



STAFF PHOTO / RATCLIFFE

Vicky Cotter (12) shows off a pottery piece in the bustling art room.

Art dept. shines

By BETH BASSETT
Staff

Walking into the art rooms, especially as a first timer can be quite overwhelming. Students are milling around with paint brushes in hand or a camera around the neck. Some sit at drawing horses with intense concentration, others are focused on making sure their pottery is "thrown" symmetrically, and some are there for the laid back atmosphere. But once you've gotten used to this unique atmosphere, you'll find it very easy to embrace all the possibilities offered by the art department.

Classes offered in the art department include drawing, sculpture, photography, ceramics, painting and popular new jewelry classes. In the past years the art department has been "very lucky to be able to expand," said art teacher Linda Varney. "The department has been supported by students, the school and the community."

This support is evident by the work that comes out of the art department, and the number of awards that students have received. Last year, 50 pieces were submitted from the school to the New Hampshire State Scholastic Art Competition. Among the chosen works, 13 received the Silver Key Award, and one student Lindsey Feliciano, was even awarded the coveted Gold Key. For her accomplishment, her piece continued onto a

national competition.

Many students coming from the art department have been very successful in going to colleges of their choice, in large part because of the AP portfolio class. Varney said, "the portfolio is a great tool to use in the interviewing process." When talking to some art students, you get a sense of freedom that isn't offered in other classes at WHS. Art student Max Delviscio said, "The range of freedom is awesome. I've taken almost every class here...it gives me a good idea of what I want to do. It really gives you a good opportunity to see what you want to do best."

It's this freedom that allows art students to produce such amazing work. Without students being told exactly what to do and how to do it, everyone's flair is shown in their pieces. Instead of producing masses of nearly identical paintings and drawings, the art department is unique. Because of the departments' atmosphere that fosters individuality and exploration, Winnacunnet has one of the most highly respected art programs in New Hampshire. "The colleges ask for us, we don't call them," said Varney.

This kind of recognition from colleges and the community have been able to set Winnacunnet apart from other high schools. Above all it's the students' and teachers' talents that come into this school so often that truly make this art department shine.

New Hampshire's #1 drug of choice: Alcohol

By JESS PETRUZZIELLO
Staff

"Call 911!" Melanie said as she gasped for a breath of air, choking back vomit and shaking. Judith turned to her friend, who stood a few feet away shouting at her,

"You heard her, call 911 now!" They didn't. The girls sat there watching their friend get alcohol poisoning, praying she wouldn't die.

"Judith, I can't call 911, I can't! I don't know how to!" Charlotte said in a panicked voice, her hands over her mouth in shock. Judith shot her a look and Charlotte gave the phone to Judith. But the girls just sat there and stared at Melanie as she lay on the ground, shouting 'Don't touch me!' and vomiting stomach bile. How did we let it get this far? Judith asked herself. How did we let it get this far, to the point where our friend can't function?

"Charlotte, go get some water now, go quick!" She ran up the stairs and came back down, but the hardest thing was trying to get some water into her almost paralyzed body. It seemed like hours before they got Melanie up the stairs. She continued to be limp, but she was talking, saying, "I'm fine guys, really I am." As much as it made them feel better, they still couldn't believe her. She was so highly intoxicated and now she was dry heaving. They were just trying to have some fun... really just trying to have some fun...

This situation or one like it happens almost every weekend to someone in America, when things get a little out of control just because kids were trying to have some fun. Often they ended up seriously hurting themselves or their friends.

Alcohol is the number one drug used by New Hampshire high school students. National Surveys show that 88 percent of high school seniors have tried alcohol at least once. Alcohol is considered a "gateway" drug because it leads to the use of other drugs. Some 15-years-olds who drink are more likely to become alcohol-dependent than those who start drinking at age 21. Most teens have easy access to alcohol from their parents or people they know.

Another big issue among teens is drunk driving. This is still the leading cause in teenage deaths in the U.S. Statistics show that eight young people a day die from drunk driving. Eight people a day, 56 people a week, 1,680 a month and 20,160 a year. If you're reading this article you have probably heard or know of at least one person that has died from drinking or drunk driving. Getting in the car intoxicated is basically just putting a time bomb on your life, you are impaired when you drink, your judgment your reaction time, everything.

You always hear of those kids who can really "hold their liquor." Wow, they are people to be envied, huh? Nope wrong. People who drink heavily without becoming intoxicated have probably developed a tolerance for alcohol which indicates the onset of dependency. Cool, huh?

So what if the state issued a learner's permit to you? What kind of learner's permit, and for what? Well drinking. Certain researchers think that if you give kids learner permits to drink, then they will learn to drink in moderation. This idea has pros and cons because some kids would totally take advantage of this, and not really learn anything from it.

So when you're out this weekend just "trying to have a little fun" think before you act. It could change your life, or someone else's.

