

Schools

Hearing All Voices: Souhegan's Community Council

Council addresses important issues like eliminating the Decile System and approving a new school-wide schedule

By NATHAN CASTLE,
SHS SENIOR AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Founded in 1992, the Community Council is Souhegan High School's primary procedure-making body. The Council derives its power to create and modify in-school procedure from the Souhegan Cooperative School Board. The Council is composed of 47 representatives, including 20 students and 10 faculty members.

Dealing with issues of great importance to the school community, Community Council's domain includes everything from disciplinary procedure to its annual events. The Community Council thoroughly considers proposals, which may be proposed by any community member, before voting. By allowing stakeholders to participate, the Community Council ensures that all voices are heard. The diverse representation also ensures that concerns are addressed, and decisions are not made before they are ready to be made.

The democratic process at work within the Community Council benefits the school, its students, and the community in a number of ways. The primary purpose of a school is to provide an education that prepares its students for life in the real world. Community Council provides real-life experience with representative democracy and teaches students the importance of voting and participation in the democratic process. Students leaving Souhegan High School understanding their civil duty to participate in government at all levels, and they know the benefits of informed participation.

Community Council enables Souhegan High School to live up to its Mission by supporting a community of learners born of respect, trust and courage, and inspiring active stewardship of the community. Students have a reason to care about the state of their community and they do. Students also understand that if they see a problem, they are empowered by Community Council to address it. Because students have a voice in the process, they respect Council decisions.

The Community Council is very active and its students are always looking for ways to improve the school and the learning environment it provides. Recently, Community Council passed a proposal to no longer report students' decile rank, and the system of not reporting student rank has recently been adopted by Hollis/Brookline. This year, Council also voted to approve a move to an eight period academic schedule from a seven period academic schedule.

Students yearn for responsibility, and through Community Council, Souhegan students have responsibility. A core part of Souhegan's educational philosophy is the belief that students will rise to high expectations. Every day, Souhegan students prove that belief correct, by setting high expectations for themselves, and meeting those expectations.

Community Council encourages active interaction with the communities of Amherst and Mont Vernon, as well. All meetings are open to the public. The meeting schedule, agenda, proposals, and minutes are all on the Community Council website. If you are interested in an issue Community Council is discussing, you are encouraged to talk to your representative or even attend the meetings yourself.



Class of 2002 Reunion Planning Committee: Ryane Murray, Tess (Coddington) Diver, Margaret Ludt, Ilo Neukam, Kiersten Mayes and Megan Coddington.

Souhegan Grads at 10th Reunion

It was a night to remember! Well, actually it was a night full of memories. On Saturday, November 24th the Souhegan Class of 2002 met at The Derryfield in Manchester, NH to celebrate their 10-year High School Reunion. Sixty-three alumni were in attendance. With guest appearances by the Souhegan Saber himself and the musical stylings of Amherst Middle School Principal, DJ Porter Dodge, the night was on

fire! The Reunion Committee, Ilo Neukam, Tess Diver, Meghan Coddington, Margaret Ludt, Kiersten Mayes and Ryane Murray, would like to thank all who attended and all who made it possible – namely Sue Nichols and Porter Dodge. Thank you all for making the night a memorable one! See you in 10 years!

FIRST Robotics Team Annual Comedy Night Set for January 26

AMHERST - Souhegan High School's FIRST Team Entropy 138 12th Annual Comedy Night will be held on January 26 at the Souhegan High School Auditorium at 7 pm. This is the Team's primary fundraiser to support the team's participation in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Tickets for this year's Comedy Night are \$20 at the door, or \$15 in advance. Advance tickets are available from team members, or by email at roboticsteam138@gmail.com.

Four comedians will headline this year's line-up of talent, while select members of the robotics team will launch their own acting debut in a skit written and directed by Dave Brooks.

This year's comedy line-up features Mitch Stinson, a former aircraft-carrier aviator with a unique insight into the transition from hot-shot Navy pilot to everyday civilian life; Chris Pennie, a lifelong bachelor and full-time single dad who's finding humor in every day

life; Taylor Connelly, who has built his comedy career out of his Irish Catholic roots; and Jimmy Whitman, who's laid-back comedy style brings audiences to life.:

A bake sale and silent auction will also be held during the event offering not only a night of laughter, but also great food and fantastic deals from area merchants.

SHS's FIRST Robotics Team Entropy participates in a national robotics tournament operated by US FIRST in which teams of high school-aged youth design and build robots to complete a set of prescribed tasks. The project combines computer programming, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering into a team-based competition.

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. More information on the FIRST program can be found at www.USFIRST.org.

Clark-Wilkins 2013-2014

New Student Registration

Registration for Preschool, Kindergarten and incoming first graders that are new to the Amherst School District, will take place in the Clark School Multipurpose Room on Saturday, February 2, 2013 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Snow date is Saturday, February 9th. Registration packets can be downloaded from our website <http://www.sprise.com/clark/> for your convenience. Please bring completed packets along with your child's most recent physical, immunization records and original birth certificate, which will be copied at the school.

