

School News

An Evening of Poetry and Music

With a little tense competition thrown in – what could be better?

If you have never experienced the power and joy of a live poetry recitation, then you are in for a treat. Come hear an old favorite or discover a new one as the top recitations from a field of nearly 500 students recite poems at Souhegan High School on the evening of February 5th. It is an impressive night that celebrates the diversity found among the best published poems spoken in the fresh and distinct voice of each high school student

competing in this year's Poetry Out Loud national recitation competition. Vying for tens of thousands of dollars in college scholarships, the program delivers an entertaining mix of culture and competition. Join us on Feb. 5th, at 7:00 pm in the Souhegan High School theater. Live music and refreshments; free and open to the public – a wonderful way to warm up on a cold winter's night.

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.

Community/Family Climbing Continues at SHS Monday Evenings, 6:30-8:30pm

Come climb with us on Souhegan High School's indoor rock climbing wall. Ages 5 and up are welcome. Climbers will have the opportunity to push themselves and support others as they do so. All equipment will be supplied. No prior experience is required.

The sessions will be led by John Dowd, founding Souhegan HS fac-

ulty member and senior climbing instructor at the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. Fee is \$5.00 pp. or \$20.00 per family. All proceeds will benefit the 2015 SHS Wintercession Joshua Tree Climbing Trip. If you have questions, please contact John Dowd: jdowd@spruce.com.

Local College Scholarships Available

The Souhegan Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that its scholarship applications are posted for the 2015 scholarship year. In addition to our Memorial Scholarships, we have posted scholarships for Arts & Humanities, Business, Career & Technical, and STEM categories.

The SSF college scholarships are available to any high school senior who is a resident of Amherst or Mont Vernon, NH, regardless of school attended, including public, private, and home school students. To date, the SSF has given more than \$105,000 in scholarships.

Please visit our website, www.souheganscholarshipfoundation.org, for more information and to download the applications.

All applications are due by March 16, 2015. Scholarships will be announced in mid May.

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Deliberative Session of the Souhegan Cooperative School District will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School.

Voting for School District Officers and warrant articles will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at the following locations:

- Amherst Voters-Souhegan High School, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Mont Vernon Voters-Mont Vernon Village School, 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Deliberative Session of the Amherst School District will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School.

Voting for School District Officers and warrant articles will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at Souhegan High School from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to the Citizens of Amherst, NH FILING DATES FOR AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 through Friday, January 30, 2015 no later than 5:00 pm

School District Officer to be elected March 10, 2015:

For three years: One School Board Member

If you are a candidate or seek reelection, you must file a declaration of candidacy with the school district clerk.

Catherine Jo Butler
Amherst School District Clerk
673-1925

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to the Citizens of Amherst and Mont Vernon, NH FILING DATES FOR SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 through Friday, January 30, 2015 no later than 5:00 pm

School District Officer to be elected March 10, 2015:

For three years: One School Board Member (Amherst)

If you are a candidate or seek reelection, you must file a declaration of candidacy with the school district clerk.

Catherine Jo Butler
Souhegan Cooperative School District Clerk
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Souhegan's Community Council: Not Your Grandmother's Council

BY SALLY VARANKA

The lasting impact of one Council member's experience with leadership

Souhegan's Community Council does not follow the model of "student council" that many adults experienced or that may be operating in other high schools today. At the founding of Souhegan High School in 1985, Community Council was charged with providing leadership for the school's day-to-day activities and direction to its future.

The membership of Community Council reflects its mission to include all members of the school community – students, faculty and staff, administrators, as well as school board and community members. Each class elects five students to total twenty student representatives on Council. Ten additional students also serve, having run for "at large" positions open to any student. Faculty and staff elect ten representatives, two of which serve as the Community Council Advisors. The administration is represented by the Dean of Faculty, and the School Board by one of its members. Five volunteers from the community also serve. The entire body meets each Monday, mostly after school for 45 minutes, but also one evening per month for two hours. This schedule accommodates the schedules of Council's diverse membership and the hefty agenda with which it is charged. Great value is placed on hearing all voices when proposals come before the Council.

