED through April 13th and after April 13th from non-Raymond families as slots permit. Children will be accepted according to the date the Executive Director receives the completed application and non-refundable application fee. RED will be holding its summer program at the Jordan-Small School and the fall program will be held at the new school.

Lots of field trips and exciting activities are being planned. If you know of someone in need of summer employment, aged 18 or older and who loves working with children, please have them call Joni at 655-3203

for more information.

RED is currently in need of staff help especially on Wednesday afternoons from 12:15 to 4:00. Please call Joni at 655-3203 for more information.

The RED Board of Directors is pleased to be a part of the new school's Century Club. The Board has unanimously agreed to donate \$1,000 towards the building of a playground at the new school. The Board also wishes to extend thanks to the Town of Raymond and Jordan-Small School for many years of working together with RED.

## POT ROAST SUPPER

Saturday, March 18, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm  
Raymond Village Community Church  
Main Street (Route 121), Raymond

**Menu: Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, String Beans, Carrots, Biscuits, Beverages & Dessert**

Adults \$6.00 Children (under 12) \$2.50  
Children 5 and under FREE

Handicap entrance Take out service

There will be a Pot roast Supper the third Saturday of each month:

March 18	July 15
April 15	August 19
May 20	September 16
June 17	October 21

## News From The Raymond Village Library

The Reading Group will meet on March 30th at the Library at 7:00 pm to discuss the book, "Women of the Dawn" by Bunny McBride.

The Library will now be open until 8:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning in March. Remember if the weather is questionable, call first at 655-4283.

A suggestion box has been placed in the entryway of the Library. We welcome any ideas and suggestions to help make your Library more helpful and useable.

The Raymond Recreation Association will be holding a Babysitting Course at the Library on March 4th and March 11th.

The next Raymond Village Library Club Meeting will be held on April 6th at 7:00 pm at the Library. New members are welcomed.

## Raymond Recreation Basketball News

By: John Hanley

Saturday, March 4th we will hold a season ending Round Robin Basketball Tournament for each age division followed by a pizza lunch.

7 to 9 year old division begins at 10:00 am;  
pizza at 11:30 am  
10 to 12 year old division: begins at 12:00 noon;  
pizza at 1:30 pm

The 1999-2000 basketball program served over 70 kids. We had 7 teams, 17 coaches, 58 games and a weekly practice. This was the first exposure to team basketball for many and the opportunity for all of the kids to learn skills and play the game. All was made possible by a terrific group of parents that volunteered to coach, for many of whom this was their first time as coaches. They all did a great job and I wish to thank them for their time and wonderful attitude. David Blanchard, David McGowan, Russ Hutchinson, Dean Terry, Mark Farrington, Mary Feltovic, Dean Dighello, Leo Algeo, Todd Guerrette, Michael O'Neill, Jeff Weeks, Barry Keck, Karen and Al Knight, Nicole Beers, Keith Blanchard and Kane Loukas. Thank you also to MaryAnne Fusco for helping out on Saturday mornings, Ron Lear for refereeing many of our games, the parents and siblings running the scoreboards, the Jordan Small custodial staff for setup on game nights and principal Norma Richard for her strong support of the program. An extra thank you to Dave McGowen who partnered with me to run the program.

## Swim Program

Thanks for a great response to the recent swim survey, we had a good deal of input and now have enough interest to begin working on the finer details of developing a swimming program. We hope to start pool lessons sometime in the fall, (this program will not affect the summer swim lessons). Further details will be made available nearer the time. Thanks again for your response any questions or interest in volunteering please contact Alex Jackson tel. 627 7422 email: alexforp@yahoo.com

## Are You Ready For Some VOLLEYBALL!

Co-ed Adult Volleyball, beginning Wednesday March 1st and every Wednesday in March, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Jordan-Small School Gymnasium. Break out the sneakers and join your neighbors for some fun and exercise that will help make the remaining winter weeks fly by. "No sign-up, just show up". Raymond adults 18 years and older. Questions? Call John Hanley, 998-5304 or e-mail jchanley@megalink.net

