



# The Founders Academy

*A Public Charter School for Grades 6-12*

**May 20, 2016**

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## **From the Dean of School**



Happy Friday!

Students, teachers and chaperons are enjoying their trip to Washington, DC this week! As I write this, our Founders' travelers are headed to Arlington National Cemetery and the solemn Changing of the Guard. Yesterday, the students met with U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte who reiterated her how much she enjoyed her visit to Founders earlier this year.

There is lots to read in this edition of the parent e-newsletter. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,  
Maureen Mooney  
Dean of School

## School News

### Washington D.C. Trip by Mr. Van Ewyk

We spent this morning with Senator Kelly Ayotte. She spoke to the Founders students for about 30 minutes, and mentioned that she was happy to see us again because she enjoyed her visit to our school so much. She provided us with tickets to the Senate Chamber Gallery to watch the Senate in action, where we were lucky enough to be just in time for a roll call vote. We saw Senators John Cornyn and Johnny Isakson in the Chamber.

Today we saw the Smithsonian Museum of American History (The Star Spangled Banner from Fort McHenry, The hat Lincoln wore to Ford's Theater, and the chairs Grant and Lee sat in when the Civil War ended) and the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (Thousands of meteorites, dinosaur bones, and the Hope Diamond)... this evening we enjoyed and reflected on history with a guided tour of The WWII Memorial, The Vietnam Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial.

We are having a wonderful time and learning a lot!

--Greg Van Ewyk





## The Founders Academy 2016 Science Fair by Mrs. Bechis

From May 9 to May 11, about 200 students of Mrs. Bechis' and Ms. Griffin's science classes demonstrated their curiosity, creativity, and scientific skills in the Founders' First Science and Inventors Fair. Students communicated the results of experiments, some started in February, by creating a summary display poster and by delivering a 5-minute talk about their project to their peers, teachers, parents and guest judges. At the end of each presentation they answered questions posed to them by their peers, judges and teachers. Two judges evaluated the students' projects. Selecting winners will be challenging given the excellent work that many students showed. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places winners in each grade level and one best of show will be announced on Monday, May 23.

All students were required to put the Scientific Method into practice on a topic and question of their own choosing. They needed to identify a research area of interest to them, pose a question that could be tested in an experiment, and create a hypothesis or educated guess as to the results expected from the experiment. Next, they needed to plan the experiment: what variables would be held constant ("controls"),

what variables or parameters would be changed and over what range (“independent variables”), and finally what variables would be affected by the changes and then measured (“dependent variables”). Students were required to conduct the experiment, record data, and then analyze the data with charts, tables, and graphs and state the conclusions they reached.

A number of projects presented statistics on how humans interact with and perceive their world. For example, one project evaluated how drinking different types of sodas (the independent variable) would affect the blood pressure (the dependent variable) of human subjects. The control chosen was the blood pressure of a subject before drinking sodas. Another project looked at the impact of color on human’s emotions.

Two students independently conducted experiments that looked at whether people were good at choosing numbers randomly or whether they had biases and selected certain numbers more often than others. Human subjects were asked to pick numbers in 3 separate groups: from 1 to 20, from 1 to 50, and from 1 to 100. The 2 students did not know of the other’s project since they were in different classes, and they also chose different sets of human subjects to conduct the test on. Surprisingly, both projects found the same answer: in the set of numbers between 1 and 20, humans most often picked the number 17. Why 17 is not clear, but for sure, humans are not reliable “generators of random numbers”.

One student tested the Monty Hall problem, a well-known game-show problem that stumps many people’s intuition, including smart mathematicians. A contestant is told that to win a car, they must choose the correct door out of 3 doors. After they tell the game show host the door number, the host opens a different door to show that the car is not behind it, and then tells the contestant he/she can stick with their initial choice or switch to the one remaining unopened door. Should the contestant stick or switch? Most people think the probability of winning the car is now 50/50. Out of a group of human subject contestants, the student found that people who stick with their initial guess win the car only 1 time out of 3, but people who switch to the other unopened door win the car 2 times out of 3, a result also in agreement with the mathematics of conditional probabilities. The experiment shows that one’s intuition is not always the best guide.

