

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2015

DISTRICT-WIDE UPCOMING DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
February 10	8:15-10 a.m.	All 8 th grade students will visit	Methuen High School

MHS UPCOMING DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
February 4	7:00 p.m.	Winter Band Concert	Methuen High School Auditorium
February 5	9:11 a.m.	Vocational & Technical Fair	Methuen High School Cafeteria
February 6	8:00 a.m.	JROTC Academic Team Trip	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Ma
February 10	12:30	Mock Trial Competition	Lawrence Court House, Lawrence, MA
February 10	5:00 p.m.	Course Request Night	Methuen High School Media Center
February 27	2:00 p.m.	Senior Class Ski Trip	Pat's Peak Ski Area Henniker, NH
February 27	6:00 p.m.	Best Buddies Fashion & Talent Show	Methuen High School Auditorium

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

On January 6th, the **Italian Club** hosted its 2nd annual Bocce Holiday Festival at the Sons of Italy lodge in Methuen. There were about 30 in attendance which included club members and former MHS students visiting home from college. Good food, games, prizes and bocce bowling kept everyone entertained.

Best Buddies February fundraiser will be held on February 23rd, at the Irish Cottage! Friends and family are welcome to enjoy a good meal, relax with friends and family, and know that the Irish Cottage is donating a generous portion to the chapter! The Fashion and Talent Show will be held on Friday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. in the Methuen High School Auditorium.

The 30th annual Methuen High School **Science Fair** (winners listed below) was held on January 26th. Individual subject specific awards were selected by the Methuen High School science teachers. In addition, additional projects, by virtue of completing a detailed Individual Research Plan, students have been invited to participate in the Region IV Science Fair at Somerville High School. This

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year's winners of the Methuen High School Science Fair, Joseph Wakim and Ian Rossi, will also proudly represent Methuen High School at the Massachusetts State Science Fair at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

<u>Award</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
1 st Place	Joseph Ian	Wakim Rossi	Are Self Adjusting Solar Reflectors Worth the Energy?
2 nd Place	Shawna Kim	O'Leary Phung	Bioremediation: How Effective is Pseudomonas Putida?
3 rd Place	Katelyn Jacqueline Mae	Hulme Cassidy Swiniarski	Aquaponics and Plant Growth
4 th Place	Kristen Lily Michelle	Dougherty Matthews Malek	The Effects of Simulated Stomach Acid on Fast Food
5 th Place	Emily Emily Sarah	Baker Mendonca Mendonca	Does a Hand Sanitizer's Price Relate to Its Ability to Kill Bacteria?
Environmental	Deric Jacob	Sutton Amodio	Bacteria in Local Water Sources
Chemistry	Serian Christina David	Williams Wormald Sim	Are Natural Products Efficient in the Killing of Bacteria?
Biology	Katelynn Taylor Justin	Mrozowski Florence Echeverry	Strength of Homo Sapien vs. Ovis Areis Teeth
Physics	Shane Nick Mike	Godek Comerford Wakim	An Investigation Into the Collimation of Sound

**FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT
RECENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Recipients for the Globe Scholastic Art Awards, give by the Museum of Fine Arts for 2015 are:

- *Alan Diaz, Gold Key Award for Drawing/Illustration (Ms Kent and Ms Perrault)
- Aileen Carmona, Silver Key for Sculpture (Ms Perrault)
- Nicholas Comerford, Silver Key for Ceramics/Glass (Ms Smallidge)
- Alan Diaz, Silver Key for Drawing/Illustration (Ms Perrault)
- Lauren Gagnon, Silver Key for Ceramics/Glass (Ms Themeles)
- Leticia Omezi, Silver Key for Art Portfolio (Ms Perrault)

Deric Sutton, Silver Key for Ceramics/Glass (Ms Smallidge)
Alan Diaz, Honorable Mention for Art Portfolio (Ms Kent and Ms Perrault)
Shannon Lilja, Honorable Mention for Sculpture (Ms Perrault)
Jocelyn Rodriguez, Honorable Mention for Sculpture (Ms Perrault)
Cameron Walsh, Honorable Mention for Ceramics/Glass (Ms Smallidge)
***Gold Key winners are eligible for national adjudication.**

The Visual Art Department is preparing for a Teen Portraiture Exhibit in February at the Essex Art Center in Lawrence, and for an Invitational Exhibition at Northern Essex Community College in March.

