

## METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

**APRIL, 2015**

#### **DISTRICT WIDE UPCOMING DATES**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
April 12	3-6 p.m.	SEPAC Recreational & Resource Fair	CGS
April 15	6:00 p.m.	MHS Open House for Methuen 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	MHS Café
April 16	7:00 p.m.	District Band Jamboree	MHS Field House

#### **MHS UPCOMING DATES**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
April 9	7:00 a.m.	Junior College Fair	Boston Convention Center Boston, MA
April 10	8:00 a.m.	Dept. of Army JROTC Inspection	Methuen High School
April 10	6:00 p.m.	Junior Prom	DiBurro's Function Facility Haverhill, MA
April 14	6:00 p.m.	Junior Parent Night Information & Senior Scholarship Information Session	MHS Café
April 16	5:00 p.m.	Foreign Language Honor Society Induction	MHS Auditorium
April 28	8:00 a.m.	On-The-Spot Admission Day	MHS Café
April 30	6:00 p.m.	Senior Prom	Atkinson Country Club Atkinson, MA

#### **METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal*

**Adopt a Grandparent** will be holding their intergenerational "Senior" Prom on April 15, from 1:00 - 3:30pm at the Methuen Senior Center. The theme this year is, "Travel the World." Two weeks after that we will host a party at the senior center with food, drinks, and a special video presentation of our prom.

Based on their outstanding performance at both the Methuen High School **Science Fair** and the Region IV Science Fair, the following students will proudly represent Methuen High School at the Massachusetts State Science Fair to be held at MIT on Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd.

Team 1: Joseph Wakim and Ian Rossi

Project: Are Self Adjusting Solar Reflectors Worth the Energy?

Team 2: Kim Phung and Shawna O'Leary

Project: Bioremediation: How Effective is Pseudomonas Putida?

**Student Council** ran the Student Faculty Basketball game that had 45 students participate and 20 teachers. Also, they held a Mat Ball tournament that included over 200.

The **Guidance** Department will have the first annual On-The-Spot Admissions Day on April 28 in the MHS cafeteria. Four schools have agreed to send admissions counselors to MHS to conduct admissions interviews in order to give students an acceptance decision on the spot. On April 14, parents of junior students are invited to the junior college planning presentation. Parents will receive information about the college application process, important tasks to complete prior to senior year, and resources available to students and parents to assist in identifying schools of interest. Also on this night, seniors and their parents are invited to attend the MHS scholarship information drop-in session. Information will be available about current scholarship opportunities and counselors will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about the online scholarship database.

The **National Art Honor Society** will be creating ceramic bowls to donate to Neighbors in Need for a fundraising event Called Soup's On. The event serves dinner to the community and sells the bowls to raise money which is used to restock the food pantry.

The **Photography Club** we focused on image manipulation and digital editing. Students performed various Photoshop adjustments to images they had taken for an earlier Photograph Club theme. Photograph manipulations ranged from creating a collage from 2 or more images, to basic retouching to eliminate distractions and enhance the overall image effect. At the end of the meeting students uploaded to their Google Drive their image manipulations.

The **Science Club** used a television lens as a solar cooker and roasted several items such as hot-dogs, shish kabobs, candies, coffee, chocolate, and veggies. We also took measurements of the ability to produce electro-statically charged wind using a Vandegraaff generator and a paper clip, with hopes to eventually make charged bubbles. They hope to gather micrometeorites on campus and examine them in the month of April.

The **Red Cross Club** volunteered on Saturday April, 4<sup>th</sup> at Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. The students helped out washing dishes, serving food, and cleaning up. They did a great job!

### **COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal*

*Lower School*

- Buddy's 25th Birthday Bash (Ice Cream Social) was a joyful success! This year, we had a great turnout of students and families, and a dynamic magic show. Fun was had by all!
- We are wrapping up ELA MCAS testing. This year, we placed an emphasis on "If You Believe It, You Can Achieve It! Students attended administrative presentations and shared in special morning "snack get togethers" each day of testing. Our students were motivated to try their best!

- Our amazing KIDS' CANCER CLUB will be hosting the annual CGS Yard Sale on May 2nd. All money raised will be donated to Relay for Life. We are appreciative of all the work this group has done! We also thank our CGS Relay team for their efforts and dedication.
- Several CGS students have had work published in the most recent Appleseed publication. We will be attending the Nevins Library on April 6th, for the presentation of students' work. We are so proud of their accomplishments!

### **MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal*

#### **Lower School**

- Trimester 2 report Cards were issued on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and parent conferences were held on the afternoons of March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we encouraged parents to come in and meet with the teachers and had a good parent turn-out over the week.
- The Marsh School play, "Aladdin, Jr." was performed on March 12, 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium. Both the cast and the audience had a wonderful time, and many thanks to Tasha Smutney and the parent volunteers who helped make this successful.
- MCAS testing took place the week of March 30 – April 2, 2015, with reading comprehension testing on Monday and Tuesday (grades 3 through 8), and the Long Composition (grades 4 and 7 only) on Thursday. The students were well prepared and there was low absenteeism during the testing timeframe.
- PTO will sponsor an Ice Cream Social on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Lower School teachers will be receiving their next round of WIDA Professional Development during the week of April 6<sup>th</sup> during grade level meeting time.
- Mrs. Croteau's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class was selected to take the Fire Safety assessment with Captain Michael Buote on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, which measures the students' knowledge of fire safety precautions and actions to take during a fire emergency.