Another student hypothesized that different human subjects would tend to make similar (or correlated) guesses of the intelligence of 6 persons A, B, C, D,... after only being shown photographs of their faces: their judgments were indeed correlated. Students most often picked the elderly man who was wearing glasses, followed by the youngest subject who was also wearing glasses. Perhaps the glasses had an effect on the outcome of their choice.

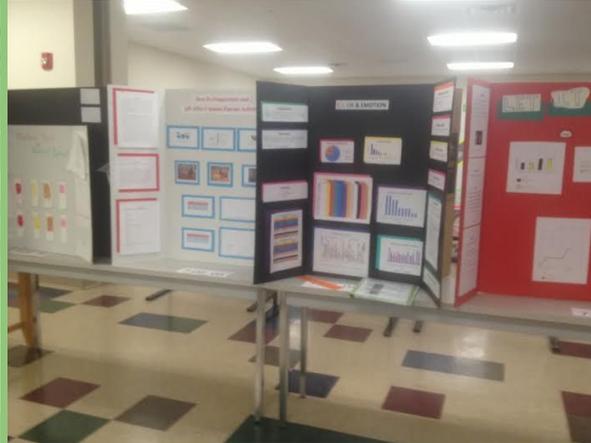
One student guessed that different hair solutions would produce different amounts of oxygen when the same amount of yeast was added to the solutions. In fact, different hair solutions do produce different amounts of oxygen and she has a great video to prove it.

These were just a few of the approximately 200 very creative projects that were presented. Students enjoyed presenting their work, sharing their findings, and learning from each other.

We are encouraging our students to continue working on their projects to enhance them, so that in 2017 their projects can be entered in state and regional competitions.

We plan to make the Science Fair an annual event at Founders.

~Mrs. Bechis



## Sixth and Seventh Grade Science Trip by Mrs. Humphrey

On Monday Mrs. Bechis and Miss Griffin arranged a trip to the Squam Lake Science Center for all 6th and 7th grade students.

The trip was divided into two learning sessions with a break for lunch in between.

In the morning students took measurements of environmental variables between meadow and forest in areas such as air and soil temperature, wind speed, light intensity, topsoil depth and soil temperature. They gathered in a classroom to learn from a guide how to do this and then were accompanied by the guide in their investigations. The students took the task very seriously and did an excellent job of collecting data.

After lunch students followed the nature trail through the grounds, stopping at stations where wild animals such as foxes, coyotes, bobcats, otters and mountain lions were seen in their natural habitats.

The Science Center is a wonderful resource to help students learn about the biotic and abiotic aspects of New Hampshire's ecosystems.



## More Furniture!

We would like to thank a parent for telling us about free furniture in Andover MA. We were given a lot of good stuff, including filing cabinets, tables, and chairs!

A huge thank you also to the Furniture Subcommittee for picking it up! The members include Mrs. Benard, Mr. Van Ewyk, Mr. Marville, and Mrs. Waitt.



We are still in need of the following:

- Shredder
- Lockers
- Round lunch tables
- Gently used copier machines

## NECAP Test - May 24-26

All 8th graders will be required to take the NECAP Science standardized test. The schedule is below.

NECAP 2016 time frame - May 24-26, 2016

Tuesday, May 24

Location: Upper Cafe

Time: 1:30-3:00PM (90 min)

Students: Science 8-1 and 8-2 (30 approx)

Test: Session 1 of NECAP

Wednesday, May 25

Location: Upper Cafe

Time: 1:30-3:00PM (90 min)

Students: Science 8-1 and 8-2 (30 approx)

Test: Session 2 of NECAP

Thursday, May 26

Location: Upper Cafe

Time: 1:30-2:30PM (60 min)

Students: Science 8-1 and 8-2 (30 approx)

Test: Session 3 of NECAP

## Field Day - June 8

The Founders Academy Leadership Committee is planning a Field Day on **June 8th**, with a rain date of June 9th. Join us for a day full of competitions, games, contests, and so much more! . . .

On Field Day, Wednesday, June 8, Round Tables will be organized into an Olympic Games with each Round Table being a country with its own flag. The opening ceremony will a procession as the band plays. The activities will be, for the most part, competitive, and students will win points for their Round Tables. At the closing ceremony the chorus will sing as student line up by Round Table. Awards will be announced and students will return to their Round Table classrooms. During the day, students will move around to events that they have signed up for previously. They will not be required to stay with their Round Table. Parent volunteers will help at all the stations, freeing teachers to participate as they see fit.

