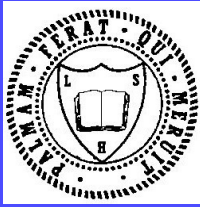


LHS NEWS

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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INSIDE

A.P. U.S. Gov't. Course	2
7th Grade Team Building	2
Little Shop of Horrors	3
Marshmallow Catapults	3
Calendar of Events	4

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Reader,

As of this writing, our students are well into quarter 2, the transition to the 2009-2010 school year nearly complete. I am pleased to report that all is running smoothly: student attendance has recovered from the recent flu pandemic; extracurriculars are meeting regularly during Flex, our fall sports teams finished with impressive results, and students and staff alike are focused on ushering in the winter term.

We have a number of new clubs this year designed to provide opportunities for our students to work on our civic and social expectations for student learning. The Greener Impact Club started by junior Katherine Mullen and advised by science teacher Dean Birdsall intends to raise student awareness regarding life-long, eco-friendly habits. English teacher James McGoldrick is advising the Dead Poets Society, a literary club envisioned by freshman Megan Resendes. Though not new to our school, The Interact Club has new advisorship in English teacher Christine Taylor, who has been working closely with our students on civic-minded projects. Finally, though only in its second year, the Invisible Children Club, advised by social studies teacher Emily McAdam and originated by seniors Abigail Martin and Rachael Beauregard, is busy organizing several activities to raise student awareness of the plight of Third World orphanages. The number of student-initiated extra-curricular activities, led by volunteer faculty, is a testament to the positive school culture that is evolving at Litchfield High School.

Some important dates to remember:

- ◆ Marking period 2 mid-point, December 11
- ◆ End of Marking Period 2, January 20
- ◆ Mid-term exams, January 21, 22, 25, 26
- ◆ Report cards issued, February 5

We strongly encourage you to use PowerSchool effectively to monitor your son's or daughter's progress. Though grades are accessible 24 hours a day, teachers verify their accuracy twice a marking period: at mid-point and at the end. Any one assignment can result in a significant fluctuation in an overall average, and if you have any questions, you should contact the teacher directly. For any issues with accessing or navigating PowerSchool, contact your school counselor at 567-7534.

New York Times essayist Stanley Crawford wrote that "winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do - or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so." While I must admit I don't see much lessening in things to do here in these winter months, I do relish the thought, and I hope you find time during the long nights of the next few months to engage in family-centered activities.

Sincerely,

Kristen DellaVolpe

Principal



Interact Sees Pink for a Good Cause

Black and orange are usually the colors that come to mind when thinking of October, but every year the Interact club encourages LHS students, faculty and staff to make a wardrobe change for a noble cause. Every Friday during the month of October, the Interact club organizes Think Pink Fridays, a day to wear pink in support of those affected by breast cancer and the ongoing search for the cure. Interact club members also sold pink

ribbons before school and during lunch. Each Friday, pink shirts could be seen all throughout the school. This year, the Interact club raised over 100 dollars in ribbon sales, and all proceeds will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Thanks to all students, faculty and staff that showed their support for the cause by wearing pink and purchasing ribbons on Think Pink Friday!



Eighth Grade Visits New Science Museum

The 8th grade class travelled to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford on November 17th. The Science Center opened in late spring 2009, and allows students to participate in a number of hands-on activities involving forces, motion, energy and inertia, among many other science topics. The eighth grade teaching team was excited to be able to provide our students with this opportunity to experience a wonderful new resource in the state.

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Class

A.P. U.S. Government Class Enriches Social Studies Course Offerings

A P U.S. Government and Politics is a new course offered to seniors at Litchfield High School. This challenging, college-level course explores the world of American politics as it satisfies the state of Connecticut's civics requirement. Students will explore constitutional foundations of American Government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, interest groups, the media, institutions of national government, public policy, civil rights and civil liberties. In early May all students will take the culminating AP Exam. Upon completion of the exam students will complete individual, creative projects to finish the year.

The class, designed by social studies teacher Ben Storrs, is as similar to a "college

atmosphere" as possible. Students are expected to do considerable amounts of reading from both the textbook and other sources on their own. During class, major topics or issues that were mentioned in the readings are discussed. Its structure mirrors the college classroom as the instructor facilitates the discussion while students examine the material. In the short time since the beginning of the school year Mr. Storrs is very pleased with how the course is functioning. Students are invested in the required effort and approach and more than willing to participate. Some of the issues already covered include the power of factions, the balance in America between liberty, equality and order, factors of the influence political participation, the evolution and influence of political

parties and public opinion concerning specific issues.

Throughout the year students will also discuss current issues that are relevant to American politics. These can include immigration, healthcare, foreign policy, social issues and the economy among others. The main goals of this AP U.S. Government and Politics course are for students to know essential facts, concepts and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics, understand typical patterns of political processes and understand their consequences and to analyze and interpret data related to U.S. government and politics. Mr. Storrs has been very impressed with the initial work of his class and believes they are well on their way to meeting these goals.

