



Community Newsletter

October 2009

J. Lanoue—Editor

Message from the Superintendent

I am both honored and humbled to serve the Uxbridge School Community as the new Superintendent of Schools. I want to thank the School Committee for their hard work and support of the educational programs for our children and to the faculty, staff, and administration for their continued dedication. Together we will continue to provide the best educational services possible within our available resources.

Our District Mission Statement is to “provide challenging educational programs and services to meet the diverse needs of all students in a safe, supportive environment and, in partnership with the community, prepare students to become competent, creative, and contributing citizens.” I want to stress the importance of our school system partnering with parents and the community. I encourage you to become involved in your son’s or daughter’s school throughout the year so that collectively we can create the most positive and challenging learning environment for them. We face many challenges in education today but together, with your support, we can continue to offer a first rate educational experience for our children.

This year Uxbridge High School and Taft Elementary School will each have new leadership. Mrs. Tara Bennett, former Assistant Principal of Uxbridge High School, will now be serving as Principal of UHS. Mrs. Bennett brings to the position a strong work ethic, enthusiasm, and creativity that will serve our students well. Dr. Howard Boyaj now serves as the Principal of Taft Elementary School. Dr. Boyaj is well known to all in our district having previously served as Principal of Whitin Middle School, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, and Interim Superintendent. Dr. Boyaj is a well respected educator and administrator who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his new role. I look forward to working with them and the entire administrative team.

I am optimistic for a productive school year and look forward to working with you to provide the best educational opportunities for our children and grandchildren. Thank you for your continued support of our Uxbridge Public Schools.

Sincerely,
George Zini
Superintendent of Schools

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World Smile Day



October 2nd!

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Taft Teachers are Exploring with DORA

No, we are not showing Dora cartoons at Taft. This year we are implementing the Diagnostic Online Reading Assessment (DORA) three times a year as part of our reading assessment protocol. "DORA is a comprehensive, valid, and reliable web-based assessment that diagnostically assesses children's reading abilities." The assessment is interactive, and adapts as students' respond to each question, getting harder or easier as needed to complete the test. The student interface is in a cartoon style, and makes testing fun and engaging. DORA measures eight sub-skills of reading: high-frequency words, word recognition, phonics, phonemic awareness, oral vocabulary, spelling, reading comprehension and fluency. By examining multiple reading measures together, DORA reveals each student's unique reading profile; providing teachers with invaluable information for driving instruction. Taft teachers spent the first professional development day of the year in August viewing a live webinar of the program. During the October curriculum half day, teachers will view results of the first testing sessions, and begin using the information to plan instruction that perfectly fits their student's needs.

Taft Volunteers Support Our School

Thank you to all the volunteers that donate their time in support of our volunteer programs and value added services. Working as a volunteer gives our parents an opportunity to convert their "desire to help" into actions that support Taft School. If you're interested in joining the volunteer team you can pick-up a volunteer form in the Taft School office or contact Nancy Winters at ngwinters@aol.com.

Please join us in recognizing some of the wonderful contributions our volunteers are making.

Supply volunteers are assembling and delivering supply requests to the teachers on a daily basis. Thank you to: Donna Lawrence, Kim Rexford and Elizabeth Smith.

Literacy Corner Volunteers are maintaining the Literacy Corner inventory as well as the check-out and return processes. Thank you to: Lisa Ackerman, Jeannette White-Holmes and Elizabeth Smith.

Library Volunteers are helping the Librarian by performing various administrative task including re-shelving books. Thank you to: Gwen Farrell, Carla Jones, Kimberly Kenny, Janice Kimball, Susan Landry, Donna Lawrence, Erin Morvan, Beth Rancourt, Lisa Rooney and Rachel Wright.

Special Project Volunteers worked to create a beautiful 2nd grade hallway display for the "back to school" open house. Thank you to: Jessica Casucci, Elissa DiLibero, Kimberly Kenny, Emily MacSween, Beth Rancourt, Kim Rexford and Wendy Washington

Home Project Volunteer cut and assembled apple leaves for the second grade teachers. Thank you to: Mary Jo Murray

Taft School Sign Volunteer maintains the large outdoor Taft school sign. When you notice the sign has changed, say thank you to: Jennife Semle

October is Smile Month

Smiling is infectious,

You can catch it like the flu.

When someone smiles at you
today,

You'll start smiling too!

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)

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal's Message

Having served as Principal for one month, I am pleased to make the following observation: "Taft is a great school!"

