

# Highlighter

Issue 5 June 2012

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## **From the Principal's Desk- June, 2012**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are already reaching the end of the year. The 2011-12 school year has been a remarkable one at Oyster River High School. Given that this was my first year as principal of ORHS I would like to use this final Highlighter to thank all of the people who have done so much to make my transition to this new role go so smoothly. I firmly believe that a successful school is based on the sum of its parts. What makes ORHS a great school is the commitment from all of the stakeholders to making us exceptional.

The professional staff at ORHS is amazing. Last year at this time they were faced with working for an interim principal who worked for an interim superintendent. The staff was rightfully concerned about the future of their school. Right from my first staff meeting last June the teachers have recognized the need to pull together in order to make this year successful. I have been impressed time and again at how quickly and professionally ORHS teachers step up to the plate when called upon to make a difference. In many ways we have exceeded all expectations. As a school community ORHS has accomplished a great deal this year. We developed our first "SINI" plan, implemented it and achieved "AYP" all while being recognized as a finalist for The 2012 NH Excellence in Education Awards and being named one of the top schools in New Hampshire by US News and World Report. These are all strong indicators of a job well done by a very dedicated staff. Now that I have been named the permanent principal of ORHS I am looking forward to what we will accomplish in the coming years. Thank you to the dedicated teaching staff of ORHS for making this a great year.

The parent community has been wonderful. First and foremost is the level of parental engagement we have at Oyster River High School. Whenever we have a school event or function parents come to volunteer and to show support. Highlights of this involvement were Open House in the fall, the various sports awards banquets throughout the year, the spring musical performance of "Chicago" and attendance at the "Power of One" exhibition in May. In all cases the parking lot was full and a good time was had by all involved. Having parents actively involved in the school is a strong indicator of school success. I hope the parent community knows how much I appreciate their support and how valuable I think it is to all future school improvement efforts.

The Parent Teacher Organization has been very supportive this year. Our monthly meetings have been very productive. The PTO has hosted forums to encourage community involvement, supported educational causes and been a great sounding board for this first year principal. Some highlights of

the PTO year were hosting public forums to discuss important issues in the school community. In February they sponsored a forum on drug and alcohol issues and the impact on teenagers. In May they sponsored a forum entitled, "The Class of 2012: The Places You'll Go" giving the community an opportunity to hear from a number of graduating seniors about their post high school plans. In addition to hosting forums the PTO has supported community and educational programs. The PTO financial support of guest speaker Michael Thompson and of Jon Bromley's Environmental Science sustainability projects has been greatly appreciated. The PTO is a small but dedicated group who volunteer a great deal of time to help make ORHS a supportive place to learn and teach. Thanks for all of your efforts.

No discussion of a successful school year would be complete without mention of the students. At ORHS the students play a very positive role in helping to create a school culture of excellence. I am amazed on a daily basis by the talent and the passion that our students show for what they do and learn. Our kids are remarkable. They care deeply about their school and are willing to go above and beyond to make a difference. Our Student Senate has been a great example of this throughout the year. These student leaders work hard everyday to promote a positive school culture. The Community Service Club is another example of hundreds of dedicated students willing to volunteer time to make a difference in their community. Thank you to our students for all of your hard work this year.

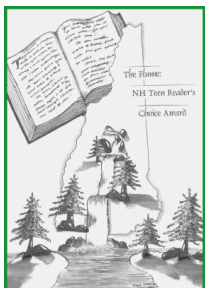
Finally, the Class of 2012 deserves recognition here. As a class they have worked to set a positive tone throughout the year. It would have been very easy for the seniors to have become disengaged entering the 2011-12 school year given the change in school leadership that took place at the end of last year. It would have been easy for them to have turned their backs on "the guy from the middle school" and made things much more challenging. To the student, the seniors have been nothing but supportive. I have been impressed over and over again at how kind and generous our senior class has been this year. I am not saying we haven't had our challenges but in the end we were all working on the same team and for that I want to say thank you to the Class of 2012. They are a really class act and I wish them all great success in their post high school lives.

