

Uxbridge High School
Monthly Report – November 2007
George Zini, Principal

Overview of Activities for November

- Mrs. Lesperance's Pre-Vocational students have had an active month and are looking forward to a busy holiday season. Their first Peer Interaction Group meeting took place last week. Students enjoyed playing bocce ball and making crafts with their peers. The next meeting on November 28th will focus on the final preparations for the Toys For Tots Holiday Party.
- Several of Mrs. Lesperance's students have become involved with a new prevocational experience in which they are assisting in the cafeteria following lunches. Students are enjoying this experience learning new cleaning skills and working with new people. The cafeteria workers have been very helpful and patient while students learn this new job. Many thanks to them.
- The student council has been involved with the following:
 - Visit to Jeremiah Inn Shelter (Nov 5th)
 - Dinner for Uxbridge Firefighters and Police (Nov 19th)
 - Donation of \$150 to the Holiday Outreach Committee
 - Members are working on their essay that will be used to decide who will attend the MASC Conference in Hyannis early next year.
 - Student Council once again has offered to help with the town's First Night Holiday Celebration.
 - Mrs. Mitides was given a mug filled with candy to recognize her work at the high school during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- The construction classes have erected the Athletic storage shed and have built and installed the roof system.
- Five UHS students submitted works of art in the Tapestry 2007 art show held by Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. The students are: Matt Conrad, Michelle Tessier and Keri Lemoine (grade 12); Shane Robinson and Rylie Rockwell (grade 11).

- Community service projects continue in the art room. Students have designed and painted signs for the Uxbridge First Holiday Night celebration.
- Athletics
 - Final Records

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| Boys Cross Country | 6-5 | |
| Girls Cross Country | 10-1 | SWCL Champions |
| Girls Varsity Soccer | 17-3 | SWCL Champions |
| Boys Varsity Soccer | 7-9 | |
| Girls Varsity Field Hockey | 13-3-4 | SWCL Champions |
| Varsity Golf | 4-13 | |
| Football | 2-9 | |
 - Participation in Fall Athletics

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| Football – Freshman, JV, Varsity | 51 |
| JV and Varsity Field Hockey | 30 |
| JV and Varsity Girls Soccer | 34 |
| Varsity Boys Soccer | 17 |
| Boys Cross Country | 7 |
| Girls Cross Country | 13 |
| Golf | 10 |
| Cheerleading | 5 |
| TOTAL | 167 |
- Congratulations to Sheila Bernard on being selected as the Central Mass Coach of the Year for this fall 2007 season. Sheila was selected by the Field Hockey Coaches Association in Central Mass.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

- Students in Intro to Physics/Tech have raced their CO2 cars and have completed all the mathematical calculations for the unit. Students are beginning units on energy and manufacturing.
- Communications students are learning about studio production and electronic News Gathering (ENG). They are working on three stories to be aired as part of the Spartan News Network.
- Students in video production have aired their second set of stories on channel 13. Included in the broadcast are stories on Destination Imagination, the Spartan Year Book, the Mock Trials, and a sports and weather segment.
- Anatomy & Physiology I students are studying the axial and appendicular skeleton in classroom and lab. Approximately 70 bones and bone structures must be learned as part of their lab training. They have had a lab practicum on the skull and will be having one on the pectoral and pelvic girdle shortly.