Recent Participants in the Northeastern Senior District Music Festival, held in Lowell in January:

Melanie Conner-Myers, Alto – Mixed Chorus
Benjamin Crowninshield, French horn – Band
Michael Hajjar, Mallet Percussion – Band
David Rucci, Tenor – Mixed Chorus
Scarlet Yeung, Flute – Band

Recently selected students for the Northeastern Junior District Music Festival, to be held in April in Lowell:

Michaela Kiberstis, Mallet Percussion – Orchestra
Benjamin Walko, Trumpet - Band

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

LOWER SCHOOL

- The Continental Math League meet for grades 2, 3 and 4 will take place on February 5th. Students have been doing some great exploration with problem solving and have been practicing their computation skills.
- Grades 1 and 2 will participate in an enrichment program titled “The Bubble Program” with performer Keith Michael Johnson on February 5th. We are pleased to bring this enriching science experience to the CGS.
- Our annual “Jump Rope for Heart” fundraiser begins February 5th. Our PE teachers, Mr. Ramalho and Ms. Pappas have been collaborating with the American Heart Association for this important event. This year we will be dedicating our fundraising to a member of the CGS family. Allegra Cerbone is the daughter of our Upper School music teacher, Mrs. Travers.
- We will be finished our ACCESS language testing for English Language Learners by the end of this month. In addition, benchmark testing for math and the DRA reading assessment will occur later this month. Teachers will analyze all class results and use that data to inform their lessons.
- Our amazing KIDS’ CANCER CLUB will be selling their handmade duct tape items, in order to donate to the fund for Mr. Bernie McNally of the Timony Grammar school.

UPPER SCHOOL

- CGS Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart event. – February 10th
- 2. Grade 8 Field Trip to Methuen HS – February 10th
- 3. Continental Math League
- 4. Student of the Month and Character Award Assembly

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

LOWER SCHOOL

- Grade 4 students were treated to a weather presentation from WBZ-Channel 4 meteorologist Barry Burbank on Tuesday, January 13th.
- Selected Grade 4 students will be taking the NAEP test in reading, math or science on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. The test takes about 90 minutes and notifications have been sent home to parents on their child's participation. Teachers have completed questionnaires regarding instruction and school-related items. The results of the NAEP testing are not reported back to the school, and therefore do not affect any student's report card assessments.
- Progress reports were sent home on Friday, January 23, 2015.
- PTO sponsored an Italian Night on Friday, January 23, 2015.
- DRA testing was postponed to the first week in February due to the blizzard and school closure.
- Professional Development on WIDA will also be rescheduled, hopefully to late February in Lower School, during the teachers' grade level meeting time.
- Kindergarten teachers and administration are preparing for the NAEYC re-accreditation process.
- Jump Rope for Heart will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 for grades 3 and 4 in the Upper School Gym. Organized by the Lower School gym teachers, Mrs. James and Mrs. Kulberg, for over a decade, they are encouraging the students to exceed their previous fundraising by convincing Mr. Sierpina and Ms. Lamoureux to be 'slimed' if they raised at least \$13,000.

UPPER SCHOOL

- The Talent Show scheduled for February 5 has been postponed--more information to follow.
- Early release on Wednesday, February 11.
- Selected 8th grade students will be taking NAEP tests in reading, math, and science on February 12, 2015
- Select 6th and 7th graders will be taking the Massachusetts Youth Health Survey on February 23, 2015.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Principal

Tenney staff, students and parents have been busy in the New Year. Here is a sampling of some of the activities:

