

THE SAUGUS EDUCATOR

A PUBLICATION FUNDED BY WHEELABRATOR SAUGUS

Volume 3, No. 1

Spring 2006

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BACH to SCHOOL

Retiree shares love of music with students

BY KAITLIN RAHL

Steve Powell does not want attention focused on him. "I'm only somebody who did a little program with the kids," he said. "It's about the kids, and the attention should be aimed at the kids, not me."

Powell's love of classical music and his desire to share that love with children is what attracted him to working in the schools. "You've gotta have a little craziness," Powell said. "My love for the music knows no bounds."

When he retired in 1998, Powell contacted the Saugus Public Schools and offered to develop a classical music program for elementary school students. "I retired and I had to find something to do," he said. "I love music. It is something the kids can carry with them for the rest of their lives."

Now, twice a month, Powell goes to the Oaklandvale Elementary School to teach the students about classical music. "The program has really

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Steve Powell has instilled an appreciation for Classical music in the students at the Oaklandvale School.
PHOTO: PAULA MULLER



Waybright School fifth-grader Zachary Sanders shows Jim McIver and Bill Doyle of the SBEC some of the new computer equipment.

SBEC helps schools go high-tech

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Students at the Waybright Elementary School and Saugus High School are getting a technological boost, thanks to the generosity of RESCO, the Saugus Business Education Collaborative and the Corcoran Foundation.

Linda Sapienza, SBEC board member and director of community relations for Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. - the parent company of RESCO - secured a \$9,000 grant from the Waste Management Charitable Foundation, which is being used to upgrade

See SBEC Page 10

Belmonte student honored for Keller-inspired letter

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Playwright William Gibson's epic drama "The Miracle Worker" is the story of strength, courage and the awe-inspiring power of language and education. It chronicles the life of Helen Keller, the woman who was struck deaf and blind by illness at the age of 19 months and who used sign

language to overcome silence and darkness.

For Belmonte Middle School sixth-grade student Carmela Tedder, the story struck a chord.

"I have a sister with attention-deficit disorder, and even though that's no comparison to Helen, it was interesting reading about how to handle different

learning styles," said Tedder.

Inspired, Tedder chose to write to Gibson as part of a national reading-writing contest, Letters About Literature. Sponsored by the Library of Congress and Target Stores, the contest asked readers to write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre,

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Carmela Tedder was honored for her letter about the impact "The Miracle Worker" has had on her.

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Spirit of cooperation makes job easier



Dr. Keith Manville

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I write this version of Superintendent's Corner for the third edition of the *Saugus Educator*.

Before I go any further, I would like to thank Jim McIver and the good folks at

Wheelabrator Saugus for once again funding the paper. Without their kindness and generosity, we would not be able to put this together.

This year has seen many exciting things occur in the Saugus Public Schools. You will read about many of them in this publication. We are saying goodbye to 16 of our teachers and two of our principals as they retire from the system. We are losing another principal to

a neighboring district. While this is an occasion of sadness — losing close friends and colleagues is always difficult — it is also a time of excitement. New people come with new ideas and this is always beneficial.

The district has also begun a program called Connect-Ed. This allows the administration to call students and parents using the World Wide Web. We have found this very helpful. There are some bugs to be worked out, of course, but I think this is going to be a boon to the system.

Running a school system is interesting, fun, bewildering, and never boring. One of the things that make it easier here is the cooperation that exists between all the facets of the town.

The schools are indebted to the Saugus Business Education Collaborative. Over the years this group has provided support, both financial and otherwise, to countless teachers and students.

The Saugus Business Partnership and the Saugus Chamber of Commerce are always ready to lend a hand. Town officials, parents, and concerned citizens ask over and over again what they can do to help. I would venture to say that there are few other towns so willing to assist the schools in so many intangible ways.

This is enough from me. I am sure you are much more interested in what else is in the paper than this particular column. Please enjoy it and feel free to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keith Manville
Superintendent

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Produced by:

**GRANT COMMUNICATIONS
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Principal John Fauci of the Waybright Elementary School sits in on class with T.J. Collins.



PHOTOS:
REBA SALDANHA



Victor Leone of the Veterans Memorial School visits with secretary Mildred Salsman.

A new slice of life

Retiring principals ready to cook up some new adventures

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Come September, principals John Fauci and Victor Leone may be dishing out pizza slices instead of report cards.

The principals, who also operate family-owned pizza businesses, will retire in June after more than three decades as educators in the Saugus Public Schools. Their parallel careers took root in the classroom in the early 1970s and have come full circle. In their current administrative roles, both have been dedicated to upholding the highest standards of educational progress for their staff and students, while building strong relationships and friendships.

"I'll miss the contact with the children," said Fauci, principal of the Waybright Elementary School. "It's the day-to-day enjoyments you get out of the students that keep you going. You look at them from year-to-year and see them growing, progressing, and that's

the impact of education."

"It'll be tough leaving the kids and the people here," said Leone, principal of the Veterans Memorial Elementary School. "There are a lot of great teachers and community members. But, it's time for some new blood, some new experience to come in."

While they will no longer maintain permanent stature in the district, Fauci and Leone have no plans of disappearing. The pair has already discussed fundraisers with the parent-teacher organizations, coining one of the ideas, "Principals' Pizza."

"We could give out a free ruler with every slice," quipped Leone.

Fauci says farewell

Fauci began his teaching career at the former Felton Elementary School in 1971, and he went on to teach grades 4 and 5 at the former Sweetser School and the Waybright. Subsequently, he taught

mathematics at Belmonte Middle School and Saugus High School. While at Belmonte, Fauci also served as the vice principal. He assumed the position of Waybright principal seven years ago.

