



**“And in the end it’s not the years in your life that count.
It’s the life in your years.” ~ Abraham Lincoln**



***In Loving Memory of
Daniel J. Stefanilo***

“The Uxbridge Community is deeply saddened by the untimely death of Superintendent Dan Stefanilo,” School Committee Chairman, Ernest Esposito said. “Dan was a tireless worker for all the children, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, and spent endless hours to do whatever was necessary for the educational success of those children.”

“Dan was an outstanding educator and a wonderful person, a man of integrity and honesty who gave so much. He was always there for the kids, and he loved what he was doing.” Esposito said. “It will be difficult to replace him as a superintendent and a friend. Our hearts and prayers go out to Dan’s wife, Nancy, and his children and grandchildren.”

Mr. Stefanilo co-founded the Uxbridge Education Foundation, an independent, non-profit organization established to provide academic and cultural enrichment for Uxbridge Public Schools and its students. Since its start in 2005, the foundation has provided thousands in scholarships and grants.

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UXBRIDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

“A Party in Paradise”

Come Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Daniel J. Stefanilo

Uxbridge Superintendent's Gala held on March 28

The party will go on....in memory of Dan Stefanilo, Superintendent and Principal of the Uxbridge public schools, whose recent passing has left a huge hole in the heart of Uxbridge. The Superintendent's Gala will be celebrated as planned as a “Party in Paradise” and will be held on Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at the Crystal Lake Gold Course in North Smithfield, Rhode Island, beginning at 6:00PM. It's an event that was near and dear to Mr. Stefanilo's heart, and this year especially, he felt this fund-raising event would bring the community together in support of public education in Uxbridge.

Stefanilo was a founding member of the Uxbridge Education Foundation, an independent, community-based organization that provides academic and cultural enrichment to Uxbridge's schools. It was an organization of which he was extremely proud. The grant monies raised 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. All proceeds from the Superintendent's Gala benefit the Uxbridge Education Foundation, and it is their major fundraising event of the year. A **Daniel J. Stefanilo Memorial Scholarship** is being established this year in his memory and will be awarded at the Uxbridge 2009 graduation ceremonies in June.

This is the fifth year the gala has taken place, but festivities will be much less formal than in past years. Hot and cold appetizers will be served, and a cash bar will be available. Entertainment will be provided by the much-touted band, Macey & Hart. As in the past, a Silent Auction will have many exciting items to bid on and will be a major highlight of the evening, which will end around 11:00PM. Tickets are \$30 a head – but order soon, tickets are limited and are selling out fast.

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, ext 7110, with any donations.

Tickets to the Superintendent's Gala can be purchased at the *all school offices*, the Superintendent's office or from any UEF member. Please call the Superintendent's office at Uxbridge High School (508) 278-8634 for more information.

If you are unable to attend the gala but would like to make a donation to the UEF, please forward to: The Uxbridge Education Foundation, P.O. Box 281, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

**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.*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

February is here and in Kindergarten that brings all kinds of excitement. One of the biggest events of the month is our celebration of 100 days of school. The children have been counting the days all year and the 100th day is finally here. As part of our celebrations, each child brought in a project from home that incorporated 100 items. We have aliens with 100 eyes, necklaces with 100 beads, porcupines with 100 quills, and houses made with 100 Legos. We're all 100 days smarter here in Kindergarten.

Mrs. Patrick's preschool classroom celebrated Chinese New Year. Staff member Kelli St. Germain shared many Asian cultural activities with the children. They learned how rice is used in many different forms, viewed beautiful Asian clothing, ate rice noodles with chopsticks, received a Chinese money envelope, made Chinese lanterns and concluded the day with a lantern parade through the school.

Music classes at the Early Learning Center have included learning new songs, such as Rainbows Rock, Shoo Fly and New River Train. Students moved to the steady beat for the song Bell Horses, and also made up their own melodies for Bell Horses on glockenspiels. They also used creative movement to pretend they were seaweed and fish for the singing game "At the Bottom of the Sea".

Full time kindergarten students are preparing to perform in the Music and Arts Festival. The students will be performing on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Whittin Middle School Cafetorium. Parents, family and friends are invited to attend. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be postponed until Thursday, March 12th.

Kindergarten registration took place the week of January 26th. If you have a child who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2009, and have not registered your child for kindergarten, please call the Early Learning Center (508) 234-9164 to arrange a time to register your child.

