Oyster River Students Participate in 'Power of One: Students Creating Change' Event

Sophia Sullivan and Mia Hricz present about unclean drinking water in Africa and what people can do to help. (Courtesy Photo of Oyster River Schools)

DURHAM -- Superintendent James Morse is pleased to announce that more than 200 high school students participated in the 11th annual Power of One: Students Creating Change event to demonstrate how they can make a difference in the world.
On May 29, freshmen gathered in the Oyster River High School cafeteria to present to parents and community members about what can be done to resolve pressing local, national and global issues.

The event marked the culminating activity for the ninth grade's world cultures class, which is designed to help students understand that what they say, do and think is critically important, and that they can effect change in the world.

Throughout the cafeteria, students set up poster boards, which highlighted an issue they were concerned about, explained the root causes of it and outlined a plan of action to help address the issue.

The students' projects covered a wide range of topics, from organizing a bone marrow drive to donating books for schools in Africa, creating care packages for families at Boston Children’s Hospital and collecting socks for the homeless.

Over the course of 17 weeks, students raised more than $18,000 and volunteered for 646 hours to help the causes and issues they have researched and supported as part of the Power of One projects.

"Every year I am truly amazed at what students research and present to the community," Superintendent Morse said. "These projects were well researched and it was apparent that students were passionate about wanting to implement change for the better."

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Brayden Merry presenting on how to prevent mass shootings. (Courtesy Photo of Oyster River Schools)
Josie Chinburg explaining how Obsessive Compulsive Disorder affects people and how to be mindful of those living with mental illness. (Courtesy Photo of Oyster River Schools)

A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District

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Oyster River grads look to future

By John Doyle
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DURHAM — A blend of individuality and community spirit is what made the Class of 2018 at Oyster River High School special, according to its salutatorian.

Benjamin Antognetti was one of 183 members of the class who received diplomas Friday night before a packed house at the Whittemore Center. In his remarks, Antognetti lauded his class in conquering personal and scholastic challenges and achieving honors, awards and sports championships.

"Oyster River has set each one of us on a path to find out what makes us tick," Antognetti said. "The fact is, we are all going on to a new world. We are going to all sorts of places and we're going to face many challenges. So

See GRADS, Az

Oyster River valedictorian Eleanor Zwart shares her thoughts with her classmates during graduation on Friday night in Durham.
[Deb Cram/Fosters.com and SeacoastOnline]

Online
To view a photo gallery with this story, visit www.fosters.com
much is happening in the world — the only people to keep it moving are people with unique solutions. And we have plenty of those.”

Principal Suzanne Filippone said the Class of 2019’s diversity was what made it stand out.

“Your class is composed of strong personalities, tireless performers, super fans and intellectually serious learners,” Filippone said.

“At Oyster River, we strive to create an environment that encourages your individual growth, while making sure you don’t forget the community.”

Class Valedictorian Eleanor Zwart — first in her class academically but last alphabetically — said the class possesses talents that are many and diverse. She expressed her gratitude to the school’s faculty.

“You have molded us into the students we are today,” Zwart said. “You have us asking questions and striving for more, and I think I speak for everyone here today when I say we wouldn’t be here without you.”

Zwart also gave thanks to the parents in the audience.

“Thank you for raising us into who we are today,” she said, “and who we will be for the rest of our lives.”

Zwart also spoke about the importance of community.

“It is important to remember we have each other,” she said. “This is not a solo ride.”

Members of the graduating Oyster River High School Class of 2018 are as follows:


Also, Rubo Dan, Samuel Davies, Sara Dharce, Emily Dirkmeier, Jack Donaldson, Trevor Doucette, Nicholas Dundorf, Natalie Durant, Faith Evans, William Everest, Sophia Failla, Sean Fitzhenry, Thea Flaherty, Jae Fletcher, Allison Fortin, Ella Foster, Kayla Frazier, William George Jr., Hunter Gibson, Maddalena Glass, Sean Glennon, Samantha Goodstein, Sophia Graff, Matthew Green, Michael Green, Skylar Hamilton, Elise Hanley, Benjamin Harrington, Grant Heine, Stephen Heitrlzler, Ian Heimpiling, Gabriel Herzog, Michael Hill III, Zachary Hill, Andrew Hodge, Lydia Hoffman, Nathaniel Hollister, David Holmes, Katherine Hoppler, Jordan Hueber, Megan Hutar, Maclmean Jennison, Mercedes Jewell, Aaron Jones and Jacob Kaplan.


