

East Windsor High School

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February 2007

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Peter Anderson
Dept. Chair – English

Franne Lassow
Dept. Chair – English

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Dept. Chair – Foreign
Language

John Kaseta
Special Education

Hello from the Desk of Mr. Chambers

My reflections on my first 90 days are as follows:

“Everything matters and everything counts!”

Too often we do not make the most of the school environment. Teaching and learning is sometimes taken for granted. To address those issues, the faculty and staff began the 2006 – 2007 school year by identifying our collective expectations for teachers, students, and the overall learning community of East Windsor High School. Initially, the administration met with the faculty to discuss the issues that were of concern from the previous year. Next, the faculty prioritized the most important behaviors and expectations that would create the desired environment. Lastly, the administration met with each grade level class to discuss the focus for the year as well as the expected behaviors. Collectively, the entire learning community identified the behavioral expectations and norms for how we conduct ourselves to optimize success in East Windsor High School.

We started the school year with great enthusiasm as we began to make the necessary changes to move EWHS toward excellence. A break from the old ways of EWHS is giving way to a new way of thinking. Students are starting to realize, **everything counts!** Students are now taking opportunities to get involved with their education. Many students are seeking ways to improve the general atmosphere of the school, and they are highly motivated in doing so. It is indeed a pleasure to be a member of EWHS at this point and time. I truly believe that EWHS, as a learning environment, is on the verge of expanding its capacity to evolve into a great school community.

What is the Mission of East Windsor High School?

A process to review the Mission Statement of East Windsor High School is currently underway. The process began with initial discussions on the mission statement with the faculty and staff in a series of after school meetings. Several questions were created and designed to look specifically at what is being taught and how it relates to the goals of our parents and our students.

The faculty and staff of EWHS feel that both parent and student input is vital to the success of our school. Parents of the freshman class were asked to identify the factors that indicate success in our school. They identified that they want EWHS to be competitive with area schools, have an improved image, and offer high-powered courses and classes that teach problem solving; and they want a school that teaches strong communication skills. This was a great opportunity for building community participation and we expect that the parents of the other grade levels will discuss the Mission of EWHS as well. The next group, following our parents, will be the business community. I have a tentative meeting scheduled with East Windsor’s Chamber of Commerce to discuss the school’s mission statement from a business perspective.

As a school, we are looking at how education is being delivered. We are beginning to identify the teaching strategies based on research that yield quality results. Teachers are sharing best practices as well as collaborating with each other as we extend our capacity to improve.

Overall the month of December was a very exciting time for EWHS. In review, activities such as the Financial Aide Seminar, Freshman Parent Night and the presentation series for careers in Engineering, took place to provide students with opportunities make informed choices for their future.

Excerpt: EW Veterans' Stories Recorded

By Kory Louck – Journal Inquirer - 01/02/2007

EAST WINDSOR - Town veterans are having their stories recorded in a collaborative effort between the schools and the Veterans Commission.

"We are recording veterans for posterity and multiple uses," Peter Anderson, East Windsor High School media specialist, said. Beginning in mid-November, "we started approaching veterans of foreign wars and recording their individual stories," he said. Two interviews have been completed so far - one with Veterans Commission Chairman Warren Wenz and the other with Commission member George Butenkoff - and Anderson is looking forward to recording more.

The interviews were videotaped, but the goal is to put them on DVDs, Anderson said.

Acting School Superintendent Tim Howes said it all started when Butenkoff approached him with the idea of recording interviews with veterans.

"I thought to myself, 'This is our history that is slowly leaving us,'" Howes remembered, and he said of Butenkoff's idea: "What a great way to bring the generations together." He said the goal is to get students involved in conducting the interviews.

Anderson said that he will be

speaking with East Windsor High School Principal David Chambers about the project in greater detail, and is looking into having the project qualify for community service credit for the students who choose to be involved.

Anderson added that individuals who were not necessarily in the armed services but who have some local history knowledge they would like to impart are also welcome to share their stories.

The goal is to combine the different accounts into a series that will be aired locally on public access television.

Butenkoff said each of the participants would receive a copy of the interview to share with friends and family. "Pete Anderson has been fantastic with the questions he asks and the job he has done," Butenkoff said, "and so has Tim Howes, who lined us up with Pete Anderson."

"I imagine it is going to be an ongoing project," Anderson said. "Right now we are just in our infancy." "It is going to be fun," Howes said of the project. "It is going to be a good project. We are so excited."

Those interested in sharing their military experience or educating others on aspects of East Windsor history may contact the Veterans Commission at 623-8122.

