

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MAY, 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>			
May 20	9-1	JROTC Blood Drive	MHS Fieldhouse
May 21, 12pm -May 22, 8am		Merrimack Valley Relay for Life	Nicholson Track&Field
May 23	6:30 pm	School Committee Workshop	Central School
May 30		Memorial Day – ALL School Buildings Closed	
June 10	Early Release	Professional Development Day	
June 20	Early Release	Last Day CGS, Marsh, Tenney, High School Students & Faculty	
June 21	Early Release	Last Day for Timony Grammar School Students & Faculty	

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal

As we welcome the nice weather in May, we also plan for and participate in our next round of very important testing. Scheduled for the first two weeks of May, we will administer about six-hundred Advanced Placement exams. In mid-May, our sophomore students will be participating in two days of MCAS mathematics testing. I am grateful for the commitment and effort of our students and faculty in preparing for AP and MCAS exams.

Also in May, we celebrate the eighth annual Merrimack Valley Relay for Life. This wonderful community event will be held outside at the Nicholson Track beginning on Saturday, May 21, at noon and continue through the night until Sunday morning at 8 a.m. Each year, a special part of Relay for Life is the luminaria ceremony where personalized luminaria bags and candles are dedicated in honor, memory, or support of those who have battled or are currently battling cancer. This touching ceremony will begin at 9 p.m. Thank you to those who have contributed to the planning of our Merrimack Valley Relay for Life.

Bean Pot Raider Challenge:

Now that April is underway, the Battalion is looking forward to its next upcoming competition, the Bean Pot Competition. This is held annually at Methuen High School and consists of the Ranger Battalion, along with other neighboring JROTC programs. The event will be featuring a 5km run, litter carrying, first aid, PT test and Land Navigation, where Raider Team members will have to show their aptitude in the aforementioned fields. The Battalion's Raider Team is excited to be holding this event and is training hard to compete fiercely against the other teams.

JROTC 100th Annual 5km Run:

At the end of April, battalions across the world will be participating in a 5km run for the celebration of the passing of the National Defense Act of 1916, which created the original ROTC program. This will be happening the same day of the Bean Pot Competition, so multiple schools will be participating on the track near the High School around noon. LET II and III cadets will be coordinating this event in

conjunction with the ongoing competition so that all participants start at the same time as other JROTC units worldwide.

5K Update

The 100th Army JROTC Anniversary 5K Run which was held this past Saturday. Approximately 500 JROTC cadets from all across the state as well as ROTC cadets from Boston College and Northeastern University participated.

The Battalion:

Once April comes to a close, the end of the year events for JROTC will be coming about. The Battalion is working quickly to prepare for the upcoming Pass-In-Review, which is an annual event held in the Field House of Methuen High School. Afterwards, there will be a Red Cross blood drive later in May, along with a few other events to be mentioned later.

Adopt-A-Grandparent:

Is having our "Senior" Breakfast at the Methuen Senior Center on Wednesday, May 11. We will serve breakfast food to the senior citizens and will show a slideshow/video of our "Senior" Prom from April 13.

Girls JV Lacrosse:

The girls JV lacrosse team took part in the trail cleanup this past Saturday, 4/30 and also took part in the Colleen Ritzer 5k race on 5/1. Some players ran the race and some players worked as race volunteers.

GSA:

The GSA will be marching in the Youth Pride parade held in Boston on Saturday, May 20th. The members are very excited to be participating in such a great event.

Spain Trip:

Thirteen students traveled to Spain in April. They were able to practice their language skills in a real world context and found themselves immersed in history as they toured many important sites. Everyone had a great time and came back safely!

Science Fair:

Jacqueline Cassidy and Katerina Tsakirellis will proudly represent Methuen High School at the Massachusetts State Science fair at MIT on Friday May 6th and Saturday May 7th. The Methuen team will display and present their outstanding project "Testing Water Turbidity."

The MHS Society of Democrats and Republicans:

Currently discussing year end plans and creating a future plan for recruitment, events, and opportunities for students moving forward. The pilot year of this group was promising and looks forward to building membership and community involvement next year.

Concurrent Enrollment Program:

A grant-funded partnership between Northern Essex Community College, Salem State University, and Methuen High School is underway with the goal of expanding dual enrollment by three-hundred percent in the 2016-2017 school year. Planning meetings have been held and students have been identified for this project, which is expected to increase student enrollment in dual enrollment programs by close to four-hundred percent by instituting a practice known as concurrent enrollment to

create a sustainable and easily accessible dual enrollment opportunity for qualified students. Concurrent enrollment is defined as a partnership between a secondary and postsecondary institution in which curriculum approved by both institutions is offered to students at the secondary school by secondary teachers for college credit. Methuen High School's establishment of a concurrent enrollment program constitutes one of the first and largest concurrent enrollment programs in the state. A site visit has been planned by the Department of Higher Education for the month of May to discuss this exciting new program and learn from the work that has been conducted to date in Methuen.

