**Q and A examples**

Here are three examples from student writers of *The South Lakes Sentinel,* South Lakes High School, Reston, Virginia (permission granted from each writer). These are part of the *Sentinel Online* QRU section.

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For the past three years senior Nicki Garanzini has been dressing up as an elf and handing out candy canes to friends and fellow students.

**When did you start dressing up as an elf?**

I don’t think I did it during freshman year but I definitely did It during sophomore year. So it’s been at least three years now.

**Why did you start dressing up like an elf?**

I like wearing customs and it’s also a great way to get people in the Christmas spirit right before break.

**What kind of candy canes do you hand out?**

I hand out candy canes to friends and people I’ve worked with for the past three years now and each year they've been a different kind of flavor. This year I have classic, jolly rancher, Wonka Spree, and cherry rainbow flavored candy canes.

(Chris Marshall, online writer 2012-13)

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Karen Burke has been the career center specialist at South Lakes for the last four years. She advises students on post-secondary school options and offers guidance to all students about career options as well.

**Why should students visit the career center?**

As the career center specialist, I am able to control post-secondary planning after high school. This includes college planning, career training, and military placement.

**What are the advantages of going to the career center?**

I’m an extra resource in addition to a counselor. I help students with planning and narrowing down their options. I assist with SAT registration, and college and career counseling guidance.

**When can students come to you for help?**

I am available during lunches and learning seminar. Students are encouraged to set up appointments if they have questions.

**What if students have specific questions about their college or post-secondary options?**

College representatives have set up dates to visit South Lakes to answer specific questions about their school and inform students about their school. If students are considering going into the career field directly after high school, I help with resume building as well as interview skills. For students interested in enlisting, I have resources for the ASVAB test, given in December, which is a placement assessment for military positions and jobs.

**How can students earn money for scholarships?**

The more I know about a student, the more I can help, especially with scholarships. There are thousands of scholarship opportunities students can look up on Family Connections. Scholarships are open to all age groups but more are prevalent for juniors and seniors.

**Is the career center open to all students at South Lakes?**

Yes, I would like to have all grades levels come in the Career Center seeking help because the earlier they visit, the more opportunities I have to help.

(Haley Vaughn, sports editor, 2012-13)

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Lea Civiello is a new English teacher for freshmen and sophomores at South Lakes.

**What made you want to be a teacher, and have you always wanted to be one?**

I decided I wanted to be a teacher when I was in the ninth or tenth grade. I used to tutor my brother and his friends and I loved that light bulb moment when they would finally “get it.” I love helping people learn and succeed. I also always enjoyed English and working with others, and teaching combines both. However, my favorite aspect of teaching is the relationships I form with my students. I love getting to know them and watching them grow.

**Is there any literary figure you have looked up or who was/is your favorite?**

I really like Jane Austen. One of my favorite characters is Elizabeth Bennet from “Pride and Prejudice.” I love that book, and I think Elizabeth is a great character. She’s intelligent, independent, and overcomes the many obstacles in her life.

**I've heard there's a certain football team that you're a big fan of. What team and why?**

I am a big New England Patriots fan. I grew up in Annandale, Virginia, but my parents and entire extended family are from Massachusetts, so I grew up watching and rooting for New England sports teams. I love the Redskins, but Patriots are definitely my number one team.

**How do you like South Lakes so far?**

So far, I love South Lakes. Everyone is very friendly and helpful. The students and teachers seem to form great relationships, which is evident just walking down the hall in between classes. I think those relationships foster the happy and supportive atmosphere here at South Lakes, which is so important because it creates a positive and productive learning environment. I am happy to be here and am looking forward to a great year. Go Seahawks.

(Rachel Rogers, online editor, 2012-13)