



# UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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*Principal*

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*Assistant Principal*

Operational Report – December 2009

Tara Bennett, Principal

*Community of Caring*

Respect ~ Caring ~ Responsibility ~ Trust ~ Family

## **UHS Activities/Recognition**

- Krista Perry and Bobby Suba (Grade 11) participated in the Hopedale Cultural Council's Student Art Exhibition. Both student's submitted charcoal self-portraits and Krista supplied a second item (a painting). Krista won first place in this age group and received a cash award for her submission.
- Krista Perry (grade 11) has been nominated to attend the Art All-State program at the Worcester Art Museum. She will be completing an application and interview process. If accepted, she will attend a week-end workshop in May to work with professional artists and Juniors from high schools within the state of MA.
- Art II students created posters for the Children's Holiday Party on December 4th.
- UHS qualified for the 2009 MIAA Sportsmanship Honor Roll. This accomplishment is recognized with a 2009 patch to place on the Sportsmanship Honor Roll banner that is hanging in the gymnasium. Uxbridge received this recognition because not student-athletes were ejected from contests/games during the 2008-2009 school year. Congratulations to our student-athletes and our coaches on this achievement.
- Congratulations to Cassey Harington and Jeff Copland on being recognized as the December Senior of the Month

## **School Safety:**

Uxbridge High School performed a lockdown drill in conjunction with the Uxbridge Police Department on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The building was searched by trained bomb squad and K-9 narcotic dogs from units throughout the state. The drill was successful from all aspects: school personal, emergency services and the various squadrons.

## **Subject Overview:**

The UHS staff had a productive curriculum half day on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Departments reflected on the closing of trimester 1 (common exams and curriculum) and continued to look at the pacing of units for classes which finished at the end of trimester 1 and those that continue into a second trimester. Departments continued to develop trimester 2 common exams. They also reviewed and adapted the program of studies for 2010-2011.

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## Family and Consumer Science

- The Study Buddies program has resumed after a brief break for the high school to transition to a new trimester. An average of 25 second grade students meet their high school Study Buddy (Child Development students) and play either a math or language reinforcement game for approximately 45 minutes.
- Foods students from Mrs. Plasse's Cultural Foods class baked and arranged beautiful cookies from around the world for the Senior Center's First Night celebration.
- Seventy pumpkin breads were baked and wrapped by the Foods classes to go in the Uxbridge People First Food Pantry Thanksgiving food baskets.
- Second trimester interns have been successfully placed at the Police Department, Beaumont Skilled Nursing Facility, Country Montessori in Sutton and throughout the school system as teaching assistants, tech and maintenance support.

## Music Department

- The UHS Music Department has been enjoying a fantastic fall season. For Homecoming, the Pep Band hosted the Whitin Middle School Band and had over 50 members for the UHS Game under the lights! It was a lot of fun, and added to the excitement of the game.
- On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the concert band, concert choir, jazz band and rock & blues band performed a wonderful winter concert to a great crowd in the UHS auditorium.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, they brought their concert down to the Uxbridge Senior Center to perform for their Holiday Luncheon.
- The next concert will be in combination with the Whitin Jazz Band at the "Music and Meatballs" event on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> as the Uxbridge Public Schools "Celebrate the Arts".
- Don't forget to catch the Pep Band throughout the winter cheering on the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams at select games throughout the season.

## Art Department

- **Art I** -- Students are learning art terminology and are also learning to draw objects from direct observation.
- **Art II** -- Students are working on charcoal self-portraits.
- **Ceramics** -- Students are learning basic hand-building techniques and are about to embark on a Native American pottery assignment.

## UHS Library

- The UHS Library recently acquired new DVDs such as *Secret Soldiers of the Civil War*, *The Future: A 360 Degree View*, *Poisoned Waters*, *The First World War*, *The Kite Runner*, and *A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash*. There were also some important – for student research – books recently purchased. These include updated literary criticism on Edgar Allan Poe and contemporary authors such as Cormac McCarthy, and Alice Munro. Additionally two series of literary criticism, *Backgrounds to American Literature* and Bloom's *How to Write About...*, with titles on the Brontes, Poe, Dickinson and Hemingway are now part of our research collection.
- Mr. Sweeney attended a workshop at the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System headquarters in Shrewsbury recently about new/emerging digital media and how it fits into the library environment. Among the better known devices discussed were the Kindle and Nook.

