

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2016

UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>PLEASE SEE SCHOOL UPDATES BELOW FOR HAPPENINGS IN THEIR SCHOOLS</i>			
<i>MHS will be housing Representative Campbell's Ways & Means Meeting at Methuen High School.</i>			
<i>This is a great opportunity for our students to walk by the Media Center and observe.</i>			
<i>This is not open to the public.</i>			
February 11	7-9 pm	SEPAC Monthly Meeting	CGS School
February 15		Presidents' Day--School Offices Closed	
February 15-19		Winter Recess--Schools Closed	
February 23		Kindergarten Registration (Snow Date Feb. 26 th)	Timony Grammar School
February 24		Kindergarten Registration (Snow Date March 2 nd)	Tenney Grammar School
February 22	6:30 pm	School Committee Workshop	Currier School, Adult Ed
February 26	7-10 pm	BINGO – Fundraiser Methuen Scholarship Foundation, Inc.	Gaythorne Hall, Methuen (Doors open at 6:30)
March 2		Kindergarten Registration (Snow Date March 8 th)	CGS School
March 3 - NEW DATE		Kindergarten Registration (Snow Date March 9 th)	Tenney Grammar School

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal

Methuen High School Upcoming February Dates

- Science Fair - Monday, February 1, 2016
- MCAS Biology Retest, Session 1 - Monday, February 1, 2016
- MCAS Biology Retest, Session 2 - Tuesday, February 2, 2016
- ACT Test - Saturday, February 6, 2016
- MHS Course Request Night For Parents Tuesday, February 9, 2016
- Connections - Friday, February 12, 2016
- Coaches vs. Cancer - Girl's Basketball NA @ Methuen - Friday, February 12, 2016
- Winter Recess - No School - Monday, February 15, 2016, through Friday, February 19, 2016
- MHS Best Buddies Fashion/Talent Show
Thursday, February 25 2016 - 6:30pm, MHS Auditorium
- MHS BINGO night to benefit the MHS Scholarship Foundation
Friday, February 26, 2016 - 7pm-10pm, Gaythorne Hall, Broadway, Methuen

Coming up next month:

- MCAS ELA Retest, Composition Sessions A and B - Wednesday, March 2, 2016
- MCAS ELA Retest, Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 and 2 - Thursday, March 3, 2016
- Guidance Department Junior Students Parent's Meeting - Thursday, March 3, 2016
- Early Release - Friday, March 4, 2016
- MCAS ELA Retest, Reading Comprehension Session 3 - Friday, March 4, 2016
- JROTC Military Ball - Friday, March 4, 2016
- MCAS Math Retest, Session 1 - Monday, March 7, 2016
- MCAS Math Retest, Session 2 - Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Also, a complete list of MHS athletic events can be viewed by selecting the link [Athletics Calendar](#) on the MHS webpage.

- **MHS Science Fair** will be Monday, February 1, 2016 from 7:15-11am and from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the MHS cafeteria. Students have been working extremely hard to prepare for this event. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this great showcase.
- **MHS Drama Club** received rave reviews for the performance of "Shrek The Musical" Jan 7-9. Over 50 students were involved in the production as they delivered 4 performances to large capacity crowds. Students and younger children also enjoyed the educational "talk back" after the Saturday Matinee during this time, elementary and middle school students were invited to the stage for an opportunity to walk on the set, get photos with favorite characters and participate in a Q&A with cast members. It was a great success and a fantastic opportunity for young kids to learn more about High School Theater and the MHS Auditorium.
- The Drama Club has been meeting weekly "in between" shows. Over 30 kids have been involved in weekly "IMPROV CLASSES" where students work on improv and acting skills.
- The Drama Club will hold auditions for the Spring Play "NARNIA" on February 2 & 3. Performances for NARNIA will be on May 5, 6 & 7
- **Mock Trial** team is competing against Central Catholic on Monday Feb 1st, and Andover on Tuesday the 9th. If they can win those two trials, the team moves on the states Sweet Sixteen round.
- **Best Buddies** has a busy February for all the sweethearts in Methuen High's chapter! This month will kick off the annual Yankee Candle fundraiser. The goal is for each member to sell at least 4 candles or items from the company's brochure. A meeting TBD will be held to review the Yankee Candle fundraising contract and distribute materials to club members. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be combined with any/all funds raised during the club's Annual Fashion/Talent show. The date for the Fashion/Talent show is Thursday, February 25th at 6:30-8:30 in the MHS auditorium. Rehearsals begin immediately after school on Monday, February 22nd thru Wednesday, February 24th. Members look forward to this event all year long! Combined proceeds are used for the end of the year club event, chapter dues, and expenses for the 2016-17 BB Leadership Conference. Attendance by club president-elect is mandatory in accordance with BB organization/policy.

