

Voices of VALLEY

Valley Regional High School

A Forum for Warrior Expression

January 2014

Warrior Success



King of the Kickoff

By: Lindsey Lent

The Valley football games seem a tradition as age-old and important as attending the Valley Regional High School itself. As students and parents gather on blankets strewn about the adjacent hill, a simple football game turns into an event that brings an entire community together. The players who put countless hours in after school display their skills on a field beneath burning spotlights and the watchful gazes of spectators. The game progresses—whistles blow, cheers ring, and the players start in a familiar, almost rhythmical series of complicated plays.

Yet the true hero of the Valley football games, who shouts on the sidelines

and contributes even more hours to mold the players into the triumphant team we see perform, is our own Coach King.

Most know Coach King as Valley's enthusiastic, energetic physical education teacher. Yet after the school bell rings, King heads over to the football field to switch roles from teacher to coach, leading the Valley Warriors to success as he has done for many years. Yet this year, Coach King has hit a very important milestone in any coach's coaching career: his one-hundredth win.

There has been much leading up to this sacred moment for the hardworking football coach, as King's passion for football extends back to when he was just a kid. He first began to play back in his hometown's youth league. He soon developed a love for the sport, and started

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Valley Goes Abroad

A Spanish Adventure

By: Tina Mitchel

After years of hearing the names of faraway Spanish cities in class, and extracting information from fake boarding passes in textbooks, it was unbelievable to see MADRID typed on a real boarding pass that was for a real airplane that took us to a really gorgeous city. As the plane landed at 3 o'clock in the morning Connecticut time, the sun shined bright in the Spanish sky. Adrenaline was the only thing that kept us awake that day as we toured a bull ring, ate a traditional Spanish dinner, and saw a flamenco show (traditional Spanish dancing).

There is a sense of history in Spain that is not seen in 18th century- founded America. After meeting our host families in Salamanca, the group visited extravagant cathedrals and one of Spain's first universities, each adorned with spectacularly carved stone. We returned to each of our host houses every day for the heavy and delectable "comida" (food) around 3:00 PM each day, which is the main meal in the Spanish household. The Spanish food may have been the most legendary part of the trip, specifically the rich and creamy Spanish hot chocolate with dense and tasty churros that the group stopped for several times.

Before the week ended, we visited the city of Segovia, where we saw Roman aqueducts, as well as the medieval castle that provided the inspiration for Cinderella's castle in Disney world. The Spanish monarchy now hold their foreign-dignitaries events there. Each of the sites we visited was magnificent and unforgettable. Foremost, the memories of the rich Spanish chocolate alone may just force us to return to Spain again in the future.

Several chaperones accompanied the students on the trip, including Sra. Hwang. When asked to reflect upon the trip, she said that the students "all agreed that they have learned a lot. It was great to see a difference in the students' knowledge. Their Spanish clearly improved."

French Exchange Trip

By: Emily Roise

On November 22, 2013, eight Valley Regional students embarked on a journey that took us 4,000 miles from home -- from Deep River, Connecticut to Castres, France.

It was a long and tedious journey, especially considering the uneasy start. After leaving two hours late to accommodate the scheduling of the Spanish Exchange, we were "cutting it close." Everyone knows that when you attempt to "cut it close" with New York City traffic and the United States' customs system, you are bound for some issues.

And issues there were. Due to leaving to school later, we missed our flight. The airline didn't even let us check in our bags. They believed all hope was lost and to be honest, so did I. Delta Airlines, after refusing us access, directed us toward Air France who told us there were no openings on their flights either. So we hopped back on the airport metro to return to Delta, who promised us seats on a flight to Paris exactly 24 hours later than scheduled. One entire day in Paris was lost.

Yet soon the disappointment, anger, and sadness of those eight weary travelers subsided, just as all weary travelers must accept the mishaps and embrace the adventure. Our journey had finally gotten us to Paris (even if it was only for a day) and we did not intend to waste it. The Eiffel Tower still stood tall despite our frustration and jet lag. And honestly, how long can that frustration last before you realize that you're in France?

