



Community Newsletter

Community Newsletter

January/February 2009

Message from the Superintendent/Principal

Dear Citizens of Uxbridge,

The financial crisis has caused the most challenging economic environment our country and state has faced in many years. Most economists indicate that conditions will not improve in the foreseeable future. As a result, the development of the 2009-2010 school budgets will be as challenging as managing our present budget.

The Governor recently announced that a major reduction in spending will be needed in order to balance this year's State budget. A reduction in the current year subsidy has not occurred since the early 1990s and will present unusual challenges for our schools and municipal departments.

In order to compensate, the School Committee implemented several strategies in advance of the announcement of the Governor including mandatory work shutdowns and freezing of spending on any discretionary spending in this year's budget.

Any further reductions in this year's budget means that we will need to reduce staff. The School Committee regrets the necessity of having to institute this action but there is really no other option. We are thankful for the past fiscal management of the budget and all approved funds that have supported the school system under this administration. Additional reductions and reorganizations are not strategies that can be sustained for more than a

year or two.

During the fall months the budget process begins with what is commonly known as the program review. Programs that need significant modification and any programs that may have a sizable impact on the following year's budget are discussed in detail. Several budget subcommittee meetings are held which culminate with a series of full committee meetings during the months of January and February in which we have our public meeting to discuss our requests or impact to the budget should there be changes to the budget.

My job is to ensure that I make responsible decisions about what is educationally sound while maintaining quality staff and services for your children. I must meet State and Federal mandates and provide a safe and nurturing environment. I must be fiscally responsible for the management of what you, the tax payer, entrust to me. I encourage you to attend the public hearings held in February. Official dates will be posted on the Uxbridge Public School's website.

If you have any suggestions or questions, do not hesitate to contact me or any School Committee member.

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Stefanilo
Superintendent of Schools

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CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Technology Professional Development Day is a Huge Success

Volumes of education research encourage the use of technology to improve teaching and learning in our school classrooms. Research studies emphasize that professional development for teachers is the necessary first step needed to unleash the power of educational technology. With all this in mind, a special professional development day devoted to technology was held for all Uxbridge Public School staff on Friday, January 16, 2009.

The Systemwide Technology Team of administrators and teachers planned an extensive program of professional development workshops presented by numerous Uxbridge School staff, students, and outside consultants.

Following is a list of professional development sessions and presenters for the January 16 program:

Auto CAD—Computer Aided Design (Studica, Inc.)
 Boardmaker (Christine Byron)
 Case E (Case E Consultants)
 Communicating in the 21st Century (UHS Students)
 CPS - Classroom Performance System (C. Lavigne, S. Dhosi, T. McCallum)
 ePALS—Global Learning Community (Deb Prince)
 Excel (Georgette Knapp)
 First Steps in Mathematics (Kara Ekstrom)
 Internet Resources (Gretchen Roche)
 Online Course for Nurses (Nursing Education of America)
 PowerPoint (Mary Ellen Jansson)
 Smart Board (Jennifer Pond)
 Teacher Web Page (Kristin Sachse)
 Think Central—Storytown Reading (Hope Wallace, Harcourt)
 United Streaming Software (Pam Seagrave, Bernadette Bazzett)
 X-Logs Medicare Training (Special Education Staff)
 ABA Training (Beacon Services, Inc.)

Congratulations to the following members of the Uxbridge Public School Technology Team for planning and coordinating the successful program of professional development training on January 16:

Tara Bennett	Paul Haughey	Amy Puliafico
Mike DiMeglio	Paula Montesi	Don Sawyer

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Books Together, Books Forever is a new activity in the pre-school. When the parents read a book to their child, they fill out the ticket and the child places it in a container in the classroom. Each month the tickets are combined from all the classes, a name is drawn and a child wins a new book.

November Winner

Braeden Watt: *The Mitten* (donated by the pre-school teachers)

December Winners

Luke Schollard: *Curious George Feeds The Animals*

Emily Hyman: *Curious George at the Aquarium*

(Donated by the Prior Family)

The January prize is the book *Corduroy*, donated by Mrs. Ross. If anyone from the community would like to donate a book, please contact any pre-school teacher or Mrs. Petrowicz at the ELC.