As if this isn't enough to be excited about, MHS' chapter has been invited to attend a Friendship Dance at the Atkinson Community Center on Friday evening, February 5th sponsored by neighboring chapters. Members who attended last year shared that their experiences were fun and rewarding. Parent/Guardian chaperones are recommended and required for groups of 20+.

Members are encouraged to carpool as transportation is not provided. Refreshments are available and contributions are welcomed!

Looking ahead....

CAN THERE BE MORE EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE?! Absolutely! BEST BUDDIES of Massachusetts statewide 6th annual prom is scheduled for April 2, 2016. This year's theme is, "Bright Lights in the Big City". See Mrs. Letendre to RSVP by March 11. Those who attended last year had the time of their lives!

Lastly, club member volunteers sought to represent MHS' chapter at the upcoming SEPAC, Sunday, April 10th 2016, from 3 to 6 pm and is located at The Comprehensive Grammar School. Volunteers will share information and personal experience about the club as well as offer help with set up, breakdown, and craft tables at the CGC.

Other News:

Course Request Night/Course Request Process

Methuen High School will be holding a "Course Request Night" on February 9 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM in the Methuen High School media center. Counseling staff will be available to assist parents with completing the process of approving teacher recommendations and requesting elective courses and to answer any questions parents may have regarding the program of studies and the schedule at the high school. Any parents who require assistance participating in the course request process are encouraged to attend this Parents who feel comfortable using iParent to participate in the course request process online from home can still do so starting on February 9. The window to approve teacher recommendations and request elective courses through iParent is February 9 at 2:00 PM to the end of the day on February 21. The MHS course request site, www.mhscourserequest.com, has everything you need to participate in the course request process, including the 2016-2017 program of studies, iParent login and registration links, a calendar of events, and instructions for completing the course request process. Thank you in advance for being an active participant in your sons or daughters' educational plans.

Vocational/Technical School Fair

The Methuen High School guidance department is proud to have hosted the 6th Annual Vocational/ Technical School Fair on Wednesday, January 20th in the café. Their hope in hosting an event of this kind is to be able to assist students in formulating a post-secondary plan that aligns with their individual interests. There were approximately 17 representatives from various institutions, including: vocational/technical schools, community colleges and military.

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 4th. Students have been exploring problem solving techniques and practicing computation skills.
- Our CGS "Math Night" will take place on February 4th from 6:00- 7:00. Students will showcase all the wonderful things they are learning in math while visiting a variety of activity stations. Teachers, administration, and students will be in attendance.
- Our annual "Jump Rope for Heart" show will take place on February 11th. Our students have been learning important heart healthy information, and spreading the word to increase awareness. The PE teachers, Mr. Ramalho and Ms. Pappas, have been collaborating with the American Heart Association for this important event.
- We will be finished our ACCESS testing for English Language Learners later this month. In addition, benchmark testing and the DRA reading assessment will be completed this month. Teachers will analyze all results and use that data to inform their lessons.

- Our amazing KIDS' CANCER CLUB will be selling handmade duct tape rose pencils until February 10th. The profits from this fundraiser are donated to our CGS *RELAY FOR LIFE* team.
- Our second annual '**Someone Special**' dance will occur on February 12th from 6:00- 8:00. This family fundraiser is always a wonderful time! The students love to bring a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle and other loved ones to this event.

UPPER SCHOOL

The month of February is filled with some important events and fun activities for the CGS Upper School. February activities include:

- Calendar Fundraiser Raffle begins, good luck to all those who entered!
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Family Engagement Night
- Morning basketball begins
- Continental Math League Meet
- Upper School Pup Rally
- Someone Special Dance for Grade 5 students

We are looking forward to an awesome February!