The next day, Monday, demanded more from us than any other part of the trip would dare. We had to face the dreaded Charles de Gaulle airport no more than a day later from our previous seven hour flight to Paris. And now, we were to return to the confines of a plane for an hour flight to Toulouse.

But our welcome was worth the trouble. Seeing the French Exchange

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Secret Garden

By: Caitlin Lent

With scripts read, auditions completed, and cast lists posted, rehearsals have started. However, those not participating in the Valley Regional musical production of *The Secret Garden*, aside from the few who might have seen the play at the Goodspeed or read its literary companion, are likely in the dark as far as the show's premise.

The Secret Garden has a rich history, spanning almost a century in many mediums of entertainment. It began as a serial novel, published monthly in 1910 by esteemed author Frances Burnett.

Despite its well-regarded writer, *The Secret Garden* was brushed off by critics for being nothing but a "pretty tale." Little did they know, *The Secret Garden* would evolve into arguably one of the most influential works of literature in the English language.

The novel tells the story of the recently orphaned Mary, sent to live with her reclusive uncle Archibald in his Yorkshire home after her parents' spontaneous deaths from a cholera outbreak. Years after her passing, Archibald Craven still grieves over the loss of his lovely wife, Lily, who died giving birth to their now bed-bound son, Collin. Upon discovering a secluded garden, the sullen Mary begins to seek the help of Mr. Craven's eccentric staff, who aid her in nurturing the garden back to health. In the process, Mary helps bring life back to Misselwaite Manor and its many inhabitants.

However, the drama is not strictly on the page. Many details of *The Secret Garden* are drawn from the life of Frances Burnett herself. According to *The Secret Garden* musical's official Edinburgh website, it is widely believed that the crippled Collin is based off of her husband of 25 years, who she helped overcome the odds of being confined to a wheelchair and developed into a successful surgeon. As well, the many spiritual aspects of the novel, from the ghosts that haunt the house to the spirits within Archibald's head come from her own grappling with depression, as well as a heavy belief in Spiritualism. Death was also a major theme in many of Burnett's novels, including *The Secret Garden*. She was familiar with it. Her father had passed away when she was only four years old and her eldest son had died of tuberculosis just years before the book's conception.

Although *The Secret Garden* was not made into a musical until the early 1990s, Francis was no stranger to dramatizing her works. In fact, she won an important case for authors, barring playwrights from publishing scripts about another author's work without their consent. She went on to produce many more plays based upon her books. Ironically, *The Secret Garden*, a novel she had never felt necessary to adapt during her lifetime, has become by far her most successful play.

After Frances's death, her books steadily rose in popularity. It evolved from strictly a children's novel to one people of all ages could enjoy. It became required reading in many high schools across the country, gaining reputation as a true classic novel.

When BBC's *The Big Read* began looking into *The Secret Garden*'s long and enduring timeline, they found that a little-known first attempt to adapt the book into a movie occurred 1919, starring early silent-film actress Lila Lee as Mary. However, because this movie was never produced and no copies have been discovered, it earns a place as one of the most notable "lost films." A more prominent adaptation appeared in 1949, when MGM Studios produced a feature film adaptation. Critics raved about their imaginative use of Technicolor in bringing to life the restored garden. Yet, the traditional major motion picture was not the only way *The Secret Garden* has been adapted between its time on the page to its time on the stage. From anime to opera, *The Secret Garden* has frequently undergone re-imagination.

Though, perhaps the most beloved adaptation of *The Secret Garden* comes in later, close to a century after its original publication. As said in the American Theater Wings Tony Award Profile, in April of 1991, *The Secret Garden* opened sold out in the illustrious St. James Theater on Broadway. It featured music by newcomer Lucy Simon and book and lyrics by the Pulitzer-prize winning Marsha Norman. The dynamic duo earned sweeping critical success, winning three Tony awards its first year of production. The long-running show lasted 709 performances, and is still staged in theaters throughout the world.