- Mr. Sweeney completed an anthropology class at Assumption College, *Magic, Witchcraft, & Religion*, which focused on the anthropological origins of each which were then applied to the Salem Witch Trials of the late 1600s. He gave a brief presentation to an English class reading *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller's play about witch hunts.
- Mr. Sweeney attended the annual meeting of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS) in West Boylston. The CMRLS provides libraries with access to many types of databases, free workshops, free continuing education programs, and free technical support. Sadly, consolidation and restructuring of the agency is currently in the works and the UHS Library will and has already been adversely impacted by this.

#### Drama Club

- The UHS Drama club is already hard at work with their spring production of the musical *Grease!* Save the dates of March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to see this great show! The Drama Club will also be performing at the welcome of the Superintendent's Gala! Don't miss it!

#### National Honor Society

The National Honor Society has had a busy fall/winter season:

- Held a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Uxbridge Food Pantry
- Collected winter coats for a local homeless shelter
- Students are currently volunteering their time to help the Salvation Army by ringing the bell and collecting donations at the Northbridge Walmart
- Students are tutoring other Uxbridge students who need academic help

#### Student Council

The Student Council has had an exciting fall:

- Soldier Care Packs- Students are currently bringing in items to be mailed out to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Adopt-A-Family- Students voted at our last meeting to adopt a family with 5 children this Christmas. These are the only presents these children will receive. The council spent over \$600 to provide the children with gifts. Joe McCourt is delivering the gifts today. (The English and Foreign Language Department did this too this year!)
- Shelters- Three students with an advisor will be traveling to Worcester to cook for Jeremiah's Inn, a halfway house for men. This is done monthly, rotating to different shelters.
- Secret Santa- Our annual secret Santa event will begin December 21st. The students love this event; each council member chooses a faculty member and they surprise them each day with a treat.
- Honor Roll Breakfast- The Eboard is in the process of choosing a chairperson for this. The council will then provide food and drink for all students in the High School who made the honor roll to reward them for their hard work.

#### **Interscholastic Sports:**

The Fall Athletic awards assembly was held on Friday, Dec 11th – coaches presented athletic awards including letters and certificates to team participants. Coaches awards and sportsmanship awards were also presented to the following athletes:

### Coaches Award

Golf - Mike Chapman

Field Hockey - Kym Kerr

Boys Soccer - Kyle Clifford

Girls Soccer - Jaime McQuade

Cheerleading - Allison Graham

Football - Pat McCrohan

Girls Cross Country - Norman Germain Memorial - Chelsey Peso

Boys Cross Country - Norman Germain Memorial - Andrew Reardon and Jeff Copland

### Sportsmanship Awards

Golf Chris Hanson

Field Hockey - Kayleigh Hodgdon

Boys Soccer - Josh Thiebault

Girls Soccer - Julia Slattery

Cheerleading - Rebecca Gagnon

Football - Justin Wroe

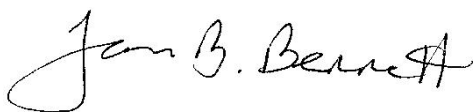
Girls Cross Country - Samantha Cogliandro

Boys Cross Country - Andrew Chapin

Robert DeOrsay Memorial Award - Most Valuable Player - Uxbridge - Northbridge Football-  
Dan Tessier

### Upcoming Monthly Events

- Monthly faculty meeting January 4
- Monthly UHS Crisis Team meeting January 4
- School Council Meeting Monthly January 6
- Blackstone Valley Coalition Meeting on December 8
- Monthly District Crisis Team meeting January 13
- Trimester 2 progress reports January 15
- District Professional Day January 19
- Teacher Conferences January 21
- Administrative meeting January 26



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Tara B. Bennett, UHS Principal