"My entire career has been in Saugus," said Fauci. "I've held administrative and teaching positions at all levels throughout the district, and I was fortunate enough to come back and end my career at the Waybright."

Come June, Fauci will leave proud of what the school has accomplished, especially in terms of MCAS.

"We've really seen our MCAS scores take off," said Fauci. "We've been recognized as one of the top achieving schools in this area, and it's a tribute to the teachers and all of our efforts."

Fauci, who grew up in Peabody, earned his bachelor's degree at Suffolk University and his master's at Boston State College, which merged with the University of Massachusetts Boston in 1982. He completed his practice

teaching in Saugus, where his family has roots.

"My father grew up here (in Saugus), so I had ties to the community," said Fauci. "My father and uncle actually built the (former) Evans School. I did my student teaching in this district and that led to a full-time position."

During his teaching career, Fauci was active outside of the classroom, coaching varsity football at Saugus High. He began as an assistant coach before serving as the head coach for three years. He is currently the high school's assistant athletic director.

"I've coached some wonderful kids over the years who have gone on to successful careers," said Fauci.

A dual tradesman, Fauci also owns Fauci's Pizza in Lynn, a business he opened in 1971 when he began teaching. He will devote more time to the restaurant business, to his family and to

See **PRINCIPALS** Page 4

SBEC sings praises of school system's unsung heroes

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In every classroom across Saugus sits an unsung hero, quietly and humbly doing his or her part to make the Saugus Public Schools a better place.

The Saugus Business Education Collaborative (SBEC) honored six such individuals for their persistent academic effort, exemplary character and respectability. They include: Lynnhurst Elementary School fifth-grader Gabriella Bono, Oaklandvale Elementary School fifth-grader Brianna Lombardi, Veterans Memorial Elementary School fifth-grader Christopher Barton, Waybright Elementary School fifth-grader Deanna Mora, Belmonte Middle School eighth-grader Anthony Brunco and Saugus High senior Justin Foreman.

"The unsung hero award is a very positive accomplishment for each of these students who exemplify the spirit and the ideals of their schools," said SBEC President William Doyle.

The students, who were nominated by their principals, were honored in a ceremony held at the central administration building in March. They received \$100 savings bonds and commemorative awards from the SBEC. Joining them in the celebration were principals, teachers, administrators and family



The SBEC honored an unsung hero from each school in town: front, from left, Gabriella Bono, Deanna Mora, Anthony Brunco, Christopher Barton, and Brianna Lombardi; back, Justin Foreman, SBEC President William Doyle, SBEC board member Linda Sapienza of Wheelabrator, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Keith Manville.

members.

"Deanna (Mora) is an unassuming, caring young lady," said Waybright Principal John Fauci. "She is a credit to the Saugus community, to the Waybright School and to her family."

"Chris (Barton) is unquestionably a good role model for his peers and younger students," said Veterans Principal Victor Leone.

The heroes were applauded for the generous amount of time and effort they put forth in and out of the classroom, such as volunteering at the Stoneham Animal Hospital, helping a first-grade class, contributing to the student council or initiating a letter-writing campaign to soldiers in Iraq.

Funding for the trophies, food and gift bags was provided by RESCO, which was represented by Linda Sapienza, SBEC board member and director of community relations for Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. - the parent company of RESCO.

Since its founding in 1992, the SBEC has raised nearly \$200,000 for Saugus Public Schools. Comprised of local businesses, public officials and school employees, the group encourages collaboration between the community and the schools, in efforts to enhance educational programs.

Foundation raises \$11,000 for school activities

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

An evening of dinner, comedy and entertainment united hundreds of community members in support of the Saugus Public Schools.

The Saugus Education Foundation fundraiser, held Jan. 29 at the Kowloon Restaurant, was the first of its kind to raise funds strictly for the district's co-curricular activities. Tickets, priced at \$125, included

dinner for two, a chance at a \$10,000 raffle grand prize, a comedy show and live and silent auctions. There were 192 tickets sold and the event netted \$11,350 for the schools.

The foundation evolved out of the Saugus Education Fund, set up several years ago to accept contributions from local community members. Last year, the School Committee set up a sub-committee of school and district administrators, parents and local business representatives to organize fundraisers to

sustain athletics, clubs and activities in the schools.

"With budget cuts statewide, things had to be self-sustained," said Christine Wilson, a member of both the School Committee and the Saugus Education Foundation. "We needed a vehicle for fundraising."

The foundation exists under the mission, "Funding Straight A's (academics, arts, athletics and activities) for the Total Student." Already, the group has given

\$10,000 to middle school and high school clubs, district-wide fine arts programs and athletics. Members are still meeting to plan future fundraising events.

"It's important that we stay active and keep focusing on how we can improve the way of life for our students," said Wilson. "Sports and arts and after-school activities are a vital part to their education as a whole, and we don't want them to ever lose that."

Retiring principals Fauci and Leone leave big shoes to fill

PRINCIPALS: from Page 3

his hobbies after he retires.

"I'll do some relaxing, fishing and traveling," said Fauci. "I'll have more time to spend time with my family."

Fauci resides in Byfield with his wife, Anne, a former teacher. The couple has two children, Cara and James, both attorneys. Cara graduated from Boston College Law School and James graduated from Harvard Law School.

Leone leaves a legacy

Leone, who began teaching in 1972, has made the Veterans School his home for the past 34 years. He began as a fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at the school, under former principal Earl Ellis, and in 1986, Leone assumed the role as principal.