Music classes at the Early Learning Center have included many singing, moving, and playing activities. Songs that the students have been learning include "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes". Students have also been creating statue shapes to music, by responding to pictures of different statue poses. This movement activity is an initial activity for creative dance. Students have also begun using our new glockenspiels. They are creating their own songs, and are practicing making up fast and slow songs.

January is a very busy time of year in Kindergarten. Snowflakes are in the air and piling up everywhere. Many of the classrooms are busy learning about hibernation and winter. Measurement is an important math concept and what better way to learn to measure in inches than by measuring the snow. We certainly seem to have a lot of it this year. Over the next few weeks many classes will be making measuring sticks to track the snowfall.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in the food drive for the People First Food Pantry. The Kindergarten teachers have graciously collected food and personal care items for the past few months. The parents and children have generously donated items for use at the food pantry. Thank you so much to everyone for their part in helping people.

On behalf of the People First Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Adopt-An-Angel Program, we would also like to thank everyone for their generosity during the holidays with the food baskets, clothing and gifts for children, families and senior citizens. People unselfishly gave of their time, baked food and packaged meals, as well. Once again, it was an amazing success because of the caring and generous Uxbridge community!

English as a Second Language

Whitinsville Social Library offers a Literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language) Program for individuals who would like to learn or improve their English skills. For more information, please call the library at (508) 234-2151.

Screening: The Uxbridge Public Schools will be holding a Child Find Screening on Tuesday, January 20. If you have concerns regarding your child's development (speech and language, motor skills, etc.) please contact the Early Learning Center to schedule a time. We will be scheduling another screening in the Spring.

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).

Mass Health – 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. The MassHealth Customer service Phone number is 800-942-1007.

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. They have 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).

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 Monday of the month at Northbridge High School (6-8 PM) Dates: 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 11/9, 12/14.

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

InterAgency – We participate in an interagency group which meets monthly to share information about available resources and needs. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Uxbridge Police Station, 9:00 am. Next month's meeting is scheduled for February 4, at 9:00 am at the Uxbridge Police Station. All are welcome!

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Happy 2009! January is a time for self-reflection. In retrospect, I will remember each 2008 experience for the good that has come out of it and the knowledge that I have gained. I am looking forward to the New Year as a time of new beginnings.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. My life is enriched because I have the privilege of interacting with children on a daily basis. To quote John F. Kennedy, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Montesi

Thank You from the Food Pantry

The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge would like to thank all of the students, parents, and staff for the Taft School for supporting the food pantry and its families. These families are our neighbors and our friends, and through all of your efforts you have made life a little easier in their time of need. Thank you for everything you do! If you or someone you know is in need of our services, please contact the food pantry at 508-278-5506. Please remember, if you would like to donate to the food pantry, we now have a donation box at the front entrance of the school. Donations will be picked up weekly. – Denise Mussulli, Pantry Coordinator

Mix It Up Day at Fourth Grade Lunch

Our fourth grade students participated in a national effort on November 13, 2008, called Mix It Up at Lunch Day. Students were randomly assigned to different tables at lunch. This activity is sponsored by the Teaching Tolerance magazine and designed to break down barriers between groups of individuals. Children at each table were given a list of questions to discuss regarding bullying. The children had previously voluntarily signed an anti-bullying pledge. During the week, Mrs. Jansson, the computer teacher, conducted some mix-it-up activities in her computer classes; and Mrs. O'Donnell, Taft Librarian, read books about bullying. This is the second year for Mix It Up At Lunch and will become an annual event at Taft.

Jump Rope for Heart Week

All Taft students are busy jumping rope and getting their jumping rope skills down pat in preparation for "Jump Rope for Heart" week. Students will jump during PE classes during the week of **February 2-6, 2009. Parent volunteers are needed to help turn long jump ropes.** More information will be sent home after the holiday vacation. Collection

envelopes will be given to all students. It is your option to collect funds for the American Heart Association.

Hello from the Taft Library

We've looked at books about cats and at the amazing pop-up books by Robert Sabuda (any one of these pop-up books would make a wonderful gift for your child). The Scholastic Book Fair came to the Taft Library during the first week of December. The library was transformed into a book jungle for a week; I hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy the fair!