Sincerest thanks to everyone in Uxbridge for welcoming me into my role as Principal at the Taft School. We have enjoyed a smooth opening month thanks to the dedication and efforts of our staff, and the cooperation and support of parents. And special thanks to our enthusiastic and smiling students. We're off to a great start and we look forward to a busy schedule of upcoming school events.

PTO News

Taft Elementary School PTO is off to a great start. PTO kicked-off the school year with two fun-filled back-to-school events, including the ELC Dessert Social and the Taft Back-to-School Dance and ice cream social. Attendance was great at both events, and students had lots of fun.

The next monthly PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Taft café. The 30th and final ABC Fair is upcoming on Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come to Taft and enjoy a day of games, prizes, face painting, sand art, crafts, bake sale, and silent auction. The ABC Fair is always a great event that offers a variety of enjoyable activities.

PTO Executive Board

Colleen Thayer, Co-President

cthayer235@gmail.com

Wendy Walker, Co-President

wendyleewalker@yahoo.com

Jamie Fowler, Treasurer

jamie0831@msn.com

Melissa Silvestro, Secretary

pageml@charter.net

Helping Children Learn

Tips for Parents

Start the Year off Right

Here are two quick things you can do with your children to help them get their school year off to a great start:

Go through your children's backpack and take-home folder with them each day. This will let your children know that you are interested in what they are learning. It will also keep you informed about what your children are working on in class and how they are doing.

Set up a homework routine, including a homework area.

Children thrive on predictability and consistency. Discuss with your children when and where they will do their homework every day. Try to stay as consistent with this time as you can whether it is after school, after dinner or 5:00 every day. Work with your children to create a space for homework. This could be as simple as placing a coffee can with crayons, pencils, a ruler, some scissors and a glue stick on the kitchen table.

Taft School Feature Teacher

Mrs. Joan Remillard

Joan Remillard, grade 4 teacher, has been teaching in Uxbridge Schools for forty years. Mrs. Remillard began her career at the Blanchard School before moving to Taft.

This year, Mrs. Remillard is teaching English Language Arts, Writing, and Science to grade 4 students. Her teaching – team partner, Christine Armstrong, says that, "Mrs. Remillard is an amazing teacher, a joy to work with, and a gem of a person." Students say that she is "nice, funny, happy, trustworthy, and likes Mr. Goodbar candy."

Mrs. Remillard is married to Lanny Remillard. They have five grown children (three daughters are teachers) and are grandparents. They enjoy traveling to the United Kingdom, Germany, Virginia, and Cape Cod.

Thank you Mrs. Remillard for your devotion and dedicated years of

"A teacher affects eternity; she can never tell where her influence stops." ~ Henry Adams

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1	Title I Open House Night for Parents (7:00 p.m.)
October 2	Curriculum Half-Day: Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
October 12	Columbus Day: No School
October 13	Professional Development Day – No Classes
October 14	LaPrade School Photos for Grades 1 & 2
October 15	LaPrade School Photos for Grades 3 & 4
October 16	Annual PTO ABC Fair (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
October 28	PTO Fundraiser Pick-Up (4:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Welcome back to familiar and new faces! We are all very excited to begin a new year together. The staggered openings for Kindergarten went very well and the open houses for preschool were successful, as well.

We welcome several new staff members the ELC this year. Ms. Carla Mason as the PreK/K Team Chair, Mr. Rob Hammerton, Music Teacher; Ms. Robin DuVarney, Art Teacher and Ms. Beth Brennan, Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Thank you to the Taft/ELC PTO for the extremely successful Back to School Social on September 17th! Many families were able to enjoy the beautiful evening, tasty desserts and friendly fun. It was a really great way to start the year off.

Fuel Assistance

There is assistance available through this program to help you with fuel in the winter. Please contact Holly Earl at ELC if you need assistance.

☑ You may be eligible for fuel assistance even if your heat is included in your rent

☑ The deadline for fuel assistance applications is generally April 2010.

InterAgency Group

We participate in a wonderful group of local organizations to share information about available resources and needs. We also have access to a special account to aid with fuel and utilities. We welcome anyone interested in hearing about community support! Our meeting was held on September 2nd. The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2009 at 9:00 am at the Uxbridge Police Station. All are welcome!

WIC (Women, Infants, & Children)

This is a wonderful program available to pregnant women and children under the age of 5. They offer information and referrals, 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. They also have a van that travels to 16 towns daily. I have the schedule if you need to know when they are parked locally. WIC is also offering free flu clinics.

There are many other agencies that offer support services to our community, and I am unable to list them all (although I'd like to). If you need to discuss other needs, please feel free to contact me or the other Social Workers in your child's school.