7th Graders Enjoy Team Building Day

The 7th grade recently returned to Litchfield Intermediate School to experience a day of team building activities. The day began with some small and whole group "warm up" initiatives in the gym and progressed toward group team building skills. Students participated in high ropes

activities inside as well as other team building games and problem solving activities outside.

These group activities are more than just fun—they are designed to encourage students to work together to solve problems, developing skills that require leadership,

problem solving efforts, and group decision making processes. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Andy Parker who helped plan this day and whose expertise in high ropes team building inspired the entire 7th grade. Teachers from all three Litchfield public schools worked to make this day an outstanding success.

Long Term Substitute Teachers at LHS

Please join us in welcoming the following long-term substitutes who will be filling in for several maternity leaves:

- ◆ **Kevin Grady:** Mr. Grady will be teaching Latin for Mrs. Oparowski starting in late January or early February. He joins us after 8 years in public education, teaching both Latin and social studies.
- ◆ **Kerri Sullivan:** Ms. Sullivan started the first week of December for Mrs. White as our 9-12 school counselor, A – L. She joins us after successful employment in both Simsbury and New Britain.
- ◆ **Carmine Passero:** Mr. Passero will be teaching Spanish for Mrs. Hennessey in the middle school and high school starting in early January. He joins us after years of successful experience in various Connecticut public schools, most recently Norwalk Public Schools.
- ◆ **Errica Testa:** Tentatively Ms. Testa will be teaching for Mrs. Mongeau at the middle school starting the second week of December. She joins us after a successful student teaching experience this fall with Mrs. Dove in the high school English department.

All School Student Council Off to an Ambitious Start



The All School Student Council has already sponsored several successful events with more planned. The members volunteered the last of their summer days to help assemble the faculty handbooks and stock classrooms and faculty work rooms with books and supplies. They guided new

students around the school to introduce them to LHS before the first day of school.

In October, the student council led the classes in creating a well attended Autumn Fest, turning the lobby into a barn for a drop in open mike. The profits from the student designed tee shirts and entrance fees were donated to a charity.

A successful fundraising Lyman Orchards pie sale raised needed monies to cover the costs of a regional Leadership overnight conference in the spring. Most of the students attended a Berkshire League Leadership forum at Lewis Mills, where they were able to meet with and exchange ideas with other student council representatives from area schools. The enthusiasm created from this event has inspired further talks

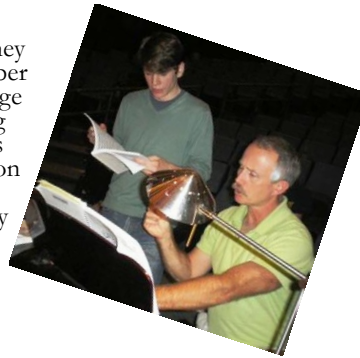
about future Berkshire League social events.

Students once again volunteered their time on Veterans Day to present a program of appreciation for the residents and veterans at Brandywine Assisted Living facility. The attendees were pleased with the effort; our students were grateful for the opportunity to say thank you.

Plans are now under way for the Semi Formal on December 5th at the Bantam Fire House. This year's theme is An Evening in an Oriental Garden. A portion of each ticket cost will be donated to the Children's Fund in Litchfield.

Eighth Graders Design Marshmallow Catapults

Eighth grade students have used their science and social studies knowledge to design and build mini catapults. Students were given plastic utensils, Popsicle sticks, a Styrofoam block and rubber bands as materials for their catapults. They tested how far their catapult could hurl marshmallows. Students were required to adjust their design in order to improve the accuracy of the catapult. As the photos attest, the designs were quite creative!



Little Shop of Horrors a Success

The Intermediate School auditorium was turned into a Little Shop of Horrors for two weekends in November. The musical by Howard is the exciting story of a small flower shop on Skid Row, and a budding romance overshadowed by the threat of a carnivorous plant.

Maurice Steinberg returned this year to direct the show and was joined by new LHS choral director, Peter Perkins, music director for the show.

The cast featured seniors Marcus Doyle, Tamara Almai, Spencer Poulin, Bridget Creedon and

Carter Brown; Juniors Katelyn Lewis, Julia Zeidler, Christine Simaitis, and Katie Bogen; Sophomore Maddy Man and Freshman Rob Bongiolatti. They were joined by a sixteen-member ensemble who met the challenge of learning lines and perfecting complex dance moves. Seniors Ken Tingley and Tim Crampton worked diligently as stage managers; Tim did double duty as the body of the carnivorous plant, Audrey 2.

The intricacies of creating and personifying the huge plant through puppets and actors added an exciting dimension to an already enjoyable evening.

Peer Educators Reach Out to Younger Students

The Peer Educators, a high school student club, are working with elementary school counselor Rachel Caporucio to reach out to elementary and intermediate school students on a variety of social topics. They are assisting Ms. Caporucio, going into the classrooms with lessons, and sharing their experience and guidance. Some of the topics they will be discussing will include self esteem, helping others and bullying.