# March 2000

## Events and Meeting Schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TH=Town Hall JS=Jordan-Small KC=Kokatosi Campgnd TG=Town Garage RT85 FB=Fire Barn VL=Village Library			<b>1</b> 7:00PM JS School Committee	<b>2</b> 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health 9:30AM VL Story Time 6:30PM KC Lions Club	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 4:00 PM TH Democratic Caucus	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Recycling Pickup 7:00AM-8:00PM JS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY 7:00PM TH Selectmen Meeting 7:00PM VL Library Club Meeting	<b>8</b> Recycling Pickup 7:00PM TH Planning Board	<b>9</b> 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health 9:30AM VL Story Time	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health	<b>15</b> 5:30PM JS Senior Citizens Supper 7:00PM JS School Committee	<b>16</b> 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health 9:30AM VL Story Time 6:30PM KC Lions Club	<b>17</b> 7:00AM-8:00PM JS TOWN ELECTIONS	<b>18</b> 10:00AM JS TOWN MEETING
<b>19</b> 10:00AM TH Appeals Board Site Walk	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Recycling Pickup 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health 7:00PM TH Selectmen	<b>22</b> Recycling Pickup	<b>23</b> 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health 9:30AM VL Story Time 7:00 PM VL Reading Group	<b>24</b> 8:45AM JS Good News  Appeals Board Deadline for April Meeting	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00PM TH Appeals Board	<b>28</b> 6:30-7:30AM JS Walk for Health 7:00PM VL Library Board Meeting	<b>29</b> 7:30PM FB Ladies Auxiliary	<b>30</b> 9:30AM VL Story Time 7:00PM TH Cemetery Committee	<b>31</b>  Jordan-Small School 3rd Quarter Ends	

## Commercial Bulky Waste Policy

Raymond's bulky waste policy for commercial haulers requires anyone hauling debris to the Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility which is not their own must have a Commercial sticker. A Commercial sticker hauler will be billed monthly for what they have brought into the Facility. If a Commercial hauler takes debris from a Raymond resident's property, the Raymond resident must give permission by phone or letter prior to the delivery in order for the debris to be accepted without charge to the hauler. The Town Office will give the Commercial hauler a day pass to give the Facility.

## From the Office of the Tax Collector

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 99/00 taxes are due April 30<sup>th</sup> (interest on that 2<sup>nd</sup> half bill begins May 1<sup>st</sup>). We are hoping to have the bills out by the end of March. If you do not receive your bill by the middle of April, please call the Town Office (655-4742). Addresses are updated daily but please notify us of any corrections. Please, when making payment by mail, include payment stub and/or reference account number on your check.

Mortgage holders change hands, sometimes many times. Please notify us of any change pertaining to your mortgage company. This will help alleviate any delays in the crediting of payment to your account. Mortgage holders often call our office for information on accounts. If we have inaccurate information, we cannot verify account status. We try to keep our records as updated as possible.

Tax Collection and Assessing Hours are as follows:

<b>Dep. Tax Collector - Donna Lovely</b>	
Tuesday	8:30 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Friday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday	8:30 am to 12:00 noon

<b>Tax Assessor - Mike O'Donnell</b>	
Thursday	8:30 am to 4:00 pm

### NOTICE

As of March 31, 2000 all dogs must be licensed after which a late fee of \$10.00 will be incurred.

## Senior Citizens Dinner

Menu for March 15, 2000  
Please call the school office at  
655-4743 for a reservation.

Meat Loaf  
Mashed Potatoes  
Steamed Broccoli  
Irish Jello Mold  
Yeast Rolls  
St. Patrick's Day Dessert

## Presidential Preference Primary

On March 7, 2000 Raymond will hold its Presidential Preference Primary from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Jordan Small School gymnasium. If you are presently registered as an unenrolled voter, you can choose a party on March 7<sup>th</sup> and vote for a candidate in the party of your choice. If you now have a party affiliation, you can vote for your candidate in that party.

