

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

February, 2014

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION UPDATE

The building project remains on time and within budget. The punch list for Phase I (the South House and new addition) which is currently housing sophomores, juniors and seniors is being addressed. The list has been reduced significantly since last month. Phase II (the North House) is still on schedule. As a result of the continued progress, the opening of school in September of 2014 is on track.

A NEW SPORT FOR METHUEN STUDENTS

Methuen Public Schools and Essex Rowing Club, Inc. have partnered to form Methuen Crew, a scholastic rowing and sculling team for Methuen Athletes grades 5 through 12. This spring will be the team's first season and new athletes will be taken through March 17. The season will run through the end of May with practice right after school and competition beginning in late April. For more information visit www.methuencrew.org or email info@methuencrew.org

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES:

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

NEXT YEAR GRADE NINE RETURNS TO MAIN CAMPUS

Although grade nine is being housed at the former Central School campus this school year, freshmen classes next year will be at the newly renovated high school. My plan for grade nine students next fall will remain as I designed it three years ago – teachers and students in teams, with students taking core classes housed in their own wing. The students will have access to all the technology advancements in place at the high school (and there are many), access to all the clubs, teams and activities, and be in a state of the art facility. And best of all, there are no fees.

Please watch the Superintendent and I will be holding an Open House for grades five through eight at the end of March, 2014 where parents and students may come and see the new facility.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES:

~The **History National Honor Society** is planning its annual troop donation drive for the remaining soldiers in Afghanistan and over the world.

~The **Senior Class** went skiing and tubing to Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire. The senior class officers and advisors along with Mr. Barden are working hard at finalizing the senior class calendar that includes three additional field trips.

~Jack Gregg, a senior **chorus** student has been chosen, by audition, to perform in the Honors Chorus at the 2014 MA All State Music Festival. He will go to Boston in March for three days and will perform at Symphony Hall on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014. Michael Hajjar, a freshman **band** member received a perfect score at the Northeastern District Junior Festival auditions. He

is a mallet percussionist and will perform with the Junior District Band in Lowell on Saturday, March 15th, 2014.

~The **Mock Trial** team has completed their best season to date. After receiving a liability case in November, a lawsuit case against an airplane company for the liability of a crash of a stunt plane and subsequent death of a parent, the thirty five member team got to work. In the first meet against Lawrence on January 23rd, our Methuen team served as defense and was victorious with an 89 to 81 win. The second match against Lowell on January 28th, provided the team with another win by a score of 93 to 87 and a guarantee of a winning season. In the team's third and final trial on February 3rd, the Andover team proved to be a little better than Methuen and gave the Mock Trial Rangers their only loss of the year.

~**Best Buddies** is creating a public service announcement and selling t-shirts to promote the recognition of the national "Spread the Word to End the Word" day on March 5th 2014.

~**DECA** had thirty two students participate in the Regional Conference and Competition at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, MA. All the students did very well with thirteen students qualifying for the State Conference and Competition that will be held in Boston March 6th-8th. The following students qualified for the state competition by placing in different categories. If any of these students qualify at the State Conference and Competition they will be able to participate in the National Conference and Competition in Atlanta, GA.

- Brian Cole & Brandon Karmelowicz: 4th Place in Business Law & Ethics
- Alexis Fontaine & Aryiana Poirier: 4th Place in Travel & Tourism
- Alexandra Doyle & Daphne Naut: 3rd Place in Travel & Tourism
- Sydney Littlefield: 1st Place in Apparel & Accessories Marketing
- Lina Nguyen: 3rd Place in Business Finance Services
- Christian Bergeron: 5th Place in Business Services Marketing
- Laura Quinn: 4th Place in Hotel/Lodging Management
- Kelly Lennon: 5th Place in Human Resource Management
- Luke Hulme: 3rd Place in Quick Serve Restaurant Management
- Billy Cushing: 5th Place in Sports & Entertainment Marketing

~High School senior, Alexis Owen, as January's S.O.A.R. Award recipient. As an active member of the department, Alexis has taken many courses related to Career Vocational Technical Education. Alexis has taken Banking and Finance, Marketing 1, 2 and 3, Accounting 1 and Advanced Placement Statistics. Throughout her course of study, Alexis has maintained an A average in all of her CVTE classes. Alexis is studious, dedicated to her course of studies in the business field and plans to attend college in the fall.

Upcoming Events for February 2014

Winter Homecoming Dance	Saturday, February 8 th at 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Methuen High School
Course Selection Informational Session	Tuesday, February 11 th at 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm Methuen High School Media Center

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR:

The 29th annual Methuen High School **Science Fair** was held on January 27th, 2014 and had a record setting 112 projects and the involvement of 337 students. This year's winners of the Science Fair are Jacob Thibodeau and Scott, Wojtowicz for their project on "Characteristic Changes to Wind Turbine Output and Voltage Due to Varying Speeds." They will proudly

represent Methuen High School at the Massachusetts State Science Fair located at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Additionally, the following students qualified for the Regional Science Fair held at Somerville High School: Joseph Wakim, Michael Wakim, Chihiro Shimomoto, Trushi Patel, Shane Godek, Will McGrath, Alyssa Farnkoff, Jenna Ciccotelli, Rosemary Mahoney, Jason Edgar, Ian Rossi, Eric Ton, Druv Patel and David Raucci.

