



Community Newsletter

Community Newsletter

November 2008

Message from the Superintendent/Principal

This month, I want to direct your attention to our efforts to ensure safety in our schools. The safety and welfare of students and staff are vital to ensure a safe, positive learning environment. The time and efforts of many people are committed to this goal. The school district has formed "crisis teams" made up of various administrators and staff members within the school system that consult on a regular basis throughout the year. At each building and on the district level, these teams meet and discuss topics related to the practices and policies that are in place to provide security for our students and staff.

Over the course of the past several school years, lockdown procedures and evacuation drills have been conducted. I report with confidence that the staff understands and implements these drills with competence and professionalism. In addition, the students conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and take these drills very seriously.

One of the safety issues that concerns all of us is the use and abuse of drugs. I consider this a safety hazard to both the general learning environment and to individual students. The Uxbridge Public Schools, in coordination with the Uxbridge Police Department, deem the presence of illegal or unauthorized substances on school grounds as detrimental to the maintenance of a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning. These substances present a health hazard for students by facilitating abuse and dependency, and by contributing to self-destructive and/or violent behavior. During our recent lockdown and evacuation drill at the high school, I authorized the use of over a dozen K-9 dogs to sweep the school grounds and parking lot. I am pleased to report that we found no illegal or unauthorized substances in our high school. The intention of this plan was threefold: to enforce the law and school rules, to identify students in need of referral for counseling, and/or treatment, and to prevent violence. I am not

implying that illegal substances are not a problem, as they are to all communities, only that there were none found in our school. I will continue to send the strong message that drugs present a hazard to the well-being of our students and the school community, in part by conducting these periodic sweeps at both the high school and middle school. My overriding goal is to ensure that our school community is safe and free from this detrimental activity.

Interestingly, on the same day as our lockdown and evacuation drill, the high school initiated an upbeat drug prevention campaign. We placed a giant poster board on a wall in our cafeteria and invited students to sign it, thereby pledging to stay drug free. The posters are completely filled with signatures. Additionally, students who signed the mural received a red wrist band that indicates their commitment to honor their pledge. Other activities surrounding this campaign are in the works. My thanks go out to Jayne Mitides, our Health and Wellness teacher, for coordinating this effort. Please, stop by the cafeteria during your visit to our open house on November 13 to see this amazing mural.

We have a great school and all of us, as parents and community members, make a difference. Your support of our schools is critical. Safety and a positive culture are vital to learning. I consider it an honor to work with great students and I am proud of our recent successes at the high school. These successes are evidence that our school is secure and has a positive, supportive climate. The essential ingredients to this climate are the parents, the teachers, and most importantly, our students.

Daniel J. Stefanilo
Superintendent/Principal
Uxbridge Public Schools

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CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Community Reading: A Day of Enjoyment, Fun, and Learning

The annual Community Readers Day for Uxbridge students was held during the morning of Wednesday, October 22. This year's event, coordinated by school librarians Margy O'Donnell and Donna Brown, involved sixty community readers who brought enjoyment, fun, and learning to students from pre-school through grade 6 classrooms.

The wide range of community readers included school officials, parents, community business owners, police and fire representatives, school committee members, elected officials, clergy, and UHS student members of the National Honor Society. Even the famous hand-puppet Curious George visited with students to share the joy of reading.

Community Readers Day has become one of the most popular and worthwhile annual school events. Research confirms that reading aloud to students is an essential part of the instructional program. What could be more rewarding for community members than having the opportunity to promote reading in our schools?

A special note of thanks and recognition to the following community readers:

Bill Albin	Rachel Drywa	Noelle Hermann	Rebecca Larrivee	Lynn Patton	Dr. Swiderski
Peter Baghdasarian	Peter Emerick	Josh Howard	Michael Lovett	Amy Puliafico	Kate Travaline
Raymond Barron	Barbara Emerick	Pastor Bob Howard	Stephanie Lundberg	Beth Rancourt	Liz Walsh
Eric Bazzett	Ernie Esposito	Kelly Jolicoeur	Jean McGee	Deb Sawyer	Pastor John Westcott
Renee Bianco	Lori Fafard	Jane Keegan	Marcia Metcalf	Linda Simonds	Nancy Winters
Melissa Blodgett	Ron Farrar	Kay Klos	Paula Montesi	Kathy Smith	Kim Wolanski
Howard Boyaj	Cheryl Gallo	Karin Knapik	Angel Moscatelli	Kallie Spaulding	Julie Woods
Rep. Jennifer Callahan	Nate Hansel	Kevin Kuros	Ryan Normandin	Pat Stefanik	Rachel Wright
Lynn Coolbrith	Paul Haughey	Dave Landry	Ashley Ostrem	Dan Stefanilo	
Laura Derderian	Brian Hazard	Judi Lanoue	Kathryn Parent	Bill Sweeney	

Professional Development Planned for Uxbridge Teachers

Full Day of Workshops on November 4, 2008

A full-day of Professional Development Training will be presented to all Uxbridge Public School staff members in the UHS auditorium on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. This training will address the mandates of No Child Left Behind, and focus on the needs of our gifted and talented students. Uxbridge teachers will participate in the following workshops on November 4:

- Everything You Need to Know About RTI
- Making a Response to Intervention Plan
- Identification Process for Gifted and Talented Students
- Evidence Based Practices That Work With Gifted Students

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

The Early Learning Center had a very busy month. During Fire Prevention Week, October 6th-10th, members of the Uxbridge Fire Department visited all the kindergarten and pre- k classrooms. The students always enjoy a visit from their friends at the Fire Department.