Computer News

In January the first grade students will be learning electrical safety while using a computer and discussing how we use technology everyday. The second grade students have started using Type to Learn 3 to teach keyboarding skills and ergonomics. In addition, they will learn how to start a program without an icon. Our third grade students are continuing to utilize Type to Learn 3 program and will also complete a web scavenger hunt on The Nine Planets. Our fourth grade students are working hard on Type to Learn 3. There are 25 lessons and most are 1/3 of the way done!

Uxbridge Seniors, Second & Third Graders

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Bandstra's classes went to the Uxbridge Senior Center to sing holiday songs under the direction of Mrs. D'Andrea, Taft's Music teacher. In addition, grade three students in Mrs. Auciello's and Mrs. Lukowski's classes weaved holiday placemats and made glass ball ornaments for the seniors and the shut-ins.

Christmas Around the World

During the month of December, the second grade classes traveled to eight countries to learn what different people around the world do to celebrate the holiday season. Each classroom represented a country, from Australia to India to Russia. The children spent an hour in each location, got their passports stamped and located the country on the world map. They learned songs, enjoyed stories and did crafts from all these different cultures.

UHS Students & Taft Second Grade Scientists

Mrs. Bandstra and Mrs. Dubois' second grade students are learning about plants in science and just ended their unit with an activity in Mrs. Priore's Early Childhood Development class. Each Taft student brought in an item that is part of a plant. The Taft students walked to UHS and met with their high school friends. They put their plants in soup pots and while it was cooking, spent some time

completing learning activities made up by the high school students. The activities included cutting and pasting to match the plant part with the product, coloring, reading diagrams and filling in the blank worksheets-all reinforcing science skills about plants. Later that week, the Taft students returned to UHS, this time to eat their "Plant Soup" along with cornbread prepared by the UHS students. While waiting for soup to heat up and cornbread to come out of the oven, the younger students paired up with the older ones and read Christmas books. Every child tried the Plant Soup and many of them came back for seconds! Mrs. Priore's students provided grape Koolaid to complete the meal. Mr. Stefanilo and Dr. Boyaj followed the wonderful aromas right to the kitchen and sampled it all and then gave it a thumbs up, as did most of our students!

Music Notes

Fourth grade chorus kicks into gear on January 13, 2009, as we begin working on our "Celebrate the Arts" performance, scheduled for March 10, 2009. Grade three classes have studied Handel to learn about the composing process and we will follow up in January and February with some composing of our own using the pentatonic scale. All of Mrs. D'Andrea's classes will be singing songs in the African American tradition in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

101 Dalmations Comes to Taft

Coming to Taft School this spring is the school's FIRST ANNUAL MUSICAL! Students in Grades 2-4 went to an informational meeting about this extravaganza to hear about the big and small roles, singing and dancing. NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! There was such a huge turnout that Mrs. Mason, director of the play, will have to add extra performances to accommodate the Taft students' interest in the play.

Calendar Raffle

This year the Calendar raffle will be sold in December and January with daily drawings to be held in February. Everyday a winner will be drawn by Taft Office Personnel. Winners will receive a check in the mail. Winning tickets are returned to the drawing and eligible to win again. New this year will be prizes for Taft and ELC students who sell the calendar raffles. Information will be coming home in backpack mail in January.

Fourth Grade Girls Father/Daughter Dance

The PTO will be holding its 3rd annual Father/Daughter Dance on Friday, February 13th from 6:30-9:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per couple and must be purchased in advance. All 4th grade girls will be receiving an invitation in January.

**Don your Hawaiian Shirt,
And Join the Party!**

5th Annual Uxbridge Superintendent's Gala Slotted for March '09

When you're finally done digging out your driveway after a long, snowy winter, get ready to "dig out" your old Hawaiian shirts and khakis for a "Margaritaville" themed Uxbridge Superintendent's Gala. Come celebrate the beginning of spring at the Crystal Lake Golf Course in North Smithfield, RI on Saturday, March 28th, 2009. This is the fifth year the event has taken place, but the feel of the party will be much less formal than in past years.

The festivities will begin around 7PM with dancing to the beat of a live band. Many delicious appetizers will be on hand (nibble on some sponge cake!), and a cash bar will be open for all you "Parrotheads". As in the past, a Silent Auction will have many exciting items to bid on and will be a major highlight of this fun-filled evening, which will end around 11:00PM. Information about ticket prices and times will be available in the near future.

