Newsletter/Parent Link
November 10, 2011

# South Portland High School

637 Highland Avenue, South Portland, ME 04106

You are cordially invited to a reception honoring
**Suzanne Godin**
**Maine Superintendent of the Year**
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
6:30- 8:00 p.m.
South Portland High School Cafeteria

### *Laptop Insurance*

*There will be another laptop enrollment period from January 3 -13.*

### Yearbook

Parents of seniors are reminded that **Parent Ads** for the senior section are due with photographs, text, and payment to Mr. Hunter by **November 30**. Copies of the Parent Ad contract are available in the main office.

### Student Photo Orders

The deadline for submitting orders to the main office is Monday, **November 14**. After that, orders must be sent directly to Lifetouch, 405 Water Street, Suite 200, Gardiner, ME 04345.

## Note From the Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already through the first quarter of the school year. It has been a busy fall with students involved in many activities. The quarter ended on November 4. Report cards are being mailed on November 10.

This fall SPHS had **337 students participate in co-curricular activities.** And our students had very successful fall season. The **Marching Band** repeated as a **gold medal winner** in the MBDA finals, **Varsity Girls Cross Country finished 4th** in the region, **Varsity Boys Cross Country finished 3rd** in the state championship, **Lizzie Canarie** playing in the **State Golf Tournament,** and the **Varsity Boys Soccer** team came in **5th** in the region. The **Drama Club** performed two plays in October. **Congratulations to all of our teams and performers for doing their best.**

On Wednesday night, the fall **Coffee House** was held in the high school cafeteria. The event featured 23 groups performing. The talent of our students was impressive and drew a large audience. Thank you to all who performed or attended.

SPHS will be holding student involved parent **conferences on November 17 from 4:00 to 7:30 and on November 22 from 11:30 – 2:30**. Please call Carol Brown at 767-3266 to schedule appointments with teachers at your earliest convenience as schedules are filling up.

You may have noticed that the format of the South Portland High School newsletter has changed … and it is still evolving. Many people are contributing information to keep the public informed of all that is happening at SPHS. Last week coaches contributed summaries of their seasons and some of the highlights. This week, department chairs have submitted summaries of some of the things being done in each department. Next week the newsletter will focus on student activities.

## Calendar

### November

**Nov. 14** Marching Band Concert
Auditorium 7:00

**Nov. 15** Reception Honoring Suzanne Godin, Café 6:30

**Nov. 17** Flu Clinic, Auditorium
7:30-11:00

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 4:00-7:30

JMG Induction, Auditorium 6:00

**Nov. 21** Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 4:00-7:30

**Nov. 22** Early Release 10:45
Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 11:30-2:30

**Nov. 23-25** **Thanksgiving Break**

### December

**Dec. 3** SATs
Robotics Bottle Drive

**Dec. 6** High School Band Concert
Auditorium 7:00

**Dec. 8** Financial Aid, Library 6:00
High School Choral Concert
Auditorium 7:00

**Dec. 12** Student Dental Clinic

**Dec. 13** Student Dental Clinic

**Dec. 14** Memorial Band Concert
Auditorium 7:00

**Dec. 15** Mahoney Band Concert
Auditorium 7:00

**Dec. 23 – Jan. 3** **Winter Break**

# Department News

## Instructional Support Services Department

South Portland High School's One Classroom Project (OCP) is collaborating with local organizations to complete two very unique projects as part of its Integrated Science work. OCP has renewed its partnership with the Compass Project, the Portland-based youth boat-building program and is attempting a much more ambitious boat construction; the Core Sound 17, a seventeen foot stitch-and-glue sailboat commissioned by a local sailing enthusiast. Check out this impressive sailboat at *http://fivenineclimber.com/boats_sailing/coresound17.htm.*

OCP is also focusing on a new learning opportunity about "weatherization" and energy efficiency in partnership with South Portland's Warm Home Cool City Program, Southern Maine Community College, and a local energy auditor. With oil prices rising and energy efficiency at a high premium in Maine, OCP students are being trained in techniques to prepare homes for the coming winter. The students are just finishing "winterization" work in their classroom and will soon be applying their new skills in local homes, free of charge, in order to prepare for the changing season. Two OCP students will be granted the opportunity to earn scholarships for the SMCC Weatherization Technician Certification Course this year.

