

Important Dates:

- ☺ October 17—Macy's Shopping Day
- ☺ October 20—Board of Trustees Meeting, 5:30.
- ☺ October 21—PTS Conferences 5:00—8:00 pm.
- ☺ October 22—College Field Trip Grades 11 and 12
- ☺ October 23—PTS Conferences 2:15—4:00pm.
- ☺ October 26—Scholastic Book Fair Week Begins!
- ☺ October 28—Service Learning ½ day. 12 pm dismissal.
- ☺ November 4—SFC Meeting 6:30 pm.
- ☺ November 6—Classes 8:30 am—12:00 n. Service Learning 12:00—2:00 pm
- ☺ November 10—School Pictures (Groups & Retakes)
- ☺ **November 11—Veteran's Day Holiday, no school.**
- ☺ November 13—Student/Faculty Soccer Game
- ☺ November 17—Board of Trustees Meeting, 5:30.
- ☺ November 19—PAC Meeting 6:30 pm
- ☺ November 20— Service Learning Full Day
- ☺ November 25—Half Day-Dismissal at 12 pm
- ☺ **November 26-27—Thanksgiving Holiday, no school**



*Doug Wilhelm reads an excerpt from his unpublished sequel to *The Revealers*.*

Doug Wilhelm Returns to SACS

The 6th-10th graders were delighted to welcome author Doug Wilhelm on a return visit to SACS this past Wednesday. Mr. Wilhelm is the author of 12 published young adult novels including the bestseller *The Revealers* which the 6th and 7th graders are currently studying. The book centers on Russell, a middle school boy, who impacts the school culture by publishing accounts of bullying in an e-mail forum.

Mr. Wilhelm was very generous answering any and all questions whether they were about his books, his life as a writer or why he

wasn't in the NBA. At 6'10", his height was as impressive to most students as his status as a successful author. Many were able to point out his handprint on the top of the REACH wall from his visit 2 years ago and the 8th graders delightedly pointed out that when Mrs. Granniss made the introduction, he was taller than she was even when he was sitting down.

Mr. Wilhelm was also generous with his work: he read an excerpt from the unpublished sequel to *The Revealers* and solicited feedback from the students and showed some of the 7th graders an early draft of *The Revealers* so they could compare it to the published version they were reading in class. One student was amazed to discover that on one particular page, "only 1 word was the same." Overall, his presentations were well-received. Isis Bryant acknowledged that he was "cool" while Trent Gallagher was pleased that he told funny stories.

With the older students his focus was more on career choices and the obstacles professional writers face although several had read his book *Fallen* for older teens. Josh Buckmaster, who writes quite a bit himself, got some advice about perseverance and said, "it is interesting to hear him tell stories about his life as a writer and where he gets his ideas from." Mr. Wilhelm showed several groups the notebook he carried around for jotting ideas as they struck him. Julie Paulette saw him write down several classmates names like Mayreny [Perez] saying, "It's cool I might see them in his book."

For a limited time, if students want to buy personal copies of *The Revealers* they will be available at the front desk for \$7.

Banned Books Week

The posters were the first sign, the buttons were the second. Banned Books week had officially begun! Observed since 1982 nationally and for the past three years at Salem Academy, this week-long event sponsored by the American Library Associations reminds us not to take our precious freedoms of speech and of the press for granted. Once again teachers and staff each secretly chose a book that had been challenged or banned and it was up to the students to match books to people. Some of this year's titles included *The Kite Runner*, *My Brother Sam is Dead*, and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Daily quiz questions and quotes in the announcements led to discussions on censorship. The week culminated with many wearing black to mourn ideas that cannot be expressed when books are suppressed. Special congratulations to the winners of our matching game Evan Aroko and Shannon Spofford, who both received a gift card to Cornerstone Books.

News and Notes

On Wednesday the 21st during Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences HS Student Government will be sponsoring a Pasta Night for parents and students. The cost is \$5 for a plate of pasta and that includes salad or bread. Drinks are \$1.00 each.

The high school soccer team is scheduled to play today against Codman Academy in Roxbury. And tomorrow against Prospect Hill Academy in Cambridge. We are currently in 6th place, higher than we've ever been in soccer, and as of now, qualify for the league tournament in November!

The middle school soccer team plays a double header on Sunday at Memorial Field at 1:00 and 2:30 against South Shore Charter School.

SACS KARAOKE NIGHT next Thursday in the cafeteria from 6:00-8:00 PM, all grades welcome. \$5.00 admission at the door!

A Rainy Saturday is a Good day to go shopping at Macy's!! For \$5.00 you can get a 25% off shopping pass and many other specials, but it's only this Saturday October 17th!!**SACS get 100% of the profit!.**

Congratulations to Jackson Stevens, the first SACS student to return raffle tickets for the Food for Thought raffle to benefit the Foundation for Salem Public Education. By selling \$100 in tickets, Jackson has earned Mr. Desmond's connections a dress-down day. Please join me in congratulating Jackson, and ask him just how easy this accomplishment was.

PTS Conferences Wednesday and Friday

All Parents / Guardians are invited to
Parent – Teacher – Student Conferences
Wednesday, October 21 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm
and Friday, October 23 from 2:15 to 4:00 pm

No reservation is necessary.

Upon arrival, parents pick up a copy of the student's schedule, go to the teachers' classrooms,
sign in for the next available 10 minute conference time,
and enjoy refreshments in the Community Room while waiting for appointments.

The Student Government will provide a pasta supper Wednesday evening,
\$5.00 Per Person

For questions or further information, please call Mrs. Acosta at 978-744-2105