"A lot of my colleagues went on to the middle school that year to teach sixth grade," said Leone. "I was ready to move up at that point, but fortunately the principal position opened up for me."

After 20 years as principal, Leone has established many friendships and fond memories and still appreciates hearing about the successes and triumphs of former students.

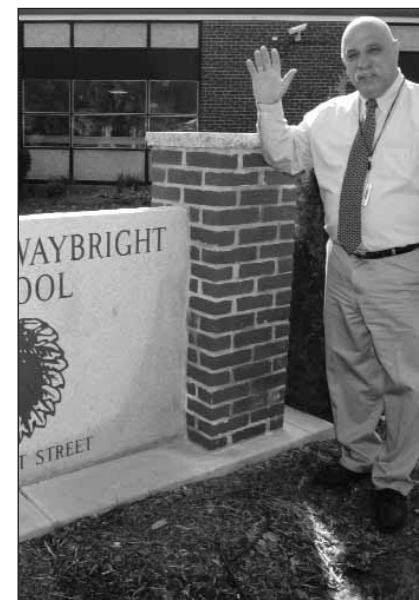
"The most rewarding part of this job is when a kid comes back to see you," said Leone. "You stop and think, I taught that; I inspired you. Just a few months back, one of my students, Eileen Rose Giadone, who is a singer/songwriter now, said 'Mr. Leone taught me to think outside of the box.' That means something."

A native of Everett, Leone grew up in Melrose and earned his bachelor's degree at Southern Connecticut State University and his

master's at Boston University. His family has owned and operated Leone's Pizza in Somerville for 50 years and he has always had a hand in the business, working part-time.

In addition to his work in Saugus, Leone has performed independent studies for the U.S. Department of Education, visiting and filming Japanese school systems. For the past 10 years, he has also been involved with the development office of Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, chairing the annual gala event at the Pops to benefit the High Hopes Fund, which supports those who live with diabetes and those who are at risk for the disease.

Leone lives in Lynnfield with his wife Carolina, a special education teacher at the Veterans School. The couple has two children, Anthony, a student at Boston College, and Alicia, an incoming freshman at Lynnfield High School.



John Fauci has been in the Saugus schools since 1971.

AT ISSUE: teen issues

Discussion group helps teens face challenges head-on

Front from left, students Jackie Prater, Jenna Taylor and Toni Nuzzo; back row, school nurse Joan Aeschlimann, adjustment counselor Jeanna DeLeo and Amy Gagne of the North Shore Rape Crisis Center.



Jacqueline LoConte, left, and Ashley Sacilotto at a Just for Teens meeting.

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Using magazine cut-outs, a group of Saugus High School students spent an hour after school creating individual collages to represent their inner and outer personas. Four weeks later, the students joined together in a board game of self expression, answering difficult questions about their feelings, beliefs and views of themselves and the world around them.

Initiated in February by school nurse Joan Aeschlimann and school adjustment counselor Jeanna DeLeo, the Just for Teens group meets weekly to discuss the demands of high school, relationships, social pressures and self esteem. In partnership with the North Shore Rape Crisis Center, the program provides an outlet for teenagers to voice their feelings in a healthy, positive atmosphere.

"It's about giving the kids a safe place

to come and ask questions and bring up topics of concern," said DeLeo.

"There are a lot of issues affecting teens nationwide, but we try to concentrate on the specific issues here at Saugus High," said Aeschlimann.

Each meeting begins with check-ins, in which group members have the opportunity to share something about themselves. Conversations are grounded in four elements: confidentiality, respect, safety and the right to be heard. Aeschlimann, DeLeo and Amy Gagne, community outreach advocate at the North Shore Rape Crisis Center, guide students through topics such as stress, surviving high school, images of advertising, abusive relationships, the truth about drugs and positive thinking.

"We sit in a circle and kids just start talking and coming out of their shells,"

said DeLeo. "It's a mix of students, so it's nice to hear the different perspectives. We've even had boys in here who have been surprised at some of the things they learned during the body image discussions."

The students also participate in activities, ranging from art projects to interactive games to discussion-provoking presentations and videos. During one session, the group members were given white T-shirts to use as blank canvases to create unique works of art about how they felt. The 15 T-shirts were displayed at the North Shore Rape Crisis Center throughout the month of April.

Funded through a mini-grant provided by the Saugus Business Education Collaborative, the program emerged out of a need to provide students with a setting to talk to both peers and health

administrators. Aeschlimann and DeLeo are also available throughout the school week for students looking to further discuss specific issues on an individual basis.

"This is one more link, giving them a place to go after-school," said Aeschlimann. "I wish there were more programs like this for them."

Attendance varies week to week, ranging from four to 16 students. Aeschlimann hopes to see the program continue and grow.

"We're hoping to have a core group of 20 who come week after week and bring a friend with them every so often," Aeschlimann said. "Right now we're at about 10, but it's catching on. The more people hear about it, the more they want to be a part of it."

New system keeps Saugus schools, parents Connect-ED

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

The Saugus Public Schools is closing the communication gap between home and the classroom through an innovative new program, Connect-ED.

Built exclusively for K-12 educators, Connect-ED enables administrators to record, schedule and send voice messages to thousands of parents in minutes. Used largely to increase community outreach, the system allows principals to remind parents of upcoming school events, alert them of last-minute changes to schedules and gather support for school initiatives. It also advances school and district emergency communication, instantly reaching parents in the event of emergencies or weather-related

school closings.

"It'll come into play with the district's crisis plan, along with snow days and half days," said Judy Mascucci, director of pupil personnel. "It's also great to announce changes in athletic schedules or to promote upcoming fine arts events. Students don't always bring home school notices, so this ability to keep parents up-to-date is wonderful."