Boston National College Fair:

Juniors will be attending the Boston National College Fair on May 23. Hundreds of representatives from postsecondary institutions will be present to assist students with establishing a plan for life after high school.

MAY EVENTS

- AP Exams - Monday, May 2, 2016, through Thursday, May 12, 2016
- Senior Class Fundraiser at Margarita's - Wednesday, May 4, 2016
- MHS Theater Performance: "Narnia" - Thursday, May 5, Friday, May 6 & Saturday, May 7, 2016
- MCAS Math Blitz - Monday, May 9, 2016, through Thursday, May 12, 2016
- Getting Ready for Math MCAS Parents Night - Thursday, May 12, 2016
- JROTC Pass in Review - Friday, May 13, 2016
- Senior Class Trip to Red Sox Game - Friday, May 13, 2016
- MHS Choir Coffee House Performance - Saturday, May 14, 2016
- MCAS Mathematics Grade 10 Test, Session 1 - Tuesday, May 17, 2016
- MCAS Mathematics Grade 10 Test, Session 2 - Wednesday, May 18, 2016
- Guest Speaker Jeff Allison - Monday, May 23, 2016
- Senior Honors and Awards Night - Wednesday, May 25, 2016
- Senior Class Breakfast - Thursday, May 26, 2016
- Connections - Thursday, May 26, 2016
- Senior Prom at Atkinson Country Club - Thursday, May 26, 2016
- Early Release - Friday, May 27, 2016
- Senior Class Trip to Loon Mountain - Tuesday, May 31, 2016

COMING IN JUNE:

- Senior Class Trip to Six Flags - Wednesday, June 1, 2016
- MCAS STE Test, Grade 9 Biology, Session 1 - Wednesday, June 1, 2016
- MCAS STE Test, Grade 9 Biology, Session 2 - Thursday, June 2, 2016
- Graduation Practice and Senior Cookout - Thursday, June 2, 2016
- MHS Class of 2016 Commencement - Friday, June 3, 2016
- Spring Choral Concert - Monday, June 6, 2016
- Move up to MHS - CGS & Marsh Grade 8 Students - Monday, June 6, 2016
- Move up to MHS - Timony & Tenney Grade 8 Students - Tuesday, June 7, 2016
- Connections - Wednesday, June 8, 2016
- Spring Athletic Awards Night - Thursday, June 9, 2016
- Final Exams Review Day - Monday, June 13, 2016
- Final Exams - Tuesday, June 14, 2016, through Monday, June 20, 2016

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

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

LOWER

- Math MCAS testing will begin on **May 12th** for all students in grades 3-8.
The sessions are as follows:

Grade 4	Session 1: May 16th
	Session 2: May 19th
Grade 3	Session 1: May 18th
	Session 2: May 23rd

Students have been encourage to “*Show What You Know,*” through problem solving skills, and computation. We are hopeful that students will show great progress.

- Saturday, **May 7th**, will be the annual **CGS Yard Sale**. The Kids’ Cancer Club will host this event from 8:00- 1:00 in our upper parking lot. Anyone interested may bring items to sell, beginning at 6:30a.m. All profits will be donated to the CGS Relay for Life team.
- The beloved **CGS Community Guest Reader Event** is scheduled for **May 3rd** from 9:00- 9:35. The students look forward to seeing many community leaders and partners at this event.
- Grade 3 students will perform their Spring Concert on **May 19th**. Students are excited to share their recorder skills and sing catchy tunes! The show will begin promptly at 6:00 in the auditorium.

UPPER

- The CGS upper school students are participating in a series of activities during the month of May. Our boys’ basketball team will be playing games with other Methuen upper school teams throughout the month. There will be an ELA League Awards ceremony on May 11 from 2:30 to 3:00 PM. The Jump Rope for Heart, for the American Heart Association, will take place on May 25 at the CGS. Please join us for all of these wonderful events!

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

LOWER

- Grades 3 and 4 will take their Math MCAS tests on May 11-12 and May 17-18, respectively. We are hoping to have a small number of absentees as we did for the ELA test which makes the administration significantly easier!
- PBIS Assemblies were held on Thursday and Friday, April 28th and 29th—Mrs. Mace’s class had a great presentation with singing, dancing and skits on safety, respect and responsibility.
- The Jigsaw Jamboree was held on April 29th from 6-8 PM.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is being recognized by PTO with a dessert lunch on Monday, 5/2/16, breakfast on Tuesday, 5/3/16, and catered lunch on Wednesday, 5/4/16.
- Spring Fling will be held on Friday, May 20th for students in grades 1-3, Grade 4 will have their annual end-of-Lower-School social (“Hollywood Nights”) on Friday, June 10th from 6-8PM.
- Grade 1 is going to Charmingfare Farm for their annual field trip on Thursday, May 19th.
- The Marsh Retirement Celebration will be held on June 9th at Tavern by the Water from 4-6PM. Dan Pinciak, Donna Stetson, Donna Chaisson and Cathy Shea-Chaisson will be feted at the celebration, and we are hoping for good weather so that the deck will be well-utilized!