#### **Upper School**

- *Apple Seed* Launch Night was held at Marsh on March 18<sup>th</sup>—several Marsh 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders showcased their selections.
- ELA MCAS successfully administered to almost 600 Upper School students
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Calendar Raffle for the month of April—fundraiser for Class Party
- Band Jamboree – April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Class pictures – April 17<sup>th</sup>

Student Council held awareness/fundraiser days on Fridays to support a variety of causes

Lupus (purple) - \$425

Juvenile Diabetes (blue) - \$352.22

Muscular Dystrophy and Cerebral Palsy (green) - \$328

Multiple Sclerosis (orange) and Leukemia - \$326

### **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Principal*

#### **During MCAS:**

- Students in grades 1 and 2 sent letters of encouragement and lucky pennies to the test takers in grades 3 and 4.

- During every day of ELA testing the PTO provided every student the first a bag breakfast on every testing day. The cafeteria staff also stuffed a little encouragement in the form of notes with messages like, “You can do it!” and “You will rock the MCAS”
- Teachers passed out “Show What You Know” reward tickets to those students who demonstrated effort and pride in their academic work in the days leading up to and during testing. Winning SWYK tickets will be drawn and students can win prizes. This is an offshoot of our PBIS initiative
- All students in grades 3 to 8 had the opportunity to earn “Show What You Know” tickets by bringing a MCAS-style math problem home and working with parents.

**After school:**

- A group of eighth graders are competing in the Annual Stock Market Game Capitol Hill Challenge. Math coach Kelley Gravell is their advisor. If they are among the top ten teams to get the best return on their investment, Team Tenney will be invited to visit Washington, DC.
- Twelve Tenney staff members are now qualified to save lives. They spent six hours after school over a period of two days time to become certified in CPR and basic first aid. Jeff Osgood, director of health and physical education and former high school health teacher Carol Guselli were our teachers.
- Girls on the Run started its Spring session and now include teams in upper and lower school. The program teaches girls the art of long-distance running, discipline, self respect and teamwork. The adults who train the young runners are: Grade 4 Teacher Diana Blanchette and mothers Laurie Lachance and Ho Anh Tran Grade 5 : Mothers Andrea Finn and Rosalie Moschitto, Grade 6 to 8 Teachers Liz Fulks, Donna Lacroix and Judy Flagg
- Second grade teacher Dawn Patterson hosted a Penguin Party after school. Students had a chance to showcase their research papers and projects on the various types of penguins. Mrs. Patterson’s classroom was packed with proud parents.

**Beyond Methuen:**

- On April 13th, Madison Lomax was honored as the first place winner of the Israel Arbeiter Essay contest during Holocaust remembrance activities at Faneuil Hall. Madison joined the procession of Holocaust survivors and national dignitaries and then shared the stage with keynote speaker and historian David Eisenhower, grandson of President Dwight Eisenhower. One of her prizes is a tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, later this year.
- In May, eighth grader Josyvins Thelusma will be honored as a top writer in the Letters About Literature contest. More than 3,000 Massachusetts young writers wrote to the author of a book who changed the way they look at the world Jozy will be honored at a celebration in May at the State House. Several Tenney students received semi-finalist recognition They are eighth grader: Leny Velasquez and seventh graders Neriah Sullivan, Ryan Haley and Amanda Karmelowicz

**Coming up:**

April

**15<sup>th</sup>:** Parent support seminar, Media Center, 3 pm. Special education teacher Sharon Landers and ELL teacher Betty Sarno will show parents how to help their children get organized.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** First annual Grade 4 Tenney Spelling Bee, Auditorium, 10 a.m.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** Tenney on the Road: Tenney staff will spend a Saturday morning from 10am-12pm at the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Association in the Arlington District. They will host seminars on how to support student learning and provide information on how parents can become involved in the Tenney.

30<sup>th</sup>: Mama Tenney family Dinner

### **TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal*

There have been a lot of celebrations recently at the Timony upper school and in the community. We are very proud of the following students who have been selected as award winners in various contests:

8th grade student, Kateri Vachon and 7th grade student Nathaniel Vachon were selected as award recipients in the John F. Kennedy Make A Difference Award. Kateri and Nate were nominated for their dedication to community service in their school, their community and beyond. The Vachon family will be attending the award ceremony at the JFK library on April 9th.

8th grade student Alexa Monroy entered and was selected as a winner for the Boston Globe's Limericks for Poetry Contest. Alexa won a gift certificate and her teacher, Mrs. Currie won an iPad and projector for the classroom!

