

October, 2008

Don Woodworth, Principal



A Great Start



It is hard to believe that we have already posted progress report grades and held our first open house. Fall NECAP Testing, Spirit Week, and the first wave of SAT's have already passed. Grades close for the first quarter on October 31st, so students should be spending a little extra time on their school

work and studying for end-of-quarter exams. It is also a good time for parents who may have been unable to attend Open House to check *PowerSchool* to access stu-

dent grades or to make contact with teachers. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the hard work of our custodial staff. Their efforts to keep ahead of the maintenance issues of the building often go unrecognized. They are vital members of the school community and they partner with staff and students to keep the building clean and safe. Most recently, to ensure the health of our students, the custodians have embarked on bi-monthly disinfections of the athletic wing. Students are being asked to empty their lockers ahead of this process. Dirty laundry should be brought home each week to be cleaned. If students do not empty their lockers, their gear will be placed in large bins and eventually discarded.



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National Merit Scholars Announced

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to congratulate three scholars who have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Hilary Miller, daughter of Mark and Erin Miller of Atkinson, and Morgan Lingar, daughter of Christopher and Virginia Lingar of Danville, achieved the distinction of being named National Merit Semi-Finalists, and Thomas Cross, son of David and Jeanne Cross of Atkinson, has been named a Commended

Student. Hilary and Morgan are among 16,000 students nationally that have qualified for an opportunity to compete for 8,000 scholarship awards that will be offered next spring. They were chosen for their academic promise as demonstrated in the preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Congratulations to these gifted students!



Spirit Week

was a tremendous success this year, and many thanks go to the student council and the four executive committees that worked together to organize the events. The senior class emerged victorious, but the entire school was the ultimate winner as our community became closer through many shared experiences. Even the faculty was represented at the pep rally with a lip-synch. Check out the video at www.timberlanehs.com.

Some Upcoming Events:

Football vs. Exeter—6:30	Oct. 17
Boy's V-Ball vs. Coe-Brown—3:00	Oct. 18
Ben Rudnick and Friends—2:00, PAC	Oct. 19
PTSA Meeting—7:00, rm. 102	Oct. 21
Girl's Soccer vs. Memorial—4:00	Oct. 21
Budget Committee—7:00pm, PAC	Oct. 23
Election Day—No School	Nov. 4

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

Video Project Awarded Grant

I am proud to congratulate a small but dedicated group of Timberlane teachers who were recently awarded a \$9,700 grant from the NH Humanities Council. The teachers are nearing completion of a multi-part interdisciplinary teaching unit that will relate religion and science. The final project will contain lessons in science, history, theater, English and other subjects, taking a non-judgmental view of the topics involved. A simple conversation over teachable moments surrounding the play, *"Inherit the Wind"* has led to over 35 different interviews in several states with national and

internationally-recognized scholars, politicians, historians, and religious leaders. The first video segment, "Of Sound and Fury", deals with various aspects of the 1929 Scopes Trial in Tennessee. Others will look at various religious viewpoints, and the ongoing debate around religious issues both in and out of schools. Among those involved in the project are Mr. Silveira, Mr. Strainge, Mr. Constantineau, Mr. Deveney, Mr. Rugoletti, and Mr. Zanello.



College Fair at TRHS

On Monday, October 20, the guidance department is sponsoring a New Hampshire "Mini" College Fair here at the high school. Interested seniors have signed up to attend the fair and visit with representatives from the following schools:

Dartmouth College, University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College, Chester College, New England College, Colby - Sawyer College, Franklin Pierce College, Granite State College, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Rivier College, St. Anselm College, and the NH Community College System.

Improving Student Learning

"Tell me, and I'll forget.
Show me, and I may not
remember. Involve me,
and I'll understand."

—Native American Proverb

I am pleased to report that the staff made progress in the development of important assessment tools during the October 13 professional development day:

- Math and Science teachers worked on student centered rubrics for the Problem Solving Academic Expectation
- English teachers and others worked on

student centered rubrics for the Six Plus One Writing Academic Expectation

- English and Social Studies teachers worked on student centered rubrics for the Research Academic Expectation
- World Language teachers worked on coordination of curriculum and competencies throughout the department
- A group of concerned teachers worked on student centered rubrics for our school

wide Social and Civic Expectations (O.W.L.S.)

- All Para-educators to met with Mr. Kiley and Mr. Leary to explore the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) model as it relates to their role at school
- All staff worked in self-selected PLC groups on instructional strategies

Happenings

Owls Perform at Salem Homecoming Day

I was fortunate to spend some time at Salem High School last Saturday as our marching band, girls and boys soccer, girls and boys volleyball, field hockey and football teams performed. The sportsmanship of our athletes and the spirit of our fans was impressive. I want to take this opportunity to thank the coaches, the students and the fans for representing the school with such class.

State Testing

Last week the juniors sat for nine hours of NECAP testing. The results of that battery of tests will be posted later in the school year. I appreciate the job of the guidance staff, proctors, hall monitors and students who created a positive testing environment in the building for each of the three days of testing. We use the results of these tests to inform changes to the high school curriculum, assessments, and instruction. Individual student scores are mailed to the home of each student and the state releases comparative information about school performance.

Strategic Planning

On October 7, the high school hosted eleven Strategic Planning Focus Groups which met to discuss three basic questions: 1. What would you like to change about the school district? 2. What would you like to keep the same about the school district? 3. What skills and attributes do we want our students to possess as they graduate high school? Each group submitted a report on the hour-long conversation to Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg. He will compile an executive summary of the feedback and it will be used by the district committee to inform the district mission. It is a sign of good things to come that so many people demonstrated interest in our students and the future of our district schools.