During the month of October, the kindergarten students have become pumpkin scientists. As part of the state frameworks for science and math, kindergarteners have been learning about the pumpkin life cycle. They have been comparing pumpkins by size, shape, color and texture. They have been learning how to measure the circumference of a pumpkin using counting links and the height of a pumpkin using unifix cubes. Who knew a pumpkin could be such a learning resource!

Project Give

Over the next few months the teachers will be talking to the kindergarten children about family and community. During this hard economic time we feel that it is important to teach the children about giving and sharing and how to help people in need. As a kindergarten project we will team up with the Uxbridge Food Pantry. For the next six months the kindergarten classes will be having a competition among the six classes. There will be a theme for each month based on what is needed at the food pantry. This project will start in November and end in April. A note will be sent home at the beginning of each month letting parents know what the theme is and how much was collected the month before. We will use this experience as a teaching tool and count and graph progress.

Social Service Notes

Holly M. Earl, ELC
(508) 234-9164

Hello, everyone! As you know, each school has a school social worker available to the students, staff and parents for a variety of support services. Additionally, there are many support services available to families in the community. I would like to use this space to update information on those services. We have also recently started a teacher webpage affiliated with the Uxbridge Public Schools website, which is still under construction. More details to follow:

People First Food Pantry – Uxbridge established a food pantry in 1995 – 7 Court St., Uxbridge (Community House at the First Evangelical Church). Tel/answering machine: (508) 278-5506. Hours: Wednesdays, 11 AM -1 PM and 6:30 PM – 8 PM.

Fuel Assistance – You may be eligible for assistance even if your rent includes your heat. Deadline for this year is generally April 2009. Applications are taken at the Uxbridge Senior Center/COA (278-8622), Catholic Charities (234-3800) or SMOC (508-620-1230).

WIC (Women, Infants & Children) – Information, referrals and health care services (immunizations, pregnancy testing, vitamins, lead testing, sick visits, well child exams, school & work physicals, etc.) and checks (\$\$) for nutritious foods you and your child need. WIC has an office in Milford and a van that travels to 16 towns daily. Call if you need to find a location. WIC office (634-8012) and WIC van – (800-942-1007).

Uxbridge Pre-K Begins Home Reading Initiative

Beginning Nov. 1st all preschool classes will begin a new program, “BooksTogether, Books Forever”. The purpose of this program is to promote reading at home. Young children begin to understand written language when they hear adults read stories and see adults reading. Early experiences with books set the stage for children to become successful readers and develop a love for books that will last a lifetime!

Every time a family member reads a book to a child they will write the name of the child and the book on a ticket and place it in a container in the child’s class. Each month a child’s name will be drawn and they will receive a new book which has been donated by a community member. The more books they read the more chances they have to win. The winners and the book with the name of who donated it will be posted on a board outside the classrooms. If any individual or community group would like to donate a book, please contact Sharon Petrowicz at the Uxbridge Early Learning Center 278-234-9164 or see any preschool teacher at the ELC or Whitin School.

WIC FREE FLU CLINIC Schedule

10/6 – Douglas – Picket Fence Rest parking lot	1-3
10/20 – Sutton – Step in Time PS – Rte 20 South	10-noon
10/27 – Oxford – Wal-Mart parking lot	10 – 1
11/6 – Whitinsville – Shaw’s parking lot	3-5:30
11/21 – Sturbridge – Stop & Shop parking lot	10:30-2:00
11/24 – Oxford – Wal-Mart parking lot	1-3
12/4 – Whitinsville – Shaw’s parking lot	3-5
11/13 – Bellingham - Market Basket parking lot	1-3 PM

Questions – call WIC on Wheels (508) 641-4829

MassHealth – The MassHealth program provides comprehensive health insurance or help in paying for private health insurance to more than one million Massachusetts children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities. MassHealth Customer Service (800-841-290)

Food Stamps - Most families who meet the federal income rules can get food stamp benefits. Food stamp benefits help you buy nutritious food that you need for your family. (800-249-2007)

Blackstone Valley Free Medical Care Program - Clinic provides free medical care. Hours are: the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at Northbridge High School (6-8 PM)

YOU, Inc. - GED program for students out of high school, ages 16-21; located @ Trinity Episcopal Church, 33 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville, (508) 266-2125

Holiday Help – assistance may be available to families and senior citizens who are struggling this winter. Help may be available for food, clothing and gifts. Please call your school social worker if you would like to apply.

InterAgency – We participate in an interagency group that meets monthly to share information about available resources and needs. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month @ the Uxbridge Police Station, 9:00 am. The next meeting is 11/5/08.

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This month, much of our focus was directed to current events and connecting to the community. The children participated in multi-disciplinary activities geared toward the upcoming presidential election. School wide activities focused on awareness of the process, participating in a mock election, and American pride. In addition, students reached out to the community by collecting food and other grocery items to benefit Uxbridge First Food Pantry. I want to express my sincere thanks to those community members who made our Community Readers' Day a huge success.

