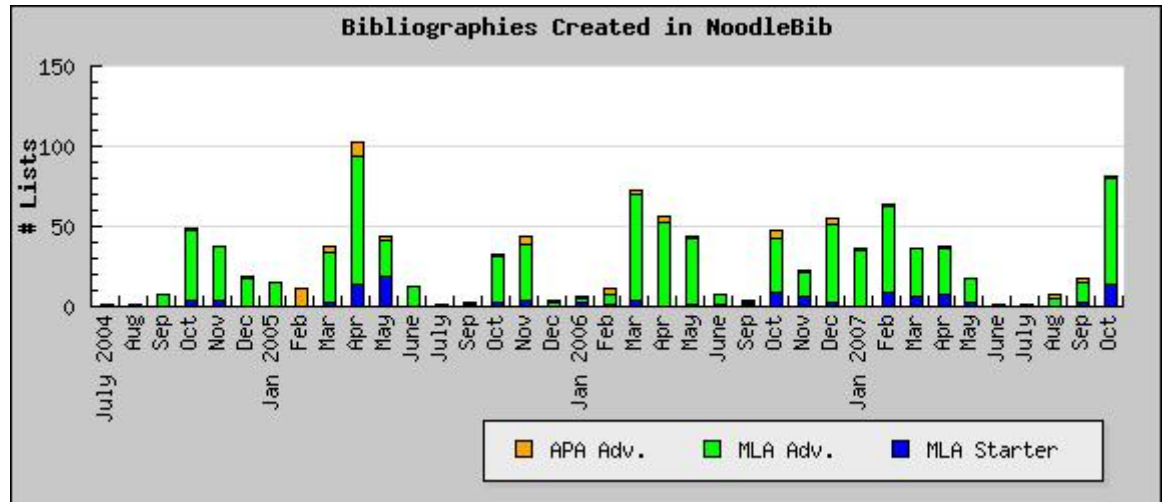


Monthly Report – October 2007
George Zini, Principal

Overview of Activities for October

- This month has been a busy one for the Prevocational Life Skills Class. Students are in the swing of being back in school and are working hard in academic and prevocational areas. Students are gaining work experience through the Spartan Cafe', working for the main office at UHS, and at Hannaford's and CVS with job coach Wendy Hamelin. Students are learning basic landscaping at the Taft School courtyard and are also running the Copy Cats copying service at the high school and Taft.
- At the 7-12 C&I Literacy team meeting held on October 5th, several issues were addressed. First teachers agreed to use the MCAS holistic scoring method to grade student essays and open-response answers. This will result in greater student familiarity with MCAS scoring systems and standardize teacher scoring at the 7-12 grade levels.
- Work began on developing structured grammar (Standard English Conventions or SEC) programs for grades 7-10 and for SEC comprehensive formative assessments at the 11th and 12th grade levels. While all teachers routinely teach grammar skills, inconsistencies in inter-grade level and inter-teacher approaches as well as a lack of adequate mapping had been identified as problem areas that needed to be addressed.
- In order to promote awareness and reduce deficiencies and redundancies in the grades 7-12 English curricula, prior and subsequent grade level curriculum maps were distributed to all grade 7-12 English teachers. This means that a grade 9 teacher now has a grade 8 and a grade 10 curriculum map.
- Students in the Mosaic Studio program held an art contest to raise awareness of bullying in our schools and communities. The art contest coincided with an anti-bullying campaign.
- The Guidance Department met and discussed the following:
 - Making Student Review Committee meetings more uniformed and consistent between schools
 - The referral process
 - Topics for teacher professional days

- New materials are being added to the collection in the Library. Of particular interest is the companion book to Ken Burns' PBS documentary, The War: An Intimate History. This large format, heavily illustrated book provides riveting accounts of our soldiers experiences in World War II. Other materials include contemporary fiction and books for the sciences, world languages, social studies, language arts, and health
- New students are creating folders in **Noodletools** as they begin research papers which require works cited pages. The following chart demonstrates usage:



- The following chart is of **InfoTrac** statistics for the month of September:

| • September 2007 InfoTrac | • Inside Use | • Remote Use | • Total Use |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Time (in minutes) | • 1121 | • 349 | • 1470 |
| • Retrievals | • 85 | • 80 | • 165 |
| • Searches | • 276 | • 53 | • 329 |

- A number of new databases, made available through the CMRLS and/or the MBLC, are available through the UHS Library web page on the databases link.. These include **Grove Art Online**, **Facts on File's Issues & Controversies**, **Science Online**, and **Proquest's Massachusetts Newsstand**. These databases are comprehensive and provide UHS students with a significant reach into many subject areas covered by the Uxbridge High School curriculum. The use of these databases reinforces information literacy skills embedded in many research assignments.

