



# **Suffield High School**

## **October 2017 Newsletter**



### **Principal's Message**

Time flies when you are having fun and that sure seems to be the case here at SHS as we just completed the first month of school and are finalizing the first progress reports of the year. In an effort to reduce paper and mailing costs, new this year the school will not be printing and mailing home progress reports. Student grades and teacher comments are in the process of being verified for quarter one. When completed, the school will send notification home to parents alerting them that the process has been completed. At that time, parents can access the PowerSchool Parent Portal to view the most up-to-date grades and associated comments. A similar process will be completed for report cards and more information will be forthcoming prior to the end of the term. Many of the school communications will be sent through the School Messenger application. The application utilizes the information parents provide through InfoSnap. With these new procedures, it is vital that parents update their information and ensure it is correct. Office secretaries are available to assist anyone having difficulty accessing InfoSnap or are having connection issues with PowerSchool.

Last spring the Suffield Local Prevention Council was the recipient of a grant to assist the community in identifying factors that influence the healthy and positive development of our children and youth. Last spring all middle and high school students took part in a Youth Assessment Survey and the results will be shared on October 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30pm in the Suffield High School Auditorium. The evening will also include speakers to provide perspective on substance abuse as well as breakout sessions to help shape future dialog and problem solving as the town strives to increase protective factors while decreasing risk factors.

I'd like to close by thanking all of the parents that visited during our annual Open House on September 14<sup>th</sup> and remind everyone of our parent conferences on November 15-17. For those new to the high school, parents will be able to electronically sign up for afternoon or evening slots. The school appreciates the support and looks forward to a strong school-family partnership and productive enjoyable school year. An email with instructions on how to schedule appointments will be sent in early November.

### **Agriscience News**

The Suffield High School Agriscience department has been busy during the month of September. The first full week of school began with our annual Welcome Back Picnic. Students received their new t-shirts designed by Sydney LaFrance, which was paid for partly by their annual dues. At the picnic, students played games that introduced the new students to current members of our FFA Chapter. The next event on their agenda was Suffield on the Green. The FFA and Alumni groups had their booth set up where students made corsages. The Suffield Agriscience Alumni were also represented on the Green, where they had their annual bean bag game. The final event for September was a field trip to the Big E, where students from our Agriscience Program made corsages in the FFA booth in the Farm-A-Rama building.



Pictured from left to right: Sarah Oliver, Joey LaFlamme, Gary Higginbotham during Suffield on the Green



### Suffield High School World Languages Student of the Month

Kristina Lester is the World Languages Student of the Month for September 2017. Kristina is currently a student in the Advanced Placement French class at Suffield High School, where she continues to perform



at an extremely advanced level in her language studies. In French, Kristina's progress over her years at the high school has been exceptional and she currently serves as President of the SHS French National Honor Society. In particular, last year her comfort and fluency in speaking and writing advanced to a superior level, and she is an energetic, dynamic communicator in class. Through hard work, strong analytical skills, and a passion to interpret writing and communications, Kristina is able to perform extremely well at a striking array of tasks. She demonstrates a level of achievement in French proficiency that very few students achieve in high school.

Kristina's achievements and endeavors reflect her deep interests in a wide variety of pursuits. She is an experienced equestrian and loves taking care of her horse, Apollo. She plays the flute and piccolo in the school band, and she plans on majoring in political science and minoring in French when she goes to college.

The Suffield High School World Languages Department is honored to initiate a new school year with the selection of Kristina Lester as Student of the Month.

### **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**

Congratulations to Kristina Lester, Jenna McCue and Jeremy Walch who were named “Commended Students” in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. These students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2018 competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Congratulations to these well-deserving students.

### **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist**

Congratulations to Joseph Rossi who was named as a Semifinalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Joseph is one of 16,000 Semifinalists in the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring. Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship.

### **National Leadership Academies**

In June, Marsha Kerongo represented Suffield High School and the State of Connecticut at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts. Students who are nominated for this program aspire to become physicians, scientists or technologists. Students nominated must also possess leadership potential and must have a GPA of 3.5 or above. Marsha watched live surgery and many of the delegates had a chance to question the surgeon in real time. She was personally taught by some of the greatest living minds in medicine. Marsha had the opportunity to be guided and mentored by prominent medical school academic leaders and was inspired by young geniuses who are leading the future of medicine. Marsha received an “Award of Excellence” which was presented to her by her principal. Congratulations Marsha on this outstanding accomplishment.

### **College Fair**

Suffield High School will be holding its’ annual College Fair on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00pm in the Gym.

### **Physical Education Students of the Month**

Congratulations to Sydney Lupone, Jake Smith, Donovan Webb, and Dylan Kaselouskas who were chosen as the Physical Education Students of the Month for September. These students continually give maximum effort every day in class. They are always willing to help the teacher and other students, always have a positive attitude, and always treat others with kindness and respect. In addition, these students always exemplify our school’s core values of Responsibility, Respect, Creativity, Integrity and Rigor.

