

Ansonia High School

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Teacher
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Teacher

December Book of the Month: Selected by Ms. Mudry

Beyond the Burning Time by Kathryn Lasky is an excellent work of fiction that covers many aspects of Puritan life, specifically, the Salem Witch Trials.

Kathryn Lasky provides a very accurate account of this time period using authentic language and historical drama. Mary Chase, the main

character, fights to rescue her own mother who has been accused of being a witch. Through her struggle, you learn about the social, religious, and economic aspects of the time period.

The formal language and large number of characters can make it somewhat difficult to follow but the story line makes

this book both enjoyable and educational.

Fact of the Month: By Kevin Belden

Since 1998 the Ansonia High School Varsity Football Team has scored an average of 31 points against 12 opponents during the Class S Semi-final Playoffs.

The Chargers faced Cromwell on Tuesday night in this year's Class S Semi-final Playoffs. The Chargers were defeated 27-19.

AHN, Con't.

(Continued from page 3) focused on "The Show."

In true live TV fashion, we shut the lights, powered everything down, and immediately set about working on the next produc-

tion.

"I would like to thank the faculty, and administration for their support and encouragement in the creation of this production. Thanks to the teachers who allow their students to

help out, and thanks especially to the students who have worked with me in the studio. They provide the inspiration, remind me why I love television, and confirm that I want to teach them."

- Mr.Riello

Dates to Remember

December 10	Progress Reports
December 13	Financial Aid Night Lecture Hall 6 pm
December 15	Winter Arts and Music Event 7 pm
December 15	National Art Honor Society Induction 6 pm
December 20	SAT Registration Deadline
December 24- January 2	Winter Recess

December 2004

Ansonia High School



The Charger Times

AHS-NEWS MAKES HISTORIC DEBUT

Mission Statement

To prepare every learner to meet ever-changing personal and global challenges, the primary mission of Ansonia High School is to cultivate the emotional, physical, social, and intellectual growth of each student. The success of our mission requires the active participation of students, faculty, parents, and community in the learning process.

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It's been a busy school year for me so far. Getting settled in to a new job, learning the names of students and faculty, working on my teaching certificate, and continuing with freelance television work to cover tuition have made the last three months pretty hectic.

Included in that busy schedule, and what keeps me sane through it all, is the behind the scenes happenings in the Video Production Lab and my work with the AHS Media Club. We have many goals in the media club, but our main focus has been the production of the morning announcements "live" to the classrooms via channel 16 on the classroom television sets.

Almost daily since mid October, during Set 4, a rapidly growing group of

eager students have helped me connect hundreds of feet of wire to an array of equipment with blinky lights and strange acronyms like D.A., VTR, VCR, RF, BNC, XLR, AND CG. Three cameras in Ansonia High School's emerging TV studio have been put through their paces, with students learning composition by sending images through audio and video mixers, monitors, and finally out the business end of a distribution system that connects nearly all of Ansonia High School's classrooms.

Students with a bit of "show" in them have auditioned for anchor and reporter jobs at the fledgling AHS-TV. Young men and women alike are learning about an exciting industry and the well-paying jobs that it offers. And it's all

happening here at Ansonia High School! ANATOMY OF A LIVE STUDIO EVENT

There's a buzz in the room; chaos to an outside observer, but knowingly organized chaos to the AHN studio crew. At 7:15 this morning, Greg Sember "mic'd" Dan Hoyle, while Renee Bennett located her on-camera "mark." Ms. Sheffield rushed in with a "hot off the presses" announcement for "the news anchor." Gus Sierra, and Kevin Belden simultaneously checked focal length and iris settings while passing along instructions to "talent," received from the "voice in their headsets."

Ashley and Kemar Smith assisted with a variety of pre-production

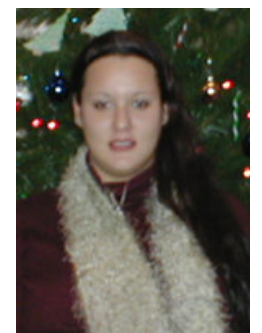
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Student of the Month

The December Student of the Month is Jessica Fowler. Jessica takes an active role in school activities. She is always willing to help out, even when tasks do not benefit her personally. Jessica is also courteous to teachers and classmates, and is very hard working.

Jessica has excellent attendance and a strong work ethic. She plans to attend college and to pursue a career in nursing.

Jessica is to be congratulated on this achievement. Continue to be one who believes in helping others.



Jessica Fowler is the December Student of the Month

Guidance News

CAREER COUNSELOR VISIT

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker and career counselor about academic and career planning. Interested students should sign up in the guidance office.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Financial Aid Night will be held on Monday, December 13 at 6 p.m. in the lecture hall of the high school. Previously, counselors met with seniors to review financial aid and college planning. Mr.

Carbone, Assistant Director of Admissions at Quinnipiac University will take students and parents through the financial aid process.