But what is it about *The Secret Garden* that has caused such an immense draw over the decades? That, you'll have to find out for yourself.

No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project

By: Caitlin Lent

It's needless to say that the world has made great strides, many in the past century, in reaching gender equality. In the United States, women comprised less than 26% of the workforce a little over 50 years ago. More recent data by the U.S. Department of Labor states that today, women make up a little less than half of the workforce at 48%. Heck, less than 100 years ago, women couldn't even vote here in the US. Around the world, countries similarly progressive and developed have, relative to their long history, only recently adopted voting rights for women. Some notable examples include familiar European countries such as France, which gained women's suffrage in 1944, Italy in 1946, Greece in 1952, Switzerland in 1971, and Lichtenstein in 1984. In Saudi Arabia, one of the most gender restrictive countries in the world, women will have the right to vote in the 2015 election.

Yet for each great success in the feminist movement toward gender equality, there exists an accompanying event, archaic yet enforced law, or shocking statistic that sends the collective mindset back, leaving women around the world wondering, "Is this really the 21st century?" According to Max Fisher of the Washington Post WorldViews, Yemeni courts only recognize women as half witnesses. In Saudi Arabia and Morocco, corrupt law enforcement goes a step further than avoiding prosecution of rapists. De jure victim blaming plagues the nation. They often punish the victims of rape with crimes such as "failure to leave the home without a male companion," and may even force girls as young as 12 to marry their rapists. In many countries, due to a new wave of dangerous religious extremism, "honor killings" of women run rampant—and authorities rarely do anything to stop it.

Then consider the case of Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teenager who was shot in the head by the Taliban for trying to receive an education. Even here in the US, although certainly less extreme, the Women's Labor Division of the United States Department of Labor affirms that only 4% of the Fortune 500 company CEO's are women. Even more infuriatingly, women make, on average a whopping 13 to 21% less than men. It goes without saying that around the

world, sexism and gender inequality still strongly persist.

Enter Hillary Clinton—the United States' third female secretary of state, fierce women's rights activist, and all-around feminism goddess. In 1995, Clinton attended the Fourth UN Conference for Women, where 189 nations agreed to an ambitious Platform for Action that called for the "full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life." While at the conference, Clinton asserted "human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all." Near twenty years later, she realizes that significant progress has been made, in the form of public reforms and grassroots activism alike. But she isn't shy to admit that this progress is hardly enough to constitute as anything near full and equal participation for women.

That's where *No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project* comes in. The goal of this revolutionary reform, introduced by Hillary Clinton, is to not only see how far we need to go, but to measure the world's progress in gender equality thus far. The project will be the most widespread collection of data on the state of women's rights in history. Upon completion, academics, advocates, and world leaders will have access to this data, using knowledge to drive tangible change around the world. *No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project* will conclude with Clinton collaborating with other world leaders, private sector activists, and global citizens to create a real-time agenda to expedite further advancement of equality for women around the world. The initiative has been met with almost unanimous support from people worldwide.

"Glass ceilings," the term for which Clinton's project gets its name, originated in *The Economist* magazine. It annually publishes a list entitled "The Glass-Ceiling Index," in which they rank countries of the world on factors including opportunities in the workplace for women and equal pay. In the initiative statement, Hillary Clinton challenges women and girls throughout the world to break through their glass ceilings. In the words of Hillary Clinton herself: "Women of the world, let's get cracking!"

All information was gathered from the Clinton Foundation website unless otherwise stated.

