



Community Newsletter

Community Newsletter

September 2008

Message from the Superintendent/Principal

Welcome to the 2008-2009 School Year and our first copy of the UPS Newsletter!

This is our first monthly district newsletter. I couldn't be prouder to present to you what I hope will be an important source for highlights and stories that make up our school district. We will also be providing tips for parents, upcoming programs, and feature stories about events in our schools. I encourage you to take the time to review and provide feedback to each of the building principals, as to how we can make this an important document for you and your family.

I am excited about this school year and all the new opportunities, programs, and challenges it will bring. Education is a partnership that requires the work and support of the entire community. Uxbridge High School is fortunate to have caring, active students and parents who are involved and encouraging. We also have a dedicated and professional staff that is here to help your son or daughter obtain the best education possible. We will be here to help make the most of these opportunities and to meet and overcome the challenges of a new year. We are ready and willing to help in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have a question.

One of the most important factors in your child's success is your involvement. When parents are involved in their child's education and are active in the school community, it sends a clear message to your child that education is valued and should be a priority.

Some of the ways to become involved include the following:

- ✓ Talk to your children about school. Ask them what they did, what school work is due, what they like or dislike about school.
- ✓ Attend an activity/event at U.P.S. with your son or daughter.
- ✓ Encourage your children to join a club, activity or team. Not only will it help them create a new social circle, it will likely have a positive impact on their grades.
- ✓ Attend Open House. Regularly monitor your child's progress. Call your child's teachers, counselor, or administrator when you have a question or concern.
- ✓ Join the Booster Clubs which support our athletic, band, and school programs.
- ✓ Join the P.T.Os which support our schools.
- ✓ Stay informed by reading the school mailings. Visit the school's website at www.uxbridgeschools.com for announcements and information.

I look forward to working with all of you and the students. In a few months, we will be improving this newsletter, which we hope will be another vehicle to help promote our school and the positive programs and services we provide. I encourage you to contact the main offices with any suggestions or questions regarding our school and its program.

Thank you for your continued support.

Daniel J. Stefanilo
Superintendent/Principal
Uxbridge Public Schools

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- UHS Now SAT Testing Site! See p. 8
- Uxbridge Schools Recycle ! p. 7
- Something "Fishy" Happened at Taft School p. 4
- New K-6 Reading Series p. 2

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**StoryTown Reading Program is Adopted for Grades K-6**

The StoryTown reading and language arts program, developed by Harcourt School Publishers, has been adopted for students in grades K-6 in Uxbridge Public Schools. StoryTown features an organized, direct approach to teaching reading that is aligned with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks. The program emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction in the five essential components of reading that include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

The development of Harcourt's StoryTown is the result of extensive and confirmed research that is based on best instructional practice in the teaching of reading. Following are several key components of the program:

- a high-quality collection of classic and contemporary literature designed to foster a love of reading in school and at home
- three tiers of intervention strategies, targeted materials, and classroom management tools that match instruction to meet the different needs of students
- integrated language arts lessons planned to help students develop and practice writing forms, grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling skills
- a program of various assessments to ensure mastery or diagnosis of reading difficulties throughout the year

Additionally, StoryTown provides extensive online resources (ThinkCentral) that allow families to access stories, practice readings, and reinforcement materials at home (see www.harcourtschool.com/storytown/).

Whitin Teachers Learn About the "Keys to Literacy"

Improving reading comprehension is widely recognized as a top educational priority in our nation's middle schools. Indeed, the Reading for the 21 Century task force reported that "one in four adolescents cannot read well enough to identify the main idea in a passage or textbook." Literacy problems can be significant for middle school students.

Teachers at Whitin Middle School are working together to help all students improve their reading skills. Whitin teachers are participating in an extensive, onsite professional development program, **Keys to Literacy**, that trains teachers to embed reading comprehension strategies in content classes which result in improved student learning.

The **Keys to Literacy** program introduces teachers to the Key Three Routine, a flexible model that can be used to teach and practice comprehension strategies with middle school students. The routine emphasizes three key skills essential to developing active reading: identifying and stating main ideas, taking notes, and summarizing. These skills are combined into a series of five activities that are best used in content classes such as Language Arts, Reading, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.

The Key Three Routine has been adopted for use in numerous schools throughout the country. Whitin teachers are planning to implement the key strategies on a schoolwide basis. The goal is to improve reading comprehension skills for all students with a special focus on students with reading difficulties (see www.keystoliteracy.net).

