THE MESSENGER

Volume I Issue II

SHS Spotlight

Getting to Know Ms. Gina Petrone

Editor-in-Chief
Joe Barnes

Q. What factors motivated you to apply for your position?

- I'm from Suffield originally, so I thought it would be really neat to teach in my hometown. I also had been teaching middle school for the past few years and was dying to get back to high school!

Q. Where were you previously employed?

- Springfield Public Schools

Q. Where did you attend high school? College?

- Suffield Academy for high school, Westfield State University for undergrad, and UMass for grad school

Q. If you attended college, what did you major in?

- I majored in English and Education with a Masters in English.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish here at Suffield High School? Short term goals? Long term goals?

- I want to push my students to be all that I know they can be, and be an active member of the community.

Q. What do you look forward to most here at SHS?

- I look forward to teaching things that are new and exciting that I have never taught before.

Q. What are your likes/dislikes of being a teacher?

- My likes are seeing lightbulbs go off in my student's heads when they finally get something and my dislikes are grading essays!

Q. What are your likes/dislikes of Suffield High School?

- There are too many likes to list!

Q. Did you always want to work in a school system?

- No, I thought I was going to be an animator.

Q. If so, was high school your intended teaching range?

- Yes, once I decided to teach I knew high school was my perfect age range.

Q. Where did you grow up?
- Good old Suffield

Q. Can you describe your daily routine of your typical work day?
- I float between 5 different classrooms, write articles for the town newspaper for the school, and am an advisor for The Messenger and Orpheus.

Q. What is the strangest thing that has happened to you or that you have seen on the job?
- Well I used to work in Springfield, so I've seen many strange things.

Q. What are your recreational activities when you are not at school?
- I like going to the movies, reading, and playing video games.

Q. What has been your favorite school activity so far?
- I really enjoyed Spirit Night!

Q. What is your most embarrassing memory at school, either while attending or while employed?
- I embarrass myself on a daily basis, such as spilling tea on myself literally every day.

RESULTS OF NHS TOYS FOR TOTS AND TEENS DRIVE

The following classes reached 100%:

Radziewicz
Kaufmann
Casolari
Kessler
Fischer
Haefner
Kruk
Shultis
Casinghino
Efland

Winning class was Ms. Radziewicz with over 200% participation!
We raised about $ 4,600.00 in toys and cash, thank you so much for your contributions.

Suffield's First Year of Unified Basketball

This is the first year for Unified Basketball at Suffield. We have 4 athletes and around 20 helpers. Our first game was against Windsor Locks at WL on 2/4/15. Recently we had a home game against Ellington and Stafford on 2/10/15. Both teams did very well during this friendly competition. Everyone was upbeat and enthusiastic. We appreciate the dedicated staff for putting together this great program and cannot wait to see it grow from here.

We had another home game on 2/19/15 at 4pm at Suffield versus Somers. The season will end with a league wide Unified Basketball Tournament on 3/7/15 at Coventry High School at 10am. There will be 6 different schools competing in this all day tournament. We hope to see SHS students come out and support us out on the court!

*See following page for photos.

Volleyball Marathon

Contributing Reporter
Dennis Akpinar

Volleyball Marathon, or VBM as many call it, is a competitive night of 28 teams battling for the coveted title of VBM Champion. This is event is run by National Honor Society. It is an effort to raise scholarship money for their members. Teams consist of an assortment of individuals ranging from grades 9 to 12. Teams are made of 8-10 players. The event takes place during the dark hours of SHS. The process starts at 9:00 PM at the entrance. There, chaperones and the Suffield PD wait at the entrance with batons and flashlights. Every person and their belongings are conducted in a thorough investigation for drugs and alcohol. Once you pass the TSA style check point, the commons become your home for the night. It is completely cleared with tape marking out each team's individual quarters. Unfortunately, not every team made it in the tournament.

The process for entering starts with a packet. The team captains get them from Mr. Casolari and then distributes the permission slips to the teammates they have chosen. Each team has to pay $125. In addition, teams must have shirts for their entire team saying their team name and player number. This is another cost that must be carried out elsewhere like online or the mall. In most cases the fee is split among the team to lighten the burden. There isn't a first come first serve basis with handing in the packet and money. A deadline is set for the teams that want to enter. Once this date has passed, each packet gets a raffle ticket and is drawn to see if they have been entered. If a team isn't picked, they do not get to play.