UPPER

- The Marsh Upper School ended the month of April with the Jigsaw Jamboree on Friday, April 29th when on that same day Term 3 Progress Reports went home to parents. We are going into May preparing for the Math, Science and Technology MCAS tests. The PTO is hosting a week of Teacher Appreciation events the first week of May, including a day of dessert, a day of breakfast,

and a day of lunch for teachers. May ends with the final submission of teacher evaluations for the 2015-2016 school year.

- On Tuesday, May 3rd, representatives from the Attorney General's office will present to upper school students information about internet safety. MCAS testing will take place the week of May 9th and it will end on May 24th. On Wednesday, May 25th, the Chorus and Band Concert for grades 5 and 6 will take place at 7:00PM (the concert for grades 7 and 8 will be on June 2). Finally, on May 27th, we will have a professional development day for staff right before Memorial Day weekend.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal

Spring is finally here and staff and students at the Tenney are filling the brighter, warmer days with plenty of learning and growing. So far, our spring has been marked with accomplishments.

Eighth grader Neriah Sullivan was named the top winner in the Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest. The contest honors Holocaust survivor Mr. Arbeiter who has helped educate thousands of children about the Holocaust. Neriah was honored at Day of Remembrance in Boston May 1 and joined by 70 Methuen Tenney and Timony students. She received a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.

Grade 6 students took part in the 30 Day Challenge that promoted punctuality, good attendance and behaviors. Each homeroom saw significant improvement in all areas and Mrs. Dionne's room was declared the winner. Each student in the homeroom received passes to Laser Craze and other students who showed improvement were also recognized. Thanks to the teachers, students and staff who all supported the program. School psychologist Christine Crocker coordinated the effort.

Our 8th grade team hosted a successful Gallery Walk night. More than 150 parents and family members enjoyed student writing and had the chance to write responses to their students' work. To close the evening, students and guests watched a showing of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

Teacher Jacqui McLaughlin secured 200 books for our Book Pantry. The donations will support our efforts to make sure every child has books at home to enjoy. Teacher **Katie Collins** has spearheaded the effort for the past two years.

Our Media Center coordinated a family literacy day. Parents were invited in to be guest readers in their child's classroom.'

Our Upper School Learning Center staff hosted a Family Game Night. Folks gathered to play cards, games of strategy and enjoy refreshments.

The Tenney Drama Club presented the musical *Once on This Island* under the direction of Holly Gray and Robert Connolly.

Staff supported our PBIS program with a Paint Night. Twenty seven staff members attended, painted a beach scene and spent some time building community

Coming up:

MCAS: Our students are ready to finish strong with Math and Science MCAS. Once again, our fabulous PTO will provide breakfasts to all students who are testing.

Student Showcase: Grade 6 students will display their work May 25 for family and friends

A **"Welcome to Upper School!"** meeting for parents June 7.

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

- Jump rope for hearts was a huge success grade three and four raised \$6000.00.
- Students Rocked the MCAS in April and are preparing for Math and Science MCAS later this month.

- The Lower School celebrated poetry month by sponsoring a poetry contest for all students.
- There was a winner in each grade. The winners won an award, a book and a gift card. The grand prize winner won 2 books, a award and a gift card.
- Students grade kindergarten through 2 had an assembly with Firefighter Phil to learn about fire safety. While Captain Buote taught 3rd about fire safety.
- The Timony Lower School will celebrate the first annual “Boys Night Out”. This will be a themed based party with special guests from each hometown sports team. The children will have the opportunity to take pictures of themselves with the guest using selfie sticks.
- The Rotary Club comes in the third Wednesday of the month and reads to the Kindergarten students.
- The Timony boasts an essay winner for the statewide Israel Arbeiter awards at Faneuil Hall. The essay topic was “From Holocaust to New Life: How Will We Remember?” Eleany DeJesus was third place winner for the Timony Grammar School. Ms. Kathleen Stacy is Eleany’s English Language Arts teacher. This is the fourth year in a row that Ms. Stacy has had a winner in her classroom. Ms. Brianna McCarthy and Ms. Stacy accompanied a group of sixth grade student to Boston for the award ceremony.
- The PTO is graciously sponsoring food and raffles for teachers all week during Teacher Appreciation Week. We are grateful for their generosity.
- The PTO is also sponsoring an ice cream social. Don’t forget to check your calendar’s for the PTO raffle prizes which are award this month.

SADD UPDATE

District-Wide:

All schools are planning the end of the year celebration.

High School:

High school SADD members were involved in the Holy family trail cleanup effort on the 30th

CGS:

The CGS is busy planning the last field trip of the school year.

Marsh:

SADD members will be attending the Marsh intramural boys' and girls' basketball games between the other grammar schools. There are four games during the month of May. Hopefully the Marsh will have a good turnout at each game