

## METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

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**MARCH, 2014**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS 2014**

##### ***PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE***

Band Jamboree a District Wide Event – Thursday April 10, 2014 @ 7:00 pm - MHS Field House

##### **METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION UPDATE**

The building project continues to move forward in a positive manner. It still remains on time and on budget. The punch list for South House and the new addition (cafeteria, auditorium, adjacent classrooms and practice rooms) which is currently housing sophomore, juniors and seniors is being addressed so that all items will be taken care of prior to the opening of school in September. According to the architect and builder, the North House, which is now under construction, will be completed by mid summer and ready for the opening of school. Again, this has been a team effort.

##### **METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES:**

*Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal*

**DECA** organization is gearing up for the State Career Development Conference at the Marriott Copley Hotel in Boston beginning March 6th. Methuen High School's DECA organization will bring twelve students to the conference in hopes of qualifying for the National Conference in Atlanta.

**Senior Class** is busy planning the senior prom which will take place on May 1st at the Atkinson Country Club. Fun field trips were also put on the senior calendar including trips to Six Flags, Loon Mountain Adventure Park and to the NH Fisher Cats Game. Recent fundraising has included selling Class of 2014 T-Shirts and plans for the class officers to ask local businesses to donate to a raffle.

**Best Buddies** is proudly participating in "Spread the Word to End the Word", connecting with people across the nation to celebrate diversity and end ignorance. Members will host the annual formal wear fashion show on March 7th beginning at 6 p.m. at the Timony Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door. Participants in the fashion show will choose from a variety of formal attire at David's Bridal. We are grateful for their continued support sponsoring the latest and greatest prom fashions again this year.

Over February vacation 13 Methuen High School students spent a marvelous 12 days in Italy. The trip was chaperoned by Ms. Catherine Follonier, a Methuen's Italian teacher. This **foreign exchange** trip is in its 6th year and is coordinated by Carousel Tours based out of Pocasset,

Massachusetts. All students and teachers were hosted by Italian families in Rome and visited an Italian high school. Students toured the Vatican, Rome, Venice, Florence and Pompeii.

**Methuen Army JROTC** Cadets, spearheaded by the Service Learning Officer, Cadet LT Derick Swenson shoveled local Methuen Elderly Veteran's driveways, walkways and wheel chair ramps on multiple occasions this past month. Methuen Army JROTC Exhibition Teams performed for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Marsh, Tenney, and CGS schools this past month. There are currently over 20 cadets mentoring students at both the Tenney and Timony schools. The final Marksmanship, Academic, and Physical Training Competitions were held at Revere High School on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Cadets received trophies and other various individual awards for their performances in these events.

The guidance department is hosting the second annual **Scholarship Information Drop-in Session** at Methuen High School on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 5:30 pm. Parents and students are encouraged to attend the session to learn about the various scholarship opportunities available. Counseling staff will be on hand to answer questions and instruct parents and students on how to access the Naviance online scholarship database, how to fill out scholarship applications, and to provide tips for making the scholarship application process more manageable. Following the drop in session will be a **Junior College Planning Presentation** from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm to assist parents of junior students with preparing for the college search and application process. A question and answer period will follow the event.

The guidance department is also organizing a field trip to Northeastern University on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to attend the "**NEU Splash**" program. The program was started by a Methuen High School alumnus and was designed to afford students with the opportunity to take courses on Northeastern University's campus in order to gain invaluable knowledge about a variety of career fields and academic disciplines.

The **Independent Theater Club** productions are March 14th and March 15th at 7:00pm in the Timony auditorium. There will be two 45 min plays performed, one inspired by and Edgar Allen Poe and the other a Contemporary Satire. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased beforehand or at the door.

**MHS Upcoming Events in March 2014**

JROTC Read Across America	March 4 <sup>th</sup> at 8am–11am / Marsh Grammar School
DECA State Competition	March 6 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday March 8 <sup>th</sup> Marriott Copley Place, Boston MA
JROTC Competition	March 7 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Mass Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Matt Ball Tournament	March 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12th from 2:00 pm-5:00 pm Methuen High School Field House
MHS Talent Show	March 11 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm / Tenney Grammar School

Student-Faculty Basketball Games	March 12 <sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm & 6:00 pm/MHS Fieldhouse
Scholarship Information Session	March 13 <sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 5:30pm / MHS Café
Junior College Planning Presentation	March 13 <sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm / MHS Café
Military Ball	March 14 <sup>th</sup> at 6 pm / Wyndham Hotel / Andover
Independent Theater Production	March 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> at 6 pm/Timony Grammar School
Edible Art Night	March 20 <sup>th</sup> at 6 pm / MHS Café
Coffee House	March 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm- 9 pm / MHS Café
Distracted Driving Assembly	March 28 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am / Methuen High School

### **COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal*

#### **Lower School Events:**

- ~We are so proud of our CGS students and community!! Our final tally for the Jump Rope for Heart fundraising event, sponsored by the American Heart Association, raised \$27,000.00!
- ~ MCAS testing window is March 17th- 31st. Students are motivated to try their best!
- ~ Benchmark assessments will be March 31st- April 4th. This will be an exciting time for us as students will utilize the newly acquired Chromebooks within their classrooms to complete the assessment. There will be fewer interruptions for the students, as we no longer need to create schedules for the computer labs.
- ~ The Media Specialists celebrated Black History Month by reading several books by African American authors. Teachers showcased the diversity and many talents of the authors. Students engaged in great discussions.
- ~ We are planning and preparing for the CGS Ice Cream Social, which will be held on March 26th in the cafeteria. This event is beloved by staff and students. Our theme for the Ice Cream Social is Back to the 80's!!