Preschool: Children must be 3 or 4 years old by 9/30/13 respectively, to register for Preschool. Enrollment is based on a first come, first served basis. Please visit our website regarding preschool tuition. For additional information please contact Caroline Smith at caroline.smith@sprise.com.

Kindergarten: Children must be 5 years old by 9/30/13.
First Grade: Children who are 6 years old by 9/30/13 and did not attend kindergarten at Clark School must register for the upcoming school year. Current students do not need to re-register for first grade.

► One Man's Quest

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the membrane, already brittle due to its age. While Wasson spends the summer patching known leaks, with the aging membrane and rock compression, repairing the roof will soon prove unsustainable. "Replacing ceiling tiles and repairing wall and paint damage are constant tasks for my crew," Wasson says. "When the public comes into this building, they see a pretty, well-maintained, painted and clean school. We need to take care of the external parts of the building because if you don't, you won't see what you expect to see on the inside."

On the Friday before Christmas, large blue tarps throughout the gymnasium hung high like hammocks among the steel girders. Wasson's talent for rigging tarps has been honed in recent years. On that day, not only are the tarps raised up in the rafters,



Bruce Wasson, points to damaged roof over the SHS gymnasium floor.

but they are slightly tilted to enable drainage into barrels around the edges of the court, so that a basketball game could be played that rainy December night.



Caring and Sharing at The Amherst Preschool

The families of The Amherst Preschool joined together to support two charities during the season of giving. The first donation included 127 pairs of pajamas to help support the Pajama Program of New Hampshire. This program distributes new pajamas to families in transition throughout the state. The preschool families also raised over \$600 to help feed two animals at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill in Bedford. The 4 year old students, who attend an annual fieldtrip to the farm, will be voting on which animals to feed for 2013.

The RSEC Academy Pays it Forward Once Again

AMHERST —For the seventh consecutive year, high school students from The RSEC Academy, a Regional Services and Education Center, Inc. program, celebrated the holidays and the spirit of giving back to the community by gathering food items for those in need to be donated to Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Wilton. Students and staff at The Academy worked together to collect 1,033 food items as well as raise \$364 in cash donations

that also went to Open Cupboard. These donations were used to feed 24 families over the holidays.

In keeping with tradition, students from The Academy and their families delivered their donations to the Wilton Town Hall Theatre on December 21st, where they were rewarded with a free screening of the holiday movie The Polar Express. Theatre owner Dennis Markaverich, a long-time Wilton community supporter, also donated all proceeds from the concessions on that day to Open Cupboard.

The RSEC Academy's Director Janet Reed said, "I am extremely proud that our small community—students, parents and teachers—could make such a substantial donation to those in need in the local area. Students get the satisfaction of accomplishing a good deed and the enjoyment of a community holiday movie-going experience."

Students at The Academy, inspired by their own dedication and commitment, challenged themselves to surpass what they accomplished over this holiday season by setting a higher goal for next year. The Academy is also raising money for the Special Olympics by participating in the 5th annual High School Penguin Plunge in Hampton Beach, NH on February 2nd.

LEGAL NOTICE

AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Amherst School Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 8:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School to consider the FY14 Amherst School District budget.
(Snow Date: January 11, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.)

The Deliberative Session of the Amherst School District will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at Souhegan High School.

Voting for School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at Souhegan High School from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

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MONT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mont Vernon School Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mont Vernon Village School to consider the FY14 Mont Vernon School District budget.
(Snow Date: January 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.)

The Deliberative Session of the Mont Vernon School District will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mont Vernon Village School.

Voting for School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at the Mont Vernon Village School from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

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SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Souhegan Cooperative School Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School to consider a bond for roof and HVAC replacements in the amount of \$1,950,000.

Immediately following the bond hearing, the Souhegan Cooperative School Board will hold a hearing to consider the FY14 Souhegan Cooperative School District budget.
(Snow Date: January 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.)

The Deliberative Session of the Souhegan Cooperative School District will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. at Souhegan High School.

Voting for School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at the following locations:

- Amherst Voters-Souhegan High School, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Mont Vernon Voters-Mont Vernon Village School, 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

12th Annual
Comedy
Night

All proceeds support
Souhegan High School
F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Team 138 - Entropy
www.robotics138.org

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013
7:00PM
SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

TICKETS: \$15 IN ADVANCE. \$20 AT THE DOOR

Featuring

Mitch Stinson

Taylor Connelly

Chris Pennie

Jim Whitman

PLUS! Silent Auction
& Bake Sale

To purchase tickets, contact any
F.I.R.S.T. Team 138 member or
email roboticsteam138@gmail.com

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