



Tri-Town Topics

A Publication of the Tri-Town Schools

Our Mission is to Inspire and Enable All Students to Think,
to Learn, to Achieve and to Care.

Issue 39 – November 2008

Junior High School Mock Election 2008

The vote total for the 2008 ORR Junior High School Mock Election was completed and the results of the candidate election were as follows:

- 241 Student votes and 43 Adult votes for Barack Obama (Democratic Party) (53%) – Winner!
- 144 Student votes and 10 Adult votes for John McCain (Republican Party) (32%)
- 64 Student votes for Cynthia McKinney (Green-Rainbow Party) (14%)
- 7 Student votes and 2 Adult votes for Ralph Nader (Independent Party) (1%)
- 1 Student vote for Chuck Baldwin (Constitution Party)
- 0 votes for Bob Barr (Libertarian Party)

The election committee workers, who spent the day with Mr. Kocur were: Erika Boulay, Adam Costa, Andrew Frey, Isabelle Gillis, Emily Hou, Tyler Hunter, Rebecca Johnson, John Pope, Josh Powers, and Abby Robinson.



(left to right) ORR Junior High School Paraprofessional Lindsay Joy and Teachers Jan Baker and Theresa Valente were happy to help out at the voting booths for the

JHS Mock Election on October 30

Another Year-More Green Minded Gardeners!

by Diane Cook, Sippican School Grade 3 Teacher

Sippican School Community Garden Club has just completed another satisfying fall season series. In the six weeks from September to late October, fifteen students engaged in activities designed to get down to the basics of local gardening. The garden receives support through donations; local gardening businesses throughout Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester; grants, and anyone casually walking by the garden with gardening interests or skills. Who knows - you may be next! The next garden session will begin in late April 2009. Each classroom, Grades N-6, will be encouraged to prepare seedlings for next season's beds.

Two instructors, Mrs. Judy Fasciana, a Marion resident volunteer working to involve the Marion Women's Club in community support, and Sippican School third grade teacher, Mrs. Diane Cook, led sessions to actively involve students in the upkeep and maintenance of the community garden.

Instruction included close observation of the living creatures that occupy the garden during the late summer and fall season. A magnificent preying mantis was discovered within the deep greenery of a tall corn plant and a puffy-legged honeybee perched atop a sunny marigold plant evoked gleeful reactions. Later, catching a slinky earthworm tunneling through the dark, rich soil of an onion patch row were the highlights of one sunny autumn afternoon. Through guided observation, students learn the importance of these creatures in the garden habitat and our need to respectfully foster their care. With the continual need for weeding, students distinguished between weeds and thriving plantings. They could understand how the root system of willful weeds robs garden plants of needed water. After harvesting crops, we used our math skills, a fabulous opportunity to use estimation and division skills to share the bounty. Digging for potatoes was a high point. Many seed potatoes grew

into a bed full of varying sizes and colors. We are hoping to add purple hues to next year's crop. Deadheading the
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flowers will provide many seeds for next year's planting. Children carefully split seed heads of marigolds, zinnias, beans, lettuce, and sunflowers to find the precious seeds inside the plants. It was a fabulous hands-on opportunity for children to see the various plant structures otherwise only learned through textbooks.

Sippican's garden is supported through private donations, local gardening businesses throughout Marion (Eden's Landscapes and Tim Crowley), Mattapoisett (How On Earth), and Rochester (Lucky Field Organic Farm and Small Axe Tree Farm), and grants. We thank Eden's for an assortment of kid-sized tools, mulch, plantings, and generously offered time. Tim Crowley (Marion tree warden) and Joe Frade (a former Sippican student) planted a new butterfly bush to attract pollinators and donated composted soil. Each fall our garden is enriched with organic compost and winter pea seed provided by Lucky Field Organic Farm. Weeds are kept to a minimum on the walkways through the pine bark mulch donated by the Small Axe Tree Farm and Eden's. Our attractive shed was made possible through a Lowe's grant and a new pumpkin patch made by its employee, Gary Stacy from Wareham, as well as the planting of three new blueberry bushes to enlarge our early summer berry offerings. Sincere thanks to How On Earth-The Store for extending a field trip invitation to our garden club students so they could experience firsthand the way community-supported agriculture works. Each student enjoyed the opportunity to weigh out their very own share and taste an assortment of locally grown apples with tasty, locally created dips.

