

Monthly Report – March, 2008
George Zini, UHS Principal

Overview of Activities for March

- Students in the National Honor Society, through a grant and fundraising activities, procured one hundred preschool books which they donated to the Early Learning Center in honor of the district wide reading initiative. The National Honor Students delivered these books in person during the last week of March, reading a book to the students during their visit.
- The 2008-2009 UHS Program of Studies has been completed and distributed to all students signaling the beginning of the scheduling process for next year. All counselors will be meeting with every student in grades 9-11 before our April 7th teacher recommendation day. Our objective is to have students receive a copy of their schedule before leaving school in June.
- Grade 8 Parent's night will be held on Monday, March 31, from 6:00-8:00PM in the High School Auditorium.
- Mrs. Brown met with Ms. Dashiell prior to the parent's presentation to hear about a brand new service of MEFA which extends the college preparation information to the parents of middle school students. Information on this will be presented to 8th Grade parents at the meeting on March 31.
- Our trial of an arena scheduling day instead of our traditional teacher recommendation day has begun to take shape. We currently have booked three assemblies that will take place concurrently and provide students with a quality learning opportunity while they are waiting for their turn to get recommendations.
 - Assembly #1 Grade 12 Making College and Career Count
 - Assembly #2 Cyber Bullying presented by Uxbridge Police Dept and Worcester County D.A.
 - Assembly #3 Underage Drinking "The Impact of Your Choice" followed by a speaker supplied by Bill Phillips
- On Thursday evening, March 13, Joanne Dashiell from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) met with the parents of Juniors in order to begin preparing them for the college application process.

- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery was administered to all Juniors on March 7th. Results will be available in early April.
- On March 11th, UniBank conducted its fifth Financial Literacy assembly for juniors. The subject was investments and retirement.
- During the March 7th Curriculum Half day, the High School English department completed its work on the development of three new classes that will be offered next year. These new classes will allow UHS to offer more variety to its English students. The classes are currently titled as follows: *Mystics, Fantasy and the Imagination, Shakespeare's Comedies and Tragedies, and Literary Aspects in Film*.
- The construction classes are finishing the cabinet in the Spartan Café. They are also building partitions for the athletic shed and will begin another cabinet for the Foods classroom.
- The UHS Jazz Band and both of the Rock/Blues Bands joined the Whitin Middle School Jazz Band in performance at the "Celebrating the Arts in Uxbridge" fundraising event on March 11. Each high school ensemble performed a five-selection set for an enthusiastic and large audience.
- The Choral Music class is in the initial stages of a major survey of the American musical theatre, starting from the roots of the activity in 19th century operetta, and moving through the first half of the 20th century. Composers being studied include George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Rodgers & Hammerstein and Lerner & Loewe.
- *Celebrating the Arts* was an event held to celebrate an appreciation for the art and music programs in the Uxbridge School System. This event was held at the Whitin School on Tuesday, March 11th. A variety of artworks created by UHS students were displayed in the Whitin Library. Some students received awards for their submissions. Seth Anderson (Grade 12) was awarded the "Best in Show" ribbon for an oil painting he created.
- Rylie Rockwell (Grade 11) attended an interview on March 7th for participation in the *Art All-State* program which is held at the Worcester Art Museum in May. She is anxiously awaiting a letter from the museum to advise her if she has been accepted for this program.
- Matt Conrad (Grade 12) conducted a figure drawing and portraiture presentation for the *Uxbridge Women's Club* on Wednesday evening, March 5th during their annual pot luck supper. After feasting on a delicious meal, Matt did some contour line drawings of members and /or guests.

- Mrs. Lesperance's class is studying the Bill of Rights, adding work samples to their MCAS Alternate Assessment portfolios, discussing community safety skills as well as internet safety, and focusing on building individual skills.
- Preparations for the annual International Fair have begun. Two of the eight second grade classes have joined the foods classes at the high school to prepare refreshments for the fair which will be in May. It is a pleasure to watch intergenerational friendships being formed.
- MCAS ELA exam for sophomores was administered on March 25, 26, and 27.
- Student Council held a blood drive on March 5.

Professional Development Activities

- Mrs. Biondi attended a conference sponsored by Assumption College that focused on "Becoming a Culturally Competent Counselor". The final conference in this series will focus on ethical dilemmas faced by school counselors. This will take place on April 4th.
- On March 12th, Mrs. Lesperance attended the conference "Focus On Vision Impairment & Blindness - Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Cognitive Disability & Vision Loss".
- The members of the math department have set up schedules for MCAS preparation prior to the actual test in May. All sophomores, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in a second semester math course, will be involved in the review. The classes will be held on three different days and during three different blocks after April school vacation.
- Rob Hammerton served as Manager of the 2008 Massachusetts All-State Symphonic Band, which performed as part of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) Annual In-Service Conference. The Band performed as part of the All-State Festival Concert on Saturday, March 29 at Boston's famed Symphony Hall.
- Mrs. Blais volunteered to conduct student interviews for the *Art All-State* program (held by Worcester Art Museum). The interviews took place at Worcester Vocational High School on Friday, March 7th from 3:00 pm to 5:00pm.
- On March 20, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Priore, and Mr. Zini attended a NEASC Follow-Up Committee Workshop.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

- Mr. Barbuto's Honors World History classes have finished their Native American projects. Each student presented their work to the entire class. His U.S. History II classes are currently researching the biographies of United States presidents who served from the time of Civil War Reconstruction to World War II.
- Mr. Peters' World History classes are doing projects on inventors and their inventions during the later years of the Industrial Revolution.
- Mrs. Bouchard has assigned magazine projects to her U.S. History I classes. They will create a magazine dealing with the changes in society during the first half of the 19th century brought about by the Industrial and Market Revolutions. Students will be using a variety of sources for their research.
- Mr. Hutchings' Law classes have finished their Mock Trial. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for this project. Students really prepared for their roles even creating evidence boards to convince the jurors.
- Mrs. Puckett's AP U.S. Government class is studying the institutions of government. They have recently finished The Congress.
- Wood Technology: Students are currently working on their individual wood project ranging from simple to complex.
- Communications: Students are finishing the video editing for their news stories and preparing for the Spartan News Network.
- Robotics: Students are working on material handling and placement using the robotic arm. Students are involved in the learning and teaching process by instructing their peers.
- Entrepreneurship is working on advertising for the prom boutonniere fundraiser. They have also met with the owner of the Mendon Greenhouse who will be providing wholesale components and instructional guidance.
- Webpage Design students are working on various web pages for the Technology department as well as their own.
- Physics/Technology: Students are working on the CO2 cars in the wood lab. The races should be held on the week of March 24th.
- Honors Biology: Student finished their experiment on the affects of cellar respiration in mealy worms.
- Forensics: Sergeant Emerick from the Uxbridge Police Department spoke to the students on the topic of crime scenes.

Upcoming Events

- April 3rd selected UHS students will be attending the annual Career Fair at Northbridge High School
- April 7th Arena Scheduling Day
- April 9th National College Fair field trip for juniors in Boston.
- April 18th ASVAB results workshop for juniors
- Blackstone Valley Art Association (BVAA) will be hosting a “Family Spring Art Festival” in May. Students are being encouraged to participate in this event.



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