

Schools

Children’s Author/Illustrator Visits Amherst Schools During Writing Festival



James Ransome holding his newest book “My Teacher” with his wife, Lesa Cline-Ransom holding “Words Set Me Free.”

The Clark Wilkins School’s Writing Festival is held at the end of each academic year with books of all students and classes on display. Classmates, friends, families and the greater Amherst community are encouraged to visit the festival and read a few books. The impressive display of books represent a year’s worth of work and learning. Organized by class, there were autobiographies, short stories, adventure, poetry, research, picture, historical, animals, numbers, science, seasons, sports and books on Amherst. There are alphabet poems - poems on the letters. The students do class books with descriptive writing and original artwork. The younger students learn spelling, sentence structure, storytelling and drawing. With help from volunteers the books are typed and bound for display. In the higher grades, the writing project includes lessons on punctuation, grammar, dialogue, voice and paragraph construction. Students look forward this annual showcase of literacy. There’s nothing like seeing your work published to encourage budding authors. The book fair organized by school librarian Kathleen McIntyre raised over \$10,000 which will be used for enrichment in the library program. Author-illustrator James Ransome visited the elementary school during Writing Festival Week, May 21st. His slide presentation to the students depicted his roots in the rural south and his pathway to becoming an illustrator and author of children’s books. Accompanying Mr. Ransome to Amherst was his wife, Lesa Cline-Ransome, also a writer of children’s books. They have collaborated on a number of books (Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass; Before There Was Mozart; and Satchel Paige). Mr. Ransome’s books are award winners with storylines that are often his-



Jack Janvario, Alex Karpawich, and Peter Lennox



Emmy Valerus, Sophia Lunat, Brooke Marchand and Molly Archambault



Ethan Ramm, Simon Trembley and Kevin Frazier



Sean Safarz and Drew Rowe



Colorful and creative student works



Ashley Hardner with her Dad, Jared

Students in the News



Peck Graduates From Boston University Law School
Ian K. Peck, son of Rand and Linda Peck of Amherst, graduated on May 20, 2012 from Boston University School of Law, receiving his J. D. Ian is a 2000 graduate from Souhegan High School and a 2004 graduate from Wheaton College in Norton, MA. He will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law this fall to receive an LL.M.

Amherst Residents Named to Dean’s List

Marielle Annunziata of Amherst has earned Dean’s List status for the 2012 spring semester at Lasell College. A member of the Class of 2012, Annunziata is majoring in hospitality and event management. Alexa Katsigianis of Amherst has earned Dean’s list status for the 2012 spring semester at Lasell College. A member of the class of 2014, Katsigianis is majoring in communications.

Caleb Birchard Receives Award From Colorado College

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO - Caleb Birchard was among a select group of students recognized at Colorado College’s Honors Convocation, held recently in Shove Memorial Chapel. Birchard, a member of the Colorado College Class of 2012, received the Patricia J. Buster Research Scholarship. Birchard is the son of Bill and Suzanne Birchard of Amherst.

Local Residents Named to Stonehill College’s Spring 2012 Dean’s List

EASTON, MA - Stonehill College recently named the following local residents to its Dean’s List for the Spring 2012 semester. From Amherst: Lindsay M. Bock, a member of the class of 2012, Caroline R. Sheldon, a member of the class of 2012, and Jessica N. Beliveau, a member of the class of 2014. From Mont Vernon: Tate M. Molaghan, a member of the class of 2014. To qualify for the Dean’s List at Stonehill, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Sarah Vogel Named to President’s List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD, MA - Sarah A. Vogel of Amherst has been named to the President’s List at Western New England for the spring semester of 2012. Vogel is a sophomore majoring in pre-pharmacy. Students are named to the President’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Local Students Graduate From NHTI

CONCORD— The following area students have recently graduated from NHTI, Concord’s Community College, during the Spring 2012 term.

AMHERST: Joseph Cerra (Associate in Science in Criminal Justice), Jessica Emerson (Associate in Science in General Studies), Sandra Gagnon (Associate in Science in Dental Hygiene), Kyle Kelso (Associate in Science in Computer Engineering Technology).

NH Institute of Art Announces Dean’s List for Spring 2012

MANCHESTER - The New Hampshire Institute of Art has named the following students to its 2012 spring semester dean’s list - a minimum 3.7 grade point average is

required to be eligible. Melissa Cooper of Amherst is a senior majoring in painting.

Amherst Resident Sarah Kosofsky Earns Connecticut College degree

NEW LONDON, CT - Sarah Kosofsky of Amherst was awarded a bachelor of arts degree from Connecticut College at the 94th commencement ceremony on May 20. Kosofsky majored in East Asian studies.

Local Students Graduate from Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, RI - Bryant University held its 149th Commencement on Saturday, May 19. Among the graduates are the following local residents: Adam Doyle, of Amherst, Bachelor of Science in International Business in Finance and Benjamin Lawrence, of Amherst, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Finance cum laude.

Connecticut College Announces Dean’s List

NEW LONDON, CONN - The following local student have achieved Dean’s Honors, a recognition for students who have earned a grade point average of at least 3.66, or Dean’s High Honors, a recognition for students who have earned a grade point average of at least 3.78, for the 2012 spring semester at Connecticut College. Katie Regan, class of 2014 at Connecticut College and a resident of Amherst, has been named to the Dean’s High Honors list.

Ekdahl Graduates from UVM

BRITTA A. Ekdahl of Amherst graduated magna cum laude from the University of Vermont on May 20. Britta received her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Psychology with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. She will be starting a position as a research assistant in the Laboratory for Clinical and Developmental Research at Harvard in June.

Idolyn Villiotti Recognized at Wells College Athletic Awards Ceremony

AURORA, NY - Wells College honored a number of student-athletes for their dedication and hard work both on their team and in the classroom. Idolyn Villiotti of Amherst, a member of the class of 2012 and a philosophy major, earned recognition at the College’s annual athletics awards dinner. Idolyn, a member of the women’s swimming team, earned Most Valuable Swimmer for the 2011-12 year.

James Walter Thompson Graduates from Thomas Aquinas College, California

SANTA PAULA, Calif - On Saturday, May 12, James Walter Thompson of Amherst graduated from Thomas Aquinas College, in Santa Paula, CA, after completing a rigorous program of classical liberal education that includes four years of mathematics, natural science, philosophy, and theology.

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Souhegan High Jr/Sr Prom



Senior Court: Tim Beliveau and Meagan Farley



King and Queen: Peter Annunziata and Michaela Sisitsky

▶ Souhegan High School Hosts Educators from China

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“We have several to many education-visits every year at Souhegan”, said Jeanne Neverisky, Visit Coordinator at the school. The visits and observations come about when a school or individual is interested in learning about Souhegan’s progressive education practices. “We have hosted visitors from all over the country, but never before from China.” Students Alex Kibbie, Brian Ringenwald and Jacky Lim escorted the visitors for much of the day, with other Souhegan students jumping in to help out as needed. The students enjoyed meeting the Shenzhen educators and were glad to have the opportunity to show them around their school. The visitors had an opportunity to learn about Senior Project, Division 1 Exhibition and enjoy a question and answer session with Team 9B faculty and Dean of Faculty Colleen Meaney. The exchange of information on education, communities, and practice gave Souhegan community members food for thought as well. The Shenzhen educators were very appreciative of the opportunity, and presented students and faculty with gifts of culture from their city. One of the gifts presented to the Souhegan community is a school banner from the Shenzhen Education Management and Innovation Training School for Middle School Principals. The visit opens the door for exchange between Amherst and Shenzhen schools.

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