### **ShopRite for Education**

**Attention ShopRite Shoppers:** Suffield High School is enrolled in "ShopRite for Education". Please link your Price Plus Card to our **school code (50196)**. Each time you shop, our school will earn points towards free classroom equipment, all donated by our local ShopRite. Enroll your card at [www.shopriteforeducation.com](http://www.shopriteforeducation.com). Thank you.



### Science Fair Club



**Hurricane Harvey and  
Hurricane Irma Relief Effort**

They are asking for clothing items for warm weather (please no winter coats), dry food items, canned goods, children's items including diapers, formula, clothing as well as pet food.

Bring donations in bags to Room 314. Thank you.

Last week's donations of 500 pounds were shipped to Texas already

The Science Fair Club through the efforts of students, their parents, teachers and the Suffield community have collected over 1,000 pounds of cleaning supplies, canned goods and clothes that have been delivered to Texas and air lifted to Puerto Rico for the combined Hurricane Relief Efforts for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Thank you for your support.

### News from the Music Department



The Suffield High School Band performed at the Big E during the daily parade on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The 56 piece marching unit was led by senior Drum Major, Jenna McCue. Their musical selections included the swing standard, "Sing, Sing, Sing," the Coldplay hit, Viva La Vide," and the Beatles' Paperback Writer." The students had time to explore the Big E during the day. The SHS Band is directed by Mr. Migliore.

### Athletics

Congratulations Joe Sinicrope for being inducted into the CHSCA Hall of Fame for Track!!! The Field Hockey team is off to a strong start this season. Their season opener was against the reigning state champions who they tied 0-0 in overtime. They went on to win their next game 8-0 and have had one overtime tie against Canton, one overtime loss against Immaculate, one loss against Granby and two additional wins against Killingly and Stafford thus far. Their current record is 3-1-2-1. The girls' soccer team is off to another great start with a record of 5-0. The team has outscored their opponents 24-0. The boys' soccer team is currently 5-1 and they are starting to play some really great soccer!! The girls' cross country team is off to a 6-2 start in NCCC competition. The girls have been working hard and continue to improve. Gabby Zeller placed 9th overall at the Winding Trails Invitational on September 23rd. The boys' cross country team is still undefeated in the league. The football has had a nice start to the season with a 2-1 record. The girls' swim team has a current record of 2-3. The girls' Volleyball team had a really nice win over Canton to start the season. After opening week jitters, the girls' swim team continues to improve. With a solid core of upperclassmen and rapidly maturing underclassmen, they will be looking at a winning record as the season progresses

### Counseling Department

The school counseling department has been working diligently to assist students and families. School counselors have been meeting with ninth grade students during Wildcat Time to review key aspects of high school such as how to obtain assistance, transcripts, grade point average, time management and organization. Ninth grade students have been introduced to the Khan Academy, an excellent resource for academic tutorial and PSAT/SAT preparation. School counselors have also worked with tenth grade

students currently enrolled in Life Education classes on the “Do What You Are” interest inventory in Naviance. In the coming weeks eleventh grade students will work with counselors to formalize post-secondary plans. Seniors have been provided personalized post-secondary assistance while working with school counselors in small groups during Wildcat Time. This is an exciting time at SHS and parent involvement is a vital component of each child’s educational process. As partners in education, you are invited to schedule a meeting with your child’s assigned school counselor. Counselors are looking forward to working with you to ensure that the school counseling office is a place where all students and parents feel welcome and supported.

### **Congratulations Mrs. Kruk**

We would like to commend and congratulate Magdalena Kruk on her continued work as a national scorer for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture exam. She received a certificate of recognition from the College Board for her success in completing dozens of hours of professional development as an evaluator of the speaking section of the AP Spanish Language examination last June. Her work in this role, including collaboration concerning AP exams in our school and through College Board provides many benefits to her students and our program at Suffield High School.

### **Wildcat Playschool at Suffield High School**

Suffield High School Child Development classes will be offering playschool for children who are at least 2.5 years old starting on October 24 and running through December 21, 2017. This semester students in Child Development will learn about the milestones that occur in development. Our goal will be to plan activities that will enhance pre-reading and pre-math skills for the development stage your child is currently in. Please contact Mrs. Kate McCluskey at Suffield High School at [kmcccluskey@suffield.org](mailto:kmcccluskey@suffield.org) for more information.

### **Random Acts of Kindness**

Mrs. Zielinski’s class will continue with their “Random Acts of Kindness” again for the 2017-2018 school year. They will be working with Mary’s Place for their first endeavor. Mary’s Place is a non-profit organization which provides a safe place in which children, teens and families who are grieving a death share their experiences, receive support and find comfort. At Mary’s Place they believe that it is helpful and healing to share thoughts and feelings, grief experiences and memories with others who have had a similar experience. Students will be donating snacks, water, gift cards and/or toys and gift items for children from age 3 through teenage years for their holiday gathering. Thank you for your support as we continue our “Random Acts of Kindness.”

### **Chick-fil-A Leader Academy**

The Chick-fil-A Leader Academy held its kick-off meeting on September 28th. The group learns leadership skills and practices "Impact through Action." They already started making an impact on “Night One” as they packed 100 meals that will be delivered to a local food bank!



