



Hawk's Eye



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October 2008

Guidance News

OPEN HOUSE

An Open House for prospective students and parents/guardians will be held on **Wednesday, November 5, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Technology tours and program information will be available. Families should expect to arrive promptly at 6:00 p.m. for scheduled tours.

FRESHMEN PARENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Our freshmen have been doing a great job in the exploratory program. They will finish Phase Two of the Exploratory Program on December 3, 2008. Our **Freshmen Exploratory Career Selection Night** will be held on **Monday, December 8, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** **The snow date will be Wednesday, December 10, 2008.** We are requesting that all freshmen and their parents attend this important event. Permanent technology selection forms will be distributed at the end of the evening.

COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT FOR 11TH GRADE PARENTS

When: Monday, December 8, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.
Where: Vinal Technical High School Library Media Center
Snow Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.

The Guidance Department will be hosting a college planning night for parents of juniors who are considering college as a post secondary option. Important information will be presented regarding college search, SAT exam, application process, application timelines, scholarships and other relevant topics. Parents of seniors who did not attend last year are welcome to attend. Please contact the guidance office at (860) 344-7100 X313 if you would like to attend.

ASVAB (ARMED SERVICE VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY)

Juniors – SAVE THE DATE – Friday, February 6, 2009

The ASVAB is an interest inventory that covers academic, technology and mechanical abilities. Students can assess their strengths and weaknesses and review potential career opportunities. Interested students can sign up in January.

SAT EXAM SCHEDULE FOR 2008-2009

November 1, 2008	SAT & Subject	September 26, 2008	October 10, 2008
December 6, 2008	SAT & Subject	November 5, 2008	November 18, 2008
January 24, 2009	SAT & Subject	December 26, 2008	January 6, 2009
March 14, 2009	SAT only	February 10, 2009	February 24, 2009
May 2, 2009	SAT & Subject	March 31, 2009	April 9, 2009
June 6, 2009	SAT & Subject	May 5, 2009	April 15, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we begin the new year, it is my pleasure to officially welcome you back to Vinal. Students have had a great opening this year. All students are in compliance with the academic dress code and look focused and school ready each day. Student identification cards have been issued on a lanyard that is also a required part of the dress code. Replacement costs for the ID cards will be \$5.00 and \$1.75 for a lanyard.

To lay the foundation for a learning environment where students feel connected and comfortable, the Vinal community is promoting a respectful school environment. Opening day for faculty and Advisories for students during September focused on developing Codes of Respect we will all strive to achieve.

Back to School Night on September 25th provided parents the opportunity to meet teachers and schedule individual conferences should that be necessary. Parents of freshmen students were invited to meet with the cohort team of core subject teachers for an orientation to the academic programs and curriculum.

The scores on CAPT testing for the class of 2010 and the NOCTI testing for the class of 2008 demonstrate that Vinal students continue to make yearly progress in academics and technologies that is to be commended. Sophomores are currently preparing for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Test which is administered this fall.

Our website is continually updated to keep you informed about school activities, programs and events. We will be including a new informative column in our newsletter, **Parents Make a Difference** that may provide useful information to you.

We hope that your student experiences a year of growth academically, technically, socially and emotionally.

Sheila Fredson, *Principal*

Please visit our school website at:

www.cttech.org/vinal

For more information on activities and events!

PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Research shows that parents' expectations have a huge impact on high school students' achievement. A recent study found that:

- ✓ **Teens strive** to reach parents' expectations of them. If you believe in your teen and expect them to succeed in school, they are likely to have higher academic achievement.
- ✓ **Teens' own expectations** begin to match parents' expectations. If you make it clear to your teen what you expect of them, by saying things like "I believe you can do well in school," they will begin to have the same belief in themselves.
- ✓ **Teens who clearly understand** their parents' expectations spend more time on homework.

So how can you use this information to help your child? You can:

- ✓ **Talk to your teen** about what you expect them to achieve this school year – and then what they expect to achieve.
- ✓ **Set attainable goals** with your child – such as improving their grade in history.
- ✓ **Discuss the future.** Compare your dreams for your teen with their dreams. Talk about potential careers or college plans. Tell them that you support them and they can succeed in whatever they choose to do.

Source: Evanthis N. Patikakou, "Adolescence: Are Parents Relevant to Students' High School Achievement and Post-Secondary Attainment?" FINE Network at Harvard Family Research Project www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

CADD – Lauren Bradley, 11th grade CADD student worked on a very important project for the Connecticut Technical High School System. Working with CADD Department Head and Instructor, David Herrington and Scott Petras, Lauren was involved with the initial design and development of a new technical offering named **Facilities Management** which will be offered at J.M. Wright Technical High School in Stamford during the 2009/2010 school year.

