Schools

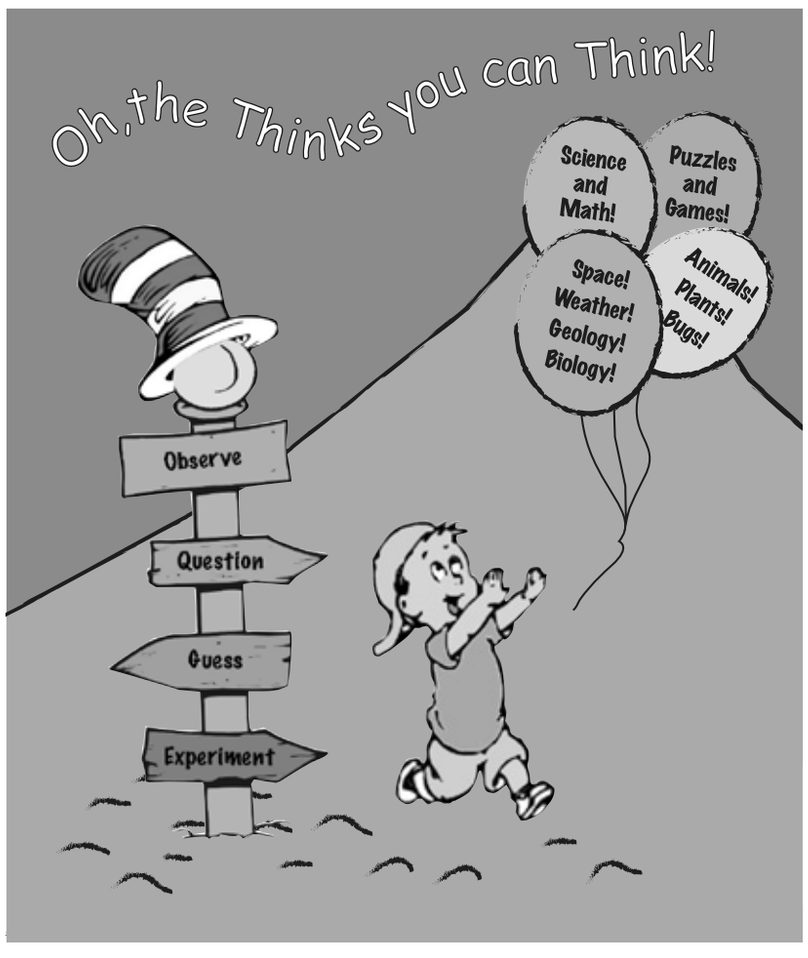
Poetry Out Loud Speaks to Souhegan Students

Souhegan school wide finalists

AMHERST -- This year, Souhegan had approximately 500 students participate in Poetry Out Loud competitions at the class, grade and school levels. This year's school-wide Champion is freshman, Paris Dzen. Senior Hannah Emery is Souhegan's runner-up. Both Paris and the runner-up have won $20,000 renewable merit scholarship to New England College upon admission for their achievements. Paris recited "Mending Wall." By Robert Frost, while Hannah recited "The Chimney Sweeper," by William Blake. Paris will be competing in the State semi-final on March 7th at Southern NH University.

Champion and runner-up: Paris Dzen and Hannah Emery

School-wide Finalists: Samantha Maxwell, Emma Fluette, Grayson Smith, Rachel Cianci, Hannah Emery, Paris Dzen, Hannah Whitney, Julie Kellndorfer, Garrett McNamee, Lindsey Hagerstrom, Samantha Prue, Ian Gowell, Eleanor Noble, Skye St. Jame, Jake Upton, Faith Farnham, Issac Nevrla



Come tickle your mind at the
PTA Family Math and Science Night!
Monday, March 10th
at the Wilkins School 6:30 to 8:30 pm
(Remember Tuesday is a late start)

"Children want the same things we want; to laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted." - Theodore Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

Souhegan Guidance Develops Four-Year College and Career Readiness Program

When students first walk through the doors of Souhegan High School as incoming freshmen, they not only embark on a journey of learning, but of self-discovery. Souhegan's Guidance department has as its mission to foster and support this process throughout a student's tenure in high school. In fact, the Guidance department has developed a comprehensive four-year approach to guiding students and their families through the process of making the short-term decisions about courses through the lens of their long-term college and career planning.

Souhegan's comprehensive college and career exploration and application process begins in 9th grade. Guidance teams up with Social Studies teachers to collaborate on an Economics units in which students begin to explore career-related interests. Karen Chininis, Director of Guidance at Souhegan says, "This early career focus lays the foundation for each student's course selection process to help determine what they should take to meet their goals and leave their options as open as possible."

As sophomores, students continue their exploration of future goals through a variety of initiatives. Students continue with Naviance, the online college and career software program, and they participate in the highly successful Career Panels event. Informational forums are also held for sophomore parents so that they too are informed of Souhegan's holistic and highly personalized approach to college and career planning. "Our guidance program is built on the notion that the courses students take today need to relate to their post-secondary plans," says Chininis. "By hosting the Career Panels and parent information events, students and families become much more aware of the long-term implications for the course decisions they make now. We're not saying students should make career decisions as 10th graders. But we are saying that students need to be familiar with the process of research – discovering their interests and relating what they do in school to the outside world."

As juniors, the process continues to be highly personalized, with both counselors and advisors working with students on their post-graduation preparation. Students complete a Post Graduation Plan comprised of a college search and college virtual tour on Naviance, writing a resume, and orientation to the Common Application process. Not only does Souhegan administer the PSATs to all juniors, a fairly unique opportunity that allows all students the chance to prepare for college, but guidance counselors meet individually with each student to review the comprehensive report provided by the College Board, interpret the scores, identify areas of strength, and discuss tips for improving their scores.