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Students and staff returned to the ELC after the summer break to find many improvements to the building; windows had been replaced, walls had been insulated, and the building had been sided. The Church of the Good Shepherd completed these renovations during the summer.

The Early Learning Center welcomed 60 full day kindergarten students and, 104 half day Kindergarten students. Kindergarten students and their parents rode the bus to and from school. Parents spent a portion of the day in their child's classroom meeting the teacher and learning about classroom practices. Parents also met support staff, received the handbook, and filled out necessary paperwork.

Pre-K Open House was held on August 28th and 29th for 143 preschool children at the Whitin Preschool and the ELC. Children attend two, three, or five day sessions. We continue to have a waiting list for our programs.

The Kindergarten teachers are in the first year of implementing a new reading series StoryTown. Implementation of the new reading series will provide our students with research based reading approaches. We continue to use the Scott Foresman Mathematics Program at the Kindergarten level. These programs offer support for the struggling learners and

enrichment to the advanced students.

During the month of September, the Kindergarten students have been learning about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. The children learned about the various stages the monarch caterpillar goes through during its metamorphosis into the monarch butterfly. Each classroom was able to locate caterpillars locally, and have them on display in the rooms for the children to observe the transformation first hand. Once each butterfly emerged from its chrysalis, the children released them to begin their long migration to Mexico.

The Uxbridge Fire Department will be visiting the Pre-k and Kindergarten classes during Fire Prevention Week, October 6th-10th. School pictures will be taken on October 30th, and 31st. The Early Learning Center Council Meeting is scheduled for October 21st from 3:30 to 5:00p.m. at the Early Learning Center.

The PTO held a Dessert Social for families whose children attend Pre-K and Kindergarten at the ELC on Wednesday, September 3, 2008. The children and their families enjoyed baked goods, talking to their teachers, and playing with friends. Everyone had a great time!!!!

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT/GRANTS

The Uxbridge After Hours program ran our first summer theatre program this past July. Twenty-two students in grades 3-8 performed a 45-minute modified version of the Grimm Brother's fairy tale *The Fisherman and His Wife*. Students worked for two weeks to create a dramatic set including an ever-changing ocean scene, a home that changed from a shack to a glamorous palace, and many lavish costumes. The program was a huge success thanks to the efforts of instructors Nick LaPete, Pamela Murphy, and Jalene Berlinguet. We plan to offer this program every summer.

Grants

Uxbridge Public Schools has been awarded a number of grants for the FY2008-2009 school year. We received \$10,000 from the Massachusetts Partnership for Community Health to establish a group to serve the needs of youth in our community. This is a two year grant that will work first to identify the needs and assets of our town and to form a group that will work to match providers with students in need. The second year will involve committee members' participation in a state-wide training programming focusing on youth services.

Taft school has received a \$10,520 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to add the performance arts to the already successful International Fair. Through a partnership with the artist group from Boston, *Behind the Mask*, students in grade 2 will make puppets and write scripts related to the country they are researching. The entire school will watch the *Behind the Mask* troupe perform their version of "Cat Mountain", based on a Japanese folktale, using puppetry, dance, and Japanese theatre-styles.

The district also received support from the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Blissful Meadows Community Golf Tournament.

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents:

In my conversations with parents at Open House, in the hall and parking lot at school, and at various school functions, I am constantly reminded of your commitment to your child's education. At our recent Open House, we had record number of parents who attended. That level of commitment is important to a child's success at school. Here are a few tips for successful home/school relationships.

Stay informed of your child's academic accomplishments by reviewing his/her work on a daily or weekly basis. Folders have been provided by the PTO that will be used to send work home.

Communicate with school regularly. When you have a concern or question, write a note, email, or phone the teacher. We need you on our team! Staff can be reached by email by clicking on the link next to their name, on the Uxbridge Public Schools website, www.uxbridgeschools.com Follow link to Taft School website.

Think ahead. Parent conferences are being held in early December after the first trimester report card. Plan on attending the conference to discuss your child's successes and challenges. Come prepared with questions for the teacher. If there are areas of concern, work with the teacher to create an action plan. Talk to your child about the conference.

Research shows the importance of parental involvement at home as well. "Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework, and discussing school matters" (www.nea.org/parents). Continue to be involved throughout the school year.

