

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MAY, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

MHS Graduation	Friday, June 6, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. Ranger Stadium
24 th Annual Closing Ceremony Dr. Shirley Forrest Callan Methuen Adult Learning Center	Wednesday, Jun 3 11, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. Nevins Memorial Library Great Hall

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS at the MASS STATE SCIENCE FAIR

Brothers Joseph and Michael Wakim received an impressive third place award at the Massachusetts State Science Fair this past Friday May 2nd at MIT while presenting their science project, "Pace Pal."

The third place award is one of the highest honors ever received by a local team at the Massachusetts State Science Fair! This is an outstanding accomplishment for our students!!

As described by the Wakim brothers:

The Pace Pal project was designed to utilize the psychological effects of music in order to assist with the consistency of runners. By taking readings of the runners speed and relating it to the tempo of a song, the software is able to change the pace of the song to match that of the runner. With this tool, as the runner speeds up, the song also speeds up, and as the runner slows down, the song also slows down. This feature will make it clear to the runner if he or she is slowing down so that they can adjust their speed if they choose to.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

Adopt-A-Grandparent held its annual "Senior" Prom at the Methuen Senior Center on Wednesday, April 30. The event was a huge success and attended by the Superintendent as well as the Mayor. This is the club's signature event of the year that truly helps Methuen's eyes of the past meet the eyes of the future. Additionally we are having our annual "Senior" Breakfast at the Methuen Senior Center on Wednesday, May 21st. At this event we will show a video presentation containing pictures and videos from our prom, and we will play our annual game of Pictionary.

The Methuen High School **JROTC** assisted the American Red Cross with their annual blood drive. By the end of the blood drive, the American Red Cross received forty units of blood donated by the students, teachers, and faculty of Methuen High School. The annual **JROTC** Pass

in Review will be held May 9th, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. The program will consist of marching, an award ceremony, drill presentations, and scholarships awards.

The **Mathematics Department** will be facilitating two MCAS Math Workshops for Grade 10 students in preparation for the MCAS testing. The workshops will be instructed by mathematics department staff in the Methuen High School cafeteria from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6th and Monday, May 12th. We encourage all grade 10 students to attend to practice problems, obtain individualized tutoring and familiarize with the assessment.

The **English Department**, forges ahead diligently with curriculum review and revision, we are in the process of adopting a new exciting program for sophomores. The partnership between Methuen High School and StoryCorpsU will enhance our instructional methodology, and hopefully, enhance student engagement. StoryCorpsU is the educational branch of a nationally recognized non-profit oral history project, working in partnership with National Public Radio, the Library of Congress through the National Archives, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. We will be piloting the program for the 2014-15 school year in two English classes taught by Nathan Williams, with Ann Marie Krusell as the Supervising Administrator.

For the past two months, Marianne Levis, Edward Jennings, and Ann Marie Krusell have been attending a course at Middlesex Community College in piloting a writing center program. Our curriculum materials have been highlighted by Dr. Katelyn Ferguson and used as exemplars for the other districts involved. Mr. Jennings is already working with teachers in other disciplines to refine lesson plans in writing across the curriculum. We are hopeful that a staffed writing center will be in place for the next school year.

The **Senior Class** held their annual Mr. Methuen contest on April 15th. Bo Armstrong was crowned Mr. Methuen 2014 with his talented performance of his color guard and dance routine. All of the contestants put in their best effort and the senior class officers, Lauren McAndrew, Adam Marchand, Ben Fitzgerald and Alicia Moro all did their part to make the night a huge success for the senior class. The Class of 2014 Senior Prom at the Atkinson Country Club was held on May 1st. The event featured a grand march for parents to photograph their student and had a masquerade theme. It was a fun experience for the over 435 students in attendance.

The **Foreign Language Department** held their annual National Foreign Language Honor Societies Induction ceremonies for French, Italian and Spanish students of the highest achievement. The event was hosted by co-advisors Catherine Follonier and Susannah Perry.