Electrical – 10th and 11th grade students had a visit on Friday, October 3, 2008 from WFSB Channel 3 reporter Heather Hegedus. Ms. Hegedus came to Vinal to tape a segment that will air in November on Channel 3 concerning **Appliance and Electrical Safety**. The segment will cover appliance safety for items such as old lamps, heaters, hair dryers, and curling irons. With the winter months coming, Ms. Hegedus was interested in old space heaters that people sometimes use, Mr. Zisk and Mrs. Juan enlightened her as to the safety issues concerning appliances that are old or overused and what a person should look out for and expect. Exact air dates have not been established, but please check our school website in the coming weeks for information concerning the news segment.

ACADEMIC NEWS

Related Education

Enrichment Speakers for Vinal's Math Courses

By Susan Kohnowich

As part of an enrichment program in mathematics at Vinal Technical High School, speakers from area businesses and industry will be invited to speak to students on topics related to the math curriculum. To date, two speakers have come into the school.

The first speaker, Professor Steve Krevisky, spoke on math and baseball to Mrs. Kohnowich's Advanced Algebra 2 classes. Students learned about empirical probability, by computing batting averages and on-base averages. After computing these averages, the discussion moved to predicting how long the next World Series will be. These predictions were done using inferential statistics, and decisions on past data. The presentation was enjoyed by all and Professor Krevisky added many baseball statistics to this lively discussion. Professor Krevisky is Professor of Mathematics at Middlesex Community College, former president of the Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges of CT, and coordinator of the CT system-wide math contest for several years.

The second speaker, Mrs. Rosa Carrero, from Liberty Bank, spoke on banking and managing your money to Mr. Arena's and Mrs. Kohnowich's Math Applications 2 classes. Students in these classes are all seniors and topics presented to this group will be related to improving their financial literacy. Many of these young people will soon be on their own and will need these skills for their new life as an adult.

The expertise of these and future speakers is greatly appreciated by both the staff and students at Vinal Technical High School. Connecting to the community help students to develop a fuller understanding of topics and shows how their learning really connects to the real world.

General Education

The General Education Department has some exciting activities planned for Vinal students. In keeping with our tradition of attending quality local theater performances, three field trips have been planned by the English faculty. For juniors enrolled in English III: American Literature, a field trip to see **Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**, has been planned for November 18th at the Goodspeed Opera House. For seniors enrolled in English IV: World Literature, a field trip to see **A Christmas Carol** at The Hartford Stage has been planned for December. In February, **To Kill a Mockingbird** is also playing at The Hartford Stage, and we are planning to take Vinal students to see the performance. The plays will enhance students' understanding of the novels they read in their respective English classes, and it will demonstrate how the events and the characters from the novels can be transposed to a theater format.

Mock Election

All Vinal students will be participating in a mock Presidential election on October 28th. Students will vote in the Computer Resource Room, as part of an informed decisions program advocated by the Youth Leadership Initiative in conjunction with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Our students are becoming informed in their social studies classes about the key issues of the upcoming election, the stance of the candidates on the issues, and the importance of voting in a democratic nation. Democracy; it is up to us to choose who will lead our nation.

Veterans Day

On November 10th, Vinal students will honor veterans in a solemn ceremony after homeroom. All students will gather around the flag pole on the front field to observe a Military Color Guard raise our American flag. Mr. John McLeod, Micheil's father, will play the bugle to honor our fallen veterans. Mr. Anderson, a member of the Army National Guard who has served two tours of duty in Iraq, will be the keynote speaker at the event. Matt Kimball, President of the Senior Class, will also speak at the Veteran's Day Celebration.

ATHLETIC NEWS

- ✓ The Cross Country team had its first home meet at our new course located at Wesleyan. Travis Cozzi set the course record that day by finishing first in a meet with Wilcox Tech.
- ✓ V/C football is 1 and 2 with home opener on Oct 10 vs Stafford. All home games are played at Palmer Field.
- ✓ The Homecoming game is on 10/31 followed by the Homecoming Dance on 11/1 at Coginchaug HS.
- ✓ The Boy's soccer team is off to a good start at 3-2. Dylan Cruz and Will Mallave have been playing well for the Hawks.
- ✓ Girls soccer is as competitive as always in the CSC. Felisha Garner and Jasmy Passinese have been playing well for the Lady Hawks.
- ✓ The volleyball team is 2-5 at this time, but Coach Juan expects the Lady Hawks to make a run for the conference tournament.
- ✓ There will be a rifle team meeting on Oct 16th. Sign-ups will be in the gym for students that are interested.
- ✓ Reminder to parents and students: **The school is no longer providing sports physicals.** It is up to you to get the proper paper work filled out to participate in Vinal Athletics. See the school nurse or call Dave Curtis AD at 344-7100 x 342 if you have any questions.

