

# METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

### NOVEMBER, 2014

#### MHS UPCOMING DATES

November 12, 2014	6:00 p.m.	Senior/Parent MEFA Seminar	Methuen High School
November 20, 2014	7:30 a.m.	Band Trip to an Open Rehearsal of the Boston Symphony	Symphony Hall
November 21, 2014	7:00 p.m.	Homecoming Dance	Methuen High School
November 25, 2014	6:30 p.m.	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony	Methuen High School
November 25, 2014	2:15 p.m.	Power Puff Football Game	Nicholson Stadium
November 26, 2014	8:30 a.m.	Pep-Rally	Methuen High School

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

*Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal*

The **senior class** had a successful first senior class trip to New York City to see the show Wicked. Over one-hundred students and fifteen staff traveled to New York for the day. The senior class is gearing up for the pep rally with fundraisers including t-shirt sales and raffle tickets.

The 2014 Methuen High School **Colleges, Careers, and Community Service Fair** was also held on October 15, 2014. Approximately one-hundred and ten representatives from four-year public and private colleges and universities, community colleges, two-year vocational/technical/trade schools, armed forces, local and national community service agencies, and growth career fields attended the fair held in the Methuen High School Field House.

The **Guidance Department** is holding a MEFA Financial Aid Night that will be held on November 12th, in the High School auditorium and cafeteria. Simultaneous presentations will be given in English and Spanish. The presentation will cover how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other topics related to college financial planning.

The **JROTC** Cadets organized and donated in the Red Cross Blood Drive on October 17th. The Red Cross raised a considerable 41 units of blood which can save up to 3 lives each. The cadets signed up the student body at lunches and convinced many to get involved.

The **JROTC** drill team had the first competition at the High School of Commerce in Springfield on October 25th. The cadets competed against the 12 other COMAL Schools, and they learned many areas for improvement. The cadets have two more competitions to compete in where they

can hopefully earn awards and commendation from the US Army graders. Additionally, the JROTC seniors and staff cadets of the program went on a field trip to Minuteman National Park in Lexington and Concord. The cadets reviewed the history of April 19th, 1775 and visited the beginning of a nation.

The **Books & Bagels Club** held its first meeting on October 16th. Thirty four members were in attendance and the first read, *Hush Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick was distributed. The club's annual wreath fundraiser is in full swing and sure to be a big success again this year.

The **Italian club** members volunteered for the 2nd Annual Methuen Italian Festival on October 18th. In November the group is planning on having a mosaic art making day and a food bank volunteer day.

### **COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal*

#### **CGS Lower School Happenings:**

- CGS Annual 5k (October 25<sup>th</sup>) was a great success! Families enjoyed the new activities, and the runners gave it their all! Buddy the Bulldog welcomed all visitors to the event!
- Inclusive literacy tutoring has started in grade 1, 2 and 3. Students and teachers are enjoying this focused classroom intervention.
- The Continental Math League meeting for grades 4-8 is on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Students have been working hard to problem solve and practice their skills.
- Grade 2 is planning a field trip to the Children's Museum on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Students are excited to visit the exhibits and take part in the interactive learning opportunities.
- The CGS will be proudly displaying out float in the Santa Parade on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Buddy's Rockin' Christmas is the theme!
- The firefighter Phil program, which focuses on Fire Safety with students in grades K-3, will present to our students on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CGS Upper School Happenings:**

- Picture Day was on October 1<sup>st</sup>
- The 8<sup>th</sup> graders went on a field trip to Camp Lincoln on October 8<sup>th</sup> & October 9<sup>th</sup>, this field trip promoted team work and character values
- Grade 8 high school presentations: Essex Tech (10/20) Greater Lawrence Tech (10/31)
- Red Ribbon Celebration was from October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>
- Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center Presentation
- Tiered Support Meetings – Common Planning – Week of October 20<sup>th</sup>
- CGS Grade 8- Celebration Week Calendar Fundraiser will run from November 24<sup>th</sup> until January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal*

#### **Lower School**

- Marsh Lower School celebrated the end of October with the annual Halloween parade for grades K-2. Parents and older students lined the driveway and hallways, and were treated to some fun, scary and unique costumes. The students had classroom celebrations at the end of the school day to minimize disruption to learning.