- Our Upper School Saturday detention pilot program is making an impact. Dean of Students Carl DeRubeis reports that to date, the number of suspensions have been cut in half from this year to last year. Also, the majority of students who have had tardy issues and who have served Saturday detention show a marked improvement in their attendance
- Second Grade teacher Courtney Petzold has received a \$1,000 STEM grant from the Dow Corporation. Ms. Petzold will use the funds to buy tablets for her classroom so students can research and explore math and science concepts.
- More than 900 students from dozens of cities and towns converged on the Tenney Saturday, Jan. 31 for the Junior Music Festival. In keeping with tradition, several Tenney students prepared and auditioned for the opportunity to train and perform with other young musicians at a festival later this year. Congratulations to Alexandra Karavias and Josyvins Theusma who were selected to be part of the Girl's Chorus. Teachers Brian Fulks and Holly Gray worked with the students to prepare them for auditions.
- Led by our SAAD organization, we celebrated, "Do What's Right, Wear Something Bright Day." Staff and students wore fluorescent-colored clothing, making the statement that dark words and

actions do not belong in our school. Throughout the week, SAAD students spoke about the power of kindness during morning announcements.

- The leadership team made an average of five home visits last month.
- Eighth grader Emily McCormick represented the City of Methuen in Project 351 during Martin Luther King weekend. Along with other eighth graders representing other Massachusetts communities, she spent a day at the State House to learn about the power and purpose of community service and met with Gov. Baker. Supported by her school mentor, teacher Christine Dionne, Emily has already organized one community project: Tenney students are creating Valentines to send to some of our senior citizens.
- Rehearsals have begun for the spring production of *Guys and Dolls*. The cast of upper school students and staff will bring Broadway to the Tenney with music and dance.
- Our initiative to bring parents into our school continues, despite the bad weather. Two seminars for eighth grade parents about the transition to high school were postponed by snow storms. Upper School Principal Paula Simone is rescheduling.

Coming up:

Feb. 13: Show What You Know kick-off assembly. Students will hear about a PBIS initiative aimed at promoting positive behaviors and efforts during MCAS practice and testing, students with high MCAS growth scores will be recognized and we will enjoy some Tenney talent.

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

- We're back at school after an unexpected six day break. With the recent pattern of snow and cold we will be working extra hard to prepare for the upcoming MCAS testing in late March. We have put some things in place to help us improve our students' Open Response and Long Composition skills and based on what we have seen so far children are writing more and writing more effectively than we've ever seen. It is also very exciting to watch our ELA and ELL Academic Coaches work with our staff and students. They've recently introduced a new 'word of the week' program that helps all of our students especially our second language learners.
- Although the snow has slowed us down a bit, the Timony community continues to step up to support each other. One of our teachers, Mr. McNally was recently diagnosed with an unexpected brain tumor and the Timony School Community has been doing great work to provide money and meals to help him through this difficult time. When the chips are down you find out who your real friends are and at the Timony, there are many. We wish Bernie well and hope you will join us as we 'Rally for McNally'!
- I am excited to report that our PBIS program is working. The discipline numbers at the halfway point of the year compared to last year are all down. Suspensions, both in school and out of school, have been cut in half. Congratulations to our Dean of Students, Ms Calobrisi and her PBIS team for their efforts to make the Timony a more positive place.

SADD UPDATE

District-Wide

Due to the snow, the district-wide field trip to Skateland in Haverhill was postponed to Friday, February 13th from 5-7pm.

High School

Students took part in the Bullying Awareness day. Announcements were made and students "Wore Bright for What's Right." SADD members worked at lunch to take pictures of students wearing bright colors and take quotations about being a good citizen and community member. Students will

be volunteering at Cor Unum in Lawrence this month. Students also will be participating in Relay for Life and have begun brainstorming fundraising ideas.

CGS

Students took part in the Bullying Awareness day. Announcements were made school-wide and the upper school did a "Black-out Bullying" spirit day, complete with a contest between the grades. Students worked at lunchtime to gather photos and quotes about good citizenship. Students began registering for Relay for Life this month as well.

Marsh

Students took part in the Bullying Awareness day. Announcements were made and students "Wore Bright for What's Right." Students promoted the spirit day and ordered SADD gear as well.

Tenney

Students took part in the Bullying Awareness day. Students "Wore Bright for What's Right." Announcements school-wide promoted good citizenship. Much SADD gear was ordered this month by SADD members as well.

Timony

Students took part in the Bullying Awareness day. Students "Wore Bright for What's Right." SADD members placed post-it's with positive messages on student lockers and announcements were made school-wide to promote the day.