Have a great summer,

Todd Allen

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## **News from the ORHS Library**



The Flume Award is a readers' choice award for NH high school students. Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and team of school and public librarians narrows the field to a list of 13 titles. Some students make it their personal challenge to read all 13! Voting takes place in April, so summer is a great time to get started on the list.

This year's winner was *Clockwork Prince* by Cassandra Clare. It is the first book in the *Infernal Devices* series, which is a follow-up to the very popular *Mortal Instruments* series.



## 2013 Flume Nominees



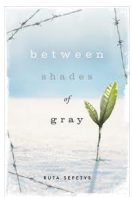
### *Almost Perfect* By Brian Katcher

With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student arrives at his small-town Missouri high school, keeping a big secret.



### *Berlin Boxing Club* By Robert Sharenow

Fourteen-year-old Karl Stern has never thought of himself as a Jew, but to the bullies at his school in Nazi-era Berlin, it doesn't matter that Karl has never set foot in a synagogue or that his family doesn't practice religion. Demoralized by relentless attacks on a heritage he doesn't accept as his own, Karl longs to prove his worth to everyone around him. Can Karl balance his love of boxing with his obligation to keep his family out of harm's way?



### *Between Shades of Gray* By Ruta Sepetys

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping they will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will the family be strong to survive?



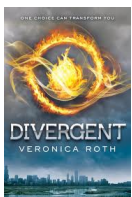
### *Carter Finally Gets It* By Brent Crawford

Join Carter for his freshman year, where he'll search for sex, love, and acceptance anywhere he can find it. In the process, he'll almost kill a trombone player, face off against his greatest nemesis, get caught up in a messy love triangle, suffer a lot of blood loss, narrowly escape death, run from the cops (twice), meet his match in the form of a curvy drill team member, and surprise everyone, including himself. A hilarious romp.



### *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* By Laini Taylor

Around the world, black handprints are appearing on doorways, scorched there by winged strangers who have crept through a slit in the sky. In a dark and dusty shop, a devil's supply of human teeth has grown dangerously low, and in the tangled lanes of Prague, a young art student is about to be caught up in a brutal otherworldly war. Meet Karou, who fills her sketchbooks with monsters that may or may not be real; she's prone to disappearing on mysterious "errands"; she speaks many languages--not all of them human; and her bright blue hair actually grows out of her head that color. Who is she? She's about to find out herself.



### *Divergent* By Veronica Roth

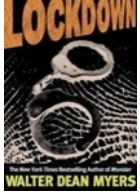
In Beatrice's dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (honesty), Abnegation (selflessness), Dauntless (bravery), Amity (peacefulness), and Erudite (intelligence). On an appointed day each year, sixteen-year-olds select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is; she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.



### *How to Save a Life* By Sara Zarr

Jill MacSweeny just wishes everything could go back to normal. But ever since her dad died, she's been isolating herself from her boyfriend, her friends, and everyone who wants to support her. When her mom decides to adopt a baby, it feels like she's somehow trying

to replace a lost family member with a new one. Mandy Kalinowski understands what it's like to grow up unwanted--to be raised by a mother who never intended to have a child. When Mandy becomes pregnant, one thing she's sure of is that she wants a better life for her baby. Will she ever find someone to care for her, too?



*Lockdown* By Walter Dean Myers

What's it like in juvie jail? Enter the world of fourteen-year-old Reese, who's locked up at Progress juvenile detention facility. Can he get a second chance?

*Lola and the Boy Next Door* By Stephanie Perkins

For budding costume designer Lola Nolan, the more wild and zany the outfit the better. But even though Lola's style is outrageous, she's a devoted daughter and friend with some big plans for the future. Everything is pretty perfect (right down to her hot rocker boyfriend) until the dreaded Bell twins move back into the house next door. When the family returns and Cricket - a gifted inventor and engineer - steps out from his twin sister's shadow and back into Lola's life, she must finally reconcile a lifetime of feelings for the boy next door.



*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* By Ransom Riggs

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. The story opens with a horrific family tragedy which sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As he explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar; they may have been dangerous and quarantined on the deserted island for a good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.