- Mrs. Mace's class celebrated the end of a writing unit by presenting to their parents on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a suggestion in the Lucy Calkins program, and Mrs. Mace has always scheduled several opportunities each year for students to share with parents.
- The Full In-Service Day on November 4<sup>th</sup> was very well received and appreciated by the Lower School teachers, who participated in the Lucy Calkins Writing PD. While our teachers have been receiving PD on this program from our ELA Coach, Tracey Harris, they all came back newly-energized and excited to implement the approaches and strategies in their classrooms.
- Grades 1, 2 and 3 were invited to the Fire Prevention Program with Firefighter Phil, who visits the school annually, on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The ½-hour presentation reminded students about fire safety and what do to in the event of a fire.
- Funds raised from the Scholastic Book Fair are being used to host a visit from children's author Mark Binder on November 10<sup>th</sup> for grades K through 4.
- The annual Marsh Turkey Trot for all grade 4 students will be held on Friday, November 21, 2014, at 9:30 AM. This is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade P.E. Curriculum, and students complete a mile course walking/jogging/running around the building. All students complete a mile course walking/jogging/running around the building. All students are recognized for the accomplishment and get a health treat at the end of the activity; all organized by Laurie James and Michelle Kulberg, Lower School P.E. teachers.
- Lower School teachers will be receiving WIDA 2 training from the ELL Coach, Mary DeSimone, in mid-November during grade level meeting time.

### **Upper School**

- The Marsh Upper School had a successful Red Ribbon Week with speakers for grades 7 and 8 as well as a door decorating contest for grades 5-8.
- The Academic Bowl Match was November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Grade 8 Play will be November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>—a fundraiser for grade 8 end-of-year activities.

### **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Principal*

- In an effort to improve collegiality, share good teaching ideas and improve instruction, every Tenney teacher took part in Learning Walks Nov. 3, 5 and 6. During common planning time, staff visited classes outside their grade levels and across upper and lower schools to observe how their past and future students learn. The walks were led by peers and are the foundation to more involved peer observations planned for later this school year. The peer observations are part of the Tenney's AIP and goals for the 2014-2015 year.
- The Class of 1964 took a 90-minute tour of the Tenney as part of their Reunion Weekend. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Supervising Principal led the tour and was joined along the way by staff members, PTO parents and students. The visitors reminisced about their days at Tenney High School, had plenty of questions about life at the school today and took pictures. The school presented the graduates with a giant welcome back card signed by parents, staff and students representing grades k-8.
- Red Ribbon Week was a success, thanks to health teacher Liz Fulks and staff members. Guest speakers talked about the power of good choices, students read inspirational messages daily, teachers sent letters of encouragement to students, and we celebrated the joy of movement and good health at a Zumba party.

Our fabulous PTO continues to support us, with great success

- Staff and parents gathered at the Tenney at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday Oct. 18 to set up for a yard sale. The crew left the school eight very successful hours later.
- The Monster Bash was the most successful in recent history, with **more than 300 students** attending. This was a non-drop off event, meaning parents were asked to stay with their children. Many parents dressed in costumes, danced, played games and enjoyed the light refreshments.

**Coming up:**

- Play and Read program begins Nov. 6. Students in grades 5 and 6 learn the rules of floor hockey and spend time talking about and selecting good books. Local author Jay Atkinson runs the after school program.
- Peer Leaders will march in the Veterans Day Parade
- School Council meets Nov. 12.
- McDonald's Night, Nov. 13 benefits our Spirit Council

**TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal*

The Timony School is always a busy place but with over 1,500 students that should be expected. Here is a snapshot of Timony Happenings:

**October Wrap Up & November Sneak Peak!**

On Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> the Timony held a Family Bingo night for new families to the Timony School Community. Over 100 invitations were sent out to new families inviting them to come into the school, meet each other as well as many staff members and have a little fun together. Although attendance was lower than expected, a great time was had by all!

On Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, students at the Timony had their first SOAR reward celebrations. Students at the Timony are SOARing when they act with Safety first, Own their behavior, Accept responsibility for learning and Respect others. Teachers sign cards that the students carry and by earning signatures for demonstrating positive behaviors, students also earn rewards. The first reward was a fun filled dance party. Other rewards are still in the planning stages but will be equally fun and exciting for students. Check out the Eagle Tribune from this past Sunday to learn more about the Timony's positive behavioral support system and see some photos from the dance party!

This month, Lower School students will learn about Native American Art and Culture in their Art classes. By combining songs, literature and art, students will be immersed in activities that will deepen their understanding of this theme. Look for colorful displays outside of the lower school art room when you are visiting the Timony.

In Upper School, National Junior Honor Society students are giving of their time afterschool, volunteering in lower school classrooms or with teachers. At this time, students are expected to volunteer 1 hour each month in some capacity that helps their school or their community. NJHS students helped at the Bingo Night and will help an upcoming food drive for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Other ways that these students help their school is by reading with students in lower school or helping teachers create new and exciting bulletin boards.

Also in upper school, Methuen High School JROTC students continue to act as Big Brothers and Big Sisters to some of our middle school students. Started two years ago, this peer mentoring program has been very beneficial for our students. The cadets from MHS's JROTC are excellent role models who have a serious sense of purpose and are focused on their futures. The time that they spend with Timony Middle School students and the friendships that they develop will hopefully impart these great qualities

Many students in grades 6 – 8 submitted entries into the annual Patriots Pen Essay contest sponsored by the VFW. In the past, Timony students have been selected as winners of this contest and have been awarded monetary prizes. This year's theme was "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans" and I'm certain that the Timony will have some compelling entries.

On Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, MHS JROTC cadets will conduct a presentation for Timony 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students about Flag Etiquette. Just in time for Veteran's Day, Timony students will be reminded about the importance and meaning of our flag and how to care for it properly. Students from each classroom in grades 5 and 6 will have an opportunity to learn how to correctly fold a flag and get to try it themselves.

#### **SADD UPDATE**

We at the **Central Administration Office** participated in "Wear Red Day" to show our support for what SADD is doing in our schools. This program and Event are huge successes and speak volumes about the support the students, staff and parents have for this Community.

**District-Wide:** All schools participated in Red Ribbon Week. The various activities are listed below. In addition, all schools will work together next Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, to create ornaments and decorations for the Festival of Trees. The theme for our tree this year is "Peace, Love and Drug Free."

**MHS:** Red Ribbon week was a huge success. Students worked hard to decorate the front office windows, make red ribbon pins and posters to hang throughout the school. Wear red day was a success also, with much of the staff and students representing SADD in red. Guest speaker, Anthony Sideri, did a wonderful job presenting to the freshman and sophomore classes. Students wrote reflections and letters to Anthony after his presentation and much positive conversation, amongst staff and students, was generated. In addition, students handed out ribbons and information about red ribbon week to students at lunch while the movie "Anonymous" played on a television. The SADD group gained 5 new members in that week. Health classes were visited by inmates to discuss decision making and consequences of poor decisions.

**CGS:** Students met to create Red Ribbons and make posters to hang throughout the school. They also created red ribbons to distribute to the staff and student population. Students and staff wore red on Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students are planning on a dinner field trip to Salvatore's in Lawrence and will be going on a bowling trip with the high school at the end of the month.

**Marsh:** The Marsh was decorated for Red Ribbon Week, both in and outside of the school. Wear Red day was a success and red ribbons were available. Students even created a Red Ribbon "Drug-Free" rap for the week. The inmates came to speak to the students about good decision making and the consequences of their choices.

**Tenney:** Tenney had numerous activities for Red Ribbon week. Among them were the following; Zumba night, questions of the day over announcements related to drugs with prizes for student responses, wear red day, decorations throughout the school and red ribbons available, lunch activities took place each day with pledges to sign, indicating that students would be drug-free, and a spirit week with a different theme each day.

**Timony:** Red Ribbon Week was a success for the Timony with a wear red day. Speaker, Anthony Sideri, also visited the school and spoke to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about good choices and decision making. Students distributed red ribbons and decorated the school. Mrs. Alaimo and the group are planning a district-wide skating trip to skateland early next month.