



The High School View

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Island Natural History goes global



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR SMITH

Mr. Shapiro introduces podcast to Island Natural History students. Seniors Katie Mayhew, Seneca Craig, and sophomore Ana Irwin learn from Mr. Shapiro about the Encyclopedia of Life project.

By Caitlyn Clark and Taylor Smith

Students at the regional are helping to catalog the whole living world.

In fact, the regional is the first high school to join in a project called Encyclopedia of Life (EOL), which will create an online reference source and database, with a goal to include every one of the 1.8 million species that are known on

the planet. "Anything you want to know will be on there," said science teacher Elliott Bennett.

Ari Daniel Shapiro, an independent producer for the Encyclopedia, visited the school's Island Natural History class last Thursday, to promote his podcasts and gather feedback. He spoke to students in Ms. Bennett's classes.

Those who attended the discussion listened to some of the pod-

casts. His upcoming podcasts will feature a studio interview with Martha's Vineyard's great white shark researcher, Greg Skowron, as well as other professional researchers.

Mr. Shapiro asked the ESL students in the class what they thought about the podcasts, and how he could provide improvements to make it easier to understand.

Dream Boat washes ashore

By Evan Eagan and Emily Lowe

Several high school students may soon become stars of German television. German language students traveled to the Oak Bluffs Campground last week to observe the filming of one of the most popular German television shows, *Das Traumschiff* (The Dream Ship).

This German soap opera, which only airs in Germany around the

winter holidays, is watched by one-third of the German population. "It's very popular even though they only air two or three episodes per year," said high school German teacher Jennifer Weno.

Since 1981, *The Dream Ship* has told the story of passengers on a cruise ship that travels the world while resolving issues that arise among the characters.

In this particular episode, the cruise's captain and a stewardess

plan to buy a cottage in the Campgrounds.

"The crew came over and explained how the filming process worked," said Frau Weno. "It was incredible that the students got to meet the actors and ask them questions."

"It was a really cool experience to see all the actors from a show that German people actually watch, and to be a part of their culture," said junior German III student, Cami Fernandez.

The episode will probably run the 25th of December.

Pierre rocks the center

By Haley Hewson and Naomi Pallas

The second floor of the Teen Center throbbed as the audience danced to live music.

At the front of the room, Falmouth Academy sophomore Cooper Handy, regional high school sophomore Malcolm Smith, and junior Sal McNamara rocked out with a microphone, drum set, and guitar. The students comprise the Island's well-known rock band, Pierre.

"Malcolm and I were friends before the band started," said Sal, slightly out of breath from just having played fast and wild drum beats for half an hour. "The three of us had been jamming together for a while, until Cooper joined." Lead singer Cooper brought his vocal

and song-writing skills to the band during the winter of 2007, thus making Pierre complete.

The band has cultivated fans throughout their years of performing. Their first show was at Che's Lounge in Vineyard Haven in May of 2008. Since then, they have performed at the Teen Center in Oak Bluffs, the regional high school's Performing Arts Center, and several clubs in Western Massachusetts.

Pierre has a three song EP out, and recently recorded their first album, *Lab Coat Love*. An owner of the CD, junior and fan Ashley Gwynn, said, "Sometimes, the singing is hard to hear at shows, so it's even more fun to know the songs and be able to sing along."

The CD was quick to sell out at the release party in September, but

the band hopes to produce more copies in the near future.

"I love the style of music they play. It's hard to find a band nowadays that doesn't only play hip-hop or rap," said freshman Meg Buchanan.

"Just as much as we like to play loud, we like playing together," said Malcolm as he closed his guitar case. "Being in a band has such a good social aspect. You meet a lot of people, and you also get very close to the other members."

"They've come a long way," said junior Vivian Ewing. "I've watched them evolve and combine all of their different ideas. I really hope they keep playing together. They definitely have a lot of talent."

With a few years left in high school, a separation does not seem to be in Pierre's immediate future. Said Sal, "As long as the band happens to last, we're in it."

Acclaimed author moos students in library

By Emily Goldthwait

"When you go 'moo' you enter the world of reading," said author Jack Gantos, as the guest speaker stood surrounded by students and books in the high school library on Friday.

Mr. Gantos is nationally known for his educational presentations about creative writing and literature to students and teachers; he also speaks at conferences and universities.

During Mr. Gantos' hour-long presentation to students and faculty, he shared details about his life such as his childhood memories, his experience in prison after his senior year of high school, and the structures he uses to write many of his books including his most recent autobiographical novel, *Hole in My Life*.

During his presentation, Mr. Gantos explained to his audience that he draws a map before beginning the writing process. "This

way I can see the physical good stuff to write about," he said. Mr. Gantos' blend of humor with teaching methods about writing novels translated well for students.

"I thought he was pretty comical," said senior Abby Larsen. "I liked his stories, how he puts his thoughts together, and how he drew maps."

The stories he shared were a major part of the experience. In just an hour and a half, he talked about the times that he lived in Barbados and Florida, gave himself blood poisoning, and was paid \$10,000 to sail a ship from the Caribbean to New York. "I didn't even know how to sail," he said.

In addition to the high school, Mr. Gantos spoke to students at the West Tisbury and Oak Bluffs schools.

Said Mr. Gantos about reading, "You change as [the characters] change. Books come alive with the reader, and they will always affect our lives."

Students trek into the woods to live deliberately

By Julia Sadowski

English classes left their classrooms and entered the houses and cabins of some of America's most recognized thinkers and writers last Friday.

High school English teachers Bill McCarthy and David Wilson took junior and senior students to visit historical literary sites such as Walden Pond, The Old Manse, Orchard House, (where Louisa May Alcott wrote her novel *Little Women*), and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery among other notable sites.

Students venture into woods surrounding Walden Pond during a recent field trip where they explored not only the area, but themselves as well.



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SMITH

Students venture into woods surrounding Walden Pond during a recent field trip where they explored not only the area, but themselves as well.

"I try to go every year," said Mr. McCarthy.

"You would have to go to New York City to equal the kind of critical mass of great American thinkers and writers that the students experienced in Concord," said Mr. Wilson.

"The fact that a group of great writers all lived in such close proximity and hung out together

studying the works of Emerson and Thoreau, and this experience gives the students something tangible," said Mr. McCarthy.

Said Mr. Wilson, "When I was in high school a teacher took us to Concord. It was a life changing experience and it's great to see students get the same opportunity."

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