

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MAY, 2015

MHS UPCOMING DATES

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Event</i> | <i>Location</i> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| May 2, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. | JROTC Bean Pot | Methuen High School |
| May 2, 2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Spring Band Concert | MHS Auditorium |
| May 19, 2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Concert | MHS Auditorium |
| May 21, 2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Mr. Methuen | MHS Auditorium |
| May 29, 2015 | 7:30 a.m. | Senior Breakfast | MHS Cafeteria |
| June 1, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Honors and Awards Night | MHS Auditorium |
| June 2, 2015 | 7:30 a.m. | Senior Class Trip | Six Flags Agawam, MA |
| June 3, 2015 | 7:30 a.m. | Senior Class Trip | Loon Mountain Lincoln, NH |
| June 4, 2015 | 11:00 a.m. | Senior Cookout | Methuen High School |
| June 5, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. | Graduation Practice | Tsongas Arena Lowell, MA |
| June 6, 2015 | 10:00 a.m. | Graduation Ceremony | Tsongas Arena Lowell, MA |

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

Our **TED-Ed** Club will be featured in TED-Ed video and on May 14th, they will be participating in another Connect Meeting to share with other clubs around the country and world.

Last month the **Science Club** gathered samples of dirt from a basin and filtered microscopic meteorites out of it. They identified them through microscopes. Also, they constructed a chaos pendulum from recycled materials from previous projects. At the next meeting we will be using other recycled materials to make a Newton cradle.

At a **Law Day Contest**, sponsored by the Lawrence Bar Association a sophomore Jacob Greer represented Methuen High School and took 1st place. Jacob competed against eight other students from Andover, Brooks Academy, Central Catholic, Lawrence High Schools, Presentation of Mary, and Salem, NH. His speech relating the Magna Carta and its legal principles to the concept of privacy and its evolving definition as it relates to our technological society was a favorite of the law professionals attending despite excellent speeches delivered by all of the candidates.

Adopt-A-Grandparent held their annual "Senior" Prom on April 15. The event was a huge success and has a follow up event, our "Senior" Breakfast, served at the senior center on

Wednesday, May 6th from 2:15 to 3:45. We'll watch on the big screen an edited video put together of footage from the prom and we'll also play our annual game of Pictionary.

The **Video Club** students worked on planning and scripting a new "Music Now" talk show, arranged for another live performance scheduled for early May, watched a video of Walt Disney explaining a special animation camera technique he developed (multi-plane), worked with paper and pencil animation using the animation tool works video lunchbox, learned advanced iMovie editing techniques, continued to build Adobe After Effects skills including work on basic video animation, green screen effects, and video transitions.

The **Fine Arts Department** had the Music of West African residency visit Methuen High School for lessons and a performance. The annual Band Jamboree was held on the April 16th with all of the middle school bands and the high school band. A district-wide Art Show was held on May 2nd at the Nevins Library during the library's regular hours. The big spring band concert was held on May 2nd in the auditorium, featuring the Symphonic band, Ranger Jazz, and Dirty Hands Ink.

The **Senior Class** had a wonderful evening at the Atkinson Country club for the senior prom. As the end of the year is quickly approaching the Senior Class is getting ready for several senior activities including Mr. Methuen, Senior Awards Night, the senior class trips to Six Flags and Loon Mountain.

The **DECA Club** had one representative, Alexandra Doyle travel to the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. At the ICDC she participated in the leadership academy and spoke at the Muscular Dystrophy Association luncheon. She will be the club president next year and we are eager to start organizing and recruiting members for next year.

This month in **Photo Club** they went on a photo shoot around the school grounds. The main focus of the photo shoot was working with composition. They photographed nature using shallow depth-of-field to create extreme close-ups. Students then took the images off the cameras and presented them on the televisions to the group.

The StoryCorps production team has made their final selections for a national recording. Selected sophomores are Amirah Tayb, Amanda Mambro, Geralda Saintil, and Tyleeah Gonzalez. The program was brought to Methuen by **English Department** teacher Nathan Williams. English teacher Amy Escott has met with a representative from the non-profit organization called Storyshares which provides teachers with new books and contemporary writers free of charge.

