



The MVHS Destination Imagination team will compete in the Global Finals in Knoxville this month. (L-r) Merike Youngs, Abby Lance of Andover, Shannon Barnsley, Leslie Barnsley (Team Manager), Keara Chagnon, Sam Doyon, Rachel Pender, and Hillary Higman.

MVHS DI TEAM TO GLOBAL FINALS

Teammates Raising Money to Compete in Tennessee

By Abigail Lance

MVHS Student and DI Team Member

The Destination Imagination team from Merrimack Valley High School will be competing at the Global Finals at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from May 23 to 26. The team from MVHS came in second place at both the regional and statewide competitions in March, earning them this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Destination Imagination is the world's largest creative problem solving program, with over 200,000 students in 56 countries and all 50 states participating. The competition is for the students to take a specific challenge and by using theatrics, improvisation, and scientific and technical disciplines create a unique solution to their challenge. They must complete their entire challenge without the help of any adults or non-team members.

My team this year consists of seven students from the towns of Andover, Loudon, and Penacook. Some members of the team were new to DI this year, and others have been involved in DI for many years.

This was my 10th year as a member of a creative problem solving team. When I started at AE/MS in first grade, it was called Odyssey of the Mind. Although the name has changed, the premise of the program has remained the same. Students are encouraged to think and work "outside the box" and use ingenious methods to solve the specific challenge posed to them – many times with the use of *lots* of duct tape – and all without the help of adults.

Throughout my years on teams, I have seen varying degrees of this "non-adult help," but when it comes right down to the last minute, it really *is* the students who must make everything come together.

One of my favorite things when at a competition is seeing all the appraisers (judges) wearing their crazy hats – some

homemade and others store-bought – which is a requirement for all of them. Another of my favorite aspects of DI is the pin collection I have acquired over the years. I have pins for every year I have been in DI. I am looking forward to trading pins with others at Globals.

We have been working on our challenge all school year and have put a lot of effort into it. Throughout the year we stopped being just a team and became best friends. We have probably seen more of each other than our families have, although with many members working and with other activities going on, sometimes it's tough for us to find times to meet.

Aside from meetings we have also gone shopping, out to dinner, and to movies together. We have had many sleepovers, and we have so many inside jokes among us it's impossible to keep track of them all!

Throughout all this we've had our share of challenges as well. From missing team members at competitions to our technical device not working at the last second, there have been times when it looked like we were not going to be able to work something out.

When we found out at the last second that one of our members couldn't be at the regional meet due to bad weather, we immediately pulled together and created a broom to play her part. We also revised our technical device between the Regional and State competitions and received higher points the second time around.

In addition to fine-tuning some parts of our solution, we are also busy trying to raise money to get to Knoxville. We will be staying at the University of Tennessee campus with about 15,000 other DI team members from around the world. This alone will cost \$540 per person and does not include the cost of getting there.

Our team is also hoping to be a "host" team for a team from another country. We don't know lots of the details about this yet, but I think it will be an adventure and a great way to meet others!

Merchant's Auto of Hooksett has do- See MVHS DI on page 32

Merrimack Valley High News

By Mike Jette

MVHS Principal

Sam Mishcon, Charlie St. Jacques, and Josh Wagner, all MVHS students from Andover, were each nominated by the MVHS faculty and staff to be recognized as the Student of the Month for March. The winning students were Catelyn Cote from Boscawen and Co-rey Klinefelter from Penacook.

Senior Slideshow

Attention parents of seniors! A senior is currently working on creating this year's Senior Slideshow. She is looking for pictures of seniors, at any age. Any humorous or memorable pictures would be appreciated! You can e-mail them to slideshow07@yahoo.com.

Internet Safety Presentations

On May 8 there will be two video-conference presentations dealing with cyberbullying. While adults may focus on sexual predators, statistics show that student knowledge and behavior in that area has turned to the positive.

Cyberbullying is the use of the Internet to harass or bully others. Bullying on the Internet is long lasting and ever-present. Once posted or sent via Instant Message, statements can take on a life of their own. Cyberbullying has increased, especially in the mid teens, and has become more destructive.

Most adults and educators are unaware of how prevalent it is and how to deal with it. Many school discipline

problems arise from online bullying carried into the school.

For older middle and high school students, a presentation will be held at MVHS on May 8 from 1 to 2 PM. This session discusses cyberbullying and describes the consequences both from the perspective of the bully and the person being bullied. We discuss common teenage habits that, while fairly harmless face-to-face, can be devastating when done on the Internet. The session will come to a conclusion with some suggestions to students regarding ways they can make the Internet a safer place with mentoring and by reporting what makes them uncomfortable.

For parents and the community, a presentation will be held May 8 at Summer Street School in Penacook from 6 to 8 PM. With a focus on common Internet Safety issues such as cyberpredators, cyberbullying, and identity theft, this is an important session for parents.

The session discusses the online environment and how parents can cope with the changing technology when it comes to parenting high tech kids. Included are eye-opening segments on cyberpredators and cyberbullying with a discussion of current trends and what we as parents can do to protect our children.

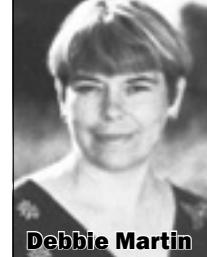
To learn more about these programs, please visit the presenter's Web site at http://gsdln.org/2007_May_Internet_Safety_Session.htm.



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