6th grade students, Sarah Dobry, Katie McCarthy and Jeffry Gillis- Martinez entered the annual VFW essay contest and were selected as winners this year. Sarah, Katie and Jeffry attended an award ceremony this past weekend and received certificates presented by state representative Linda Dean Campbell. These students are all from Mr. McNally's / Ms. McCarthy's classroom.

6th grade students, Geryes Elias Geha and Ashley Gallivan entered the annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest and were selected as winners. Geryes and Ashley have been invited to an award ceremony on April 12th at Faneuil Hall in Boston and have won a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015. These students are from Ms. Gosselin's classroom.

Mrs. Ramey, our ELA coach is holding a family literacy night on April 30th for the families of students in grades 5 & 6

Other exciting events taking place in the Upper School include our annual staff vs. students volley ball tournament. On Tuesday, April 14th, student teams in grades 7 and 8 will compete against each other with the winning student team taking on a staff team for the final game of the day! This event is always a big draw and we expect the same this year.

In Lower School the 4th grade team of teachers recently held a parent night to present information about the MCAS and help parents understand the work and preparation their children put into the MCAS tests. Their event was very well attended by parents!

Mrs. Desharnais, lower school art teacher has set up a colorful display of students' art work both here at the Timony in the auditorium as well as at the Central Administration building. Students have been studying masters such as, Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet & Georgia O'Keefe. These spring displays are colorful and will brighten everyone's day.

We are so thrilled to have our Lower School teacher, Mr. O'Loughlin recognized as Teacher of the Year at the Timony as well as for the district. Mr. O'Loughlin will be formally recognized in the Rotary Club Ceremony on April 14th at Harris' Pelham Inn.

Finally, we were so excited to plan an MCAS pep rally for our students in grades 3 - 8! Our Rock The Test pep rally took on Friday, March 27th in the auditorium. Timony administration presented a power point presentation on test taking strategies before the fun really began. During the previous week, we created a 10 minute long iMovie featuring photos and videos of our staff, students, administration, school committee members and parents. This was a celebration to let our students know that we see how hard they have been working to prepare for the MCAS and we are proud of their efforts. Mr. Miller gave an inspirational speech, the music was loud to get them excited and there were a few silly antics by some staff members. By all accounts, the kids really enjoyed themselves and then got right to work on Monday for the MCAS tests! We know that Timony Students Rocked the Test!

### **SADD UPDATE**

All schools will go to Skateland on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a rescheduled event from last month.

**High School:** The high school successfully participated in the anti-bullying campaign with "Dress Bright for What's Right." Students wore bright clothing to support good choices and fair treatment of others in the community. Pictures and statements were taken at lunch to support positive behavior and awareness. Students will go to pilgrim lanes to bowl as well as Cor Unum to volunteer. In addition, students will participate in the national initiative, "Kick Butts Day."

**CGS:** The CGS participated in the anti-bullying campaign with "Blackout Bullying." Students wore black to support the SADD national anti-bullying campaign. Pictures and statements were taken at lunch to support anti-bullying. Students will participate in the national initiative, "Kick Butts Day."

**Marsh:** The entire upper school participated in "Be Bright for What's Right". On that day, everyone dressed in neon colors in the upper school. Also, SADD placed inspirational quotes on EVERY locker in the upper school and created large posters for EVERY homeroom door in upper school. It was awesome!!! We also had a "mixed up lunch" where students sat at different lunch tables and many grade 8 teachers joined students at their tables for lunch. All in all, it was a very positive experience that most seemed to enjoy.

**Tenney:** Tenney will be hosting its second annual Kick box to Kick Butts Day. ALL 5th grade students will report to the gym during specials and be introduced to a local kickboxing instructor as we discuss the purpose and goal of the day. Volunteer Kristen Dionne, a martial arts instructor with Ready Set Go in Methuen will lead the kids in a 45 minute kickboxing class to show that physical activity is a much healthier and fun alternative to smoking. Student will be invited to be in a group photo and all receive goody bags at the end with more information for parents and some giveaways.

Along with this campaign, displays will be assembled throughout the school that will remind all students about tobacco's plan to use kids as replacement smokers. Kids will be encouraged to participate in activities throughout the week to show they will not fall for big tobacco's gimmicks.

**Timony:** These meetings will focus on preparation for Kick Butts Day 2015. The signature activity this year is #NotAReplacement where students make a poster stating they are not a replacement for the thousands of people who lose their lives to tobacco each year. The tobacco industry must 'replace' these 'consumers' if they are to continue making money on their tobacco products. Once the poster is created (using a template) students will take a 'selfie' with their poster and post this to the #NotAReplacement site.

We will also use the activity "*Airing out Big Tobacco's Dirty Laundry*". Students will set up a table in the cafeteria during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch and asked fellow students to write a quote from Big Tobacco that 'targets' youth as potential customers for their tobacco products. These quotes will be displayed in the cafeteria and copied onto white paper T-shirts. They will be hung out on 'clotheslines' with clothespins in the glass entryway into the cafeteria.