If you are an unenrolled voter and decide to pick a party prior to the March 7<sup>th</sup> Primary, you must stay in that party for not less than 3 months. Therefore, if you decide that you want to vote in the June primary for a different party, you must change from the party you joined in March not less than 15 days prior to the June primary. If you have a party affiliation and want to change your party after the March Primary, you can accomplish that anytime prior to 15 days before the June primary. Any of these changes can be done at the Town Office.

### NOTICE

#### SEASONAL ROAD POSTING

All Town Roads with the exception  
of Routes 302, 121, and 85  
will be closed to trucks over  
23,000 GVW beginning  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2000

The roads will be re-opened to heavy  
trucks later in the spring. A notice will  
appear in the Road Runner at that time

## Raymond Food Pantry

The Raymond Food Pantry is open at the Town Office during business hours for receiving dry goods. If you need perishable foods like frozen meats, please make an appointment so that a Pantry volunteer can meet you. There are also winter coats available if they are needed. This service is to give families a little extra help when they need it. All requests are kept confidential.

Please call the Town Office at 655-4742 or the Pantry coordinator at 428-3206 for an appointment or come in during business hours for bagged foods.

## Rabies Clinic Well Attended

On Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> the Town Office hosted our annual Rabies Clinic from 1 to 3 pm at the District 2 Fire Station. Dr. Jim Stephenson; his wife Judy; Lisa Conley, an intern from St. Joseph's College; and the Stephenson's son Joe processed the vaccinations. Nancy Yates and Louise Lester processed licensing registrations.

In total 66 vaccinations were given to dogs and cats with dogs being the majority. This year Blue Seal Feeds in Windham participated by donating dog and cat food. Mark Farrington, Blue Seal Sales Representative, provided us with approximately 500 pounds of food which we gave away to the clinic participants. The food that was left over will be used by our Animal Control Officer. Thirty dogs were licensed.

## Moose Permits Available

The 2000 Moose Permit applications are available at the Town Office. Applications must be sent in no later than April 3, 2000.

## Free Paper Available At The Town Office

Three years ago Staples Office Supply gave the Town Office three pallets of white copier paper. The paper has been stored in the Town Hall basement and unfortunately through the years the remainder of the unused paper has become too damp to use in a photocopier. However, this paper would be acceptable for writing upon. Anyone who would like some of this paper is welcomed to get it at the Town Office during regular office hours.

## October '99 Stewardship Event For Morgan Meadow Wildlife Meadow Area

The Morgan Meadow Wildlife Management Area recently received an enthusiastic dose of volunteer stewardship. Forty-five volunteers gathered at the Egypt Road entrance gate on October 31, to apply their landscape maintenance skills to the trails, debris piles, wooded areas, and main entrance area of this 1,072 acre tract located in Raymond. Teams of volunteers, which included many local adults, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, cleared trails, improved visibility between the main entrance parking area and Egypt Road, removed a truck-load of asphalt shingles from the property, and posted the parking area against illegal dumping.

Morgan Meadow Wildlife Management Area is one of the largest areas of undeveloped land in this region of southern Maine and is managed by the DIFW for its wildlife resources, as well as, fostering public access to recreational opportunities. The 1,072 acre tract, purchased by the Land for Maine's Future Board in 1990 from the L.A. Marshall Company, the long-time owner of the property, consists of mixed forestland, streams, significant wetland habitat, and meadows. Wildlife management focuses on waterfowl, furbearers, and deer habitats. Both duck hunting

and deer hunting are popular on this land. Forestry management is directed toward enhancing wildlife



populations, protecting water quality and preserving special natural resources.

Since the October event, Boy Scout Troop 805 of Windham, led by Cathy Gosselin and Judy Stepheson, have returned several times to Morgan Meadow to improve the access to overgrown hiking trails, removal of three truck loads of demolition debris and other waste materials from the parking lot, and placed plaques identifying significant natural features.

The Land for Maine's Future Program in conjunction with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Raymond Conservation Commission organized this Stewardship Event at the Morgan Meadow Wildlife Management Area.