## English Language Learning Department

In ELL (English Language Learning) Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Taylor are serving the needs of about 25 English language learners from around the world. ELL provides content area support in students' mainstream classes and in guided study, as well as ELL English and U.S. History sheltered English classes for those students not yet ready to function success-fully in mainstream classes. Our students come to us from all over the globe and they add to the cultural and linguistic diversity that makes SPHS such an interesting place to learn and to work. This year the single language most often represented among students is Spanish. Khmer, Russian, Korean, Somali, Haitian, Creole, and Vietnamese are also spoken. We're looking forward to the ever popular annual International Lunch celebration after Thanksgiving vacation, when students share their delicious cuisine with each other and with their teachers.

## South Portland Adult Education Department

South Portland Adult Education is going stronger than ever with over 100 students involved in classes such as GED preparation, Math Lab, English as a Second Language, Basic Computer Skills, Microsoft Word, and Spanish. The semester ends on December 8, but next semester, which starts in late January, will include all of the same classes from first semester in addition to our first-ever "Apply Yourself" class which focuses on job training, interview skills, resume writing, job etiquette, and the like. The cost of the six-week class is just $20 and is open to anyone 18 years old or older who is looking for a job or is looking to secure a better job. For more information, email adulted@spsd.org or call 767-3266 ext. 240.

## Physical Education and Health Department

The Physical Education and Health Department has recently been the recipient of 30 compressions only CPR kits that we are going to be using with our students in the Health classes. These kits were donated to the school by the **American Heart Association and Hannaford**. Students will have the opport-unity to be certified in CPR as part of their Health class, as well as take the kits home to show the rest of their family the im-portance of knowing CPR. All family members will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the compressions only method. We are looking forward to starting this new program here at SPHS.

In Physical Education class, students are working on their fitness goals in order to set up their individualized fitness program. They will be working on this program over the next several months while we are inside for Physical Education. The goals are based on the fitness testing they completed this fall and their analysis about what that testing told them regarding their overall fitness. Along with what they are truly interested in improving, the goals are created and the exercises are chosen to create their individual program. Our goal as teachers is to get each student to create a program that is meaningful to them so that they will want to work at it during class and, hopefully, log some progress towards their goals over the next few months.

## Library

**Join us reading *Rin Tin Tin!*** All SPHS staff, students and parents are invited to join our library staff, Janet and Deb, in reading the newly published and much acclaimed, *Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend*, by Susan Orlean. We'll get together for discussion just before conferences on November 21st from 3 - 4 p.m., in the Library. We still have a couple copies left in the SPHS Library, and it is also available from Amazon in hard cover, kindle, audio CD, and Audible audio download; and from all local booksellers.

## Science Department

The science department continues to promote relevance, rigor, and relationships while examining and refining its instructional practices. In order to promote relevance, science teachers are presenting real life puzzles, mysteries, and discrepant events which set the stage for lessons or entire units of study. Exploring these things will help students develop knowledge and higher level thinking skills.

In order to meet student demand, a "Senior Science Seminar" course is in development. Curriculum will be set up like a college level course, with current topics which are selected and explored by students.

In order to help students improve their analytical writing skills, the science department continues to refine the lab report rubric with the help of our resident literacy specialist. Implementation across grade levels will help students to build their writing skills in a practical and applicable way.

## Math Department

***New Staff Member*** - At the start of the 2011-2012 school year the Math Department welcomed Sarah Drake as the newest staff member to the department. Mrs. Drake comes to us from Sanford High School and is currently teaching Math III and Pre-Calculus. Please welcome Mrs. Drake to SPHS!

***Math Team News*** - The Math Team has added eight new members to its roster for the 2011-2012 school year. New members are always welcome and no previous math team experience is necessary. Practices are held on Monday and Wednesday in Room 224 at 2:00 pm.