Destructive Wave Hits the Philippines

By: Charlotte Boland

Recently, a typhoon tore through the Philippines which the likes of have only been seen once before. Easily the second-deadliest typhoon on record, 3,976 people died in the country alone (this is not including the death rates in other areas affected). Typhoons are, essentially, hurricanes under a different name because of their location in the world. They are just as deadly. Although evacuation efforts took place before the storm struck, most were in vain. In the coastal town of Guiuan, the Mayor Christopher Gonzalez was reported to have called it "delubyo," or "Armageddon."

Typhoon Haiyan spanned 370 miles over the Philippines. Winds were sustained at 195 miles per hour, and gusts reached 235 miles per hour. It made landfall a total of six times, which is very unusual for such a storm. Its height was 17 feet, and the rainfall went up to 27 inches.

Already, the Filipinos are scrambling in the aftermath. Imagine what it would be like: winds whipping the roofs off of your own homes. The structures of the houses themselves falling apart. NBC News reports that in Guiuan, every single house

was stripped of its roof, leaving 45,000 people exposed to the elements. Half of their local hospital was decimated; the gales even ruptured the concrete. In the city of Tacloban, entire neighborhoods have been left in ruin, and 90% of the city succumbed to devastation. Over 200,000 homes in total were destroyed and just as many were damaged. 628 schools were damaged, excluding the Eastern and Western Samar provinces; this number is likely to increase once the reports come in.

The countries hit by the storm have been stretched to their limits. Immediate concerns thwart any hopes of a speedy rebuilding process. The rubble will take a very long time to eliminate. In some areas, such as Tacloban, cleaning will take months. First, however, the roads must be cleared to allow access to other parts of the island.

In terms of reconstruction, there is unfortunately no easy solution. The houses cannot simply be put up again; the whole infrastructure must be taken into consideration. Water and sanitation to consider, as well as electricity and supply chains, rank high in priorities. Many people are pushing to rebuild with plans for bet-

ter protection against future destruction. This way, when a typhoon makes landfall again—and there is no doubt that one will at some point—the Philippines will be able to better resist its forces. Robin Cross, the CEO of Article 25 (a charity organization that helps with disaster cases such as this) states, "It is crucial to see which buildings can be repaired and which cannot." Even after assessing 20 different buildings, only nine were actually rebuilt by Article 25, according to British newspaper *The Guardian*.

The process is slow-moving. 500,000 people were left homeless in this disaster. Even years after the tsunami in Japan, thousands have yet to be rehoused, which does not present much of a good omen for the Filipinos. In the latest official count, 12,501 individuals were injured during the storm, while 1,186 are still missing.

The government, however, is steadily reacting; 1,086 evacuation centers have been established. Other organizations and nations are assisting as well. Out of the 2.5 million people in need of food distribution, 375,795 people have been aided so far with rice, high-energy biscuits, and canned goods, as informed by NBC News. The US Navy and various US air-

craft have been deployed to bring fresh drinking water to those in need, reaching over 400,000 gallons.

But the Philippines government, even with this aid, has yet to distribute much of the supplies to its citizens. So in an amazing act of self-determination and independence, the people have taken it upon themselves to restart their towns. Gas stations have reopened, even if with long lines. Stalls have been set up selling food and consumer goods. Even electricity sources have been tapped and turned into small cell phone charging areas for public use.

Typhoon Haiyan swept through the Philippines with a vast deadliness that will not soon be forgotten. But the Filipinos forge on. Other countries making individual aid efforts, and the United Nations has even given \$300,000 million to the country. Although the Philippines government is slow in its reaction, it is getting somewhere, certainly with the help of its own people in their perseverance. And so in the face of devastation, they carry on.

Valley Life

Opinion

Club Update

Interact- The Interact Club has recently started a fund-raiser for the victims of a typhoon in the Philippines. It is meant to raise money to buy shelter boxes, which include necessities for those whose houses were destroyed. Each shelter box costs \$1,000. They will also soon deliver their coats from their annual coat drive.

Student Council - Student Council will hold a bake sale on December 14 and raised \$250 to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Youth Action Council- The Youth Action Council will be hosting a holiday gift card drive. Last year they reached 25 gift cards and hope to exceed that this year.