- On October 17, 2007, four Uxbridge high School students competed in the annual WPI Math meet. Participating in individual as well as group competition were Andrew Groth, Kyle Allaire, Dan Kramer, and Michael Davey. The students also listened to a talk on “Math is All Around Us” and toured the campus. Math teacher Susan Buckley was the advisor for this year’s group.
- Community town’s *First Night* service projects continue in the art room. We have been asked by the committee to assist in preparing wooden cut-outs for display during the town’s annual celebration. Students have done touch-up painting on eight items thus far with all items scheduled to be completed by the end of November.
- Representatives from *Montserrat College* and *Maine College of Art* made presentations to Art I and Art II students to enlighten them with regard to degree programs and the general atmosphere on a college campus.
- The construction classes have started framing the floor system for the new athletic storage shed which will be located in the rear of the building. The shed is being constructed inside the shop and will be erected on site as the sections are completed.
- Two Independent Living classes traveled to the Providence campus of Johnson and Wales University for a tour of the facility as part of their college preparation activities.
- Jane Archibald from Unibank visited the Independent Living classes for an enlightening discussion of checking accounts and personal banking information.
- On Friday, October 19th, the Outdoor Pursuits class was invited by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to attend the dedication ceremony for the reconstructed locks at the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor. Mr. Walter Berkowicz and fourteen students made an impressive appearance by portaging their canoes to the canal and paddling to the scene of the ceremony. The students enjoyed their time at the ceremony along with other honored guests including Senator Richard Moore, Congressman Joseph Early, Representative Jennifer Callahan, Uxbridge Selectwoman Julie Woods, and Ken Foley, Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

- October has been a month for classroom projects. Mr. Peters’ World History class has completed an internet project on “Revolutions in Europe and Latin America”. His students researched various revolutions, created a visual outline, and presented this work to the entire class. Mr. Peter’s World History II class is working on a Biography Project that focuses on important individuals during the Industrial Age.

- Mr. Barbuto's U.S. History I and II classes are also working on projects. They are researching the lives and achievements of U.S. Presidents.
- Mrs. Bouchard's U.S. History I classes are engaged in creating "study books" using Foldables. "A Foldable is a 3-D, student-made, interactive graphic organizer based upon a skill. Making a Foldable gives students a fast, kinesthetic activity that helps them organize and retain information. Foldables can also be used for a more in-depth investigation of a concept, idea, opinion, event, or a person or place studied in a unit."
- Mrs. Puckett's AP Government class is studying Federalism and landmark Supreme Court cases that deal with this aspect of our government and Constitution. Her Honors Psychology classes are presently studying Personality Theory. At this point, they are focusing on the life and work of Dr. Sigmund Freud.
- Mr. Silbor's field trip to the Freedom Trail was very successful. The students gained first hand knowledge of historical landmarks in Boston.
- Mr. Hutchings' Law classes held their first Mock Trial. The case dealt with student-to-student harassment. Approximately fifty students researched and prepared for this simulation. The law classes have also been able to be part of the Prison Voices program. Over 50 UHS Law students went to Bay State Correctional Prison in Norfolk to hear from prisoners about the reality and consequences of engaging in criminal behavior.
- Georgette Knapp and Dave Balunas took a group of students to the Museum of Science on October 23, 2007. The Statistics class investigated the laws of probability and the normal distribution curve at the Mathematica exhibit. The Honors Functions and Trigonometry classes experienced exhibits on continuous curves, projective geometry, and conic sections. The hands-on, CSI Forensic Science "Crime Scene" provided our students with the opportunity to analyze data and work together to solve a given crime.
- Art I students have completed projects in tool drawings, origami, charcoal still life, and perspectives.
- Art II students have completed studies in Rhythm, Pattern & Movement as well as exploration of the use of Balance.
- Students in the Self Expression class have worked on paper mosaics, calligraphy, explorations in watercolor painting, and ceramics.
- Intro to Physics/Technology: Students have started the CO₂ car unit. They have completed the safety portion of the unit and have started cutting out their designs for production of the cars.

