

# METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

### MAY 2019

#### UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b><i>PLEASE SEE SCHOOL UPDATES BELOW FOR HAPPENINGS IN THEIR SCHOOLS</i></b>			
5/10-5/22		During Library Hours – MPS District Wide Art Show @	Nevins Library
5/22/19	6:30 p.m.	Budget Workshop	MHS-Media
5/24/19		Early Release Professional Development K-12	
5/27/19		ALL OFFICES ARE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY	
5/28/19	6:30 p.m.	Budget Workshop	MHS-Media
5/30/19	6-8 p.m.	SEPAC Meeting	Tenney-Audit.
6/4/19	6:00 p.m.	Academic Bowl FINALS	MHS
6/10/19	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting	MHS-Media

#### METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

*Submitted by Richard Barden, Principal*

##### **JROTC**

##### **Adopt-A-Veteran**

On April 4th, the Ranger Battalion visited the Methuen Village to conduct a service learning activity. The cadets talked about their uniforms and the awards on it and what they mean. The veterans and other members of the nursing home talked about what life was like when they were in high school.

##### **JPA Supply Room Inspection**

On April 22nd, a representative from 2nd brigade came down to Methuen High School to inspect our JROTC supply room to see how organized, how our resources were being used and to see if the Ranger Battalion was issuing out uniforms correctly.

##### **Adopt-A-Veteran**

On April 25th, the Ranger Battalion visited the Methuen Village to conduct a service learning activity. The cadets talked about their uniforms and the awards on it and what they mean, and after the cadets talked about their Military Ball that they had in March.

##### **JPA Formal Inspection**

On April 26, the Ranger Battalion had a representative from 2nd brigade come down to formally inspect our JROTC unit on JROTC knowledge, staff briefs, service learning briefs, and cadet and instructor portfolios. The representative said that this was one of the best inspections he has ever conducted and that the Ranger Battalion earned the rating of "Honor Unit with Distinction"

### **Raider Competition**

On April 27th, the Ranger Battalion had a raider team competition at Fort Devens. The competition consisted of five categories; 1.5-mile run, obstacle course, Raider gauntlet, land navigation, and a one rope bridge.

### **Pass in Review**

On May 3rd, the Ranger Battalion had its annual Pass in Review and Change of Command Ceremony. Pass in Review consisted of a trooping of the line, which is a personal inspection on platoon structure and a uniform inspection. 27 awards and scholarship were also handed out to the cadets for excellent leadership and academic qualities by various sponsoring organizations.

At the end of the ceremony, the SAI promoted Colin Tibert to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and formally made him the JROTC Battalion Commander.

### **Funeral Flag Burning Color Guard**

On May 4th, the Ranger Battalion conducted a color guard at the Pollard Funeral Home during a flag burning ceremony.

### **STUDENTS HELPING OTHERS**

Students Helping Others is going to be cleaning up our parking lot this Saturday. We're looking forward to the 3v3 MHOP basketball game and to the Special Olympics to finish out the year for the most part! The kids have continued to tutor at the lower grammar schools as well.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

During the month of April and into May, students met in L025 after school every Wednesday from 2 to 3pm. Student continued working on their 'Little Libraries' project. This is a community service project working in conjunction with the Nevins Library.

During the month of February, students in the NAHS designed a small decorative 'mini' library to be built. The libraries have now been constructed, and students are working hard on painting, and bringing their designs to life! The finished 'little libraries' will be sent to the Nevins library to later be installed around the city. Attached below are some images of the students working.

### **ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT**

Adopt-A-Grandparent had a very successful "Senior" Prom and is hosting our follow up "Senior" Breakfast on May 15 when we will provide bagels, muffins, donuts, fruit, coffee, and drinks to the senior citizens and show everyone a video of the dancing and good times at the prom. We will continue to meet at the senior center each Wednesday afternoon until the beginning of June.

### **GSA**

Please wear pink or rainbow colors on Friday, May 17 to commemorate the passing of the same sex marriage law in Massachusetts in 2004.

## **KEY CLUB**

**Saturday, May 18-** Key Club is volunteering at the Kiwanis Bike Safety Rodeo from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Chick-fil-A parking lot. Kiwanis and Key Club plan to hand out 200 bike helmets to children and teach them bike safety.

