



VIPS Happenings



Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools

Volume 23, No. 1 Fall 2010

Career Day Sends Falmouth High School Juniors Into Community

Students in Falmouth Public Schools practice lock-down drills throughout the school year as a precautionary measure. But for FHS juniors visiting the Barnstable County House of Corrections to learn more about careers in criminal justice, a real lock-down at the facility gave them a rare glimpse into the procedures and swift action involved with securing the facility. While not all the students who participated in this year's Career Day had the adrenaline-rush experiences of those at the jail, most were able to get behind-the-scenes at businesses throughout Falmouth and at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). FHS Career Day for juniors is organized by VIPS, in collaboration with the FHS Internship and Guidance programs, the Falmouth Rotary Club, the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, and WHOI. This year's event, held on Wednesday, November 17th, allowed juniors to hear from 50 presenters in over two dozen career fields.

One group of students headed to the MMR, where they met with representatives from the Air National Guard, the Air Traffic Control center, and the Barnstable County Sheriff's office. Another group of students learned about careers in marine science from scientists at the Marine Biological Laboratory and those interested in early childhood education visited the Woods Hole Village Preschool.

Future physical therapists were hosted by Falmouth Physical Therapy, while those interested in law met the district attorney's staff at the Falmouth District Court. Several students met with health care professionals at Falmouth Hospital and JML to learn more about careers in medicine. Those interested in sports management heard from former Boston Bruins player Jeff Serowik, founder of Pro Ambitions Hockey, while aspiring coaches heard from former Chicago Bears player and college football coach, Larry Glueck. Local veterinarian Frank Alfano welcomed would-be veterinarians to Deer Run Veterinary Clinic. Future authors and journalists heard from Brent Runyon at the Enterprise, while at the town engineering department students learned about jobs in civil engineering. Mullen-Hall School hosted students interested in elementary and special education, as well as speech therapy.



Elise Hugus, *The Enterprise*

O'Hara Motors provided an overview of automotive careers. Heath and Holly Coker of Robert Paul Properties gave students interested in real estate a tour of listed properties and the steps involved with listing or selling a property.



VagabondView Photography

Aspiring artists visited the Osborn & Rugh Gallery on The Queen's Buyway and future photographers participated in a photo shoot at VagabondView Photography. Interior designer Laurie Long of Sundries Furniture worked with students interested in that field. Juniors interested in law enforcement visited the Falmouth Police Department and the Fire Department previewed paramedic and emergency medical technician (EMT) careers. A representative from the Marine Corps also spoke to students. Those interested in business management were hosted by Board Stiff and Kaleidoscope Toys. Students considering a career as a chef or in restaurant management learned about both at the Quarterdeck Restaurant.

Plans are now underway for a Career Fair in the spring at the junior high to introduce students to a wide variety of career options—and the coursework required—so that they may be able to plan for high school classes, electives, internships, and volunteering opportunities. For more information, please contact the VIPS office at (508) 548-1621 or send an e-mail to vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us.

Reminders

CORI forms are good for one year—12 months from the date you filled it out. **When in doubt, fill one out!** We'll keep it on file until your anniversary date. That way, you'll never be unsure and teachers won't be left scrambling to find a CORled driver or chaperone for a field trip. **CORI forms can NOT be filled out and mailed in and photocopies of photo IDs are not accepted.** However, there are staff members available at each school and the administration building and the VIPS office who are happy to sign your CORI form during school office hours. Questions about your anniversary date? Contact VIPS!

Inside This Edition

- School Buzz: **Math Help**..... 2
- Spotlight: **VIPS Challenge Prog**..... 3
- Profile: **Matt Anderson** 3
- Inside VIPS: **Feasts of Falmouth** ... 2



Elise Hugus, *The Enterprise*



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, 28 years later, VIPs has grown from eight volunteers at Falmouth High School to over 1,100 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—approximately 40,000 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:

Tracey Crago – *Director*
 tcrago@falmouth.k12.ma.us
 Drawdé Geishecker – *Secretary*
 vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us
 (508) 548-1621

