**“New kids” on the block**

Creative writing classes perform at Hub City bookshop

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oetry and short stories alike were performed at the Hub City bookshop downtown for the first ever “New Kids” writing project. Six writers from Jessica Stevens’ creative writing classes performed at the event including: seniors Avery Jackson, Brittany Leonard, Ashley Pendley, John Poole, and Mary Thalassinos along with junior Marianne Buonopane.

The creative writing class was asked to put on this showcase by writer-in- residence, Tim Marsh, to perform their original writing.

Marsh wanted to put on a final project as a writer-in-residence. He came and helped the writers prepare their pieces. The writers prepared for the showcase every school day from Nov. 6 until the reading which took place on Dec. 2. Writers would work on reading their works aloud in regard to where to pause and ennunciate. The participants took occasional trips to the atrium to practice reading at the podium.

Each writer performed three of their original works to a full audience. The creative writing performances were split into two parts with a stand-up comedy intermission in-between. Poole revealed the factors that go into choosing which works to perform.

“We could not use any foul language in our pieces, and we had a time limit so our pieces could not be too detailed,” Poole said.

“These limitations really helped me narrow down which of my pieces I would perform.”

Representing the Stand-up Club were sophomores Zane Austill and Ethan Hayes performing their own original stand-up routines. Sophomore Helen Nowatka enjoyed witnessing both the writing presentations and the comedy acts.

“I really enjoyed the work presented and the experience of falling into the events and moments created by my peers. The stand-up acts were also great for a laugh,” Nowatka said.

The writers prepared and practiced their pieces for several weeks prior to the performance. The preparation took place in class, after school, and at home. Stevens believes that all the hard work the writers put into the show paid off in the end.

“I love the way the showcase turned out! It was a fun night and the students enjoyed it. I would love to make this an annual event,” Stevens said.