**Saturday, May 25** - Key Club will be selling pre-packaged peanuts (donated by Texas Roadhouse) outside of Mann's Orchard from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

## **MHS SADD, Peer Leaders, Game Change students, and Students Helping Others**

MHS SADD, Peer Leaders, Game Change students, and Students Helping Others will all be volunteering in service of our annual Methuen Fun Field Day, a wonderful event that brings the entire Methuen Public School community together to celebrate all of our school's athletes. This event is scheduled to take place on May 31st from 9AM-1PM at Arthur Nicholson Stadium. Everyone is invited to support this fantastic event.

## **FRENCH CLUB**

The French Club met in February for cookie decorating for Valentine's Day and in April for painting. We will also meet in May for card games.

## **HISTORY HONOR SOCIETY**

The History Honor Society shipped its final series of care packages to soldiers deployed abroad. With seniors graduating soon, our final event will be recognizing our senior members with Honor Cords for graduation and electing new officers for next year. We look forward to contributing to the Methuen Community even more next year!

## **PHOTO CLUB**

In this meeting, we went to the media center to learn and talk more about photoshopping and editing photos in our google pictures app. We made three edits, a funny, a serious, and one we wanted. After doing so, we shared our photos with one another and continued to talk more about the subject.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

For the month of May, the student council will be running the class elections to elect our class officers for the next school year. The student council will be offering nominations to interested candidates, recording all candidates' speeches on video, writing up a ballot with a link to a YouTube clip that contains all speeches, holding the elections and notifying the winners

## **MAY 2019 (*Subject to Change*)**

- SAT Administration at MHS - Saturday, May 4, 2019
- Faculty Meeting - Monday, May 6, 2019
- AP Exams - Monday, May 6, 2019, through Friday, May 17, 2019
- Fourth Term Midpoint - Tuesday, May 7, 2019
- District-wide Art Show Opening Ceremony - Thursday, May 9, 2019
- Best Buddies Dance - Friday, May 10, 2019
- JROTC Raiders Competition (at Devens) - Saturday, May 11, 2019

- MHS Spring Band Concert Featuring Dirty Hands Ink - Saturday, May 11, 2019
- NECC Dual Enrollment Parent Night - Tuesday, May 14, 2019
- MHS Spring Choral Concert - Tuesday, May 14, 2019
- Senior Class Pre-Prom Assembly - Friday, May 17, 2019
- Senior Class Cookout - Friday, May 17, 2019
- Methuen High School - Searles - Tenney Hall of Fame Dinner & Induction Ceremony at DiBurro's in Haverhill - Friday, May 17, 2019
- Senior Class Breakfast - Monday, May 20, 2019
- Department Meetings - Monday, May 20, 2019
- School Council Meeting - Tuesday, May 21, 2019
- MCAS Mathematics Grade 10 Test, Session 1 - Tuesday, May 21, 2019
- MCAS Mathematics Grade 10 Test, Session 2 - Wednesday, May 22, 2019
- Northeast Regional GSA Meeting - Thursday, May 23, 2019
- Connections - Thursday, May 23, 2019
- Senior Prom at Atkinson Country Club in Atkinson, NH - Thursday, May 23, 2019
- Early Release - Faculty Professional Development - Friday, May 24, 2019
- Methuen Health and Wellness Fair - Friday, May 24, 2019
- Memorial Day - School Closed - Monday, May 27, 2019
- Ranger Band Banquet at DiBurro's in Haverhill - Tuesday, May 28, 2019
- MCAS Biology Grade 9 Field Test - Wednesday, May 29, 2019
- MHS Honors & Awards Night - Wednesday, May 29, 2019
- Senior Class Trip to Six Flags - Thursday, May 30, 2019
- Jazz Concert - Thursday, May 30, 2019
- Methuen Fun Field Day - Friday, May 31, 2019

**June 2019 (subject to change)**

- Relay for Life of Methuen - Saturday, June 1, 2019 - Sunday, June 2, 2019
- SAT Administration at MHS - Saturday, June 1, 2019
- Senior Class Trip to Loon Mountain - Monday, June 3, 2019
- Faculty Meeting - Monday, June 3, 2019
- MCAS STE Grade 9 Test, Session 1 - Tuesday, June 4, 2019
- MCAS STE Grade 9 Test, Session 2 - Wednesday, June 5, 2019
- Class of 2019 Commencement Practice - Thursday, June 6, 2019
- Final Exam Review Day - Thursday, June 6, 2019
- Final Exams - Friday, June 7, 2019, through Wednesday, June 12, 2019
- MHS Class of 2019 Commencement - Friday, June 7, 2019
- Move Up Day - All Grade 8 Students - Monday, June 10, 2019
- Last Day of School - Early Release - Last Day for Students and Faculty - Wednesday, June 12
- JROTC JCLC (at Devens) - Monday, June 17, 2019, through Friday, June 21, 2019

A complete list of MHS athletic events can be viewed by selecting the [Athletics Calendar](#) link on the MHS webpage. Don't forget to check out our [athletics website](#) for information about Methuen Ranger student-athletes.

## COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

*Submitted by Christopher Reeve, Principal*

May is a busy month! Lots happening around the school. We are in full swing with the MCAS testing, which is all being done online with our awesome Chromebooks. It is so clear that the technology we have is an asset to our students! The end of the school year will be quick, as we only have three weeks of school after MCAS is done on May 24th. Yikes! We have several field trips planned this month, so please be on the lookout for those notices.

- CGS Upper School Play “Beauty and the Beast” on May 4th at 2:00 PM
- MCAS testing session for mathematics will begin on **May 6th**. Students have been encourage to “**Show What You Know,**” through problem solving skills, and computation. The full MCAS schedule was sent home several weeks ago, but you can find it on our school webpage, and extra hard copies are available in the main office.
- PTO meets on 5/7 at 6:00pm in the Media center.
- We have two Fine Arts performances this month: Chorus concert on 5/8, and the Band concert on 5/29. Both performances start at 7:00pm.
- Homeroom pictures will be taken on 5/21.
- 5/24 is a half day for students, and there is no school on 5/27 for Memorial Day.
- The **first graders** will be visiting the Franklin Park Zoo on **May 23rd**. Students are excited to see the animals they are studying, in their natural habitats.

The **second graders** will be visiting the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary on **May 22nd**. Guides will lead students through a program developed to compare different ecosystems. Students and teachers are excited about this engaging, hands-on field trip.

## MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

*Submitted by Rebecca Gordon, Principal*

We are in the midst of MCAS testing. Please remember that **all students in grades 3-8** will be taking the **ELA and Mathematics MCAS**. Students in **grades 5 and 8** will also be taking the **Science & Technology MCAS**. **Student attendance is extremely important**. Just a reminder that cell phones/electronic devices including smart watches are strictly prohibited in the testing environment.

**Congratulations** to the following classrooms for winning our **Marsh Madness Contest...**

- K- Ms. Jerz
- 1- Ms. Shepherd
- 2- Ms. Winsor
- 3- Ms. LaPlante

- 4- Ms. LaBrie
- 5- Ms. LaFerriere
- 6- Mr. Batement
- 7- Ms. Conlon
- 8- Ms. Ragucci

Double congratulations to **Ms. LaBrie's** and **Ms. Ragucci's** homeroom for being the **overall winners** for upper and lower school! Extra recess was awarded to the winning classrooms.

**Congratulations to Dakota Pomerleau**, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, for being selected to have her Peace Poem printed for the **NECC Poetry Contest. Congrats Dakota!**

**Congratulations to Reem El Hariri**, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, for being selected as a **finalist for the Cooperative Credit Union Association 2019 Essay Contest**. A celebratory luncheon is being held in her honor on May 24! **Congrats Reem!**

We are fortunate to have a very active **PTO** who are always **looking for volunteers...**we appreciate any and all help. Remember you put the P in PTO!! Check out their Facebook @Marsh PTO for events and volunteer opportunities. **The next general meeting is May 21 at 7:00 pm.**

Please join me at our last **Parent Coffee** on Friday, May 31 at 1:15 where it will be an open forum to talk with me about the topic of your choice. Hope to see you there!

Are you following us on **Twitter...** @MPSMarsh.

#### **May Events:**

- May 13 Gr 3 Red Cross Pillowcase Project
- May 14 Science & Tech MCAS Testing Grades 5 & 8
- May 14 LS STAR Assemblies
- May 15 Science & Tech MCAS Testing Grades 5 & 8
- May 16 Band Concert at 7 pm
- May 20 Chorus Concert
- May 21 Kindergarten to Davis Farmland
- May 21 PTO General Meeting at 7 pm
- May 22 Fire Fighter Phill to visit gr 1-3
- May 22 Gr 6 to McAuliffe Shepard Discover Center
- May 22 Lower School Store
- May 22 Gr 2 Reader's Showcase at 6 pm
- May 23 Gr 1 to Franklin Park Zoo
- May 23 Upper School Store
- May 24 Early Release Day
- May 24 Spirit Day- US only
- May 24 LS Memorial Day Program
- May 24 Lower School Popcorn Sales