Children Help Our Community

The students and staff in Grade 4 have successfully completed a food drive for the *People First Food Pantry* in Uxbridge. Donations of non-perishable goods and personal items were collected over a two week period, and it was a great success. The coordinators would like to thank everyone involved and are looking forward to everyone's support again in the spring!

Community Readers Day

On October 22, we celebrated Community Readers Day; members of the community came to read to each class from Preschool to 6th grade! Representatives from the Fire Department, the Police Department, the clergy, business owners, town selectmen, and doctors, to name a few, came to share their love of reading with our students.

News from Taft Library

Hello from the Library at the Taft School! This month we've looked at rhyming books, books about families, about alligators and crocodiles (do **you** know

how to tell the difference?) and stories by the Connecticut author/illustrator Steven Kellogg. We've discussed the difference between fiction and non-fiction books, and how to find each on the library shelves. We've even talked a little about the Dewey Decimal system.

Election 2008 Events

On October 27, 2008, the students at Taft Elementary put on a musical presentation in the Taft gymnasium. On October 31 and November 1, Taft students voted in specially made voting booths, constructed by the UHS students. Also, the second grade classes will run a voter registration drive with the help of Mrs. Priore from UHS.

For our exciting musical 'Kick-Off' for the Election Week Activities, we sang patriotic songs celebrating our freedom and the right to vote. President George Washington, aka Ryan Normandin, introduced many of the songs such as *The Residence of the Presidents* and *Yankee Doodle*, the unofficial anthem of the Revolutionary War. Grade 4 students are creating portraits of presidents to be included in the Hall of Presidents from George Washington to George W. Bush, as well as portraits of the 2008 candidates. In addition, students are creating voting posters to be displayed throughout the school. These events were funded through a grant awarded by the Uxbridge Education Foundation and generous support of the Uxbridge Elementary PTO.

Veterans Day

As a community service project the fourth grade will participate in a Spellathon. The monies raised from the Spellathon will be presented to the Uxbridge VFW Post 1385 and the Disabled American Veterans in

celebration of Veterans Day at an assembly on Friday, November 7, 2008. The Spelling Test was given on 10/24/08, with 74 students taking the test. The grade four class that raises the most money for the veterans will go on a free field trip to visit and sing their songs for the disabled veterans at Brockton Veterans' Hospital. The final amount raised and the winning class will be announced on November 7 at the assembly. Vendetti Bus Company is donating the bus for this winning field trip.

Special musical presentations for November include a fourth grade performance to observe Veteran's Day on November 7 with a selection of songs to honor community veterans in Uxbridge. We will sing *Thank a Vet*, *The Marine's Hymn*, *anchors Aweigh!*, *The Army Song* and *The U.S. Air Force Song*. We will also sing traditional patriotic anthems such as *This Land is Your Land*, by composer Woody Guthrie, the number one hit of Taft School.

PTO

The 29th Annual ABC Fair was held at Taft on October 18th. It was well attended and fun was had by all. Special thanks goes out to Lisa Ahern and her committee for all their hard work to make this annual event happen. Correction from last month's newsletter: The PTO Meetings are held on the **second Thursday** of the month, and Wendy Walker is the Corresponding Secretary of the PTO.

Parent Internet Safety Night

Speaker: Julie Lesure from District Attorney Joseph D. Early's Office, Thursday November 20, 2008, 6:30 pm at Taft Elementary School. Childcare provided! The Internet is a useful learning tool. Topics of discussion include: alerts to potential dangers/risks, discussion of real life danger examples and closed cases in Worcester County, Cyber bullying, and how to keep YOUR children safe while using the internet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 7th: We will be holding a Veterans Day Assembly for Grade 4 students.
- November 7th: Walking Field Trip to DeLuna-Mrs. Hazard Grade 1
- November 13th: PTO Executive Board Meeting 6 p.m. regular meeting 7 p.m.
- November 14th: PTO Free Family Fun Night/ Marks Close Term 1
- November 21st: Report Cards Issued
- November 25th: PTO Assembly of the Giving Trees 6:30 p.m.
- November 26th: Thanksgiving Recess Dismissal at 11:45

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The month of October was a busy and productive time for our students and staff members at the Whitin Middle School. Teachers were busy planning lessons in an effort to both challenge and support our students. School culture remains positive and students have continued to put forth their best efforts. Included in this section are many of the events occurring at the Whitin Middle School which were aimed at improving instruction and bolstering school spirit. Thank you for your continued support of our middle school.

Whitin Observes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In honor of this, Wednesday, October 22 was designated "Pink Day" at Whitin Middle School to show support for all those whose lives have been affected by this disease. Students and staff showed their support by wearing pink. In addition, all Denim 4 dollars Donations from Friday October 24th will go to Susan G. Komen Foundation for the cure. Denim 4 Dollars is a program that collects donations every Friday in exchange for teachers wearing jeans or other denim clothing.

World Smile Day Celebration

On Friday, October 3rd, Whitin students and staff celebrated World Smile Day with various activities. The theme of the day was "one act of kindness will lead to another." Students and staff wore the colors of the smile, yellow and black, and student council sponsored a food drive to support the Uxbridge Food Pantry.