Award	First Name	Last Name	Project Title
1 st Place	Jacob Scott	Thibodeau Wojtowicz	Characteristic Changes to Wind Turbine Output Voltage Due to Varying Speeds
2 nd Place	Joseph Michael	Wakim Wakim	Pace Pal
3 rd Place	Chihiro Trushti	Shimomoto Patel	Heat Efficiency of Box Solar Cookers and Parabolic Solar Cookers
4 th Place	Shane Will	Godek McGrath	How Green are Green Cleaning Products

Award	First Name	Last Name	Project Title
Special Recognition	Alyssa Jenna Rosemary	Farnkoff Ciccotelli Mahoney	The Effect of Temperature On Keratin, Albumin and Lactase
Special Recognition	Jason Ian	Edgar Rossi	Best Method for Oil Cleanup
Special Recognition	Eric Druv	Ton Patel	The Effect of Food Coloring On Dendranthema Grandiflorum
Special Recognition	David	Raucci	The Temperature of Water at Different Depths
Environmental Science	Nick Heather	Abourizk McLaughlin	The Grey Water Effect
Chemistry	Mark Benjamin Sandra	Catipon Fitzgerald Adome	Testing the Effect of Electricity on pH
Biology	Daphne Tom Nyomi Danielle	Naut Gregg White Joubert	Oxygen Production of Various Plant Species Measured by Isolated Flame
Physics	Michaela Tami Biyanka	Cullum-Doyle Nguyen Patel	Fire and Ice

Physics Matthew Downing Testing the Effective Range of Radiation
Generated by a Household Microwave

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

Lower School

~ Our last Continental Math League meet was terrific! We had a high level of participation. The students love the program and are working very hard.

~ We just finished our latest round of DRA2 reading testing in grades K-4. We are reviewing results and compiling data. Our tutoring program seems to be yielding good results!

~We are having our first Valentine Grams fundraiser this month. Parents are writing notes, or “Grams”, that we will attach to mini lollipops and deliver to students. It has proven to be quite successful. We are looking to spread this type of family fundraising event throughout the year.

~ In conjunction with the American Heart Association, our Jump Rope for Heart event will be this month. We are dedicating this event to “Mighty Max”. He is a 2 year old who recently underwent heart surgery. His aunt is a CGS staff member and his cousins attend the CGS. They have worked really hard to share his story with friends and staff. We are happy to hear that Max is doing really well. Max and his family will join us for the event.

Upper School

~Our first band concert was held on January 22. Everyone did a wonderful job.

~Grade 8 had Career Day on January 17th and will have a ROTC presentation by Lt. Col. Stansbury on February 10th.

~On February 14th Grade 5 and 6 will participate in the Hoops for Heart.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

I would like to keep everyone updated on all the great things happening at the Marsh.

Lower School

- After reading a number of Cinderella stories from around the world, Mrs. Mace’s class (grade2) performed “Cinderella Around the World” for first graders and parents. The performances were very well done, and included several scene and costume changes! Common Core/MA Curriculum Frameworks (2011) asks students in second grade to recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures and determine their central message, lesson or moral. This play was one of many literacy-related activities related to this standard.
- The Merrimack Valley Pioneer Club generously donated student dictionaries to all Marsh 3rd grade students again this year! Since the teachers already have classroom sets of dictionaries, the students can bring them home to assist them with current and future writing assignments. To thank the MV Pioneers for their continued support, the students wrote thank-you notes and practiced their letter-writing skills.
- Marsh PTO sponsored a Family Pizza night on January 24th which was attended by many families.
- Teaching & Learning Alliance (TLA) modeled reading conferences for Grade 2 teachers in the classroom, with a valuable follow-up discussion and question session. In February, the teachers will meet with the TLA representative to review their DRA scores and look at areas for focused instruction.

- Jump Rope For Heart will take place the week of February 10—grades 1 and 2 will jump during their regular P.E. time and grades 3 and 4 will jump in the “big gym” on Thursday, February 13th. This program is an extension of the P.E. curriculum, and the students have been working on their jump-roping skills in class, learning single and partner jumps, as well as some “tricky” moves!

