

Ethics Forum "LEAPS" into Spring 2015

By CHRIS BROOKS, SOUHEGAN HS FACULTY MEMBER, WITH SHS STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS JASPER JONES, PATRICK NOBLE AND SHELBY DES-MARAIS

Spring is upon us and the Souhegan High School Ethics Forum continues to be active in educational initiatives, taking the lead in our own community, our school district and the greater New England region. The Ethics Forum, a student-led, extra-curricular program connected with the Senior Seminar Ethics course, was created to allow students to experience true authentic leadership, ethics and philosophy discussions and activities. Central to the core of the Ethics Forum's mission are the tenets of Souhegan High School; namely "To respect and encourage the right to teach and the right to learn at all times; actively engage in the learning to support and engage an individual's unique gifts, passions, and intentions; develop and empower the mind, body and heart; challenge and expand the comfortable limits of thought, tolerance and performance to inspire and honor the active stewardship of family, nation and the globe." It is this vision that has allowed the Ethics Forum to be successful and to continue to build programs and initiatives year after year.

Since its inception eight years ago, the Ethics Forum has continued to work on a number of projects year to year. Besides its continued elementary mentoring program at Mont Vernon Village School and the "Run for Gus" Project, to name a few, the Forum's greatest project has centered on the statewide conference HYPE (Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts) founded by SHS Ethics Forum students in 2009. As the Forum has experienced enormous success the group and SHS have received incredible recognition and support from that work.

HYPE has inspired high school students all over New England for the past six years, allowing them to participate in socratic seminars that promote leadership and ethics-based conversations within the framework of philosophical inquiry. Two years ago, the Forum was awarded a renewable prestigious

RGSCP (Responsible Governance and Sustainability Citizenship Project) Grant from UNH Durham to fund HYPE. This grant has led to the UNH philosophy department's endorsement of the Ethics Forum and the use of UNH Durham's campus each year. It has also led to the affiliation of HYPE with UNH's emerging summer philosophy program. The success of the HYPE program continues to move forward this spring with over 800 students from New Hampshire and Maine attending this year's event scheduled for March 16th. The conference's attendance has doubled in only one year and the future looks incredibly bright.

The Ethics Forum was also awarded the 2014 Granite State Award by the NH University System for the group's "dedication to creating an academically rich environment for New Hampshire students to connect through philosophical discussions". This statewide recognition has not gone unnoticed by universities, colleges and high schools throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Besides its largest sponsor UNH Durham, the Ethics Forum has built a strong coalition of post-secondary institutional support including Granite State College, Merrimack College, Saint Anselm College, and UNH Manchester. The Souhegan Ethics Forum has also constructively created working relationships with many high schools in the region centering on the mission of enhancing leadership, ethics and philosophy education. Manchester West High School and Spaulding High School have become actively involved in

leading HYPE's socratic seminars as a result of these efforts and the Forum continues to add to its coalition of participating schools including Bedford, Bishop Guertin, Coe-Brown, Concord, Dover, Farmington, Goffstown, Kittery (Maine), Manchester Memorial, Mascoma, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua North, Noble (Maine), Oyster River, Raymond, Sanborn and Sanford (Maine).

This important work and the key relationships that have evolved from HYPE, have allowed the Ethics Forum to launch a new initiative this past fall with the help of UNH Manchester. Focusing specifically on leadership development, the Forum piloted LEAP or Leadership Empowering Authentic Progress, with the help of SHS alumnus Shannon Amrein and Dr. Ginger Lever, Director of Enrollment Management and College Relations at UNH Manchester. Held on November 14th, students from Raymond, Windham, Goffstown and Manchester West met to discuss the importance of leadership, to be mentored by Ethics Forum students and to share insights on how to work on school and community projects in consultation with their peers. The day was an enormous success for the Forum and has allowed other schools to consider how they might build their own leadership teams.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Kim Moyer, a teacher at Raymond High School, wrote "LEAP provided a wonderful inquiry based opportunity for our freshmen students to develop their confidence to become leaders in their school. All too often the stu-

dent leadership in a school comes from members of the senior and junior classes. We wanted to teach our freshmen how to become leaders right from the very beginning of their high school careers. Our students really enjoyed the program that the Souhegan Ethics forum conducted and were impressed at how effortlessly the students facilitated the break-out sessions. They left the day energized with greater self-confidence to make a difference in their school community. The students recognized the different faces of a leader and the difficult decisions that a leader sometimes needs to make. They discovered how sometimes the strongest leaders are the ones that step aside and delegate a task to someone else. Overall this was a tremendous experience for our students and we look forward to attending LEAP in the years to come. The students that attended LEAP are anxiously awaiting the upcoming HYPE program in March and have recruited some of their classmates to attend."

The Souhegan High School Ethics Forum has become a highly respected student leadership team that continues to solidify strong bonds with schools throughout the New England region. The goal of encouraging and supporting philosophy, ethics and leadership conversations and training for high school students has been met with great success and makes this spring, like each year, an exciting time for Souhegan High School and SAU #39. For more information, please visit <http://www.sau39.org/domain/227> where updates on the various programs can be found.



