

SPARK Academy

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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THANK YOU, TRIVIA NIGHT WAS FANTASTIC

Trivia Night was a huge success, and we were thrilled to have so many people at our first Family Engagement event of 2023! Thank you to everyone who came out, thank you to Macy Industries for sponsoring the night, and a huge thank you to Mr. Long and Ms. Katie McQuaid (parent and Board member) for organizing and running this event. Photos from the night are featured in this edition of the newsletter.



VEX ROBOTICS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FEBRUARY 18TH & 19TH

MCC/Spark Robotics is once again hosting the VEX NH/VT State Championship. It is a two-day event: the high school (VRC) competition is on Saturday, February 18 and the elementary school (IQ) competition is on Sunday, February 19. **We are looking for volunteers!** We will need people to help with giveaway bag stuffing (Friday night), concessions, queueing, field reset, and judging.

Robotics Team: if you are competing on the 18th, we expect to see you there volunteering on the 19th!

All families please watch your email for an opportunity to sign up to help, and/or feel free to email Mrs. Larochelle and let her know when you're available.

Also, if you like to bake or if you have a **favorite chili recipe** and a crockpot, we will be sending out a link soon for concession stand donation signups. Thank you!



DRONE TEAM - RESCHEDULED TO TUES. JANUARY 31

Spark Academy is partnering with St. Anselm College to start a **brand new drone competition team!** Students will learn how to design, build, and compete with different types of drones, and will have the opportunity to attend regional competitions in the spring. They will also learn about the uses and ethics of drones, all facilitated by staff mentors from St. A's. **The first meeting of the drone team is**



3-4pm on Tuesday, January 31 - either sign up via [THIS FORM](#) or just show up on the 31st. Contact Mr. Long with any questions.

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation will award over \$7 million in scholarship aid to over 1,500 New Hampshire students this year.

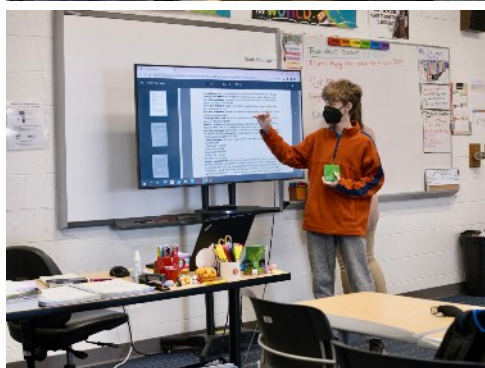
Applications are now open!

Students can visit [ScholarshipSource](#) to be matched to the funds for which they qualify. To access their online application, students should visit www.nhcf.org and select *Apply for a scholarship*.

All graduating students are encouraged to apply no matter what type of post-secondary education they are interested in.

NOTE FOR FOURTH YEAR FAMILIES

While we are happy that our fourth-year students are successfully navigating college classes, jobs, and internships, we ask that you don't forget that this is your last year at Spark Academy. We are working hard to plan special end-of-the-year events for you and we need your input and participation. Parents, we need your support: please remind your young adults to read their email on a regular basis. Thank you.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Feb. 18 – 19: VEX Robotics State Championship @ MCC
- Monday, Feb. 20: No Spark classes (Presidents Day)
- Feb. 27 – March 3: No Spark classes (February vacation)
- Monday, March 20: No Spark classes (staff workshop day)

TUTTLE THOUGHTS

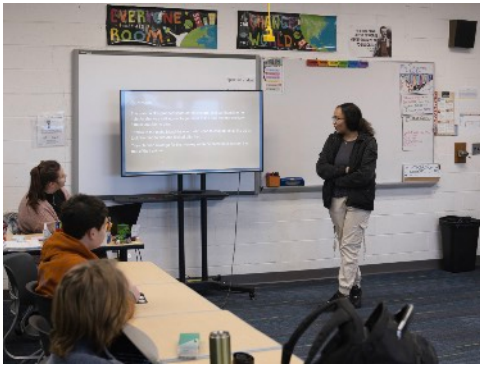
I was reading a letter in Business NH Magazine from an old friend, Matt Mowry. He was talking about "New Year, Old Problems." The focus was on legislators and Matt's hope that they would make changes for the future and not just accept the status quo.

So I started to think about our school, students and report cards. I have been hearing more and more statements like, "So I passed.", "Is this graded?", "Do I have to do this?" and so on. Is this an effect of COVID? Are we so stressed with everything that we are just happy to survive?

Is this really the way we want to continue our journey with Spark?

It is vitally important that we start to focus and listen to everyone to actually hear what they are saying. Where is your inner voice and what is it saying? If someone is clearly stressed out, how do you help? We need to create a safe and supportive environment so that all students feel that they can be challenged and learn.

Last night was a great start with around 50 people attending our first Community Trivia Night. Thank you all for coming and helping us



create this safe and supportive environment.

Please, keep an eye out for other events and take the time to help me change the headline to "New Year, New Opportunities."

Have a great weekend!

John Tuttle

Director

