



# Hawk's Eye



Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2008

## Guidance News

### HARTFORD NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

The Hartford National College Fair will be held at the Connecticut Expo Center at the following times:

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Representatives from a variety of colleges/universities will be available as well as information sessions on Educational Opportunities in the Military, Financial Aid and NCAA Clearinghouse Regulations.

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### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Scholarship information is posted on our website [www.cttech.org/vinal](http://www.cttech.org/vinal) under the Guidance and Admissions link. It is updated regularly.

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### SAT PROGRAM TEST CALENDAR

Juniors who are planning to apply to a college/university in their senior year are encouraged to take and SAT exam before the end of their junior year. The exam can be taken more than once and colleges accept the highest scores achieved. The remaining exam dates for this school year are:

May 3, 2008 – Regular registration deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Late registration deadline is April 10<sup>th</sup> (additional fee)

June 7, 2008 – Regular registration deadline is May 6<sup>th</sup>. Late registration deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup> (additional fee)

Students can register for the SAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

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### ASVAB RESULTS

Fifty-three students took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) on February 1<sup>st</sup>. At the end of March students will be given the opportunity to review their scores and learn how their interests, skills and abilities can apply to a career. Students will learn about the steps needed to prepare for a variety of post secondary career paths including continued education, training and job experience.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Two semesters have been completed and with spring upon us, we enter the final trimester. We continue to provide challenging educational opportunities for students each day until the final bell rings in June. Students need all of the uplifting and positive motivation they can get for the remaining months of school and the message to all students is to try their best and to keep going with a positive attitude. The success of our children hinges not only on the teachers and administrators in our school system, but also on you – our student's parents, and guardians.

State CAPT testing is now behind us, and the initial feedback from our students was optimistic. We hope this translates into realistic gains for our students when we get our test results at the end of the year. We know that our teachers worked very hard to deliver excellent instruction to all of our students throughout the year, and our students demonstrated focus during the many days of an extended testing schedule. NOCTI testing for seniors will take place during March and April. Many technologies will be going off campus this year for a more authentic testing process.

Vinal is proud to host the Connecticut Technical High School System SkillsUSA statewide competition on March 28, 2008. Sixty-five of our students qualified to participate, and we hope to bring you the news of our Vinal winners in the near future.

Now that spring has arrived and warmer weather is approaching, we would like to remind students and parents of our high school dress code. Students are not permitted to wear shirts that expose their midriffs or low-cut necklines; nor are they permitted to wear muscle shirts, sandals, or flip-flops. A student's dress shall not include extremely brief garments such as tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps or see-through garments. Students should be advised not to wear very short skirts or shorts.

If a student is observed by an administrator, teacher, or other school personnel wearing inappropriate articles of clothing, he or she will be required to put on something school acceptable from his or her locker. If no acceptable clothing is available, parents will be called to bring suitable clothing to school or to pick up the student. In the event that neither of these solutions is possible, the student will be given an appropriate article of clothing from the office to wear for the day. If the student refuses to comply, disciplinary action will be taken.

Cells and cameras are a very real and growing problem in schools everywhere. Increasingly students are texting each other instead of doing their schoolwork. Some parents are contacting students on cellular phones during the instructional day. I ask parents and relatives for support by telling their child to keep the phone off during the school day and store it. Please call the administrative office phone line to deliver messages of an urgent nature to your son or daughter; please do not disrupt the instructional day for others by calling into classes on cellular lines.

We would like to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning by removing unnecessary distractions. We ask for your help in the enforcement of this policy. If you have any questions, please contact the school. I thank you for your complete cooperation in all school safety matters and procedures which establish the best educational environment for all of our students.

Sheila Fredson, *Principal*

Please visit our school website at:

[www.cttech.org/vinal](http://www.cttech.org/vinal)

For more information on activities and events!

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## COLLABORATIVE LESSON "EVERYDAY USE"

Students in Mrs. Nicholson's sophomore English class recently completed a research project with Library Media Specialist, Ms. Sullivan on the short story, "Everyday Use," and its connection to quilting and the Underground Railroad. This project explores the oral tradition of messages placed in quilts to help runaway slaves escape to the north to become free. Students read "Everyday Use" by Alice Walker and learned about the importance of family traditions and heirlooms. Students researched the African American history of quilting in the United States. They learned the symbols and meaning of many squares such as Bear's Paw, Shoofly, Wagon Wheel and the Monkey Wrench used by slaves following the Underground Railroad. Students worked with a partner to write a three page diary imagining they were slaves escaping to the North to find freedom. Students were directed to use three of the symbols found in quilts in their diary to help their slaves find freedom. The students selected their favorite symbol to become part of the class quilt. Mrs. Green, Vinal's Fiscal Assistant, volunteered to sew the student's quilted squares together to create a class heirloom. Students were excited to learn that Mrs. Green had volunteered to sew the quilt for their class. Mrs. Green is a member of Vinal's Diversity Club and always encourages tolerance and equality to the students at Vinal.