(Continued on page 7)

Top left: John Zawawi and Ariana Mueller
Top right: Jack Moriarty and Katie Dorman
Bottom right: Travis McCray and James Mark

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SHS Indoor Track Results

Staff Reporter
Holly Corcoran

Girls Indoor Track:

Here is a recap of the conference meet. Our medal winners are:
Girls: Team finished 3rd place
Girls 4x400 first place: Lauren Izabel, McKayla Hoover, Kira Bourret, Kaitlin Girardini
Girls Sprint Medley Relay 4th place: Kira Bourret, Caitie Kirschbaum, Caelee Sorto, Gloria Peters
Lauren Izabel: 1st place 1600, 2nd place 100m
Kaitlin Girardini: 4th place in the 600m
Kira Bourret: 6th place 55m
McKayla Hoover: 6th place 300m
Katie Baker: 4th place 3200, 4th place 1000m
Erin McGann 2nd place shot put
Meaghan Clark: 2nd place pole vault

State Entries:
Girls 4x800: Monique LaBarre, Lauren Izabel, Kaitlin Girardini, McKayla Hoover, Caitie Kirschbaum, Katie Baker
Girls 4x400: Lauren Izabel, McKayla Hoover, Kira Bourret, Kaitlin Girardini
Girls SMR: Lauren Izabel, McKayla Hoover, Kira Bourret, Kaitlin Girardini
Girls 1600: Monique LaBarre
55m: Bourret
1000m: Katie Baker, Kirschbaum
3200: Katie Baker
Pole Vault: Clark
Shot: McGann
Long Jump: Sorto

Boy's Indoor Track:

Recap of NCCC:
4x800 fifth place: Alek Cotnoir, Justin Walch, Zac Guilmette, Ryan Girardini
Jordan McCray: 2nd in 55H, 6th long jump, 5th high jump
Tom Rigby: 3rd in 1000m
Walch 5th in 1600
SMR: 4th: Ethan Cashman, Alek Cotnoir, Jake Arciszewski, Tom Rigby
4x400: 6th: Rigby, Cotnoir, Walch, Noah Gee

State competitors:
1000m: Thomas Rigby
4x400: Justin Walsh, Thomas Rigby, Jordan McCray, Jake Arciszewski
SMR: Alek Cotnoir, Jordan McCray, Justin Walch, Thomas Rigby.
55 Hurdles: McCray

Boy's Swim Team:

After a brutal start, the small team of about 12 swimmers, every single boy has personal best times. States is held later in March followed by State Finals. All relays go to State Finals regardless of time.

State Qualifiers:
Matt Winters: 200 Freestyle
Kinser Bonnor: 100 Fly
Adam Hart: 100 Free

VBM (Cont'd)

Inside, the teams that have been entered, settle down for the night while the chaperones walk around making sure there isn't any trouble. The brackets have already been decided and the first set of matches begin. It follows the process throughout the night. Teams travel in and out of the gym. There is a break that varies in time from year to year. Food is ordered, usually pizza, and everyone digs in for their replenishment of energy. The food was paid in part by the fees that were paid. From there, the matches continue until a team is crowned victorious. Meanwhile, if your team is out, you must stay to the end. At 6:00 A.M, the event concludes and everyone leaves either a winner or a loser, happy or sad, tired or energetic.

Test Your Knowledge!
Trivia Questions

GEOGRAPHY

What is the world's highest waterfall?

ART

What important piece of art was stolen and kept under a bed until it was returned to the Louvre Museum?

HISTORY

What hurricane caused in 2005 the greatest money loss to the United States?

SCIENCE

What is etymology?

SPORTS

When did the FIFA World Cup take place in the USA?

ENTERTAINMENT

What was the address Dory was looking for on Finding Nemo?

History: Catrina Geography: Angel Falls, Science: The study of word origin Sports: 1994 Entertainment: P. Sherman 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney

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Hoping for Sunny Days with the Sun

Editor-in-Chief
Joe Barnes

Winter is nice for December holiday festivities. It marks the beginning of a new season, of beauty, and of joy. By now, however, it marks darkness, coldness, and bareness. In an effort to keep all eyes on the future and to the nearby warm weather, this animal's name is a reminder to what everyone craving about now- the Sun.

The Sun Bear is named for a yellow, bib-shaped patch of fur on its chest. According to legend, the patch represents the rising sun. Sun bears can be found basking in the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia, and their territory ranges from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, among other countries and provinces in Southeastern Asia.

