

Director's Report to the Board of Education February 2010 – Happy Valentine's Day



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Item #1: PRESS RELEASE:

Last year, the State of Vermont Education Department asked Tech Centers from across the state to administer a General Service Technician competency assessment to their automotive students. Eleven of the 17 tech centers participated in the testing. Of the eleven centers tested, only two centers had a 100 percent pass rate on this assessment. The first was Randolph Technical Career Center.

We are pleased to announce that the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center here in Bennington is the only other tech center to have a 100% pass rate on this statewide assessment. Congratulations to Mr. Tom Haskins, one of last year's Vermont Outstanding Teachers Award recipients, and his students.

Item #2: Haiti Relief:

DECA club of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District donated and arranged to ship ___ cases of bottled water as part of the Haiti relief effort. Thank you to Laurie and the students of DECA. Thanks also to Mr. Montgomery for helping to pack it up and deliver it to the airport.

Item #3:

On Thursday, January 28th, at approximately 7:45 a.m., an adult student had fallen outside in the circle. Oliff Russell a student in Dave Dence's class witnessed it and helped the student up and brought him into the CDC office and helped get the student settled so he could be evaluated. Oliff came back about



Mr. Montgomery, Sharon Russell, Oliff Russell, Oliff Sr., Doc

5 minutes later to see how the student was doing, and volunteered to go to the nurse's office and get a wheel chair so that the student could go back to the Nurses office.

On behalf of all of the students and staff of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Career Development Center, I want to recognize Oliff for his quick and compassionate response to this other student's needs. He demonstrated to us that he is a great person.

We're going to take a few moments later today to recognize Oliff. A HERO is not just someone who saves a stranger's life. A hero can also be someone who cares about a stranger's life. Oliff cared about a total stranger enough to lift him up, bring him to safety, and then come back to make sure that he was still safe. That's hero enough for me.

Item #4:



Students from the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center Forestry Program help split more than 10 cords of firewood Monday for low-income Vermonters. VTrans employees and Corrections crews also helped the Wood Warms program, which made nearly 1,400 cords of wood available last year.

Item #5:

The Southwest Vermont Career Development Center is proud to announce our 2nd Quarter Honor Roll list of students. Criteria for Honor Roll are:

- A 90% or higher average in the CDC class
- Two or fewer absences during the quarter
- No incidents of misconduct either here or at their sending school

Aaron	Blake
Lauren	Bradford
Mariah	Burgess
Nathan	Cardinal
Canaan	DiSano
Alyssa	Dufresne
Cassandra	Scutt
Lindsey	Dupee

Marissa	Farrell
Rachelle	Ferguson
Ian	Fisher
Hannah	Gordon
Joshua	Greenlaw
Nicole	Greenlaw
Brett	Harrington
Ashley	Holley
Austin	Hollister
Joe	Jowett
Ray	Kurjiaka
Nicholas	Lincourt
Heather	McManigle
Austin	Morse
Nastiti	Natasari
Vishvesh	Patel
David	Putnam
Jessica	Scheffler
Dalton	Smith
Samantha	Strubel
Tessla	Potter
Justin	Potter
Catherine	Sharkey
Shelby	Silver
Patrick	Tatro
Elliot	Lewis
Morgan	Galipeau
Lance	Elithorpe
Brenna	Elwell
Justin	McKenna
Molly	Thompson
Robert	Ruggles
Preston	Endres
Zachariah	Weinfurt

Item #6: Haircuts for Haiti:



The Cosmetology 2 class paired up with MAUHS math teacher, Mr. Mundt, who was on a mission to raise money for the tragedy in Haiti. If his monetary goal in donations was met, he promised to get a “fire engine red Mohawk” after having a long ponytail that went uncut for 6 years! Well, donations came in and our own Jessica Altiery, with an audience of onlookers, took on the task of shaving, cutting, bleaching and coloring Mr. Mundt’s hair. But the giving didn’t stop there! Mr. Mundt’s 10 inch ponytail will be donated by the Cosmetology Program to Locks of Love, an organization that creates wigs for financially disadvantaged children that suffer hair loss due to a medical diagnosis.

The Cosmetology Program is also in the process of planning “Haircuts for Haiti”, where all proceeds that come into the program’s salon, Studio 152, will be donated directly to this suffering country. Specifics on this event to come.....