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

Lower School

- The inclusive Reading Intervention tutors, in grades 1-3, will commence their service on **May 7th**. This important initiative has shown to be successful. Teachers have been able to dedicate more individual time with students, targeting specific areas of strength and need.
- Math MCAS for grades 3 and 4 will begin on **May 12th** and **13th**. Students have been encouraged to "Show What You Know," through problem solving skills, and computation. We are hopeful that students will show great progress.
- Saturday, **May 2nd**, will be the annual CGS Yard Sale. The Kids' Cancer Club will host this event from 8:00- 1:00, weather permitting. In the event of rain, the Yard Sale will be held May 3rd. All profits will be donated to the CGS Relay for Life team.

- The CGS Relay for Life Walk will be held on **May 27th**. This annual event is a hit among staff and students. The school community comes together as a powerful fundraising team, focused on fighting cancer. As a culminating activity, the CGS will hold its first ever, Special Someone dance on the evening of **May 29th**. This fundraiser will provide an opportunity for CGS students to attend a dance with an adult who is meaningful to them. We are really looking forward to this event!
- The beloved CGS Community Guest Reader Event is scheduled for **May 6th** from 9:00- 9:35. The students look forward to seeing many community leaders and partners at this event.
- Members of the Grades 3 and 4 CGS chorus groups will perform Spring concerts at the end of the month. They are excited to share original pieces with the audience. Grade 3 will be held on **May 20th**, and Grade 4 will be held on **May 21st**. Both shows will begin promptly at 6:00.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

Lower School

- Mrs. Mace's second grade class just created a classroom "Green Team", which was inspired by their reading of the book, Ready Freddy: Save the Earth by Abby Klein. The students had ten "green" incentives to complete (such as taking a shower instead of a bath, picking up 10 pieces of trash in the neighborhood, turning off the water when brushing your teeth, etc.) to earn membership on the "Green Team". The students proudly wore their Green Team t-shirts in class to celebrate their commitment to preserving our natural resources.
- Marsh PTO is sponsoring their annual Staff Appreciation on May 4-6, 2015. There will be desserts for lunch on Monday, breakfast on Tuesday and a Texas Roadhouse catered lunch on Wednesday.
- The Computer Science Club just finished up a successful year. Organized and run by Karen Farrell, Media Specialist, the 39 third and fourth-graders who participated had a good time, learned a lot about coding, programming and earned national recognition for their meet scores!
- MCAS Math testing will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 12 and 13 (grades 3-8) and Science MCAS will be on Friday, May 15 and Monday, May 18 (grades 5 and 8).
- Progress Reports will be sent home on Wednesday, May 8th.
- Lower School teachers engaged in WIDA professional development in both April and in May, courtesy of the ELL coach, Mary DeSimone, for guidance in writing language objectives.
- Second grade had a very successful Reader's Showcase on April 16, 2015. Parents and families were invited to view displays which the students had prepared on favorite books. It was a great way to highlight the students' growth in reading and writing over the school year, and the high turnout for this new event was exciting—we're looking forward to this being an annual event!

Upper School

- On behalf of Marsh Grammar School, Mrs. Lake received a \$500 Mobil Energy Alliance Grant for Science Education. Thanks to Ted's Stateline Mobile for partnering with us!
- Two of our 8th graders whose work was entered in this year's NECC Peace Poetry Contest were accepted to be published in their chapbook: George El Hachem, "Set the World Free" and Emily Reeves, "In a Field of Daisies." There will be a poetry reading on the Haverhill campus to celebrate their contribution on Friday May 1st from 6-8pm.
- Marsh's Class of 2015 tile 'quilt' installed in the foyer.
- 3rd trimester progress reports will go home May 6.