They are the smallest bear species, standing at four feet with a 2 inch long tail. Their facial features, including small ears, a small muzzle, and overall stockiness, have earned this bear the nickname of the "Dog Bear." Even their fur coat is short to prevent overheating, much like many dog breeds. The Malay name for Sun Bear translates to "He who likes to sit high."

The Bear-Who-Likes-to-Sit-High is actually a nocturnal mammal. What it cannot see it make up for with its astonishing sense of smell. Sun Bears travel through forests to find small birds, rodents, berries, twigs, insects, and other typical bear food. Another commodity for this bear is bee honey, for which the bears have long tongues to reach in the hive and lick the honey out. The most fearsome part of these bears are their four-inch long claws, but they are used to tear open trees or termite nests, not humans or houses.

Despite the unthreatening demeanor of the Sun Bear, the survival of the species is threatened. Homelands are being lost a rampant rate due to deforestation. The deforestation, in effect, is caused by illegal logging industries and plantational developments. They are hunted and poached for their body parts- fur and gall bladder in particular- in the belief that they have medicinal properties. Scientists have, in fact, proven, that they do not. Sadly, nursing mothers are killed so people can steal the cubs and raise them as pets. Fortunately, the World Wildlife Fund is working with local communities and government organizations to preserve the habitat of the Sun Bear and to prevent further crimes against this animal.

THE MESSENGER

Never Too Early For Spring Fashion

Contributing Reporter
Katie McDonough

Whether its Couture from Barney's New York or a new hue from Nordstrom, no matter the weather, it is never too early to discuss the do's and don'ts of Spring's new fashion line. If you're a trendsetter or trend-doer, brace yourself for the best 2015 Spring collection of your life. New key pieces, best looks and universal fashion tips for all women interested in the fashion industry. The Fashion business is at once the most visible and overlooked of cultural sectors. Malls, private city schools, television shows and high-class runways are filled with people striving to make a fashion statement - some extreme, some expensive, some completely irrelevant. This Spring fashion statement is influential to the world, which is society's first mistake in not understanding. The trends set for Spring of 2015 intend to send a message - continually remaining an important component of our culture.

Updating your wardrobe in Spring of 2015 will help define and shape your popular culture. The last few years have provided numerous examples of the influence fashion wields in shaping society's attire. Netflix shows such as Gossip Girl and prominent movies such as 50 Shades of Grey had, since their beginning, spawned fashion trends, but are increasingly institutionalizing their fashion influence. "Such models that display this one in four season wardrobe host their own television shows, open restaurants, and star in movies". All-fashion programs are making their appearance on cable stations and all-fashion networks are even emerging.

Personally, with such an anticipated positive outcome for this line of clothing, one can only assume that its reach and influence have extended to younger consumers. Children provide an emerging market for the fashion world, and prove an increasingly lucrative one. According to one study directed towards teens and preteens: Children are more susceptible to peer pressure and fashion fads than adults; their increasing purchase power is a sure sign that fashion advertising - will target more and more marketing efforts toward children. As fashion grows more influential, it will direct its statements toward the more easily influenced.

Despite the potential to be easily swayed or pressured, one should not miss out on the new opportunities and experiments present during this years Spring collection. Leather trench totes, cropped pants, stacked heels and Spanish inspired sun hats are few of the many items you might not want to miss. Research, save up and purchase those items that make your Spring wardrobe 'fab' not 'drab.'

(Continued on next page)

Although your new style may not be directly benefited by these unforgettable trends, embrace chic, especially the easy pieces and then mix it up with a statement shoe. It's a recipe for pull-together charm. True American fashion has its heart in well-designed solids, plaids, stripes and patterns with a preppy, boho or a pure American bend.

Ladies, it's that time of year again. Say goodbye to your heavy bean boots and hello to your Jcrew T-strap sandals. Take full advantage of these trends before its next fall already. Remember, be confident in your clothes, you wear it best. As Marc Jacobs would say, "Clothes mean nothing until someone lives in them."

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS AND WISHES

SHS Students and Staff:

"Manage my time better and go to the gym more. I hope to make the best of this year and have fun!"

"Stop eating junk food."

"Drink more water!"

"Spend more quality time with friends and family."

"Be more organized."

"Do things on time!"

"I'm gonna **cut** my hair finally!" -Mr.Janick (fake)

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The Luck o' the Irish

Editor-in-Chief
Joe Barnes

Dia duit! May the luck o' the Irish be with you on March 17 this year! Dia duit is "hello" in Irish Gaelic. This festive mood can only be caused by a certain day, which happens on March 17; St. Patrick's Day!