Oyster River students add artistic touch to police station

By Casey Conley
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DURHAM — With a steady hand and careful eye, Audrey Ammann applied a thin layer of blue paint to the lobby wall inside Durham's newly renovated police station.

Ammann, a junior at Oyster River High School, was making the final few strokes on the letter S of the word “results.” Across the hall, classmates and art teacher Tim Lawrence painted letters spelling out the department’s values statement.

“I love having the opportunity to help out,” said Ammann, whose family lives in Barrington. “This is really cool to do for everyone. When they came to us with this, I jumped on it. I had been looking for a project like this.”

See ART, A2

Oyster River High School art students are painting a vision statement at the renovated Durham Police Department. Some of the students on hand for a photo are from left, Audrey Ammann, Demetrios Phofolos, Charlotte Hambucken, Gabbe Albert and Patrick Lyons. [DEB CRAM/FOSTERS.COM]
ART

From Page A1

More than a dozen Oyster River art students have participated in the police station project. Work inside the building began Thursday as students took words already stenciled on paper, then transferred them to the walls in pencil.

Then on Friday, students armed with small brushes began filling the letters with paint. Different groups of kids came and went throughout the day as their classes allowed.

Police Chief Dave Kurz proposed the project, which is modeled after a similar effort by Oyster River students completed years ago. Kurz said the project “gives us a chance to interact with our residents, uniquely teenagers, in a non-law enforcement manner.”

It also lets the department save a little money on the estimated $1.96 million station upgrade voters approved more than a year ago. The work included a 5,000-square-foot expansion and major renovation of the existing station, which the department had outgrown.

The total cost of the student art project to spruce up the upgraded space, Kurz said, was a couple pizzas to feed the kids. Hiring painters to do the lettering work would have cost much more.

Capt. David Holmstock, who watched the art project take shape Friday, considered the effort a “win-win.” He said it lets the department foster positive relationships with young people while also showcasing their talents.

The students also got an unusual perk — riding back and forth from the high school to the police station in squad cars. When it was safe to do so, some officers let the students briefly activate the cars’ lights and sirens.

Ammann worked on a narrow section of wall in the lobby where the words “integrity, community focus, teamwork, innovation and results” were stenciled. Based on students input, the department replaced the word “customer focus” with “community focus.”

Inside the renovated community room, five students standing on benches, a ladder and other equipment carefully painted the department’s values statement written in a long line under the ceiling. For students accustomed to painting landscapes or murals, the exacting work was no picnic.

“It’s pretty tough,” said Patrick Lyons, a junior from Durham. “It’s not the same as painting an apple.”

Gabbe Albert, a junior from Barrington, said painting the letters was considerably harder than the stenciling. Any painting mistakes required some creative fixes, she said, whereas stenciling errors could be erased.

Students also had wet Q-tips for fine tuning the letters and removing any errant brush strokes.

Lawrence, the art teacher, joked that the students should hold their breath as they painted the letters. Whatever method they used, he said, he was proud of the work they were doing.

“It’s been going pretty well,” he said. “They seem happy to get away and do something new and different.”

The community room is regularly used by local groups, and the students’ work will likely remain visible long after they’ve graduated from Oyster River.
Moharimet Elementary School Students
Visit UNH for Day of Forest Activities

Kindergarten student George Crull observes a snake as part of the Day of Forest event at UNH. (Courtesy Photo of Oyster River Schools)

DURHAM -- Moharimet Elementary School students spent some time outdoors at the University of New Hampshire this month, engaging in a variety of activities that coincided with this year’s curriculum theme, Year of Forest.

On June 1, students in kindergarten through fourth grade met with members of UNH staff, New Hampshire foresters and wildlife specialists to take a guided hike through College Woods, tour of the UNH sawmill, and learn about indigenous plants and animals through various stations set up on the campus field.
"This day was filled with so many informative activities that were the perfect culmination to our yearlong focus on forests," Principal David Goldsmith said. "Thank you to the UNH staff and the volunteers who provided hands on lessons to Moharimet students."