### **Suffield High School Drama**

Suffield High School Drama Club presents *Almost, Maine* written by John Cariani. This drama production will take place on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. **THE STORY:** On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—*almost*—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

The play is double cast so there will be different actors for each night. The play is a series of scenes to allow all actors a significant part and their own scene to play. More than 50 students are involved in the production of this play.

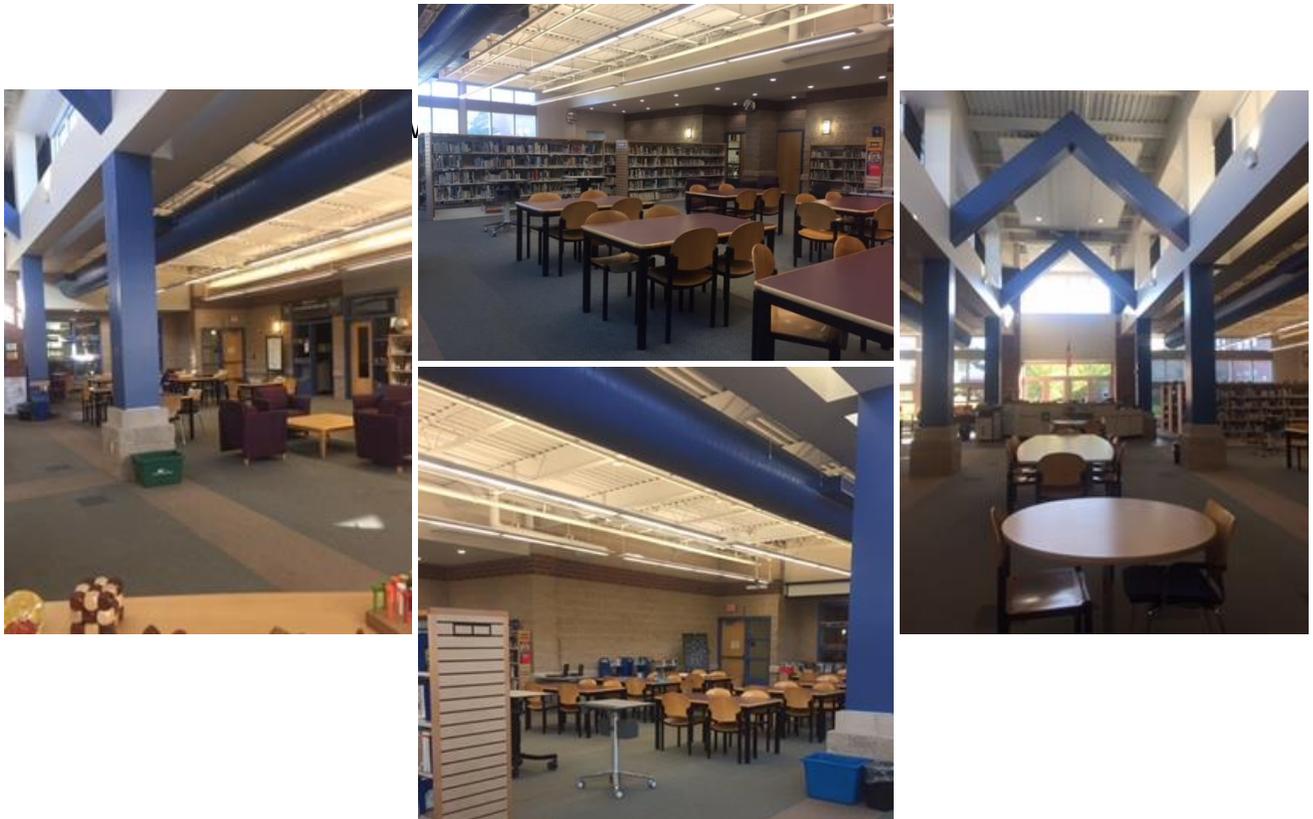
Please come and support the Drama Club in this beautiful play about love, almost. Tickets can be bought at the door. Ticket price is \$5 for senior citizens/students and \$10 for adults.

### **PAC Meeting**

The next PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Commons at Suffield High School.

### **SHS Media Center Rocks!**

Over the summer the Media Center underwent some updates! Suffield blue accent paint has added a refreshing pop of color and an element of school spirit to the space. A new section of durable flooring offers opportunities to do projects and activities. The open layout provides space for collaborative learning.



Miss Wendy from Kent Memorial Library visited SHS on September 25<sup>th</sup> and issued 70 new library cards. Students learned about all the ways a library card is valuable, from audiobooks to databases. Coming up, SHS, SMS and Kent Memorial Library are collaborating to celebrate reading during the American Library Association's Teen Read Week, October 8 to 14. The three libraries will be encouraging teenagers to read with promotions and social media posts using the hashtag #wildcatsread. Check out [www.suffield.org](http://www.suffield.org) and [www.suffield-library.org](http://www.suffield-library.org) for more information.