St. Patrick's Day is commonly celebrated by the Irishmen, both in their home country and here in the United States for over one-thousand years. The day is in honor of the Saint's death in the fifth century. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Irish. He was not, however, of Irish descent. Nevertheless, his hard work and integrity throughout Ireland made him famous.

Born in the late fourth century, St. Patrick was born in Scotland or Roman England, depending on the version of history. His name was not even Patrick, but Maewyn Succat. His Roman name: Patricius, from where Patrick is derived. The story of Patrick's arrival in Ireland is brutal. When a group of pirates landed in Southern Wales and raided the city, they kidnapped many children, Patrick among them. They were sold into slavery and eventually brought to Ireland. Imprisoned in Ireland for six years, young Patrick eventually started receiving dreams and messages from his God. His dreams told him to escape on a getaway ship. Soon enough, a ship pulled into the harbor, and became Patrick's escape to Britain.

Once in Britain, Patrick joined a monastery. He apprenticed under St. Germain, the bishop of Auxerre, a town in North-Central France and, after twelve years of training, Patrick became a bishop himself. During this time, however, the dreams occurred again. This time, he dreamed that the Irish were calling him back. So he set sail and headed back to the island of Ireland with the Pope's blessings.

In Ireland, he worked to convert the Gaelic Irish, who were mainly Pagans, to Christianity. Through preaching, he even successfully converted a few Royal Families. Converting the Royals, however, greatly upset the Celtic Druids, and Patrick was arrested several times. Each time, he managed to escape and venture to a different part of Ireland. He developed monasteries along the way, and created religious schools, a clergy, and several church meetings throughout Ireland. His whole life story led up to the legends kids hear about him today.

One legend is that St. Patrick used the shamrock as an example in his religious preaching. He used the clover to represent or symbolize the Christian Trinity. The more commonly known myth is that St. Patrick rid Ireland of poisonous snakes. These myths are just that, but have become so popular that they have been confused with the truth. In fact, there never were native snakes in Ireland, and it remains so today. Snakes were used symbolically as the Celtic religion. In other words, St. Patrick rid Ireland of Celtic religions, mainly due to their conversions.

St. Patrick died on March 17, A.D. 461. This date came to be the holiday now known as St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick's Day originally started as a Catholic holiday, which celebrated and honored the works of the saint. Over time, however, it became a common holiday. It also came to be known more of an Irish day, not solely for St. Patrick. The two famous symbols to recognize this day are the Leprechaun, a type of Celtic fairy, and the shamrock.

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Celebrate the Holidays!

The New Year!

Groundhog Day!

Valentine's Day!

President's Day!

Mardi Gras!

St. Patrick's Day

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Spring Sports: Baseball/Softball

Contributing Reporter
Jacob Pallotti

Since becoming the head coach of the Wildcats baseball team in the 2012-13 season, Coach Steve Wheeler has posted two consecutive winning seasons; including a 19-6 record, a NCCC tournament championship, and an appearance in the state quarterfinals just a year ago. This season, the team will have to deal with the loss of five key seniors; three of whom are currently playing at college. However, the Wildcats will return with many players and their varsity experience including seniors Tom Owens, John Zawawi, Jake Pallotti, Tim Eheander, Kevin Tomasko, and Alex Champagne and juniors Matt Clark, Steve Leonard, and Dan Bahl. Senior Tom Owens, who will be playing at Elms College next year, will look to lead the pitching staff this year after a breakout junior year in which he went 4-0 with a 0.77 ERA and 39 strikeouts in 36 innings. Just 5 years ago this team won just 3 games. Since then, the Wildcats have improved their record in every season. They will look to continue this trend and build off of their 19 win season. The first game is April 8th against Ellington.

The Wildcats softball team has had 4 consecutive seasons of 15 wins or more and has won the conference 3 of the last 4 years. Over the previous 2 seasons the team has appeared in state semi-final and quarterfinal games, and in each these seasons they were eliminated by the eventual champions. Like the baseball team, they have lost some key players to graduation, two of whom received All-State honors their senior seasons. However, along with the loss of two All-State players, they also return two former All-State players: Katelyn Corr, playing at Stony Brook University next year, and Laura Somerville, who will be playing at Endicott College.

The softball team here at SHS is near the top of the NCCC and one of the top seeds in the state tournament. They look to continue this streak of dominance this spring. They also start their season April 8th against Ellington.

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