Backpacks

Backpacks were generously donated to us for those in need. If your child needs a backpack, please contact the ELC at 508-234-9164.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2	Curriculum Half-Day: K Dismissal at 11:40 a.m. No PM Kindergarten or Preschool
October 12	Columbus Day: No School
October 13	Professional Development Day – No Classes
October 28 & 29	LaPrade School Photos

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Opening Day Off to a Great Start!

August 31, 2009 kicked off opening day for teachers at the Whitin Middle School. The day was filled with a variety of professional development events and activities which promoted a collegial experience for all who participated. Opening day for students took place on September 2, 2009 and included a welcoming ceremony for incoming fifth graders. The week went smoothly, as students became acquainted with their locker combinations, schedules, and some new classroom locations. Students in seventh and eighth grade were eager to assist younger students in gaining a positive experience during the first few days!

Community of Caring Impact and Initiatives

The Whitin Middle School, alongside the Uxbridge High School, has decided to adopt the Community of Caring philosophy of: caring, respect, responsibility, trust, and family. Many faculty members, administrators, and students have already decided to adopt the philosophy on a regular basis, building character that will last a lifetime. One of the initiatives that students are actively participating in is to find and read the quote of the day as it relates to one of the characteristics of the Community of Caring. In addition, student birthdays are being recognized during morning announcements. Several teachers have offered their creative services by displaying the philosophy

throughout the building. Finally, the Whitin Middle School has adopted a "Caught Doing Good" acknowledgement system. Every staff member is encouraged to seek out students who go above and beyond the expectation of caring for or helping others; when they find these students they may reward them with a raffle ticket for an upcoming drawing. The Community of Caring Committee is eager to continue finding ways to get adults and students alike thinking about how they can impact the lives of others through small acts of kindness.

Instrument Demonstration

The annual fifth grade musical instrument demonstration was held for the fifth graders on September 4 followed by the rental night on September 11. In all, 46 students will be beginning instrumental music instruction this year. This program is open to all students and instruments are available for loan to students with a financial need. The instrumental music lessons are taught by Mrs. Kathleen Penza and Mr. Robert Hammerton. There are currently 164 students enrolled in the instrumental music program at the Whitin School. The grade 6, 7, and 8 band members will be marching in the Veterans' Day Parade on November 8th.

Odaiko New England Presentation

On October 8, 2009 all of the students at the Whitin Middle School will have an opportunity to

actively participate in a performance called Taiko Thunder with Odaiko New England. During the performance, students will have an opportunity to join in on a once in a lifetime experience to explore the ancient Japanese art form of Taiko Drumming and how it impacts the Japanese culture. The audience will be engaged to focus on both the rhythm and the dynamic movements involved in this musical tradition. Students learn Kata form (drumming technique) and the concept of Kiai (vocalizing energy), and join the performers on stage to play the Taiko drums. It is with great appreciation that funding for this program is made available from the generosity of the Uxbridge Education Foundation and the Whitin PTO.

Back to School Night

The annual Back to School Night was held on September 15. This PTO sponsored event is organized to connect families with the teaching and administrative staff. The event was a huge success with an abundance of participation on the part of the community. The night opened with a presentation by the administrative team, which was followed by families breaking into grade level groups and meeting with teachers. Many teachers provided an overview of the curriculum, class expectations, and support services available to students throughout the year. Student council members were also active participants serving as helpful guides throughout the

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Piece

What an exciting September at Uxbridge High School! First, I would like to thank all the students and staff for making the opening week of school a smooth success. From custodians and secretaries to guidance counselors, teachers, and administrative team the dedication and commitment demonstrated for the benefit of the students was fantastic. I am pleased to introduce Erik Arnold, our new Assistant Principal. Mr. Arnold joins the staff from Littleton High School with a background in History and Special Education. He made an instant impact this summer by organizing the various schedules for the new school start times as well as the trimester schedule. He also updated the layout of the Student Handbook and created numerous on-line calendars for school use. In addition to Mr. Arnold, UHS has two Deans of Students, Mike DiMeglio and Justin Pominville, both of whom teach and assist with various administrative tasks. Both Mr. DiMeglio and Mr. Pominville have jumped right into their new roles at UHS with incredible commitment and energy. The professionalism and expertise demonstrated by all three individuals has established a well-balanced and visible administrative team. I am looking forward to an October filled with homecoming, teacher conferences, and student and staff achievements. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments or concerns through email, tbennett@uxbridge.k12.ma.us or phone, 508.278.8634. Be well. ~Tara Bennett

Athletics

On Tuesday, September 22, the Southern Worcester County League provided a Leadership Workshop for student-athletes. All 13 schools within the league identified four school leaders to come together and discuss the role of captains on athletic teams. Reebok International in Canton, MA served as hosts for the conference. **Pat McCrohan, Andie Hession, Jaime McQuade, and Nick Lovett** represented Uxbridge High School. Student leaders from each school discussed various situations of possible issues, problems, etc that they may have to deal with as team captains. Various strategies and guidelines were provided to help them in their leadership roles. A follow-up session involving additional student-athletes is being planned for late fall.