And finally, immense appreciation must be extended to the many parents, families, and community members who took part in this year's garden maintenance - all the summer waterers and those who harvested the crop. Special thanks to the Tirrell family, father and sons, for the garden shed they built and to Mr. Keegan for the shed's painting and staining. It looks fabulous and provides much needed storage!

We are always looking for local garden support in a multitude of ways. If you have a talent or material that could be used in the garden, please contact Stacey Soucy or Diane Cook at Sippican School, 508-748-0100. Currently, we are looking for someone who can provide a gutter and downspout for the shed so that we can collect the rain from our shed's roof into the rain barrel. We are also in need of organic seed and seedlings. Please contact us if you have anything we can use.

Until next spring, we will enjoy the long winter's rest but anticipate the beckoning of next year's garden when the peas we planted this fall welcome a new group of young gardeners to turn them over, creating richer soil for a new growing season.

Thanksgiving Food Basket Project at the High School

by Teresa Dall, National Honor Society Advisor

The National Honor Society students at the high school, under the leadership of Vice President Kendall Nelson and Secretary Olivia Mello, have organized a Thanksgiving food basket project through all senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman homerooms. Each homeroom is collecting items for the food baskets for families in need at Thanksgiving. In four homerooms, one from each of the four classes, two baskets are serving as central locations to compile the Thanksgiving meals. The eight food baskets will then be distributed to families through the Salvation Army food pantry in New Bedford. Gift certificates for the eight turkeys have already been donated. The baskets will be delivered on Monday afternoon, November 24th.

Each homeroom has a posted list of the food items needed to fill a bountiful Thanksgiving basket. The NHS is also collecting additional nonperishable food items to be delivered with the baskets. The need is great this year. In addition, any supermarket gift cards to area stores will be a tremendous addition to the baskets and a much needed help for the families. Teachers and administrators, who do not have homerooms, have been asked to join in the spirit of giving and to consider adopting a homeroom to make their contributions to the baskets. The NHS students are to be commended for their continuing community service endeavors. Last year, when the eight overflowing Thanksgiving baskets and the additional pantry foods were delivered to the Salvation Army headquarters in New Bedford, the extent of the need was made clear by the gratitude and joy expressed by the Captain and his staff. If you have any questions, you may contact NHS Advisor Terry Dall, NHS V.P. Kendall Nelson, or NHS Secretary Olivia Mello.

Old Rochester Regional Rings in the Holidays

by Angie Vaughn, ORR JHS Chorus Director

The talented students at Old Rochester are busy preparing for the annual Holiday Concerts. As always, audiences can expect a wonderfully enjoyable evening.

The High School Concert Band, Chorus and Jazz Band will begin the celebration of the season on Wednesday, December 10th. The performance will be in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The ORRHS groups are under the direction of Ms. Amanda Fillio.

On Thursday, December 11th, at 7:00 p.m. the Junior High Ensembles will perform in the Junior High Auditorium. The JHS Concert Band and Jazz Band are under the direction of Mr. Jim Farmer. The JHS Chorus Director is Mrs. Angie Vaughn.

At each of the concerts, the dedicated parents of F.O.R.M. (Friends of Old Rochester Music) will hold a Poinsettia Raffle to benefit the ORR music department.

Please plan to join us as our talented young musicians share their incredible talents.

Disabled Athlete Talks on Goal Setting at ORR High School

by Anne McLaughlin, ORR HS Secretary to Asst. Principal

Chet Rusinowski, a local plumber and founder of Dreams Come True, just happened to call the high school one day in October and asked about having an assembly at the high school. The call came to the assistant principal's office on a Wednesday and the next day the assembly was a go. It just so happens that principal John Amaral had seen the same assembly many times at Wareham High School and said it was inspirational.

In 1994, Mr. Rusinowski was a volunteer with the Adaptive Ski Program in Waterville Valley, NH. The program introduces skiing to the physically disabled. That is when Chet started his Dreams Come True program where he brought nationally known celebrities with disabilities to schools in Southeastern Massachusetts.

