On November 7th, around 30 GPA sophomores traveled down to New Haven to get an early exposure to Yale University. “It looked like an undercover Hogwarts!”, Angelique exclaimed afterwards. In the words of Angelique Melakin, Mattea Whitford, and Magan Santana, they had a wonderful experience that they wanted to share with the GPA community.

“We first were given a tour by two juniors at Yale, we were split up into two groups. On the tour, we were shown the dorms, two libraries, one was a Cathedral. We were shown the sculpture garden, there was a pyramid, obelisk, and a die. The pyramid represented man-made items. The die represented evil and the obelisk represented the sun and the light that it sheds on everything.

We also were shown the old campus, that’s where the original Yale was, they tore it down and made a quad, the first quad on campus that now houses freshmen. The quad is really pretty and the trees were so colorful because the leaves were changing. After freshman year, the Yale students move into their Residence Colleges- which are kind of like Greek life- it becomes a part of you, you identify yourself by your Residential College. There were underground tunnels! Under each Residential College, there were different rooms, like a movie theater or an art studio, and each had their own fitness centers and dining halls. While we were there, we could picture ourselves living on campus. The people there, all of the students, were really nice. The tops of the buildings were scorched because the architects wanted the buildings to look like castles that had been through wars and battles.

Yale has a rotunda with all the names of all of the students who had gone to Yale and died in wars since the War of 1812. It was really surprising that they were all recorded. It had the day that they died and their position in the military.

The tour guides told us to come back for an admissions tour to get more information on majors and what it takes to be a Yale student.

The dining hall was fantabulous! It had so much good food, every variety, it was very open and there were so many places to sit.

This trip made us feel excited for college and that it is not that far away in the future for us!”

9th Grade: Brenda Castillo Jeminian, Crestian Osorio, 10th Grade: Lauren Paul, Dayjohn Vazquez, 11th Grade: Lloyd Baranoski, Nataly D’Oleo, 12th Grade: Luke Powers, Bryanna Rodas. Lloyd B. says, “I feel great about this, I was surprised and I am proud of myself! I’m going to keep getting good grades and trying my best at school. I feel very accomplished.”
Unified Arts News

GPA was a presence at the 2013 Connecticut Honor Choir performance at Manchester Community College in October. GPA had two students selected to perform in it this year (our first year entering the conference). Cheers to Olga Rivera and Luke Powers! (Photos of them performing to the left.) They were conducted by acclaimed choral director Ed Bolkavac.

Our GPA world travelers are working hard to fundraise for their trip to Spain. To the left is a photo of the students going to Spain as well as Attorney Richard Zayas and State Representative Angel Arce, who will be working with GPA to raise funds.

GPA welcomed Cheney Tech and Wilcox Tech into our Community Commons on Thursday, November 7th. Most of the technical schools will be coming in for a tour of GPA and a cooking demonstration by our chef and our Culinary students. For this first visit, our culinary crew demonstrated how to make homemade marshmallows from scratch. (Pictures, bottom left.)

In Spanish, students are learning about extracurricular activities and are creating club fliers “en espanol” to decorate the school and promote our new clubs and activities this year.

In Mr. D.’s Computer Programming class, students are creating Google Android applications. They just entered a national competition sponsored by Verizon to create a social awareness community-based app from scratch. In Graphic Design, they are beginning the tutorials for ALICE, a program that will enable students to create their own animated films and video games, a project that they will begin once they piece together plans for their ideas.

English/Language Arts News

In English I Honors, students have completed their short story unit and have moved on to “To Kill A Mockingbird.” They began the journey into this novel by examining historical context, at first in general, what does that mean and then zooming in on what the historical context of the novel is. They broke into small groups and examined historical photographs, Jim Crowe Laws and the Depression. Students then became experts on their topic and jigsawed the knowledge into the next groups that they were a part of.

In Honors American Literature with Dr. Zotos, students are examining Transcendentalism, looking into the works of Emerson and Thoreau. They are now on Chapter Two of “Walden Pond”, in which the author “went to the woods to live deliberately.” This is a direct juxtaposition on the civil disobedience focus of other pieces by the same author and students are examining the contrast. Dr. Zotos wants students to discover the background in American Philosophy and evolution from Romanticism.

In College Writing with Mr. Simpson, students just finished reading “100 Years of Solitude” and are starting to compare it to the award-winning film “Beasts of the Southern Wild”. The themes of family and catastrophe and style of magical realism are some of the similarities that they have found.

Mathematics News

In Algebra 2 and Honors with Ms. Rahman, students are learning systems of equations and how it is mostly useful in economics when you have to find the break-even point when equations for sales and costs are provided. Also, students are learning about how to find solutions for the systems by graphing, using the elimination and substitution method.

