

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

Overview of Activities for December

- Students in Mrs. Lesperance's Pre-Vocational Program have been busy with the following:
 - Helping prepare for, and working at, the annual Holiday/Toys for Tots Party on November 30th.
 - Studying Body Systems in Science, Geometric Shapes in Math, and planning menus for large groups
 - Ms. Belsito visited the class to teach about germs and how they are spread.
 - Mr. DiMeglio's Construction Tech class visited and interacted with the students as they planned for the construction of the shelves in the Pre-vocational Classroom.
 - Planning, preparing, and hosting the Spartan Café's Annual Holiday buffet on December 21st.

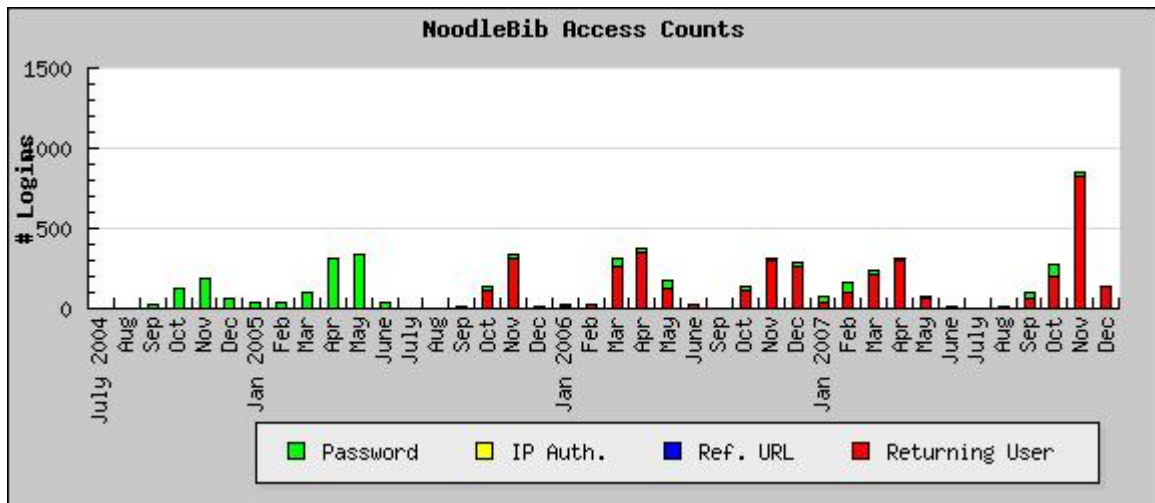
- December was a busy month for the guidance department. One hundred and fifty college applications for our seniors were processed during November and December. Additionally the following things have happened:
 - A Memorandum of Understanding was finalized that will give students the opportunity to hold dual enrollment in Job Corp and Uxbridge High School.
 - On December 20, Mrs. Brown, Dr. Haughey, Mr. Zini and Mrs. Carrier visited Job Corp for a tour and discussion on how their program could benefit our students.
 - We have arranged for Quinsigamond Community College to begin partnering with UHS in providing Decision Day for our seniors. An admission counselor will come to UHS on February 26 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Our students will have the opportunity to have their completed application and transcript evaluated and at the same time find out whether they are accepted. It is important to note that QCC will waive the application fee for our students on that day.
 - Financial Aid night for parents was held on December 6. Our guest speaker was Laurie Peltier from Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). The presentation was also videotaped by Barry Giles and is available on cable access.
 - We have registered 7 of our seniors to take a scholarship exam sponsored by the AFL-CIO. This labor union has given away millions of dollars of scholarship money in the past to high school graduates. We wish our students good luck. The exam will be given Wednesday February 6, 2008.

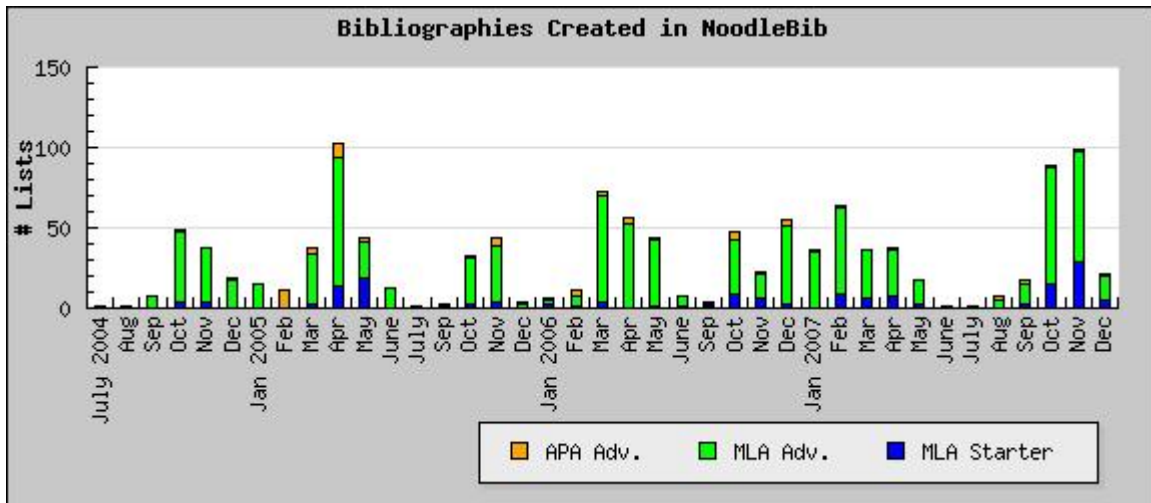
- Art students completed their projects for the Uxbridge First Night Committee. Students touched-up painting on wooden cartoon characters and designed and painted “sandwich signs” that advertised the event and various activities. Members of the First Night Committee visited UHS during the week of November 26 -30 to photograph UHS students while they worked.
- Five students submitted works of art in the annual *Hopedale Cultural Council's Winter Student Art Exhibition*. Participating students were Seth Anderson and Keri Lemoine (Grade 12); Rashelle Palmer, Shane Robinson and Rylie Rockwell (Grade 11). In this age group, Keri Lemoine won first prize (\$100) for her charcoal drawing entitled “Pop-A-Wheelie” and Rashelle Palmer took second prize (\$60) for a mixed media drawing entitled “Mind of Music”.
- On December 5th, an after-school workshop on Watercolor painting techniques was held in the art room from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Pamela Murphy, an artist from the Uxbridge community worked with a small group of students and faculty members to explore this medium. Seven students and three faculty members took advantage of this opportunity.
- The UHS Band and Chorus made their annual appearance as part of the Town of Uxbridge’s First Holiday Night festivities. This year, the ensembles performed two sets of holiday selections for enthusiastic audiences at the Uxbridge Senior Center.
- The UHS Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and Rock/Blues Bands presented their Winter Concert on Monday evening, December 3. Musical selections included music of Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Simon & Garfunkel, Scott Krippayne, Leiber and Stoller, Bob Seger, Phil Collins, the Dixie Chicks and the Commitments. Numerous UHS students and faculty attended.
- The UHS Band began its eighth season as “The Hoop Band”, performing at the girls’ basketball home opener on December 10. The 2007-08 Hoop Band will perform at a dozen games between January 4 and February Vacation. Special thanks go to the members of the Band’s rhythm section (drums & bass) – all of whom are new this year and are learning a lot of material in a short period of time.
- The Construction Tech classes have completed the outside trim work on the athletic storage shed and have only the roof to shingle.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities:

