

Principal's Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

School Board Meeting	Oct. 1
Homecoming	Oct 6-9
NECAP Testing	Oct 7-9
Progress Reports Mailed	Oct 6
Open House	Oct 8
Coffee/Conv. With Principal	Oct 13 7-8:30pm
Veteran's Day	Nov 11 no school

Student Artwork featured in this issue

The images that highlight this month's newsletter are the work of some of our more talented artists. For more, check out artsonia.com

A Smooth Start To A New Year

What a great opening of school! I want to take this opportunity to thank the students, faculty, staff and administrative team for ushering in the new school year with enthusiasm. Prior to the start of school, teachers collaborated on technology, curriculum, instruction and assessment. Guidance worked closely with students and parents to respond to scheduling concerns. The athletic department met with parents and students about policies, procedures and student responsibilities. Due to the hard work of our custodial staff, the

building sparked. We made improvements to the library, added an algebra lab, refurbished science rooms, added new lockers and done extensive repairs. Band Camp was a success in the August heat. It was a busy summer, but now that we are up and running, it is clear that the hard work paid off.

Thank-you, middle school teachers and administrators for the work you have done to prepare these students for high school life. The freshman arrived ready to go and have already established themselves



by Erin Swift, class of 2010

as a mature and positive class. Freshman teachers and advisors have been impressed with their attitude and behavior. Advisories have helped students become familiar with high school expectations. I have had the pleasure of meeting most of the freshmen through the tours advisors have run in the first weeks of school. In advisories,

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Art Teachers Honored by Artsonia

I recently received notification that our four art teachers have been honored by *Artsonia*.

Artsonia.com is a website that currently hosts over 5.4 million images of student artwork from

all over the world. Billed as "the world's largest kids art museum", it allows teachers to post exemplary work from students online for all to see. Currently, almost three

hundred pieces of work from our students are online.

Congrats to art teachers Dessa Landry, Mike DiCicco, Deb St. Germain and Kristina Currier.

The story of America isn't about people who quit when things got tough. It's about people who kept going, who who kept going, who tried harder, who loved their country too much to do anything less than their best.

—President Obama in his education speech, Sept. 8, 2009

Academic Expectations Defined

In March 2009 the faculty voted unanimously to accept a revised set of rubrics (performance indicators) for each of the school's three academic expectations. These revisions can be found on the school's website at timberlanehs.com. Our school wide academic expectations include writing, problem solving and researching skill development. Our goal is to move all students to

the "effective" level of performance or beyond as outlined in the rubrics for each of these expectations. Teachers will be reporting on student performance in one of these expectations on each Progress For freshmen, the Science and Math departments will be reporting solely on problem solving skills; the English de-



by MacKenzie Heinze, class of 2010

partment will be reporting solely on writing skills; and the Social Studies department will be reporting solely on research skills.

Student's Surveyed On Civic/Social Expectations

For the past three school years, Timberlane's social and civic expectations have been placed before our students' eyes in the omnipresent OWLS poster. In advisories, during student assemblies, in classrooms and administrative offices students have heard and seen these expectations. In February 2009 students were asked in survey form to assess their own performance relative to the OWLS expectations. These student self-assessments are viewed as a baseline indicator of where we stand and where we need to improve as a social and civic-minded school commu-

nity. The results of the survey are in the diagram to the right.

As a result of these student self-assessments, the administration has asked all advisors and coaches of student organizations, teams, clubs, etc. to work with their students to develop a service component to their organization, team, club, etc.. There will also be a concerted effort in freshman advisories to acquaint students with the many student extra-curricular activities that can enrich their high school experience. The administration and each department have chosen to model the OWLS expectations for students, highlighting one in particular in their dealings with students and colleagues. A follow-up survey will be administered to students in February 2010 to see whether these measures have helped to make the OWLS social and civic expectations a more ingrained part of our school culture.

Percentage of Students responding that they...	No	Some times	More often than not	Al-ways
O – Offer Your Best; Active Participant in a Co-Curricular Activity	24	22	21	33
W – Works Together Cooperatively & Peacefully	7	21	40	32
L – Lend a Helping Hand; Involved in a Service Project	40	30	14	16
S - Speaks / Acts Respectfully	7	16	41	36

"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire."

—WB Yeats

TRHS Earns Blue Ribbon Award

Again this year, Timberlane Regional High School has been chosen as a Blue Ribbon School by the New Hampshire *Partners in Education*.

This recognition, which TRHS shares with the other six schools in our district and over 150 schools state-wide, recognizes the tremendous volunteer programs that help our students in many ways throughout the year. In particular, the award this year focuses on the work of our PTSA and Scholarship Committee

members.

PTSA sponsors a variety of events each

year, and is being singled out for the 'Reflections' arts competition, which saw many TRHS students winning state-level recognition this past year.