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

**Carpentry** – The Carpentry department has constructed a new doorway facade to complement the entry to the shop. The facade was built by students from each grade level and lighting was installed by students from Electro-Mech. Installed for Career Night, the facade has been finished with a fresh coat of paint displaying Vinal's School Colors.

## ACADEMIC NEWS

**General Education** – Mrs. Nicholson's English classes have been awarded a CAUSE grant to fund a program to connect World Literature to World Music. Professor Dennis Waring of Middletown will present World Music Workshops to four sophomore classes at Vinal on May 15, 2008. He will bring in instruments from all over the world and explain the significance of each instrument to the culture and to the literature of a particular country. Students will be given hands on experience with these instruments and learn the connection between the literature of the culture and the musical instrument. Students will also select an instrument of their choice and play that instrument in a concert by the end of the workshop. Students will then be asked to compose a two page short story featuring the culture and the instrument they found to be the most interesting. A student created instrument or a hand drawn picture of the instrument will be required in addition to the short story. Finally, students will present their short stories and their visuals to their respective classes.

This spring a speaker from the Connecticut Judicial Branch Outreach Program will be visiting Vinal to explain the workings of the court system to students in an informative and more understandable way. Students from tenth grade Civics classes will attend an informative presentation, but they will also have an opportunity to ask questions about how the judicial system works in Connecticut. The focus of the program is about what it means to be on a jury and what responsibilities are involved in performing this important duty.

The Vinal Drama Club will be performing original skits at the Connecticut History Day Contest being held in Manchester on March 29, 2008. The theme of this contest is "conflict and change" in our history. The students who are participating each chose a famous person who fought for change in America. Characters who are being portrayed are from different time periods in American history and fought for the rights and freedoms of all Americans. If our students are successful in this regional contest, they will continue on to the

Finals being held in May. There will be poetry, rap, performing arts, and imaginative skits included in the presentations.

The National Honor Society conducted a successful food drive to benefit the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. This food pantry serves people from surrounding towns as well as Middletown residents. Special thanks go out to the Electrical technology students for their contribution of 283 food items for this worthy cause. Their shop collected more items than any other shop or homeroom. Vinal students continue to show good character and community service through involvement in activities such as this one. Way to go!

## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Student Council continues to collect "**Box Tops for Education**" Please send in your box tops. For more information on this topic visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

## ATHLETIC NEWS

Now that the winter athletic season is behind us, there have been some great things happening at Vinal.

Boys basketball recognized seniors Sean Hall, Dan Bradley and Jeff Roy for their contributions at the last home game against Wilcox Tech. It should be noted they went out on a winning note.

Girls basketball recognized seniors Jen Bordonaro and Amber Henderson. They have been hard workers in Vinal athletics. It should also be noted that this is the first year ever a girls' team has had five wins in a row.

Wrestling said goodbye to seniors Tom DeBaise, Christian Cox and Dave Freemantle. They each have been four year wrestlers for the Hawks. Dave Freemantle receive all-conference honors this year, and Dylan Cruz represented Vinal in the state open.

Vinal Cheerleaders were back on the Vinal sidelines this year during home basketball games. Coach Maniscalco has done a great job this year.

The rifle team continued to be victorious led by seniors Justin Acri, Matt Murray and Gunnar Steinle.

Softball and baseball will be starting their seasons the first week of April. They look forward to fans once again filling the bleachers on our home field and at away games.

## AIR QUALITY IN OUR SCHOOL

In March, Vinal Technical High School began a new program, *Tools for Schools*, to monitor and improve indoor air quality in our school. Vinal Tech is proud to be taking a leadership role in providing a safe, comfortable, and productive environment for our students and staff so that we achieve our core mission – educating students. Our school will follow the EPA guidance to improve our indoor air quality (IAQ) by preventing as many IAQ problems as possible, and by quickly responding to any IAQ problems that may arise. Good air quality requires an ongoing commitment by everyone in our schools because each of us daily makes decisions and performs activities that affect the quality of the air we breathe. The school newsletter will carry progress reports as we learn more about indoor air quality in our school.

## CALENDAR UPDATES

### APRIL

APRIL 2, 2008 – SHORTENED DAY – 12:11 P.M. DISMISSAL

APRIL 14, 2008 TO APRIL 18, 2008 - SPRING BREAK

APRIL 23, 2008 – BUILDING TOUR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

MAY 10, 2008 – SENIOR PROM – WATER’S EDGE

MAY 14, 2008 – BUILDING TOUR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

MAY 16, 2008 – JUNIOR PROM – COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, CROMWELL, CT

MAY 20, 2008 – 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ORIENTATION

MAY 21, 2008 – SHORTENED DAY – 12:11 P.M. DISMISSAL

MAY 26, 2008 – MEMORIAL DAY – NO SCHOOL

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



2008 Vinal Tech Plunging Pirates were winners of the coveted Rockin' Schoolhouse Award for the CT Special Olympics Penguin Plunge



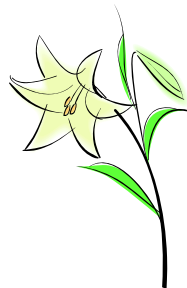
The icy waters of Crystal Lake for the CT Special Olympics Penguin Plunge



Ms. Green and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students with their "Everyday Use" quilt.