Connect-ED also has the capacity to communicate with individual parents regarding their child's history of attendance. Each school can quickly identify absent students and send out multi-lingual calls to parents, notifying them of attendance issues.

Another component of the system is survey

messages, which enables parents to RSVP for school events or to provide input on school initiatives using their telephone keypad. The survey feature is also helpful for principals to communicate with their staff and coordinate schedules.

As one of 4,700 school districts nationwide to implement the system, the Saugus Public Schools is actively working to reinforce a culture of student and parent accountability. The district launched the program in April, following training for principals and administrators. In the first weeks of operation, administrators used the programs for general announcements and to survey parents about how many students would be present on Good Friday.

Partial funding for Connect-ED came through the district's participation in a McLean Hospital study that researched attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

"The schools all agreed to dedicate the money we received from the study for Connect-ED," said business manager Judy Mulligan. "It was something the district had been considering for some time and everyone recognized the benefits."

Additional funding came through the savings the district received through E-rate, a program of discounts on key technology services for schools and libraries. E-rate has helped the district afford Internet access and networking capabilities and has lowered monthly phone service bills.

STUDENTS SHOW ARTISTIC TALENTS



Students' art hangs on the wall at the School Administration Building in April as part of the "Viva Van Gogh" exhibit.

PHOTOS: PAULA MULLER

Saugus students Gogh for broke with art

By KAITLIN RAHL

This year, every student in grades 1-12 in the Saugus Public Schools had the unprecedented opportunity to study and paint in the style of Vincent van Gogh. The work of about 100 of those students will be displayed in the district's central administration building in a live art exhibit called "Viva van Gogh!"

Van Gogh is widely considered to be the greatest post-Impressionist artist. He was also mentally ill: In 1888, at the age of 34, he cut off his own ear after threatening another artist with a knife. He killed himself two

years later.

"Van Gogh is an interesting subject," said Saugus Fine Arts Director Michael Donovan. "He is one of the legends in the art world and probably the guy who opened the door to Modernism."

Giving students of different ages the opportunity to participate in the same project is an educational tool that is becoming more and more popular in the arts. "The art teachers felt that van Gogh would be a good vertical subject because his style is somewhat free and improvisational," said Donovan. "A vertical project like this gives the kids a timeline perspective on their growth as art students. A

sixth-grader can see what a high school senior did with the same project."

The exhibit, which opened April 14, is the first of its kind in the history of the Saugus Public Schools. "This is a project that has affected everyone in the school system in one way or another," Donovan said. "How many opportunities does the town have to look at something from students in grades 1-12 at once? It also benefits the students who will get recognition for their work."

The administration building will be open to visitors during business hours, Monday-Friday. The student work will also be displayed on the fine arts department's website:

www.saugusfinearts.com.

Visual artists are not the only ones getting recognition in Saugus. The high school staged its spring musical, "Anything Goes," at the end of March. "Anything Goes," with music by Cole Porter, is considered the quintessential 1930s musical.

"If you were a young person going to your first musical ever, 'Anything Goes' would be great because it has a wide breadth of appeal," said Donovan. "It's a lot of fun, and you can't go wrong with the music of Cole Porter."

The students staged a full production, complete with singing, dancing, costumes, and a full band in the pit.



Donna McNeil takes some time to enjoy some art created by Saugus students as part of the "Viva Van Gogh" student art exhibit at the Saugus School Administration Building in April.

TEACHER A HIT WITH POPS



Chanel Wood

A Saugus teacher is also getting recognition for her talent. Chanel Wood, a vocal teacher who works in the elementary and middle schools, was invited to sing as a soloist with Boston Pops last Christmas.

"She is probably headed for a starry career as a classical singer," said Saugus Fine Arts Director Michael Donovan. Wood's work in the Saugus Public Schools this year led to the creation of an elementary vocal program and Saugus' first elementary school chorus.



Rachel Forgione plays the drums with the Joe Bananas Band during practice at Belmonte Middle School.

PHOTOS: REBA SALDANHA

BELMONTE MUSICIANS GO BANANAS FOR JAZZ

By KAITLIN RAHL

On April 26, the Belmonte Middle School Jazz Combo (also known as Joe Bananas and His Bunch) did something surprising: they won the silver medal at a high school music festival. Under the direction of music teacher Brian Sheehan, the 10-member band was the only middle school group to compete.

The Massachusetts State Finals Combo Competition, which was sponsored by the International Association for Jazz Education, took place at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

"That was a bright spot, pulling off a silver medal at a high school festival," said Saugus Fine Arts Director Michael Donovan.

The middle-school musicians had to compete against older students because Saugus is one of the few school districts in the state to offer a middle school jazz combo. "If you went to 100 middle schools in Massachusetts, you wouldn't find another jazz combo," said Donovan.

The main difference between a jazz combo and a traditional jazz band, or "Big Band," is size. The standard instrumentation in a jazz band includes five saxophones, three trombones, four trumpets, piano, guitar, bass, drums, and a singer. To form a combo, you extract the piano, guitar, bass, and drums, and then add one or two more musicians.

The Joe Bananas Band features two keyboards, a guitar, drums, and auxiliary percussion, as well as three jazz flutes. "The jazz flutes are something unique about the group," said Donovan. "We had some really talented flute players this year."

Donovan took the unusual step of assembling a jazz combo at the middle-school level because he knew he had a group of student musicians who could handle it. "We had a batch of kids who came up through the system and developed more quickly than we anticipated," he said. "We thought, 'we have the horses; let's put them in a race and see what happens.'"