All proceeds from the gala benefit the Uxbridge Education Foundation. The gala is the major UEF fundraising event of the year and provides grant funding to supplement the district's operating budget. The grant monies are used to allocate funds to teachers and staff who are developing innovative approaches to curriculum as well as to provide scholarships to graduating Uxbridge High School seniors.

The UEF is seeking help from local businesses or private citizens to donate money, gift certificates, gift baskets or any other appropriate items to the silent auction to help ensure a successful night. Please contact Judi Lanoue at 508.278.8634 x7110 or janoue@uxbridge.k12.ma.us with any donations.

Tickets to the Superintendent's Gala can be purchased at the Superintendent's Office, the Central Office, the School Building Main Offices or from any UEF member. Please call the Superintendent's office at (508) 278-8649. **All** proceeds go to the Uxbridge Education Foundation.

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade 6 Story Teller

Grade 6 students enjoyed an assembly on December 9. This assembly enhanced students' understanding of different world cultures, world geography, social interactions and diversity through stories, music and motion. The students enjoyed the presentation and made connections to the classroom content. A special thank to you to both the Whitin PTO for financially supporting this event and grade 6 teacher, Mrs. Prince for organizing this event.

Whitin Music Department's Winter Concert

The Whitin School Bands and Chorus presented their Winter Concerts on December 16th and 17th in the Whitin School cafeteria. They performed to standing room only audiences and did a fantastic job! 181 students participated in the two programs. The performing ensembles are instructed by Mrs. Jeanne Rapoza (chorus), Mr. Robert Hammerton (chorus and band), Mr. Nicholas LaPete (band) and Mrs. Kathleen Penza (band). Upcoming performances include the Celebration of the Arts on March 10th, All-District Choral Concert on April 15th, Memorial Day Parade on May 25th, Great East Festival on May 29th and Spring Concert on June 3rd.

Grade 7 Field Trip

Grade 7 students enjoyed a field trip to see Everest at the IMAX Theater in Providence on December 12. This activity supplemented the social studies curriculum and literature readings being completed during class.

Whitin Geography Bee

The Whitin School 2009 Geography Bee is underway. This year, the school wide winner after three rounds of competition is grade 8 student Wade O'Neil. We are very proud of Wade and are hoping that he qualifies to the state and national levels.

Student Council Activities

Whitin Student Council supported the Troops' Holiday in a Shoebox Campaign. To quote one soldier, "It's a comforting thing to know someone you may never have met is thinking about me." Student Council members gathered supplies and boxed items to be shipped to our soldiers. Thank you to both our students and Mrs. O'Brien for organizing this event.

On January 13th, Mr. Farrar and Ms. Puliafico held the first Whitin Middle School Principal Advisory meeting. The Principal's Advisory Council is made up of middle school students representing each grade. This council will serve as a vehicle to inform the Principal and Assistant Principal in making meaningful decisions in an effort to help sustain the positive culture at Whitin Middle

School.

Student Council Activities

Uxbridge Supports Our Troops would like to thank the Whitin School for their efforts in December's Holiday in a Shoebox campaign. Due to the planning by the Student Council, as well as the generosity of the students, parents, and staff, over seventy shoeboxes were filled and sent to US troops. Many recipients of the boxes have written notes of appreciation expressing their gratitude for the thoughtfulness of all involved in this campaign. Kudos to the Whitin School for its commitment to supporting the troops!

PTO Sponsored Event

On Sunday, March 7th Whitin and Taft PTOs will be sponsoring "Uxbridge Schools Night" at the Worcester Sharks. Tickets will be \$10 per person. In addition, included in the price is a pregame skate. Bring your skates and skate on the ice prior to the game. Watch for flyers on this event coming out later this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4 th	PTO Meeting 6:30 in Whitin Library
February 4 th	Whitin School Variety Show
February 6 th	Parent/Teacher Conferences: Early Release
February 16-20 th	February Vacation
February 27	Grade 5 & 6 Social

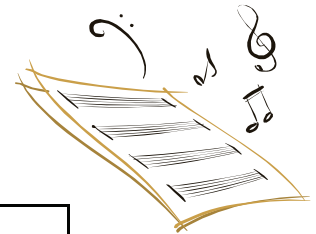
FOOD SERVICE NEWS: Did you Make a New Year's Resolution?

