



ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE GAZETTE



April 1, 2010



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department Welcomes Two Student Teachers

by Mrs. Davis and Ms. Tool

The 9th grade English team is very excited about the recent arrival of two student teachers to the program. Lisa Mitchell, interning with Ms. Toole, comes to Ellsworth High School via the University of Maine's Masters in Teaching program. After completing observation periods in Bucksport and Blue Hill, she has jumped into the team-teaching experience as an active member of Freshman Team Thunder. We finished *Romeo and Juliet* on her arrival, for which she designed some innovative student assessments by drawing on her art background. Inspired by the work of Rich Kent, she is attempting to bring experiences of authentic writing and peer revision to our classroom's study of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Students are completing character studies and collaborative works of fiction based on their observations of characters within the novel, and will later be assigned to interactive literature circles for in-depth discussion of the text. She is a Bangor native with a background in New Media, and we look forward to seeing how she will incorporate this into our students' study of literature.



Sam Worden has joined Mrs. Davis on Team Lightning. He is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College with a bachelors degree in liberal arts. He is also currently enrolled in the University of Maine's Masters in Teaching program. Mr. Worden joins us at EHS after several observation and work study experiences at Old Town Middle School, Bucksport High School, Job Corps, and at Brewer High School as a volunteer in their writing center.



Mr. Worden has already begun using the recent student laptops and technology in his instruction. He has created a class website where students can post writing, listen to podcast readings of the books they are studying, and get updates on homework assignments. In addition to teaching 9th grade English, Mr. Worden has also volunteered his time in the formation of a student-run newspaper, attended faculty and department meetings, and volunteered with Ms. Mitchell in Drama Club.

Over the course of the next ten weeks, Mr. Worden and Ms. Mitchell will implement units on Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak*. Please join the English Department in welcoming Mr. Worden and Ms. Mitchell to our school. We wish them the best of luck in their experience.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Financial Aid Loan Workshop
Very Helpful!

With the cost of attending college now higher than ever, more students and parents need to look for ways of financing a college education. Over 50 parents and students of all grade levels were treated to an informative and helpful presentation on March 17th provided by Mila Tappan from the Finance Authority of Maine (F.A.M.E.). Her presentation covered the following topics: What types of loans are out there? How does a student apply for the loan? What types of loans are available for parents? Mrs. Tappan also stressed the need for responsible borrowing for both students and parents. A question and answer period followed and several parents discussed their individual situations with Mrs. Tappan after the meeting. Annie Birckhead was the winner of our drawing from among 22 seniors who attended the meeting and is a recipient of a \$100 MELMAC scholarship. Also, a big thank you to MELMAC for the pizza, salad, fruit, and cookies enjoyed prior to the meeting.

Same Day Admissions on April 15, 2010

We continue to receive acceptances to various colleges and post-secondary programs for our seniors. While most students have applications sent out already, a few members of the class of 2010 are still completing their requests for admission. Once again the

Hancock County Higher Education Center will offer a Same Day Admissions opportunity to those students who seek coursework and degrees from U Maine Augusta and Eastern Maine Community College on Thursday, April 30th from 9:30 – 1:30. Students will need to bring with them a completed application and transcript (and perhaps a letter of recommendation) and will know by the end of the day whether or not they have been admitted. Interested students should see their guidance counselor immediately if interested. We will schedule placement testing prior to April 15th. Since the inception of the program, approximately a dozen of our students each year have found a spot in college through this option.

HCTC UPDATE

Thank you to the almost 90 students who have applied for one of nine programs offered at HCTC. Mrs. Boles, Director of HCTC, has stated that letters of acceptances will be mailed to students prior to April vacation.