This is the jazz combo's second year performing and its

first year under the direction of Sheehan, who joined the Saugus Public Schools last fall. Before becoming a teacher, Sheehan worked as a professional jazz musician in New Orleans.

"He has a wealth of knowledge about traditional jazz, which most people know as Dixieland," said Donovan. "We teach all the different jazz styles in Saugus, but Mr. Sheehan would probably be considered an expert in the Dixieland style."

Since the majority of the musicians in the Joe Bananas Band will move on to Saugus High School next year, Donovan believes the next logical step will be to reunite them as a high school jazz combo. "We want to develop these students as a group because they have chemistry musically and intellectually," he said. "If their early results foreshadow what is to come, their future is bright."



Meghan Williamson



Some help from home



From left, Lauren Angelo, parent Donna Angelo, Stefani Terrazzano, Sergeant First Class Michael Goodwin, Sydney Hunt, parent Andrea DeMeo, Vice Principal Linda Gaieski and teacher Lloyd Sayles.

Belmonte care packages sent to U.S. troops in Afghanistan

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

The gift of care from staff, students and parents at Belmonte Middle School brought a touch of home to soldiers serving 7,000 miles away from Massachusetts soil.

A group of more than 35 Belmonte students met after school to package personal supplies for the soldiers of the 101st Finance Detachment out of West Newton. The unit, comprised of 11 soldiers, was stationed in Afghanistan for 12 months, returning March 25.

"The packages broke up the monotony of our day-to-day work," said SFC Michael Goodwin, commanding officer of the unit. "It was so special that the students would go out of their way to help us and let us know they appreciated what we were doing."

Goodwin paid a visit to the school in April, just two days after the funeral of Marine Cpl. Scott Procopio, a Saugus resident who was killed in Iraq. He met with an emotionally-charged group of staff, students and parents, sharing his gratitude and talking candidly about his experience overseas.

"I had a lot of one-on-one time with the nationals," said Goodwin, born and raised in Malden. "What they consider wonderful, we consider below poverty-level here like having strong tents for the winter. It's eye-opening."

Belmonte vice principal Linda Gaieski, whose

son Anthony is a member of the National Guard, felt a personal connection to the campaign to assist the soldiers.

"Those men and women over there are the ones that are doing," said Gaieski. "Every night, they're not far from our thoughts."

Led by Gaieski and teacher Lloyd Sayles, students and parents gathered toiletries, food, candy, news articles from home and DVDs. The students made cards and decorated each of the 24 standard size boxes and 7 larger boxes, which were shipped out prior to Thanksgiving.

"What we have is very limited," said Goodwin. "Something like chocolate is a commodity over there. DVDs would always get rotated around the base, because sometimes you just want to have time to yourself to watch a movie. Just the everyday items like slippers and socks and extra toothbrushes were a comfort."

"We were trying to teach the kids about freedom and respect and giving to someone else," said parent Andrea DeMeo, who assisted the students in putting together the packages. "They took a lot away from this."

Items were shipped directly to the unit because of Sayles' contact with Goodwin. Sayles, who has been active in the National Guard since 1964, trained Goodwin years ago and was happy to be able to extend a helping hand.

Lynnhurst students help soldiers stay connected

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In the spirit of giving, students at the Lynnhurst Elementary School took up a collection for soldiers serving in Kuwait — a project close to Principal John Macero's heart.

"My brother was stationed in Kuwait, so I had a personal interest in doing something to help," said Macero.

Macero's brother, Robert, a customs officer in the U.S. Navy, was stationed in Ali Al Saleem, Kuwait, 11 months ago. He returned home to his family in Washington, D.C., on April 1. During his time abroad, the Lynnhurst School collected 100 phone cards, which were delivered directly to him and his unit in December.

"It's so difficult for the troops to maintain contact with their families and friends, so the phone cards were something they could really use," said John Macero. "It was a pivotal time, too, during the holiday season."

Students at the Veterans Memorial Elementary School and Belmonte Middle School also became involved in the project, supplying more phone cards. In addition, students gave 10 cards to Lynnhurst student Caroline Coleman to send to her uncle, a medic stationed in Iraq.

In recognition of the efforts and generosity of the Saugus students and their families, the customs battalion responded with a thank-you note and group photo that are displayed at Saugus Town Hall.