*The Name of the Star* By Maureen Johnson

The day Louisiana teenager Rory Deveaux arrives in London marks a memorable occasion. For Rory, it's the start of a new life at a London boarding school, but for many, this will be remembered as the day a series of brutal murders broke out across the city, gruesome crimes mimicking the horrific Jack the Ripper events of more than a century ago. Why did only Rory see the suspect when no one else did? In this edge-of-your-seat thriller, full of suspense, humor, and romance, Rory will learn the truth about the secret ghost police of London and discover her own shocking abilities.



*Scorpio Races* By Maggie Stiefvater

Some race to win. Others race to survive. It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. At age nineteen, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice; she is in no way prepared for what she will have to encounter.



*Where She Went* By Gayle Forman

It's been three years since the devastating accident . . . three years since Mia walked out of Adam's life forever. Now living on opposite coasts, Mia is Juilliard's rising star and Adam is LA tabloid fodder, thanks to his new rock star status and celebrity girlfriend. When Adam gets stuck in New York by himself, chance brings the couple together again, for one last night. As they explore the city that has become Mia's home, Adam and Mia revisit the past and open their hearts to the future-and each other.



## **Oyster River National Honor Society**

On Tuesday, May 22 the Oyster River High School Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 29 new members during a candle lighting ceremony held at the high school. It was a lovely evening for the new inductees and their families to celebrate their hard work. All members must apply for National Honor Society and are selected based on outstanding scholarship, leadership, character and service.

### New Members:

Kiersten Anderson  
Isabelle Beagen  
Lynn Burke  
David Chen  
Kaya Cooley  
Liam Cooney  
Adelia Couser  
Ariana Dawson  
Courtney Desrosiers

Hannah Epstein  
Cameron Flynn  
Johnathon Fones  
Lauren Gibson  
Claire Hawkes  
Stephanie Hollister  
Abby Howard  
Emily Howard  
Evan Howard  
Haley Jones

Danielle Lelio  
Jenny Mistretta  
John-Mac Mroczka  
Anika Naher  
Jialin Shi  
Emma Sosa  
Katie Sylvia  
Rebecca Taylor  
Emmet Todd  
Emily Vaughn

### 2012 – 2013 National Honor Society Executive Board:

President: Brennan Young  
Vice President: Isabelle Beagen  
Secretary: Kiersten Anderson

Treasurer: Christian Davis  
Historian: Laurel Gibson

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## **Oyster River Russian Exchange** **Seeks host families for possible November visit by Russian students**

The Oyster River Russian Exchange is seeking interested families to host a student from Severodvinsk Russia for 2 weeks in November. At this point, it is unknown if the school in Russia has enough students for a trip this fall. However, we need to be ready in case they pull a group together.

Responsibilities for a host family include: provide a “typical” American experience in a home, occasionally provide lunches, provide transportation support to and from school, and dedication to ensure a quality experience for the guest. The duration is approximately 2 weeks.

If you are interested, please email ORHS teacher Matt Pappas at [mpappas@orcisd.org](mailto:mpappas@orcisd.org). There is no obligation to host if you express an interest to participate and want more information.

## Oyster River High School Project Graduation 2012

A big thanks to our [calendar](#) sponsors!

**Margarita's Mexican Restaurant**,  
23 Member's Way, Dover, NH  
**MEI-WEI**, 7 Mill Road, Durham, NH  
**Regal Cinema**, Newington, NH  
**Music Hall Theater**, 28 Chestnut Street,  
Portsmouth, NH  
**The Works**, 246 Route 108 Somersworth, NH  
**The Bagelry**, Durham, NH  
**Calef's Country Store**, 149 Route 9,  
Barrington, NH  
**Red Carpet Flower Shop**, 56 Main Street,  
Durham, NH  
**The Big Bean**, 118 Main Street,  
Newmarket, NH  
**The Landing Restaurant**, 81 Front Street,  
Marblehead, MA  
**Holiday Inn Express**, Durham, NH  
**Hair That Moves**, lena@hairthatmoves.com,  
Durham, NH  
**Wildcat Fitness**, 7 Mill Road, #I, Durham, NH  
**Uppercut**, 7 Mill Road, #D, Durham, NH  
**Serendipity**, 41 Pleasant Street,  
Portsmouth, NH

