

Monthly Report, February 2008
George Zini, Principal

Overview of Activities for February

- Fifty seniors and juniors were recognized on February 10th at the annual Academic Awards Dinner. Recognition is for students who have achieved honor roll status for eight consecutive marking periods. Dinner was prepared by Janice Watt and her staff and served by faculty members. Dr. Boyaj served as guest speaker. Students honored were:
Seniors: Kyle Allaire, Jessica Barth, Julie Bliss, Danielle Burkart, Kayla Byron, Michael Davey, Megan DeYoung, Rebecca Flynn, Jordynn Frolo, Andrew Groth, Melissa Guertin, Ashley Joseph, Kaylee Kach, Daniel Kramer, Katelyn-Marie Krause, Keri Lemonie, Emily Lozeau, Kimberly Mayo, Julianna Pollack, Jennifer Puglisi, Sarah Rafferty, Tiffany Robinson, Jessica Rosa, Caleigh Ross, Brian Seagrave, Anna Slanda, Danielle Tekut, Michelle Tessier, Christopher Welch, Joshua Wright.
Juniors: Raymond Barron, Kayla Boutin, Alexandra Buhler, Rachel Drywa, Alanna Goddard, Jenna Kucinskis, Rebecca Larrivee, Michael Lovett, Timothy Masiello, Caitlin Merchant, Amanda Morales, Brittany Neeland, Keegan Neeland, Ryan Normandin, Jill Nyren, Ashley Ostrem, Patrick Rice, Joseph Saporetti, Alyson Sherlock, Samantha Tekut, Elizabeth.
- English teachers are working to develop three new elective courses for the 2008-2009 school year. These three new courses will provide UHS students with more English electives to choose from.
- Students in Mrs. Lesperance's Pre-Vocational program are gaining valuable work experience at several job placements in the community as well as at UHS. Placements include Milestone's Ultimate Hot Dogs, Hannaford's, UHS Cafeteria, UHS Library, and Copy Cats. Students are learning to extend their time on task at their various placements.
- On February 9, the UHS Jazz Band performed at Berklee College of Music's 40th Annual High School Jazz Festival held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. This is the sixth year in which the Jazz Band has participated in the Berklee event. Senior vocalist Mary Rothrock was given a "Judges' Choice Award", recognition of an outstanding performance within the ensemble's program. The Berklee adjudicators have just mailed copies of their judging sheets, which include several constructive thoughts for future progress and improvement, and also some very kind compliments for the ensemble members.

- The UHS Band completed its eighth season in its role as the Hoop Band. After the boys' team clinched its SWCL regular-season championship, a couple of team members presented band members with portions of the basketball net which they had just ceremonially cut down; a great example of how each group has supported the other this year.
- Material continues to be added to our library collection, especially in the areas of American Indian wars fought in the 19th century and literary criticism. A number of volumes from a new series "Bloom's How to Write about..." have been added as well as a new DVD on Forensic Archeology. More novels have also been added both for student research and for the *Stop, Drop, and Read* program.
- The Construction Technology classes are working on various cabinets for other departments in the building and will begin a second shed in the near future
- The Foods and Nutrition classes enjoyed a guest speaker from Johnson and Wales University. The demonstrator prepared butternut squash ravioli for the students to sample. In addition to food preparation techniques, the students were informed about college scholarships and were given helpful tips on the college application process.

Professional Development

- Mr. Sweeney attended a Central Massachusetts Regional Library Services workshop about technical aspects of informational databases. Methods and strategies to ensure that students and staff can easily find information were discussed. Topics included authenticating users in school and from home, Internet browsers (cookies, privacy, and security), creating and customizing database links for desktops, browsers or web pages, and troubleshooting common problems. Ironically, a few days after the workshop, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners changed access methods to a database and the workshop made the transition very smooth.