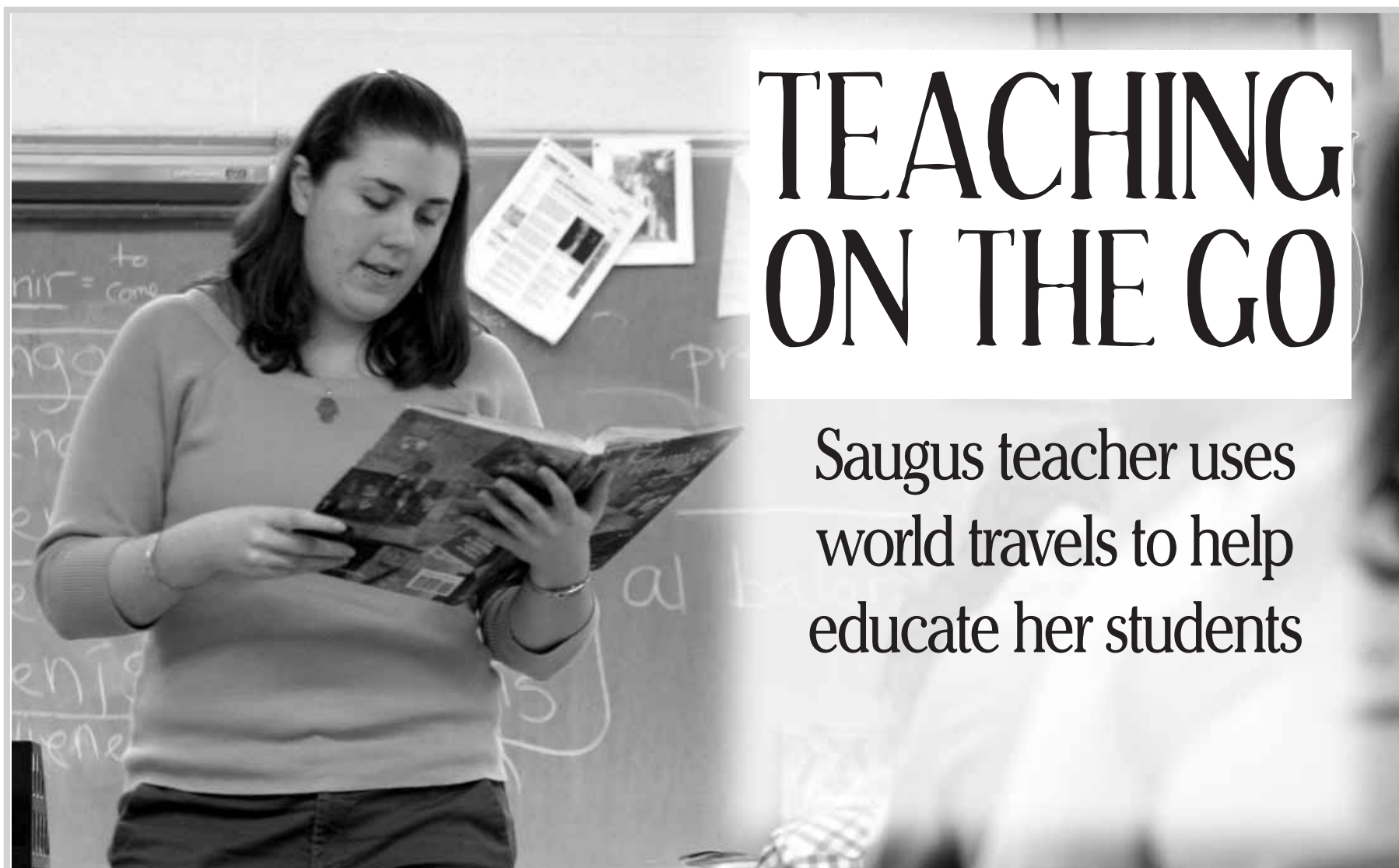
"I would like to thank you for your support with the generous amount of phone cards over the holidays," wrote Robert Macero, a member of Saugus High School class of 1985. "Thank you for letting us keep in touch with our families. We appreciate all of your support towards our deployment."

"This is an outstanding gesture and truly shows your patriotism and dedication to servicemen everywhere," wrote David Ray Schatlo of the battalion.

"It was great for the kids to see how much the troops really appreciated it," said John Macero.



Lynnhurst students received this Christmas card from soldiers stationed in Kuwait.



TEACHING ON THE GO

Saugus teacher uses
world travels to help
educate her students

Saugus High Spanish teacher Jessica Clifford shares her world experiences with her students.

PHOTOS: REBA SALDANHA

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

If travel and change of place bring new vigor to the mind, then Saugus High School Spanish teacher Jessica Clifford will again return to her classroom this fall recharged.

Clifford, who spent time last summer in Israel, is looking ahead to another summer abroad. She will serve as a study abroad instructor in Barcelona, Spain, throughout the month of July, and will spend two weeks in August traveling though Egypt.

Clifford studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for a month last summer through the Dorothy M. and Maurice C. Shapiro Endowment, which funds

extraordinary experiences abroad for teachers and students.

"It was really interesting, very different from the U.S.," said Clifford. "I was there during the Gaza Strip pullout, so seeing people there react first-hand was very eye-opening."

Drawing on her experiences and studies abroad, Clifford brings a unique perspective to her classroom.

"My interest in the Middle East was actually sparked by the culture clashes of Spain," she said. "I

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Clifford earned her master's degree at Middlebury College and studied in Spain for a year through the school's language abroad program. She

began her position at Saugus High following her return to the U.S. two years ago.

Clifford's drive to teach Spanish emerged when she was a student. In eighth grade, she took her first trip to Spain as part of a school program. Her interest was further strengthened through her high school classes.

"When I was in high school, I had a really great Spanish teacher my junior year," said Clifford. "It was the combination of that and having the opportunity to go to Spain when I was young that inspired me."

In her second year of teaching, Clifford is thrilled to be making a difference and inspiring students of her own.

"The most rewarding part of this job is seeing how much progress the kids make," Clifford said. "You see your own work reflected in them, and that's what keeps you going."

"The most rewarding part of this job is seeing how much progress the kids make. You see your own work reflected in them, and that's what keeps you going."

Jessica Clifford



find myself drawing comparisons between the two."

Happy to share her knowledge, Clifford has presented slide shows and informative lessons about her Israeli travels to history classes at Saugus High and to other faculty members.

Retiree shares love of music with Oaklandvale students

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taken on a life of its own,” said Oaklandvale Principal Kathleen Stanton. “The kids love him and look forward to seeing him.”