On October 29th Cisco Jeter, a paraplegic who won a gold medal in the ParaOlympics and broke a world record in wheelchair racing, spoke to an audience of 9th graders about overcoming his disability through inspiration and goal setting.

Visit www.dreamscometrueprogram.com for more information.



ParaOlympic gold-medal winner Cisco Jeter speaks to ORR High School freshmen during the Dreams Come True assembly

Craft Fair at ORR High School

Come do your holiday shopping! Craft fair to benefit the ORPEA Scholarship Fund – December 4th from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of ORR High School. You will find

jewelry, ornaments, baked goods, candles, baskets, and handcrafted gift items.



Indiana Jones and his sidekick, Super Marion – aka ORR Junior High School Principal, Kevin Brogioli, and Assistant Principal, James Gadbois - having fun on Halloween!

Elementary Schools Suffer Water Damage

by Bill Cooper

The last two weeks of October proved to be soggy and costly for both Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett and Sippican School in Marion. On October 24, in the early hours of the morning, a fire alarm was set off in response to an over-heated univent heater in the office of our computer/technology coordinator for the Mattapoisett Elementary Schools, Lisa Lourenco. The over-heated unit was hot enough to activate the sprinkler system in the room, but did not actually produce a fire. The Mattapoisett Fire Department, ably assisted by OHS custodial staff members, Rick Travers and Kenny Soares, was able to remove the large puddle of water that covered the floor of Lisa's office as well as adjoining rooms. A clean-up service was hired to remove wet sections of wall-board, ceiling tile and other damaged furniture and equipment. An insurance claim is being pursued. Fortunately, the flood at OHS did not disrupt the school calendar in any way; however, Ms. Lourenco probably does not associate the word "fortunate" with any part of the flood.

At Sippican School, sometime after the Halloween goblins had retired for the night on November 1, a major heat pipe burst in the ceiling of the front office, right over the desk of Cathy Caramanica. The hot water cascaded onto the desk, the walls and everywhere else imaginable in the office area causing extensive damage to equipment, some school records and furnishings and files throughout the three room office suite that also includes Principal Ed Fava's office. The custodial staff at the school worked the entire weekend along with employees from the same company that assisted with the OHS flood earlier. Many thanks to the OT efforts of District Facilities Coordinator, Steve Shiraka, Principal Fava, Technology Specialist, Sue

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White, and the Sippican Custodial Team: Joe Mitchell, Chip Phillips, Paul Atwood and Shawn Bowman, for spending their well earned weekend hours slogging through a heavy wet mess in the main office area. The Principal and his secretarial staffers, Cathy Caramanica and Jackie Pacheco, have been relocated to the assistant principal office area that was graciously relinquished by the present assistant principal, Lyn Rivet. Lyn has continued to maintain an office in the east end of the Red Wing. We anticipate having the main office back together and on a new tile floor in early December.

Human Anatomy & Physiology Class Visits Boston Museum of Science

by Olivia Gauvin, ORR High School Junior

When Christine Beatriz got out of bed on Friday, October 24, she was excited to visit the Boston Museum of Science with 50 of her classmates from Mrs. Cabral's Human Anatomy & Physiology class at ORRHS. By the end of the day, she would not only have had a great trip, but would also have discovered scientific information about topics ranging from the science of fear, to cotton-top tamarins, to the relationship between baseball and the human body.

The students, after a 7:15 departure, arrived at the Museum around 9:00 and attended the 9:45 lecture "The Chemistry of Sports" by Dr. Patrick Drane, Assistant Director of UMass Lowell's Baseball Research Center. The lecture was a part of the High School Science Series, which provided the junior and senior high school students with free admission to the museum. In the hour-long presentation, Dr. Drane explained his work as a baseball researcher, testing baseballs and bats to ensure that they are optimally constructed to perform their specific functions. Students saw a parallel between Dr. Drane's explanations of materials and structure in baseball bats and the materials and structures they have been studying in Mrs. Cabral's class. Dr. Drane showed the students the many layers of a baseball and how it is constructed specifically to travel faster and farther. Students were particularly interested in the shocking amount of deformation that a baseball undergoes when hit. Baseball bats are also specially designed through processes that Dr. Drane showed with videos and photographs.

