

# VIPS Happenings



## Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools

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### VIPS Recognizes Volunteers, Presents Awards

Nearly 300 VIPS volunteers and supporters enjoyed a festive evening at the Coonamessett Inn on May 8<sup>th</sup>, as they gathered for the annual VIPS Recognition Dinner. Thanks to the generous support of **Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, Falmouth Rotary Club, Slade Mortgage**, and the **VIPS Board of Advisors**, and hosts **Bill and Linda Zammer**, VIPS volunteers were celebrated for their many contributions to Falmouth Public School.

The annual dinner is a chance for volunteers to come together and be recognized by VIPS staff and board members, school administration, and the school committee for enhancing the educational experience of Falmouth's 4,000+ students. VIPS director Tracey Crago, along with Falmouth Superintendent Dennis Richards, VIPS board member Larry Glueck, and Falmouth residents Bob and Kathy Rogers, presented several awards to volunteers, students, and individuals.

Special recognition honors were bestowed upon "Outstanding Volunteers of the Year" for each school. The recipients are selected by fellow volunteers and staff members at each school. This year's winners are: **Tom Byrne**, a volunteer mentor at North Falmouth



L to R: Tracey Crago, Dennis Souweine, Deanne Rockwood, Tom Byrne, Adam Thomas, Shelley Souza, Peggy Aldrich, Janice Corcoran, Danielle Guay, Sueanne Bouchie

Elementary; **Adam Thomas**, chair of the Village Science Playground at Mullen-Hall Elementary; **Deanne Rockwood**, a classroom and school library volunteer at Teaticket Elementary; **Peggy Aldrich**, a school library volunteer at East Falmouth Elementary; **Shelley Souza**, a classroom and copy room volunteer at Morse Pond School; **Sueanne Bouchie**, a long-time supporter and volunteer with the music program at Lawrence School; and **Janice Corcoran**, a volunteer with the preschool program at Falmouth High School.

Also recognized at the VIPS dinner: **Dennis Souweine**, for his long-time support of VIPS fundraising efforts; **Danielle Guay**, for her assistance with VIPS public relations and service on the VIPS Board of Advisors; and **Bob Corey**, deceased, for his longstanding support of Falmouth Public Schools' athletics programs.

In addition to the many adult volunteers, VIPS encourages and supports student volunteers. This year, the VIPS Board of Advisors, along with Bob and Kathy Rogers, co-funded scholarships to two Falmouth High School students who exemplified a dedication to volunteerism and community service. This year's recipients are **Meghan McGrath** and **James Womboldt**, both seniors. Meghan, the daughter of Thomas and Debora McGrath of East Falmouth, will attend Bryant University in September. James, the son of John and Rose Womboldt of Falmouth, will attend Boston College.



Meghan McGrath and James Womboldt

Congratulations to this year's award recipients and all of the VIPS volunteers who so generously share their enthusiasm, talents, and time with the students, faculty, and administrators at each of Falmouth's seven schools. During the 2006-07 school year, nearly 40,000 hours—and counting—have been logged by our volunteers. *Thank you!*

### 18<sup>th</sup> Spring Expo

Those attending the **2007 VIPS Spring Expo**, held March 17-18<sup>th</sup> at the Gus Cauty Rec Center, were able to chase away the damp, dreary weather, thanks to flowering plants from **R.F. Morse Greenhouse and Nursery** and balloons from **Balloon Creations**. Sponsored by **Carpet Barn, The Enterprise, The Flatley Company, Slade Mortgage**, and **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)**, this year's sold-out event featured vendors offering products and services in banking and investment, beauty, health, and fitness, and home and garden. Also featured were cooking demonstrations by local chefs, psychic readings, antique appraisals, and family and pet portraits by photographer **Elizabeth Hathon**, iTunes and iPod Academy by **Cape Mac**, and the Child Identification Program (CHIPS) sponsored by **Masons Marine Lodge of Falmouth**.

### Important Reminders

- **Feasts of Falmouth**  
Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
Falmouth Harbor Band Shell
- Coming Soon: A VIPS website!  
You'll find us online this fall at [www.falmouthvips.org](http://www.falmouthvips.org)
- **It's never too late to log your hours!** Sign the book at the school in which you volunteer, or e-mail the VIPS office at [vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us)

### Inside This Edition

Spotlight .....	3
School Buzz .....	2
Volunteer Profile .....	3
Inside VIPS .....	2



## About VIPS

**Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS)** was initiated in 1982 as a way to increase interaction between Falmouth schools and the community. Today, 25 years later, VIPS has grown from eight volunteers at Falmouth High School to over 1,400 volunteers in all seven schools. VIPS provides the schools with an organized, reliable volunteer corps that supplements and enriches the curriculum. Volunteers are given the opportunity to use their talents, time and energy in creative, worthwhile ways. Each year, volunteers log thousands of hours—nearly 44,000 last year alone—while supporting the students, faculty, administration and the community. Local businesses contribute to this unique partnership by sponsoring events, providing tax-deductible contributions, donating raffle and auction items, and providing release time or support for employee volunteers.