Beethoven is the centerpiece of Powell’s program because his music is easily accessible to the students. “The kids know Beethoven’s music without knowing they know his music,” Powell said. “The first thing I play is ‘Für Elise,’ and they go crazy. Then I play the ‘Fifth Symphony,’ and they say, ‘I’ve heard that.’ Then I play the ‘Moonlight Sonata,’ and they’re all looking at one another saying, ‘I didn’t know I knew classical music.’ Now they want to hear more.”

Powell and his students also discuss program music by composers such as Vivaldi, Bach,

and Berlioz. “When I play Vivaldi’s ‘Four Seasons,’ we discuss what the piece means and how you can hear the cold breeze of winter,” Powell said. “After I tell them the stories, they know the music. If I play it a month later, they can tell me what it is.”

Powell’s student-centered approach to teaching classical music may be part of the reason the program has been such a huge success. He constantly adapts his work to the needs of his students. “When I do a program, I don’t know what the kids will respond to,” he said. “If the kids are antsy, I stop what I’m doing and change the program. We have 800 years of classical music.”

Powell believes his role is to show the kids a world of music that they have never been exposed to

before. “We tend to elevate classical music to a point it shouldn’t be. Beethoven said that music is from the heart to the heart. It’s for the people,” Powell said. “If you open up the door to the kids, they will take it on their own. All it takes is one work: if they like it, they will pursue it on their own.”

“I ask the kids to be honest when I play something,” Powell said. “I enjoy the kids. We have discussions and I treat them at a higher level than what they’re used to.”

Even Powell, who has loved classical music since the age of 10, is impressed by the impact music has had on his students. “I’m amazed at some of these kids,” Powell said. “The things they’ve learned and can tell you about classical music.”



Steve Powell discusses Beethoven with Oaklandvale students.

‘Miracle Worker’ inspires student to write award-winning letter



Carmela Tedder

LETTER: from Page 1

explaining how that author’s work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves.

“My father told me I might find (‘The Miracle Worker’) interesting,” wrote Tedder. “As I began to read I thought my father suggested it to show me that the things I complain about being difficult really aren’t that difficult... Patience is what I got out of your play, and taking the time to listen to my sister.”

More than 47,000 students nationwide in grades 4-12 entered the contest, and Massachusetts ranked among the top three states for participation. The Massachusetts Center for the Book, with sponsorship from the Calderwood Writing Initiative at the Boston Athenaeum, administered the state program.

On April 5, 50 students from across the state were honored at the State House for their high-achieving letters. Tedder was

one of 15 students in the first level of awards, representing grades 4-6. She joined students from Carver, Newton and Cambridge in the honors category. An additional nine students in that category received honorable mention.

The students were welcomed for breakfast and a tour of the State House by Commissioner of Education David Driscoll, Senate President Robert Travaglini and Sharon Shaloo and Elia Marnik of Massachusetts Center for the Book.

“It was exciting to be there representing Saugus,” said Tedder.

Born in Malden, Tedder moved to Saugus five years ago with her parents, James and Antonia, and her two sisters. She is involved with the Belmonte chorus and enjoys science, drawing and playing basketball. Though her favorite book remains Norton Juster’s “The Phantom Tollbooth,” she expects “The Miracle Worker” will always hold a special place in her heart.

SBEC helps schools undergo technological upgrade

SBEC: from Page 1

technology at the Waybright, supplying every classroom with new iMac computers and Internet wiring.

“Technology was one of the things the school was lacking when I came in here seven years ago,” said Waybright Principal John Fauci. “This donation finished a piece of the puzzle. With the new technology, computers and Internet access, we’ve taken a quantum step forward. I feel good about where we are now.”

The funds are also being used to integrate Study Island, a Web-based Massachusetts

Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) preparation program, at the Waybright.

The program, which students can access at school and at home, provides students with lessons, practice tests and interactive games directly aligned to state standards. Students who have fully completed the program have seen an average of a 12 percent increase in MCAS scores.

“It’s fabulous,” said Waybright fifth-grade teacher Susan Salvo. “The new programs and computers have made such a difference with the students already. We’re so grateful.”

RESCO, along with Kowloon owner Donald Wong, has adopted the Waybright School for the past three years through the SBEC Adopt-a-School program, supporting the needs of both staff and students. The goal of the program is to help provide students with cultural, recreational and athletic activities that the school alone cannot provide.

At Saugus High, a \$25,000 grant from the Corcoran Foundation secured a new computer lab equipped with 30 Dell computers and two printers. The contribution is in honor of William J. McKinney ’33, a former columnist for the

Saugus Advertiser and a long-time member of the Saugus Planning Board.

“The students are benefiting from the size of the lab,” said Principal Joe Diorio. “It can accommodate a full class of 30, as opposed to the others which only hold 18. The kids can work independently and they don’t have to double up.”

“We can use the computers more often now,” said student Andy Datserakis, a junior. “Everyone in the class can have their own and they’re a lot faster than the previous Macs.”

Saugus teachers step up for Louisiana district

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Though separated by more than 1,600 miles, the bonds between Baker, Louisiana, and Saugus remain unbreakable.

Last October, the Saugus Educators Association (SEA) adopted Baker as a sister school district. The city, 80 miles from New Orleans, took in nearly 570 students whose schools were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

"It was a very difficult situation because of the unknown, but the day-to-day operations went on thanks to the spirit of the children and to all of those who came to our aid," said Baker Superintendent Lester Klotz.

SEA members collected donations from teachers, students and the community for Baker schools. Initially, the SEA raised \$3,000 that allowed Baker schools



Students in Susan Cronin's class at Lynnhurst School held a crazy hat day event to raise money to send to Baker, Louisiana, schools. Cronin is one of the Saugus teachers who went to Baker in February.

to have Halloween parties for the students. In the months to come, the group sent \$4,500 for teacher appreciation luncheons and \$6,000

for winter clothing and uniforms for the students.