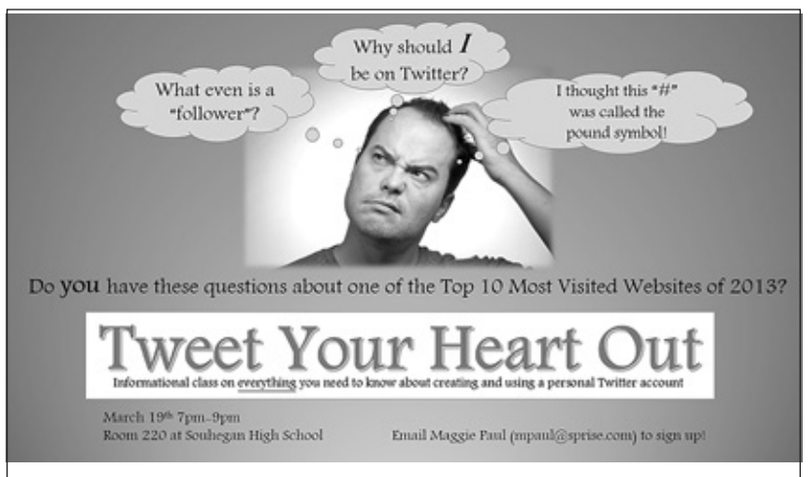
For parents, Souhegan's guidance department hosts a Junior Parent Night in which guidance staff provide parents with an overview of the college application process, including the Common Application as well as a timeline of what students should be doing in their junior year in terms of searches, visits, and testing.

The guidance department approaches the college and career process from multiple angles by embedding key elements in the curriculum and providing various opportunities for individualized support. Not only does Souhegan provide after-school workshops on the college search and college essay for students, this spring, it is adding parent workshops for Naviance and the Common Application and college essay process. "We try to meet the individualized needs of each student and their family, while also providing a baseline of information to all our students, no matter what their immediate goals and vision," says Chininis, "because we want students to be able to change their minds as they mature."

In Senior year, Guidance steps up the process early with presentations on the college application process in all English classes and two parent college night sessions. "With so many early-action and decision applications, there is quite a bit happening between September and November," Chininis says. "We set checkpoints with each student to make sure they are on track to meet their deadlines," Chininis adds. Of course, the application process really marks an important benchmark for – not the end of -- the college and career planning process, as financial aid information and final decision making are where many families are in need of support.

Souhegan's goal is to help students maintain their options throughout their high school career. "We create partnerships between counselors, parents, and students to make sure we have a personalized approach with each student," says Chininis. As a public school, "we pride ourselves on providing all our students and families with all the tools and support they need to make informed decisions right from the start of high school, through the stress of the application process, even through 'senior slump,' until they graduate."

Submitted by Jeanne Sturgis



Tweet Your Heart Out!

Teacher: Kate Stover
Date: Wednesday March 19th
Times: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Cost: $15.00

You thought "#" was a pound sign! Come learn everything you need to know about creating and using a personal twitter account. Students will use Souhegan computers to create their own account and Kate will guide you through the art of tweeting!

Check http://www.sau39.org/shs for a detailed schedule and courses descriptions.

To register:

Call 673-9940 ext "5317" during school hours or email mpaul@sprise.com to register. Course size is limited to 24 students.

Over 1,000 Area High School Students, Families, Educators, and Industry Leaders Gather For The Granite State District Qualifier

NASHUA – Attended by thousands of fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition Granite State District Qualifier awarded several teams with honors that rewarded design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship, and high impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities. Held at the Nashua High School South in Nashua, NH on February 28th and March 1st, thirty-nine high school teams from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island competed to earn a spot at the New England Championship to be held at Boston University's Agganis Arena April 10-12th.

With the hope of winning one of the several coveted awards, high school students worked with professional Mentors to design and build a robot over a six week period that solved a problem using a kit of parts and a standard set of rules.

The 2014 game, AERIAL ASSISTSM, is played by two Alliances of three teams each. Alliances compete by trying to score as many balls in goals as possible during a two-minute and 30-second match. Additional points are earned by robots working together to score goals, and by throwing and catching balls over a truss suspended just over five feet above the floor as they move the ball down the field.

Students participating in FIRST® are eligible to apply for over $19 million dollars in scholarships from leading universities, colleges, and companies. Scholarship announcements are made at the FIRST® championship in St. Louis. Since its beginning, FIRST® has significantly improved students' attitudes towards math, science and teamwork. Student who participate show increased interest in pursuing internship and employment opportunities in science and engineering, especially with companies that are involved with FIRST®.

Winners of the Granite State District Qualifier Awards include:

Award	School/Recipient
Granite State District Chairman's Award*	Bishop Guertin High School Team 811, Nashua, NH (Highest award of the competition)
Engineering Inspiration Award	Messalonskee High School Team 2648, Oakland, ME (Second highest award of competition)
Rookie All-Star Award	Billerica Memorial High School Team 4909 Billerica, MA
Granite State District Winners	Souhegan High School Team 138, Amherst, NH
General Motors Industrial Design Award	Souhegan High School Team 138, Amherst, NH
Volunteer of the Year Award	David Price

Amherst Middle School Theater Club
on its Tenth Anniversary proudly presents:

A Toymaker, a Fairy and a Wish.

The funny, magical tale of puppets and parenthood!

March 13th, 14th and 15th at 7:00

March 15th matinee at 2:00

Tickets still only $5.00

Tickets available at AMS, The Black Forest and The Homestead

"Satisfaction Guaranteed"