At the sawmill on Mast Road in Durham, students watched a full demonstration on the inner workings of lumbering and then headed over to the Christmas tree plantation, where they learned how balsam firs are grown and harvested. UNH professor of forest technology Matt Chagnon sheared and shaped a selection of trees, with students watching in awe as he wielded what looked like a medieval sword over the trees.

The group then visited the UNH woodsmen team to witness the sport of competitive chopping, sawing and axe throwing. Finally, students stopped by to watch Leah Woods, of the UNH Art Department, carving large logs acquired at the sawmill and harvested on UNH lands, into what would eventually be a piece of furniture.

Back on the UNH campus, students toured around a variety of educational stations. At one stop, they investigated how tree rings provide data, not just about the age of the tree, but also about the weather. UNH Climate Adaptation Program Coordinator Lisa Graichen talked about the impacts climate change can have on forests and then led students through a carbon footprint activity, where they traced their feet and brainstormed ways they can reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., carpooling, biking, using less energy, planting trees, etc.)

At another station, Chief Paul Pouliot and Denise Pouliot, of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People, and Svetlana Peshkova and Meghan Howey, both from the Department of Anthropology at UNH, introduced students to indigenous toys, games and artifacts that highlighted forests as a living environment fundamental to human existence.

"All in all, it was a good day for learning about human use of forest trees," said Don Quigley, professor emeritus of forest technology at UNH. "There was a strong message of the need to conserve and use sustainably to ensure a healthy green forest that goes on forever in New Hampshire."

Every year, Moharimet focuses on an enrichment theme that is introduced into each unit of study. School-wide assemblies included presentations from the Center of
Wildlife about animals in New England forests and from Orion Tree Service on managing the health of forests.

Throughout the year, students also tapped trees to make maple syrup, and Principal Goldsmith read weekly stories to kindergarten and first grade students, many of which incorporated forests.

Other yearly themes in the past have included Year of the Ocean and Year of the Artist.

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Second grade students watch a logging demonstration at the sawmill on Mast Road.

(Courtesy Photo Oyster River)

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A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District
Oyster River High School to Hold Summer Boot Camp for Incoming Students

DURHAM — To help ease the transition for students entering high school in the fall, Oyster River High School will hold a "boot camp" orientation this summer to help answer questions and share programming information. Students and parent/guardians can choose to attend the boot camp on either Monday, August 13, from 4-7 p.m., or Tuesday, August 14 from 12-3 p.m.

During the three-hour event, workshops will provide students and parents/guardians with insight and assistance related to several important topics about the transition to high school, which may include:

- Overview of the freshman orientation program
- Assistance in creating a preliminary four-year plan
- Outlining potential career options
- High school courses
- Review of graduation requirements
- Available academic support systems
- Setup and use of PowerSchool for academic monitoring from home
- Additional academic opportunities offered at ORHS to upperclassmen

"We understand that that entering high school is a big step for students and we want to help freshmen and their families make this a seamless transition," said Heather Machanoff, kindergarten through grade 12 Counseling Director. "We recommend that families sign up for one of the boot camp sessions to address questions or concerns prior to the start of the new school year."
All incoming freshman will receive information about how to sign up for a boot camp session at the end of July.

Once registered, students and parents/guardians will be provided registration codes to access Naviance -- Oyster River High School's career search and college application platform -- and will be encouraged to log in and familiarize themselves with the system. Students who register for the boot camp are also invited to watch Oyster River High School’s welcome video here.

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**A message from the Oyster River Cooperative School District**

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DURHAM — Eleanor Zwart has been named valedictorian and Benjamin Antognetti salutatorian for the Oyster River High School Class of 2018.

Eleanor Zwart is the daughter of Anne and Townsend Zwart of Durham. She was the recipient of the Smith College book award, is a member of the National Honor Society, and will be recognized as a New Hampshire Scholar with a STEM emphasis. She is also a student senator.

Eleanor has pursued her athletic endeavors with the same energy, enthusiasm, and skill as her academics. She has been a member of our soccer, swimming, and spring track teams for all four years of high school. In 2016, she was named the Seacoast Media Group's Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Additionally, she was selected to be a member of the Student Athlete Leadership Team.

Having gained admission to Tufts University, University of Oregon, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Eleanor has chosen to attend Dartmouth College, where she has identified a tentative major in nutritional science.