Grade 9- Be on the lookout for a fund-raiser for the freshman class with See's Candies.

Grade 10- The sophomore class has a field trip coming up for the Civics class.

It will take place in December, and they will meet our representative at the capitol, Phil Miller.

Grade 11- The juniors just finished a successful fund-raiser selling butter braids. On December 6 they held the Holiday Ball.

Grade 12- The seniors will hold a bake sale soon.

National Honor Society- NHS is continuing with their tutoring program and is excited to announce they hosted a successful Holiday Breakfast with Santa.

Mock Trial - Mock trial attended a tournament on December 6 at Middle Town Superior Court House. The Varsity Team advanced to the quarter finals, to be held on January 28.

Summer Reading Committee- Summer Reading Committee is starting early this year! Signs up are now posted.



Crime at Prime Time

By: Lindsey Lent

There is just something about murder and secrecy with a touch of glamour that can turn any old television reality into an intriguing thriller series. Watching the killer slowly creep into the doorway, the detectives unravel the complex mystery, and the opposing lawyers compete for gratifying justice -- it kind of makes you want to grab your badge and briefcase and head out to do some hard-core crime fighting.

Maybe this is the reason that crime shows are popping up throughout the world of television, and why many have seized a coveted prime-time position on many popular television channels. According to TV Guide, *The Blacklist* on NBC, a fictional television series about one of FBI's most-wanted and an FBI profiler who work together to rid the world of dangerous criminals, is currently the fourth most popular show on TV. CBS's *Person of Interest*, another crime drama about a CIA officer who multiple mysteries throughout New York City, makes the list at number 27. The list is littered with crime shows such as *Criminal Minds*, *Bones*, *CSI*, and so on, all making the top 100 most popular series of television.

Producers continue to produce these spectacles of corruption and intrigue simply because they are fascinating to viewers. Some would think onlookers would be opposed to certain gore and brutality, as well as dealing with the seemingly touchy subject of death by murder and suicide. However, the people watching at home obviously respond well to a program featuring these complex subjects and more, as they have landed the crime shows on top networks and provided constant high ratings.

This gritty type of presentation intrigues viewers for many reasons. Crime shows that include various severe meth-

ods of death, pain, and realization tend to be rather intense. Sure, a sitcom about the life of your average teenage clique can provide suspense and appeal to some audiences. Yet, with a show that deals with immense risks and dangers, there is another level of allure.

In the article by CBS News entitled "Why Crime Shows are to Die For," the creator of *CSI*, Anthony Zuiker, explains why the public responds well to this genre of television shows: "Murder is the ultimate catalyst for a good story, because the stakes are the highest. There's no higher stakes than human life."

Curiosity about crime and the justice system also explains the appeal of crime shows. We work, learn, and live in a controlled environment meant to provide safety and security. Yet it is somewhat interesting to discover the inner-workings of the process that maintains this structured society. In *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, detectives track down a victim by a mangled recording of voices, or determine the life story of a suspect with only a swab of DNA. In *Criminal Minds*, profilers can determine a sequence of events before they happen with an advanced computer database, or determine the route of a vehicle by investigating tire tracks. Maybe viewers are simply captivated by the high-tech machinery that goes into this surreal investigative process.

Or perhaps observers of crime shows simply watch for the excitement, the suspense, and the ongoing storyline and development of characters, including a constant complex issue brought to as much justice as possible within an hour-long episode.

As long as viewers continue to follow the tales of *CSI* detectives and *FBI* profilers, these crime shows will continue to grasp the attention of the public and secure a prime-time spot on major television networks for years to come.

The Winter Ball

By: Acacia Bowden

The junior class hosted the Winter Ball on Friday, December 6th. After school, the junior class steering committee decorated the cafeteria with snowflakes, candles, and lights. These created a perfect winter atmosphere.

