

## **Education Briefs**

Derry board welcomes Pinkerton student

Derry's School Board welcomed a new face at its meeting Oct. 25.

Pinkerton Academy senior Melanie Konstant took a seat with the board and will serve this year as the group's official high school liaison.

Konstant will give regular updates to the board on what's going on at Pinkerton. The Derry student is the daughter of Deb Konstant, a kindergarten teacher at Ernest P. Barka Elementary School, and Roger Konstant, the school district's moderator and a teacher at Pinkerton.

## **Youth based group helps children**

Lil' MDGs members participated in USA Weekend magazine and HandsOn Network's 21st annual Make a Difference Day, a national volunteer day on Oct. 22. Lil' MDGs chapters in 30 states organized a variety of events to mobilize youth to take action to help others. Five activities were held in New England.

The group formed several years ago to tackle global issues concerning children and education.

Derry student and Lil' MDGs co-founder, Dylan Mahalingam said events were crafted to engage families including little children, all in an effort to raise awareness and help others.

Events included a "Go Without Shoes" challenge asking participants to shed their footwear and also bring in a new pair of shoes to donate to those in need.

Another event, "Stuffed With Hugs" gave families a chance to make stuffed animals to distribute to refugee children living in New Hampshire.

"Before Lil' MDGs, I could not find any volunteer opportunities to bring my children to," Londonderry resident Lynne Dowling said. "Last year we participated in Lil' MDGs' MLK Day and Kids Care Week activities, giving our family an opportunity to spend quality time with one another, and have fun while making a difference."

## **Pinkerton wins at robotics event**

Pinkerton Academy students took the "Create and Think" category at the Astro Blast-Off VEX Robotics Competition held recently.

The Astros Team 241 competed against 23 teams, including Pembroke, Trinity and Nashua Christian.

The Pinkerton team includes Christian Albernetti, David Bourcier, Teddy Coffman, Sam Davis, Angeliak Devine, Nate Dube, Steven Giammichele, Alex Jackson, Brendan Landi, Alex Littlefield, Michael Locke, Joey Locore, DJ Macomber, Cam Martineau, Josh Moser, Nick Paolino, Victoria Rind, Justin Scott, Brad Smith, Aaron Spinney, Dan Turner, Sam Vayens, Tucker Wallace and Nick Woodward.

Students designed and built four robots.

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