Paula Montesi—Principal

Classroom/Student Activities

September 10th and 11th was Open House at Taft for parents to come and meet the teacher and review the curriculum for the upcoming year.

Many of our classes participated in walking field trips, establishing a link between school and the community, while connecting to content frameworks. Two classes of Grade 2 students and Mrs. Hazard's first grade class walked to the library to register for a library card and check out books. This practice stressed the value of reading. Another class visited Peaceful Pond, near Crown and Eagle, to observe trees, leaves, grass, and the pond. Follow-up activities are planned for their return.

September 26th was our first Spirit Day called "Something Fishy is Up at Taft School" Day. Students and staff will take part in celebrating and carrying out the Fish Philosophy: Choose Your Attitude, Play, Make Their Day, Be Present.

The Food Pantry Needs Your Help – once again the students will be conducting a food and goods drive to supply the People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge. The food pantry is in great need right now, as supplies are running low! Each day the fourth grade students will collect items from each classroom. Grade 1 - paper goods, Grade 2- personal products, Grade 3 - cleaning products, Grade 4 - non-perishable foods. The drive runs from September 29th - October 10th.

All students took part in a special assembly on bullying entitled, "A Friendship Adventure with Ronald McDonald." The owner of the Uxbridge McDonald's, Mr. Spadea, sponsored this awesome program about how to be a friend and not a bully. The students and staff have made cards and letters to Mr. Spadea, thanking him for a great assembly.

Art Department

Things are in full swing at Taft School. The Art Department is very fortunate to have a new part-time art teacher, Mrs. Heidi Quinlivan, who comes to us with lots of experience and some exciting new ideas.

Taft School's first grade students are working hard on their fine motor skills. We have been creating colorful projects using many different materials and techniques. We are making fish to inspire interest in our school wide "Fish Philosophy", promoting good attitude and enjoying their learning experiences at school. We have also learned about the great artist Pablo Picasso, creating self-portraits in his unique style. Children have also used careful observation to create self portraits, "Mary Cassett Family Portraits" and beautiful painted, symmetrical, Monarch butterflies.

Second grade students are also making fish. We are exploring mixed mediums and have been creating pattern over color techniques. Their work is very beautiful. The children are fun to work with and have great imaginations.

Third grade students are also working on small fish projects to support the "Fish Philosophy." We are working on blending techniques and the art of Vincent Van Gogh. The children have been creating beautiful sunflower still life projects. They are impressive! Third grade students have also learned about Pablo Picasso and experimented with one of his many artistic styles—cubism. Children created their own version of a Cubist Fall Leave.

The fourth graders have been very busy! We have created collage waterfalls. Some groups are working on dragon projects and others are beginning to study portraits of the U.S. presidents. Be sure to look for our Hall of Presidents around election time in November!

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Computer News

We are off and running with our new computer curriculum! All of the classes have discussed the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. If you have not already done so, please return the signed policy ASAP. All the students learned the parts of the computer and were assigned seats. The third and fourth grade students viewed a video on the WWW on "Stop Bullying Now." This was in conjunction with the visit we had from Ronald McDonald and the bullying presentation. The first grades have started JumpStart Advanced 1st Grade. The second grades are finishing up KidPix and are discussing how people use computers at home, school, and work. For some fun and educational websites, please go to the Taft School website and click on my webpages-Mrs. Jansson. Just an FYI: Tuesday is my afternoon to stay for extra help.

Physical Education

We are enjoying the sunny weather around the grounds at Taft. Fall is here so please send students to class with jackets and sneakers. Grade 1 and 2 have learned parachute, catching, and underhand throwing. Next is jumping rope and tag games that can be played at recess. Grade 1 students are learning basic concepts of Health. Grade 2 begins Health in November. Grades 3 and 4 have participated in our "Olympic" sports of volleyball, bocce, track events, and fitness events. We are beginning soccer skills and small games.

Canal Walk in Grade 3

All third grade students are taking a walking field trip along Blackstone Valley Canal guided by a Park Ranger. The students are learning about the history of the canal during the Industrial Revolution. We are also taking the

opportunity to observe and appreciate plant and animal life!

Leadership Club

Under the direction of Mr. Catalano, 33 fourth grade students have signed up to be in this club. They meet once a week during recess and are in the planning stages of activities for the new school year.