PFO NEWS

Our next PFO meeting will be held on Wednesday of November 12th, in the school library at 6:30 p.m.

Fundraising:

- ✓ Order forms for our annual Butterbraids sale will be coming home with students on October 15th and will also be available on the school website. Orders must be in by October 31st and will be available for pickup on November 13th.
- ✓ Our Holliday Poinsettia sale will begin on November 3rd with pickup on Saturday, November 22nd.
- ✓ Script order forms will be available on the website shortly also.
- ✓ Please remember we are collecting empty ink cartridges and used cell phones which we are able to redeem for fundraising.

Please support the Vinal Technical High School Parent Faculty Organization, Your support is essential to help us provide scholarships and programs for your children.

WORK BASED LEARNING CORNER

Eligible students requiring information about Work Based Learning should see Mr. Faenza.

Featured Website for this issue:

http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/travel/job.html

Make sure your teen's job is safe by visiting this website

****Any parent who would like a resource guide on CT Career Paths may request one by contacting Mr. Faenza at (860) 344-7100 Ext. 305 or 437****

For information on Workplace Rules for Kids in School please visit the following website:

www.ct.gov/dol

The following is a list of students who are presently on WBL privileges:

- Chris Anderson – 12th Grade Automotive – L & S Automotive, Plantsville, CT
- Matt Barthel – 12th Grade CADD – Standard Knapp Inc., Portland, CT
- Evan Basso – 12th Grade Manufacturing – Hobson & Motzer, Durham, CT
- Matt Brechlin – 12th Grade Manufacturing – Standard Knapp Inc., Portland, CT
- Rob Domenico – 12th Grade CADD – Infiltrator Systems, Old Saybrook, CT
- Matt Fassbender – 12th Grade Electrical – Whelen Engineering, Deep River, CT
- Jack Griswold – 12th Grade Automotive – Classic Auto, East Hampton, CT
- Brandon Hood – 12th Grade Manufacturing – EB Manufacturing, Middletown, CT
- Derek Hunt – 12th Grade Culinary – Pavilion Catering, Middletown, CT
- Matt Kimball – 12th Grade Electrical – Billy Z's Electric, Portland, CT
- Kevin Malloy – 12th Grade Electrical – Professional Electric of CT – Norwood, MA
- Dan Pabst – 12th Grade CADD – Bell Power Systems, Essex, CT
- Tatjana Parrish – 12th Grade Manufacturing – Andrade-Ashworth/DBA Precision Machine, Westbrook, CT
- Ray Ramirez – 12th Grade IST – Wire Associates International, Guilford, CT
- Jim SanSevero – 12th Grade Collision Repair – Middletown Toyota, Middletown, CT
- Kyle Sarrazin – 12th Grade Electrical – Portland Public Schools, Portland, CT
- Adam Schenk – 12th Grade Manufacturing – Abstract Tool Inc., Portland, CT
- Michael Schofield – 12th Grade Electromechanical – Whelen Engineering, Deep River, CT
- Charles Schwab – 12th Grade Automotive – East Rock Auto Repair, New Haven, CT
- Chase White – 12th Grade Manufacturing – Hobson & Motzer, Durham, CT
- Matt Williams – 12th Grade Carpentry – Nobile Construction – Branford, CT

FROM THE DESK OF SANDRA BUTLER, SOCIAL WORKER

The following group activities and programs are being offered to our students at Vinal this year:

“Check-In and Connect” continues to be offered this year.

To better meet the needs of our students, we offer a voluntary “Check-In and Connect” Program to match a student with one faculty member in the school. This weekly check-in provides a more individualized focus on the student's school performance and goals.

Our **“Teen Share Program”** will begin again this year. Our students volunteer to participate in a discussion group 1 period each week for 7 weeks. “Teen Share” is a “Voluntary” educational/ discussion group focusing on teaching healthy alternatives to violence at school by promoting the value of diversity, a positive self-image, respect for self and others, self-advocacy, healthy relationships, understanding personal boundaries, conflict resolution and effective communication.