Whitin Students Show Spirit

Whitin students and staff showed their school spirit on Friday, October 10th with "School Colors Day." Students wore sweatshirts, t-shirts, and flannel pants in the colors of orange and black to show their Whitin spirit. Several more spirit days will be held through out the year.

Fifth Grade Students Explore with an Eco-Challenge

Homerooms 206 & 208 participated in an Eco-Challenge put on by their teachers, Mrs. Dhosi, Mrs. Lavigne, Mrs. McCallum, and Mrs. Pandolfo. Students researched the four different types of land terrains and created a portfolio highlighting them. The project culminated with a trip to Riverbend Farm to use the skills they had learned through written research to experience the terrain of the area in new and science based ways. Thank you to the 17 parent volunteers who took the trek with the students.

Community Reading Day

Grades 5 & 6 homerooms welcomed community members into their

classrooms for Community Reading Day on October 22. Volunteer members of the community as well as National Honor Society students from Uxbridge High School visited classrooms to share their love of reading with the students. Thank you to all the volunteers and thank you to Mrs. Donna Brown, Whitin's librarian, for organizing the event.

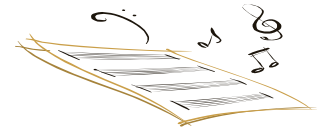
PTO/Student Council

Magazine Drive Kickoff: On October 20th students participated in an informational assembly about the magazine drive that Whitin PTO is currently running. Students have opportunities to win prizes while building school spirit and raising funds to support classroom activities.

The PTO is sponsoring a Halloween Social for Grades 5 & 6. The Halloween Social, organized by Mrs. O'Brien and the Student Council, will feature games, activities, dancing, a costume contest, and ice cream sundaes. A special thank you to Mrs. O'Brien and the PTO for this extra special annual event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5 th	PTO Meeting – 6:30 in Whitin Library
November 9 th	Whitin Marching Band in Veterans Day Parade
November 10 th	Report Cards Sent Home
November 11 th	No School – Veterans Day
November 17-25	Scholastic Book Fair in Whitin Library
November 21	Dance for Grades 7 & 8
November 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences – Half Day for Students
November 26	Half Day of School
November 27-28	No School – Thanksgiving Break



MUSIC NOTES

The Whitin School Instrumental/Band program has a record-setting student enrollment to begin the new school year. At current time, there are 174 students in grades 5-8 who will be participating in band and instrument class lessons. Mr. Rob Hammerton and Mr. Nick LaPete have joined Mrs. Penza in providing instrument lesson classes for the large enrollment of students. Band membership by grade: grade 5 = 85, grade 6 = 21, grade 7 = 42, grade 8 = 26.

Also, the music department is implementing a “team” approach in Grades 5-12 this year. Instrumental music lessons and ensembles are being taught by Mrs. Penza, Mr. Hammerton, and Mr. LaPete and the vocal ensembles are directed by Mrs. Rapoza, Mr. Hammerton and Mr. La Pete. In addition, Mr. Hammerton is teaching several classes at the Taft School and Mrs. Penza is teaching a section of Instrumental Music at Uxbridge High School. The bands at Whitin are directed by Mrs. Penza and the Whitin School chorus is being directed by Mrs. Rapoza.

FOOD SERVICE NEWS: Food Safety



The holidays are coming, which means parties that include lots of food. Improper cooling and storing is one of the major reasons for getting sick from food, along with poor hygiene, improper cooking and cross contamination. Annually in the US, there are 76 million illnesses from food borne illnesses, including 325,000 hospitalizations and 5000 deaths!

We want everyone to have a safe, healthy, enjoyable holiday season, so we’re sharing these important tips for handling leftovers safely.

According to the Department of Agriculture, you should eat refrigerated leftovers within four days to maintain food safety. If you don't anticipate being able to eat them within this period of time, freeze

them immediately.

To help ensure food safety, refrigerate perishable foods quickly and don't let them sit for longer than two hours at room temperature or for longer than one hour if the room temperature is above 90 F. Perishable foods include meat, poultry, dairy, fish, eggs, side dishes and casseroles.

Store hot leftovers in small, shallow containers which helps food to cool more quickly. Don't stack too many containers together--a tightly packed refrigerator doesn't cool as efficiently, allowing bacteria to grow. If your fridge is too small to store all the leftovers, have a cooler ready with plenty of ice to help speed the cooling process, and then transfer containers to your fridge when they have

cooled completely.

Before eating leftovers, reheat them thoroughly. Reheat leftover sauces, soups and gravies to boiling. If you're using the oven to reheat leftovers, set the temperature to no lower than 325 F to ensure they're reheated quickly. Because bacteria multiply between temperatures of 40 F and 140 F, reheating in slow cookers or chafing dishes isn't recommended. Uncooked foods, such as cold salads or sandwiches, also should be eaten or refrigerated promptly.

By the way, food safety is taken very seriously by the Uxbridge Schools’ Food Service Department. Many of our food service employees hold the National Restaurant

Association’s ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification, exceeding the minimum of (1) required per kitchen by the Department of Health. Parents can rest assured knowing that school food is handled safely.

“You should eat refrigerated leftovers within four days to maintain food safety.”

PLANT OPERATIONS— WE RECYCLE!