Homecoming Committee News

The High School Homecoming Committee will hold a sports night for East Windsor High School students on Thursday, April 12, at the Sports World dome in East Windsor. The event will start at 7:00 p.m.

The committee is still in the planning stages, but we're talking about having volleyball,

dodgeball, soccer and music.

Refreshments will be available for purchase. There will be a small charge as this is a fundraiser for Homecoming activities. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

Leo Club Announcements

The Leo Club will hold an induction for new members on February 13, 2007 at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium.

Leo Club is responsible for running the blood drive with the American Red Cross

each year. The blood drive this year will be held on February 5 in the auxiliary gym at the High school. Anyone over the age of eighteen is encouraged to participate.

Correction to 1st Quarter Perfect Attendance List

Kelley Bagdikian (9) also had perfect attendance for the first quarter.

What Is Model Congress?

By Nichole De Sousa

What is Model Congress? Model Congress is a three-day event involving more than 250 high school students from across New England who come to American International College and participate in a Mock Congress and have the chance to debate bills. Students from eighteen high schools competed for more than \$150,000 in AIC scholarships. The students who participate in Model Congress are selected in their sophomore year and show an interest in the political process.

East Windsor sent twelve of our students to participate in this event. The EW Model Congress team consisted of four sophomores: Nichole DeSousa, Alexavier Estrada, Christopher Hayes, and Eric Kebschull; four juniors: Michelle Vining, Emily Guerrette, Nolan Davis and Alex Saylor; and four seniors: Erica Lachat, Stephanie Marek, Karissa Parker, and

Allison Bower. The advisor of this team is Michael J. Harrigan. Michelle Vining and Emily Guerrette presented a bill that they debated through committee, however, it failed in the senate. Karissa Parker and Allison Bower presented a bill that they debated through both the committee and the House. So let's give congratulations to all of their hard work.

On the final day of this three-day event, there is an award banquet. At this banquet, scholarships are awarded to the outstanding delegates. The first place prize is a four-year scholarship to AIC; second place is half-tuition for four years; third and fourth place wins a quarter-tuition for four years at AIC. There are also Awards for Outstanding Delegation, Team Spirit, and six students are also awarded with \$2,500 tuition prizes. Two of those six people came from our own school. Congratulations to Stephanie Marek and Alex Saylor.

That's a Wrap: Follow-up on the Math Department's Career Seminar Week

By Jackie Corricelli

In the last newsletter, the Math Department claimed that it would answer the question, "What is math used for anyhow?" in a few seminars. The two seminars took place on December 13 and December 15 of 2006. They were a huge success with roughly 40 students attending each.

On December 13, an Engineering Career Panel from Pratt and Whitney presented information about engineering as a career option. Kyle Craig, Karen Johnson, and Denisha Louis represented Pratt and Whitney as junior level engineers. They each told their personal stories about how they came to learn about engineering as a career. All three were honest about both the pros and cons of their career decisions.

On December 15, 2006, Matt

Winger and Leslie Chang from The Hartford presented information about actuarial science as a career option. Again, each talked about what actuarial scientists actually do and the pros and cons of this career choice.

Both The Hartford and Pratt and Whitney left feeling welcomed and extended job shadow opportunities to any interested students. For more information on job shadow opportunities, see me (Mrs. Corricelli) in Room C-6, or you can contact me via email at jcorricelli@ewindsor.k12.ct.us. Even if you could not attend, you can still take advantage of job shadowing.

These opportunities are so valuable. The Math Department thanks all students who helped to make these presentations a great success.

Mathlete of the Month

The Math Department at East Windsor High School is proud to announce our Mathletes of the Month. These students have shown consistently fabulous performance, or may have demonstrated recent improvement and/or newfound dedication toward the goal of learning mathematics. Mr. Nahas has selected Jason Costa. Mrs. Corricelli named Casey Williams and Heather St.

Amour. Mrs. Lajoie nominated Kristin Waltiere and Derek Briggs for great effort. Mr. Pastick chose Crystal Gifford as his recipient. Mrs. Wilson would like to recognize Allyson Bower, Jordan Reaves-Young, Megan Carolus, and Alexandra Griffin for outstanding performances.

Graduate And Celebrate News

Graduate & Celebrate will sponsor a Talent Show on Thursday, February 8, (snow date February 12) at 7:00p.m. Come and enjoy the many talents of our

EWHS students! Tickets \$5 in advance (during lunchwaves beginning Feb 5) or \$7 at the door. All proceeds go toward the safe grad party for our seniors.