As students arrived, the DJ was already playing music and chaperones were running the refreshment table that

included cookies and punch. All was going well until the lights went on. The students did not think much of it, until they realized they were not going out. It took some time, but eventually the janitors found out how to shut them off. The students cheered and rushed to the middle of the dance floor. After that, the dance proceeded as they usually do.

All in all, the dance was a great way to usher in the holiday season.

Model UN

By: Maggie Walsh

Early on the morning of November 9th, eight Valley Regional High School students traveled to Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, to participate in the annual high school Model United Nations conference. The day started with a guest speaker, Dyan Mazurana, PhD, who discussed the meaning of gender in today's society.

From there, delegates moved to their respective assemblies. During assemblies, delegates got a chance to act as their country by giving presentations, opening discussion and collaborating with nations who had similar ideals.

It was a new experience for five freshmen on the team, but upperclassmen and other delegates were helpful



Model UN members pictured front row L-R: Maya Whitcomb, Zane Bourgey, Mike Leffingwell, Dash Krempel. Back row L-R: Charlotte Boland, Maggie Walsh, Jessica Grote, Amanda Mitchel

in the process. The first general assembly discussed the feminization of poverty. Two delegations of VRHS students participated in this assembly, representing China and Saudi Arabia. The second general assembly was on the topic of environmental sustainability with particular emphasis on recycling plastic and the maintenance of landfills. In this, another Valley delegation also represented China. Two VRHS students participated in the Crisis Committee, which discussed the use of chemical weapons and human rights violations in Syria.

At the end of the day, each committee or assembly had helped to create and vote on decisions for their topic. In general, this conference was considered by all to be a worthwhile and challenging day, opening eyes to significant conflicts on a global scale.

Sports

Valley Soccer 2013

By: Matt Cole

The Valley Boys soccer team capped off a successful 2013 campaign with its third consecutive Shoreline Championship and a trip to the Class S Semifinal. The Warriors were seeded third in both the Shoreline and the state tournament. The team upset number one seeded Old Saybrook for the Shoreline Championship and lost to number two seeded Bolton in the state semifinal. Leading the team was senior captain Matt Cole and vice-captain Jack Simoneau along with seniors Dan Caulfield, Luke Gagnon, Gabe Cusack, and Oscar Valera. The boys had a young team this year, meaning many juniors and sophomores had minutes on

the field. Leading the team in points was junior Ben Ferrucci with 19 goals and 12 assists, Ben was also named Second Team All-Shoreline. Jack Simoneau was close behind with 19 goals and 11 assists, being named First Team All-Shoreline. Dan Caulfield and Kevin Cole were also named Second Team All-Shoreline. Matt Cole was voted the number two player in the conference, First Team All-Shoreline, a Senior Bowl player, New Haven Register All-Area, and All State. Along with Ben and Kevin the Warriors look to juniors Mike Castelli, Thomas Russell, Brian Patterson, Joe DiTomasso, DJ Berardis, Alex Haughton, Alex D'Agostino, Alex Cassells, as well as sophomores Nick Lepore, Garrett Hines, Jason Simoneau, and Kyle Eline.

Warriors Football Family

By: Tyler Cheverier

From day one, the Warriors football team emphasized the importance of being a family. On and off the field, the Warriors banded together as brothers and left it all on the field every game -- for each other. The saying the Warriors followed throughout the whole year was: "one team one dream ALL IN," making the bond this team had even closer, something that helped the Warriors through out the whole season.

Record wise, the Valley Regional Warriors football team had a great season for the books. They ended with the most wins in Valley history: 11-0 in the regular season. With this senior class, Valley's

football team really turned around for the better.

With great players come great coaches as well. Coach Ginter, the defensive coordinator, had a great season breaking down the opponents offense and only allowing seven points a game. Coach Woods, Jr, on the offensive side of the ball, lead his high powered offense to 44 points a game. Lastly, Coach King, the head coach, expressed the importance of both sides of the ball. He received his 100th win after Valley beat the Cromwell Panthers. He also received Pequot Coach of the Year. The Warriors are looking forward to the upcoming year, looking to make it back to the playoffs and win it all!