Last month you read about our recycling program. This month we wanted to give you more detail about how the paper we recycle earns us money. Uxbridge Public Schools accrue points based on the tons of paper recycled through our Paper Retriever bins at each school. For each ton of paper recycled we receive one dollar. Below you will see how many tons of paper we have recycled through October 23, 2008. As you can see, Taft School is way ahead in the recycling of paper. Great Job!!

Taft School:	3.14 Tons
Whitin School:	0.95 Tons
UHS:	0.80 Tons
Town Hall Complex:	0.74 Tons

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Knalunas Kup

Freshmen students in Mrs. KNApp's and Mr. BaLUNAS' year long Algebra II classes competed in the first of its kind mathematics competition. The members of each C Block class demonstrated their knowledge of linear equations, functions, graphs of lines, and simplifying algebraic expressions. In a very tight contest each team relied on life lines to survive: copying a teammate, cheating with an opposing team member's answer, one word hints from teammates, as well as the most popular, phone a faculty member proved to be the deciding "factor" for victory. At competition's end all 31 students were heard laughing and talking incessantly while enjoying a pizza party lunch celebrating a fierce two week long spy-gate type of preparation. The *Knalunas Kup* is now on display in Mrs. Knapp's classroom, proudly protected by the winning team. However, the Balunatics have requested a rematch next month.

Financial Literacy Program by UniBank

Once again UniBank is joining forces with Uxbridge High School in presenting a financial literacy program for our juniors. The program is designed to cover general banking information in the areas of savings, checking, credit and identity theft, and loans. The presentations will be given by various officers of the bank. This year the session on checking will be held on October 30th and the session on savings will be held on December 3rd. Next year, seniors will attend the presentations on credit and identity theft and loans. Each session is approximately 45-60 minutes in length.

Uxbridge High School thanks UniBank for their willingness to partner with us in preparing our students for a successful future.

UHS Library

The library has conducted orientation classes for freshman English students with an emphasis on the importance of having library cards for accessing CMRLS resources.

Sixty-six new items have been added to the collection for student reading and research since school began. These materials are used by classes doing research and also in the Drop Everything and Read Program at the high school.

Significant acquisitions are: **John Adams** HBO DVD five part series, **John McCain** A&E DVD, **Barak Obama** A&E DVD, **Smashed** DVD, **Profiles of American Colleges 2009**, **Four Year Colleges 2009**, **Cracking the SAT 2009**, **BALT** presentation cart.

Mr. Sweeney participated in Community Reader Day, October 22, at Taft Elementary. The program, hosted by Taft Librarian Margy O'Donnell, involved teachers, administrators, and community members who read a book to an assigned Taft class and discussed the importance of reading in their education and lives. A reception followed this very rewarding experience.

Family & Consumer Science

Skip Levine of Johnson and Wales University visited the Foods classes to talk about programs offered by the college. In the process, he demonstrated the use of different types of knives while preparing Israeli couscous pilaf for the enjoyment of the students.

Rebecca Plasse and Sue Priore attended the Northeast Regional Family & Consumer Science two day conference in Nashua, New Hampshire. Workshops included such subjects as preventing shaken baby syndrome, promoting family literacy, health benefits of the Mediterranean diet, personal finance in the classroom, and eating disorders.

Child Development students have been "reading buddies" with three second grade classes so far. Second grade students read a book from the popular Arthur series to their high school buddy

and then together complete a booklet of highlights from the story.

Empty Bowl Project

The Empty Bowl Project is an international effort to fight hunger. The basic idea is for participants to create a ceramic bowl and then serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests purchase the meal and bowl, and keep the empty bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The proceeds go to a hunger fighting organization. A committee has been formed to begin planning an Empty Bowl fundraiser for Thursday, March 26, 2009.

National Honor Society

On October 6, the entire National Honor Society, accompanied by its adviser, attended a state conference at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. The students attended various workshops including a workshop on this year's adopt-a-charity, the Red Cross. On Wednesday, October 22, six members of the National Honor Society visited the Whitin Middle School, where they participated in Community Reading Day, and very much enjoyed reading to fifth and sixth graders.

Guitar Hero Contest

The Uxbridge High School Yearbook Staff hosted our first annual Guitar Hero competition on October 15th. Students competed for the title of "Guitar Hero Master" and for a new guitar and amplifier. With 17 entries, the competition was tough for the two staff and 15 students, and an audience of 25 only contributed to the pressure. The final battle came down to Eric Mograss and Anthony Smith dueling on expert level to *Through Fire and Flames* by Dragonforce. It was a tough battle but in the end Anthony emerged the winner. The Yearbook Staff would like to thank Mr. Stefanilo for his support of this event by providing pizza to the participants to keep their energy up throughout the competition. We are sure he will be practicing Rock Band for our next event in the spring!

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

11th ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Uxbridge High School's Holiday Outreach Committee is in its 11th Year! The students are the driving force behind this effort, and do the majority of the work. Last year, over 150 students participated and, 300 children attended the party, along with over 200 parents. The party has grown to the point that we are going to expand it to another wing of the school. At last year's party, we collected over 300 toys, as well as numerous gift certificates and passes, that went to the children of our community.

The committee is seeking donations from businesses and citizens of our community. Examples of things we need are prizes for games, items to raffle off in our free raffle, food items (such as vegetable platters or pizza), candy or other small items that can be put in the goody bag each child gets from Santa, new toys that would go straight to Toys for Tots, or even a monetary donation.