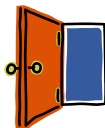


School Buzz

If you haven't already started volunteering at, or on behalf of, one of the schools, contact the **VIPS Building Coordinators** at that school: **Falmouth High School:** Ursula Bohnenberger (ubmom3@comcast.net) and Jenn Gonsalves (spy77@comcast.net); **Lawrence:** Maria Jones (mjones8425@comcast.net) and Michele Lino (mjilino@aol.com); **Morse Pond:** Tina Broderick (tbroderick@comcast.net) and Kathy Martino (petesumos@comcast.net); **East Falmouth Elementary:** Tracy Chorches (tchorches@verizon.net); **Mullen-Hall Elementary:** Lynn Briggs (mhvips@falmouth.k12.ma.us); **North Falmouth Elementary:** B.J. Almeida (almeida61497@verizon.net) and Robin Puccillo (stellalulu06@yahoo.com); **Teaticket Elementary:** Kelly Geist (bcteaticket@comcast.net) and Donna Randelman. Are you **new to volunteering** or just not sure what school or task might be the best fit? Contact the VIPS office and we'll figure it out together, (508) 548-1621 or vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us. You will be in good company when you volunteer in Falmouth Public Schools—**VIPS volunteers logged 40,499 hours during the 2009-10 school year!**

Massachusetts recently passed **Anti-Bullying Legislation** that has school districts busy developing and implementing programming and policies to reduce incidences of bullying in schools. Falmouth's committee is a combination of school administrators, counselors, students, and community members who are working together to identify programs already in place and those that can be adopted in Falmouth as part of the district's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. This year's **NO GUFF Week** celebration, scheduled for **January 24-28, 2011**, will coincide with the Commonwealth's "No Name Calling Day" on January 26.

Math help is available for Lawrence students, thanks to long-time VIPS volunteer (and former math teacher) **Martha Vaccaro**. Martha will be hosting a weekly math help session at **Lawrence School** on **Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Students from the high school **National Math Honor Society** will drop by to help Martha work with any junior high students in need of review or help. Registration is not necessary. Sessions will be held in Room 108. For more information, contact VIPS.



Inside VIPS

At the October meeting, VIPS welcomed new Board of Advisors members **Brian Church, Heidi Marotta, Rebecca Moffit, Linda Steele**, and FHS sophomore **Emily Mihaielscu**.

The crowds were out for this year's 9th annual Feasts of Falmouth, September 26th. Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed the following: **Ben & Bills** (fudge), **Box Lunch Falmouth** (soup, rollwiches), **Coonamessett Inn/Flying Bridge** (cake), **Dana's Kitchen** (cookies, hermits, and macaroons), **Desperados Restaurant Cantina** (chips and salsa, chili), **Ghelfi's Candy** (fudge), **Golden Swan Indian Cuisine** (assorted appetizers and mango lassi), **J.R. Brody's Roadside Tavern** (cacoila and quahogs), **La Cucina sul Mare** (pasta, chicken, meatballs, canollis), **Landfall Restaurant** (clams, oysters or shrimp cocktail), **Landucci** (lobster ravioli), **Mezza Restaurant** (mediterranean specialties), **Nimrod** (caesar salad), **Peking Palace** *servng* (assorted chinese specialties), **pies a la mode** (chicken pot pie, turkey gobbler, quiche, fruit pie, ice cream), **Quarterdeck** (blackened scallops over a bed of greens), **Roche Bros.** (shepherd's pie and seafood pie), **Roo Bar** (grilled and chilled shrimp w/ chilled asian noodle salad), **Royal Nursing Center** (white truffle mac & cheese w/shrimp), **Smitty's Ice Cream** (Cape Cod crunch and pumpkin), **Stir Crazy Restaurant** (cold appetizers). **Sponsors included:** TD Bank, Roche Bros., Island Queen, Taylor Rental, Stop & Shop, Allied Septic Service. Flowers and harvest decorations by Jack In The Beanstalk and Windfall Market





Spotlight: ELA and Math Extensions Program

Volunteers, here is your chance to help the Falmouth elementary schools provide more opportunities for talented, eager, and motivated students in grades 3 and 4! The **VIPS Challenge Program** is a new program that will provide students the opportunity to investigate topics in math or literature on a deeper level.

The VIPS Challenge Program is modeled after the volunteer-based *Arts Alive* program: volunteers will work with small groups of students on units designed for a particular grade level and topic. “Teachers throughout the district provide all students with a curriculum that is designed to engage, motivate, and challenge every student based on their readiness, interest and personal learning style,” explains Liz McGonagle, assistant superintendent and director of curriculum and instruction. “In every classroom there are very highly motivated students who would benefit from the opportunity to meet and work with learners with similar learning styles on even more challenging learning tasks that match their abilities, extend the classroom curriculum, and stimulate their creative and critical thinking.”

The VIPS Challenge Program was designed by a committee of volunteers and district staff. Volunteers will work with a small group of students, who have been referred by classroom teachers. Our goal is to encourage students to stretch their thinking through discussions and problem solving guided by an interested, caring adult volunteer. “Volunteers will be provided with a series of activities and lessons that compliment the classroom curriculum. These lessons are designed to provide students with a chance to explore topics that are of personal interest to them,” says Tracey Crago, VIPS Director.