PTO

The Taft PTO is up and running. Box Tops for Education, Tyson Project A+, Sox Tops for Education and the Fall Fundraiser are all in the works for the new school year. In October, Spirit Wear will be sold. Information will be coming home in your backpack mail. Mark your calendars for the 29th Annual ABC Fair on October 18th from 10-3:00 am. The PTO Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

Officers of the PTO

Lisa Devane—President
Coleen Thayer—Vice-President
Lisa Ahern— Recording Secretary
Kallie Spaulding— Treasurer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1, 2008 – Title 1 Open House – 7:00 pm
October 9, 2008 – PTO Meeting, Taft Cafeteria-7:00 pm
October 9, 2008 – Fire Prevention Assemblies
October 10, 2008 – Dismissal 11:45 pm
October 13, 2008 – Columbus Day, NO School
October 15, 2008 – School Pictures-Grades 1 and 2
October 15, 2008 – School Council 3:45 pm in Principal's Conference Room
October 16, 2008 – School Pictures Grades 3 and 4
October 18, 2008 – ABC Fair 10:00-3:00 pm
October 22, 2008 – PTO Fall Fundraiser Pick Up
October 22, 2008 – Community Readers Day
October 31, 2008 – Kooky Colors Spirit Day



VISIT US ON THE WEB

<http://www.uxbridgeschools.com>

School Staff Email Addresses

Individual's first initial followed by
last name@uxbridge.k12.ma.us
(jlanoue@uxbridge.k12.ma.us)

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 2008-2009 school year at Whitin is off to a fantastic start. The teachers officially reported to school on August 25 but many were in over the summer months preparing for the students' arrival. Students reported on August 27th full of excitement and positive energy. Student and staff have settled into a productive routine centered on high expectations and challenging curriculum.

Back to School Night

The PTO sponsored Whitin's annual "Back to School Night" on Tuesday, September 9th. Parents and families were given a general overview of Whitin Middle School and spent a good portion of the night meeting their children's teachers. With over 300 parents and family members in attendance; it was a successful and worthwhile event. Thank you to the Whitin PTO for their coordinated effort.

Field Trip to Spirit of America

On September 19th, the Grade 5 students and members of the Whitin Middle School Marching Band attended the U.S. Army's performance, Spirit of America, at the Worcester DCU Center. The show celebrates the spirit, strength, and history of our nation. The students were treated to musical performances as well as disciplined rifle drills. Over 280 students, staff, and parents attended this event. Thank you to all the family members who chaperoned.

School-Wide Reading

Research has shown that reading and literacy has a direct effect on academic success, yet middle-schoolers are reading less and less. For this reason, the district has implemented a school-wide reading time. For at least 15 minutes every Friday, students at Whitin Middle School will be Dropping Everything and Reading. This is the second year the program has been in place. Teachers and students report positive results.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Whitin Middle School proudly offers many after school activities for students to become involved in. These include intramural sports, interscholastic sports, and a variety of clubs. Currently running activities include: Cross Country, Chorus, Boys' Soccer, Robotics, Girls' Soccer, Student Council, and Field Hockey.

PTO

Whitin School PTO held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:30pm in the school library. A group of over 28 parents attended this meeting. The PTO extends a sincere welcome to all parents and is looking forward to a productive and successful school year. Monthly meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Officers of Whitin PTO

Laura Derderian—President
Nancy Hanson—Vice-President
Andrea Consoletti—Co-Treasurer
Michaelle Phillips—Co-Treasurer
Tracy Wagner—Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1	Whitin PTO Meeting (Library at 6:30 PM)
October 3	Celebration of World Smile Day
October 6	Mid-Term Progress Reports
October 6&7	School Photographs
October 10	Curriculum Day
October 31	Halloween Social for Grades 5 & 6 (2:30-4:00 PM)

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

Brown Baggin' It : What Does It Cost?

There's been a lot of talk and encouragement in the media lately about packing lunches to save money. But does it really save you money? Our Food Service Director, Janice Watt, was curious to find out, and the results may surprise you!

To satisfy her curiosity, Mrs. Watt did some shopping at the local supermarket to assemble a "typical" lunch. The lunch consisted of a honey ham

sandwich with cheese on a bulkie roll, an apple, (1) 100 calorie pack cookies, (1) 1 oz bag of chips & a juice pouch. The cost for this lunch added up to \$3.38, not to mention the time it takes out of your busy lives to shop and make the lunches---surely that time has some value!