Michael Wakim and Josph Wakim won an impressive third place award at the **Massachusetts State Science Fair** this past Friday May 2nd at MIT while presenting their science project, "Pace Pal." As described by the Wakim brothers, The Pace Pal project was designed to utilize the psychological effects of music in order to assist with the consistency of runners. By taking readings of the runners speed and relating it to the tempo of a song, the software is able to change the pace of the song to match that of the runner. With this tool, as the runner speeds up, the song also speeds up, and as the runner slows down, the song also slows down. This feature will make it clear to the runner if he or she is slowing down so that they can adjust their speed if they choose to. This third place award is one of the highest honors ever received by a local team at the Massachusetts State Science Fair! This is an outstanding accomplishment for our students!!

The **Key Club** has been involved the past month with: assisting the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence with their Fabulous Feast at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover on April 30th , and assisting with the race day efforts at the Ironstone Farm Derby Road Race on May 3rd . This race asked volunteers from our club to help with race day preparations and to help with supply distribution.

The Methuen High School **Ranger Marching Band and Color Guard** will again be a New England representative in the National Memorial Day Parade, to be held in Washington, DC, on Monday, May 26th. Seventy-seven members of the band will travel to DC several days in advance of the parade on a trip that will include a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, an evening monument tour, a tour of the Capital building, attending a dress rehearsal of the Memorial Day concert by the National Symphony Pops Orchestra on the lawn of the Capital, a trip to Wolf Trap for a concert by the Marine Band, "The President's Own", and a workshop with the retired conductor of the Marine Band.

May Events

Senior Prom	May 1 st at 6:00 p.m. Atkinson Country Club Atkinson, NH
NACAC College Fair	May 1 st 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Boston Convention & Exhibition Center Boston , MA
JROTC Pass in Review	May 9 th at 1:00 p.m.-1:45pm Methuen High School Field House
Senior Trip to Fisher Cats Game	May 16 th at 4:00p.m. Manchester, NH
Concert Choir Performance	May 21 st at 7:00p.m. Timony Grammar School
National Day Parade Band Trip	May 22 nd at 5:00p.m. – May 27 th at 7:00p.m. Washington, DC
Senior Breakfast	May 30 th at 7:30 a.m. Methuen High School Cafe

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

On April 11th and 12th the Drama Club presented *The Little Mermaid*. Everyone did a wonderful job. Thank you to Mrs. Croteau for all her hard work with both the upper school and lower school students who performed.

From May 3rd through the 10th the Nevins Library will have an Art Show. Many of our young artist work will be on display there. Please stop by to take a look at all the great artwork the CGS students have created.

On May 15th the CGS will be having our second annual Family Fitness Night. Our PE Teachers have lots of fun things planned for everyone.

Our Kids Cancer Club will be having a Yard Sale on May 17th in the upper parking lot. Please stop by to help support this club. All proceeds go to the Relay for Life.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

Lower School

- Mathematics MCAS testing was completed in Grades 3 and 4 on May 6th & 7th.
- Field trips are being planned for Kindergarten (York's Wild Kingdom Zoo), Grade 1 (Charmingfare Farm), Grade 3 (Seacoast Science Center at Odiome State Park) and Grade 4 (State House in Boston). When requesting field trips, teachers also provide a description of the trip's alignment with the curriculum standards.
- PTO is sponsoring Staff Appreciation activities on May 12th, 13th and 14th. They are also planning the first 4th grade dance for May 30th.
- Tasha Smutney, Lower School Music Teacher, is coordinating the Memorial Day Program scheduled for Friday, May 23rd in the Upper School gym. The program will include music from each grade level and readings from select 4th graders.
- Teaching & Learning Alliance (TLA) observed grade 2 teachers conducting guided reading lessons, and provided individual feedback to each teacher in a private follow-up discussion. The last TLA session will be on May 16th, and will focus on implementing literature circles in second grade, which some of the teachers have already started.
- Tufts University completed their data collection for 3rd graders enrolled in the ASAP Physical Activity in Schools study. The Tufts research associates were very complimentary of how responsible the students were with their accelerometers and reporting back the data.