- Math MCAS administered 5/12 and 5/13.
- Science, Technology, and Engineering MCAS administered May 15 and May 18.
- Student/faculty Nitroball competition—May 26th.
- 7th and 8th grade Band/Chorus Concert on May 28th.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Principal

- About 300 Tenney family members took part in Mama Tenney night. The event, a long-time tradition was on hiatus, but returned this year, thanks to the partnership between PTO and staff. A big thank you to our community partner, Stachey's Pizza and owner Terry Holland who donated ALL the pasta, food and meatballs for the event.
- Tenney staff members, 16 representing upper and lower schools, kicked off the Saturday starting April vacation with a visit to the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. headquarters. This was the first Tenney Outreach effort designed to support our school goal of improving parent involvement. Thanks to Linda Soucy who volunteered her time and building, Staff brought resources from Math MCAS practice problems to free books, food and decorated the meeting area with Tenney student work. The staff plans to get more involved in the life of the neighborhood and MAN, Inc.
- In keeping with our efforts to improve two way communication with parents, the upper school hosted two seminars this month to help parents as they support their children's academic efforts. Inclusion teacher Sharon Landers and ESL teacher Betty Sarno invited parents in to learn how to help students organize their academic work better. The four person Grade 8 team, Sarah Calla, John Lagnese, Kathy Bodenrader and Jessica Leal are offering an interdisciplinary project to help eighth grade students boost their grades as we near the end of the school year. More than 25 parents attended a special "lesson" so they could better understand the project, hear about deadlines and learn how to support their child's efforts.
- Phase II of Show What You Know MCAS initiative went home with Progress Reports. Every student sitting for the math MCAS received an opportunity to complete an MCAS-style math problem at home with family. Students who returned the problems completed received a Tenney Rocks ticket and the opportunity to win fabulous prizes
- Science and Math MCAS testing has begun and again, every student who tests receives a breakfast bag, courtesy of the PTO to help power their brains.
- Charlene Bleem, occupational therapist at the Tenney, hosted a special class on the life of bees for our first graders. Charlene, who is also a beekeeper, connected her lesson with the classrooms standards.
- Tenney lower school students participated in their annual Jump Rope for Heart event during their physical education classes and were led by Stefanie Boudreau and Kristen Swales. Over the past several years, the Tenney has raised over \$70,000 for the American Heart Association and have been among the top fundraising schools in the state. This year the lower school's goal for the event was to raise \$20,000. The donations are still being tallied.
- The Drama Club Production of Guys and Dolls brought Broadway to the Tenney on May 7 and 8. Thank you to directors Holly Gray and Bob Connelly.
- Upper School Associate Principal has organized a team-meeting of Grade 9 and Tenney Grade 8 teachers this week to discuss how to best prepare our eighth graders for high school.
- Coming Up: PTO Ice Cream Social, May 19, 7 pm

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

May is an exciting month at the Timony Grammar School. MCAS continues with Science, Technology and Mathematics testing. We have already had four great community engagement events; Family Literacy Night, a fifth and sixth grade dance, Family Math Night and a 'Kindergarten Camp-Out' themed academic night for families.

Upcoming events include the Timony drama clubs presentation of Legally Blonde Jr. on May 7-8 at 7:00pm. The PTO has scheduled many daily events in recognition of teacher appreciation week and their annual Spring Social is coming at the end of the month. The boys and girls middle school basketball team has started their season with wins and hope to continue with their success.

Our PBIS team started training last week and will continue it at the end of the month. Exciting curriculum initiatives for next year are in the planning stages and we continue to move forward with the hard work of giving our students the necessary tools for success.

SADD UPDATE

MHS

Students are still working towards raising money for the Relay for Life fundraiser. The group will be helping to plan an end of the year get together/celebration.

TIMONY

We continued with the 'Airing Out Big Tobacco's Dirty Laundry' activity during our April meeting.

Our focus in May will be to begin planning for next year. One student suggested we try to form focus groups for students who have a specific interest or talent in a given area. We do have a rather large group and I wish to meet the needs and interests of all students. Several students liked this idea so we will begin setting up groups and a calendar for next year.

TENNEY

SADD members proudly helped serve over 300 guests at our annual Mama Tenney. They are wrapping up our year with hopes of offering a "Drug Free Zone" at our fun days where we will offer games, temporary tattoos and other fun drug free activities!!

CGS

Students will be planning an end of the year outing. The group will meet once in May and once in June to solidify plans.

MARSH

They are running a fundraiser for MHS Relay for Life. They will be selling bracelets and all proceeds will be donated.