Special Education Department

The Special Education department continues to work with students on basic skills such as organization, work completion, and use of graphic organizers as well as academic and social skills that need strengthening. The SAT's are soon approaching and accommodations are in place for the May testing as well as the augmentation set for the last week in March. This trimester we have a new English/Language Arts class co-taught by Mrs. Lessard and Mrs. Dyer. We are extremely excited, as this will incorporate fundamental reading and writing skills as well as vocabulary. Students will be able to use authentic assignments from their other classes to practice and use the skills being taught. Pre and post assessments will be done to track student progress. This ties in with our school-wide focus on literacy this year.



AFS International Club

Wow! The AFS International Club has been very busy! The first activity during this busy time was “Chile Day”. This is a new activity for AFS International Club. This year we have two students from Chile, Barbara “Babi” Teuber and Rosario Cumming. Mrs. Macbeth talked with Babi and Rosario and Mrs. Eaton of the Food Service Staff and “cooked up” the idea of having a day each spring month to celebrate our visiting exchange cultures. Babi and Rosario helped Mrs. Macbeth choose some recipes that represent Chilean food. Mrs. Kathleen Eaton and Mrs. Theodora Urquhart in the kitchen converted the recipes into quantities that could be served for school lunch. Members of the AFS International Club helped cook the meal in the kitchen. The menu was Empanadas, Corn soup, Salad and Rice Pudding. It was a great success and we plan to have Italian Day in April and we will that the special lemon cake “Limona Torte” from Giulia Frugoni’s mama’s recipe.



The AFS International Club also attended a UMO Black Bear’s Hockey game along with their families and some friends. The group met for dinner in the Black Bear’s Den on the UMO campus and then walked through the freezing temperature to the Alfond area for an exciting hockey game. Thank you to Mei Kato’s host mom, Jane Langley, for arranging great group seats right with the UMO students for added excitement.



Also, this month was the annual AFS Day on Sugarloaf Mountain. Always a great experience. On this day all the Exchange Students, their families and friends travel to Sugarloaf for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding. This year the weather was just magnificent. There was 59 inches of natural base and the temperature was in the forties. Great spring skiing weather.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Keefe's fall Weather classes had a contest as to who could best guess the dates of the first full inch of snow and for the first full snow day for the 2009/2010 school year. The guesses were based on information we learned about our changing climate and how that has an impact on our daily lives. We used many sources of information from the Farmer's Almanac (surprisingly accurate for being written months in advance), to the latest data from NOAA, the jet stream and weather satellites. The award for guessing the first inch of snow goes to Ashlee Leighton-Bragg. Ashlee guessed the third of December for our first snowfall with one inch or more and the actual date was the Seventh of December. While Mrs. Carpenter, our period three weather class aide was the closest to our January 20 snow day, the closest student was again Ashlee Leighton-Bragg with a guess of January seventh. Way to go Ashlee!



SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Freshman Academy will be focusing on global awareness during trimester 3. Students will focus on globalization with an emphasis on the primary elements of economics and geography. Geography will involve the study of where people, places, and things are located and how they relate to one another. Students will focus on the five main themes of geography. In the economics portion students will study how people and societies produce, distribute, and consume goods and services. A major focus of this section is interdependence among nations. Currently students are comparing authoritarian and democratic governments from around the world. Students have taken an in-depth look at Cuba, the United Kingdom, and China.

The Social Studies Department has a new student teacher. Robert Brown is currently a student at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. He finished a behavioral science degree in 2009 and is completing his certification degree in secondary education. His teaching major is social studies/history. Mr. Brown completed his middle school placement at Tremont School in Bass Harbor.



PHYSIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The physical education department introduced pickleball and weight training to our trimester 3 students. Pickleball is an indoor activity similar to the game of tennis where a whiffleball and paddle is used. Students are in the gym one day for pickleball and then they are in the weight room the next day. Benefits of weight training, weight room safety, different exercises and the major muscles those exercises work are all part of the unit. Students are able to develop their own program keeping track on a log sheet.

We hope to introduce archery before heading outside for tennis, golf and lacrosse.