The Holiday Party will take place at Uxbridge High School on December 5 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Pam DiBattista or Hurley Silbor at 508.278.8634.

After Hours School Enrichment Program

Uxbridge After Hours' (after school enrichment program) fall session is well underway. This session we have approximately 100 students participating in a variety of high-quality enrichment opportunities throughout the district. The ever popular "Karate" program, run by Sensei Matt of KENSHO-RYU Family Kenpo filled to capacity in a matter of days as did the "Make it for Mom" gift making class run by program director Karin Knapik. A number of new offerings has been added to the line-up. Bryan Conklin, who is new to Uxbridge High School, is offering a class on basic woodworking and on basic engineering to students in grades 5-8. This program exposes students to various elements of Technology Education, including construction and manufacturing, which they generally don't see until high school. Local artist Laura Cenedella, formerly of the Visiting Artist Studios, is helping students prepare an entry for the Mass Wildlife's Junior Duck Stamp competition. The Duck Stamp class provides students with the materials, time, direction and details they need to develop a piece that will be judged in the spring along side many other entries from across the state.

The After Hours program is always looking for new programs to offer students and new instructors. If you have an interest that you would like to share with our students, please feel free to contact Karin Knapik at kknapi@uxbridge.k12.ma.us or 508.278.0553. Instructors are compensated for time and materials, and their children can attend the program at no cost. CORI checks are required for anyone working in the After Hours program.

SPARTAN CORNER



◆ Current records of fall athletic teams

◆ Boys Soccer 6-10-1

◆ *Girls Soccer 13-4-1

◆ Boys Cross Country 3-7

◆ **Girls Cross Country 10-0 SWCL Champions**

◆ Golf 5-12

◆ *Field Hockey 11-4-2

◆ Football 3-3

◆ *District Tournament Qualifier

Congratulations to Elizabeth Stefanilo and Jason Silbor who have been selected as MIAA Student Ambassadors representing Uxbridge High School.

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: demonstrates willingness to assist others, has good academic standing but does not need to be an A student, be respectful of others and self, is 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.

Felecia Wissekerke

Felecia embodies many positive traits – warmth, determination, composure, openness, and capability. She is an outstanding young woman who is a leader on the athletic field and in the classroom. She is admired by her peers and the UHS faculty for her hard work, dedication, and poise. Felecia is involved in all aspects of the Uxbridge community. She is a three-sport athlete, competing in field hockey, cheerleading, and softball. She was elected and serves as the secretary for the Class of 2009. Felecia wins accolades from peers and UHS staff as an active member of student council, a volunteer for the Holiday Toys for Tots party, and an enthusiastic participant in both class and school events. In addition to all this, Felecia also challenges herself academically. Her perseverance in the classroom is mirrored by her genuine smile and willingness to help others. Felecia is greatly respected by her teachers, coaches, and friends. With her incredibly positive attitude, her future is nothing short of bright and promising!

Ryan Normandin

Ryan is involved in *everything* at UHS. His leadership skills and dedication to academics are undeniable and impressive. His resume is filled with leadership roles, honors, and awards. He is president of National Honor Society, VP of the Class of 2009, a very active member of the UHS School Council, a student-to-student mentor, a member of the varsity soccer team, and active in the Superintendent's Advisory Council and the yearbook committee. Ryan also participates in numerous community service activities. In between all his activities, Ryan regularly challenges himself with AP and Honors level courses, resulting in a GPA of 100.97 and a class rank of 1st in his class. Ryan's academic accolades include receiving the Harvard Book Award, the Rensselaer Medal Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in the Study of Mathematics and Science, numerous UHS department awards, and recognition in "Who's Who Among American High School Students" since 2006. Ryan works at UniBank as a teller. Ryan prides himself on his ability to transform visions into realities through relentless hard work, as was certainly evident at the culmination of the First Annual Central Mass Hero Singing Competition held in the spring of 2008. Ryan is an achiever; most recently he completed his first novel and is now in the process of editing it through an independent study at UHS. He is a "down to earth" young man who is a pleasure to be around and who treats everyone with respect. Ryan is what Spartan spirit is all about.

**It is our choices that show
what we truly are, far more
than our abilities.**

~J.K. Rowling

COMMENDED STUDENT IN THE 2009 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ryan Normandin has been named Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by Superintendent Daniel Stefanilo, to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2009 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"Recognition of academically talented students and the key role played by schools in their development is essential to the pursuit of educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "The young people named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive program. We hope that this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and that they will continue to diligently pursue their professional goals."

Congratulations to Ryan on this award.

Pupil Personnel Services

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Uxbridge Public Schools, I would like to thank Mr. Andrew Dequattro for donating his time to install the beautiful countertops and cabinets for our 18-22 year old program. In addition, I would also like to thank the Capron Corporation for their contribution towards this project and their continued support of the Uxbridge Public Schools. Without the support of our community members, projects like this would not be successful.

Dan Stefanilo
Superintendent/Principal

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LOCAL PROGRAM

Servicing the Town of Uxbridge and Surrounding Areas

OUR PURPOSE

In starting a Special Olympics Program in Uxbridge our goal is to foster growth and development in all participants. Special Olympic Programs contribute to the physical, social, and psychological development of people with intellectual disabilities. Through successful experiences in sports, the athletes gain confidence and build positive self-images, which go with them into their homes, classrooms, jobs and communities.