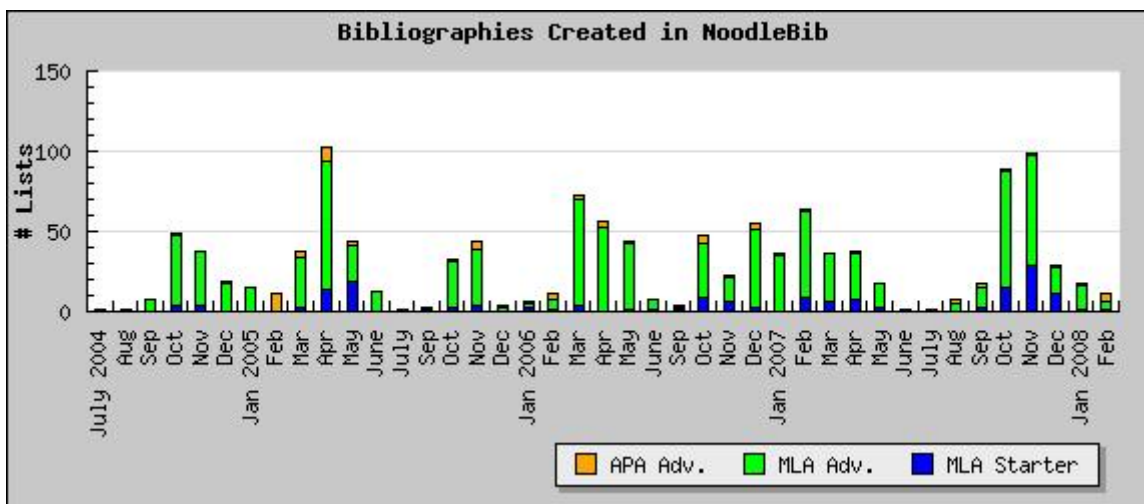
Subject/Course/Classroom Activity

- Students in Wood Technology have completed all of their safety requirements for the beginning of the course and are now ready to start building.
- Video Communications students are working on videos which will be airing in a few weeks. We have also received an upgrade to the editing software as well as two new laptop computers.
- Students in Robotics are working on Lego robots and learning the programming language for that system.
- Horticulture students have finished their Power Point presentations on deciduous trees and shrubs.

- Entrepreneurship independent study students have created a “store front” in the cafeteria for selling products. They have sold a small quantity of spirit wear and plan to create and sell more. They have also held a food sale with soft pretzels and frozen drinks being sold during directed study. Upcoming projects include producing and selling boutonnieres for prom as well as food and spirit wear.
- Chemistry: This past November a donation of approximately \$10,000 worth of chemistry equipment and glassware was made to the Uxbridge High School Science Department by Dr. Sigmund Waraszkievicz of AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in Westboro, MA. The equipment has already been put to use in the chemistry classes.
- Students in Honors Biology have finished their independent research on the Zone of inhibition of bacteria.

Course/Classroom Activities

- The Trails9 Information Literary Assessment program will continue with Dr. Smith’s English classes this semester to compare strengths and weaknesses in the various assessment areas. The library project to reclassify the literary criticism into one area of the collection has been progressing albeit somewhat slowly due to the fact that the books in this area are being used by students and, sometimes, staff. The chart below illustrates the January/February lull in major research projects:



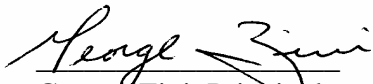
General School/Department Information

- Mr. McCourt and Mrs. Robin received the Thayer grant in the amount of \$1838 for the purchase of a sale system for the school store and the entrepreneur class.
- Mrs. Robin received a grant from Wal-Mart for \$750 for the Above and Beyond program.

- Mr. DiMeglio and Mr. Hennessy have begun the process of developing a district wide, three year communication plan in collaboration with Uxbridge Cable Access.

Upcoming Events

- The UHS Chorus is preparing for its performance of “God Bless America” before a Providence Bruins AHL hockey game in April.
- The UHS Jazz Band, Rock/Blues Bands, and the Whitin Middle School Jazz Band are continuing with preparation for the programs they will perform at the upcoming fundraiser to celebrate the arts in Uxbridge.
- The Music Program’s annual Spring Concert will be held on Monday, May 5.
- The MCAS retest for juniors and seniors who have not yet passed the test will be given from March 3-7. One student will take the ELA test and five students will take the Math test with only one of them a senior. This is the fewest number of students that we have had who still need to pass the tests.
- The second semester Open House for parents will be held at 6:00 pm on March 6.


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