

Suffield High School

May, 2012

From the Principal...



Dear Parents and Friends:

We are in the “home stretch” at Suffield High School, with graduation less than a month away and with a dizzying amount of good news to report! Indeed, it is the season to celebrate the accomplishments of our students throughout the year.

Congratulations go to Emma Sikes, our valedictorian, and Lara Maleyeff, our salutatorian, for the Class of 2012. Natalie Hitt and Dan Maroney have been chosen to receive the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leadership Award. Kim Mai and Steven Roncaioli were recently honored by the Connecticut Association of Schools for receiving the Scholar Athlete Award and Peri Stevens and Brendan Kirschbaum were named the CAS Art Scholars. The recipients of this year’s Rotary Youth Leadership Awards are Bessie Wilson and Ben Gee. Paul Armata and Hannah Gardocki were selected from 150 of last year’s participants to go to Wisconsin next month along with ten other students representing the east coast region in the World Affairs seminars. Never before have two students been selected from the same school, so Suffield is standing proud! We will be celebrating many more awards and recognitions at our upcoming Underclassmen Awards program on June 4th at 6:30pm, Senior Scholarship Night on June 14th at 6:00pm and Senior Banquet on June 7th at 6:00pm at Oak Ridge Country Club.

Our Robotics team enjoyed another successful year, ending their season last month at the quarter finals at the regional competition in Hartford. Our team brought home the Cooperation Award, having earned the most points for demonstrating the ability to cooperate with other opposing teams. FIRST Robotics focuses on developing skills in science and technology as well as cooperation with others.

Our students performed *Once Upon a Mattress* earlier this month which was a huge success! In the tradition of Suffield drama, the casting was excellent, the set impressive, and the preparation and performance superb. The musical numbers, complimented by the student-choreographed dance numbers, completed the production for an all-around fantastic show!

This year, we have begun a new Model United Nations Club, initiated by students and advised by our own (retired) Mr. Katulka. Our group attended a conference in Trumbull, Connecticut on May 12th and represented five different nations (Mauritius, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Libya, and Uruguay.) The conference was centered on the issue of human trafficking and how the "United Nations" should address it. Student debate was the central activity, and was intense and fast-paced. This was Suffield High School's first ever Model UN conference and we were pleased

with our results when the conference ended. Ben Gee received an "Honorable Mention" award for his performance at the conference.

On Saturday May 12th the second annual Athletic department road race was run in West Suffield. All of the proceeds from the race will be donated to the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America. Fifty one runners participated in the event. Dan Moroney was the overall winner with a time of 16:51 on the 5K course. Marisa Packard, Mike Bosworth and Joe Sinicrope organized the event.

Our spring athletic season is shaping up very well. Girls Tennis is currently placed in the top three teams in the NCCC. After graduating seven players of a ten-player line-up last year, the few returning veteran players and a whole crop of new and enthusiastic players have risen to the occasion, forming the nucleus of a strong team for years to come and following the rich tradition of a successful Suffield tennis program. We have qualified for the state tournament. Our softball team is doing well with a 12-3 record so far which puts us in 3rd place in the conference. Our pitcher, Meghan Maliga, is batting an astounding .538 and has an ERA of 1.00. Our baseball team has met their goal of making it to the state tournament for the second consecutive year. Our defense and our pitching have improved, allowing us to be in every game and maintain a consistent level of competition. Liam Brown (tennis) and Kim Mai (golf) have been named Athletes of the Month for May

Finally, I would like to share with you that Suffield High School will be piloting a new addition to our fourth quarter report cards. You will note a second page to our report card mailing this June, with a standards-based report to inform you of your student's progress toward demonstrating mastery in each of our seven Academic Expectations. Students are assessed through multiple opportunities throughout the year, with a cumulative mean average (on a 0 – 4 rubric scale) being reported to you. Our Academic Expectations and school-wide rubrics used to assess student performance in those areas can be found in our Program of Studies which is posted on our website. Please note that this first report will be for informational purposes only, will only apply to grades 9 – 11, and does not impact honor roll or the student's quality point average. In general, students should demonstrate growth over their four years at Suffield High School toward a performance level appropriate for a graduating senior. Hence, freshmen and sophomores will typically receive beginning-level scores; this is to be considered "normal" and not a cause for concern. More information will be sent home with the report cards. Please feel welcome to call guidance or the main office if you have questions.

The calendar of events for the next month until graduation is packed! Please see our website for details – we hope to see you at many of our upcoming celebrations right up to graduation on June 16th.

Respectfully,

Donna L. Hayward