Through participating in Dr. Drane's lecture and studying tissues, students have learned that structure is directly related to function and anatomy (the science of structure and the relationships among structures) is closely connected with physiology (the science of body functions). "For example, stratified squamous epithelial cells are layered for protection," said Ms. Beatriz, "while simple squamous epithelium has one layer, which allows for filtration, diffusion, osmosis, and secretion between the underlying connective tissue and the apical layer." The human body is specially constructed for sustaining life, just as sports equipment is designed to optimize athletic performance.

Preceding and following the lecture, students were able to explore the museum, specifically the Exhibit Halls. The entire class spent time in "Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear," where they examined the emotion in a safe, interactive environment. Groups of students visited the cotton-top tamarin enclosure (the Museum is also accredited as a zoo), and learned about the primates and how they have been studied in the development of treatments for human colon cancer. Each exhibit successfully promoted the Museum's goals, which are to encourage curiosity, questioning and exploration, to inform and educate, to enhance a sense of personal achievement in learning, to respect individualities, and to promote life-long learning and citizenship. The museum offers a fun and engaging experience for visitors of all ages and interests.

The group just missed the museum's newest temporary exhibit entitled "Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids," but were excited at the prospect of returning to experience it. When asked about the exhibit, which runs until March 22, 2009, Ms. Beatriz said, "We'll definitely be back."



Some of the ORR High School Students who visited the Boston Museum of Science on October 24 (left to right) Olivia Gauvin, Christine Beatriz, Alyssa Ray, Jessica Hibbert, Erin Spink, Kelsey Frink, Ethan Anderson

Antarctica Expedition

by Natalie Cote and Erin Sullivan,
ORR JHS Grade 7 English Teachers

Imagine being stranded in the frozen vast tundra of Antarctica. This past summer, although hot and humid in Massachusetts, staff and students at the Junior High School experienced just that when they were required to read [Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World](#), which details the expeditions of Ernest Shackleton and his crew from the ship Endurance. As a result, teachers from all disciplines planned and carried out lessons and projects that coincided with the adventures of those experienced on the Endurance. These activities culminated with a visit from author, Jennifer Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong not only spoke about the research and writing of the book, she also shared pictures and stories from her visit to Antarctica.

In keeping with the spirit of the explorers, Red Team students researched the animals of the Antarctica and

created food webs with their science teacher, Kathy Gauvin. Noreen Erklauer, the reading teacher, had the students discuss leadership qualities they would like to emulate during this school year. The students then designed footprints, which allowed them to “walk” in the shoes of the explorers. In English class, under the supervision of Erin Sullivan and Natalie Cote, the students wrote journal entries from the viewpoint of particular men from the expedition. Other teams completed similar interdisciplinary lessons. The journals were then “antiqued” with tea, bound, and presented to the author after her presentation. Through these projects, the students came to truly understand the hardships the men of the Endurance faced while awaiting rescue.



Author of *Shipwreck to the Bottom of the World*, Jennifer Armstrong, autographs a copy of her book to 7th and 8th grade students on November 7th

Bulldog Bones

by Kendall Nelson, Class of 2009, *Paw Prints* Sports Editor

As the fall athletic season at Old Rochester Regional comes to a close, it seems that coaches and fans have nothing to complain about. Almost all of the teams found their way into the tournament, securing a spot in post-season play. While most of the athletes have finished up their season and are now preparing for winter sports, the football team is still heading out onto the field each evening for practice and games. The boys achieved their most exciting victory of the season thus far, triumphing over their rivals at Wareham High School. ORR beat the Vikings by one point with the help of golden-footed Zach Choquette, who kicked the winning field goal with just seconds remaining in the game. Other scorers and key players were Seniors Travis Lowery and Richard Meunier. The Bulldog Rhythm Dance Team and ORR Cheerleaders were, as always, there to encourage and entertain.