Each VIPS Challenge Program activity provides the volunteer with a step-by-step guide to planning and presenting the lesson. Lessons are focused on either mathematics or ELA, and some extend over a period of weeks, for example, reading and discussing a book. Whether it involves playing a game that requiring strong math skills or discussing the plot of a book together, all of the activities are designed to stimulate ideas and encourage students to engage in deeper, more thoughtful thinking.

Training sessions will be organized for interested volunteers in December. To find out more about the program or to be notified of the training schedule, contact VIPS at (508) 548-1621 or send an email to vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us. Details will also be posted on the VIPS website, www.falmouthvips.org.

Volunteer Profile: Matt Anderson



VIPS volunteer **Matt Anderson** may have studied art history and philosophy as a college undergraduate, but it was an interest in public service that led him to a career full of action and adventure. Anderson is a Coast Guard lieutenant whose job as an intelligence officer recently sent him to the Gulf to work on the oil spill. While with the Coast Guard, Anderson has spent time aboard 250-foot long vessels in Alaska’s Bering Sea, where the king crab fishing is so dangerous it is the subject of a popular TV show, *Deadliest Catch*, seen on the Discovery Channel’s TLC network. Between Coast Guard Officer Training School and duty

assignments, Anderson went back and forth between Alaska and Washington, D.C. twice. He earned a master’s degree in intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College and, in 2008, he was assigned to the Coast Guard Sector Southeastern Massachusetts’ Woods Hole station.

Along the way, Anderson got involved with local schools. “I’ve volunteered in every spot I’ve lived,” says Anderson, “from mountain search and rescue teams in Alaska’s wilderness to read aloud programs in D.C. When I came here, I was interested in reaching out to the local schools and learned of VIPS through the Rotary Club of Falmouth.” The Coast Guard, through its Partnership in Education program, is very supportive of volunteerism. “Many of the Coast Guard personnel in Woods Hole had been involved in the Partnership program in other regions, and some are parents of kids in the local schools,” said Anderson. When he canvassed the unit about working with Falmouth schools, he had a good response. “People

Profile (cont’d)

have a lot of pride in what they do. They are happy to share if it can make a positive impact on the kids.”

After meeting with VIPS and discussing options, Matt and his team settled on Morse Pond as a school to work with. Morse Pond Principal Andrea Schwamb was thrilled. “Her evident enthusiasm made it a very welcoming environment for us,” recalls Anderson. Beginning last spring, Anderson and several Coast Guard colleagues could often be spotted at Morse Pond. They helped out on a school beautification project during **No Guff Week**, volunteered at **Morse Pond field day**, and adopted the 6th grade classroom of **Karen St. Germain and Susan Baker**. The sixth graders were able to **job shadow** over a series of visits to the Coast Guard Woods Hole station. “They learned a great deal about teamwork and what life on a ship is like,” said Anderson. “We worked with the teachers to relate some of what we do—navigation, mapping—to skills they had been learning in the classroom.” This year’s collaboration will be similar to last year.

Anderson said one of his favorite aspects of the partnership was having his female colleagues so involved as role models for young girls. In particular, Lt. j.g. **Claire Davenport**, Lt. and Coast Guard Cutter *Sanibel* Capt. **Kathrynn McCormack**, Petty Officer 1st class **Sarah Schaefer**, and Lt. j.g. **Maureen Olsen**, were all very involved in the Coast Guard-Morse Pond partnership. “At an age where kids are coming to terms with gender and roles, it was great to have them talk about their responsibilities and show the students how they take charge.”

Recently, the Coast Guard Sector Southeastern Massachusetts became an official **VIPS Business Partner in Education**, for the ongoing efforts with the Morse Pond School.



**Linking the Public Schools
and the Community**

Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS)

c/o Lawrence School
113 Lakeview Avenue
Falmouth MA 02540

Phone: 508-548-1621
Fax: 508-495-2854
E-mail: vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us

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Upcoming Events

Used Sports Equipment Sale

March 12, 2011
(location TBA)

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Tuesday, May 3rd
Coonamessett Inn

VIPS ♥s Student Volunteers!

Falmouth students have grown up with volunteers in their schools. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that so many students become volunteers themselves. VIPS strongly encourages student volunteerism and community service. We'll also keep track of all student volunteer time and then provide a record of the hours for job, scholarship, intern, and college applications. If you volunteer, become a **"friend" of VIPS on Facebook**—it's never been easier to find volunteer opportunities or log your hours!