Upper School

- Grade 8 piloted the PARCC reading test on Chrome books.
- They will be completing the End of Year PARCC test late May/early June,
- We had a successful Lip-Sync contest as a fundraiser for 8th grade year end events.
- Our 5th/6th grade band and chorus has a great concert on May 1st.
- The 7th/8th grade band and chorus have their concert on May 29th.
- The 8th grade Marsh boys' basketball team plays against the Timony team. This is their second game.
- Math MCAS in Upper School is May 8th and 9th.
- Science MCAS for grades 5 and 8 are on May 12th and 13th.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Ian Gosselin, Principal

- The Tenney Yard Sale is taking place on May 17. We are hoping this will be a huge success.

- Staff Appreciation Week (May 5-9) has been a great success so far with breakfast and lunch provided every day and countless raffle prizes and baskets being awarded this Friday, May 9, due in large part to our outstanding PTO.

LOWER SCHOOL:

- Jump Rope for Heart kicked off during the week of April. The Lower School ultimately raised over \$20,000, resulting in Mr. Bateman shaving his beard at the Tenney Stars presentation on April 17.
- Several 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students were selected to be in the Spring edition of AppleSeed magazine and were recognized at the Launch Night on April 29.
- The Tenney Lunch Stars had a special lunch with Mr. Bateman on May 2. They were recognized for displaying our Tenney ROCKS (Respect, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness, Safety) motto during lunch and recess.
- Grandparent's Day (or Special older friend) will be celebrated in grade 1 on May 15.
- We are also celebrating Children's Book week on May 15 and have scheduled numerous guest readers for the day.
- The Bubble Guy is coming for grade 1 on May 19.
- Johnny the K is coming for grades K and 1 on June 10.
- Lower School Fun Day is on June 18.

UPPER SCHOOL:

- Students Against Destructive Decisions hosted a Zumba Night for the Tenney Community on May 7. This has been a great Tenney tradition.
- The Tenney was dressed in yellow on May 8 as students helped promote Mental Health Awareness. The event was publicized by the Students Against Destructive Decisions.
- Eighth grade students met with young people from Haifa, Israel who are the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. The two groups discussed what it means to be a good citizen of the world, exchanged information about their worlds, and discussed the impact of the Holocaust. This gathering was the culmination of the study of **Anne Frank**.
- Coming Up: **Into the Woods**, a musical presented by the Tenney Drama Club, under the direction of Holly Gray will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.
- Upper School band Concert is May 22 at 7 pm.
- Upper School Fun Day and the Lower School Talent Show are on June 17.

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

May has finally arrived and the Timony continues to be as busy as a bee in springtime. We will be winding up the latest round of MCAS testing next week with Math testing for grades 3-8 and Science/Technology testing in grades 5 and 8. The new teacher evaluation system is also wrapping up this month with administrators completing summative and formative assessments with all staff.

This Thursday and Friday the Timony drama club will be representing their production of *Suessical the Musical* and, based on all the hard work they've put in. This promises to be a great show! Also this month our PTO will be hosting the always popular Ice Cream Social on May 20th.

As we continue to move forward toward the end of the school year, teachers at the Timony are working very hard to deliver the final months of Common Core Curriculum and prepare our students for a productive summer and a successful next year.

SADD UDATE

Advisors have been discussing a district-wide, SADD, end of the year celebration in June. Details TBA

MHS:

Students have been working hard to promote and prepare for the basketball tournament fundraiser at the high school field house from 12-4 on May 24 to benefit Relay for Life. The SADD Relay for Life team is continuing to raise money and has scheduled a fundraiser with Not Your Average Joes as well as canning at Heavenly donuts.

CGS:

Students created their very own relay team and are working on raising money for the event. In addition, they will attend a dinner and a movie night, the third week in June. They are also participating in the basketball tournament in May.

Timony:

The group planned an event to raise money for the Arlington Neighborhood Back to School Project to give back to their community. Ideas include a hat or PJ day in school. They will make black and red bracelets with a friendship poem to distribute to friends and possibly use as a fundraiser.

Tenney:

Students are planning a "shine a light on mental health" campaign. They have been working on displays that raise awareness for mental health issues. SADD is helping with the PTO teacher appreciation week as well. In addition, "kick butts" day was a large success.

Marsh:

Students have been working with the high school to plan the basketball tournament. They met this month to discuss and plan. Stacey is out for medical reasons so the students will work with Ms. Rubino to attend and gather teams for the basketball tournament.