For anyone interested in current and future stewardship activities for Morgan Meadow, telephone Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Regional Office in Gray, at 657-2345, find the Morgan Meadow site at IF&W's Internet site: ([www.state.me.us/ifw/wma](http://www.state.me.us/ifw/wma)) or, contact the Raymond Conservation Commission (Priscilla Rand @655-4894; Elizabeth Algeo @ 655-6965).

## New Elementary School

*Continued from page 1*

nearing completion. Interior painting began in the gym. Since its ten miles of tubing is embedded in the floors, most of the radiant heating was installed early in the project.

Meanwhile, the administration has assembled the moveable equipment order. Plans are complete for the re-use and movement of equipment from Jordan-Small. Increasing the complexity of this work, staff and administration have also prepared for some of the middle school equipment needs. This portion of the overall project is a significant effort in its own right!

Overall, the project has run quite smoothly. The thorough design work by the Building Committee and Design Alliance (our architectural firm), early in the process, laid an excellent base for the construction phase. Cooperation between the architect, general contractor, and all design and construction subs has kept the project on schedule and within budget.

Don't forget the Century Campaign that is raising funds for the new elementary playground equipment. The State does not allow for this expenditure within the construction budget. Your help is needed to assure our children have this equipment. Please contact the Jordan-Small School to make your contribution.

Please feel free to contact the school administration or committee chair (David Johnson, 655-7094) if you have any questions or comments.

## New Website

*Continued from page 1*

Kids and Teens Website may contact Mike Reynolds at sjmr@maine.rr.com or at 655-2884. The group plans to meet to work on the site a couple of times a month.

Communities for Children continues to offer opportunities for sharing resources and forming partnerships to work on any issues pertaining to Raymond children and youth. The next meeting will be March 30, 7:00 at the Jordan Small School Library. Please call Lori Rand at 655-4277 or Laurie Wallace at 655-2222 for more information.

## Century Campaign Contributors

On behalf of students and staff, we would like to thank the following contributors to the Raymond Elementary School Playground CENTURY CAMPAIGN. We appreciate all donations to the playground, and encourage members of the Raymond business community to join us in this fund raising campaign.

Gregory and Leona Curtis  
 Ron and Helene Gagnon and family  
 Maggie and Lew Kranin  
 Robert and Marilyn Orsini  
 Mark and Sheri Reed in memory of  
 Kendra Hathaway Alexis  
 Donald and Dolores Ritter  
 John and Lisa Schadler and family  
 Justin Sharaf  
 John Staples  
 Systems Engineering, Inc.  
 Wendy and Emery Thoren  
 Norma Richard  
 The Raymond Education Association  
 Mary Jane Vandersluis  
 Rodney and Karyn Knights and family  
 Bob and Laurie Wallace and family  
 Raymond Semi Circle  
 Phyllis Hawkes in memory of  
 Clifford P. Hawkes, Jr.  
 Bud Larson  
 Mike and Linda O'Neill and family  
 Peter and Cathy Walton and family

## Dear Raymond Residents:

We, the students in Mr. Stevens' homeroom class, would like to thank you for your more than generous donations of gifts and food that were distributed just before Christmas. We also wish to thank the Holiday Helpers, who gave of their own time to distribute these items.

With your assistance we were able to help thirty Raymond families have a merrier Christmas.

## JSS Fifth And Six Graders Participate In Math Meet

**By: Garry Stevens**

On January 29, 2000 at 8:30 a group of twelve Jordan Small Students, parents and math instructors made their way to Jordan Small School to catch a bus for all things...a math meet. The kids appeared comfortably at ease on this cool winter morning.

Sharon was our bus driver and she had the bus all heated up for us as we set out on our journey to Scarborough. The last of the participants arrived at 8:35 and we were off at 8:40. Mr. Fitch was kind enough to explain what the math meet would entail. I was surprised to learn of the level of competition that these fifth and sixth graders enjoyed. The students were very excited at the prospect of competing with schools from across Southern Maine.