A **“Smoking Cessation Group”** is continuing to be offered for those students who choose to participate in a 7 week curriculum to reduce and/or eliminate their smoking habit.

Freshmen Transition Groups are provided in September and October to help our 9th graders get acclimated to our school.

Behavior Intervention Groups are also provided in September and October to assist our 9th graders to learn new strategies and coping skills for school success.

A **Senior/Freshmen Mentoring Program** will also begin this month.

The mentoring program will provide various opportunities for each recommended senior mentor to interact and assist with a small group of freshmen mentees to help ease their transition to Vinal THS.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these programs please call the Social Worker, Sandra Butler @ 860-344-7100 ext 311.



SKILLSUSA NEWS

SkillsUSA is off to a booming start. Newly elected slate of officers are now in place for the 2008/2009 school year. Many activities are planned for the year and the officers are ready to lead the way.

The officers for the 2008/2009 school year are:

President – Matt Kimball
Co-Vice-President – Ray Ramirez
Co-Vice-President – Jonathan Rodriguez
Treasurer – Breanne Hunt
Secretary – Holly Dettore
Reporter – Jonathan Holmes
Historian – Rachel Gibbs
Parliamentarian – Micheil McLeod

Matt Kimball and Ray Ramirez also serve as CT State SkillsUSA officers. Matt is our state president and Ray is our state secretary.

SkillsUSA Membership

Students at Vinal Tech are all members of SkillsUSA made possible through a Total Participation Grant. This means that each student at Vinal has their National and State dues paid through the grant and this make it possible for more student involvement. SkillsUSA is a great organization for your son/daughter to be involved with. Our national Program of Work consists of:

- Professional Development
- Community Service
- Employment Opportunities
- Ways and Means
- SkillsUSA Championships
- Public Relations
- Social Activities

For more information about SkillsUSA please visit the national website at www.skillsusa.org. Watch for our school website to be updated soon with all of our SkillsUSA activities scheduled for the school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SKILLSUSA

- November 1, 2008 to November 15, 2008 – Entertainment Book Sales** – Students can obtain order forms from Mr. Balch for the Entertainment 2009 books. Orders can be taken for either the Hartford or New Haven edition.
- November 20, 2008 – Officer Installation Ceremony**
- November 21, 2008 – American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 7:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the gym
- November 21 and 24, 2008 – Holiday Food Baskets** – Community Service activity with the American Red Cross – 20 students each day will be needed to assist in sorting food and making baskets for the Thanksgiving holiday for families in need in our community. Interested students can sign up with Mrs. Leahy beginning November 12th.
- November 25, 2008 – Holiday Movie Time in the gym** – Tickets will be sold for \$3.00 each and will be on sale starting November 18th during all lunches.
- December 23, 2008 – Holiday Movie Time in the gym** – Tickets will be sold for \$3.00 each and will be on sale starting December 15th during all lunches.

To contact the SkillsUSA advisors for questions or for more information about our upcoming events please email at:

Michele Leahy – michele.leahy@ct.gov

William Balch – william.balch@ct.gov



SkillsUSA Blood Drive – 9/25/08
Pictured left to right: Holly Dettore,
Freddy Weber and Breanne Hunt



SkillsUSA officers attend the High
School Blood Conference on 9/26/08



A student giving the gift of life!



CALENDAR UPDATES

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 13, 2008 – No SCHOOL – COLUMBUS DAY

OCTOBER 14, 2008 – No SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OCTOBER 31, 2008 – SHORTENED DAY FOR STUDENTS – DISMISSAL 12:03 P.M.

OCTOBER 31, 2008 – HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME – PALMER FIELD, MIDDLETOWN – 6:30 P.M.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1, 2008 – HOMECOMING DANCE – COGINCHAUG HIGH SCHOOL – 6:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER 4, 2008 – No SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 5, 2008 – OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS – 6:00 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

NOVEMBER 7, 2008 – SHORTENED DAY – DISMISSAL 12:03 P.M.

NOVEMBER 11, 2008 – No SCHOOL – HOLIDAY – VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 26, 2008 – SHORTENED DAY – DISMISSAL 12:03 P.M.

NOVEMBER 27 & 28, 2008 – HOLIDAY – THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO SCHOOL

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Mrs. Rosa Carrero from Liberty Bank in Mrs. Kohnowich's Math Applications 2 class



Mr. Zisk and Heather Hegedus from WFSB Channel 3



Pictured left to right: Heather Hegedus, Mr. Zisk, Faith Valli, Greg Paholski, Richard Wall, Travis Cozzi and Mrs. Juan



Celebration of Reading

