

CLASSROOM CORNER

Prouty students recognized as leaders

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SPENCER — When David Prouty High School staff members nominate students for Panther of the Month honors, there are several values they always look for. Those values are exemplified in spades by the latest POM recipients, who have shown strong leadership skills throughout their careers.

Joseph Guertin and Faye Kuszewski were selected as February's Panthers of the Month. A senior and four-year member of the football team, Guertin has had plenty of success on the field — but it was his dedication in the classroom that earned him POM honors. Teachers have been impressed by his ability to manage athletics and academics, a difficult balance for many students to achieve.

"Joe is a student who flies under the radar because he is such an outstanding young man," said DPHS teacher James Whittemore. "I had the pleasure of having Joe as a student. He takes his academics very seriously and is a role model in the classroom for other students."

Guertin has learned a lot from his coaches and teachers over the course of a successful career at Prouty. Graduation once seemed ages away for the Class of 2017, but they are now just a few short months away from turning the tassels. Looking back on his years at



Faye Kuszewski

DPHS, Guertin has several fond memories of great experiences and teachers.

"Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Mehringer," Guertin answered when asked to list his favorite teachers. "They have taught me a lot about what to do after high school. They gave me some life lessons and helped me a lot in class."

Kuszewski, a sophomore from Spencer, has also been active in athletics, competing on the varsity field hockey and spring/winter track teams. Additionally, she is a member of Student Council and the school's Envirothon team.



Joseph Guertin

Like Guertin, she has been inspired by several teachers who impacted her career at Prouty.

"My favorite teachers are Mrs. McCarthy — because she is very understanding, caring and knowledgeable in what she teaches — along with Mr. Grady for his cooperative and distinct ways of teaching," Kuszewski.

The DPHS staff has been impressed with Kuszewski's eagerness to get involved, showing outstanding leadership as an underclassman. The sophomore's favorite subjects are sociology and creative writing.

"She is always willing to do any task you request," DPHS teacher Mary McLaughlin said of Kuszewski. "She does the shot clock for the girls' basketball team, and she is always pleasant and kind to everyone."

Outside of school, Kuszewski enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, and running. She described the connections she has made with classmates and staff as one of the most rewarding parts of high school.

Guertin, meanwhile, is eyeing the next chapter after graduation. He is currently undecided on his future plans, but staff members are confident that he will be successful in whatever endeavors he chooses.

"Joe is a solid young man with a great future ahead of him," Whittemore added. "I have one son, and if he can grow up to be like Joe, I will be very happy."

Guertin's role models were his family members and, of course, New England Patriots legend Tom Brady. He described playing football with his best friends as the most rewarding part of high school.

Reflecting on their time at Prouty, both students have helpful advice for incoming freshmen next year.

"Join clubs, play a sport, etc. Don't seclude yourself," Kuszewski said.

Added Guertin, "Show respect to teachers and work hard in class consistently."