**Postal Center USA**, 62 Calef Highway, Lee,  
NH  
**Durham Market Place**, Durham, NH  
**Anonymous Donor!**  
**Bellaviso Salon & Spa, LLC**,  
11 Main Street #A, Dover, NH  
**Rocky's Famous Burgers**, Newmarket, NH  
**Good Vibes**, 16 Congress Street,  
Portsmouth, NH  
**Symmetry Yoga**, 10 Calef Highway, Lee, NH  
**K9 Kaos**, 432 6th Street, Dover, NH  
**Austin Studios Photography**, 1 Morgan Way,  
Durham, NH  
**Warner's Hallmark**, 2 Market Square,  
Portsmouth, NH  
**Moe's Italian Sandwiches**, 7 Dover Road,  
Durham, NH  
**Durham House of Pizza**, 40 Main Street,  
Durham, NH  
**Hair Dimensions**, 3 Jenkins Court,  
Durham, NH  
**Pawtuckaway Nursery**, 3 Calef Highway,  
Lee, NH  
**Seacoast Repertory Theater**, 125 Bow Street,  
Portsmouth, NH

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## THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS SPONSORS BELOW!!

Somersworth; Nissan and Hyundai



Oyster River Teen Initiative  
Clarke Family  
John's Auto  
John Wetherbee  
MacDonald Family  
Gunstock Ski Area  
Sahagian Family  
Diane Eddy  
McDowell Family  
UNH  
Szilagyi Family  
Nippo Lake Golf Course  
Louis Clairizio; DDS

Schoonmaker Architects  
Wainwright Insurance  
Cross Insurance  
Elliot Moore  
Lonza  
Durham Marketplace  
Proulx Oil and Propane  
Lee Market Basket  
Lenk Orthodontics  
Coca Cola Bottling Co.; Seabrook, N.H.  
Tasker Funeral Home  
Towle Driving School  
Wes Merrit; Merrit Chiropractor.  
The Music Hall, Portsmouth  
Seacoast Repertory Theatre; Portsmouth, N.H.  
Hackmatack Theatre; Berwick, Maine  
Ogunquit Theatre; Ogunquit, Maine  
Huntington Theatre ;Boston, Mass.

## PROJECT GRADUATION:

Celebrate a memorable "last night" with your classmates on the

Casco Bay Mist Boat Cruise

The evening's schedule: JUNE 8, 2012

10:00pm - Graduates arrive at ORHS for check-in.

Please be on time!

10:00-10:25pm - Graduates board buses after parent-chaperones check bags.

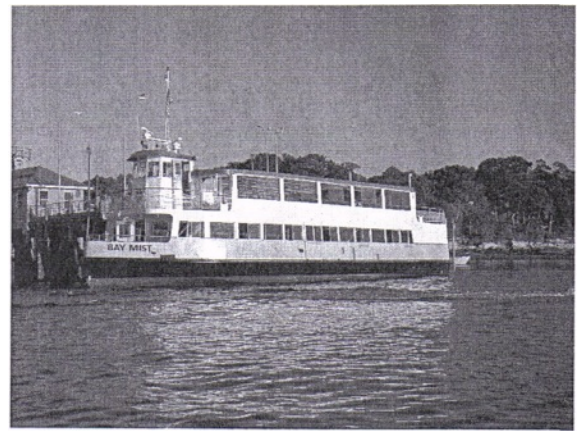
10:30pm - Depart ORHS for Portland, Maine.

Midnight - 3:00am Board the Casco Bay Mist Boat Cruise!

Enjoy dancing, eating, a fabulous magician, green screen and more!

3:00-3:15am - Boat returns to dock. Graduates board buses to return to ORHS,

4:30-5:15am. - Arrive at ORHS. Time to go home and go to sleep!



### **What to bring:**

Dancing shoes

A windbreaker and/or sweatshirt

Wear comfortable clothes

### **What NOT to bring:**

Water bottles

Money, Food, Beverages

Medications unless listed on medical form

No illegal substances—Don't be stupid

Junior parents are staying up all night for you! Treat them with respect please.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**  
**THE CLASS OF 2012!!!!**

Have a great summer!!!

