

School News

A Council for the Ages

“Pure democracy” bridges generation gap at Souhegan High School

By JANE NILLES

As community members -- not as Souhegan students, teachers or administrators on Souhegan High School's Community Council -- we bring a unique perspective to the deliberations of Souhegan's governing body. Elected to the SHS Community Council by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board as was my counterpart, Nan Stearns, we are two of several community representatives. We join Leslie Formby, Rick Katzenberg, Mary Lou Mullens, Jeanne Ludt, and Christine Redd. Mary Lou is the SCSB Chair and Board representative on the Council, Rick brings continuity to the Council table because of his involvement with SHS since its inception, and Jeanne is a non-voting member and unofficially, the Community Council (CC) historian. As community members -- who may or may not have children currently attending SHS -- we all have an interest in the high school, its students and the towns we represent.

Souhegan's Council members explore all kinds of school related proposals, issues and ideas with respect, consideration, and diligence. And this is not by chance. If one eavesdrops in on one of our discussions, you will hear Robert's Rules of Order used as we deliberate and debate. In my three-plus-years CC has debated a range of issues, from AP classes and college credit, nutrition, sustainability, social activism, and bullying prevention to changing the school schedule and the GPA requirements for Honor Roll. Our meetings are always interesting, sometimes emotional and usually an indicator of what issues the students are facing and changes they are embracing. Subsequently, they are very well attended.

So what draws community members to be a part of this governing body? I wanted to be involved with my son's academic life in an intentional but not obvious manner.



Community Council with Moderator Natalie Nelson at work on January 12: other students pictured (left to right) include Kaleigh Row, Ryan Hill, Danny Tiso, Mitch Greaney, David Wiczerzak, Liz Purvis, Maddie Boyea, Kiley Charbonneau, Lauren McCormick, Ethan Pike and Alex Bedard. Community members Jeanne Ludt, Nan Stearns, Christine Redd and Leslie Formby have their backs to the camera.

Others are impressed with Souhegan's guiding principles, wanting to be part of something they believe in. Leslie Formby says she and her husband chose to move to Mont Vernon so that their children could attend SHS. She sought out her position with Council so that she could be part of an educational system that she respects and considers honorable.

Christine Redd's experience with SHS came first not as a parent but as a student teacher. She recently joined Community Council as a way to reconnect with Souhegan High School and its students, which currently includes her daughter. Christine is impressed with the “effective and positive communication skills” that come with discussing difficult topics. She adds that the process has taught her, as well as the students, “important skills in problem solving, and the process by which solutions are made that support the mass, not just the individual.”

Another Council member, Rick Katzenberg was recognized by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA) as the New Hampshire Champion for Children in 2013. “There are a few

reasons why I consider my participation on the Community Council as both a responsibility and honor.... I represent the senior citizen population in our two towns and can speak to their views and needs, as it relates to the High School. I am able to contribute as a Souhegan Coach, relating the views and needs of the athletic program. I work with the students on many other programs and projects, including the Teen Job Bank, which is outside the school but employs many of its students.” Community Council is very fortunate to have Rick as part of its leadership body.

Time and again, Rick has seen students “think outside their own needs and desires.” The fact that “our School Boards have virtually never had to reverse a decision made by this body in over 20 years is testament to the effectiveness of Community Council. The debate led by these students invariably comes around to the proper answer, even on the weightiest of issues,” Rick adds. “It is a delight to be even a small component in this extraordinary leadership group!”

Jeanne Ludt, a devoted non-member of Council and former School board rep shared why she continues

to attend even though she can't vote. “What keeps me going is my respect for the thoughtful process by which this body deliberates. I also love the fact that all of the stakeholders have a voice. It is my hope that citizens of our communities will find some time to attend a Council meeting to see what we're talking about. Community Council simply makes me smile.”

Council member, Nan Stearns, described her initial and subsequent experiences as beginning with her family, but extending far beyond. “When I first joined Community Council it was with the idea that getting to know teenagers would be a plus in connecting with [my grandson] Chris. The Council experience has been that, and so much more.” Nan considers Community Council to be “the purest form of Democracy we have experienced, and it is a Democracy that is not for sale.”

This will be the last year for Nan and me on Community Council. Since this will be our fourth year we too feel like Seniors. So as Nan says “we will be graduating along with the students we have grown to love.” And she is right!



Coding with a Buddy -- Several times a year, Applewild School “buddies” get together for an activity day. Recently the Buddy Day activity was a coding event. The second graders, working with their eighth grade buddies did a “Code with Anna and Elsa” activity, creating snowflakes and patterns on the computer. Shown here are Emma Hunter of Amherst, NH at left and her buddy eighth grader Allison O'Donnell of Lancaster, MA.