The Carpentry Façade *before* the paint job...



....and *after*



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# CONGRATULATIONS VINAL TECH 2008 TEACHER OF THE YEAR JOHN ANDERSON HVAC INSTRUCTOR



## HIGHLIGHTING MR. ANDERSON

- ✓ Currently a member of the United States Air Force/Air National Guard 103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron located in Orange, Connecticut. Serves as an HVAC Technician/Supervisor which includes the mentoring of Jr. Technicians whereby they may perform their jobs to their highest potential.
- ✓ Volunteer as a Shriner, at the Sphinx Shrine in Newington, helping to raise money to support the 22 Shriner's hospitals nationwide which provide free medical care for children with muscular, orthopedic, and burn injuries or sicknesses.
- ✓ Is an AKC Dog Judge and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Boxer breeder and exhibitor. Mentors Junior Handlers (9 to 17 years of age), new pet/show owners to the dog world and other AKC Judges on the Boxer breed.
- ✓ While a two-term Master of Center Lodge, a Masonic Lodge in Meriden, Mr. Anderson became involved with the community by sponsoring the local little league which he continues to support today.
- ✓ A volunteer for the Masonic Home and Hospital in Wallingford. Each New Year's Eve, Mr. Anderson and his wife help provide a special time for all members at the hospital. They bring their puppies to see the members for them to enjoy and bring a little companionship and remembrance for their own pets.
- ✓ Last but certainly not least, Mr. Anderson is an HVAC instructor at Vinal Tech and he strives to instill in his students the difference between right and wrong. He always stresses to do what is right so that they may hold their head up high and walk through life with a sense of pride and accomplishment. He continues to model what is expected in the world of work, in order to secure a job in the HVAC field.

## SKILLSUSA NEWS

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual CT SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference will be taking place on March 28<sup>th</sup> and Vinal is the host school this year. Stay tuned for an update on how our students did by checking the school website after April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The following students qualified to compete this year in trade and leadership competitions.

Jaliall Bailey	Matt Barthel	Shanae Bernard
Roger Boulanger	Lauren Bradley	Dan Bradley
Ashley Brand	Matt Brechlin	Terri Bressler
Nate Cartwright	Heather Conklin	Dan Coe
Christian Cox	Ashley Culbert	Ken Demoranville
Holly Dettore	Jeff DiMattia	Ben Engel
Matt Fassbender	Felisha Gaerner	Rachel Gibbs
Kyle Gilmore	Amber Henderson	Shamar Howard
Derek Hunt	Fredrik Jones	Craig Kaeser
Walter Kenney	Matt Kimball	James Kolman
Nicole Kopyscianski	Valerie Mahar	Anthony Mayeski
Will McBriarty	Micheil McLeod	Joe Meehan
Katelyn Murphy	Matt Murray	Travis Newell
Greg Paholsky	Stephen Palmieri	Chris Paprocki
Ray Ramirez	Stephanie Robinson	Jonn Rodriguez
Samantha Rossitto	Kevin Sibley	Joel Smith
Alex Sprague	Mike Terlizzi	Jeremy Tetrault
Tom Tetrault	Greg Traugh	Dan Varricchio
Brittney Vice	Tom Walczak	Richard Wall
Heather Whiles	Matt Williams	Nate Woolley
Brandon Woolley	Peter Yashura	

## RESULTS OF THE CT SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENGUIN PLUNGE

Fifteen brave students and Mr. D'Ambrose, took on the icy waters of Crystal Lake in Middletown and raised **\$1,938** for CT Special Olympics. Our Vinal Tech Plunging Pirates won the **Rockin' Schoolhouse Award** for their efforts. Way to go Vinal Tech SkillsUSA!!

To contact the SkillsUSA advisors for questions or for more information about our upcoming events please email at: Michele Leahy – [michele.leahy@ct.gov](mailto:michele.leahy@ct.gov)

William Balch – [william.balch@ct.gov](mailto:william.balch@ct.gov)



SkillsUSA Officers and the Build-A-Bears purchased from the proceeds from the Bowl-A-Thon. The bears were presented to new moms on the maternity ward at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. With the proceeds that students raised, 111 bears were purchased and presented to the maternity ward, pediatrics and the new emergency wing at Middlesex Hospital.



Joe Meehan, chapter president with a "new mom"



Community Service always leaves students with a great feeling!