When you compare the bag lunch cost to the price of school lunch, it is easy to see

that \$2.50 for elementary lunches, and \$2.75 for middle & high school lunches are a good value for your hard earned money. School lunches are nutritionally balanced because they meet the recommended daily allowances, and they offer more variety to students. We are able to offer meals for this price due to the fact that we buy in volume, as well as receive money from the state



& federal governments to help run our program.

So think of the Uxbridge School Food Service Program the next time you're packing lunches, we'd be glad to help give you some precious time back, and save you some money, too!



PLANT OPERATIONS— WE RECYCLE!

You may have noticed the bright green and yellow Abitibi Paper Retriever bins placed at each school and in various locations throughout Uxbridge. Abitibi is a community recycling program/fundraiser that benefits the Town of Uxbridge and our planet! Last year paper retrieval bins were distributed to each classroom in the district. Custodial staff empty bins on a weekly basis. Community members may also collect clean paper recycling (clean paper only, no cardboard) and place them in the bins located throughout the town. For more information on this program, please visit www.paperretriever.com. If you have any questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact the Superintendent's office or your building principals for further details.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS

What a wonderful beginning to a new school year. This year, the Extended Day Program is servicing 162 children in grades ranging from the 4-yr.old preschool to grade 7. There are some exciting learning opportunities occurring in all the programs and our veteran staff is working diligently to keep the activities challenging. We have one new staff member this year, Mrs. Jean McGee who will be assisting in our kindergarten room.

We would like to express our special thanks to Mrs. Diane Henries who encouraged us to use the Taft art room this summer, which allowed the

children to make some spectacular projects. Our middle school children benefited from the use of the music room which Ms. Gretchen D'Andrea graciously shared with us. Our appreciation also goes out to Mrs. Lillian Hazard who has always invited us to use her classroom for our "Homework Help" club. Because of the cooperation of these outstanding teachers and so many others, our program is able to offer higher quality service.

October 14th-17th is our "Lights on Afterschool" Week, a national celebration of the need for quality

afterschool programming in this country. The Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow to send the message that afterschool programming is key to children's success, and that we *must* keep the lights on and doors open after school. Our program is celebrating in a number of ways throughout the week. Everyday, special activities will be planned with the children, and literature will go out to the community focusing on why children and youth need supervision after school. Our staff will culminate the week by attending the Network of Extended Day Directors (NEDDS)

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Social Studies Department

September is always a busy month at UHS. In the Social Studies Department there is much excitement over the addition of a U.S. History III course. This will provide our students with the opportunity to study the important events from World War II to the present. This course is being taught by Mr. Frank Barbuto.

Mr. Hutchings invited Mr. Michael Ryan from the Office of the Jury Commission in Boston to speak to his and Mrs. Puckett's classes. Mr. Ryan has been providing this service to UHS for over five years. Our students always enjoy his presentation because of its importance and his presentation style that adds humor to a serious civic obligation.

Mr. Hutchings has his International Studies class involved in the Stock Market Game. This is an important need for high school students to become aware of the global markets.

The department is encouraging students who are or will be eighteen years of age by November 4th, Election Day, to register to vote.

Internship Program

The internship program is up and running with five seniors working throughout the valley. Placement sights include Blackstone Valley Veterinary Hospital, the Uxbridge Police Department, Beaumont Skilled Nursing Facility and Whitin School. Eleven UHS students are currently working as Teaching Assistants in various elementary classrooms throughout the district.

Consumer Service Learning Project

Mr. Berkowicz' Outdoor Pursuits class and the Cross Country Team are joining forces to aid the Conservation Commission in its effort to expand and improve the trails around Pout Pond and the West River. This Community Service Learning project benefits both the students and the townspeople.

Mosaic Studio enters 7th Year

The 2008-2009 school year marks the 7th year of the Mosaic Studio Program, servicing students in the Uxbridge Public Schools. Aimed at students in grades 7th through 12th, the Mosaic Studio is able to provide a combination of academic and therapeutic supports in order to engage all students in the learning process. As this year begins, the program will continue to produce anti-bullying information through the Art Gives Hope initiative and plans on introducing other community based projects throughout the school year.

Guidance News

Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Georgette Knapp, Uxbridge High School is now a testing site for SAT exams. We have been approved to test up to one-hundred and fifty students on October 4th and November 1st, 2008 and March 14th and May 2nd, 2009. Students can sign up on-line or through their high school. Becoming a testing site is an advantage to our students as it gives them the opportunity to test in a familiar environment and eliminates the need to travel to a distant school.

