

Schools

Souhegan Fall Theatre Show November 21, 22

On Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, the Souhegan Theatre becomes a crime scene as the audience tries to unravel the disappearances and murderous mysteries of several prominent Broadway personalities in the fun filled laugh-a-minute whodunit, Broadway Babylon by Peter DiPietro. This audience participation solve-the-crime play features several suspects from the Souhegan Theatre program including: Sophie Gagnon (Sally Peabody), Ryan (Ralph Scumbo), Meghan Guilfoyle (Ethel Championn Abbett), Abby Darin (Polly Ester), Charlie Smedley (Joey Abis), Lolly Pop (Colleen Graham), Dan Dapper (Cameron Berger), Francine Dubois (C. Wetmore), Dan Gilligan (Casey Miller), Aimee Clement, Pat O'Mara (Co-Hosts), Arne Nizhnikov, Andrew Amrein, Munro Kingsly, Alex Fiscofer, Paige Brooks, Paige Craven, Kim Frischknecht, Harry Granfors, McKenzie St. Germain, Alyssa Peterson, Kyle Caldbeck, and Haley Brannelly. Accomplices are Steve Hodgman (Director), Stan St. Onge (Technical Director), Brooke Al-laby (Stage Manager), Pat Anderson (Front of House Manager).

Will you be the one to solve the mystery? Is someone you know a potential suspect? Bring your super sleuth skills to the Souhegan Theatre on Friday and Saturday nights, November 21, 22 at 7:30 PM. Buy your tickets in advance by going onto the Souhegan website: shs.sprise.com or buy them at the door. Adults \$7. Students and Senior Citizens \$5.



Students from Left to Right: Joey Abis, Cameron Burger, Chris Wetmore, Abby Darin, Sophie Gagnon, Meghan Guilfoyle, Ryan Fay, Colleen Graham

The Summit School Students Experience “Intense” Week Outdoors

AMHERST – The Summit School, an alternative high school program of Regional Services and Education Center, Inc. (RSEC) recently sent three groups for intensive outdoor instruction and team building. By using fun, engaging, hands-on activities during the program, students were able to observe models, practice new skills, and receive feedback in a natural setting.

The aim of adventure-based counseling is to foster cooperative relationships between staff and stu-

dents that translate to increased success in the academic classroom. Students are exposed to adventure activities that may include rock climbing, backpacking, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, backcountry and alpine skiing, snowboarding, and ropes course elements. The activities are a conduit through which students develop self awareness, self-confidence, communication skills, social skills, and healthy coping strategies.



Students from The Summit School take a much-deserved break from their 49-mile bike trip across Vermont, as part of their fall expedition program. Pictured are Tyler Livingston, Merrimack; Colby Jackson, Amherst; Terrence Reed, Science Teacher; Chris Crane, Bedford; Corey Jordan, Nashua; Jan Goolbis, The Summit School Director; and Kelly Flaherty, Merrimack. Missing from photo is Winnie Harding, Administrative Assistant.



Five students and three staff from The Summit School packed their gear and trekked to Lake Umbagog in Errol, NH for a four-day fall expedition. Left to right are Tyler Walsh, Bedford; Shawn Allen, Merrimack; Sam Markell, Derry; Matthew Garthwait, Counselor; Julie Brown, Teacher, Denis Laliberte, Teacher; Dylan Bourke, Henniker; and Sarah Smith, Merrimack.

“We battled difficult temperatures, winds, driving rain, and even a little homesickness,” said Jan Goolbis, Director at The Summit School.

Three teams from The Summit School departed for different regions of New England to begin their expeditions. Team One traveled to

Lake Umbagog in Errol, NH to try their hands at lakeside camping and canoeing. The team hiked into remote sites and used rudimentary field facilities and local resources to make camp. During the day the students studied mountain habitats and wildlife including loons and bald eagles.

From the Office of The Superintendent of Schools SAU 39

Bridging The Gap:

Tuition for 7TH and 8TH graders

Understanding the working of an SAU can at times be complicated, particularly at the time of year when budgets are being created and proposed. Along with FY10 budget proposals, this year the Mont Vernon and Amherst Districts of SAU39 also will be proposing a renewal of the ten-year tuition agreement for the 7th and 8th graders who attend Amherst Middle School from Mont Vernon.



This agreement has worked well for both districts these past nine years. Mont Vernon pays Amherst approximately \$850,000 to one million dollars per year on average for the education of all the seventh and eighth graders coming from the K-6 Mont Vernon Village School. These students join their Amherst schoolmates at Amherst Middle School, and then continue to the Souhegan School District for high school. The tuition dollars pay for teachers, materials and supplies and for the debt on Amherst buildings, including the debt incurred from the recent renovations to the Middle School.

Mont Vernon will be holding a public hearing on the tuition agreement at its School Board meeting this Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village School. The MVVS Board also will be discussing how the calculation of the most recent tuitions has affected its budget this FY09 school year. Other public hearings will be held when the two Boards and their attorneys reach a proposed agreement for FY11 and beyond. This agreement will be presented as a warrant article and voted along with other contract obligations that affect the school budget.

I often have said that the goal of the SAU it to make a student's journey through the three districts that comprise it as seamless as possible. This tuition agreement for 7th and 8th graders is a key piece of that journey. The public's attention to and understanding of it will be most appreciated.

Mary Athey Jennings, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools, SAU 39

► Band and Chorus Schedule continued from page 1

at AMS. She asked the board to reconsider their scheduling because they were no longer in accordance with national standards.

Another parent, Steve Taylor complained that when students miss class work i.e. computer class in his daughter's case, work had to be made up after school which was another scheduling problem.

Joey Abis, SHS music student said “The music program at Wilkins and Souhegan were excellent but Amherst Middle School was a hole in this.”

Elizabeth White, an eighth grader said she was missing academic classes to go to band and jazz band. Make -up work was on her own time but she explained that with commitments at home and sports she was unable to stay after school for make-up work. “It will kill me to give up music.”

Alex Kibbie said she missed computer classes and it was stressful to make-up missed work. “Teachers also were having trouble finding time to meet with us,” she said.

Katherine Schwope said she had to quit band to keep up with the schoolwork she missed.

Amherst Middle School principal Porter Dodge who has only recently returned to work after a month long medical leave, said, “I feel horrible listening to students' stories. I do agree we need to look at this. Students have been put in a difficult position making these choices. Most of our kids are in sports and drama programs so after school programs don't work.”

Mr. Dodge explained that the schedule had been changed this year. Study halls have been eliminated and there is only one period a day for chorus and band. He said, “We support this music program. Staff wise there is three full time teachers. The community is committed to music and integrated arts.”

Dwight Brew, chair of the school board, said, “The board has never been advised of scaling back the music program. See if there's a way to tweak the schedule to address this important issue.”

“I'm open to seeing what we can do about the schedule. I don't want students harmed by this,” said Mr. Dodge.

Wilkins School



Wilkins fourth grades from Mrs. Zall and Mrs. Nagy's classes with Governor Lynch. He took time to talk and take pictures with the kids this past Wednesday November 5th.

The Derryfield School's Annual Middle School Musical



PHOTO BY ANNE BRANCH, THE DERRYFIELD SCHOOL

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Musical: Middle School cast members (L to R) Sarah Porat, Lindsay Moss, Sierra Goodson, and Lauren Ostrowski, all of Amherst, work with director Jim Speigel, The Derryfield School's drama teacher, during the Nov. 6 dress rehearsal for the weekend show in Manchester. All 7th and 8th graders who want to be on stage have a role to play.