

Monthly Report – May, 2008  
George Zini, Principal

**Overview of Activities for May:**

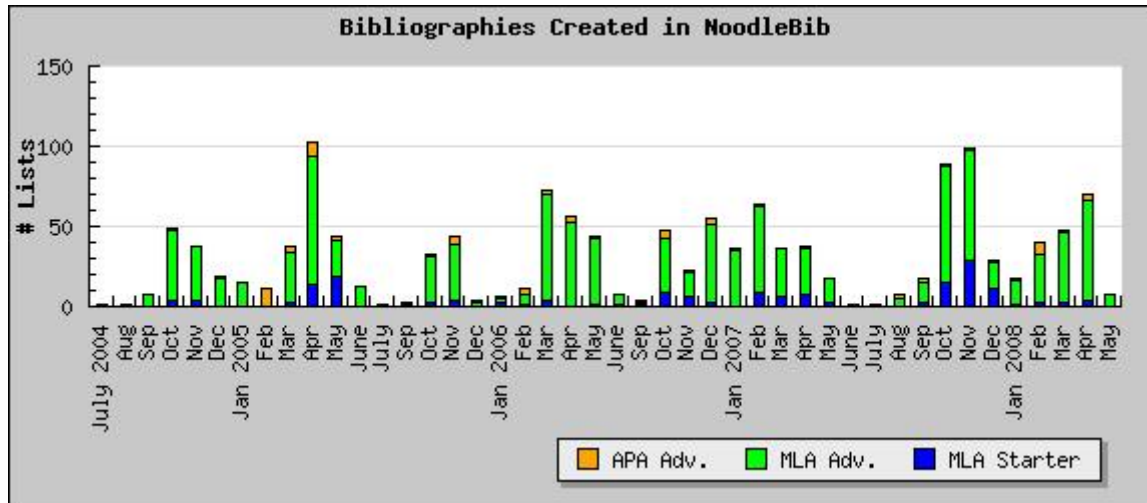
- The Social Studies Department's focus for the month of May was researching and presenting to the Principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction recommendations for the 2008-2009 course sequence. Beginning next year the department will be able to offer three semesters of United States History. This major change will not only better prepare students for the History MCAS test but, moreover, it will allow UHS students to have more exposure to the historical events of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.
- The UHS music performance ensembles presented their annual Spring Concert on Monday evening, May 5. The Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and both of the Rock/Blues Bands performed selections from all genres of music, including a new band composition, "Cutting Edge", written by Rob Hammerton. Six graduating seniors (the "musical class of 2008) were recognized for their years of service to UHS Music. They are Megan DeYoung, Tim Graham, Hillary Lyons, Kim Mayo, Caleigh Ross and Mary Rothrock.
- The UHS Choral Music class, featuring a majority of students who had not previously performed in public in front of an audience, presented a program of Broadway showtunes and other vocal selections during an Uxbridge Senior Center luncheon on Tuesday, May 20.
- On May 23, UHS Band performed, at the Uxbridge Flying Squadron's Memorial Day observance at UHS on Friday morning, May 23. Senior trumpeter Kim Mayo provided the playing of "Taps", and the Band performed an adaptation of the famed Carmen Dragon arrangement of "America the Beautiful" during the assembly.
- Guidance Department concluded the Home Run Club reading activity sponsored by the Worcester Tornadoes. 68,000 pages were read by students at UHS during our weekly Stop Everything and Read initiative. Thirty-seven students qualified for the raffle of Tornadoes merchandise by reading 250 pages or more, for a total of 52,000 pages collectively. The donated items included long and short sleeve T-shirts, baseball caps, pennants, lanyards and key rings.
- May 2 concluded the Financial Literacy program sponsored by UniBank. All juniors were exposed to a multitude of banking procedures and necessary skills needed to make a successful transition to the responsibilities associated with banking.
- On May 2, Melissa Ratcliffe from Massachusetts Rehabilitation Services spoke with Counselors from UHS and Whittin School to acquaint us with services provided to qualifying students transitioning to the world of work directly from UHS. Melissa instructed us on the application process used by MA Rehab as well as the parameters of students who would qualify for services.

- UHS Internship program is wrapping up another successful year. The seniors have represented UHS well in serving as ambassadors with our community partners.
  - Jennifer Puglisi was awarded a \$2000.00 renewable scholarship from Beaumont Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; her internship site. Jen has also been promised an opportunity to be trained as a Certified Nursing Assistant which will be paid for by Beaumont.
  - Katie Bilbrey has been hired as a part-time worker at her internship site, Blackstone Valley Veterinary Hospital.
  - Samantha Tetreault has been successfully filling in for a person on maternity leave at the Town of Uxbridge Treasurer's office.
  - Kayla Byron and James Gornal have both enjoyed success in classrooms at the Whitin Middle School while Farrah Griffin has been making a difference at the Mosaic Mill.
  
- On May 20<sup>th</sup> French and Spanish students in Mrs. Brooks' and Mrs. Lynch's Level V and Senior\_Seminar classes visited the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston .Students had the opportunity to view the special exhibit "El Greco to Velázquez". Both French and Spanish students prepared in advance for this visit and as a result were able to better understand and appreciate the art in the time of Philip III.)
  