During their February vacation, 15 Saugus teachers and one

Masconomet Regional teacher visited Baker, spending time with teachers and students in the classrooms.

"It's easy to donate money, but to put a personal touch on something is different," said SEA President Barry DeNofrio.

During a reception at the Baker School Board office Feb. 21, DeNofrio presented Klotz with a \$2,000 check to buy additional library materials.

Though the number of displaced students attending Baker schools is down, the district is still accountable for about 200 additional students. DeNofrio hopes the SEA will maintain a relationship with Baker well into the future.

"From our perspective, this could be a long-term commitment," he said.



Oaklandvale Elementary School

On April 25-28, Grade 5 students at Oaklandvale went on an Environmental Trip to Merrowvista. On May 2, there was a luncheon and gifts for teachers in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Day. The Spring Concert took place on May 9. This year's field day will take place on May 26 and the Grade 5 pool party is scheduled for June 6. The awards ceremony for Grade 5 will be on June 20.

Waybright Elementary School

On May 26, Waybright will hold its Memorial Day Program. Field day will be celebrated on June 6 followed by the Grade 5 pool party on June 9. At 1 P.M. on June 19, Waybright will honor its departing Grade 5 students with a Moving On ceremony. The last day of school is scheduled for June 20.

Belmonte Middle School

MCAS testing will take place from May 15-May 31. The Suicide Prevention Workshop for Parents will be held on May 31 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The Awards and Scholars Night 2006 is scheduled for June 5. Fun Days will be June 12 (6th grade), June 13 (8th grade) and June 14 (7th grade), and the Grade 8 social is scheduled for June 14 at the Kowloon restaurant.

Saugus High School

On May 8, the Boosters Club Awards were held at Saugus High School followed by the Honor Scholars Night at Sheraton Ferncroft Resort on May 9 and the Spring Concert on May 11. The SHS band and chorus trip will take place from May 18-21. All MCAS testing will take place from May 23-26. The senior breakfast is on May 26 at the Hilltop at 8:30 a.m. and the senior cookout will take place on May 30 at Stackpole Field at 11 a.m. The Baccalaureate service is May 30 at 6 p.m. at East Saugus Methodist Church. On May 31, seniors will meet at noon for pizza and comedy at Giggles Comedy Club at Prince Pizza, and then head to the Senior Awards and Scholarships ceremony at 6 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium. The Senior Prom will take place on June 1 at the Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers with a post-prom party on the Odyssey from midnight to 4 a.m. Graduation will take place on June 3 at Stackpole Field at 1 p.m. with a rain date of June 4.

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McBrides honored for longtime dedication to Saugus sports

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children.

"It's something that we both liked as students. We hoped that our children would be involved as well because it brings back a lot of fond memories to be back at the games," Cheryl McBride said.

The McBrides' four children - Megan (Class of 2006), A.J. (2002), Christopher (1998) and Michael (1996) - all got involved with sports at an early age.

With his children on the field, John McBride began a coaching career that would span many years and several sports.

His first coaching experience was for Michael's Pop Warner team. He continued coaching football for a year, but he expanded his repertoire to baseball and softball as well.

The McBrides have been model parents at every level of competition, including high school. All of their sons played football and basketball and ran spring track, while Megan played field hockey and basketball and ran

spring track.

The McBrides provided a support system at the games and at the countless fundraising meetings and activities they attended. They were members of the Gridiron Club and the Boosters Club. From snack bars to car washes, the McBrides have lent a helping hand to all types of fundraising efforts.

"You felt that you have a little bit more of a connection. These people have known us as parents, students and as volunteers. Sports are just something that's kept us very

involved for a long time," said Cheryl McBride.

This May will mark the end of an era for the McBrides as Megan's graduation will close this chapter of their involvement at Saugus High School. She is heading to Endicott in the fall to play field hockey, and Cheryl McBride is already anticipating her involvement with that program. Endicott will be lucky to have the McBrides on their sidelines.

SPORTS

The Saugus Educator

BALL IN THE FAMILY

McBrides to be honored for longtime dedication to Saugus sports

BY COURTNEY DEVEAU

They are the parents cheering on the sidelines of every game. They are the ones who bring the snacks and give each member of the team personalized encouragement. They are the parents who cram one sport after another into a busy schedule, and somehow come away smiling and not stressed out.

John and Cheryl McBride are Saugus sports superparents and now they're getting some recognition for a lifetime of dedication to Sachems' athletics.

The pair was nominated by Saugus High School athletic director Jason Merrill for the Northeastern Conference Community Service Award given to the citizens who have gone above and beyond in support of high school athletics. They will receive the award at the NEC banquet on June 8.

The McBrides have had three of their children graduate from Saugus High School and will see their final child leave the Sachems behind this May. In all they have dedicated more than a decade to Saugus High. They have shaped not only their children, but countless other athletes whom they have come to know and support through the years.

"It's been very rewarding. It's fun to get to know the kids a little better and to be more than just someone in the stands. We've really gotten to know these kids personally," said Cheryl McBride.

The McBrides have a long history in Saugus. Both of their mothers are graduates of Saugus High, and they both graduated from the school in 1971. John McBride was a three-sport athlete - playing football, basketball and baseball. Cheryl was a cheerleader. The two instilled the same love of athletic in their



Cheryl McBride is congratulated by athletic director Jason Merrill on the award she and her husband, John, will receive from the Northeastern Conference.