Upper School

- Second Step Newspaper Club published its first edition in January.
- There were 4 Honor Roll Assemblies (1 per grade) recognizing over 300 students for their academic achievement.
- Mr. Saum took Seth Pare, grade 8, as Methuen’s representative to Project 351 (Governor Patrick’s initiative to recognize outstanding middle school students for their service to their community). The students ran a winter carnival, made motivational signs, and put together care packages with health-related items for families in need.
- 12 seventh and eighth graders were recognized as Marsh STARS (standing together as role-model students).
- Carine Mansour, grade 6, was honored on January 26th by the Methuen VFW for her 1st place entry to the Patriot’s pen contest.
- There were 2 assemblies on Internet Safety held for students in grades 5-8.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Marsh School and its students. We are all working towards providing our students with the best possible educational experience. Thanks again.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Ian Gosselin, Principal

- The Tenney Leadership team started a new partnership this month with representatives from St. Anne’s Home. St. Anne’s is located in the Tenney district and students who reside there attend the Tenney – six in the upper, two in the lower. The meeting resulted in the creation of a communication plan for each student, Tenney staff attending case review meetings hosted by St. Anne’s and St. Anne’s are working to make sure their students have access to after school activities. More collaboration is planned.
- The annual Tenney Geography Bee was a real nail-biter, lasting two full hours and requiring a number of tie-breakers. More than 20 students qualified to compete and many of their family members attended the competition, organized by Marion Magnan, Grade 6 teacher. The winners were: First place - Aidan Foley (8th), Second place - Nick Apel (7th), Third Place - Drew Heffernan (8th). Aidan will now take part in a national written competition.
- Eighth grade parents who may not have easy access to computers, needed a little technical or language support registering their child for iPass and ninth grade Methuen High classes were invited to a morning help session at the Tenney. Almost a dozen parents attended.
- The Tenney has not forgotten former physical education teacher Bill Blood. On the anniversary of his death, Jan. 23, upper school students, led by 8th graders wore red in his memory.
- Jan. 24 was Black Out Bullying Day. About 500 upper school students and all staff wore black, making the statement the Tenny does not tolerate bullies.
- Sixteen Tenney middle school musicians and singers competed in the Northeast Junior Districts. Six of the students were selected to perform in a special concert later this spring.

Band students: Erika Syokau, Julia Carter. Chorus: Gianna Fiorillo, Alexandra Karavias, Xavier Ortiz and Thelusma Josyvins.

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

The Timony Grammar School is implementing a new initiative with the staff and students this month. We are introducing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports), which we hope will encourage a culture of support and responsibility for our students. A team of staff members has worked throughout the fall, with the leadership of Kerry Calobrisi, to decide on the specifics of implementation. The purpose of PBIS at the Timony is to:

- Implement a positive behavior support system for grades PK-8
- Assist Timony staff members in communicating to students their academic accountability and social responsibilities.
- Maintain consistency across grade levels and the timelines of rewards
- Reshape and mold the Timony Grammar School's culture to the desired state we wish it to be: a positive and cohesive learning environment in which expectations are clearly and frequently communicated and accountability is shared among all Timony community members.

Acronym of Expectations: **S** safety first, **O** own it, **A** accept and respect everyone, **R** responsible choices. We want everyone to SOAR! Our first reward will be given before vacation with a dance party for every student who earns enough signatures at each grade level.

SADD UPDATE

MVP January Update:

We have started to plan an Anti-Bullying campaign. The kids will create poster boards and give out bracelets (400) that we ordered during lunch periods. The bracelets have "Methuen Violence Prevention" and "Up2Us" on them. They will also give out a pamphlet with information on what bullying actually is and the different types of bullying that might occur. We have also begun to volunteer at the homework help center on Tenney St. and at the Arlington School Community Day program.

On March 4, a representative from each school in the district will be joining Dean and Jackie at a Youth Summit presented by the Mass District Attorney. The conference will give students the tools to make their school a more positive environment. The students have been chosen by their respective advisors as leaders and active members of their groups.

CGS:

Students have been meeting weekly with Jackie, Dean and senior, Sydney Littlefield. They have been involved in discussion about drugs in the community and the school and played some fun games. In addition, they created posters for either awareness or anti-substance, which Jackie will display in her high school classroom. They will attend a bowling trip to Academy Lanes in Haverhill on February 4th.

Marsh:

A student at the school has recently suffered from a major fire at his home. The group will be raising money to provide the family the support they need at this time. The group will also be attending the field trip to skateland this month. In addition, they will be working with the high school to organize the basketball tournament to support Relay for Life.

Tenney:

The group led a "blackout bullying" awareness day. The day was very successful, as most of the school wore black to support anti-bullying. This group will also be going to skateland.

Timony:

This group organized and planned the district-wide trip to skateland and has been working hard to put that together.

High School:

This past month students have created a SADD relay for life team and have been joining/creating their own teams as well. Students have begun planning a basketball tournament for the month of March to raise money for Relay for Life as well. The group will also be joining the grammar schools to a trip to skateland in Haverhill. In addition, they will be going on a trip to laser craze.