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Artists Competition, and competed as a finalist in the Great American Songbook Competition. She's won various Downbeat Student Music Awards, including best Junior High and High School Jazz Vocalist for four consecutive years.

The February 13th performance will include vocal charts popularized by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Diane Schuur, Natalie Cole, Joanie Sommers, Queen Latifah, and more, plus instrumental selections from the books of Gordon Good-

win's Big Phat Band and the bands of Buddy Rich, Maynard Ferguson, John Clayton, Count Basie and others.

The CBB will be joined by jazz ensembles from Souhegan HS, Woodbury MS and Alvirne HS. General Admission at the door is \$10.00. Doors will open at 6:30pm. For more information about The Compaq Big Band, go to www.compaqbigband.com. For event information, please contact Carl Benevides at cbenev@sprise.com.

Pops Concert at SHS

Souhegan High School is proud to present its annual midwinter Pops Concert on Wednesday evening, February 11, at 7pm. The public is invited and there is no admission fee. The event will feature the SHS Concert Band, Handbell Ensemble, Acapella Singers and Con-

cert Choir. All will perform lighter selections of concert literature and “Pops” style music. The concert will also preview selections that the Band and Choir will perform during their trip to Disney World later in February.

Souhegan High School FBLA Hosts Entrepreneurship Panel

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students are celebrating FBLA Week February 9-14th. Souhegan FBLA members will be hosting an Entrepreneurship Panel on Thursday, February 12th 9am - 10:30am in the Theater. Four New Hampshire entrepreneurs will share with the community their experience and advice. Panel members include: Rick Pratte, CEO of AlignRevenue, a B2B company providing cloud based solutions; Jeffrey Kibbe, President of Stryka Technologies, developer of a power inter-

vening and management panel system and method for a power control panel; Jim Rubens, a small business owner and two term State Senator; and Tom “TK” Kuegler, founder of Wasabi Ventures, a venture capital incubator and consulting firm.

The FBLA students are excited to welcome these business leaders to Souhegan and all community members are welcome to attend this event. For more information, please contact Maggie Paul - mpaul@sprise.com.

Derryfield School Presents Beauty & the Beast

The Derryfield Upper School Players are excited to present the musical Beauty and the Beast with shows on February 13, 14 at 7:00 p.m. and February 15, at 2:00 p.m. This performance tells the story of a prince who is transformed into a hideous beast as punishment for his cruel and selfish ways, and an adventurous young woman named Belle whom he imprisons in his castle. In order to become human again, the Beast must earn Belle's love before it's too late. Beauty ran

on Broadway for 5,461 performances between 1994 and 2007, becoming Broadway's eighth longest-running production in history. The Derryfield Players will present their rendition with a full cast which includes AMHERST residents Sam Carbery in the role of Madame de la Grande Bouche and Anna Quinlan playing the part of a villager. Tickets are available in advance at etix.com, or at the door, one hour before the performance

Applewild Speaker Series

Monday, February 23, 7:00 pm --The public is invited to a free program in the Applewild Speaker Series. Laurie Woodard, Professor at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study and former Dance Theater of Harlem performer will provide insight into the history of the Harlem Renaissance. Laurie's PhD is from Yale in History and African-American Studies. Applewild School, 120 Prospect Street, Fitchburg, 978-342-6053. www.applewild.org

February Admissions Event at Applewild

Applewild School will host a series of admissions events during the month of February. First is an Open Invitation to prospective families to visit the school on a day of their choice, see teachers and students in action, and join in our family-style lunch. Due to the cancellation of the January Admissions Open House because of weather, several interested families were not able to attend the event for which they had pre-registered. Families can register for a tour and lunch on a day of their choosing by calling Director of Admission and Financial Aid Jen Wing at 978-342-6053 x110 or emailing her at jwing@applewild.org.

On Tuesday, February 17, 8:15 am, parents of children entering Kindergarten and first grade are invited to a round-table discussion about early primary education at Applewild. Jen Wing will lead the

discussion, joined by Kindergarten teacher Bailey Shea, First Grade teacher Milissa Cafarella and Lower School Head Tally Lent. A children's activity will be provided by Extended Day Program Coordinator Molly Kalter.

