

## District News and Upcoming Events



Apple representatives, Tara Maker and Doug Snow, present the Apple Distinguished School Award to MSAD #4 representatives, Jay Marden & Kevin Harrington

### **Piscataquis Community Secondary School named Apple Distinguished School**

Guilford, Maine -- Piscataquis Community Secondary School is pleased to announce that it has been named an Apple Distinguished School for its leadership in the integration of technology at all levels, and throughout all curricular areas as well. The school also provides a regional model for what is possible when 1:1 technology access is fully leveraged.

In a letter of congratulations, John Couch, Apple Vice President, Education said, "The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for schools that have become centers of educational excellence and leadership, consistently demonstrating "best practice" qualities of a 21st-century learning environment utilizing Apple technology. This year, Piscataquis Community Secondary School will join 52 schools Apple is recognizing nationwide and is one of three in the state of Maine. In reviewing the great work that is underway at Piscataquis Community Secondary School, I was especially impressed by your success with the implementation of Apple notebook computers and iPod devices to create technology-rich learning experiences for all students. Your school serves as an example for other schools both locally and nationally."

Apple officials presented the Distinguished School Award at a student assembly on Tuesday, February 8th at 2:00 PM and again at the 7:00 PM School Board meeting later that evening.

Kevin Harrington, Principal of Piscataquis Community Secondary School, is proud that the school has received this recognition from Apple, saying, "Our vision and mission demonstrate a strong commitment to 21st century thinking by encouraging student success through the use of technology."

According to Technology Coordinator Crystal Priest: "The fingertip access to technology enables both teachers and students to access a wide variety of resources that are not readily available in our area. Technology is used on a regular basis throughout the school in a variety of ways, and more than one teacher has told me that they do not know how they could teach without the laptops."

Eighth grade students are actively reviewing and writing about the books they are reading on Shelfari.com. The CADD class is able to take on real world problems, such as designing the sound and video system for the cafeteria. Students are learning about photography and digital photo editing in graphics arts class, while students in computer digital arts are learning how to communicate with all types of digital media, including video, websites, and audio. Science classes are using a variety of probes to collect experiment data into their laptops for further analysis.

SAD #4 has often been recognized at the state and national levels for its leadership role in developing and maintaining a technology rich learning environment for students and faculty. The selection of Piscataquis Community Secondary School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights its successes in enhancing and extending teaching and learning with thoughtful and innovative implementations of technology.