The Boys' Golf Team finished up their season ranking first in the SCC as well as sixth in the state. The boys traveled to Harvard, MA to compete in the state tournament. They saw a lot of tough competition but still maintained respectable standings. Top players Jake Winn, Brandon Oldham, and John Coucci aided in the season's success. The Boys' Soccer team just missed the

tournament, having suffered a devastating loss to Seekonk. Both teams needed to win the game in order to secure their spot in states and Seekonk pulled it out in the end. The boys certainly had a season not to be forgotten and the program will surely miss the talented seniors lead by goalie and Captain, Brennan Goguen.

Girls' Soccer, with their young talent and some senior experience, optimistically entered the tournament. Unfortunately, the girls lost in the first round but played a solid game, refusing to go without a fight. Tears were shed as the massive crowd stood in applause when the girls walked off the field for the last time this year. Senior Captains Brittany Lees and Shannon O'Donoghue will leave their team in the hands of Junior Captain Casey Matthews.

Bulldog Volleyball came to a close on a chilly night in Bishop Feehan as the girls fought to beat the Shamrocks. The Bulldogs lost in three close games. Senior Outside Hitter, Kendall Nelson, watched proudly from the sidelines on her injured knee, as her team ended their season graciously and with no lack of effort. The girls made it to the second round of tournament play, having beaten Fairhaven at home in the first. Captains Haley MacDonald and Gretchen Bobola showed a stellar performance with the help of Senior Middle Hitter, Emma Lagreze.

The Cross Country team may have been small but they were powerful, now reigning as SCC champs. Senior Alexandra Rentumis as well as Sophomore Dana Dourdaville ran with both heart and talent and are now preparing for the coming track seasons. The real talk of the town seems to be the Field Hockey girls. The girls beat out Dighton Rehoboth to also achieve a first place status in the SCC. They went on to beat both Dover Shareborn and Nantucket in states and lost finally to a very strong Bishop Stang team. Senior Colleen Sinnott claims that the team did not play their best in the last game. Their season as a whole, however, should obviously not be overlooked.

Ornament Rock Orchestra to Perform at ORR High School

Ornament, Southern New England's Premier Rock Orchestra, will present a concert entitled "A Tribute to the Trans Siberian Orchestra" in the main auditorium of Old Rochester Regional High School on Friday, December 12, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is sponsored by FORD, Friends of Old Rochester Drama.

Ornament, a twelve-piece rock orchestra currently in their third year of touring, presents the music of the Trans Siberian Orchestra (TSO). Reproducing the actual shows performed by TSO on a smaller scale, they include narration, lights, smoke machines, lasers, and snow machines. Using music and narration to tell a story of the true meaning of Christmas, the show helps us all remember what the holiday season is truly about. This is a

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show appreciated by all ages and uses traditional holiday carols and songs sung to rock, blues and gospel music.

In the spirit of the season, the concert will help raise funds for the drama club at ORR. The *Ornament* concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors in advance. All tickets will be \$10 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at No Kidding in Mattapoisett, The Book Stall in Marion and Plumb Corner Market in Rochester. For additional ticket information contact Brenda at 508-789-6625 or by email at brobin23@aol.com. More information can be obtained through the *Ornament* website at www.ornamentband.com.

Charity Basketball Game

Chad Cabeceiras, physical education teacher at Old Hammondtown and Center Schools, has proposed a basketball game between the after-school Basketball Club and OHS/Center School staff. Spectators for the event will be charged an admission fee of one or more non-perishable food item(s) or a monetary donation that will go to the St. Vincent de Paul charity. The game will take place at Old Hammondtown School on Thursday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Play 4 The Cure

by Kate Souza, ORR JV Field Hockey Coach

For the past few years, October has been known as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Coincidentally, when looking online for a new field hockey stick, Kayla Souza came across an article about field hockey teams participating in "Play 4 The Cure." Kayla spoke with her high school team and the junior high team about raising money for breast cancer. All wanted to participate and, in just over two weeks, the girls raised \$2,153.00.