- **Wood Technology:** Students are working on individual projects and the Hall of Fame display board for the athletic department.
- **Video Production** students have aired their first Spartan News Network show on channel 13 that dealt with Spirit Week and the bell schedule. The students are presently working on their second show which will include stories on Destination Imagination, the Mock Trial, and the Yearbook.
- **Desktop Publishing/Yearbook:** The students are interviewing other students, coaches, and faculty for stories to be placed in the yearbook.
- The students in **Anatomy and Physiology** have been participating in a blood pressure lab that examines the variation in blood pressure in males and females of two different age classes. The purpose is to discover whether sex and age-related differences exist in blood pressure. The students will also be conducting statistical analysis in conjunction with their math classes.
- Students in the **Horticulture** class finished planting a lawn at the Taft Elementary School and are now working on identification of deciduous shrubs.
- Sergeant Emerick visited the **Forensics** Class and gave a talk to the students about the collection of evidence, photographing a crime scene, and physical evidence. Mr. Sweeney also visited the class this month and gave a presentation on profiling and the Woodsman cereal killings.

Professional Development Activities

- Some C&I Leaders and Teacher attended training on the use of TestWiz. TestWiz is a powerful software program that allows teachers to perform a wide range of detailed analyses on student and district MCAS results.
- The Social Studies Department is studying the course offerings and examining possibilities for adjustments to course offerings for the 08-09 school year.
- Peter Hennessy and Michael DiMeglio attended two conferences, the Video Educators of New England Conference and New England Association of Technology Teachers Conference.

General School/Department Information

- From September 30 – October 3, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges sent fifteen educators to evaluate our programs, curriculum, resources, facility, and our adherence to our Mission Statement. We look forward to their full report which I anticipate receiving in a few months.
- The Crisis Response Team refined our Evacuation Procedures which were followed during an Evacuation drill held on October 11th.

- Approximately 130 students took the PSAT Exam on October 17th.
- Mr. Raymond Rondeau has established a \$50,000 Scholarship Endowment Fund that will be used to award a \$1,000 scholarship to an Uxbridge High School student beginning with the Class of 2011. The scholarship will be called the “Raymond H. Rondeau and Lydia A. Rondeau (DeStefanis) Scholarship”. Mr. Rondeau is a graduate of Northbridge High School and a WWII Veteran. His wife Lydia, now deceased, is an Uxbridge High School graduate. Mr. Rondeau also donated a \$50,000 Scholarship Endowment Fund to Northbridge High School.

Upcoming Events

- Hopedale Cultural Council’s Annual Winter Student Art Show will be held in early December. At this time we have two high school students who will be entering art work: Rylie Rockwell grade 11 and Keri Lemoine grade 12.
- Pre Vocational students are planning their first Peer Interaction meeting next month. This is an after school activity which encourages peer interaction between students in the pre vocational program and their typical peers.
- Led by Mr. Silbor, preparations for the 10th Annual UHS Toys for Tots Holiday Party are underway. Over 100 UHS students have volunteered to work on this event.
- MCAS ELA retest will be given from November 6-8.
- MCAS Math retest will be given from November 14-15.
- See attached Financial Literacy.
- Our Fall Open House will be held on November 14th from 6-8PM.
- On November 15th the Student Council will be holding a Blood Drive at the high school.
- The Ring Dance will be held on November 16th beginning with the presentation of class rings at 6:00PM in the auditorium.

- Beginning November 6th Unibank is joining forces with Uxbridge High School in presenting a six part financial literacy program for Juniors. The program is designed to cover general banking information and will encompass the following topics:
 - November 6 – The importance of Financial Knowledge
 - December 12 – Checking and Savings
 - January 8 – Loans
 - February 5 – Credit and Identity Theft
 - March 11 – Investments
 - May 2 – Wrap up and Careers in Banking



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