

# *Suffield High School*

## *February 2013*

### *From the Principal...*



Although it is hard to believe, the end of winter may actually come. Already, I am noticing that the days are a little longer, the sun (when it shines) a little warmer. As ever, it has been a busy month at Suffield High School.

Course selections are in and we have begun crafting the schedule for the 2013-14 school year. Our early approach to this task helps us to be more accurate in communicating our needs to the Board of Education during the budget season. It also helps us to tailor our program to best meet the needs of all students.

We are celebrating several student recognitions this month, including the Suffield High School Debate Team who finished their season in perfect form. They swept the Connecticut Valley Debate League, winning the Varsity trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place! Suffield also took first place for the best speaking team, best speakers 1-4 and first in novice for win-loss and team speaking. Every student from Suffield took home a winning trophy. This is the second year in a row that Suffield has had two teams debating in the championship round. Laura Stursberg and Gianna Bodnar took 1<sup>st</sup> place and best speaking team; Jamie and Taylor Stephen took 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Amanda Pine and Cassidy Anthony won 3<sup>rd</sup> place plus top speakers; Stephanie Javarauckus and Divya Subramanian took 4<sup>th</sup> place with Stephanie also earning the top speaker award; Michelle Pine and Priya Mehta won first place novice and top speaking novice team.

Continuing with student recognitions, Kellen McGann and Lorenzo Maisano were named CAS Art Scholars and will be honored at an awards ceremony at the Aquaturf in the spring. Katherine Silva was named a National Merit finalist. She is one of the 16,000 Semifinalists named in September 2012 who has met all requirements to advance to the finalist standing in the competition. All finalists will be considered for National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2013. Ryan Englander has been honored with a President's Volunteer Service Award for his exemplary volunteer service. This award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and country. Ryan participated in the Spirit of Community program this year as a representative of SHS.

In the world of athletics, the boys and girls basketball teams both qualified for the NCCC and State tournaments. Our wrestling team had eight wrestlers qualify for the state tournament. The dance and cheerleading teams will be competing at Ellington High School on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in a dance and cheerleading competition. Our hockey team needs to win just two more games to qualify for the state tournament. Our boys and girls indoor track teams have had very successful seasons. Last, but not least, our boys swim team has had one swimmer qualify for the state tournament while three swimmers are very close to qualifying.

We are actively preparing for CAPT testing in the coming weeks. Much information has already been sent out to parents under separate cover, but please keep an eye on our website as we will post the schedule, any changes, and additional information (if needed) as testing progresses.

Finally, I would like to remind parents of an important safety issue. It is very important that all drivers dropping off students in the morning follow our established traffic patterns. Student drop-off is to occur in the loop at the front of the school (i.e. take a right after pulling into the main driveway.) Please **do not pull up to the main entrance**. While slightly more convenient for students being dropped off, the practice of pulling up to the main entrance and then having to drive across pedestrian walkways and through a parking lot full of students hurrying into school represents a danger to our students! We appreciate your cooperation in this important safety matter.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration of SHS, we wish you well during these final days of winter. Think spring!

Respectfully,

*Donna L. Hayward*

## **SUFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Class of 2015 Fundraiser** is scheduled for the weeks of March 11-15 and March 18-22. This St. Patrick's Day fundraiser will include the sale of flowers and baked goods and take place during the school day.

**Winter Sports Awards** is scheduled for March 14 at 6:30 p.m. in our auditorium.

**Volleyball Marathon** sponsored by the National Honor Society will take place on March 15-16 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the tournament will begin at 9 p.m. Teams are chosen by lottery once the completed packets *and T-shirt forms* are approved by NHS advisors. Packets should be picked up from and returned to Mr. Casolari. Students are not allowed to leave once they enter the premises. No glass bottles are allowed.

**ASVAB Testing** is scheduled on March 21. Contact our Guidance Department for more information.

**World Language Week** occurs during the week of March 18. This year's theme is "Languages Bring Us Across The World." Various activities, including the door decorating contest, a competition between the advisory groups, and a Guest Panel, an all-day event on March 22 during which students and teachers will share their world experiences of studying or traveling abroad, are being planned by the World Language Department.

**World Language Honor Society** ceremony is scheduled for March 21 from 6:30-8:30. High academic excellence in French and Spanish will be recognized when twelve French students and twenty-eight Spanish students will be inducted.

**Freshman/Sophomore Semi-formal** is scheduled for March 22 from 7 – 10:30pm.

**Professional Development** will take place on April 1 for teachers. Therefore, there is no school that day for students.