

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2015

UPCOMING NOVEMBER DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
3 rd	NO School	Teachers Professional Development	District-Wide
10 th	9:30am	Freedom Shrine Dedication	Methuen High School
11 th	NO School	Veteran's Day	
14 th	10am-1pm	MHS Open House for 5 th -8 th grade And Methuen Community Students	Methuen High School
14 th	10am-3pm	SEPAC 3 rd Annual Holiday Craft Fair	Nevins Library
21 st	1:00pm	Santa Parade	Pelham St-Ranger Rd
21 st	6:30pm-11pm	Trivia Night (<i>Methuen Scholarship Foundation</i>)	Armory, Lowell St.
23 rd	6:30pm	School Committee Workshop	Tenney, Media Center
25 th	Early Release Day	Thanksgiving Break	
26 th -27 th	NO School	Thanksgiving Break	

The following letter went home with all students AND is posted on the website:

Now that October is upon us, winter storms are common New England occurrences. Snow, ice, and extreme cold pose special problems for the school system and our goal of getting seven thousand youngsters to school safely. The decision to close school is a great responsibility and rests with the superintendent. Conversely, the decision to send a youngster to school is a grave responsibility that rests with parents and guardians. As in all matters concerning the schooling of your children, we remain partners and are mutually supportive of each other's efforts.

During severe weather conditions, I monitor the situation beginning in the early morning hours. I am in contact with state police, public works, superintendents in neighboring communities, and the Methuen Public Schools facilities manager who organizes sanding and much of our plowing.

Based upon all the information that is collected, a decision is made to close school, delay the opening or remain open. This is done no later than 5:00 a.m. All cancellations are carried on the major Boston television and radio stations as well as WCCM and the School System's Cable Station, Channel 99 for Comcast and Channel 31, Verizon and on the Methuen Public Schools Website www.methuen.k12.ma.us.

We understand that a "delay or a no school" day is a challenge for working families. Many parents have a predetermined plan they put into place on snow days to lessen confusion when school is actually cancelled. We also understand that some parents are anxious about sending their youngsters to school when the weather is not good and there is school. We ask that you call and notify the school if you choose to keep your child at home when school is in session.

I hope that this information is useful and I urge you to inform your schools of any special procedures your family may have in place and to be aware of possible delays or cancellations when winter storms are forecast.

Let's all work together to remain informed and have a safe and healthy winter season.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal

MHS Italian Club will be hosting the 2nd annual ITALIAN CULTURAL NIGHT celebration Italian heritage in the Merrimack Valley. It is open to the public. The event will take place in the MHS auditorium Friday November 6th 7:00-9:00 pm. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are \$6.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults

The Mock Trial team has started to prepare their case to go to competition in late January against other area schools. The team is strong this year and they are expecting some verdicts to go their way.

The National Honor Society is currently in the process of reviewing applications for new members (juniors and seniors). The induction will be Tuesday November 24 at 6:30. They will be sending invitations to school committee members in the next few weeks.

Methuen High School Upcoming Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
November 6		First Quarter Ends	Methuen High School
November 7		SAT Testing	Methuen High School
November 8	6am-11pm	Senior class Trip to NYC	New York City
November 21	1pm-2pm	MHS Band in Methuen Santa Parade	City of Methuen
November 22	1pm-3pm	MHS Band in Haverhill Santa Parade	City of Haverhill
November 24	6:30pm-8pm	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony	MHS

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO CONGRATULATE THE CLASS OF 2016
128 RECIPIENTS to date JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP

ABOU KHALIL, CATHERINE	ADAMS, ABIGAIL ELIZABETH	ANGELINI, NICHOLAS FRANK
AUTERIO, JOSEPH MICHAEL	BARANOWSKI, THOMAS MICHAEL	BLANCHARD, CAMERON ARTHUR
BODENRADER, MICHAEL JOSEPH	BRANCHAUD, SAMUEL EDWARD	BUTLER, BRET MICHAEL
CARMO, DAVID WILLIAM	CICCOTELLI, JENNA NICOLE	CLOVER, THERESE FRANCES
COREY, CHRISTINA ANN	COSTELLO, BRENDAN JAMES	CRONIN, EMILY NICOLE
CROWE, CATRINA JAYNE	CROWNINSHIELD, BENJAMIN C	CUSHING, SEAN PATRICK
DECESARE, SETH MICHAEL	DECLERCQ, DARIAN RACHEL	DEL MONACO, EVELINA ROSE
DESANTIS, JULIANNA INES	DESMOND, CASEY DANIEL	DIETZ, NADIA BIAGINA
DOUGHERTY, KRISTEN ELIZABETH	DUSSAULT, NAOMI ROSE	ELGERS, NICHOLAS WILLIAM
ELGHOUL, JESSY	ELLSEY, ALEXIS MARIE	EMERY, REBECCA JEAN
ENCARNACION, FRANCISCO AL	ENCARNACION, JAZMIN NATAL	FARNKOFF, ALYSSA MICHELLE
FIELD, JOHN DAVID	FLORENCE, TAYLOR MARY	FLORES, ELIZABETH KATHLEEN
FLORIO JR., SALVATORE	FORTIER, DANIELLE MARIE	FRAGIONE, NICHOLAS CHRISTIAN
GABLE, AMANDA ROSE	GARCIA, ALLEN JOSE	GAREY, JERREL CHRISTOPHER
GONZALEZ, ZACHARIAH ANGEL	GREGG, THOMAS RAYMOND	HADDAD, YOUSEF ANTON
HAYES, JOHN ROSS	HEFFERNAN, CAMERON SCOTT	HERING, NICOLE ELIZABETH
HOLDEN, MATTHEW SALVATORE	HONG, TYLER TRAVIS	JEZIERSKI, JOSEPH WESLEY
JOUBERT, DANIELLE ROSE	KALIL, AZIA VICTORIA	KALIL, ELIZABETH MADISON
KIVLEHAN, ANTHONY JAMES	LANG, KAITLYN MARIE	LAVOIE, JULIA CHRISTINE
LAWTON, MEGHAN RYAN	LEONARDO-CRUZ, JOEDY	LEVESQUE, MADISON ALEXIS
LILJA, SHANNON BRIDGET	LOPEZ, ANDRE PAUL	LOPEZ, GABRIEL ANTONIO
MAHONEY, ROSEMARY ANGELICA	MAJOR, VERONIQUE LOUISE	MARZEC, JILLIAN MARIE
MATTHEWS, LILY SIOBHAN	MAYOLE, OTAVIO AUGUSTO	MCDONALD, HANNAH CHRISTINA

MCDONNELL, LIAM GERALD
MELLEN, JORDYN RYAN
MUGO, FARID MAINA
O'NEIL, SARAH ELIZABETH
OULD-SFIYA, ISABEL EILEEN
PATEL, YASH HEMANG
QUIROZ, ALEXANDER ALANSO
RICHARDS, MARY ROSE
ROBERGE, MIKAYLA CAMILLE
SALOIS, JESSICA RAE
SEVILLA, TUNILBA GISELLE
SILVA, ALEXIA JAZMYN
TALBOT, ALEXIS MELANIE
TON, ERIC JENNWEI
TRUSSELL, TAYLOR KATHLEEN
VELEZ, XAVIER JONAH
WALKO, NICHOLAS ALEXANDER
WEHRING, WILLIAM ANTHONY
WISE, CASSANDRA PEARL
YEUNG, SCARLET SIGA

MCDONOUGH, LAUREN ELIZABETH
MELO, SCOTT DANIEL
MULLER, ZACHARY THOMAS
OSORIO, DAHLIA ALYCE
PATEL, DHRUV ROHIT
PERRY, NATHALIE ROSE
RAMIREZ, NICHOLAS GERALD
RIOS, JONATHAN ALEXIS
ROUSSEAU, VICTORIA
SANTOS, MARLA KIMBERLY
SHELTON, JAMES TRAN
SIM, DAVID LEE
TEBBETTS, MADISON ELIZABETH
TRASK, MAX DAVID
URBAEZ, JEFFREY JAMES
VIVIER, ZACHARY TYLER
WATKINS-BATEY, CHEYENNE
WELCH, GRIFFIN RUDY
WIZBOSKI, ALEXIS TAYLOR
ZDANOWICZ, SAM AARON

MEANEY, SARAH ELLEN
MROZOWSKI, KATELYNN ANN
NAUT, DAPHNE SHAKIRA
OSPINA, JOSE DAVID
PATEL, PARTH YOGESH
QUINN, CHRISTOPHER KEVIN
RAUCCI, DAVID ELLIOTT
RIZK, CHRISTINE MARINA
SABA, CHRISTOPHER ANDREW
SCHWABE, ERICA ELIZABETH
SHIMOMOTO, TOMOMI CHISUN
SMITH, BROOKE ALEXANDRA
TIAR, JACOB NACER
TRINIDAD, ORLANDO EMANUEL
VALLANT, TYLER JAMES
VU, MI HOANA
WEDGE, ALEXANDER JASON
WHITE, NYOMI DALIAH
WORMALD, CHRISTINA LYNN

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

LOWER SCHOOL

- Grade 4 will be visiting the Lowell Boot Mills on November 9th and 13th as an extension to their immigration studies. The children have been exposed to a variety of primary sources and artifacts.
- Grade 1 students will visit the New England Aquarium on November 19th to support their studies of Animal Habitats. The students are fortunate to have this wonderful facility so close to home. Teachers are planning follow up activities to bring this enriching experience back to the classroom.
- Grade 4 will participate in their first Continental Math League meet on November 5th. The students have been practicing their problem solving and critical thinking skills in preparation for the big day.
- The CGS will proudly host our Monster Mash Fun run on October 31st. This “spook”tacular event will promote health and wellness while raising funds for our students. We hope to see you there!