The team members held bake sales, sold pink bracelets, collected change, and had a fund raiser at Nick's Homemade Pizza. They also obtained personal donations from Tri-Town citizens and received the winnings of a trivia team at the Kinsale Inn. Signature Signs graciously donated a 6' x 2' banner with the words "Old Rochester Field Hockey, Play 4 The Cure" in big, black letters. The sign was displayed at the October 22nd game. Both teams wore pink ribbons in their hair and played with a pink ball that was given to them by the Play 4 The Cure committee. The ball was inscribed with the words Play 4 The Cure and the referees also wore "pinkish" shirts.

Career Day at ORR Junior High School

by Kevin Brogioli, ORR Junior High School Principal

On Nov 18th, Junior High School students participated in Career Day organized by guidance counselors Beth Martin and Julie DeSousa. Students were able to choose three speakers to listen to in three 25-minute sessions.

Over thirty professionals participated in this event including authors, bankers, veterinarians, hair stylists, doctors, fishing guides, video game designers, firefighters and photographers, to name a few.

The students learned how these individuals chose their respective careers, as well as what their work day is like. Speakers shared their educational experiences, what they liked about their job, and provided our students an opportunity to learn about the many choices available to them in the future. The program was closed by the head of the SMILES mentoring program, Jim Mathes who addressed all students.

The junior high plans to offer this program every two years.

Business and Medical Professionals Visit ORR High School Social Studies Classes

by Colin Everett, ORR HS Social Studies Co-Coordinator

On Wednesday, November 5, Colin Everett's philosophy students had the opportunity to expand their study of ethics by meeting and engaging in discussion with a bio-ethicist. The class welcomed Paula Shiner, the director of SouthCoast Home Care, Hospice & Palliative Care and Infusion Services and a member of the SouthCoast Hospital Group's Bio-Ethic Committee.

Ms. Shiner led an engaging discussion over ethical guidelines for physicians, patients, and hospitals. Ms. Shiner used several powerful case studies from the University of Pennsylvania Center on Bio-Ethics as starting points for discussions. In addition to reviewing the same ethical case studies that hospital ethics committees review, Ms. Shiner also discussed with the class several prominent ethical issues facing the medical community.

Kim Frink, a financial consultant with Invest Financial Corporation, visited Erich Carroll's senior economics classes for the second consecutive year. Mr. Frink works as a volunteer with Junior Achievement and taught students throughout the month of October.

Last year Mr. Frink was integral in the success that Old Rochester students had on the National Financial Literacy Challenge. His knowledge and experience were invaluable.

According to their website, "Junior Achievement Worldwide is a partnership between the business community, educators and volunteers - all working together to inspire young people to dream big and reach their potential. Junior Achievement's hands-on, experiential programs teach the key concepts of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy to young people all over the world".

Life After ORR

by Sally Beauvais, Class of 2008
Tulane University, Class of 2012

I arrived on Tulane's campus this fall to heavy heat, Dixieland bands and Hurricane Gustav. Having snubbed the concerns of my friends and family regarding the negative elevation of my new home, I felt naïve at best when a mandatory evacuation order was placed on the city within my first week in New Orleans. Perhaps I was not impervious to the elements, as I had previously assumed? Thankfully, the most terrifying aspect of my experience was not the anticipation of an apocalyptic hurricane, but rather my imprisonment in a twelve-passenger van with three new college friends, my roommate, her five screaming siblings, their neighborhood cat and their untrained puppy on our ten hour "road trip" to Panama City Beach, Florida. Although persevering under such conditions was questionably more strenuous than swimming my way out of a flooded street may have been, I promise you that I survived and found myself back on campus about a week later.

Since the whirlwind that was my first month of college, life has slowed back down to New Orleans time. The post-hurricane weather has been so calm and pleasant (it's currently seventy-five and sunny with a slight breeze – be jealous) that I've actually found myself yearning for a cold, rainy day. I guess too much of a good thing doesn't jive well with my Puritan blood. But I can't complain. I think that New Orleans (the land of beautiful queens, la la la) and I may be soul sistahs separated at birth. She's full of old and elegant architecture, music that may be capable of making even Robert Hohne misty-eyed, and some of the friendliest people I've ever met. Everything here feels really authentic, which I love. I probably shouldn't mention the nightlife.