Preschool registration for the lottery will take place at the ELC on March 2, 3, 4 from 9:00 -11:00 am and 1:00 to 2:15 pm with extended hours on Wednesday March 4th from 4:00 -6:00 pm. If you have any questions call the Early Learning Center at (508) 234-9164.

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.

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 Mass Health 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 Mass Health 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: 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 March 4, at 9:00 am at the Uxbridge Police Station. All are welcome!

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal's Section

The month of February was devoted to the celebration of reading. Books and Beyond continues and will end the month with Dr. Seuss Night. Here are a few pointers emphasizing the importance of reading. Children value what their parents' value. Let them see you reading. Give books as gifts. Visit the websites of your child's favorite author. Plan a family reading night or go to the public library. Show you value reading and your child will, too.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Montesi

Friendship Week

Friendship Week was celebrated during the week of 2/9-13/09. Monday- Be a Friend to a Community Helper and/or DAV Day, Tuesday-Give a Positive Comment to a Friend Day, Wednesday-Friendship Poetry Day, Thursday-Do Something Fun for a Secret Friend Day, Friday-Do Something Nice for your Parents Day. On Friday, our culminating activity was Hands Across Taft School. We all joined hands together and once we were united Mrs. Montesi read a poem entitled, "Circle of Friends."

Let's Get Physical

Taft Phys Ed. classes geared up for Jump Rope for Heart during the week of February 2nd. Students collected close to \$9,000 for the American Heart Association.

Art Effects

The Art Department and Grade 2 teachers welcome Eric Bornstein and staff from Behind the Mask as artists

in residence for the month of February. The children will create installation art and short plays. The theme of these plays and artwork is Folk Tales Around the World. This opportunity was made possible from a Massachusetts Cultural Arts Council Grant.

Musical Notes

February brings songs of friendship and a focus on African American Spirituals, as February is Black History Month. Mrs. Remillard's fourth grade class sang *Put Your Hand in My Hand*, featuring Celeste Frederickson as soloist, for Friendship Week. Mrs. Schotanus' fourth grade class sang the Taft School song over the intercom to wrap up the week.

Computer Bytes

All classes celebrated Friendship Week by creating cards for the Disabled Veterans at Brockton Hospital and/or our Community Helpers-UFD and the UPD. They used KidPix, Excel and Microsoft Word to create these friendly gifts of appreciation.

Leadership Club

The Leadership Club met with Janice Watt, Food Service Director, to talk to her about the lunch selections. It was an interesting discussion with a lot of give and take. Mrs. Watt is preparing a survey to be distributed by the Leadership Club members and returned to her.

Library Corner

In conjunction with the Books and Beyond Program, the Taft students are exploring and reading Dr. Seuss

books. Mrs. O'Donnell kept track of her minutes that she read and/or those read to her and had a jellybean contest ongoing during the 4 week Books and Beyond Program. She read close to 4,000 minutes.

Dr. Seuss Night

The annual Dr. Seuss Read Across America Night is coming up! Mark your calendars for Friday, 2/27/09, from 6:30-8:00 pm. Come to Taft to hear our fabulous teachers read their favorites stories and get your child's picture taken with the Cat in the Hat!

PTO

Farewell Mrs. Lisa Devane, President of the Taft PTO. She and her family have moved to Holliston, MA. You will be missed by the Taft staff. Thank you for all your hard work with the PTO and volunteering your time for the Taft Community. We miss your smiling face daily here at Taft. Good luck in your new home and town. It is our loss and Holliston's gain.



**The more that you read, the
more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the
more places you'll go.**

~Dr. Seuss

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's Section

On behalf of the Whitin Middle School Family, I would like to thank the Uxbridge Community for your support during this difficult time of loss. Our Superintendent will always be remembered as a man who believed in others, supported his staff, and always inspired others to be their best. Schools are institutions of learning. We have learned much about the influence one man can have through the people he has inspired.

Best to You,

Ronald J. Farrar, Principal

Student Variety Show:

The annual Whitin School Student Variety Show, coordinated by Kathleen Penza, was held on Wednesday, February 4. Afternoon and evening performances included many different acts that featured singing, dancing, comedy skits, karate demonstrations, and several instrumental performances. Congratulations to Mrs. Penza and the students for a great Variety Show.

Central District Music Auditions:

Several individual members of the Whitin School Band participated in the Central District Music Auditions held on Saturday, February 7. Kathleen Penza, Band Director, was pleased to announce that Andrew Reardon (grade 8) has been accepted to the Concert Band. This is the third consecutive year that Whitin School is being represented in the Central District Music Festival. Congratulations to Andrew and Mrs. Penza.