The new year is a great time to make changes. But don't try to do too much at once-- work on the basics. Try to eat a little better. Cutting down just a bit on portion sizes is the simplest and most effective way to control calories. Did you know that over the course of the year, eating just 10 fewer calories a day equals about one pound of weight? Sometimes, people eat too much because they don't notice when they're full, so they keep eating. Eat slowly. Enjoy your food. And listen to your body when it tells you you've had enough.

Build a little more exercise into your day. Parking in a spot far from the store entrance or taking the stairs (up and down, even when you don't feel like it!) is a great place to start. Get some extra sleep. That's when your body devotes energy to growth, recharging your immune system, and repairing sore muscles and strained tissue.

When you eat well, stay fit, and keep yourself healthy, you're guaranteed to do better in the classroom, on the playing field and with any other challenges life throws at you. So this year, resolve to take good care of yourself. Your body will thank you.

MUSIC NOTES



UHS STUDENT SELECTED FOR MASS. CENTRAL DISTRICT CHORUS

The Uxbridge High School Music Department would like to congratulate Shane Robinson for being selected to represent Uxbridge High School in the Massachusetts Central District Chorus. Through an audition process of over 400 students from districts all across the central part of the state, Shane was selected to perform with a 170 member chorus at Mechanics Hall in January. Bravo Shane and Good Luck!

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Art

Seven UHS students have submitted artworks (drawings and paintings) into the annual *Boston Globe Scholastic Art Competition* and we are now awaiting the results of the judging. The seven students are:

Krista Perry, Grade 10
Jillian Coffey, Grade 11
Dana Renault, Grade 11
Matt Hanson, Grade 12
Rashelle Palmer, Grade 12
Amanda Zani, Grade 12

Family & Consumer Science

Mrs. Priore's Child Development class worked with Mrs. Davis' and Mrs. Roche's second grade classes to make small menorahs, prepare latkes (potato pancakes) and play the dreidl game in observance of Hanukah. At the end of a unit on plants and plant foods, Mrs. Bandstra's and Mrs. Dubois' second grade classes visited the high school to make a vegetarian soup and corn bread. The Child Development class prepared activities to reinforce the identification of the different parts of plants and the various ways they are used for food in conjunction with the soup and bread making.

Mrs. Plasse's Foods classes prepared 25 cookie trays for the Senior Center. The class delivered the trays to the seniors and participated in fun holiday activities with them. In addition, 80 gift packages of chocolate dipped pretzels and hot cocoa mix were prepared and included in the holiday baskets distributed to needy families by the Food Pantry.

UHS Library Media Center

Mr. Sweeney and a colleague from Worcester travelled to Chelmsford, MA in December to partake in the open house ceremony of Chelmsford High's new "*Learning Commons*", a new idea of a library that is filtering down from colleges and universities to high school and middle school levels. Chelmsford High's Learning Commons, highlighted in *School Library Journal* and *Boston Globe* articles, is a transformation of the library space into an area that incorporates both digital and print technologies, individual and collaborative areas, and enough space for six classes at once. The area is WiFi accessible with laptops and includes a "digital kiosk" with a 58 inch flat panel television. SmartBoards are available for instruction and there is even a Java Room, where once a week book discussions and coffee are offered. This is a trend taking hold in many colleges and now a few high schools and middle schools. Some of these ideas might be incorporated into a smaller venue, such as UHS.

Research activity statistics for November and December in the InfoTrac databases indicate that there were 548 total sessions, 4827 total connect time minutes, and 673 total searches. Statistics in Noodletools indicate that 98 bibliographies were created and that there were 1334 returning users.

Three Flip camcorders were recently added to the collection for circulation to staff. These small devices, about the size of a cell phone, can be used to record video and audio for immediate playback on a television, the camera itself, emailed, or uploaded to an Internet site such as teacher web pages.