### VIPS Staff:

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## Share Your Ideas!

VIPS is looking for your input and ideas about...well, everything! We'll be working hard over the summer to come up with ideas for programming and outreach and **we welcome your input**. Have an idea for a newsletter article? Is someone worthy of recognition? Is there a program that could use some support? Do you have ideas for the VIPS website? How can VIPS be a part of your school events? Let us know! Call or e-mail us anytime!

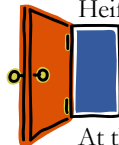
## School Buzz

The annual Arbor Day celebration represents a true partnership between the schools and community groups. This year's event, held at **East Falmouth Elementary**, featured **Lawrence School** student poster contest winners (sponsored by the **Falmouth Beautification Council**), **Morse Pond School** student poetry contest winners (sponsored by the **Falmouth Garden Club**), the planting of a red maple tree planted in the school's courtyard (donated by the **Town of Falmouth**), and the presentation of tulip tree whips to all children in attendance (potted with help from parent volunteers). Visiting 2nd graders from **North Falmouth** and **Mullen-Hall** joined in the festivities.



Over at **Mullen-Hall Elementary**, the big news is that the Village Science Playground is now complete, thanks to the efforts of 2,000+ volunteers who donated time, materials, labor, food, financial support, childcare, artistic abilities, and above all, enthusiasm! If you haven't been over to check it out, what are you waiting for?

Students at **Teaticket Elementary** recently participated in "Read to Feed," a reading incentive program of Heifer International, a humanitarian organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty worldwide while caring for the earth. Spearheaded by librarian **Mary Mysona** and parent volunteers **Deanne Rockwood** and **Sue Picard**, the program was open to all K-4 students. Participating students asked sponsors to make monetary pledges for books they read—an amazing 4,244 books in all—for a total of \$5,300! For their efforts, Teaticket students received a special "Make a Difference" plaque presented by Heifer International.



## Inside VIPS

### Welcome New VIPS Advisors

At the VIPS Board of Advisors' Annual Meeting in May, several new members were voted on the board; their terms will begin in September. New advisors include **Audrey Rogerson**, director of foundation relations at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI); **Lizanne Foley**, a self employed attorney and parent of two Falmouth Public School students; **Greg Lanoue**, owner/operator of Balanced Health & Fitness in East Falmouth and North Falmouth and the parent of three children in the Falmouth schools; **Carrie Moore**, branch manager in the Falmouth office of The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank; **Paula Mauk**, a recently retired math teacher from Falmouth High School and co-advisor to the FHS Key Club; **Joe Ferreira**, Falmouth School Committee member; **Nancy Durfee**, assistant principal at Mullen-Hall; and student member **Caroline Scavotto**, a member of the Falmouth High School class of 2010.

The VIPS Board of Advisors acknowledged the outstanding contributions of outgoing board members **Mary Bishop** and **Paula Crane** and thanked them for their dedication to—and enthusiastic support of—VIPS.

### VIPS Presents Partner in Education Award to Lawrence-Lynch Corp.

VIPS is pleased to announce that **Lawrence-Lynch Corp.** has been recognized with a VIPS **Partner in Education** award. **Lou Larrey**, partnership coordinator for the VIPS program, and one of the founding members of VIPS, said the Partners in Education program began as a way to formally recognize the efforts of businesses and individuals who contribute to the VIPS program in various ways: volunteering in classrooms, encouraging employees to volunteer, donating or offering services and/or materials at reduced cost, and event sponsorships, to name a few. Lawrence-Lynch Corp. is a family-owned site development, utility and paving company that operates from its headquarters on Gifford St., Falmouth. VIPS is most grateful for the generous support of Lawrence-Lynch Corp. For more information about the **VIPS Partners In Education** program, contact the VIPS.



## Spotlight: CAST, The Cross-Age Science Teaching Program

Throughout the month of March, a small busload of Lawrence School 8<sup>th</sup> graders made a series of visits to Teaticket Elementary and helped several 3<sup>rd</sup> graders zap away the winter blahs. **Molly Cornell**, CAST project leader for VIPS, worked with 15 science students of **Lynn Parks, Bob Heller, Kristen Tribou, and Judy Harbison** to train them in hands-on science lessons focusing on electricity. “The eighth graders put in time, effort, and a lot of heart and good humor while teaching lessons in circuits, insulators and conductors, and electromagnetism,” says Molly. Using flashlight batteries, bulbs, and small motors to construct circuits, the Lawrence students helped their young “science buddies” build circuit quiz games to test their newly learned skills. The unit also included a wooden toaster tongs demonstration to reinforce the importance of electrical safety.