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH US

- 1. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Help at events and activities. Volunteers would fill a wide variety of roles for programs involving coaches, fundraising, timekeepers, judges, etc.
- 2. COACHING OPPORTUNITIES:** Help to develop athletes knowledge and sport skills which help athletes reach their sport potential. Special Olympics will guide you through the process and give you the tools you need to become a qualified coach. Free training clinics are available.
- 3. PARTNERSHIPS/SPONSORSHIPS:** If your company is interested in partnering with our organization, please contact Mike Catalano at (508) 278-8643. [Email-matalano@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:matalano@uxbridge.k12.ma.us) OR Jane Sousa, Special Education Teacher, Uxbridge Public Schools, Email-jsousa@uxbridge.k12.ma.us.

UHS Futures Program

Students from the pre-vocational classroom are gaining independence at their jobs in and near UHS. Paper Recycling, Copy Cats, and the Taft courtyard are weekly opportunities for students to develop transferable work skills.

Milestones Ultimate Hotdog on S. Main St. in Uxbridge hosts two UHS students. They are open every weekday for lunch from 10:00 to 2:00. Come in on a Tuesday to be waited on by a UHS student. Juniors and seniors in the ASC have been taking a more individualized approach to adding to their skills. Students have been working on application and interview skills, preparing for the learner's permit test, planning a visit to Quinsigamond Community College, and exploring jobs they may like to "shadow" next term.

Prevocational Life Skills Program

On October 23rd, Leslie Lesperance and Laura Burgess will attend the annual MCAS Alternate Assessment workshop in Taunton, Massachusetts. This training is offered by the Massachusetts Department of Education and has proven quite helpful for those of us preparing portfolios. Students are beginning participation in Art with Mrs. Blais. One student is working on a printing project which is very interesting and enjoyable for him. It is helping him improve his fine motor skills too.

The Spartan Cafe has been very busy. Mrs. Baisley, Mrs. Burgess, and the class have been busy preparing some delicious items. During the last week of October, they will be creating some festive fall goodies. Mrs. Baisley also taught an interesting lesson on leaves. The students matched and traced different kinds of leaves and learned about them. In Daily Living Skills, instruction has focused on social skills and interview preparation. We have also been learning about medical emergencies and non-emergency medical issues. Academics have focused on individual skill building. I am happy to report that all students are showing improvement in reading. Our new peer tutors are blending in well with our class and are very helpful.

DISTRICT CALENDAR – NOVEMBER 2008

November 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Vendor Fair UHS Gym	3 High School Booster Club Meeting 7pm	4 Election Day Professional Day No School	5 Whitin -PTO Mtng 6:30 pm UHS-PSG 7pm SC Mtng 7 pm	6	7 High School Report Cards Issued	8
9 Veteran's Day Parade	10	11 Veteran's Day No School	12 USEPAC Mtng 7 pm Whitin Lib.	13 ELC - No School 1/2 K & PreK High School Open House6-8	14 ELC - No School Full K Conf. UHS Ring Dance	15
16	17 Whitin-Book Fair - Student Shopping All Week	18 High School- Student Council Mtng 6 p.m. Town Meeting	19	20	21 Whitin-Gr. 7&8 Dance 6-9 pm Holiday Vendor Fair-Taft Café	22
23	24 Whitin- 1/2 day parent/teach. Conf.	25 Taft School PTO Giving Trees Café 6:30 pm	26 1/2 Day All Schools	27 Thanksgiving No School	28 Thanksgiving Recess No School	29
30						

PARENT RESOURCES

Wayside Trauma Intervention Services

FREE Support Groups:

- 1) Teen Survivor (of sexual assault, sexual harassment) Group for ages 14-18. Begins October 15th at 6:30-7:45pm for 10 weeks
- 2) Young Women's Survivor Group for ages 19-25.
- 3) Women's ATRIUM Group for trauma survivors struggling with self-defeating behaviors
- 4) Domestic Violence Support Group
- 5) Parents of Survivors Support Group

For more information call Katie Lynn at 508-478-6888 x 119

UXBRIDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

It's been another banner year for the Uxbridge Education Foundation (UEF). With the majority of funds raised by The Superintendent's Gala last March 29th, the Foundation was able to award 12 grants to Uxbridge teachers and administration and two scholarships to deserving 2008 UHS graduating seniors. To date, the UEF has awarded almost \$32,000 in grants and scholarships (\$19,874 in grants, \$12,000 in scholarships) since its inception in 2005. The focus of Uxbridge's Education Foundation is to encourage excellence through creative teaching, student development, and fostered community/school partnerships in the areas of cultural activities, curriculum development, and technology. The Foundation is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to raise money to fund innovative curriculum and programs in the public schools that would be impossible through the current school budgetary process. UEF was established by a group of concerned Uxbridge citizens looking to enrich the education of the students in their public schools.

2008/09 Grants

Adventure Engineering: Biosphere 3 – An inquiry-based, open-ended approach to teach middle school math, science, and technology/engineering standards for grades 7 and 8. Sponsored by *Barbara Beane/Diana Daugherty*.