#### **Upper School Events:**

- ~ Student Assembly to celebrate our Students' of the Month (December and January) and honor one student per grade level that shows the "CGS Pride" – Character Values for December: Cooperation and for January: Responsibility – February 10<sup>th</sup>
- ~ Grade 8 - ROTC presentation by Lt. Col. Stansbury – February 10<sup>th</sup>
- ~ The practice for students in the Drama Club – February 14 and 28
- ~ Academic Bowl Match – February 27<sup>th</sup>
- ~ Yearbook Clubs and Activities Picture Day – March 5th
- ~ Continental League Match – March 13

### **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 in March.

### **Lower School**

- The Grade 2 team created a unit on the Olympics to coincide with the Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, which included activities in reading, writing and math which aligned with the Common Core standards. The culminating activity was a “2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Olympics” where the students competed in the snowball stack, snowball toss, snowshoe chase and a sled race! A great time was had by all, and we hope that more teachers use common planning time to develop high-interest units.
- Read Across America was celebrated on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, in grades PK-5. Thank you to all the members of our community and city leaders who took time out of their day to come in and read a story!
- Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> was also Kindergarten registration day at the Marsh. It’s always a pleasure to welcome these newest members of the school community. Many thanks to all the school staff that helped make this registration process a success, including our school secretaries, nurses, ELL teachers and the parent liaison.
- PTO is holding the annual Jigsaw Jamboree on Friday, March 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Marsh cafeterias. Teams of up to 5 people compete to have the most complete puzzle within one hour of “puzzling”. There are some experienced teams in the Jamboree, and the competition can get pretty heavy as the hour comes to a close!
- Teaching & Learning Alliance (TLA) will be observing kindergarten reading instruction and providing to the teachers as a follow-up to last year’s training. In the following weeks, TLA will be modeling guided reading groups for Grade 1 and 2 teachers in the classroom, with a follow-up discussion and question session.
- Marsh Grammar School’s annual play, “Honk, Jr.!” will be performed for the public on the evenings of March 13 and 14, as well as a matinee performance on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The students have been preparing for many months, and we anticipated a “sell-out” crowd, as usual! The students, staff and volunteers do an amazing job putting together a show that rivals those on Broadway!

### **Upper School**

- Julia McCoy will represent the Methuen Public School SADD program at “Pass it On: Be an Agent of Positive Change in our Community” summit on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Grade 7 and 8 teachers will be completing Google training. Grades 5 and 6 were done in February.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade calendar fundraiser was a huge success. Winners will be drawn each day in March for great prizes.
- Grades 3 to 8 have MCAS – Long Composition is March 18. Reading Composition is March 20 & 21.
- End of trimester 2 ends March 21 for all grades.
- Apple Sauce Launch Night was March 4<sup>th</sup> at Tenney.

### **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Ian Gosselin, Principal*

Below is a list of dates and activities for the Month of March at The Tenney Grammar School:

~March 3-7 -- Read Across America week to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday (March 2)

~March 5 -- Visiting jump rope team presentation for grades K-4 in the auditorium to kick off

- Jump Rope for Heart later this month.
- ~March 7 -- "Read-In" Day grade 1, 11:30-12:00, guests visit classrooms to read with first graders
  - ~March 18 -- Grade 4 MCAS Long Comp.
  - ~March 19 -- PTO meeting (staff lounge) 7:00
  - ~March 20-21 -- Grade 4 MCAS ELA Sessions 1 and 2
  - ~March 25-26-- Grade 3 MCAS ELA Sessions 1 and 2
  - ~March 31-April 4 --Jump Rope for Heart. Associate Principal Shaun Bateman will be shaving his beard if the school can raise \$20,000.

### **TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal*

March will mark the first MCAS testing of the 2013-14 school year. Grades 4 and 7 will complete the Long Composition tests followed by Grades 3-8 completing ELA testing. We are confident and hopeful that our efforts throughout the school year will show up in improved MCAS results.

The Timony has been abuzz with excitement lately. The first incentive reward for the PBIS system took place last Thursday and Friday. Each grade level participated (teachers and students) in a 'dance' during their specials period. It was a great success with the vast majority of students earning the opportunity to participate and having a fantastic time while there. We are all looking forward to the next big PBIS event! Our lower school Spirit Council has begun fundraising for 'Buddy Benches' to be installed on our lower school recess yard and for paint to continue to brighten up our hallways and stairways.

The staff and students at the Timony continue make our school a special place to learn and grow together.

### **SADD UDATE**

On February 27th SADD students from the district gathered at Skateland for a night of rollerblading. The trip was a success with 67 students in attendance.

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

### **CGS:**

Students have been meeting weekly. They have been involved in discussion about drugs in the community and the school and played some fun games. In addition, they have been planning a field trip to dinner and a movie. Students are also planning on doing a fundraiser at "Not Your Average Joes."

### **Marsh:**

The Marsh had 21 students in attendance at Skateland. They will be working with the high school to organize the basketball tournament to support Relay for Life.

**Tenney:**

Students were in attendance at Skateland on Thursday. In addition, this group will be fundraising through the "breathe nh" organization. We will be putting together information to include all SADD chapters district-wide.

**Timony:**

This group organized and planned the district-wide trip to Skateland and has been worked hard to put that together. They also coordinated with the chapter 84, anti-tobacco representative to schedule a meeting time.

**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.