Saturday, February 28, 9:00 am will be AppleCore Scholarship Interview Day. Students who have applied for an AppleCore Scholarship are invited to participate in a group activity and a personal interview. Parents will have coffee and participate in a round table discussion with school administrators and Director of Admissions. Applewild School is a Kindergarten-Grade 8 coeducational independent day school in Fitchburg, MA serving families in central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. The school also has two preschools for ages 2.9-5 in Fitchburg and Devens.

Students in the News

Victoria A. Chistolini Returns from Studying in Spain

WATERVILLE, ME - Victoria A. Chistolini of Amherst, a first-year student at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, recently returned from spending the fall semester of the 2014-15 academic year in Salamanca, Spain, through Colby's First-Semester Abroad (FSA) program. Chistolini, a graduate of Souhegan High School, is the daughter of Jennifer Kendrick of Amherst and Thomas Chistolini of Amherst.

Ithaca College Congratulates Fall 2014 Dean's List Students

ITHACA, NY - Ithaca College congratulates students named to Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester.

Lindsey Lack of Amherst, a emerging media major in the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College was named to Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester.

Hofstra University Congratulates Fall 2014 Dean's List Students

HEMPSTEAD, NY - Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List. The following local students earned the Dean's List distinction:

Amy Butenhof of Amherst and Miranda Desrochers of Amherst.

Amherst Resident Earns Wheaton Dean's List Honors

NORTON, Mass. - Taylor Bardsley, a resident of Amherst has been honored with placement on the Dean's

List at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., for the fall 2014 semester. A member of Wheaton's Class of 2016, she is the daughter of Tracy Hutchins and David Bardsley.

Local residents named to UMass Lowell dean's list

LOWELL, MA - Local residents were named to the fall 2014 dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Among those recognized for achieving academic distinction for the fall 2014 semester at UMass Lowell are:

Michelle Cianci of Mont Vernon, N.H., majoring in biology
Johanna Griffin of Amherst, N.H., majoring in nursing

Frederick Hwang of Amherst, N.H., majoring in electrical engineering

LOCAL STUDENT RECEIVES DEGREE FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, Ill. --- Laura Stoughton, daughter of William and Rebecca Stoughton, has received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the Northwestern University Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.

Stoughton, of Amherst, was a cognitive science and psychology major. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa's Northwestern chapter. She was named a James Alton James Scholar for distinguished achievement in the social sciences. She will pursue a master's degree in secondary science teaching at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy.

Local Students Named to Assumption College's Fall 2014 Dean's List

WORCESTER, MA - Recognizing outstanding student academic achievement, Assumption College has named more than 500 students to the undergraduate Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Assumption students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester.

The following student was named to the fall 2014 Dean's List: Kaitlin Henry, of Mont Vernon, NH.

New Hampshire Students Named to Dean's List At Southern New Hampshire University

Manchester -- Nicole Gionet from Amherst majoring in AS Baking and Pastry Arts has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester. To be eligible for this honor, a student must compile an academic grade point average of 3.500-3.699.

New Hampshire Students Named to President's List At Southern New Hampshire University

Manchester - The following students from New Hampshire have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester. To be eligible for this honor, a student must compile an academic grade point average of 3.7-4.0.

Amherst: Taylor MacDowell, BA Elementary Ed w/Cert in Gen Special Ed; Sarah Murray, BA Middle School Mathematics Education; Scott Younger, BS Business Administration.

Mont Vernon: William Coursey, BS Culinary Management; Michelle Cox, BA Elementary Ed w/Cert in Gen Special Ed;

Eileen Hilton, BS Accounting; and Katelyn Hilton, BA Psych w/ conc in Child & Adolescent Dev.

Local students named to Clemson University Dean's List

CLEMSON, SC - Local student has been named to the Clemson University Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student achieved a grade-point average between 3.50 and 3.99 on a 4.0 scale.

Jacob Charles Dworkin of Amherst, who is majoring in Chemical Engineering.

O'HARA ACCEPTED TO STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Beverly, MA -- Endicott College is pleased to announce that Katelyn O'Hara daughter of Mr. Mike O'Hara of Milford and Mrs. Sue O'Hara Cannon of Amherst has been accepted to spend the spring, 2015 semester studying abroad.

Katelyn is currently a junior majoring in Political Science. She is studying at University of Cape Town (CIEE) during the spring.

Students Make Dean's List at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, GA - The following students have earned the distinction of Dean's List at the Georgia Institute of Technology for Fall 2014. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester. Evan Smith of Amherst.

Students Named to Clarkson University Dean's List

POTSDAM, NY - Charles Landrum of Mont Vernon, a freshman majoring in chemistry has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University.

Students Named to the University of Vermont Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT - The following students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2014 semester at the University of Vermont.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.