ACT/SAT REGISTRATION

Registration deadline for the February 12 ACT is January 7. Registration deadline for the January 22 SAT is December 20. This will be the last test administration of the present format SAT.

SAT INFORMATION

The Derby Public Library is having a seminar, "New SAT Practice Essay,"

on Wednesday, December 8, from 6:30-7:30 pm.; juniors and sophomores are welcome. Students will have the opportunity to complete a 25-minute essay and learn some strategies. Admission is free, but a call to 736-1482 to register is required. AHS Juniors have been introduced to the changes in the SAT in English classes.

ASVAB RESULTS

Results of the ASVAB will be reviewed with students on December 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Canned Food Drive

Student Government would like to thank everyone for another successful Canned Food Drive. The year ,520 nonperishable items and one turkey were donated to the Greater Valley Salvation Army.

The homeroom bringing in the most

items was Mr. Casey's with a total of 84 items. This annual event is extremely important in supporting our community during the holiday season. Every family deserves the chance to have a holiday meal for which they can be thankful.

Thank you again to all who participated!



520 Items Donated to the Salvation Army

Parent Conferences

Timing is everything! A couple years ago, Ansonia High School opted for the two-day conference instead of the traditional one night in November when parents would appear for their students' report cards and speak with teachers. Such a schedule used to generate long lines of parents desiring to meet with certain teachers. More importantly, the 7-9 p.m. timeframe was not

conducive for those parents who may have had other obligations on that day. However, after trying various two-hour time slots for an earlier conference, we have finally reached one – 4-6 p.m. – that seems to be beneficial to many.

Unlike the first two years of an afternoon conference, during the 4-6 p.m. time slot on November 15th this year, some staff members were pleasantly

surprised to see as many as 27 parents. The next night was equally as productive; our "guesstimate" is that about one-third of the parents came out.

Our hope is that the numbers will only increase in the future. Parents and staff working together will only strengthen our resolve to increase academic performance and to fulfill our mission.

Turning Point

Sixteen students were chaperoned by Ms. Kelley and Mrs. Phipps to Garner Corrections on Nov. 16th. Students were instructed to walk in a straight line against the wall during the tour. They saw where the inmates are admitted and processed. This is where all of their belongings are handed over and "tans" are handed out. All sixteen stu-

dents were then locked in a holding cell with each other for a few minutes. It was very hard to see them locked up and uncomfortable with the surroundings. After the tour, we were led into the chapel where five inmates talked to us about "The Turning Point Program". The motto among them is, "If I knew then what I know now." Stu-

dents broke out into three groups and talked with the inmates. Many of the students felt bad because these people seemed so nice, but they understood that there was a reason for why they were in there. Many students said they were thankful for what they had at home and would not take life for granted.

The Edible Cell

Students in Ms. Sheffield's College Biology class recently completed an Edible Cell project to demonstrate their knowledge of cell parts and their functions. Students were asked to create a three-dimensional, 100% edible

model of a cell and its organelles including a written guide to the organelle functions. Students who were brave enough were able to taste test each other's projects after they were turned in.



AHN, Con't.

duties, setting marks, moving cables and quieting the set. In the control room, Christina Easter fired up the lighting grid, while Clarke DiBella and Sara Thayer checked audio levels and prepared to "roll tape."

Mr. Riello, whom many affectionately call "Mr. R," was directing this entire group, some on headset, some within earshot while "punching up cameras," "checking levels" and directing a hasty "shot blocking" and "talent rehearsal." Ms. Mudry and Mr. Powers, other advisors of Media Club, and Amanda Matejek were "standing by" like expect-

tant parents on the big day...

The studio phone rang, the signal that our audience awaits. Like a quarterback at the line of scrimmage, the director shouted his signals, "standby to fade up from black, standby to roll tape, standby to cue talent, standby to fade up mics." Everyone in the studio and the control room felt the same rush. Collective hairs stood on the back of necks, butterflies fluttered, palms sweated, pulses quickened. Before an eye-blink, commands crackled over headsets and filled the control room... "aaaanddd roll tape, fade up the mics, fade

up from black, cue talent, go!"

Talent looked straight into the camera and uttered a simple, yet historic, sentence: "Hi, I'm Dan Hoyle. Today is November 30, 2004. It's Day Two. Please stand for the pledge of allegiance."

AHN, Ansonia High News, was live and on the air. As Renee Bennett took her place for the pledge and the first televised morning announcements commenced, a microphone refused to work, a tape machine got fussy, and a student delivered his announcements with a touch of nervousness. When it

was all over and Dan said "Have a nice day," and the picture faded to black, you would have thought an Emmy-Award-winning performance just signed off! There was a collective shout of joy, a release of the pent-up tension that a live performance brings, and a lot of hugging and hand-shaking.

In our minds, and in spite of the little miscues, we pulled together and gave meaning to the months or preparation, hard work, and learning. For a brief moment in time, an assortment of personalities put everything aside and

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