

Humanities Department News
Weeks of December 12 and December 19

Instrumental Music and Chorus

Middle School Band/Choir- The joined band/choir concert will be Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. The Middle School Chorus is singing a variety of Christmas songs including *Do You Hear What I Hear*, *Silent Night* with violin, and many other new Christmas songs including *A Candle's Light*, *December Nights*, and *Have a Merry One*. The band will be performing a variety of selections, ending with a festive finish!

High School Band/Choir- The joined band/choir concert is December 22 at 7:00 p.m. The High School Chorus is singing *Cover the World with Love*, *Blizzard*, and a real medieval number: *Come Ye Ladies and Lairds*. Also, there will be a lovely medley of traditional Christmas songs, as well as a Chanukah song. Our newly formed group The Advanced Chorus will be singing *Carol of the Bells*, *An Irish Blessing*, *White Christmas* as well as other songs. Many of these will be done acapella. The Wamogo High School Band will be performing pieces composed by Karl King, Percy Grainger, Frank Ticheli and Leroy Anderson. Graduated Wamogo musicians are invited to come play *Sleigh Ride*! Please come support the Wamogo Music Program!
-By Matt Valenti and Ben Loomis

Social Studies:

AP World History I students have recently begun their unit on Ancient Rome. In addition to examining geography's influence on the civilization's development, students have conducted a comparative analysis of Rome's governmental organization and laws with those of Athens and the United States. Further study of Roman government will continue as the Roman Republic decays and the Roman Empire rises. Members of the class will next be looking at the social, political, and economic effects of the Punic Wars against Carthage.
-By Pat Holyst

English/Language Arts:

Eleventh graders currently reading Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* have adopted the personas of various characters and are responding to play through the eyes of this Salem villager. *The Crucible*, the story of the Salem Witch Trials, is an allegory of the McCarthy Era and Red Scare. The hysteria that gripped Salem in 1692 and the whole of the United States in the 1950s, lends itself to the analysis of the role of fear in society. Students are focusing their examination of fear on these essential questions:
Who uses fear?
For what purposes?

How do they do use it?

When is it effective?

Their culminating assessment for this play will be a research paper and presentation that requires them to analyze a modern day example of a witch hunt.

-By Stephanie Pixley

World Languages:

Madame Butler and twenty-five students were able to attend the American Association of Teachers of French Concert that celebrated National French Week on November 16 at Pomperaug High School. Students from French I through French IV enjoyed the music of Togolese artist Brice Kapel. Brice Kapel spent his childhood in Togo before moving to Paris at a young age. He grew up in France where he now resides and creates beautiful music for people of all ages. Through singing, movement, sign language, and much interaction with the audience, Brice Kapel brought an unforgettable musical experience to French students. Songs were in French and some parts of the show were also in English, which allowed beginners to follow and enjoy. Students were laughing, singing, and dancing along to Brice's music. After the show, the group enjoyed a typical French lunch of soup, a croissant sandwich and dessert provided by Oven of France in Woodbury. This trip allowed students to practice French in a fun, interactive way.

- By Elvira Butler

Fine Arts:

Middle School Design and Drawing students are working on a unit in line. They brainstormed many types of expressive lines and then used their expressive lines to brainstorm many kinds of monsters. The students looked at monsters from throughout art history and from different cultures to the present day, including Maurice Sendak's Where the Wild Things Are and Pixar's Monsters Inc. They then created their own unique monsters with expressive lines on tooled metal foil and added color.

The Photography classes visited Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in November to photograph the many different bird species there. Education Director Ben Sonnenberg took the two groups of students on a tour through the different aviaries and around the pond. Students practiced freezing birds in motion, isolating birds in focus against a blurred background, and capturing scenes in deep focus. This month the students are learning to shoot in Manual mode to gain greater creative control over the camera's functions, and are also beginning to shoot in raw format. Shooting in raw gives students a much richer image file to work with and far more image editing potential in programs such as Adobe Photoshop.

In Computer Graphics, students completed an election unit by creating election memes and presidential campaign posters in Adobe Photoshop. They used their learning about

the power of persuasion in campaign posters and applied it to an ad for a mundane object: the goal was to make a boring, everyday object seem exciting by the way it was presented in the ad. The students examined print advertising strategies, reviewed composition techniques, and brainstormed unique ways to photograph their “products.” Students advertised everything from staplers to sponges in this assignment.

In the combined 2D Design, 3D Design, and Drawing class, students have been exploring color harmonies. They have created works using primary, complementary, analogous, and monochromatic color schemes, making use of the unique qualities of each of those harmonies. Students have a wide range of media and application choices for this assignment. So far there have been primary color logos and magazine covers, complementary colored ads and clay monsters, and analogous designs drawn in Adobe Photoshop with a drawing tablet and stylus.

In AP 2D Design, 3D Design, and Drawing, the students have been working very hard since late August on the Breadth section of their portfolios. Most recently, they completed a series of works that progressed from organic to geometric (or vice versa). They have also worked with the idea of cross-contour, as in drawing lines going around a form from edge to edge to describe its volume, as if it had string or wire wrapped around it. For Drawing and 2D Design students, cross-contour drawing is a very good focus and discipline for effective shading techniques. For 3D Design students, the study of cross-contour is an effective way to lead the viewer’s eye around the sculpture. This week the students have been working in cubism, which involves incorporating multiple viewpoints into a single image.

--By Wendy Costa