

MEMORANDUM

TO: Elaine Pinckney, CSSU Superintendent

FROM: Sean McMannon, CVU Principal

DATE: March 6, 2013

RE: Principal's Report for March 13, 2013

Curriculum & Instruction

- **Budget**
 - Congratulations to the school board and budget buddies for the successful passage of the 2013-14 CVU school budget!! Very thoughtful, creative and focused work by everyone involved. I would specifically like to thank you (Elaine Pinckney), Bob Mason, Cindy Koenemann-Warren, Mike Nadeau and the CVU Leadership Team for their hours of work to support the budget process.
- **Course Scheduling 2013-14**
 - Students have entered their course requests for the upcoming school year. Departments will be making recommendations this month on how many sections of each course to offer and Leadership will be matching staffing resources with student course requests.
- **Hiring:**
 - I will be asking the board to approve the addition of the following positions for the 2013-14 school year based on post-budget adoption savings in health care (\$66K), Science Salaries (\$26K), and Social Studies Salaries (\$9K)
 - .5 FTE Power Reading (\$33K)-permanent-pending board approval
 - .5 FTE Math Instructional Coach (\$33K)-permanent- pending board approval
 - The following positions will be posted for the 2013-14 school year.
 - 1.0 FTE Science Core – permanent
 - 2.0 FTE Math-permanent
 - 1.0 FTE School Nurse-permanent
- **School Safety & Security:** [Please click here for the results](#)

- Winter Carnival & Trike Race: [please click here for a slideshow of the day](#)
- Wretches & Jabberers: On March 18th and 19th all CVU students and staff will be viewing the film “Wretches & Jabberers”. It is about “two men with autism who embark on a global quest to change attitudes about disability and intelligence”. (<http://www.wretchesandjabberers.org/about.php>) Here is a link to the "Wretches & Jabberers" website that includes a video trailer: <http://www.wretchesandjabberers.org/about.php>

Student News

- Student Newspaper: The Beat: <http://press.cvuhs.org/thebeat/>
- Congratulations to Isaiah Mann who will represent CVU at the Vermont Poetry Out Loud Competition in Barre, VT on Wednesday, March 13. Isaiah came in first in the *CVU Poetry Out Loud Contest* in February. Olivia Hern came in second. The winner of the Vermont Competition will go to Washington, DC in April for the National Competition and a chance to win cash prizes.
- State of the Union Essay Contest: More than 300 students from 30 Vermont high schools shared their thoughts on the major issues facing the United States in Sen. Bernie Sanders’ (I-Vt.) second annual State of the Union essay contest. Among other issues, the students wrote about the declining middle class, growing inequality in the United States, the environment, civil liberties, and the burdens of student debt. The following is a copy of the press release highlight CVU student Caroline Braun as the winner:

- **Sanders Announces Winners of
State of the Union Essay Contest**

BURLINGTON, Vt., Feb. 8 – With President Barack Obama set to deliver his State of the Union address on Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) today announced the winner and top finalists in his annual State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students.

A panel of four Vermont teachers judged the essays and selected **Caroline Braun**, a junior at Champlain Valley Union High School, as the winner. “There is no simple cure for the abundant issues plaguing our nation,” **Braun** wrote. “Not only are we recovering from a recession, but we also are confronting challenges related to climate change, health care, and education. As a world leader and role model for democracy and peace, we need initiatives that not only connect people and communities, but also ones that will act as catalysts for change.”

Emily Ellsworth, a junior at Colchester High School, finished second in the essay contest. Genevieve Chiola, a freshman at Mt. Abraham Union High School, finished in third place. In addition to the top three essays, 21 essays were selected as finalists.

Altogether, more than 300 high school students from dozens of high schools throughout Vermont submitted essays on what they consider the major issues facing the United States and how they view the state of the union.

“I am pleased that we had more students participating this year than last,” Sanders said. “I hope, in the years to come, the number of students and schools that participate continue to grow. We need our young people to be engaged, to help find solutions for the problems that confront us, and to think about the future of our country. This is what democracy is all about.”

“I’m so impressed with the essays. Every year they get better,” said Terri Vest, who teaches at Plainfield’s Twinfield Union School and has served as a judge in Sanders’ essay contest each year. “It went all the way from personal narrative to formal papers – and they were wonderful.”

Sanders will enter the essays of the winner and the finalists into the Congressional Record. The finalists will also have the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion with Sanders to discuss the issues they wrote about in their essays. The roundtable has been scheduled for March 9 at South Burlington High School.

The U.S. Constitution calls for the president to “give to the Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.” For the last three years, as the president prepares his State of the Union speech, Sanders’ essay contest has asked Vermont’s high school students to write an essay of 250 words to 500 words about their view of the “state of the union.”

In the three years Sanders has held the contest, more than 850 students from schools throughout Vermont have written essays addressing such important issues as the declining middle class, climate change, gun control, health care reform and the rising cost of a college education.

The top three essays and the finalists for this year’s essay contest are listed below.

Winner: Caroline Braun, 11th grade, Champlain Valley Union High School

Second Place: Emily Ellsworth, 11th grade, Colchester High School

Third Place: Genevieve Chiola, 9th grade, Mt. Abraham Union High School

CVU Finalists

- Jeannine Bissonette, Champlain Valley Union High School
- Allie Bull, Champlain Valley Union High School
- Emma Davitt, Champlain Valley Union High School
- Taryn Druge, Champlain Valley Union High School
- Sonia Lowen, Champlain Valley Union High School

Read the winning essays at <http://www.sanders.senate.gov/stateoftheunion/>

Upcoming Events

- [Please click here for a complete listing of our upcoming schedule and events](#)

March 13, 2013 Board agenda items

1. Reports to the Board: please read the executive summaries and historical enrollment documents in preparation for our presentations.
 - a. English
 - b. Social Studies
2. Action Matters
 - a. Adopt Regional Calendar 2013-14: The CVU administration recommends that the board adopt the proposed calendar for 2013-14.

- b. School Choice Capacities: The CVU administration recommends that the board approve this amended capacity of 30 students allowed to transfer out of CVU and 30 students allowed to transfer into CVU. Elaine has prepared a description in the agenda packet outlining the reason for this modification to our original recommendation.
- c. Approve .5 FTE Power Reading Position: The CVU administration recommends that the board approve this addition.
- d. Approve .5 FTE Math Instructional Coach Position: The CVU administration recommends that the board approve this new position.
- e. Approve Leave of Absence Request: The CVU administration recommends that the board approve the leave of absence request