The first two meets were very productive, with all new members scoring in the meet. Top scorers for the first two meets of the year were: Lizzy Canarie, Thuy Nguyen, Adam Sobczak, Shawn Everest-Ortiz, Sarah Small, and Theodore Gilbert. There is still time to join the Math Team before the next meet on December 7th at Thornton Academy.

## Career Prep Department

The department has been working on a number of items this fall including the development of a new course which we are hoping to offer starting next year called “Tech Team.” The course will teach students hands-on computer repair and assistance skills through the creation and maintenance of a school-based tech team service. Working with the community both in and outside of school, students will learn how to troubleshoot computer issues, communicate repair status, and serve the public in a customer service setting.

In addition, the department has been meeting to define what Digital Citizenship means regarding computer instruction here at the high school and how these skills tie in with many of our Career Prep courses. These skills include advocating and practicing safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology, exhibiting positive attitudes toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity, exhibiting leadership for digital citizenship, and demonstrating personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

## Social Studies Department

The Social Studies Department has been hard at work going through SAT data, creating relevance in the classroom, setting the pace of courses for each grade level, and setting an overall standard for the department.

As a whole department, we reviewed the data received from SAT testing and came to the conclusion that the department needs to focus more on vocabulary and critical reading. We looked at two articles from the *New York Times* that used questions to get students to think about vocabulary and usage.

Freshman, sophomore, and junior teachers have met according to curriculum and have been working to set a pace for unit completion. Teachers have been working together to share lesson plans, create common assessments, and set a tone for all students to follow. Discussions have also continued around standard-based grading and possible expectations to come.

## Virtual High School (VHS)

South Portland High School is once again working with Virtual High School to offer South Portland students high-quality online learning opportunities. This semester, fifteen of our students are currently enrolled in a VHS course. Here is a sampling of the courses that students are currently participating in:

1) AP Government
2) Genes & Disease
3) Sports in Society
4) Fantasy & Science Fiction
5) Mandarin Chinese
6) DNA Technology
7) History of Photography

Virtual High School offers both semester and full year courses as part of their online program. If you would like more information on the VHS partnership or have an interest in taking an online course, you may contact Mr. Lamarre at lamarrti@spsd.org or stop by Room 213.

## English Department

The English Department welcomes two new members this year. Carrie Barbosa, formerly of Kennett High School in North Conway, New Hampshire, joins us as a full-time member. Our own Katie Loubier, formerly an ed-tech, joins us in a half-time position.

The department has been revising our common assessments and rubrics in order to bring them in line with the newly-adopted Common Core standards. In addition, we have been exploring new ways to deliver effective grammar instruction.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

| | | | Var. | J.V. | FT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/9 | Vs. | Windham | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/13 | At | Biddeford | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/16 | Vs. | Westbrook | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/20 | At | Thornton | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/22 | Vs. | Kennebunk | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/28 | At | Deering | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/30 | Vs. | Massabesic | 1:00 | 11:30 | 10:00 |
| 1/3 | At | Scarborough | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/10 | Vs. | Sanford | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/13 | Vs. | Portland | 7:00 | X | X |
| 1/14 | Vs. | Portland | X | 11:30 | 10:00 |
| 1/16 | Vs. | Marshwood | 1:00 | 11:30 | 10:00 |
| 1/20 | At | Gorham | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/24 | At | Bonny Eagle | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/28 | At | Cheverus | 1:00 | 11:30 | 10:00 |
| 1/31 | At | McAuley | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 2/3 | At | Noble | 7:00 | 5:30 | X |
| 2/7 | Vs. | Deering | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 2/10 | Vs. | McAuley | 5:30 | 4:00 | X |
| 2/11 | Vs. | McAuley | X | X | 1:00 |