Over the next several weeks, rotating groups of 3-6 peer educators will travel to the other two schools during their lunch/flex block. The idea for this program sprang

from a book that the Peer Educators read as a group, *Amazing Grace*. The discussion that followed the reading prompted the idea to reach out to younger district students. They began with lessons on self-esteem in the 3rd grade classrooms.

Mrs. Lisa Heuschkel, social worker and faculty advisor for the group, is pleased with this chance to share for her group. "It is a wonderful opportunity to participate in cross-age teaching activities at both the Center and Intermediate schools. These students felt very strongly about the message in the book and wanted to find ways of reaching out to other students."

Calendar of Events

Monday 11/30/09-Friday 12/18/09
Saturday 12/5

Robotics Tastefully Simple Fundraisers and Robotics Fundraiser, Hex Bug Sale
SAT Test Date

Monday 12/7-Tuesday 12/8
Wednesday 12/9
Friday 12/11

Student Council Semi-Formal, Bantam Firehouse, 7:00-10:30 p.m.
Class of 2011 Student Council Craft & Tag Sale, LHS Cafeteria 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Herff-Jones Sophomore Class Ring sale, LHS Cafeteria, 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Saturday 12/12
Sunday 12/13
Tuesday 12/15
Wednesday 12/16
Sunday 12/20

Early Dismissal, Professional Development
LMS Winter Wonderland Dance, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
LHS Music, NEMFA Solo & Ensemble Festival, Smith MS, Glastonbury, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Lego League State Championship, CCSU, 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Middle School Winter Concert, LIS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
PSAT Distribution & Presentation, LIS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
Class of 2012 Bake Sale, Stop & Shop, Big Value, 9:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 12/24-Friday 1/1/10

Winter Break, NO SCHOOL

Monday 1/4/10
Thursday 1/7
Saturday 1/9

Classes Resume
Music Parents, LHS Chorus Room, 2:30 p.m.
LMS Music North Region Middle School Auditions,
King Phillip MS, West Hartford 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Early Dismissal, Professional Development

Wednesday 1/13
Friday 1/15-Saturday 1/16

LHS Music, North Region Music Festival, New Britain HS, Friday, 2:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Monday 1/18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, NO SCHOOL

Wednesday 1/20
Thursday 1/21-Tuesday 1/26

End of 2nd Quarter/ 1st Semester
Mid-Term Exams

New Parking Lot Open!

The new parking lot located across from LIS has been officially opened. The final installment from our extensive building project, the new lot provides us with 108 additional parking spaces. As parking is no longer permitted in the LIS loop, several spaces will be reserved

for Central Office staff and overflow LIS teachers, with the remaining spaces open to students and visitors. For the remainder of this year, Central Office will be conducting a cost analysis to determine the expense of sanding, salting, and lighting the new parking area and extended sidewalk. This

information will be used to calculate the 2010-2011 parking fee for spaces in this lot.



Creative Talents Produce *Vista*

The Spring 2009 Creative Writing class collaborated to write, edit, and publish *Vistas of Litchfield: A Literary Journal*. The work included in this showcase was selected by the students themselves from the writing they did during this semester-long course. Working together under serious time constraints (and the watchful eye of Dr. James McGoldrick), they revised and edited stories and the

nonfiction pieces, designed and laid out the manuscript, designed the cover, and had an online publisher produce the book. The design of the cover and inside photography were also produced by this talented group of students.

Every student had a hand in this complex project, but a number of students made standout efforts, particularly Allie Masten,

Shayna Jenkins, Lauren Dion, Bristol Best, and Colleen Colangelo. Claire Aziz was the major organizational force behind the work.

The work was generously funded by a grant from the Litchfield Education Foundation, and Dr. McGoldrick plans to have this year's Creative Writing classes produce a volume of *Vistas of Litchfield* for each semester.

PFM Students Hear from Local Businesspersons

Juniors and seniors in Mr. Wayne Prescott's Personal Finance Management class were visited recently by two local business people, gaining an interesting perspective and insight on what a career in the "real world" is like.

investments. Shelley helped the students gain an insight into saving for retirement and college, how mutual funds and the financial markets work, and how to start planning and setting financial goals at a young age.

classes for several years running, and provides an entertaining and unique perspective of the banking and financial world.

Thank you to both Paul and Shelley for taking time out of their busy schedules to come visit LHS. We appreciate and value the relationships we have with local community and civic leaders. They are a great resource to us all!

Ms. Shelley R. King, MBA, CMFC, Financial Advisor with Waddell and Reed and President of the Litchfield Area Business Association (LABA) shared her expertise on the world of financial markets and

Paul McLaughlin, Senior Vice President at Litchfield Bancorp, entertained the students with his stories and observations about the world of obtaining and using credit. Paul has been speaking to PFM