May 24	Red, White & Blue Day
May 27	No School
May 28	Gr 7 to Museum of Science
May 28	Gr 8 to Camp Lincoln
May 29	US Popcorn Sales
May 31	20+ Field Trip
May 31	Parent Coffee with Ms. Gordon @ 1:15
May 31	Gr 4 Dance @ 6 pm

## **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mary Beth Donovan, Principal*

April was a busy month at the Tenney. Here is a look at what we accomplished:

- MCAS testing started in April and our students had so much support. The PTO continued the tradition of providing all students a breakfast on testing days. Our food services staff helped serve the special meals and get our students off to a positive start. The we had so much support! The first few weeks of testing have gone well and we know students will continue to have great attendance and effort.
- We celebrated winning writer Phuong Nguyen, who was honored in the Letters About Literature contest sponsored by the Library of Congress. Phuong arrived in the U.S. from Vietnam three years ago and came to the Tenney in 6th grade. This year, she has earned A's in all of her classes, including Algebra I. She is always prepared for class and exceedingly conscientious.
- Our Peer Leaders hosted a drive to benefit the animals at the MSPCA. Ms. Barnhard and her students gathered donations from all grades.
- Our Upper School students met with Methuen High graduate and health educator Ryan Barry to hear about the dangers of vaping. The presentation was hosted by our Students Against Destructive Decisions and advisor Jessica Leal.
- Our lower school students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge. Physical Education teachers Stephanie Boudreau and Kristen Swales decorated the lower school gym and challenged their students to, learn how their hearts work by tackling obstacle courses, a climbing wall and other physical challenges while raising some money for the American Heart Association.
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We have many activities planned as we close out the school year. It is a tradition at the Tenney to invite a former student to be the Distinguished Speaker at our Final Assembly. This year's speaker is Elie Ata who is becoming a physician. He left the Tenney in 2004, attended Methuen High, Merrimack College and medical school in Michigan. He joins a wonderful list of former students who left us to change the world. Previous Distinguished Speakers include Michael Gorman, an advocate for the homeless and founder of The Movement Family, Marie Akiki, who served two tours of duty as a medic in Afghanistan, and Tram Nguyen, a Massachusetts State Representative for the Andover area. Elie, the son of Lebanese immigrants is a medical resident at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center residency program, completing the program next year.

**Coming up:**

The Little Mermaid, presented by Tenney Drama Club, May 10, 7:00 pm & Saturday May 11am, 2pm  
Tenney Band Concert: Wednesday, May 22, 7 pm  
Tenney Fairy Walk, June 1, 10 am  
Tenney Spring Chorus Concert, June 4, 2019,

**TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Timothy Miller, Principal*

As we near the end of another school year, the Timony remains very busy. Our students in grades 3-8 have been working hard on the MCAS tests. They will be finishing up those tests next week with all make ups to be completed by the 23rd of May. In the few weeks of school following the MCAS, our teachers will be working hard to ensure that all of the state standards are covered before releasing the students for their summer vacation.

The Timony chapter of the National Junior Honor Society will be inducting over twenty new members this Thursday, May 16 at 6:00 pm. We are very proud of this group of hardworking, dedicated students and are happy to be inducting so many.

Our outstanding Band will be presenting a concert on May 21 at 7:00 PM and on May 23 the PTO will be hosting the annual Spring Social. This is always a huge event and we are very excited about it again this year.

During the two weeks in June that we are here there will be countless activities and events culminating with our Eighth Grade Final Assembly at 5:00 PM on June 11th

**FACILITIES**

*Submitted by Bruce Stella, Director*

April vacation was very productive throughout the district

- We had LGR1 repair numerous roof leaks throughout the district
- Schools were thoroughly cleaned
- Painted where needed
- Ice Rink closed
- Ice Removed
- Begin painting and repairing and performing mechanical maintenance of the rink
- Our maintenance department has begun switching over from heat to AC in all schools
- Grounds spring clean ups at all schools is ongoing

Timony

Our Little Tyke's playground is being installed and should be completed by the end of this week. When completed we will have the playground's surrounding area cleaned and mulched

I am working with Ian Gosselin to plan our summertime projects

Bid is going out to Central Register to receive quotes for installation and removal of field house floor. I will keep you updated on this project.