PreVocational Life Skills

The new school year is off to a good start. Our students seem to be adjusting well to their classes and the trimester schedule. So far this year, we have eight students in our class and five student peer tutors. Most students are taking English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Life Skills. My extra help day will be on Wednesdays. In addition to Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Jones-Barbosa, and myself, we have a new person working with us as a paraprofessional this year. Kenny Horan is a certified physical education teacher who has already become an important member of our program. Kenny has experience working with special needs students and he has already introduced the class to some exciting and interesting physical education games and activities. The Peer Interaction Group will meet monthly again this year. The students really enjoyed the social interaction with the typical peers last year and we are planning some fun events again this year. The first meeting of the group will be on Wednesday, September 30 from 1:45-2:45 p.m. All are welcome.

STUDENT LEADERS

Class of 2010

Hailey Lefebvre, President
Kym Kerr, Vice-President
Jeffrey Copland, Secretary
Peter Mannka, Treasurer
Andrea Hession, Historian

Class of 2010

John Jameson, President
Nick Lovett, Vice-President
Tara Feeley, Secretary
John DeVries, Treasurer
Chris Bouchard, Historian

Class of 2012

Corey Gomes, President
Cassie Gala, Vice-President
Haley Ostrem, Secretary
Casey Rota, Treasurer
Jason Mannka, Historian

Class of 2013

Andrew Reardon, President
Nicole Venditti, Vice-President
Wade O'Neil, Secretary
Abigail White, Treasurer

NHS

Kelly Cotter, President
Kym Kerr, Vice-President
Kim Leighton, Secretary
Andrea Hession, Treasurer
Samantha Copland, Historian
Katie O'Neil, PR

SADD

Lisa Copland, President
Melissa Whitaker, Vice-President
Kelly Cotter, Secretary
Laura Sarrasin, Treasurer
Samantha Copland, Historian

Chorus

Rachel Boatman, President
Cassey Harrington, Vice-President
Lisa Copland, Librarian
Dan Murray, Stage Manager

Band

Cassey Harrington, President
Rebecca Brule, Vice-President
Kris MacNeil, Librarian
Kim Leighton, Stage Manager

Student Council

Katie O'Neil, President
Sam Copland, Vice-President
Libbi Richardson, Secretary
Sarah Zeis, Treasurer
Brianna Rice, Historian
Jen Rosa, Delegate
Chelsea Cota, Delegate

Fall Captains

Boys Soccer:

Kyle Clifford & Josh Thiebeault

Girls Soccer:

Stephanie Seagrave &
Jamie McQuade

Football:

Pat McCrohan, Jason Silbor, &
Jake Bliss

Girls Cross Country:

Sam Cogliandro & Andie Hession

Boys Cross Country:

Jeff Copland & Andrew Chapin

Cheerleading:

Rebecca Gagnon &
Katherine Larrivee

Field Hockey:

Kym Kerr, Katie O'Neil &
Jessica Rogers

Golf:

John DeVries & Mike Chapman

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 do not need to be an A student, be respectful of others and self, be a good citizen, and be 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.

Lisa Copland

When describing the ultimate Uxbridge enthusiast one does not need to go any further than Lisa Copland. An extremely active participant at UHS, Lisa contributes her talents in the classroom, on the playing field, with Student Council as well as numerous other activities and clubs. Lisa will be a famous cinematographer/movie editor one day, and she is doing all she can to prepare for this moment. As the Public Relations Officer for Student Council, she effectively promotes and supports the endless activities that StuCo endorses. She does similar duty as the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) president. Lisa is committed to making her senior year count, volunteering to be the co-editor of the 2010 yearbook. In addition to her club and activity involvements, Lisa participates in soccer and indoor and outdoor track. Her steadfast smile and optimistic outlook balances any team and provides leadership and stability to her teammates. Lisa has taken a strong interest in assisting the UHS Life Skills class as a peer tutor and a best buddy. Her sensitivity and composure establishes quality relationships with the students in this program. In addition to her extra-curricular involvement, Lisa takes her academics very seriously. Her success in AP and honors level courses demonstrates a conscientious student who gives a genuine effort to be insightful during class discussions. Her work ethic and willingness to help others is valued and admired by her teachers. Ranking in the top 20 of her class with a solid A grade point average, Lisa is managing to make the most of her years at Uxbridge High School. And for this, we all benefit!