Denim for Dollars:

Each Friday, Whitin staff members can participate in Denim for Dollars, a fundraiser in which staff members contribute \$2.00 in exchange for wearing denim. This has been a very successful endeavor and has funded many charity events that staff members have participated in. Over \$200 was raised in the last week of February, which was contributed to the Uxbridge Education Foundation in memory of Superintendent Dan Stefanilo.

Student of the Month:

Whitin School Students of the Month for February were selected by teachers based on the theme of "Most Creative." Students were recognized for being creative in various categories. Thirty-two students were awarded this recognition. Congratulations to those students who were selected as "Most Creative."

Student Council Event:

On Friday, February 27, Student Council members and the Whitin PTO held a social for grades 5 & 6 from 2:30 – 4:00. This month's social was a movie & popcorn event. The students voted earlier in the month on the movies to be shown.

PTO Sponsored Event:

On Sunday, March 7th Whitin and Taft PTOs will be sponsoring "Uxbridge Schools Night" at the Worcester Sharks. Tickets are \$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

March 2	Monthly Whitin Faculty Meeting
March 4	BVT Interviews
March 4	PTO Monthly Meetings
March 6	Curriculum ½ Day
March 10 & 11	Celebration of the Arts Event
March 10	Jazz and Pasta Night
March 20	Faculty/Student Basketball Game
March 27	Whitin Crisis Team Meeting
March 30	March-April MCAS Testing Begins

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Seventh Annual Academic Awards Ceremony

On Sunday, February 8, 2009, the *Seventh Annual Academic Awards Ceremony* took place at Blissful Meadows Golf Course. This event recognized 53 junior and senior Uxbridge High School students for their academic excellence. These well-deserving students received high-honors or honors status for eight consecutive terms, which occurred over a two-year period.

The evening, which was organized by the Uxbridge School Council, consisted of a sit-down meal, a guest speaker, individual student recognition and a raffle. Students selected Hurley Silbor, history teacher at UHS, to address the 160 plus students, parents, extended family and Uxbridge staff. His humorous personalization of future predictions for the year 2020 involving the honor students had the entire room smiling and laughing. Each student received a plaque that was donated by the U.S. Army National Guard, a certificate of academic achievement and donations from Papa Gino's and Pinz. Additional donations from local businesses and individuals supplied fantastic raffle prizes that all enjoyed.

The Academic Awards Dinner is a wonderful way for students to receive deserved recognition for their hard work and dedication to academics. This rich tradition is a highlight of each school year. Thank you to the members of the School Council who assisted in the organization of this event: community members Phillip Gonzalez, Mary Sherlock, Mary-Meg Walsh, students Ryan Normandin and Katelyn O'Neil, teachers Lisa Dunn and Rebecca Plasse and administrators Tara Bennett and George Zini.

Art

Congratulations to three UHS students who received awards for their artworks in the *2009 Boston Globe Scholastic Art* competition.

- ✓ Jillian Coffey was given an *Honorable Mention* award for her charcoal drawing entitled "Photo Booth."
- ✓ Amanda Zani was awarded a *Silver Key* for her colored pencil portrait entitled "In Die Nacht."
- ✓ Rashelle Palmer nailed two awards this year. She received an *Honorable Mention* for a mixed media drawing entitled "Diversity." She has also been awarded a *Silver Key* for a pen and ink drawing entitled "Explore."

Social Studies

Mrs. Puckett's Honors Government class took the Political Typology Test that is available online at the Pew Center for People and the Press. Students answered questions about a variety of issues. Their responses were tabulated and they were provided with a description of their political ideology. This will generate lots of discussion as the semester continues.

The Social Studies Department participated in Technology Day workshops. Mrs. Bouchard has already transferred this training to her classroom. She has used the CPS (Classroom Performance System) with her classes. The department will be turning to her for help in learning this new technology. Mr. Peters is quite pleased with the online video made available to UHS teachers through United Streaming. He is using this technology in his U.S. History classes.

February 26 – Mr. Mike Ryan of the Office of the Jury Commissioner will be doing a presentation for Mrs. Puckett's Honors Government class and Mr. Hutchings' Law and Government classes.

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.