A schedule and list of the different events can be found [here](#).

## Final Assessments

Final Assessments are coming up and we want to be sure that students are prepared. Depending on the teacher, the final assessments can be either an exam or project/presentation. A detailed rubric will be provided for a final assessment that isn't an exam.

Final Assessments are scheduled for May 23 - June 3. Subject areas have been assigned specific days in which they will give their assessments so that students do not have too many assessments on one day. The assessment schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 23 - World Language

Tuesday, May 24 - World Language

Wednesday, May 25 - NONE ("Everyday" classes may choose to give part of an exam on this day)

Thursday, May 26 - English/History

Friday, May 27 - NONE

Monday, May 30 - No School (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 31 - English/History/Art

Wednesday, June 1 - Computers/Music/Art

Thursday, June 2 - Math/Science

Friday, June 3 - Math/Science/Computers/Art

The daily schedule will run as normal - assessments will be given during a class' normal meeting time. (So if a student has French on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Fridays at 8:30, they will have their assessment on Tuesday 5/24 at 8:30.) Nightly homework will stop being assigned by teachers on Wednesday 5/25 - unless that homework is for a project/presentation that is part of a Final Assessment grade.

## NOTES ABOUT THE FINAL ASSESSMENTS:

Those in 9th grade have the privilege of going home early during final assessment week.

Parents/guardians may coordinate to pick their students early after 12:45pm (assuming their final assessments are done for that day). If a 9th grader doesn't have final assessments on a day designated as such, he/she may stay home to study (please indicate this absence by emailing [attendance@tfanh.org](mailto:attendance@tfanh.org)).

To review how final assessments are factored into middle and high school grades, please refer to section 3.2 of the handbook.

Teachers have the discretion to decide whether or not students will be exempt from taking finals in their classes. However, if a teacher determines a student will be exempt, then the reason will be for the following:

- a 3.67 (unweighted) grade point average (or higher) achieved in the current quarter and the immediately preceding quarter.

## Math Tutoring

In preparation for the 7th grade math final exam, the FIRST Lego League coaches and Manchester CHAOS team members are hosting weekly math tutoring sessions Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30, starting May 3rd for 5 weeks. The format will be a mix of concept review, test question review, test taking techniques, real world examples and a game each week. Limited to 12 students at a cost of \$20 per week, for snacks and prizes. Come for one or all the sessions. Proceeds going to the TFA's FLL Team and Manchester CHAOS Robotics teams (some of their team members are coming to help). Email Chris Mikus at [christopher.mikus@tfanh.org](mailto:christopher.mikus@tfanh.org) for more information.

## Student Life

### Summer Camp Programs 2016

Information has been posted about Summer Camps 2016! Enrollment has begun! Camps include:

- Leadership Academy
- Art Lab
- LEGO League Camp
- Math Foundations
- Exploring World Literature Through Short Stories
- Bikes and Books
- Sports and Fitness Camp
- Math Madness
- Board Game Camp
- Middle School Prep

- Poetry Workshop
- Spain and Its Culture/Spanish Conversations
- Novel Writer's Toolbox
- DIY - Crafts and Scrapbooking

The programs are set to run the weeks of July 11, July 18 and July 25.

Information about some of the camps being offered can be seen on the school website; go to the [www.thefoundersacademy.org](http://www.thefoundersacademy.org) and click on "students/summer camp program," or click [here](#).

We also have a page about the camps up on [www.parentingnh.com](http://www.parentingnh.com).

Check the site often for updates as the summer gets closer!

## Fundraising

### La Carreta Fundraiser - June 9

La Carreta Mexican Restaurant in Manchester is holding a fundraising night on the Thursday before school ends (**June 9th**). The restaurant will donate 10% of all receipts received that night back to the school. (Dine in only).

The flyer below contains more details, and **please be sure to bring it in with you that night** in order to get credit for the attendance and purchase.

[FLYER](#)

This is a great end of the year event/date night on behalf of the school!

### New to Founders: Empties4Cash

The school has launched a fundraising project with the help of an inkjet recycling company Empties4Cash. Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured.

Our school will receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge turned in. This will directly benefit our school and the students, not to mention, it is great for the environment.

You can help!

Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled,

Be on the Look Out!  
**WANTED**  
Empty Cartridges On The Loose

If found, please turn in to:  
The Founders Academy

regardless of brand or type.

Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Brother, Dell, Canon, or Apple printer?

Bring in your empty OEM inkjet cartridges (placed in the original box that you would have thrown away to keep it safe from spills and damages, or a Ziploc bag) to the school.

For more information and a list of approved inkjet cartridges, go to [www.empties4cash.com](http://www.empties4cash.com).

## Donors Choose Project - Fully Funded! - THANK YOU!

Below is the Donors Choose project that Ms. Marcotte started this week to raise money for her computer science students. Thanks to your generosity, this project was completely funded in only a few days! Thank you again to all who gave to this worthy endeavor, and stay tuned for future projects!

### THIS PROJECT WAS FULLY FUNDED - THANK YOU!

*"Hi Friends,*

*I want to make sure my students have the materials they need to succeed. That's why I've created a classroom project request at DonorsChoose.org, an award-winning charity.*

*I'm asking for donations of any size to help my kids. **For the next 4 days, any donation you make to my project will be doubled (up to \$100), please use the code LIFTOFF.** If you know anyone who is passionate about education, please pass this along. Your donation will brighten my students' school year, and you'll get photos and thank yous from our class.*

*Check out the exciting things we're up to in my classroom:*

#### *Chromebooks*

*To have your donation matched dollar for dollar, enter the promo code LIFTOFF during checkout. This awesome match offer lasts through **May 19.***

*My students and I greatly appreciate your support!*

*Ms. Marcotte"*

## Miscellaneous

## Food Pantry Needs

We're running low on supplies for our food pantry!! This is where we grab lunch for students who forgot theirs. If anyone has extra nonperishable food items (cup mac & cheese, cup ramen, crackers, etc), we'd appreciate any donations!

## Wanted: Volunteer Substitute Teachers, Lunch, Interns & Study Hall Monitors

Founders is seeking volunteer substitute teachers, interns, study hall monitors, and lunch monitors! If you are interested in helping Founders for full days, half days or even a period or two, please contact Deb Waitt at 603.952.4705 or [debra.waitt@tfanh.org](mailto:debra.waitt@tfanh.org). We'll add you to the list!

## Club/Committee News

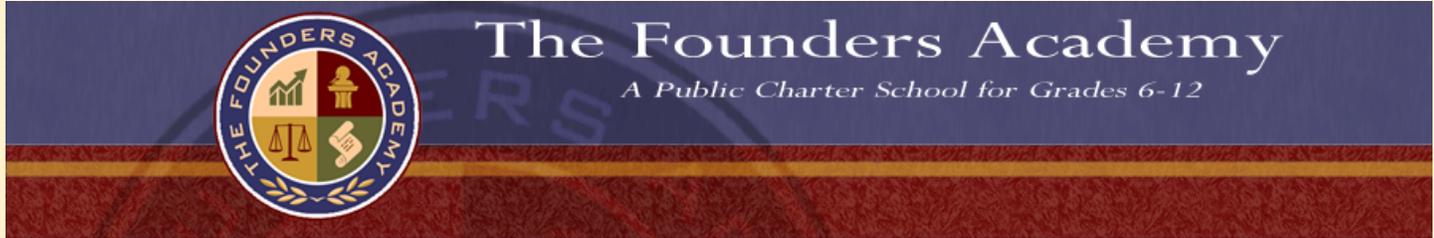
To see all clubs and committees (and more to come), click [here](#).

## Important Dates

School calendar online link: <http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/calendar>

May 18 - 21, 2016	Trip to Washington DC for grades 7, 8, 9. For more details, contact Ms. Mote at <a href="mailto:k.mote@tfanh.org">k.mote@tfanh.org</a> .
May 24-26, 2016	NECAP science exam for 8th graders.
May 27, 2016	Great East Music Festival Field Trip.
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day. No School.
May 31 - June 3, 2016	Final Exams.
June 6, 2016	Field Trip: Walden Pond
June 6, 2016	Chorus Concert at 7pm.
June 7, 2016	Field Day organized by the Student Leadership Committee
June 7, 2016	Band Concert at 7pm.
June 8, 2016	Founders Field Day (all day).

June 10, 2016	Last Day of School.
June 10, 2016	Fourth Quarter grades close.
June 17, 2016	Fourth Quarter Report Cards emailed to student and primary parent/guardian.



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