- Students in both French and Spanish I have completed or are in the process of completing "Livro para Niños" or "Livres pour Enfants". These are books that the students create describing themselves and their friends in the appropriate language. The books are embellished with drawings, maps, and of course narrative. Most books range in size from 15 – 20 pages.

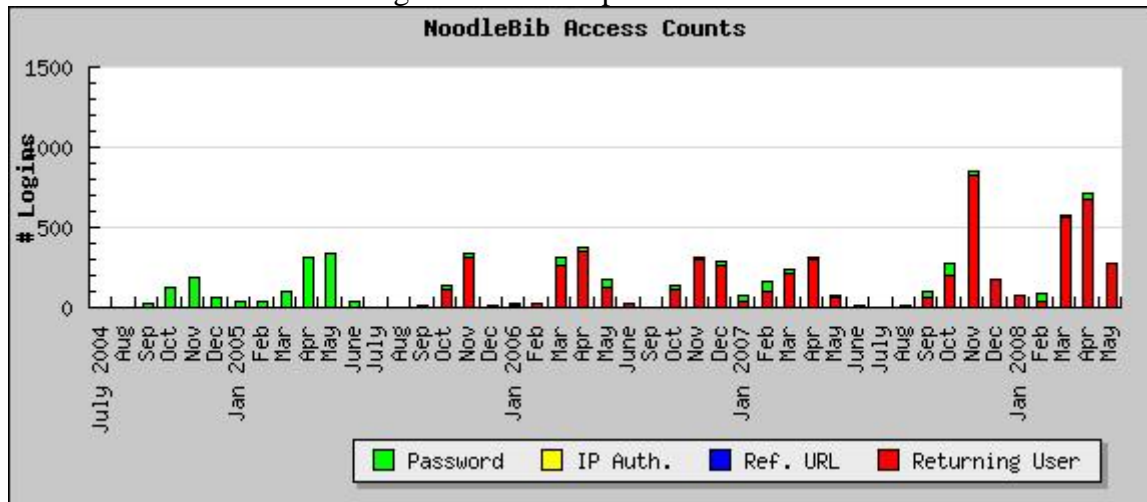
### **Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

- Mr. Hutchings' U.S. Government classes prepared for their simulation of Congressional Hearings. The topics that were selected for this year's hearings were:
  - "Despite its weaknesses, the Articles of Confederation made lasting contributions to American Government." Do you agree with that assessment? Why?
  - How and why has the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment proved to be one of the most effective tools for social and legal change in the United States?
  - What are the costs and benefits that freedom of speech and press offer to the individual and to society?
  - What should be the major purposes of our government today? Explain and justify your response.
  
- Some English classes continue to take the Trails9 Information Literacy Assessments to gauge their levels of ability in developing topics for research, evaluating sources, ethical use of information, etc.

The most recent number of works cited pages created in NoodleBib:



The following chart shows the actual access counts for NoodleBib, which are actually returning users. March had 568 returning users and in April there were 677.



The InfoTrac database statistics, which are sent out monthly, showed a total of 727 searches with a connect time of 3946 minutes. The total number of sessions were 414.

- The Prevocational Life Skills class has been quite productive this month. Students continue to work on academic skills and community exploration. Our students have been participating in many events for their respective grades. The 10th grade MCAS portfolios are complete and have been submitted to the state. Seniors have been involved in multiple activities with their peers. Two of our students enjoyed the prom and recent class trip to the New Jersey Shore. They are now preparing for graduation. Freshmen and

Sophomores continue to perform many jobs throughout UHS. They have shown much growth over the school year and are maturing before our eyes.

### **Professional Development Activities**

- Mr. Sweeney completed a **Nutrition** course at Assumption College through their Biology Department. The course was heavily based in the chemical components involved in nutrition and focused on digestion, absorption, metabolism, sugars, starches, fibers, lipids, proteins, and vitamins.
- On May 16th and 17<sup>th</sup>, paraprofessionals Pamela Allen and Laura Burgess attended the annual MTA Educational Support Professionals Conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- In July, Mr. Hammerton will attend the New England Band Directors Institute, held on the campus of Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. The Institute is sponsored by the New Hampshire Band Directors Association. Speeches and seminars, as well as a concert band and jazz band made up of as many as 100 band directors from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine will be featured.
- In late July and early August, Mr. Hammerton will mark his tenth summer as an instructor with the George M. Parks Drum Major Academy. He will teach at two week-long clinics focusing on band leadership skills. The clinics are located at UMass-Amherst and the campus of West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

### **Upcoming Events**

- The Band and Chorus will perform as part of Uxbridge High School's Baccalaureate and Graduation activities. UHS Band and Chorus alumni, as well as numerous Whitin School Band members, will join the UHS ensembles for these performances.
- MCAS Science/Technology exam on June 3 & 4
- Senior Awards Banquet at Pleasant Valley Country Club at 6:00PM on June 4.
- Baccalaureate service at Faith Fellowship Church at 7:00PM on June 6.
- Graduation Ceremony on the Donatelli Field at 10:30Am on June 7.
- Junior Awards Day is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:35a.m.

### **Other**

- Congratulations to the Uxbridge High Athletic Program on winning the Southern Worcester County League Sportsmanship Award for the 2007-2008 Winter Season. The award goes to the athletic program that best exemplifies the ideals of good sportsmanship. Uxbridge was selected based on a vote of member schools.