Peter Mannka

The phrase may seem clichéd, but Peter Mannka is just a nice guy. His calm, kind and respectful demeanor and his laid-back sense of humor are appreciated by the faculty, students and community. He willingly gives up his personal time to assist others and will always make sure that a quality job gets done. His volunteer activities include reading to a group of fourth grade students, helping his mom in her first grade classroom, painting a mural for Ms. Stankevitz's classroom at Taft, tutoring a student in Algebra II at UHS and being part of a student presentation on 21st century technology during district staff professional development. Peter's selection to attend the National Youth Leadership State conference in 8th grade was right on target as he utilizes his leadership traits to the fullest. Selected as a captain to the indoor and outdoor track teams as a junior, Peter has a relaxed disposition that belies a competitive nature. He was the recipient of the 2008 Coaches Award for indoor track and has his sights on breaking a few records at UHS before he graduates. Peter works just as hard in the classroom. Ranking in the top 15 of the Class of 2010 with a high A as his GPA, Peter has consistently challenged himself with honors and advanced placement courses throughout his years at UHS. He is interested in continuing his studies in the area of bioengineering or environmental sciences. Peter enjoys drawing and playing tennis in his free time, as well as being around his friends. Peter has made a positive contribution to the welfare of UHS and in the community. We are fortunate to have such a well-rounded and genuine leader at Uxbridge High School.

DISTRICT CALENDAR – OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Taft School Title 1 Open House 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	2½ day all schools Curriculum Day World Smile Day! 	3
4	5 Fire Prevention Week – all schools Whitin School Gr. 5 pictures High School Faculty Meeting Booster Club Mtng – 7:00 p.m.	6 Admin Mtng 9:30am Whitin School Gr. 6, 7, 8 pictures High School Student Council-6:30 School Committee Mtng – 7 p.m.	7 Whitin School PTO Mtng 6:30 p.m Library	8 Whitin School Drummer Assemblies USEPAC Basic Rights Workshop 7-9 pm NHS	9	10 PSG Yard/Bake Sale Fundraiser 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Town Common Rain Date October 11
11	12 Columbus Day No School 	13 No School Prof. Dev. Day Taft School PTO Mtng-7p.m Cafe.	14 Taft School Gr. 1 & 2 School Pictures USEPAC Open House - 7 p.m. Whitin Library	15 Taft School Gr. 3 & 4 School Pictures	16 High School Homecoming Football Game 7 p.m.	17 Taft Annual PTO ABC Fair 10-3 p.m High School Homecoming Dance 7-11:00 p.m.
18	19	20 Admin Mtng 9:30am	21	22 High School Open House 6-8 pm	23	24 PSG Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Applebee's Millbury 8-10 a.m.
25	26 High School SADD Red Ribbon Week	27	28 ELC School Photos Taft School PTO Fundraiser pick up 4-8 pm	29 ELC School Photos	30 Whitin School Gr. 5 & 6 Social 2:00-3:00 p.m.	31 Halloween 

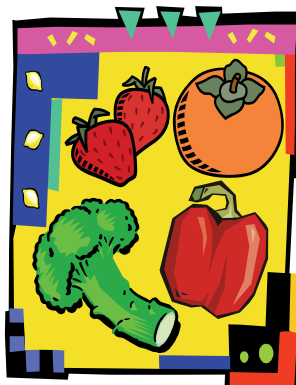
FOOD SERVICE NEWS

EAT BETTER

Try lots of different fruits, veggies, and whole grains for a healthy diet. You're bound to find a few you really like!

FLU FIGHTERS

People who eat lots of foods that are rich in vitamin C (like strawberries, red peppers, broccoli, and oranges) may be less likely to get colds and flu, and, if they do get sick, may have less severe symptoms and get well quicker.



Let us count the ways

As we celebrate National School Lunch Week this October, we'd like to remind you of a few of the ways that our school system's School Meals program benefits our kids and our community.

We provide jobs for our dedicated employees, many of whom are parents (or grandparents!) of students in our school system. We purchase food and supplies from local and regional businesses. We provide a convenient and affordable meal choice for busy families. And we're committed to serving meals that meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and average less than 30% calories from fat -- try to get that commitment from a convenience store or fast food restaurant!

It all adds up to this: kids who regularly eat balanced, nutritious meals learn better. So when we serve healthy meals to your kids, we're also serving education.

Convenient, economical, healthy School Meals. We're more than you remember -- and more than you'd expect!

School Meals
We serve education every day™