

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

24 th Annual Closing Ceremony Dr. Shirley Forrest Callan Methuen Adult Learning Center		Wednesday, June 11, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. Nevins Memorial Library Great Hall
Kindergarten Last Day of School	Full Day	Thursday, June 19, 2014
8 th Grade Final Assembly		Friday, June 20, 2014
Grades K-11 Last Day of School	Half Day	Tuesday, June 24, 2014

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

Adopt-A-Grandparent is winding down its year. They had a great time at the Senior Lunch in May. Students provided all of the food and drink while they played their annual Pictionary game and watched a video of our Senior Prom.

The **Blue & White** will be distributing the 4th issue this week. It's another 20 page issue which has a focus on graduation and the senior class.

The **senior class** recently held a class assembly, reviving an old Methuen High School tradition where the seniors read the class will, the class prophecy and played slide shows highlighting the major events of the school year. Tears and smiles filled the room as everyone reflected on the year from Halloween, to the pep rally, Mr. Methuen, and homecoming. The senior breakfast was held on May 30th. It featured students signing yearbooks, enjoying snacks and picking up letters they wrote to themselves in health class four years ago. The morning in the new cafeteria was a lot of fun and a nice time to reflect. This senior class showed school spirit, Methuen pride and enthusiasm all year long. Senior week will close out the year for the Class of 2014, beginning with Honors and Awards night, then field trips to Six Flags and Loon Mountain, a graduation BBQ catered by Fuddruckers and finally graduation on Friday, June 6th.

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

~We are so proud of our CGS students and community!! We raised a little over \$2500 for the American Cancer Society with our own version of the Relay Walk for Life.

~ Our music and band teachers did a wonderful job with the Grade 3, Grade 4 and Band Concerts that were held in the auditorium recently.

~ On May 15th we held our second annual Family Fitness Night. The upper school and lower school PE teachers did an awesome job putting together lots of activities for all. They have also organized a couple of more fun activities for the last few days of school, including lower school class volleyball challenges and Field Days for Grades 5 and 6.

~ The PTO once again will hold their annual picnics for all students. Our 4th grade class will be creating games for all the lower school students to play during the picnic. Grade 7 will be challenging each with in a Badminton Tournament while Grade 8 will have a Nitro Ball Tournament on the Upper School Picnic Day.

~ Our 8th grade class will be enjoying their last week of school going on 3 field trips before their final assembly and dance which is scheduled for Friday, June 20th.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

Lower School

- Grade 3 went on a field trip to Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park on June 4th;
- Grade 4 went to Methuen Music Hall on June 5 and will go to the State House in Boston later in the month.
- Grade 3 music classes are performing in recorder concerts this week.
- The Grade 4 play will be Friday, June 13th at 9:30 am. The performance is directly aligned with their curriculum and will be performed for Grade 3 students.
- There will be a 4th Grade Luau on June 13th from 6:30 – 8:30 in the upper school gym coordinated by PTO. The students are asked to bring a ‘special person’ to enjoy a DJ, games, prizes, snacks and drinks. The PTO may make this an annual event to celebrate the 4th graders move to Upper School.
- Fun Day will be held on June 19th and June 20th for Upper and Lower School, respectively. The PTO has graciously taken over the planning and coordination for this annual event, which will include slush, face painting, DJ, games and more!! A great way to celebrate the end of another successful year at the Marsh!

Upper School

- Grade 8 is completing the EOY PARCC reading test on Chrome books.
- The 7th/8th grade band and chorus had their concert on May 29th.
- Second annual student/faculty Nitroball competition was held in May.
- 20+ Book Club trip is on June 13th.
- Upper School Fun Day is on June 19th.
- 8th grade trips are on June 16th, 17th & 18th.
 - 6/16 Gr 8 to Canobie
 - 6/17 Gr 8 to Spirit of Boston Cruise
 - 6/18 Gr 8 to Kimball Farm
- Final Assembly and Class Party will be on June 20th
 - Final Assembly (6-7) and Class Party (7:30-9:30)

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Ian Gosselin, Principal

Below is a list of June events at the Tenney Grammar School. As you can see it will be a busy and exciting month.

June 4 -- National Junior Honor Society induction 6 PM

June 5 -- grade 2 walking field trip to Nevins Library
June 6 -- grade 4 field trip to Music Hall
June 10 -- Johnny the K coming to auditorium for K and 1(9:30-10:15)
June 10 -- Kindergarten End of Year Awards (11:00)
June 10 -- Spring Choral Concert 7 PM
June 11 -- PTO sponsored hat day
June 11 -- Sweet Kiwi Fundraiser Noon- 10 PM
June 11 -- Staff Professional Development (early release)- Lock down training
June 12 -- Grade 3 field trip to Franklin Park Zoo
June 12 -- Owl Presentation for grade 2
June 12 -- Volunteer appreciation social (in the staff lounge)
June 13 -- Grade 1 field trip to Charmingfare Farm
June 17 -- Kindergarten Program (10:30)
June 17 -- Lower School Talent Show (rehearsal at 9:00, show at 1:30)
June 17 -- Upper School Fun Day with the PTO
June 18 -- Lower School Fun Day with the PTO
June 19 -- Kindergarten Move-Up Day (9:15)
June 19 -- Grades 1 and 2 End of Year Awards (10:30)
June 19 -- Grade 8 Boston Harbor Dinner Cruise
June 20 -- Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony (9AM)
June 23 -- Grades 3 and 4 End of Year Awards (grade 4 at 9:45, grade 3 at 1:30)
June 24 -- Lower School Move Up Day/Grade 4 Clap-Out

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

Timony Lower School

- Celebrated Allergy Awareness Month during the month of May with the support of the Spirit Council and was able to raise \$150 for the Food Allergy Awareness Foundation.
- The Spirit Council also sponsored the second annual Bubble Day for students in grades Pre-k through grade 4.
- A variety of Standards-Based activities, developed around a children's book by Tomie DePaola, occurred to celebrate the success of all students in the lower school.
- The kindergarten class will be performing its annual end of the year show for parents on June 16th. It is a wonderful collaboration between Mrs. Spignese, the music teacher, and the classroom teachers.
- The Timony Friends and Family Relay for Life Team were able to contribute over \$8,000 dollars towards the fight against cancer during the Methuen Relay for Life event.

