



**Putnam Valley High School  
Newsletter  
January 2008**

**Summary of areas of Progress, Events, Programs, Successes**

**Community Service—**

The **Building Steering Committee** has met regularly through the school year to date with a variety of topics including **service as a school requirement**. There is consensus that service is critically important to the development of young people preparing them to be good citizens. There was disagreement as to whether or not service should be a requirement for graduation. In the most recent meeting, it was agreed that service is important enough to become a requirement if phased in appropriately and sufficient opportunities are provided for students allowing them to meet the necessary requirements. Work will continue on what the committee will be recommending to the Board of Education as reasonable requirements.

**Recent Community Service Initiatives—**

The **Interact Club** (Mr. David Campion and Ms. Teri Zagorski, Co-Advisors) collected over 250 toys for their Toys for Tots campaign and they were donated to Putnam County CAP (Community Action Program). Putnam Valley High School has received an appreciation plaque from the Marine Corps for their participation in the program.

The **Interact Club**, **Mu Alpha Theta** (Mrs. Jerri Cohen, Advisor), the **Spanish Honor Society** (Mrs. Graciela Greenberg, Advisor), and the **French Honor Society** (Mrs. Alexis Thornton, Advisor) completed their coat drive for residents of Putnam County. 20 new children's coats were donated. About 120 coats were donated to Putnam County CAP in December. An additional 15 coats were donated to the Midnight Run, aiding the homeless in New York City.

The **Make A Difference Club** (Mrs. Pam Adamovich and Mrs. Linda Cefaloni, Co-Advisors) recently mailed packages to Putnam Valley soldiers who are serving overseas and plan on helping with a Midnight Run in the near future (these were financed by our fall Stay-Awake-A-Thon). Last Wednesday, the club presented a check for \$3000 to the parents of the man from Mahopac who founded the "Touching Tiny Lives" safe house for AIDS orphans in Lesotho, South Africa. They spoke at length with the students at the meeting and entertained questions afterward.

The Make A Difference Club will be offering bagels, fruit, beverages and snacks during mid-term exam week. The money raised will finance their next few projects. In March, Make A Difference will again host youngsters from the Cardinal McCloskey Family Services for a "Fun Day" here at the HS.

In April, the club will host the PV Senior Citizens for the dress rehearsal of the spring musical and refreshments afterward. In May, Make A Difference will have our annual flower sale, with the funds going toward the Relay for Life, which they will participate in the first weekend in June.

Our **SADD** organization (Mrs. Graciela Greenberg, Advisor) has concentrated on the ill effects of cigarette smoking. Early in the year students participated in:

- Collecting pledges from the student body stating that they will not use any tobacco products.
- The Great American Smokeout: Students collected signatures from the student body asking Conde Nast (publisher of Vogue magazine) to stop using enticing ads for a new cigarette they call "Camel # 9". Students wore t-shirts with the logo of the cigarette box but replaced the word "Camel" with the word "Cancer". SADD worked with Ms. Diane Moore from Reality Check and Mr. Anthony Massarelli from POWR Against Tobacco. The cards will be hand-delivered to Conde Nast in the spring.
- SADD is currently planning the "Fashion Show for All" to bring awareness of the dangers of eating disorders. The fashion show is scheduled for March 7 and faculty and staff will be modeling with the students.
- For Valentine's Day, SADD will sell flowers with cards attached asking fellow students to make good decisions.
- In the spring, SADD will work again with Mr. Massarelli, from POWR Against Tobacco, to ask the merchants in Putnam Valley to move their cigarette advertising to a place in the store that is not readily accessible to young people. SADD members have already signed postcards to that effect.

### **Events—**

**Chorus** and **Band** Concerts were held this month. Both groups of students gave superb performances under the direction of Mr. Micera and Mr. Odell.

The cast and crew of **Theatreworks'** spring musical, West Side Story (Mr. Gerry Micera, Director), are hard at work rehearsing and building the set for their upcoming production. There are 41 members of the cast, two Stage Managers (also, one "Stage Manager in Training"), four student members in the orchestra pit (under the direction of Mr. Ryan Odell), and 35 students involved in the crew.

### **Academic Updates**

#### **Guidance Department Activities**

- December was a busy time for the counselors as they worked with 12<sup>th</sup> grade students on college applications. There are many colleges that have a January 1<sup>st</sup> or January 15<sup>th</sup> deadlines. The college application process continues into January. Attached is a list of colleges that PVHS seniors have been accepted to as of mid-January.
- The counselors have been in first semester Health classes to work with 10<sup>th</sup> grade students on career exploration activities. The laptop program has allowed us to better utilize the DISCOVER program, which allows students to do interest, ability, and value inventories on-line and correlates that information with possible college majors and career areas. Students can

save this information and use it later in the college search process. The counselors will do this two-day workshop again in second semester Health classes in February.

- Mrs. Zagorski has been working with the High School Principal and Department Coordinators to produce the 2008-09 Course Selection Booklet. The booklet will be available at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester when the counselors will go into classes to discuss diploma requirements and the course selection process. The counselors will meet with each student individually about their course choices.
- Mrs. Zagorski has been working on updating the Class of 2009 College Planning Handbook. The counselors will be doing 11<sup>th</sup> grade classroom presentations about the college search process early in the second semester. They will be meeting with juniors and their families in the late winter and spring.

### **Class of 2008 College Acceptances as of 1/16/08**

Adelphi University [2]	Pace University
Albright College	Rochester Institute of Technology
Allegheny College	Sacred Heart University
Castleton State College	Salisbury University
Christopher Newport College	Siena College [3]
College of St. Catherine	St. Thomas Aquinas
College of St. Rose	SUNY Albany
College of Westchester	SUNY Delhi [2]
Culinary Institute of America	SUNY Oneonta [2]
CW Post	SUNY Potsdam
Emmanuel College	Towson University
Fairleigh Dickenson University	University of Maine
Florida Institute of Technology	University of Colorado-Boulder
Fordham University	University of Hartford [6]
Hofstra University	University of Massachusetts @ Amherst
Ithaca College	Valparaiso University
Lynchburgh College	Washington College [2]
Lynn University	Wentworth Institute
Manhattan College	Western Connecticut State College
Mount Saint Mary College [2]	

The **Regents and mid-term testing** week began on Tuesday, January 22, and concluded on Friday, January 25. The second quarter ended on Friday, January 25. Report cards will be mailed out by next Monday, February 4.

Our **AP Biology class** with their teacher, Mr. Brian Kuczma, was invited to participate in an all day Advanced Placement Biology lab program at SUNY New Palz for advanced placement high school students in the region.

Our **9<sup>th</sup> grade students** were able to participate in a field trip to see **The Bodies Exhibit** at the South Street Seaport in NYC. This exhibition--which features actual human specimens--allowed our students access to sights and knowledge normally reserved only for medical professionals. The purpose of the exhibition is to take the opportunity to peer inside yourself, to better understand how the body works, and how we can become a more informed participant in our own health care.

### **Progress Update on Major Initiatives/Technology**

A group of teachers are scheduled to attend training on February 6 at the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (the previously scheduled date was cancelled due to inclement weather). At least one representative from each department will be in attendance at this all day training at the LHRIC training center in Elmsford.