NEW FACES IN OLD PLACES

Richardson returns to music department after eight years

By KATHY SHEA
Arts and Entertainment Editor

This year, the school has a new teacher who is, in fact, not so new at all. Scott Richardson, the current electronic music teacher, has two actual classes of electronic music and spends the rest of his time working at his own business. His company, SRVS, is a recording studio that he left WHS to start back in 1996. "I used to be the chorus teacher. I used to do what Dick Ray does now," he said.

According to Richardson, there are only some things that have changed about Winnacunnet; those being that the school is bigger and there are more students. However, Richardson agrees that besides the size of Winnacunnet, many things haven't changed at all. Richardson says, "You know, it's funny because the computers are the same ones that were used 10 years ago. A lot of things haven't been touched. I helped build the electronic music room back in 1995." Fortu-

nately, there are new computers coming in a few months for this room.

Richardson explained how his present students appreciate different music tastes than those of the students he had 10 years ago. Richardson's students in the early 90s used to be into the "grunge" phase of music and didn't appreciate older music. Musicians like Jimmy Hendrix are favorites among his students today. "Eight years ago I don't remember kids being into older music," says Richardson.

Richardson was raised in Southern California and went to college at San Diego State. His general interests are all centered around music, and he



STAFF PHOTO / QUACKENBUSH

plays numerous musical instruments including the guitar and the keyboard.

Richardson described how he got interested in music. "I had a really, really amazing music teacher. He had an impact."

Being the electronic music teacher and having his own recording studio, Richardson's life is all about music. "I'm pretty fortunate because it's not only my job, but also it's my hobby," he said.

Kiernan makes physics fun

By BETH BASSETT
Staff

Shannon Kiernan is an energetic Long Island native whom made it clear that she is very excited to be a part of our faculty as a new Physics teacher. "It's much better than I expected. I'm very impressed with the maturity and respect the students show." Kiernan has made quite the impression herself. Not only is she easy going and amazingly approachable, but her students have only had good things to say. Perhaps Kiernan's only problem at WHS will be her love for the Yankees.

Before coming to Winnacunnet, Kiernan formally worked in Goffstown, N.H. where she taught biology and physics. After moving to Portsmouth this past year, Kiernan decided that Winnacunnet was a much better choice, due to her new location. So far it seems Kiernan has made the right decision. "I love my students, the administrator, and teachers," she said. So with no rants, only the raves about Winnacunnet's trust in their students, and their ability to make their own choices, it looks like Kiernan's spunky personality is going to fit right in here at WHS.



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Copenhaver provides guidance

By ANDREA VANDERSALL
Staff

Zoe Copenhaver is a new guidance counselor this year at Winnacunnet. She grew up in Littleton, N.H. and then attended Boston University. She graduated from B.U. in 1998 and then graduated from Suffolk University in 2004 with her Master's degree in Education and School Counseling. Having interned as a guidance counselor at Boston Community Leadership High School and then at Saugus High School, she has gained experience in working at different types of schools.

When Copenhaver was looking to begin her career, she was interested in finding a school that offered many extracurricular activities, including strong sports programs. She had hoped that she would coach someday, and coincidentally the freshman field hockey coaching position opened up this year at WHS. Copenhaver has a busy year with adjusting to a new school, coaching, and commuting from Boston, but she says she definitely made the right decision. "I'm really enjoying working with a variety of unique kids, and everything is going great so far."

Leary wants to pass on love of Spanish

By HALEY ANDERSEN
Staff

"I've always wanted to be a teacher," said Jessica Leary, the most recent addition to the Spanish department. Leary hopes to play a fresh role in the Winnacunnet community.

Leary attended Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Majoring in Spanish and minoring in French, her dream throughout her college years was to become a teacher. Teaching has been an influence in her family for many years. "My dad was a teacher, my aunt was a teacher. I was raised around teachers my whole life," she said.

Before starting her teaching career, Leary spent four months in the dazzling city of Seville, Spain for a semester abroad. She studied the Spanish language and culture in great depth during the experience. "I also traveled all around Spain. It was great," she said.

Regarding her experience at Winnacunnet, Leary said, "It's only been two weeks! But it's been fun. I feel great with all the teachers I am working with, and my students are also



STAFF PHOTO / BREEN

great." Her hopes and goals for her first year include becoming involved and being a helpful influence in her students' lives. "I want to help as many kids as I can. I want my students to enjoy the language just as much as I do," she said. In addition to helping her students, she also hopes to somehow become involved in the softball program here at Winnacunnet. "It's pretty much what I did growing up. I would definitely like to help with the softball team."

GET EXTRA HELP FOR FINALS!

Every Monday and Tuesday in MC-10 from 2:30-3:30, the National Honor Society is holding tutoring sessions in every subject (foreign languages: see special days below). These sessions will help with general questions and preparation for Trimester 1 final exams which will be held on December 1, 2 and 3. Students are encouraged to sign up in Guidance, but walk-ins are accepted. Help is available, come and get it!

Spanish	French	Latin
Tues, 11/9	Mon, 11/15	Tues, 11/16
Mon, 11/22	Tues, 11/23	Mon, 11/29
Tues, 11/30	Tues, 11/30	Tues, 11/30