New materials added to the collection include some contemporary "classics" such as *Interpreter of Maladies* by Lahiri, *A Pale View of the Hills* by Ishiguro, and *Portrait in Sepia* by Allende. Other items include a set of books on emerging technologies. Two faculty donated valuable items. William Smith, Ph.D. donated a copy of his Horace Mann Grant research project *The History of Uxbridge* and Franceen Puckett donated a copy of *Bad Form: Social mistakes and the Nineteenth Century Novel* by her son Kent Puckett, an Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley.

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Prevocational Life Skills Class

The Prevocational Life Skills Class is happy to report a successful Semester One at Uxbridge High School. The students all prepared and scored well on their exams and are ready to begin Semester Two. We have completed science, so this semester will focus on social studies. The focus in social studies will be on life skill related social studies including reading local and world maps, calendars, directions, and current events. There will also be an emphasis on United States history which will enable tenth graders to address learning standards required for their MCAS Alternate Assessment portfolios.

We would like to thank the Wood Tech and Construction Tech classes for re-finishing our wooden table. It is beautiful! Mr. Smutok's and Mr. DiMeglio's students worked hard on this project and the table is truly a work of art. The classes were able to carve out the table and build three checker boards into it. Now, the table has multiple uses. We have put a clear cover on it in order to protect the lovely wood. We use this table daily and really appreciate the hard work put into restoring it.

As the winter wears on, the Prevocational Life Skills Class is planning to participate in an in-school field trip in order to add some fun to this cold winter. Students are going to plan and prepare their own lunches, which they will serve to their peers. The details for this day are still in the planning stages, but we are planning some fun activities in the gym.

As the semester closes, I would like to also thank Mr. Berkowicz and his period B PE class for all his help this semester. Thank you also to Mr. Sweeney, Mrs. DiBattista, and Mrs. Lanoue for the work they do with our student helpers. We also appreciated having Mrs. Baisley work with our class. It is our hope that she will be able to do so again this semester.

After Hours Enrichment Program

The Uxbridge After Hours enrichment program's second semester will begin the week after February vacation and will end the week before April vacation. The program is looking for people who are interested in running sessions for elementary and/or middle school level children, after school hours. The program pays \$20/hour. The program is currently looking for people who would like to run a Dance, Dance Revolution session at Whitin, a cooking program at Taft and a creative writing program for grades 3-7. If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, or if you have an idea of your own, please call Karin Knapik at 508-278-0553 or email at kknapi@uxbridge.k12.ma.us

SPARTAN CORNER



◆ Winter athletics teams are midway through their 2008-2009
 ◆ Currently our team records are as follows:

◆ Girls Varsity Basketball	6-4
◆ Boys Varsity Basketball	4-8
◆ Boys Indoor Track	0-3
◆ Girls Indoor Track	3-0

The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge would like to thank all of the students, parents and staff of the Uxbridge High School for supporting the food pantry and its families. These families are our neighbors and our friends, and through all of your efforts you have made life a little easier in their time of need. Thank you for everything you do! If you or someone you know is in need of our services please contact the food pantry at 508-278-5506. Please remember, if you would like to donate to the food pantry, we now have a donation box at the front entrance of the school. Donations will be picked up weekly. Have a safe and Happy Holiday season!----Denise Mussulli, Pantry Coordinator

DISTRICT CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2009

February 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Ground Hog Day Booster Club - 7pm@ HS	3 Admin Mtg @ 9:30am School Comm Mtg @ 7pm @ UHS	4 Whitin V~Show 2:30 & 7:00 pm Whitin PTO 6:30 PSG Mtg - 7pm	5 Whitin Variety Show Snow Date	6 Whitin ~ 1/2 day students Parent Conferences	7
8 High School Academic Awards Dinner @ Blissful Meadows	9	10 Whitin Keys to Literacy Training Yearbook Returns Due	11 USEPAC PAC Mtg @ 7pm	12 Lincoln's Birthday Taft School PTO Mtg @ 7pm	13 Taft Salute to Reading Gr. 4 Father/Daughter Dance HS Snowball Dance	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !!
15	16 School Vacation Begins ~ All Schools /Child Care Closed !	17 Child Care is OPEN ~School Vacation	18 Child Care is OPEN ~ School Vacation	19 Child Care is OPEN ~ School Vacation	20 Child Care is OPEN ~ School Vacation	21
22 Washington's Birthday	23	24 Admin Mtg @ 1:45pm ELC Council Mtg @ 3:30pm	25 Ash Wednesday	26 Whitin Progress Reports Closing Date	27 Taft School ~ Marks Close High School ~ Progress Rpts sent home	28

“Whether you think that you can, or that you can’t, you are usually right.”
~Henry Ford



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)

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.