## BOYS BASKETBALL

| | | | Var. | J.V. | FT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/9 | At | Windham | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/13 | Vs | Biddeford | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/16 | At | Westbrook | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/20 | Vs | Thornton | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/22 | At | Kennebunk | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 12/30 | At | Massabesic | 1:00 | 11:30 | 10:00 |
| 1/3 | Vs | Scarborough | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/6 | Vs | Deering | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/10 | At | Sanford | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/13 | Vs | Portland | 5:30 | 4:00 | X |
| 1/14 | Vs | Portland | X | X | 1:00 |
| 1/16 | At | Marshwood | 4:00 | 2:30 | X |
| 1/20 | Vs | Gorham | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/24 | Vs | Bonny Eagle | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/27 | At | Cheverus | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 1/31 | At | Deering | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 2/3 | Vs | Noble | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 2/7 | At | Portland | 7:00 | 5:30 | 4:00 |
| 2/10 | Vs | Cheverus | 7:00 | X | X |
| 2/11 | Vs | Cheverus | X | 11:30 | 10:00 |

## ICE HOCKEY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12/10 | At | Scarborough (MHG) | 1:30 |
| 12/13 | At | Marshwood (Dover) | 8:30 |
| 12/15 | Vs. | Bonny Eagle (PIA) | 6:00 |
| 12/20 | At | Portland (PIA) | 6:00 |
| 12/23 | At | Gorham (USM) | 12:15 |
| 1/5 | Vs. | Scarborough (PIA) | 6:00 |
| 1/7 | Vs. | Noble (PIA) | 8:15 |
| 1/11 | At | Edward Little (Ingersoll) | 6:00 |
| 1/14 | Vs. | Falmouth (PIA) | 8:15 |
| 1/26 | Vs. | Cape Elizabeth (PIA) | 8:00 |
| 1/28 | At | Cheverus (PIA) | 6:15 |
| 2/1 | At | Yarmouth (Travis Roy) | 4:50 |
| 2/4 | Vs. | Kennebunk (PIA) | 8:15 |
| 2/11 | Vs. | Portland (PIA) | 8:00 |
| 2/15 | At | Kennebunk (Biddeford Ice) | 6:00 |
| 2/18 | At | Westbrook (USM) | 6:30 |
| 2/20 | Vs. | Cheverus (PIA) | 4:00 |
| 2/22 | Vs. | Biddeford (PIA) | 4:00 |

## BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12/9 | At | Deering, McAuley (Riverton) | 7:00 |
| 12/15 | At | Scarborough (Cape Pool) | 4:00 |
| 12/22 | Vs. | Cape Elizabeth (SP Pool) | 4:00 |
| 1/6 | At | Gorham (Davan Pool) | 4:00 |
| 1/13 | Vs. | Falmouth (SP Pool) | 4:00 |
| 1/20 | Vs. | McAuley, Gorham (SP Pool) | 4:00 |
| 1/27 | Vs. | Greely (SP Pool) | 4:00 |
| 1/28 | At | Diving Invitational (Bowdoin) | 9:15 |
| 2/2 | At | Diving Prelims (SP Pool) | TBA |
| 2/3 | At | Southwesterns (Davan Pool) | TBA |
| 2/4 | At | Southwesterns (Davan Pool) | TBA |
| 2/10 | Vs. | Cheverus (SP Pool) | 4:00 |
| 2/18 | At | Boys States (UMO Pool) | TBA |
| 2/20 | At | Girls States (UMO Pool) | TBA |

## CHEERLEADING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1/7 | Coaches Classic | Lewiston |
| 1/14 | SMAA Championships | Marshwood |
| 1/28 | Class A Regionals | Augusta CC |
| 2/4 | Cheers from the Heart | Marshwood |
| 2/11 | State Championship | Augusta CC |
| 2/18 | Scarborough Invitational | Scarborough |

## BOYS & GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12/9 | At | USM | 5:30 |
| 12/17 | At | USM | 11:30 |
| 12/30 | At | New Year's Relays (USM) | 12:00 |
| 1/5 | At | USM | 5:30 |
| 1/14 | At | USM | 11:30 |
| 1/21 | At | USM | 2:30 |
| 2/4 | At | Southwesterns (USM) | 9:30 |
| 2/20 | At | State Championship (USM) | 10:00 |