Benjamin Antognetti is from Lee and son of Michele Antognetti and Laurie Grant. Ben is a member of our National Honor Society and has served as the treasurer for the past two years. He is a member of our French club and is co-president this year. Ben has worked as the lead University of Pittsburgh.

Georgiana “Gigi” Reece is the daughter of Julie and Richard Reece of Lee. As an accomplished academic, she received the Mount Holyoke book award, is a member of the National Honor Society, and will be recognized as a New Hampshire Scholar with a STEM emphasis.

Gigi has a deep love of learning. She is particularly interested in government, politics, and international relations. This is reflected in her helping to create our Model UN club, being an active member of Debate Club, Granite State Challenge team, Girls State, and being the Vice President of her class throughout high school. Additionally, she has studied Chinese in Shanghai.

In addition to her academic goals, Gigi has sought athletic pursuits. She has been a member of the cross country and spring track team throughout high school.

Having been admitted Early Decision to the College of William and Mary, Gigi will attend, with a tentative selection of majors in International relations, history, or government.

Danielle Slavin is the daughter of Maura and Michael Slavin of Durham. Danielle is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and will be recognized as a New Hampshire State Scholar with a STEM and Art emphasis. She attended the Advanced Studies Program at St.
Oyster River High School's top 10 students for the Class of 2018 are, from left, top, Eleanor Zwart, Benjamin Antognetti, Shivika Aggarwal, Emily Allyson; middle, K-Frazier, Katherine Hoppler, Megan Hutar, Georgina Gilge Reese; bottom, Danielle Slavin and Jacob Zercher. (JUXTAPOSE PHOTOS)

Shivika Aggarwal is from Durham and daughter of Manisha and Sharaad Aggarwal. Shivika is a member of both the National Honor Society, where she serves as president, and a member of the Spanish Honor Society. Shivika is the class treasurer for the class of 2018 and has served in this role for four years. Shivika is a member of our Math team, Spanish club and a violinist in our orchestra and has played in the All-State Music Festival and UNH Fall Festival for the past four years. Shivika has been a member of our highest honors honor roll throughout her high school career. She was the recipient of the Clarkson Leadership Award and will graduate as a New Hampshire Scholar with both a STEM and Arts emphasis. Shivika plans to study biomedical engineering at the college level and has explored this path through her volunteer work at Frisbee Memorial Hospital and a summer program studying sickle cell anemia at Boston University in 2015. Shivika was accepted to the University of Vermont, University of Connecticut, Clarkson, RenRI, and Case Western. She will be attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH in the fall.

Emily Allyson is from Durham and daughter of Russ and Jeannic Allyson. Emily is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Emily will graduate as a New Hampshire Scholar with both a STEM and Arts emphasis. Emily was the recipient of the Saint Michael's Book Award her junior year. She is an active member of our student senate, model UN, math team and debate club. Participating in cross country and our track program has also filled Emily’s days as a student. Emily is a recipient of the NJHAA Scholar Athlete Award. During Emily’s time in high school she has been a committed volunteer/intern at Child Voice. This work led her to a trip to Uganda this past summer. Through her experience she sees herself studying international relations. Emily was accepted to American University, Boston University, University of Vermont, Fordham, Roger Williams and will attend George Washington University in the fall.

Kalya Frazier is from Lee and daughter of Steven and Marilyn Frazier. Kayla is a member of the Spanish honor society. She has been in highest honors throughout her high school career and will graduate as a New Hampshire Scholar with a STEM emphasis. Kayla has been an active member of our girls’ volleyball team all four years and played for Great Bay in her off season. She was a recipient of a Defensive MVP award for her skill. Kayla has played the piano for most of her life and enjoys spending time with this activity. During her junior year, she was the recipient of the Elevina Key award. Through her volunteer work in the emergency room at Frisbee Memorial Hospital, Kayla is confident in her path/goal of becoming a nurse specializing in either pediatrics or women’s health. She was accepted to University of Vermont, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Simmons University, University of New Hampshire, Sacred Heart, Regis and Colby-Sawyer. She will be attending Colby-Sawyer in the fall as part of their nursing program.

Katherine Hoppler is the daughter of Robert Hoppler and Melissa Curry and hails from Durham. She has contributed to the ORHS community in many ways, including being a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Math, Spanish Club, National History Day (finalist), and Varsity volleyball squad. Over the course of her high school career, Katherine has amassed a stellar academic transcript—having done so while taking some of our most challenging academic offerings. She is a member of a select group of students being honored as New Hampshire Scholars with an emphasis on STEM. Ms. Hoppler is her class recipient of the College of the Holy Cross book award, acknowledging exceptional academic achievement within a rigorous college preparatory program, coupled with sincere concern for others and a responsible attitude in all endeavors.