Jacqueline Shaw
February

Jacqueline Shaw is a very motivated individual who challenges herself both academically and personally. She is friendly, honest and polite. Her personality and creativity have been a pleasure to watch blossom and mature while at Uxbridge. Jacque is involved in many aspects of the Uxbridge High School community. She has participated on the cross-country, winter and spring track teams, as well as the tennis team. She is a pleasure to coach and is always willing to give her best effort in all that she does. Jacque is also a conscientious student who has risen over academic challenges she has faced. She is an excellent writer and is diligent in completing her work. She sets high standards for herself and works hard to achieve the goals set in front of her. Jacque is passionate about music and singing; she warms the heart of anyone listening. Some of Jacque's best work is seen in her performances on stage. She is a member of the school jazz and rock and blues bands, as well as the concert choir. She takes her singing and piano playing very seriously and expands her creative repertoire to include the theatre. The UHS Drama Club certainly has benefited from Jacque's talents. Jacque's leadership is evident in all facets of her life; she is active with the school yearbook and has volunteered her time to the very successful Toys-for-Tots Holiday Party. She has also traveled extensively. Jacque is a beautiful person, who has a strong desire to make a difference in this complex world.

Jake Storey
February

Jake Storey is an extremely conscientious and dependable student-athlete who has been a true asset to Uxbridge High School. His exceedingly positive and confident demeanor is evident the moment he steps into any classroom or onto a playing field. Jake prides himself on his work ethic and his time management skills and he has every reason to do so. Teachers, staff and coaches all agree that these are two of Jake's best qualities and that he is a true leader in every aspect of the word. Jake is hard-working, dependable and respectful. He works hard in the classroom and has maintained a B average throughout his career, receiving honor roll honorable mention throughout his four years. One aspect that distinguishes Jake is how he inspires and motivates other students to create a positive and constructive school culture. His desire to succeed, his honesty and integrity are admired by both his peers and adults in the community. These traits have been recognized through his appointment of captain for the football and basketball teams. As a three-sport athlete, Jake takes his leadership role seriously. He expects nothing more from his teammates than what he is willing to give himself – and that is 110% effort and commitment. As a result, Jake was selected to represent UHS at the MIAA leadership training on sportsmanship this past fall. Additionally, Jake maintains a part-time job. He has learned the important skill of balancing the duties of a high school student-athlete to the best of his ability. Jake is a role model on "how to be a Spartan" and his presence will be greatly missed upon his graduation.

DISTRICT CALENDAR – MARCH 2009

March 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 ELC Pre-K Reg 09-10	3 ELC Pre-K Reg 09-10 School Comm Mtg @ HS 7pm	4 ELC Pre-K Reg 09-10 HS PSG Mtg 7pm Whitin PTO Mtg 6:30pm	5 HS Open House 6-8 PM Whitin Families w/Spec Needs Fun Night	6 Curriculum Half Day All Schools , Day Care is OPEN	7 Whitin PTO Night with the Sharks @ DCU Center
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins :)	9	10 Whitin Art Show Jazz Pasta HS Student:Faculty BB Game Taft Report Cards	11 Whitin Art Show Jazz Pasta Night Snow Date USEPAC Mtg @ 7pm	12 Taft PTO Mtg @ 7pm HS College Planning Night @ 6pm	13	14
15	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day !	18	19	20 Family Fun Night Taft 1/2 day Parent Conf. ELC 1/2 Day Kindergarten	21 PTO 3rd Annual Wine Tasting & Basket Raffle
22	23	24	25 Whitin PTO Cookie Dough Pick Up	26	27	28 Super's Gala @ Crystal Lake - 7pm
29	30	31				

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

Our management team has been busy, and not just serving students nutritious meals!

Ann Belanger, Gail Thayer and Stephanie Barstow, Food Service Site Managers, have been asked to participate in a pilot, online nutrition course, administered by the John Stalker Institute at Framingham State College. Some of the topics that will be covered are Healthy Eating Challenges for Children and Adults, Healthy Cooking Techniques, Dietary Guidelines, and basic nutrition. These ladies will be evaluating the program for Framingham State College, as well as receiving credits towards certification through the School Nutrition Association.

Janice Watt, Food Service Director, will be presenting an educational session at the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts Spring Conference, being held March 18th & 19th in Plymouth. The presentation is titled "Less is More: Back to Basics with Cost Control". All districts are feeling the crunch of the poor economy. The SNA wants to share ways with attendees on how some districts have creatively and successfully cut program costs, as Uxbridge has done recently.