“In the end,” says Molly, “the third graders claimed that they ‘love science!’ and their teachers—**Kathy Moran-Dixon, Maureen Fredericks, Nancy O’Connor and Gordon Starr**—were very grateful for the extra sets of hands.” The same held true for the older students, who benefited from a refresher course on electrical energy, and gained confidence from taking responsibility for teaching the younger kids. “CAST is a win-win situation for everyone who is involved in the program,” says Molly. VIPS agrees! Thanks go to Molly for overseeing CAST and coordinating the many logistical and scheduling details; to the participating teachers and school principals for their support and enthusiasm; and to the Falmouth Public Schools for providing transportation.

## Volunteer Profile: Alice Coburn



**Project RISE** has long been a key component of the VIPS program lineup for many years—so many that many VIPS volunteers may not know how it all began. Project RISE (Raising Interest and Self-Esteem), started in the early 1990s, when two school adjustment counselors, **Mary Metell** at Morse Pond and **Darby Rioux**, then at Mullen-Hall, recognized the need for mentors for some of their young students. The counselors approached VIPS and they, along with **Pat Shufelt**, began to outline what is now Project RISE. The key ingredient was found in **Alice Coburn**, who stepped up to help create a program from scratch. Alice recalls those early days with a mixture of wonder and pride, and says she remembers thinking “how is this going to work?” Alice created a program mission statement, perused bookstores for titles on mentoring, and developed a questionnaire—which she distributed to classroom teachers, counselors, potential mentors and mentees—to gather input and ideas.

The very first informational meeting was held at Falmouth High School, and volunteer mentors were recruited for students at Morse Pond and Mullen-Hall. “We knew we had to have workshops so we could learn together,” Alice says. “It was like the blind leading the blind at first!” That didn’t last long. Alice was tenacious at getting the word out, writing announcements and press releases for the local newspapers, radio stations, and church bulletins, posting notices in the senior center, and recruiting friends and neighbors. “I know a lot of the people involved and they are just incredible,” she says. After a few years, the growth of Project RISE, in terms of numbers of mentors and mentees, and from two schools to all of the K-8 schools, prompted the need for a facilitator to oversee the program and the training workshops. Today, that person is **Susan Largay**.

“The biggest reward,” says Alice, “is seeing it work so well. It was such a baby when I came and now it has so much support.” Project RISE now boasts nearly 100 mentors who spend one hour a week making a positive difference in the lives of Falmouth students, though additional mentors are always needed! Alice submitted her last Project RISE press releases last month, in preparation for a move to Williamsburg, VA, to be closer to family. Alice and her husband Joe have two sons, one daughter, and four grandchildren. *Alice, thank you for what you started!*

## Student Artwork on Display at Starbucks

VIPS is pleased to announce the opening of an **art exhibit** featuring the talents of several Falmouth public school students at the Falmouth **Starbucks**. Be sure to stop by the Main St. location now through the end of June to check out the 3-panel display!



Compositions featuring pastels, watercolors, markers, crayons, and pencil drawings from students in the **Project RISE mentoring program** will be sure to bring a smile to your face. The words of a talented young poet also make up the exhibit. Thanks to Starbucks manager **Debbie James** for the invitation to VIPS artists and for their support of the program.





### VIPS Recipient of Grants

Thanks to the generosity of the **Woods Hole Foundation, Wal-Mart Foundation, and The Cape Cod Foundation's Cape Youth Force** program, VIPS will be able to expand the volunteer training opportunities in 2007-08 for the **Project RISE** and **Project Inquire** mentoring programs. Funding from these organizations and the support of local businesses and individuals make it possible for VIPS to enhance the educational experience of Falmouth students while providing opportunities for our volunteers to make a difference. *Thank you!*

### Help Wanted!

Get a head start on your back-to-school volunteer opportunities by signing up for the following needs:

- **Building Coordinators at Mullen-Hall, Lawrence School and FHS.** A crucial element to the continued success of the Program is the role of the Building Coordinator – a volunteer who manages VIPS in an individual building. They coordinate, schedule, watch for emerging or changing needs for volunteer assistance in the school, report to the Program Director frequently, and attend Building Coordinator meetings at which coordinators are able to network on a regular basis.
- **Read Naturally volunteers.** A fluency-building, instructional reading program now in place at each of Falmouth's elementary schools and Morse Pond. Developed by a reading teacher, the program helps students improve fluency, an important component of good reading and reading comprehension. *Training is provided.*

*Interested? Want to know more? Call or e-mail us today!*

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