As for living in the south, because New Orleans is, in fact, in the south, as easy as that is to forget, I've come to a few realizations:

1. People eat alligator. And it's good.
2. "Tubing" down the Bogue Chitto involves neither a boat nor a real tube (think discarded tractor tire).
3. A direct correlation exists between the number of visible confederate flags and the number of miles traveled in the direction of the heart of Louisiana.
4. The efforts of non-natives to resist using the contraction, "y'all" will always ultimately fail.

Despite my adaptations to living at college, I am really looking forward to coming home for Thanksgiving. Bruff Commons, cafeteria of Tulane University, is a LARGE exception to New Orleans' reputation for delicious food. I also might miss Salty the Seahorse a little.

Oh, and my classes are really interesting...



Sally Beauvais, ORR Class of 2008

Town Administrator Visits Old Hammondtown School

by Michael Bowman, OHS Technology Assistant

Through the Enrichment Program at Old Hammondtown School, the fifth grade classes had the opportunity to meet with Mattapoissett Town Administrator, Mr. Mike Botelho. Mr. Botelho shared his experience with town government and his role as Town Administrator with the students. The children had many questions for Mr. Botelho and they appreciated him taking the time to meet with them.



Old Hammondtown fifth grade students with Mattapoissett Town Administrator, Mike Botelho, (left to right) James Estudante, Cedar Gregoire, and Zenobia Nelles

Melissa Souza-Martin

The Rochester Memorial School community was deeply saddened earlier this month with the news of the sudden passing of grade one teacher, Melissa Souza-Martin. Ms. Souza-Martin had been with the district for eleven years beginning as a student teacher, then serving as an assistant before being appointed to a teaching assignment. Melissa's work during most of her time at RMS was as a grade one teacher. A resident of Westport, MA, Ms. Souza-Martin was 37 years old and leaves a husband and two children, ages nine months and three years. Donations can be made to the Melissa Souza-Martin Family Fund c/o Mayflower Bank, 565 Rounseville Road, Rochester, MA 02770.

Personnel Transitions

We welcome the following new staff members to our school district:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>Sippican School</u>	
Shannon Anderson	Special Ed Assistant
Kimberly Besse	Psychologist
Caleigh Forge	Special Ed Assistant
<u>Sippican School and Rochester Memorial School</u>	
Kathryn Chiappetta	Psychologist



Coming Soon . . .

Information on Upcoming Events Throughout the District

ORR High School

Thursday, December 4, 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.
ORPEA Scholarship Fund Craft Fair

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Concert Band, Chorus and Jazz Band Holiday Concert

Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
Ornament Rock Orchestra Holiday Concert

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ORR Junior High School

Thursday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.
Junior High Ensembles Holiday Concert

Old Hammondtown/Center Schools

Thursday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.
Charity Basketball Game at OHS

Wanted: School Programming

by Debbie Stinson, HS TV Production Teacher

We are looking for school programming from the ORR School District: classroom lessons, guest speakers, sports, school events & activities, etc. Please share the wonderful things going on in this school district with the community.

Programming will air on Ch. 18 – the new Ed TV Channel for the Tri-Town. Teachers, students, parents, if you have taped school events or would like to learn how, please contact: Debbie Stinson and Lee Shionis at ORRHS 508-758-3745. Email: dstinson@orr.mec.edu lshionis@orr.mec.edu. Formats for programming: mini dv or DVD.

Newsletter Information

Anyone wishing to get a notice or message to all employees and school committee members of the four districts at one time is welcome to insert such in the monthly bulletin via e-mail to Jennifer Carreiro at jcarreiro@orr.mec.edu

Thanksgiving Day Break

The fall season has certainly been a very eventful period from a national perspective, and a fair number of those national events have already had significant influence on our lives as citizens and public educators. On balance, it remains to be seen whether or not the leadership changes coupled with efforts to put the economy on a sounder footing will lead to good things for the citizens of the area or the globe. Despite all of the uncertainty of the present period, we do have so much to be thankful for. I hope that the Thanksgiving break proves to be a restful and enjoyable time for you and your families. A win at Apponequet on Thursday would be a nice added spice for the long weekend.

Bill Cooper