Upon arrival at Scarborough Middle School where the math meet was being held, the JSS students were separated according to their grade level. Prominently displayed on the stage were the trophies for which our

correcting and tabulating the test scores. I was one of a few parent volunteers among a room full of math instructors from various schools. An intricate system of checks and double checks went very smoothly and watching the "Tally Board" was like waiting for precinct votes in a major election.

The time finally came to announce the winners and I believe that all of the students who participated were a credit to their individual schools for possessing the necessary math skills in which to compete. Ian Acker took second place over all in the fifth grade individual level. In the team awards the JSS fifth grade team took second place. In the overall school totals JSS tied with Scarborough for third place.

Parents, teachers and the Raymond community can be proud of our young people and their competitive spirit. Mr. Jack Fitch deserves much of the credit for preparing the students for competition and the JSS math team

deserves a thank you for all of their hard work and spirit. The following JSS students participated at the meet.

Ian Acker  
 Josh Leeman  
 Travis Cook  
 Rebecca McIntyre  
 Wyndham Juneau  
 Alyssa Andrew  
 Andy Bissonette  
 Rachel Mayer  
 Kainani Stevens  
 Adam Wallace  
 Steve Wisutskie  
 Kakla Harding

The next math meet is to be held in March, watch for notices for the exact time

and place. Come out and support our math team, you'll find it an interesting experience.



kids were competing. At 10:00 the room became quiet as instructions were given out and the first test, Arithmetic, was distributed. I was recruited to help with

## W.E.B. (Wonderfully Exciting Books) News From Title I

**By: Margaret A. Mains, Literacy Specialist**

Our W.E.B. readers are charging ahead of last year's page count. One hundred sixty students are actively participating in this family reading program to this date. These children have read 161,000 pages collectively. Please encourage your readers to keep up the momentum and go beyond our goal of 300,000 pages.

We have added new volunteers to our W.E.B. program this year. Mrs. Barden and Mrs. Huber work most mornings assisting the students as they check books in and out. Mrs. Shively counts pages for us regularly, and Kyle Gagnon, a student, has been organizing our books. Thanks to all the volunteers for helping to make our family reading program continue to be manageable and successful. Snuggle up with books this winter!

### Title I News

We are delighted with our new Title I Ed Tech, Nicole Beers. She has a rich background in literacy instruction and is determined to get her students motivated to read and write. She has been encouraging them to use journal writing as a tool for developing their language skills, and she has lots of creative ideas to pique their interest. Not only does she tutor our Title I students, but she is also actively involved with extra-curricular sports events such as soccer and basketball, even coaching her own team. She loves the opportunity to network with the parents at community events and see her students excelling in other areas. She has certainly made it much easier to address the needs of more students through the Title I tutoring program. We have been able to select the majority of students who have qualified this year, especially at the lower grade levels, because of the third person in our program.

The fall has been a busy time for Title I. Last fall Mrs. Milton and I attended a Concept Phonics I workshop

and learned how to develop phonics skills at a rapid pace through drills, while using mnemonic devices to assist with memorization. We have just begun to pilot these techniques this year, and we are already impressed with the improvements we have seen. Mrs. Beers will be attending a Concept Phonics I workshop in February, but she is already using some of the techniques with her students. In November, Mrs. Milton and I joined Bath teachers at a Concept Phonics II workshop to learn how to teach with mnemonic devices and drill sheets for teaching reading and spelling of more difficult language patterns.

We are also taking a new look at our assessments and the process we use for qualifying and selecting students. I have been talking with the K-4 teachers about a new assessment, DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment), that uses books to assess a student's reading progress. This assessment has been successfully implemented in various school districts around the State, and I am excited about the way this assessment matches what the students are actually learning in their classrooms. We are hoping to connect with other schools that are using these materials too.

Another assessment we are looking at is the ETA (Evaluating Through Activities) for math, which has been endorsed by the Department of Education in Maine as a good match for the expectations of the Learning Results. I'm sure you will be hearing more about these tests as we explore them further. This will also be a busy year as we look into ways to improve and expand our tutoring program for the new school next year. We welcome any comments/suggestions. Please call me at 655-4743 if you would like to discuss anything concerning Title I.