The members of the scholarship committee work tirelessly each spring to blindly and fairly hand out well over \$100,000 in scholarship money made



available to us by various organizations and individuals in the district.

The award ceremony will be October 26 in Manchester. Representing PTSA will be President Kate Delfino and *Reflections* coordinator Diana Coryea. The Scholarship Committee will be represented by Brenda Laycock.

Homecoming Returns to Timberlane

After a hiatus of at least two decades, homecoming returns to Timberlane this fall. Under the direction of our incredible Student Council and their advisor Jennifer Libby-Barth, events kick off the week of October 5.

Just about the entire schedule of events is in the afternoon or evenings, and kicks off on Monday night

with the annual Mr. and Ms. Timberlane Competition. Best legs, Best Belch, a talent competition...this light-hearted pageant is always a fun evening.

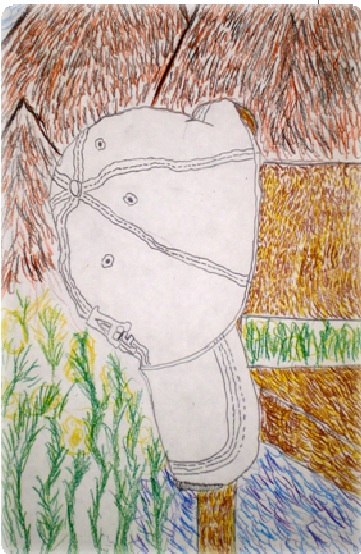
Wednesday night will be the Carnival. A hit for the past five years as part of Spirit Week, various organizations and clubs will set up booths around the stadium field, while powder puff football and boys field hockey games are fiercely

played under the lights. Last year, the field hockey final went to overtime!

Friday's pep rally will lead into many athletic contests that weekend, including the football game against Salem.

Saturday's dance includes the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen.

Worried about Spirit Week? Don't be! It has simply been moved to the springtime, togas and all.



Adam Peeler, class of 2012

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—HOME OF THE OWLS

Serving the students of
Plaistow, Danville,
Atkinson & Sandown
since 1966



Mr. Richman Awarded Madison Fellowship

While many of his colleagues, and most of his students were hitting the beach this past July, our own Ryan Richman of the Social Studies Department was in Washington DC. As the lone New Hampshire teacher chosen as a winner of a James Madison Fellowship, Mr. Richman joined 57 of his colleagues from across the nation to learn more about the Constitution and its application to America in the 21st Century. Mr. Richman has also been studying at Salem State College for the last two years as part of the program.

A highlight of the institute was a face-to-face meeting with Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the White House. We join the members of the N.H. Congressional delegation in congratulating Mr. Ryan Richman on this tremendous honor.

Happenings:

- **Twelve students** associated with the 'Peer Outreach' program recently completed a two day suicide prevention training run by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- **Kudos to the custodial staff** for the Herculean effort required to get our building ready for the new year. Led by the irascible Mr. Currier, the custodians supervised the renovations to the library, the installation of over 350 new lockers in the 600 hallway, painted huge sections of the building, stripped and waxed every inch of tiled floor in the building, and presented us with a beautiful building for opening day.
- **Five of our students** spent their summer learning, not playing, by participating in the Advanced Studies Program at the St. Paul's School in Concord. Congrats to Katherine Gardella (who studied Ancient Greece), Sarah Matson (Ancient Greece), Ryan R. Lynch (Astronomy), and Nicholas Smith (Astronomy).
- **Technology and its use in the classroom** are the focus of professional development throughout the Timberlane Regional School District this year. This August, all District teachers attended a presentation by Dr. Timothy Tyson, an nationally renowned expert on the implementation of technology in classrooms. Following the presentation, teachers have been challenging students with online wikis, text-message scavenger hunts using their cell phones (yes, with permission), online polling via text, the use of hand-held, HD video cameras, and our newest addition to the technology hardware in the building—a brand new student video lab in the media center. If your student says they are using cell phones in class—it might not be a bad thing!

A Great Start (continued from page 1)

upperclassmen have provided additional helpful advice and information. We are certainly doing more to make the transition from the middle school to the high school a success, and it seems to be making a difference.

I want to make special note of the contributions of the Student Council and Peer Outreach – two groups of students who helped with freshman and transfer student orientation. Not only did Student Council hand out information during orientation and serve as guides in the hallways, they provided support to the staff ahead of the start of school. They helped move furniture and academic resources from class to class, and helped teachers create

attractive bulletin boards. They even provided the staff with a delicious barbeque. At orientation and in the first week of school, students involved in "Friends of Rachel" and Peer Outreach provided transfer students with a familiar face and someone to rely upon for the little details that make a difference in a student's day.

We are excited about the prospects for a year of academic and personal growth for all of our students. I look forward to using this newsletter, our website and "Coffee with the Principal" nights to keep you informed of the activities and significant issues that impact students at the high school. The first Coffee with the Principal night will be October, 13th.