## **STUDENT SERVICES**

*Submitted by Gina Bozek, Director of Student Services*

### **OUT OF DISTRICT UPDATE:**

- 26 programmatic students
- 137 fiscal students in placement
- 4 students pending referral

### **PK UPDATE:**

#### ***Current numbers:***

CGS	Full day Integrated:	8 IEPs/6 peers
	Intensive Integrated:	9 IEPs/5 peers
Marsh	Intensive Integrated:	10 IEPs/6 peers
	Intensive Integrated:	9 IEPs/6 peers
	Intensive Integrated:	5 IEPs
Tenney	Integrated AM:	9 IEPs/7 peers
	Integrated PM:	10 IEPs/5 peers
	Intensive Integrated:	8 IEPs/2 peers
	Intensive:	9 IEPs
Timony	Integrated AM:	10 IEPs/7 peers
	Integrated PM:	8 IEPs/7 peers
	Intensive:	8 IEPs
	Intensive:	9 IEPs

***Walk-ins:*** 30

***Evaluations:*** 17 evaluations in process; 8 consent to tests out; 10 referrals to be processed

### **MEDICAID UPDATE:**

There are no updates.

### **McKINNEY-VENTO:**

- 6 students living in Methuen attending other districts
- 32 Methuen students that are homeless
- \$85,715.52 for transportation

## **WELLNESS DEPARTMENT**

*Submitted by Jeffrey Osgood, Supervisor*

As we wrap up the school year, the Wellness Department wants to thank Superintendent Dr. Kwong, Interim Assistant Superintendent Lisa Golobski Twomey, and the school committee for recognizing the vital role that health, physical education and wellness has in our schools. This year we continued to expand our program to include social and emotional learning in all classrooms, as well as new curricula to combat the opioid crisis and substance misuse. Our health and wellness programs continue to serve as a model for other districts, as evidenced by the well-attended NPEN Professional Development extravaganza hosted here at Methuen High School that left participants in awe at our facilities and programming for health and wellness. I look forward to continuing my vision to explore new, unique opportunities for our students to

engage in healthy physical activities and skills practices that promote lifelong health and wellness.

- Please view our April K-8 Wellness Award Winners on the Wellness Website (QR Code Below), now including our new K-4 Wellness teachers and Mr. Sughrue's outstanding students!
- On May 24, 2019, the district school staff and city employees will enjoy a massive Health and Wellness Fair that celebrates the physical and mental wellbeing of our staff. Please join us from 11:00- 3:00 at the high school and enjoy cooking demonstrations, fitness instruction, yoga, and massage therapy, or wear your active clothes and climb the rock wall in the field house up to the platform. This fair is packed with vendors and presenters ready to improve your health and wellbeing.
- Little Rangers Pre-School Registration for the 2019-20 school year is still open with spots available. Methuen residents interested should go to our Little Rangers Preschool link on the district website under the 'Students and Parents' tab.
- The Wellness Committee will have its third meeting on May 13th at 3:30. This group will continue to work on our goals that include Nutrition Education, Substance Prevention, Physical Activity and Social and Emotional Learning. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 25th at 3:30 at the Central Office Building.

That's it for now! For up to date information about what's going on at each school in Health, PE and Wellness, visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/mpspehealth/> and follow us on Twitter @MPS\_Wellness. Using your smartphone, open the camera app and aim it at the code below to be directed right to the website.



## **TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

*Submitted by Edward Lussier, Director of Technology*

### **MCAS at Grammar Schools**

MCAS testing was conducted online for all 3-8 students with almost no issues. All ELA tests were completed and we continue to work on the Mathematics testing.

### **CRDC**

The federal Civil Rights Data Collection report is a substantial amount of work. The majority is already complete and we are on track to meet the May 14th deadline.

### **MHS Studio upgrade**

The High School media production area was overhauled utilizing funds from the Perkins Grant. Students are excited to learn the different tools and techniques to producing in a more modern studio setting.

### **Prep for iPad collection**

Preparations have been made to collect iPads. The details are:

The iPad collection schedule for Seniors is as follows:

Tuesday 14th 9:00-11:00am in the Media Center

Wednesday 15th 9:00-11:00am in the Media Center

### **Prep for new firewall, content filter, and internet service provider**

This summer we expect to be transitioning to a new content filter, firewall, and internet service provider. There are major changes- as the current solutions have been in place for more than 10 years. We have already begun preparations to ensure a smooth transition. For the content filter, we were able to utilize a demo license and have most of the configurations already built out- so when we are able to transition, the configurations will just be copied over.

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