Jill Nyren December

Jill strives to be a successful and independent person with a strong academic background. She has found much success at Uxbridge High School with her challenging course load that will consist of 18 Honors and 1 AP by graduation. She has been named to the honor roll every semester and is ranked 15th in her class. Jill is an excellent student. She is attentive and inquisitive in class and always completes her homework on time and in depth. She finds balance for her academics through her passion for music. She shares her musical talents with others as a member of the UHS Band and Jazz Band. Additionally, she has pursued instructional music by taking music theory and instrumental music courses. Jill is also committed to helping others. This is evident in her desire to major in Communication Disorders or Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology. Jill has demonstrated a pride in performing community service. She has participated in the annual UHS Toys-for-Tots Holiday Party, the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk, and has been active in her parish, volunteering at Vacation Bible School and the Parish Fair. Jill has also volunteered at Camp Sunshine, working with children with chronic/terminal diseases. Jill is a hard-working, enthusiastic and focused young woman whose friendly personality brings a smile to many faces.

Jaime Lepizzera January

Jaime Lepizzera does not look for accolades or recognition of the person that she has become. When asked, teachers describe Jaime as a strong, confident young woman who has her priorities in place. Academically she carries a solid B grade point average. She takes her studies seriously and has geared her recent classes towards her desire to pursue a career in criminal justice. She is responsible, dependable and dedicated. She is as much of a team player as she is capable to work independently. Jaime is someone who can prioritize and can put perspective on the important things in life. Because Jaime has dedicated herself to supporting her mentally challenged brother who needs assistance on a daily basis, she has not had time to be active in most of the extra-curricular activities offered at UHS. This responsibility has fostered Jaime's maturity in many ways that high school students do not understand. She is conscientious, carries positive energy and is a genuinely nice person. With these characteristics Jaime has all the skills to find challenges and success in all of her future endeavors. Jaime's steadfast poise and caring demeanor will be missed at UHS this spring when Jaime graduates. Everyday she lives our school mission of developing responsible citizens with a desire for life long learning.

Patrick Rice December

Patrick Rice is one of the hardest working student-athletes at Uxbridge High School. He is a diligent young man who is dedicated to doing well in all his endeavors. His easy-going personality, sense of humor, and leadership skills balance his drive for success, which is admired by many. Pat is ranked 5th in his class and excels in his AP and honor level courses. His sense of self-dedication is obvious to his teachers and is one of his strongest assets. Pat works cooperatively and willingly with peers, both in the classroom and on the athletic field. Pat is a member of the varsity football and tennis teams. He is also a member of the ski club. Throughout his high school years he has grown into his leadership roles on both teams and has earned the honor of being named captain for the tennis team. Pat is a tireless worker who truly strives at being the best. In addition to the time and energy Pat devotes to his academic and athletic endeavors, Pat serves his school as the Class of 2009 Historian and is the senior editor of the school yearbook. He also participates in the annual Holiday Party for toys-for-tots. UHS is fortunate to have an individual so dedicated to academic, athletic, and civic achievement.

Shawn Robinson January

Shawn Robinson is a quiet yet determined leader at Uxbridge High School. His academic, personal and social growth over the past four years has been acknowledged by staff members and peers alike. Shawn carries a high B average, earning him honor roll status for the past six semesters. His smart, fun and creative personality is welcomed in the classroom. He knows how to bring "life to a class" in a positive and productive manner. These leadership skills can also be found in the athletic arena. A four year member of the football, basketball and tennis teams, Shawn's commitment to excellence is respected by his coaches and his teammates. He has become a confident student-leader who is able to work with others without having to sacrifice his own principles. This is a key reason why Shawn has been named captain of both the basketball and tennis teams this year. Shawn has also performed community service for St. Mary's Vacation Bible School as well as the UHS Holiday Party. Shawn is a well-rounded student who values opportunities to lead as well as learn from. His Spartan spirit is a welcome commodity in the halls of UHS.