Summer School – Program will develop a summer school for high school students to take online classes through Brigham Young University. Sponsored by *Cindy Carrier*.

International Fair – Held at Taft Elementary involving 2nd graders and high school students, exploring cultural diversity through music, food, dance and technology. Sponsored by *Stephanie Davis*.

"Garden of Peace" – Funds will be used to help create a courtyard garden for the high school entrance. Activity involves students from the Mosaic Mill Studio program. Sponsored by *Alison Dwyer*.

"There's No Such Thing as a Bad Kid" – Professional development for teachers. Program instructs teachers how to promote a positive culture in classrooms and in the schools. Sponsored by *Alison Dwyer*.

Ornithologists – Program to explore the world of birds with third and fourth graders. Sponsored by *Lori Fafard*.

Math Backpack - Backpack for grades 1-4 to give additional math support for the teacher, students, and parents. Sponsored by *Kathleen Fletcher*.

Academic Time Line and Yearbook - Purchase of items, camera, and CDs, for the development of a pictographic yearbook for first graders on a CD. Sponsored by *Lillian Hazard*.

Presidential Election Awareness – Activities to help promote civic engagement by students and become more aware of the current presidential and other state elections. Sponsored by *Judi Lanoue*.

Math and More Math – Items to be used for the production of an elementary school musical. Sponsored by *Carla Mason*.

The Colors – For the purchase of a banner pole to be used by the marching band. Sponsored by *Kathleen Penza*.

Band Uniforms - In order to purchase shirts for the band. Sponsored by *Kathleen Penza*.

2008 Scholarships

Timothy Graham – (Dr. Walter McCloskey Scholarship) - \$1500

Danielle Burkhart - \$1500 Scholarship

The Foundation is looking for members and volunteers to help with fundraising, web site, scholarship and grant activities, as well as other areas. Please contact any of the following individuals for more information on how you can help: Kate Travaline at jktravaline@charter.net, Andrew Coles at Andrew.Coles@umassmed.edu, Rachel Wright at rachelbwright@hotmail.com, or Linda Kuros at l_kuros@harvard.edu.

The Uxbridge Education Foundation is an independent, community-based organization established to provide academic and cultural enrichment for the Uxbridge Public Schools and its students. The Uxbridge Education Foundation strives to continually improve the profile of public education in Uxbridge.

School Committee Corner

Greetings from the School Committee. We, the Uxbridge School Committee, invite parents to attend School Committee meetings. Parent involvement can only enhance the success of the Committee as we continue to work hard to improve and enhance your children's learning experience in the Uxbridge School District.

As this newsletter clearly states, there are many wonderful things happening in our district. Currently, the School Committee is working hard to get the word out to the public about Town Meeting Article XV, the High School Feasibility Study. Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions.

We have had a preliminary presentation from the administration on our MCAS scores and the news was good. The formal presentation will be at our next School Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00 PM in the UHS Library. Please consider attending. Until next time...

Michelle Taparauskay

Vice-Chair—Uxbridge School Committee

School Committee Members: Ernest Esposito, Chairman—efemarine@verizon.net, Michelle Taparauskay—shellktap@charter.net, Peter Baghdasarian—sbaghdasarian@netscape.net, Mason Seagrave—macesports81@aol.com, John Higgins—jhiggins@tsgma.com, Jane Keegan—stealth@charter.net, Mary-Meg Walsh—muggle4563@aol.com

School Committee Meeting Dates: November 5, 2008, December 2, 2008, January 6, 2009, February 3, 2009, March 3, 2009, April 7, 2009, May 5, 2009, June 2, 2009. All meetings are at 7:00PM in the Uxbridge High School Library.

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

Uxbridge High School Superintendent/Principal, Daniel Stefanilo was recently notified by Mitchell Chester, Ed.D, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, that twenty-eight students in the Class of 2009 were awarded John and Abigail Adams Scholarships. This scholarship is based on a student's performance on the grade 10 English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments of MCAS. Mr. Stefanilo and the guidance counselors met with the seniors in the high school library to deliver the good news. Notification letters were handed to the students and also mailed to parents.

Massachusetts public high school students automatically qualify for the Adams Scholarship when they score in the Advanced category in either the Mathematics or the English Language Arts section of the grade 10 MCAS test; score in the Proficient or Advanced category on the second subject (Mathematics or English Language Arts); and have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.

The Adams Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for eight traditional semesters of undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts, the seven state colleges, or fifteen community colleges. In order to use the tuition waivers students must first apply to the colleges or universities and be accepted. Students who receive the Adams Scholarship must complete their college studies in four years or less and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

The following students from the UHS Class of 2009 are eligible for the scholarships: Raymond Barron, Eric Bazzett, Derek Belanger, Kayla Boutin, Alexandra Buhler, Rachel Drywa, Phillip Gauthier, Alanna Goddard, Carly Hudgins, Jenna Kucinskas, Rebecca Larrivee, Micheal Lovett, Timothy Masiello, Brendan Mckeeon, Brittany Neeland, Keagan Neeland, Ryan Normandin, Jill Nyren, Ashley Ostrem, Rashelle Palmer, Patrick Rice, Shawn Robinson, Jacqueline Shaw, Alyson Sherlock, Elizabeth Stefanilo, Samantha Tekut, Elizabeth Walsh, Zachary Wignall.