LIBRARY

A new trimester has begun and classes are coming to the library for various research and reading projects. Ms. Shea's Holocaust class came early in the trimester to explore the EHS Libraries' extensive collection of materials on the Holocaust. Ms. Shea's classes often do research papers on the Holocaust but this time they were exploring the library for a book to read about the Holocaust outside of regular class time. Mrs. Macbeth had the students use the new Destiny interactive catalogue to search for a book that would be of particular interest to each student. Some students might like to read about the experiences of children during the holocaust, or the experience of "hiding" during the war. The functions of the Destiny catalogue enhance the students' ability to find an interesting book.

During the third trimester there are three sections of classes on reading "Non-Fiction. Mrs. Conroy has two sections and Mrs. Dewey the third section. Mrs. Conroy's two classes visited the EHS Library to search the libraries collection of 17,000 books for a non-fiction book that was on a topic the student found personally interesting. Mrs. Macbeth has the students each establish a login and password in the new Destiny catalogue. By establishing an account on the Destiny catalogue, a student or faculty member can make lists, recommendations to others, suggest new titles to the librarian, explore like books on a topic and many more functions. Mrs. Dewey's class came to the Library on the following Mon-

day to find that book that had just the right fit for personal interest and practice in reading factual material.



WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

FRENCH

French 2 is finishing up their study of the past tense and is looking forward to their French Food Unit coming up next.

French 3 has begun a study of French History (in French) and will be writing their first paper in the target language on a French person of historical significance. French 4 is in the middle of an exhaustive study of the subjunctive mood, and looks forward to reading *Le Petit Prince* next.

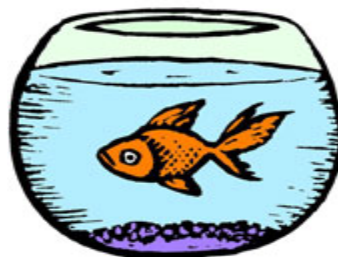


SPANISH

Mrs. Taniashvili's Spanish 1 classes just finished learning about the Spanish words for the house, furniture and yard. As a culminating activity, students worked in pairs to invent a board game based on the idea of some kind of house--all in Spanish. After the games were created, we all played each other's games.



Last trimester Mrs. Corson's Spanish 3B class wrote research papers in Spanish! They did a wonderful job! After handing in their papers, they needed to highlight some of their findings through a fishbowl conversation. There were three separate fishbowls, and an empty seat was left for any other classmate who wished to comment on the discussions. This was much more productive and informative than a typical presentation. Students had to pay attention and give appropriate comments and feedback throughout the class time!



MATH DEPARTMENT

On Sunday, March 14th at 1:59 PM, the world celebrated International Pi Day. Not to be outdone, Geometry students at EHS joined in the fun.

Pi is an important irrational number, approximated by 3.14159.... Since it is both infinitely long and never repeats itself, it is a rather mysterious number. It crops up in all sorts of places but especially in calculating the diameter and area of circles. Pi Day was also Albert Einstein's birthday, strangely enough. Typical celebratory activities on Pi Day include things like memorizing digits of pi, converting pi into music, or writing pi-ku (like haiku, but with pi!). Some people also wear pi clothing. At EHS, we celebrated pi ... with pie! Once again, local area businesses were generous enough to donate everything from banana cream pie to pecan pie to apple pie in order to help with the festivities.

Thanks to the Riverside Café, Sylvia's Café, Shaw's, Hannaford, and a few individuals for making our Pi Day celebrations so sweet!

π

Q: What do you get when you cut a jack o'lantern by its diameter?

* A: Pumpkin Pi!

* Q: What do you get when you take green cheese and divide its circumference by its diameter?

* A: Moon Pi.

* Mathematician: Pi r squared"

* Baker: No! Pies are round, cakes are square!

* Q:What do you get when you take the sun and divide its circumference by its diameter?

* A: Pi in the sky.

