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SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION:

Supporting
exceptional
children
and families
toward a
successful
future.

Learn More: 603-286-8901 or
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WINTER HIGHLIGHT

Confidence Grows on the Slopes

This snowy winter offered perfect conditions to get out on skis! Through our partnership with Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, our students had the opportunity to share what Jason Sterner, our Outdoor Education Coordinator of the Experiential Challenges Outdoors (EChO) program, calls “one of the best winter sports in New Hampshire.”

Jason worked with trained instructors and volunteers at Gunstock to introduce small groups of our students to skiing in a safe, supportive environment. On winter mornings, our students could be found riding the Magic Carpet Lift to the top of the beginner slope and even experiencing the chairlift at the beginning of their skiing journey. “Everyone had a great time, and it was a real confidence builder,” Jason said.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Facilities & Grounds Crew

The job description for Spaulding’s Facilities and Grounds Crew could be summed up in a few words: just about everything. The team maintains more than 700 acres with 18 buildings and three offsite properties, handling repairs, renovations, snow removal and landscaping, coordinating event set-up and parking, overseeing contractors on construction projects and troubleshooting problems across Spaulding’s physical plant at a moment’s notice.

“No request is unusual to the Facilities and Grounds Crew. When our community needs anything, they come to the team and we make it happen,” explained Dennis Galimberti, Director of Support Services.

The 11-member crew works behind the scenes to keep the Spaulding campus running smoothly. “The people on this team put in so much work that nobody knows about. It just happens!” Dennis said.

The crew’s hard work does not escape the notice of some students, who have been inspired to help as well. Six to eight students typically work with the Facilities and Grounds Crew once or twice a week on basic grounds maintenance tasks. “When kids bring up an interest, we get them involved. It gives them a great sense of accomplishment.” Dennis hopes to teach more skills and expand the informal group of student helpers in the future.



Left to Right: Dennis Galimberti, Conor McCann, Debra Waterman, Chad Greenwood, Nathan Johnson, Phillip Dockham, Johnathan Decato, Daniel Jenifer, John Taylor, Thomas Fink.

CAMPUS TRADITIONS

Choose Love Talent Show

Students lit up the stage at our fourth annual talent show on February 13th! More than 20 residents and students from six to 20 years old braved the jitters to showcase their talents and inspire the more than 100 people who attended.

Participants gathered an hour early to get their makeup done from a student volunteer makeup artist. The Glitter Glam look was in as students reflected the sparkle of the Choose Love theme and timing right before Valentine’s Day. Spaulding staff transformed the Community Center with heart decorations, balloons and banners that celebrated love.

“It is always amazing to feel the excitement build for the talent show and the results of all the hard work and practice. But I’d have to say that the cheering and support for one another stood out this year. It was phenomenal!” said Salena Durette, Residential House Manager at Spaulding and the event organizer.



SPAULDING PROGRAMS

Music Captures the Spaulding Spirit

Music is a universal language that taps into our emotions even without words. Robyn Allen, our art and music teacher, says that is one reason why music is such an essential part of life at Spaulding. “Music is an important form of communication. When our kids struggle with communication, music helps them feel more connected to the world around them,” she explained.

Robyn helps our students embrace the joy of music through listening, dancing and playing instruments such as drums, rain sticks and ukuleles. She is joined by guest musicians who come to Spaulding for two-week residencies, celebrating everything from the art and music of the Middle East to the joy of using buckets as percussion instruments.

Recently Mr. Aaron, a well-known New Hampshire performer and vocalist, came to campus to work with our students on a school song. He asked students about what they love most about Spaulding, created a word cloud highlighting the most repeated ideas, and then worked with students to transform those ideas into a song.

The result is a school song that celebrates the spirit of Spaulding. **Just scan this QR code to hear it!**