National Honor Society

In the month of the September, the National Honor Society held our second annual coat drive and bake sale at the Homecoming Football Game. We collected many warm winter coats, which will soon be distributed to a local homeless shelter. On Monday October 6, the entire Honor Society will be attending a Fall Conference at the College of the Holy Cross and Worcester. We are looking forward to a fun and productive year.

Athletic Department

Visit www.highschoolsports.net for all updated schedules and scores.

Directions to opponent sport facilities are available on MIAA website www.miaa.net. Click on member school lookup.

FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS!

Homecoming was a fun and successful week beginning with our first soccer games played under the lights at Donatelli Field. The girls' soccer team started off the evening with a 2-0 victory over Grafton High. The boys' soccer team playing in the 7 pm game and earned a hard fought 1-1 tie vs Grafton. On Friday afternoon, the UHS Field Hockey team defeated Grafton by a score of 4-1. The weeklong homecoming games were finalized with a night game vs Bartlett High. The Spartans lost a tough game by a score of 13-8 before a large crowd. Congratulations to all teams for a spirited week of games. Special thanks to the UHS Booster Club for helping defray the costs of the lights.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Two seniors (one boy, one girl) are nominated monthly by the faculty and staff at Uxbridge High School to receive recognition as *Senior of the Month*. Considerations for nomination include: demonstrate willingness to assist others, have good academic standing but does not need to be an A student, be respectful of others and self, be a good citizen, and involved with school/community service. Upon selection by the administration, the *Seniors of the Month* will have their pictures and brief write-ups displayed in the front lobby of the high school for recognition. Thank you to *North End Pizza* for their generous donation of gift certificates to each recipient.

Ashley Ostrem

Sensitive, strong, outgoing, intelligent, a leader, and a fun-loving person, Ashley Ostrem embodies these qualities and more. As an athlete and a leader, she represented Uxbridge at the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference and the Girls and Women In Sport Day. Currently she is the president of our Student Council and was elected captain of both her soccer and basketball teams. Ashley's leadership abilities extend into the classroom as well. Ashley challenges herself with Honors and AP classes and at this time is ranked 5th in her class with a GPA of 98.5. She is respected by fellow students and UHS faculty for her strong work ethic, her sincerity, and her willingness to help others. Ashley's spirit and energy are contagious; her sunny smile warms us all. She is a true Spartan.

Michael Lovett

One of Mike's main goals this year is to make his days at Uxbridge High School the best they can be and a big part of that goal is to make the days of all UHS students the best they can be. As president of the Class of 2009, Mike demonstrates pride in his school, strong leadership skills, and a desire to develop unity and community within the walls and halls of UHS. He's a man with a vision, resulting in the exciting new look of the senior hall. Mike was the moving force behind both the re-painting the senior lockers and the creation of the senior class motto. UHS administration and staff were so impressed and pleased with the motto that it was used as the logo for both the student and staff T-shirts this year. Additionally, Mike recognizes his responsibilities as both a scholar and a friend. Mike is a solid academic student with an ambitious plan - he wants to major in business management with a possible career as a corporate lawyer. He enjoys playing and watching sports, being outdoors, playing the drums, and hanging with friends. Mike is that "go-to" guy, organized and reliable, who makes us all better people. UHS is fortunate to have Mike in our hallways.

October is Smile Month

Smiling is infectious,

You can catch it like the flu.

When someone smiles at you today,

You'll start smiling too!

DISTRICT CALENDAR – OCTOBER 2008

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Taft School Title I Open House 7 p.m. Whitin School PTO Mtng-6:30pm High School PSG Mtng at 7 p.m.	2	3 World Smile Day	4
5	6 Whitin School School Pictures Faculty Mtng- 2:30 pm Library High School Booster Club Mtng 7 p.m.	7 Admin Mtng 9:30 a.m. Whitin School School Pictures School Committee Meeting 7 p.m.	8	9 Taft School PTO Mtng-7:00 p.m.	10 ½ day all schools Curriculum Day	11
12	13 Columbus Day No School	14	Special Ed PAC Mtng – 7 pm/Whitin 15 Taft School School Pictures High School PSAT's	16 Taft School School Pictures High School Student Council-6 pm Special Ed PAC Information Gathering 7 p.m. Haywagon	17	18 Taft School Annual ABC Fair: 10:00 am – 3:00 p.m.
19	20 Whitin School PTO Magazine Drive Assembly	21 Admin Mtng 1:45 p.m.	22 Taft School PTO Fall Fundraiser Pick Up – Time TBD	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 ELC School Pictures K & PreK @ELC and Whitin Pre-K	ELC School Pictures K & PreK @ELC and Whitin Pre-K Whitin School Gr. 5&6 Social 2:30-4:00 p.m.	