Continued: King

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his first coaching season in 1985 with a team in Billings, Montana. He then began coaching Valley football in the year of 1989.

His first year's record was four and five, and the following year he recalls to be a good year with a very good team. In fact, the team included Valley's own Coach Woods.

Coach King says that he continued to learn new things about coaching and football alike as he continued to coach.

"Each year you always learn something," Coach King commented. "Every year things come up that you need to correct. It's just like everything else in life. You learn by doing and you learn by correcting your mistakes."

King also explains the secret to success he has discovered throughout his years coaching. He says, "You surround yourself with good people and coaches, and you work hard, and good things will come to you."

And good things have come, including his recent one-hundredth win.

When matched with this year's football team, Coach King knew that this achievement was a possibility. He says that he has a "good combination of juniors and seniors," who have "really come together as a team." He also mentioned that there is a good mix of strength and speed between players. "So we're pretty good," he added.

"We needed eight wins out of our eleven games, and I thought we stood a pretty good chance of getting them," King remarked.

When asked about his emotions towards receiving his hundredth win, Coach King replied, "It was really neat. It's been a long time, you know. As a coach, you have milestones to look forward to." He went on to reflect upon the first milestone of his first win, against Gilbert, "many, many, many years ago." Next, he recalls his fiftieth win. And later, when he achieved his 50/50 win, when he accomplished a record of 500 and even one game above it.

"And then came the hundredth win, which was really special," he concluded.

With a current overall record of 102 and 78, Coach King has high hopes for the remainder of this current season. His next goal is to beat Haddam-Killingworth at the Thanksgiving Day game, and then to get in the playoffs, win it, and achieve a state title.

Coach King plans for success with his future teams, as well. "We try to be successful every year. You just have to live in the moment, right now, because you don't know if you're going to be back in the playoffs, or another Pequot Championship, or whatever," he said. "It's hard to get, but we're going to always strive for successful seasons."

Please continued support of Coach King and the Valley football team next season as the Warriors vie for another victory laden season.



Student Council members braved snow and freezing temperatures at their bake sale to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. The group raised over \$200. Pictured L-R: Kara Kelly, Jennifer Roberts, Monique Johnson, Maleena Frazier, Alicia Wichtowski, and Emma Peterson.

Continued: French Exchange

Continued from page 1

students again from last October eased our wounds from the tiring quest we took to arrive in the small town of Castres.

School the next day, however, was not so welcoming. The act of waking up at 6:30AM in France (12:30AM United States) was an extremely difficult task on our journey. Not to mention the French teacher's expectations of our French speaking at such an early hour. That afternoon we toured Castres. The French students thought it minuscule and were

shocked to learn that our three combined towns of Essex, Chester, and Deep River are probably still smaller.

And yes, we saw landmarks and wonders. We saw a medieval fort complete with moat and double walls surrounding it. We walked the winding pathways throughout the cramped streets and tripped upon the cobblestone. We saw the art of Toulouse-Lautrec and one of the highest cathedrals in France. We had the honor of meeting the mayor of Castres. We trekked

to a place where gigantic rocks naturally placed themselves impossibly on top one another. But to me, and to the other seven from what I've heard, none of this compared to actually being there.

By that, by "actually being there," I may refer to the beauty and splendor of France and its language, but also the people. The eight of us made friends in an experience that cannot and should not be replaced by any time in between. We can only hope that one day we will be able

to see them all again. Personally, I expect this will be when I am living in Toulouse after my success in making millions. Most importantly, the eight weary student travelers owe this experience entirely to Madame Wheaton and her organization of the trip. Without her, it never would have been possible. Not to mention, she handled the initial disasters with a poise and composure that I never would have been able to do.