- On November 15th, students in the leadership class organized and implemented the fall blood drive through the Red Cross.
- Students in Anatomy & Physiology II have recently completed a lab investigation in which they gathered blood pressure and pulse data from students and teachers then used statistics to determine whether these two groups significantly differed. They also examined the effects of exercise on heart rate and blood pressure, and the relationship of pulse to blood pressure. They employed student's test and linear regression analysis to analyze data.
- Forensics students have covered units on reconstructing the crime scene, fingerprinting and hair and fiber analysis. Also, a forensic professor from Endicott college spoke to the class about ballistics.
- AP Biology - Students produced PowerPoint tutorials with animated diagrams to demonstrate their knowledge of enzymes, and types of enzymatic regulation. Students are relating cell transport to transport systems in diverse organisms. Students performed simultaneous dissections of a worm, frog and fish, then compared the digestive, circulatory, muscular and excretory systems.
- Biology I – Students built 3-D cells with a paper explaining the relationship of structure and function of individual organelles in plant and animal cells. Students learned about human anatomy and physiology in the context of cell transport.
- Horticulture and landscape design- Students learned how to identify and use binomial nomenclature for 40 or more trees and shrubs. Students learned how to prune trees and were given a performance assessment at the Gaskill residence on 'Pruning Orchard Trees'. Students worked in groups to prune apple trees, to apply principles of pruning such as 'thinning' and 'heading back' and removal of waterspouts to produce larger more saleable fruit. Students grades were based on the work they accomplished as well as a quiz on the application of pruning principles.
- The addition of stability balls to the Get Fit Stay Fit course has improved the balance and strength conditioning of the students enrolled.
- Students in the Independent Living course had two guest lecturers this month. Jane Archibald discussed matters pertaining to banking and Amy Rothrock talked about real estate and buying a house.
- The Family & Child Development class is continuing their video conference dialogue with high school students from Bethlehem, Israel. One of the startling facts our students learned is that it could take up to three hours for the Palestinian students to travel to take their SATs, not due to distance but because of the number of security checkpoints that must be crossed.

- Spanish IV students prepared a mystery video which related to the curriculum Unit on “Physical Description”
- Independent Advanced French students prepared either a power point or brochure on the topic of the “Vélib”, a new, very popular and inexpensive concept of transportation initiated in Paris in July 2007 and already in use in several cities of the world

Professional Development Activities

- The 7-12 C&I Literacy team meeting, held on November 6th, involved teachers in a number of activities. High School English teachers spent the first half of their professional development half day attending a cooperative teaching workshop. All teachers then worked on completing Individual Student Service Plans (ISSPs). ISSPs are part of a district-wide initiative to identify and assist students who scored at either the Warning or low Needs Improvement level on the State MCAS tests.
- On Nov. 24th, student council members attended a Student Leadership Training Conference.
- On November 6th, Grades 9-12 English teachers attended a workshop to increase their understanding of cooperative teaching.
- Peter Hennessy and Michael DiMeglio attended the Mass Technology conference and had a workshop with Jacob Foster who heads up the Science/Technology Engineering department for the DOE.
- Mrs. Priore met with Marci Skillings from Quinsigamond Community College and began the process of establishing an articulation agreement with the Early Childhood Education program.
- Foreign Language Department members attended the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association (MaFla) Annual Conference

General School/Department Information

- Gail Blais is working with Karin Knapik to establish a site for an Art Show to take place at some point during the school year. They are also planning an after school workshop in water media to be presented by a visiting artist who was displaced by the Bernat Mill fire
- On November 16th, Judy Lynch, Chris Prior, Amy Phillips, and George Zini visited Whitman Hanson High School to learn more about their tri-semester schedule. The Schedule Review Committee met on November 28th to discuss the findings from this visit.

- On November 6th, all juniors participated in the first Financial Literacy Program workshop presented by UniBank.
- Best Practices based on the MaFla conference sessions that were attended this year were presented at the Foreign Language monthly meeting
- Open House at the high school was held on November 14th from 6:00-8:00PM
- On November 16th, the annual Ring Dance was held at the high school.
- On November 21st, the Worcester Tornados conducted an assembly about Reading and Healthy Choices. This was the kickoff to our Stop Everything and Read program that will begin on November 30th.
- On November 27th, George Zini attended a workshop sponsored by the DOE on Community Service Learning.

Upcoming Events

- The Guidance Department will be hosting a Financial Aid night for parents in the auditorium on December 6th.
- The second Financial Literacy workshop for juniors will be held on December 12th.
- The high school Winter Concert will be held on December 3rd at 6:00 pm.
- The 10th Annual Holiday Party will be held on November 30th.



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