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

FAMILY MATH NIGHT - Thursday, February 11 - 6:00-7:00 PM - Upper School Cafeteria

We are excited about the opportunity for parents and children to attend our Family Math Night during which they will actively participate in Eureka Math and see all that their children are learning. Our Math Coach will lead the event along with our ELA and ELL Coaches. This will not only be an enjoyable evening, but will allow everyone to work with the Math program and ask any questions. We hope to see everyone on February 11!

Lower School

- Progress reports were sent home on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.
- Benchmark Testing was completed at the end of January for ELA, and is scheduled to be completed before February vacation in mathematics.
- PTO sponsored an Italian Night on Friday, January 29, 2016. On Friday, February 12, 2016, they will hold a Student Appreciation Bingo Night, where students get to play for free!
- With the official kick-off on January 4th, our PBIS program of Marsh Stars has been very successful! Teachers have been handing out many blue Star Slips to recognize, acknowledge and reinforce positive behaviors of safety, respect and responsibility. Students have been receiving individual and grade level incentives to encourage these behaviors. Brief assemblies were held for grades K-4 on Thursday and Friday with a "Star Wars" team. The PBIS team has provided teachers with a suggested schedule of lessons through February to cover expected behaviors in all areas of the school (hallways, cafeteria, recess, etc.)
- Our annual Jump Rope for Heart Day was held the week of February 1st. Students in grades 1 and 2 participated during their regularly scheduled gym time, and grades 3 and 4 were in the Upper School gym on Thursday, February 4th. This is the 16th year that the Marsh has raised money for the American Heart Association. If the students exceed the goal of \$10,000, Mr. Sierpina and Ms. Lamoureux have agreed to take a "Pie in the Eye" to celebrate our success!
- Kindergarten registrations will be held on March 3rd (day and night)—this was rescheduled from March 1st to accommodate primary voting.

Upper School

- This January at the Marsh Upper School we brought in the New Year with ACCESS testing for all ELL students. The window for testing this year is between the dates of January 7th and February 10th. At this point, all students have completed their testing and we are looking forward to seeing the results before June.
- In other academic news, teachers have sent home progress reports for the second trimester. Non Professional Status staff members have completed received their Mid Cycle Formative Assessments which is part of their evaluation cycle. And lastly, all staff members attended professional development on January 15th. ELA teachers were able to meet with a representative from the Teaching and Learning Alliance in order to receive support and coaching for Lucy Calkins implementation. Math teachers meet with district math coaches to work on EUREKA Math implementation.
- In additional news, our guidance department has met with grade 8 students about plans for high school. We also had a visit from Methuen High School's JROTC where they met with all grade 8 students in our auditorium to give a presentation and answer questions about JROTC involvement. Mr. Parker met with PTO on January 20th to discuss PBIS at our school and Mr. Marino met with 8th grade parents to discuss end of the year activities.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal

- Our parent outreach efforts continue as we enter the second part of the school year. Associate principals and the supervising principal, following up on the efforts of teachers, are meeting with parents of struggling students to develop home strategies, confirm lines of communication and share resources. The meetings have been very successful.
- Our teachers and staff continue their outreach work as well. Third grade teacher Dawn Patterson welcomes families to an Academic Showcase night for her students on Feb. 10. Upper School Principal Paula Simone hosted the second in our Tenney Parent Involvement Seminars on Feb. 4. The seminar focused on how to help and de-stress students before MCAS testing. Our Family Math Night Feb. 3 was a success with plenty of hands-on learning experiences. It was organized by math coach Kelley Gravell.
- Tenney students are expected to ACE open response questions. Grades 3-8 have adopted the ACE open response strategy. ACE stands for Answer, Cite, and Explain and is being used across the grades to promote common language and strategies in test-taking. We will display student exemplars in our common areas.
- Our annual Geography Bee was a nail-biter. Almost 30 upper school students competed in the annual competition organized by Marion Magnan, sixth grade teacher. Congratulations to the top winners First Place: Andrew Le, Grade 5; Second Place: John Dowling, Grade 5; and Third Place: Liam Foley, Grade 8. Andrew will move on to the next level of competition. Thank you to the parents who cheered our contestants.
- The newest addition to Methuen police Department, Kilo, the K-9, visited the Tenney with his partner Officer Nicolosi to talk about their jobs keeping our town safe safe. Fourth and fifth graders were thrilled to meet the duo, asked great questions and wrote wonderful thank you notes.
- Tenney writers and authors celebrated their publication in Appleseed and Applesauce magazines. Lower school artists and writers include Luna Abimoussa, Kade Blanchet, Mia Cruz, Madeline Padilla, William Pitman, Isabella Ricupero. Upper school students honored include: Elijah Antunes, Alessia Barbara, Ashley Cabrera, Jan Polanco and Elvis Soto