Timony Upper School has been a very busy place this month.

- 8th grade students are wrapping things up in their classrooms and preparing for their Spirit Week activities which include student directed plays, field trips and final assembly on June 20th.
- Everyone is looking forward to the PTO sponsored "Fun Day" which is taking place on June 16th.
- The Timony Band and Chorus both had their spring performances this month and gave wonderful concerts!
- Upper school students are looking forward to the annual Timony's Got Talent, talent show which will take place on June 17th from 6 - 9pm in the Timony Auditorium. This

is always a fantastic showcase of our many talented students and we may see a surprise performance from some of our awesome teachers!

- Other exciting events include "Culture Day" being sponsored by the SADD club here, after school field trip to Jay Gee's being sponsored by the Student Council and a celebratory field trip for students who are a part of the 20+ Book Club is coming up.
- Finally, students will have one more reward celebration for their positive behavior as a part of our PBS behavior system. Timony students are really SOARing, (being **S**afe, **O**wning their behavior, being **A**ccepting of everyone, **R**especting everyone).

SADD UPDATE

High School

We started the year off with our annual 9th grade SADD breakfast, at which the principals, superintendent and police chief congratulated the students for their participation and dedication to a healthy lifestyle. We then had a field trip to a haunted woods/hayride event. We met bi-monthly and participated in the activities fair at the main campus. In the late fall and winter we went on a bowling trip to pilgrim lanes. We also made a tree skirt out of recycled t shirts and helped create the SADD festival of trees entry. In the early spring we joined with the district for a trip to skateland which had over 60 students in attendance. Most members participated in the relay for life event in late May. We are looking forward to planning an end of the year celebration.

CGS

The group got a late start in the school year, having trouble finding an advisor, but we kicked off in November. 20 dedicated 7th and 8th graders made for a great year. Students met each week and discussed school issues, played games, made awareness posters and had a great time. We took trips bowling and attended the skateland field trip. We also contributed to the SADD festival of trees entry. Students had their very own relay for life team with 10 members and 6 8th grade members stayed overnight. The group raised over 500 dollars for the American Cancer Society. The group will meet in June to discuss an end of the year activity.

Marsh

We started the year with a presentation by Matt Clarke. He shared his story about drinking and driving. We had a visit from the inmates at CAC in Lawrence. We had Jeff Ellison (ex-MLB player) speak to the group. We had a pizza night and helped with the Festival of Trees recycle project. We had a fundraiser for a SADD member who lost his home in a fire. We had two field trips (bowling and roller skating) that had a high turnout. I also arranged gym time for students to hang out in a supervised setting after school.

Timony

The focus of our May meetings was to continue planning for the fundraising event for the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Back to School Project. Students are very excited to participate in an event that will allow them to 'give back' to their school community. We decided to have a 'Hat and Heritage' day when students will pay \$1.00 to wear a hat in school on Friday June 6th. In addition, students are being asked to wear the colors of their culture so that we may celebrate the diversity of our school. Teachers have the opportunity to wear jeans on Friday to help support our endeavor.. During our meetings this month we were

busy making and hanging posters around the school and a copying a flyer to send home to parents about this fundraiser.

We will continue making black and red bracelets and attaching a 'friendship poem'. These can be used for SADD members to distribute to their friends and/or using them as a fund raiser. The poem below is one that is included in SADD chapter activities. We will use it to write our own personalized poems.

I'm giving this very special gift to you
because you are my friend and I am yours.
Whenever you are tempted
to do something destructive,
look at this gift -- and think of me.
You'll know I care about you.
And you'll know the right thing to do.
Wear this symbol of our friendship
and remember to make the right choice.
We are "Friends for Life."

Our June meeting will be held on Thursday, *June 6th*. We will celebrate our successful year with pizza and juice while we recap and discuss plans for next year.

I look forward to more collaboration next year between the schools and perhaps another 'field trip'. All in all, I do feel we accomplished a significant amount this year with our Festival of Trees activity, Skatelandfield trip, Kick Butts activities and now the 'back to school' fundraiser.

Tenney

Is it really the end of the year? I have had such a great time with my SADD group this year. I have begun recruiting 6th graders for next year by incorporating the contract into my alcohol health unit. It was a way for them to start conversations with their parents and get introduced to the program.

Current 8th grade SADD students helped organize a mini-relay for life at the Tenney which included a march around the property ending with a giant paper ribbon on the front lawn, a speaker, a moment of silence and lots of tears. Definitely memorable and something that will become a tradition here at Tenney.

As advisor, I wanted to share a message to students during the month of May regarding self esteem. I created with the help of other staff members a display of before and after pictures. We all face tough times during one of the most difficult stages of life. As a kid, I was bullied and teased because of my weight and to this day the names still stick. I created a display that shows "It Gets Better" depicting a collage of words and feelings of what it was like hearing those words and how I persevered and survived one of the hardest times in my life. I have also included more recent pictures of some of my more successful endeavors. The display has really gotten a lot of attention and lots of kids talking.

I am really looking forward to expanding some of the big presentations I have done this year at Tenney.