

# Schools

## Amherst Middle School Project Safeguard Educates and Inspires



Haley Reardon, a 16 year old singer and songwriter from Massachusetts and Peer Spokesperson for PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, performs her "Find Your Voice" program for Amherst Middle School students.

The Amherst Middle School held its annual Project Safeguard program on Friday, May 24, at the Middle School and nearby Souhegan High School. Project Safeguard is a day-long conference for 7th grade students and their parents on topics relating to personal wellness, academic success, and healthy relationships for young adolescents.

The day began with students, parents, and teachers gathered in the high school theater for an opening keynote address by Rick Labell, who is a Raymond, NH, police detective and motivational speaker. Mr. Labell shared his own story of defying the odds and the naysayers in his life to achieve his dream of becoming a police officer, and the message that his audience heard was that with hard work and a positive attitude, we can achieve our highest goals.

During the four breakout sessions, students and adults chose from a variety of presentations on topics such as bullying prevention, substance abuse prevention, internet safety, study skills, coping with anxiety, self-image, preventing teen dating violence, and the importance of finding humor in our lives. Students were touched by personal stories about the tragic consequences of poor choices as well as the importance of believing in yourself and reaching out to others. Parents said they appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the world their children live in and to have a starting point for further conversation. Both students and adults found the day to be informative and inspirational.

Maggie Kim and Gail Hepworth are the Faculty Advisors for Project Safeguard.



Bob LePete, founder of Second Chance and Recovery (SCAR), shakes hands with Amherst Middle School 7th grader Kylie Rohrer, following his presentation on the dangers of substance abuse. Mr. LaPete lives with the effects of a traumatic head injury from a car accident that happened while driving drunk.

## Amherst Author Meets with AMS Students

On June 6, local Amherst author KD Pryor met with her beta readers at Amherst Middle School. KD's Young Adult Paranormal book, *The Portal's Choice*, was released on May 6 by Amherst publishing company, Madaket Lane Publishers.

As *The Portal's Choice* neared completion, KD met with a select group of 8th grade teacher Cheryl Allison's Language Arts class. The kids volunteered their time to read and review the book. Their insight and recommendations were very helpful in improving the final manuscript. Since that initial meeting, KD has continued to meet weekly with the group as part of their "Core & More" program where they discuss different aspects of fiction writing including developing the story's setting, getting to know the main character and how start a story so that it will immediately catch the interest of the reader.

On Thursday, KD brought pizza to the group and handed out signed, dedicated copies of *The Portal's Choice*. The class was happy to find that each member of the beta reader team was thanked on the book's Acknowledgments page.

### Bancofa

Tallis Challinor is faced with a problem that goes way beyond anything she's ever encountered. And



(L to R, back row): author KD Pryor, Lily Smith, Courtney Holtman, Faith Farnham, Julia Mendola, Noah Desrosiers, teacher Cheryl Allison; (L to R, front row): Ana Kruger, Ellie Noble, Caitlin Colburn

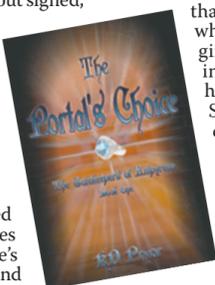
that's saying something when you're a teenage girl in a new town. Coping with the death of her parents was hard. Surviving life with her crabby uncle Craig was horrendous. But dealing with pissed-off spirits who appear in her basement determined to make her life miserable, well that's way beyond creepy. It's even

deadly.

When Porteur, the head gatekeeper for the spirit world, tells Tallis that she has been chosen to round up the spirits who escaped through the portal and send them back through the gate, she is shocked, frightened, and ultimately determined to see the task through. But chasing down angry spirits isn't a task to be taken lightly, and Tallis knows that if she fails, the consequences to the living beings she loves will be dire.

With the help of her hot neighbor, Aiden, his sister Bailey, Tallis' brother, Wyatt, and two guiding spirits, Phoebe and Sohrab, Tallis sets in motion a scheme to bring the wayward ghouls back to the gateway between the worlds. But, can she get the spirits back to Bancofa before they destroy the town of Landry and all the people living in it?

The Portal's Choice is available in print and digital formats. It can be found at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and in the iTunes iBookstore.



Retiring teachers, David April and Franna Eaton

## Clark-Wilkins School Teachers Retirement Party

This year a retirement party was held at the Mile Away Restaurant, Milford on June 3 for two retiring teachers, David April and Franna Eaton.

Mr. April retires after 37 years as the physical education teacher at

Clark-Wilkins. He will be staying local and enjoying his retirement in Hollis. Franna Eaton retires after seven years as a reading specialist at Clark-Wilkins. She expects to spend her retirement in Florida for a change in climate.



Erin Heaney, Connor Holbrook and basketball coach Mike Heaney

## Connor Holbrook Awarded First Tony Barksdale II Memorial Scholarship

On June 4th, at the Souhegan High School Celebration of Excellence, Souhegan senior Connor Holbrook was presented with the first Tony Barksdale II Memorial Scholarship. Barksdale, a 2012 graduate passed away earlier this year. The selection committee noted Connor's com-

mitment to his teammates, volunteer work with youth in the community and outstanding academic achievement. Pictured with Connor are Souhegan Boys Basketball Coach Mike Heaney and selection committee member Erin Heaney, a classmate and friend of Tony's.


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**Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 Summer Intensive (ages 10-18)  
**Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-5:00pm**

Register Now

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