- Our Book Pantry is being replenished. Teachers, Katie Collins and Amanda Goyette-Langis invite parents and staff to donate gently used books appropriate for our k-8 students. The goal of the pantry is to make sure our Tenney students always have books to take home and own. We sent home more than 1,000 books during our Light the Night celebration.
- Production has started for the May Drama Club production of *Once on This Island*.
- The Massachusetts Music Educators Association's Junior District competition was hosted by the Tenney. Almost 1,000 students from 43 communities competed for the honor to perform in prestigious ensembles this spring. More than 30 Tenney PTO, staff, parents and student volunteers ran the concession stand. Brian Fulks, Tenney band teacher helped coordinate the event.

Coming up:

February 8-12: Have a Heart Food Drive, hosted by Peer Leaders

March 3 and 4 : PBIS Assemblies

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

- January was a busy and exciting month at the Timony and February is shaping to be one as well. Many of our students completed their ACCESS testing in January and we are looking forward to the results. Our teachers continue to move through the State Standards with a focus on Mathematics and Language Arts. Our third grade teachers are doing a great job implementing the Connective Literacy program that was so successful with grade four last year. The third graders are writing more than ever and we are confident that their assessment results will indicate all of their hard work.
- All students and teachers K-8, continue to become more comfortable with the new Eureka Math Program. This month we will be holding **Family Math Nights** for both the upper and lower schools. Students will have the opportunity to show their parents some the types of activities they do each day in Math.
- Our PBIS team had further training last week and they continue to refine and improve our program. Recently all teachers added a behavioral matrix to their classrooms. This allows students to see clearly defined behavioral expectations in every room.

SADD UPDATE Next Month

High School-

- The high school group is planning on attending the Skateland field trip at the end of the month.
- We will be ordering t shirts at the next meeting.

CGS-

- The CGS will also take part in the Skateland field trip on February 26th.
- Officer Gunther will visit the group at an upcoming meeting in February.
- CGS will be ordering t shirts designed by one of their own members.

Timony-

- Planned our Skateland event and made posters to advertise.
- Began making positive designs with messages to post on our SADD bulletin board.
- Students are also planning to post positive messages on lockers. we will discuss further at February meeting

February:

-Will decide how we will recognize 'Kick Butts' day (March 16, 2016) and begin the plans.

Marsh-

-Attended the Marsh Italian Feast as a group.

-Attending a school dance on Friday, February 5th

-Skateland on February 26th.

Superintendent's Inclement Weather Letter

The following letter went home with all students AND is posted on the website:

Now that October is upon us, winter storms are common New England occurrences. Snow, ice, and extreme cold pose special problems for the school system and our goal of getting seven thousand youngsters to school safely. The decision to close school is a great responsibility and rests with the superintendent. Conversely, the decision to send a youngster to school is a grave responsibility that rests with parents and guardians. As in all matters concerning the schooling of your children, we remain partners and are mutually supportive of each other's efforts.

During severe weather conditions, I monitor the situation beginning in the early morning hours. I am in contact with state police, public works, superintendents in neighboring communities, and the Methuen Public Schools facilities manager who organizes sanding and much of our plowing.

Based upon all the information that is collected, a decision is made to close school, delay the opening or remain open. This is done no later than 5:00 a.m. All cancellations are carried on the major Boston television and radio stations as well as WCCM and the School System's Cable Station, Channel 99 for Comcast and Channel 31, Verizon and on the Methuen Public Schools Website www.methuen.k12.ma.us.

We understand that a "delay or a no school" day is a challenge for working families. Many parents have a predetermined plan they put into place on snow days to lessen confusion when school is actually cancelled. We also understand that some parents are anxious about sending their youngsters to school when the weather is not good and there is school. We ask that you call and notify the school if you choose to keep your child at home when school is in session.

I hope that this information is useful and I urge you to inform your schools of any special procedures your family may have in place and to be aware of possible delays or cancellations when winter storms are forecast.

Let's all work together to remain informed and have a safe and healthy winter season.