Having been accepted to Boston University, Northeastern University, and George Washington University, Katherine has elected to stay in Durham to attend the University of New Hampshire in the fall to pursue her collegiate education.

Megan Hutar, of Durham, is the daughter of Jaroslav Hutar and Therese Willkomm. During her tenure at Oyster River High School, Megan has served as a vital member of several clubs and organizations. Ms. Hutar has participated in the National Honor Society, Debate Club, Quiz Bowl, French Club, and Oyster River Equestrian Team. Academically, Megan has been awarded for her efforts by way of receiving the Harvard Book Award and Society for Women Engineers Highest Honors distinction. Additionally, she is the recipient of a bronze medal in the Intercollegiate Concours National French Exam. She is also recognized as a New Hampshire Scholar with a STEM emphasis, having taken a rigorous college preparatory level of course work with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Ambitiously seeking an ultimate career as a clinical pharmacist, Megan applied and gained acceptance to Northeastern University; the Universities of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Pittsburg; and the Albany and Massachusetts Colleges of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. In the fall, Megan has elected to begin her post-secondary journey at the Paul’s School, as well as received the Society of Women Engineers High Honor recognition. Danielle is an active member of the Saint Thomas Moore Church youth ministry, a member of the National Honor Society, has participated in indoor and outdoor track, and is an All-State cross-country member. Having been accepted to Assumption College, Iona College, Fordham University, Manhattan College, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Danielle will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue a career in a STEM related field.

Jacob Zercher is the son of Laura and Chuck Zercher of Durham. He is a member of our Granite State Challenge team, received the Bausch + Lomb science award, and the Saint Michael’s College book award. He will also be recognized as a New Hampshire Scholar with both a STEM and Art emphasis and is a National Merit Finalist. His interest and prowess in the STEM field has been evident throughout his high school career.

In addition to his academic accolades, Jacob has athletic accomplishments as well. He is a member of our varsity soccer, winter track, and spring track team. As part of track he was a member of the school record setting 4x200 meter relay.

Gaining admission to the University of Notre Dame, Carnegie Mellon University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Rochester, University of Idaho, and University of Central Florida, Jacob has chosen to attend the University of New Hampshire where he intends to major in Mathematics and Physics, with a desire to teach those subjects in his future.
Oyster River Middle School Students Participate in Annual Servicepalooza

Oyster River Middle School students learned from New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Conservation Officer James Benvenuti and his K9 partner, Cora. ( Courtesy Photo Oyster River Schools)

DURHAM -- Superintendent James Morse and Principal Jay Richard are pleased to announce that Oyster River Middle School hosted its annual Servicepalooza event earlier this month, which enabled students to take part in various community service projects throughout the district.
Students from Oyster River Middle School participated in the school's annual "Servicepalooza" event on Friday, May 11. Keeping with tradition, they got involved with community service activities in Durham, Lee and Madbury, as well as at Oyster River's four schools.

Groups of middle school students went to Mast Way and Moharimet Elementary Schools to present to 4th grade classes on what it is like to be a middle school student, as the elementary school students prepare to make the transition to middle school this fall.

Small groups of ORMS students assisted teachers in their classrooms at both elementary schools, while others worked outside to weed, mulch and clean the gardens and courtyard at Mast Way and the playground at Moharimet.

A group of more than a dozen students joined STEM teacher John Silverio and Conservation Officer James Benvenuti -- along with his K9 partner, Cora -- of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to release approximately 350 trout fry into the Lamprey River at Wiswall Dam. Silverio had been raising the brook trout in his classroom since January, as he has for past two years.

Students learned about the importance of the fish hatcheries and conservation from Officer Benvenuti, who led small groups of students down the fish ladder to explain the spawning process.

At the high school, students participating in Servicepalooza learned how to paint an exterior structure.

"Servicepalooza is an extraordinary tradition, and it's something that we all look forward to every year," Principal Richard said. "I am very proud of all of our students for getting involved and making it a success once again. Their work makes our community better and allows them to broaden their horizons through service."

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