The experience can be life-changing for the members, particularly students. Robert "Bobby" Graham, SHS class of 2012, was part of Community Council for two and half years as a class representative and an additional year, as a senior, as Community Council Clerk and Executive Board member. He is currently a junior at Keene State College and KSC Student Body President.

Graham's most memorable Community Council experience occurred in his senior year with brainstorming, researching, writing and presenting a Decile Proposal. SHS seniors including Bobby and others

on Council had revisited the issue of class rank and the non-weighting of grades at SHS. A SHS senior's class rank was formulated without weighting grades for advanced courses; during the college application process they competed against students from other schools whose class rank was boosted by weighted grades. SHS students learned through discussion with SHS Student Services that colleges had difficulty dealing with the differing strategies used to determine class rank of their applicants. Furthermore, SHS Student Services noted that some respected high schools had eliminated class rank. Jacob Rettig, Scott Doyle, Alexander Kempf and others including Graham began to research a proposal to eliminate class rank at SHS, calling colleges from "Harvard to NCC" about how they dealt with class rank as part of the application process. The SHS students brought the issue before Council, proposing the elimination of class ranking at SHS.

There was immediate and vocal negative reaction in the community, particularly parents of SHS Students. The debate in Council was intense, but ultimately the Decile Proposal was passed by the Community Council and the Souhegan School Board. The experience with controversy and confrontation would serve Bobby well in his next experience with student government, this time on the college level.

But the route to student government at Keene State was not direct, the student government at KSC was increasingly fractured and experiencing a crisis in leadership. Bobby's voice, when he contributed, seemed experienced. Finally, as a second semester sophomore he was challenged to run for Student Body President. "Had I not spent time on Community Council at Souhegan, I would never have abandoned baseball and run for Student Body President." He won, and as a junior assumed the role in what would prove to be a healing year for student government but difficult year for the college and community.

The riots at the Pumpkin Festival last October cast KSC in a negative light. Bobby, as Student Body President, led a group of student leaders



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to visit businesses on Main Street to offer apologies and their assistance. They visited the fire and police departments to offer their thanks. Firemen, policemen and EMTs were invited to dinner at the KSC Dining Commons and the event proved to be a large success. Bobby stepped up to speak with media covering the fallout from the riots. Bobby said, "I was able to calmly deal with the angry community members and knew how to address some of the harder questions since my experiences with decile proposal discussions at SHS."

Bobby Graham will run for Student Body President at the end of this school year, hopefully to serve a second term during his senior year. The KSC student government has already undertaken the writing of a

mission statement and plans to incorporate it across campus, so that every student can identify and further it; it is a natural process for an SHS alum, agreed Bobby, as much time and effort at SHS is spent identifying the "essential question" and "reflecting" on answers and practices.

A career in politics is not out of the question. Part of Bobby's drive is the advice he received from Souhegan teacher and then advisor to Community Council Kevin Proctor, who shook Bobby's hand at his high school graduation and said, "Keep fighting the good fight, you are good at it." Those words have been Bobby's "compass through my trials and tribulations throughout my time in college."

Annual Blood Drive at SHS a Success!

The National Honor Society at Souhegan HS hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the school on Friday, January 16. ARC staff were greeted by the SHS custodians and NHS members at 6am as they arrived to transform the gym into a donor site. All was ready by 8am. Throughout the day, 22 NHS members greeted over 80 potential donors from the school and wider community. The NHS members assisted donors at registration, in moving from station to station and finally recovering with snacks and drink at the canteen. Staff reported that five donors were first timers! 63 pints of blood were collected. Four donors were able to make "double red" donations. A double red donation is one in which two

pints of blood are taken and the red blood cells are separated from the plasma and platelets. The plasma and platelets with some saline solution is continuously sent back into the donor during the process of his donation. It is no more taxing a process for the donor than a regular donation. A double red donation maximizes the most used portion of the blood, the red blood cells, for transfusions, so that the single donation goes farther.

By 2pm, donors had been served, ARC staff and NHS members began to pack up, and athletic team practices reclaimed the gym. The SHS National Honor Society/American Red Cross Blood Drive is an annual event each January so mark your calendars for 2016!