In order to achieve unity a group of individuals must set aside their differences and work to meet a common goal”
~ members of the class of 2009

WEB RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- ◆ Healthy communication is often a struggle for parents and teens. **Parents: The Anti-Drug** website has great tips on communicating with your children. Topics run from starting conversations to keeping those conversations on-going, more effective listening, and recognizing teachable moments as well as what to say “if”.
- ◆ Kids often complain that parents don’t listen to what they say. Check out www.theantidrug.com.
- ◆ Other effective websites include:
◆ www.cfsnh.org/pages/programs/FamilySupport/support_education
◆ <http://onetoughjob.org/?gclid=CJCJpszj-5UCFRIRagodDFJJE>
◆ <http://www.parentingteensresourcenetwork.org/index.php?gclid=COeAs-vj-5UCFQsQagod4I7cFQ>

Pupil Personnel Services

Futures Program—UHS

Students in the Pre-Vocational Life Skills program have added paper recycling to their UHS based jobs. Green jobs are the jobs of the future. Students collect the paper two times a week. They are quickly learning the ins and outs of this job. Once all students in the class are comfortable with taking care of the paper, we would like to add water bottles to the materials we collect. We have made an exciting connection with Mr. Geissler, the new UHS science teacher, who wants to extend his classes beyond the science lab and into the school environment to further facilitate the greening of UHS. We look forward to the opportunity of working with the science classes on such an important goal.

The Copy Cats have again started working at Taft weekly. We will begin this week to do some work in the Taft Courtyard as well. Thanks are due to the Taft staff, who continue to provide learning opportunities in the world of work to some of the very same students they taught in the younger grades. Milestones Ultimate Hotdog again hosts UHS students. The young man who worked there last year was happy to return to his shift. A classmate of his will join him on Tuesdays in the coming weeks.

Juniors in the ASC have created or revisited a Bridges Transitions Inc. portfolio. Bridges interest profiles have been completed, and students are using the program to explore career choices in their fields of interest. Seniors have updated the resumes they created last year to include new experiences. One senior interested in office work as a

career has had the opportunity to work in the UHS main office one block a day. Two seniors from the ASC have expressed interest in learning to use the copiers. Mrs. Knapik has offered to provide some copy jobs they can learn by doing. Students who are seeking part time work have worked on applications.

Prevocational Life Skills Class

The Prevocational Life Skills Class is off to a good start. Our classes first semester consist of English, math, science and daily living skills. Our first area of focus is to review and reinforce previously learned reading and math skills. Students are all receiving much one-to-one instruction. In Science, we started the year focusing on physical fitness and healthy living. In daily living skills, students are reviewing kitchen safety.

We are very excited to have Mrs. Baisley working with our class one period each day. She brings many creative skills with her in addition to her background in nutrition. The students are very much enjoying working with her in the cafe and in our classroom. We love having her with us!

Prevocationally, students are starting to take on jobs within UHS. We currently have one student working as a library helper and three students working as office delivery helpers. Students are learning and practicing cooking skills in the Spartan Cafe and several students work as delivery persons. We currently have three peer tutors working with the class as well. Outside Uxbridge High School, we have students working at Milestone's

Ultimate Hot Dogs and Copy Cats at Taft School with Ms. Hamelin. Students have recently started a recycling initiative with Ms. Hamelin within UHS. Things are going well so far and these recycling jobs help students practice tasks which further their OT and PT skills.

Within our classroom, we have been able to obtain two additional computers. This has enabled students to each have individual work stations. One of our students is practicing office skills and has been answering the telephone and taking orders for the Spartan Café.

Students will be participating in many activities outside the classroom this year. Several of our students will be taking part in Mr. Berkowicz's regular P.E. class. Students will receive adaptive PE, OT and PT where needed too. Mrs. Romano will return this year to work with students on Speech and Language. Students will be visiting the UHS library and Mr. Sweeney at least twice weekly. The much anticipated Scrabble tournament will continue in the UHS library again this year as well. The students very much enjoy it and it helps them build

World Smile Day



October 3rd!