Winning team includes (back row, l-r) Isabella D'Ambrosio, Gabriella Purvis, Teresa Krawiecki, (front row, l-r) Hannah Lorsbach, Ava Bawell, and Marjorie Vincent.

Camp Invention Coming to Amherst Middle School

AMHERST -- Camp Invention, the nation's premier summer enrichment day camp program that is supported by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), is coming to Amherst Middle School the week of June 22. The weeklong day camp for students entering grades one through six fosters innovation and creativity while also building self-esteem, teamwork, persistence and goal-setting skills.

Selection of the right summer camp for children can be intimidating and overwhelming as the options continue to grow and become more niche. Camp Invention not only encourages inventive young minds through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

(STEM) in a fun and creative atmosphere, it also incorporates outdoor activities as part of its curriculum.

Camp Invention students experience winning, success and victory, along with an adrenaline rush that comes with competition among students and successful completion of challenging projects. Camp Invention provides a great opportunity for inventive young minds to exercise their creativity and use their imagination in ways they don't normally get to -- through real-world problem-solving challenges, they build things, take things apart, explore different types of technology and so much more.

This year's Camp Invention curriculum is called "Illuminate" and was inspired by some of our nation's most brilliant minds including ex-

perienced educators, Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame and members of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. "Illuminate" will encourage children to explore their inventiveness in the Design Studio: Illuminate module, investigating circuits and taking on a nature-inspired design challenge.

As they dream, build and make discoveries, children will have a chance to build a prototype from scratch and explore math from a new angle when they create origami flight models during team-building exercises.

Local programs are facilitated and taught by educators who reside and teach in the community. For additional information, or to find the nearest location for registration, visit www.campinvention.org.

Destination Imagination Makes Successful Return to Amherst

The Destination Imagination® (DI) team from Wilkins Elementary School took first place in the elementary level of the Scientific Challenge: Making Waves at the NH-DI Nashua Regional Tournament on

March 7. All six third-and fourth-grade girls worked hard, acted like a cohesive team, and showed off their creativity. They are now busy preparing for the NH-DI State Tournament on March 28.

SHS and Manchester Community Music School Collect Instruments for Students in Need

Manchester Community Music School is partnering with local schools and businesses for a Play it Again! Instrument Drive. Our goal is to get musical instruments into the hands of every child that would like to learn to play one. Check your closets, garage, attics and yes even under the bed for gently used musical instruments that are no longer being played and can find new life with a student in need.

The Instrument Drive takes place March 23 - April 3, 2015 and gently used instruments of all sorts can be dropped at one of the drop locations to be inspected, repaired and made available for future use. Souhegan High School is a designated drop location for this event. Please bring instruments to Lynda Conley at the Souhegan Welcome Desk as you enter the building during the hours of 7am - 3pm.

For a complete list of instruments needed, visit the Music School's

webpage at mcmusicschool.org/instrument-drive. Financial donations are always welcome and will be used to help with instrument cleaning and repairs.

MCMS Mission: Changing lives through the power of Learning, Sharing and Making Music.

Manchester Community Music School, located in historic north Manchester, is home to over 50 of New England's finest music educators and over 1,300 students who travel throughout the year from 54 New Hampshire communities for their studies. As a cultural performance center, the school offers programs in an environment that encourages participation, interaction and enjoyment. The school is dedicated to supporting the artistic development of the community through our programs, and the school has awarded over \$2 million in need-based financial aid since its founding in 1983.

THE TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOPS



MARYANN COCCA-LEFFLER & DAUGHTER JANINE Sat., March 28, 2 p.m.



Mother and daughter have teamed up to create a wondrously powerful picture book for children celebrating the unique-ness in each of us with, "JANINE". We'll have a reading and signing, followed by cake! On sale NOW!

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH.

Kids - time for our Annual Poetry contest!! Deadline for entries is April 24th Call us or see our website for details. Good luck!

LOCAL AUTHOR OPEN HOUSE

Sat, April 18, 2 p.m. Please join us and area writers for a discussion of their writing and book signing. Light snacks! See the website for details.

KATINA MAKRIS & DR. JEFF SULLENDER

Sat, May 9, 2 PM Lyme Disease: awareness, prevention, and treatment, will be discussed by local author (*Out of the Woods*), survivor, and homeopath Katina Makris, and nutritionist Dr. Sullender.

Visit our website for all the details and more! www.toadbooks.com

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For more information contact Judy Teehan, Director of Education
jteehan@mcmusicschool.org • (603) 644-4548 • mcmusicschool.org
Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104

What We Need (see full list at mcmusicschool.org/instrument-drive)

Musical Instruments, Supplies, and Gear:

French Horn	Percussion	Cello	Bows
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Financial donations are just as important as instrument donations, because all instruments collected require cleaning and in many cases repair.
All donations are tax deductible.