- The UHS Rock/Blues Band has experienced an influx of new membership which has enabled us to divide the total ensemble into two fully-instrumentated groups, each with at least three vocalists, at least two guitarists, a bassist and a drummer. One group meets on Thursdays after school and the other meets on Mondays after schools.

- Mrs. Puckett’s AP U.S. Government and Politics students and Mr. Peters’ U.S. Government classes are working on an Election 2008 Project.
- Mr. Hutchings’ Law class has been working on its Mock Trial Project.
- Students in Intro to Physics/ Technology are working on their energy unit.
- Students in Wood Technology are completing their individual projects. Although this semester’s projects have held a great deal of difficulty, the students have done a good job.
- Students in Video Tech are working on their individual video production projects that will be shown on channel 13 in the near future.
- Mr. Sweeney and Dr. Smith have been collaborating on the Trails-9 Information Literary Assessment testing to gauge student levels of proficiency in various areas such as using information responsibly, ethically, and legally; developing using, and revising search strategies; choosing topics; general assessments, etc.
- Looking below, it’s obvious that October and November was research paper month at Uxbridge High School. Both charts indicate that these months are the busiest for the fall season, but this fall seemed to really outpace any others.





Professional Development:

- Mr. Sweeney attended a database workshop sponsored by the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System on Gale Powersearch InfoTrac Update and EBSCO Literary Reference Center Training to learn new features of these new products which will be relayed to high school staff on the January Professional Development Day.
- Mrs. Brown attended a conference sponsored by the D.O.E. pertaining to connecting activities for our school to work initiative. She attended a session regarding Mass Core and the new E.P.P. documentation required by the D.O.E. for any student failing or in danger of failing MCAS.
- Mrs. Brown also regularly attends monthly meetings sponsored by Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation.
- This month, Rob Hammerton completed the Best Practices course being offered through SCAMS and Worcester State College, and instructed by Dr. Howard Boyaj.
- The Social Studies Department is working as a team on two goals for this school year. One involves a plan submitted by Mr. Hutchings to recognize students with superlative academic achievement in History and the Social Sciences.

General School/Department Information

- UniBank presented the second session of financial literacy on December 12. The subject of this session was good checking account practices. Once again, our students were complimented by the staff as being the best group that UniBank presents to.

- New materials continue to be added to the library for student research. Fifteen new novels were cataloged including The Farther Shore by Matthew Eck and A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. Works on various political systems such as monarchy and theocracy and a major work on genocide are among books added to the social sciences part of the collection. There is also a new three volume history of WWI. Three new sets of literary criticism by Magill were added: Skakespeare, Notable Poets, and Notable American Authors were processed for the reference collection. More resources for the Forensic Science classes were added, including a Forensic Activities book. New technology books have also been added including The Technology Coordinator's Handbook, Educator's Podcast Guide, Web 2.0, New Tools, New Schools, and National Education Technology Standards for Students, amongst others.
- The Holiday Party was an overwhelming success. Over 200 children attended and enjoyed the activities and refreshments. Kudos to all the UHS students who gave their time and imagination to this wonderful annual event.

Upcoming Events

- On January 25 the Guidance Department will sponsor Making College Search Count for our juniors. This assembly will be conducted by Mr. Scott Winters from Making College Count.
- The annual *Scholastic Art* competition takes place in January 2008. Up to nine works of art can be submitted by UHS students into this competition.
- The Jazz Band will make its sixth appearance at the Berklee College of Music's High School Jazz Festival, in Boston, to be held this year in early February.
- Plans are in the works for a "Music In Our Schools Month" event. A spaghetti supper with performances by the Whittin Middle School Jazz Band and the jazz and rock ensembles of Uxbridge HS is scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 11 (snow date: March 12).
- The Chorus will perform "God Bless America" during pre-game ceremonies at a Providence Bruins AHL hockey home game in April.
- The UHS Music Program's Spring Concert will be held on Monday evening, May 5.



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