Item #7:

Medical Professions

Medical Professions II students recently completed their First Responder course, which was taught by Bill Hathaway and other members of the Bennington Rescue Squad. The 40-hour course taught students the academic and hands-on skills required to assess and treat emergency medical conditions. Students learned how to determine if trauma, shock, burns or closed airways are a problem and how to treat these problems. Hands-on skills learned included immobilization and transport of patients, bleeding control, bandaging of a variety of type of wounds, implementation of airway management techniques, and CPR skills. All students received CPR certification and passed their practical skills tests. Two of the students have chosen to take their National Registry of EMT’s First Responder written test next month. If they pass, they will be registered as First Responder Emergency Care Attendants, which is the first level of EMT training in Vermont.



Back row:

Adam Griswald,
EMT, Courtney
Saheim, Vanessa
Lauzon, Alyssa
Dufresne, Eliza
George

Front row:

Jessica Scheffler,
Shelby Harrington

Missing: Clint
Davendonis and
Whitney LeBlanc

Item #8: Artificial Intelligence & Networking Academy

Josh Greenlaw was recently selected to present his senior project to the SVSU school board. Josh chose to extend his AI studies for his senior project and has been working on a 3D led cube. In order to do this project he had to learn a new programming language, (Assembly Language), learn new construction skills and get to really understand 3 dimensional matrices. Josh's latest display is a 4 x 4 x 4 array of bi-color leds. Each LED in the array can be individually programmed to light up in red, green or yellow. Josh has also been busy at Sunderland Elementary School. He and Eric Van Shoick from the Networking Academy have been serving as the schools IT personnel as part of a Co-Op program. Josh recently taught a class of 5th graders how microprocessors can turn on and off LED lights.



Josh working with a 5th grader.

The first year AI students have now completed their first projects requiring them to build a project from scratch. This year they were given a schematic for a light sequencer and required to design a printed circuit board, etch and drill that board and then build the sequencer.

Most of the seniors in both

AI and Networking have now received letters of acceptance from at least one college.

Again this year, Rochester Institute of Technology seems to be the most popular choice but we also have students looking at Lyndon State, Castleton, Vermont Technical College, Champlain and The University of Vermont.

The seniors in AI have now chosen their final projects and we have a wide variety of choices. These include a solar tracking project, a high energy plasma globe, an explosive gas detector and a virtual clock that uses persistence of vision to draw a virtual display.

Item #9:Pre-Law:



Since the beginning of the second semester, the Pre-Law students have been learning about the case law concerning child abuse and neglect in order to prepare for their next mock trial, *People v. Tanner*, a homicide case which involves issues around memory reliability and memory recovery. *Tanner* is a mock trial developed for the California Mock Trial Program by the California Bar association and was the state mock trial in 2000. In preparation for this trial, students

assigned to the defense and prosecution will be preparing suppression motions or reply motions seeking to keep certain evidence out of the trial. Students will also be given a opportunity to argue their motions prior to the trial. After being assigned to defense or prosecution teams, students are required to keep and maintain a case file.



In preparing for the trail, Pre-Law students will visit Bennington District Court and also speak with attorneys and others involved in family violence prevention here in the greater Bennington area. Students will also be learning about the reliability of recovered memories as they prepare to examine and cross examine expert witnesses. The trial is scheduled for the middle of March.

Item #10:



In Theatre Arts we had a successful run of Bernice Bobs Her Hair; we performed two student show and two evening shows. It was interesting to see the way different audiences reacted to the material. It is always good to do a play which contains characters who are teens going through issues to which the students can relate.

Discovering how to make a story come to life for the stage was enjoyable and fun. The Stagecraft class ended their semester by working on Dracula, which was designed by Rick Howe. Several Theatre Arts students appeared in Dracula, Including David Cross, (Dracula) and Tobin Jordan (Van Helsing)

Video Production has been working on Documentaries this semester. The subjects covered include Texting and Driving (Austin Bevin), Microsoft



vs. Mac (Trevor Derby) Firefighting...Brotherhood or Family (Austin Hollister). You can see examples of our work on the Flip video Camera PSA on Youtube at 1cdvideo. Austin Bevin and Drew Johnson won the Flip Video contest and received a flip video camera.

Item #11:Forensics Advanced:

The students in this Forensics Class have been studying about the proper way to investigate a crime scene, including the proper method for securing, analyzing, preserving and documenting a crime scene. Students then, after learning for several days, received the opportunity to properly analyze and document a mock crime scene. Students will now learn the skills in collecting and analyzing the items of evidence, including fingerprints, drugs, blood and other kinds of evidence.



Respectfully Submitted,
Doc Barone