Nashua Catholic Junior High Open House

Nashua - Nashua Catholic Regional Jr. High School will hold an Open House Tuesday, February 3 for prospective parents and students, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school's gymnasium at 6 Bartlett Avenue in Nashua. The program begins with a presentation followed by self-guided and student-led tours providing families a chance to explore the facilities, learn more about the programs, and chat with faculty and staff.

Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School offers an outstanding education based on a solid curriculum rooted in the Catholic faith. Nashua Catholic recognizes outstanding achievement through membership in the National Ju-

nior Honor Society. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Nashua Catholic follows diocesan guidelines and surpasses state curriculum standards. Interscholastic athletics provide a wide variety of opportunity for our student athletes. A broad spectrum of extra-curricular activities includes clubs from drama to chess, Math Counts to writing, service to Minecraft. A vibrant and exciting Christ-centered school, Nashua Catholic exceeds expectations every day. For more information, please contact the Admission Office at 882-7011 or learn more by visiting the school's website at www.ncrjhs.org.

80's Night Dance To Benefit PTSA Scholarship Fund

The Souhegan High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is hosting an 80's Night Dance at the Amherst Country Club on Saturday February 7th, 2015! It starts at 8:00 p.m. and goes to 12 a.m. This "totally tubular" night is going to be fun "to the max"! All proceeds go to the SHS PTSA Scholarship Fund. The SHS PTSA awards two scholarships of \$500 each year. The scholarships are awarded to those students who have excelled in the area of Community Service. We are hoping to be able to provide at least one additional, if not two, scholarships this year! Tickets are \$20 each and are on sale now at Moulton's and The Homestead (*checks are appreciated). So those of you aged 21 and up-this event won't "gag you with a spoon". Come listen to great 80's music, indulge a little at the cash bar, and support a fantastic cause! You can also get details at the SHS website: <http://www.sau39.org/Domain/8> We hope to see you there!

Amherst PTA to Host Annual Family Math & Science Night Featuring Superhero Science!

The Amherst PTA Family Math & Science Night is bound to be a hit with the kids! This year's theme is "Superhero Science." Students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5 are encouraged to attend the event with their families. We hope to see you between 6:30 and 8:30pm on Monday, February 9 in the Multipurpose Room at Wilkins. This is a Monday before a late start.

If you are curious why spiders don't get caught in their own webs, then you should check out the Spiderman station. Learn how to send and decode secret messages among your Superhero friends! Design Superman's best cape and help Aquaman identify which undersea creature is talking to him. Create your own Cyborg robotic hand or test your strength with the Hulk.

Brilliant industrialist Tony Stark (Iron Man) is a great inventor. There will be a special appearance by some amazing local inventors. The Mont Vernon First Robotics Team that created Pickup Patrol will be on hand to answer questions.

Are you curious about Wolverine's claws? PMEC will be bringing native NH mammal furs, skulls and claws for the public to see and touch to learn about these important creatures. Some pieces will include skunk, fox, coyote and even a black bear! Be sure to visit PMEC to

see more of their collection.

Come and check out amazing artwork created by AMS students! AMS students were asked to design the posters for each Superhero station. Help us to judge their artwork by voting for your favorite. The Grand Prize winner will be announced at the end of the event and at AMS the following day.

In conjunction with the event, Girl Scouts from Troop 22171 are sponsoring a charity coat drive: "Be a Superhero! Donate your gently used cape to someone in need." All donations will go to the Salvation Army. There will be a donation box at Wilkins on the night of the event through Friday, February 13.

Don't forget to wear your favorite Superhero T-shirt or costume! We will also tally attendees' preference on which Superhero they like the most. Will it be Magneto, Flash, or Elastigirl (Mrs. Incredible)? How about GoGo Tomago or another Big Hero 6 Superhero? Make sure you vote and help to graph the results.

An adult must accompany each student.

Please contact Francine Brown at francinebrown@gmail.com for volunteer information or for general information on this year's event. Come join us and watch your child's interest in math and science soar!!!



80s Night!

Saturday February 7, 2015

8pm-Midnight

Amherst Country Club

72 Ponemah Road, Amherst, NH

03031

\$20 per ticket

*21+ ONLY



Come decked out in all your 80s gear to dance the night away at this Funky PTSA Scholarship Fundraiser!

Tickets available at Moulton's and The Homestead (Checks Preferred)
Go to www.sau39.org/shs