With Mr. Houchens, Pre-calculus students have been learning about composite functions and applying this knowledge to look at problems involving oil spills, temperature conversion, and the spread of influenza. Geometry students are learning how to prove some of the most important theorems in the history of mathematics, including the vertical angles theorem, alternate interior angles theorem, and corresponding angles theorem. Students in college preparatory mathematics have mastered over 70 objectives in ALEKS since the beginning of the year and are looking to master the pay-off of this hard work will allow them to enter straight into the math courses they need to be successful in college.
**Science News**

In Ms. Chaki’s Chemistry classes, students are starting to examine the Periodic Tables, learning about elements and their reactions. They are beginning to look at trends in the periodic table.

In Honors Anatomy and Physiology with Ms. Kliman, students are beginning their unit on tissues, examining the different types of tissues and their importance to the body functioning normally. They will be starting their microscope work on tissue identification.

Her Anatomy and Physiology students are studying cells and diseases caused by cell problems. They are specifically looking at diabetes, HIV and cancer, all caused by problems with cell functions.

In Biology, GPA students are studying genetics. Students started by looking at the hot topic, genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Then, they found out how GMOs are made and how they are different from other organisms. They also began a dialogue/debate on the use of GMO food crops in the United States and throughout the world as a potential solution to sustain-ability challenges related to food and nutrition. After developing our understanding for applied genetics, we then backtracked and looked at the basics of genetics, including Mendelian genetics and the use of Punnett squares to determine the probabilities for outcomes of mono- and dihybrid crosses. Next, students will work towards deciphering patterns of inheritance and the implications of inherited traits through a study of pedigrees. Additionally, students will continue to apply their studies to real-world scenarios and as they build on understanding we will return to the debate surrounding GMOs.

**Social Studies News**

This month students in Mr. Buder’s classes will be discussing current issues in Africa. Students are working on their current event projects. Students are analyzing primary sources through their document-based questions (DBQs).

In U.S. History with Ms. Gillies, during their World War I Unit, students are looking into the expansion of federal power in order to mobilize the country for war. They will then move on to the war propaganda and gaining support for the war. Students will examine war propaganda posters and extract key symbols that were used to get people to support common themes. Students will then compare these with propaganda in the present day.

With MS. P-D, students have been analyzing primary source documents from Colonial America to better understand the Declaration of Independence and the creation of the United States of America. This will segue into a larger unit that will analyze the federal system of government.

**Staff Spotlight: October Mishi-maya-gat Recipient!**

Our October Staff Member of the Month is Ms. Paluso-Davanzo, a valued member of our Social Studies department. Ms. P-D earned a bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan in Social Studies and her Master’s at St. Joseph’s in Secondary Education. She came to teaching from the field of business management and says that she always wanted to teach. Ms. P-D has two children, a freshman daughter at college at Merrimack and a 7th grade son. She says that she loves to teach the Civil War—her research project was on this topic in college and she found out that she is related to the doctor who went to jail for helping John Wilkes Booth assassinate President Lincoln. (Interesting fact!)

What she loves about teaching is showing kids that the study of social studies is relevant to their lives and helps them to grow as individuals. Her favorite part of GPA is the kids and getting to know them. She particularly likes when her students come to class prepared and gets crotchety when they don’t. Ms. P-D actually received a nomination for this recognition from a student!
Four Great Path Academy students overlook the Connecticut River (and I-91 and 84) from the top of the CT Science Center during our trip to the Bodies exhibit and the rest of the exhibits. You cannot see their faces due to the backlighting, but what a cool view!

A big thank you to our local sponsors, Dunkin Donuts and Dairy Queen, who have donated items to be prizes that students can “buy” with their Gotcha Paws that they have been saving up as they earn them. Our students are amazing day in and out and deserve every single piece of recognition that they receive.

A GPA Presentation to the Class of 2014 on Friday, November 8th, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Commons:

Connections 101 with Jean Fedora presented “Scholarship Strategies: Finding & Winning the Money You Need”.

About Connections 101:

Connections 101 is a student success company funded by colleges, universities and organizations. Specializing in assisting students with college planning, career and scholarship strategies, their reputation has positively grown and student’s lives have been changed due to the strategies we offer. Students who have attended and applied our scholarship strategies have won hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Last year, a number of our students received scholarships.

Jean Fedora was very inspiring, saying, “We are all very busy, how important is the money to you?” as she began to explain what kind of scholarship money there is out there for students to obtain. She challenged students to find the time, “Can you find 10 minutes? 10 minutes, three times out of your week to do research and make phone calls– see what happens.” She went on to describe a young lady who had said that she was too busy to look into scholarships, but once challenged, found the time. “Every week, she chose Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, because choice was the most powerful thing that she owned. She applied to 200 scholarships– did she get them all? No, she did not win them all. She still won $80,000 and got to pay for the college that she chose to go to in full.”

What can you do? Visit college and university websites and search for their offered scholarships– you can’t receive one if you don’t apply!