UPPER SCHOOL

The month of November is filled with some important event and activities for the Upper School at the CGS. November activities include:

- Greater Lawrence Technical High School presentation to our Grade 8 students
- Continental Math League is fully underway
- Grades 3-8 will participate in the Turkey Trot
- Upper School Sports Day

We are looking forward to an exciting November filled with hope and happiness!

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

Lower School

- Three of the 4th grade classrooms received presentations on The Pillowcase Project from the American Red Cross on October 15th. This program deals with preparing for emergencies and coping with emergency situations. The remaining classes will have the presentation in November.
- Kindergarten classes went apple picking on October 15th.
- School pictures were taken on October 16th.
- Marsh PTO Fall Festival was held on October 17th and everyone had a great time dunking the teachers and administrators, decorating pumpkins, playing in bouncy houses or with the games, eating delicious food, taking chances on the baskets, or bidding on the PBIS silent auction items (among other activities). This annual tradition is always well attended and a favorite of the Marsh community.
- Bus evacuation practice on Tuesday, October 27th went very quickly and smoothly.
- Marsh Lower School will celebrate the end of October with the annual costume parade for grades PK-2 on October 30th. Parents and older students line the driveway and hallways and are treated to an array of scary, funny, clever and sometimes unique characters. The staff coordinated a 101 Dalmatians theme this year, so Cruella DeVil, the dog catchers and many, many puppies will be in the parade. Teachers have planned some special activities for their classes later in the day.
- The 2nd grade students will hold their second annual Halloween Store on October 30th. As part of the Producers and Consumers unit, each homeroom selects a product to make and 'sell' to their peers (second grade only). The students enjoy making the products, determining costs and profits accordingly, and creating advertisements to hang in the hallways.
- Mrs. Gangi's first grade and Mrs. Olszowy's third grade classes have been sharing their writing stories. Some first graders are producing 3-5 page books already, and all of them are very proud to share their personal narratives with the older students. Similarly, the 3rd graders typed their stories, which was very impressive to the first graders!
- Girls on the Run has been very successful in the Lower School, and parents and students rave about the positive message that girls get from this program. Thanks to Mrs. Mace and Mrs. Healey for coaching!
- Observations of all teaching staff are underway in accordance with the teacher's contract (one observation between 10/1 and 11/15)

Upper School

- The Marsh Upper School has welcomed two new teachers in October. Mr. Kirk Taveras has taken over for retired science teacher Susan Mikutel and Ms. Olivia Rogers has taken over for retired ELA teacher Michael Alaimo, both in the 7th grade. We recently held an open house for all 7th grade parents and guardians so that they could meet Ms. Rogers and Mr. Taveras. Both teachers have classroom experience and are fully licensed in their content areas. We are excited to have them and they have hit the ground running since they have arrived.
- All Upper School teachers have submitted student learning goals and professional practice goals to their evaluating administrators. Teachers have included Eureka Math goals, Lucy Calking Writing goals, Readers Workshop goals, aiming to produce positive student growth in all subject areas.
- Students and Staff participated in an ALICE training drill. Methuen Police officers teamed up with Marsh administration to debrief after the drill. Students and staff were able to gain valuable experiences that we can store away into our skill sets that may help in any emergency

situation. Students have also practiced one fire drill and participated in a bus evacuation drill facilitated by the fire department and police department respectively.

- Progress reports have gone out for trimester 1. Teachers are utilizing these reports to highlight student needs as they work towards meeting each standard by the end of the term.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal

The Fall is a busy time at the Tenney. Our school is filled with learning and family and community involvement.

Here is a sampling:

- The number of parents and guardians who have active CORIs in order to volunteer at our school has hit the 600 mark. Thanks to our principal clerk Margaret Sweeney for coordinating this effort and the wonderful people who want to help out at our school.
- About 600 members of our Tenney family attended our Monster Bash on Oct. 23. The PTO hosted the event which featured food, music, crafts and some great costumes.
- We continue with our Saturday detentions. Designed to keep students in class while helping them correct behavioral and tardy concerns, the program has resulted in a decrease of suspensions. Dean of Students Carl DeRubeis and Upper School Associate Principal Paula Simone run the Saturday detentions.
- Tenney was well represented at the CGS Monster Dash. Close to 60 Tenney girls ran as part of the Girls on Track and Girls on the Run Program. Twenty staff members walked and ran with the girls.
- Two grades enjoyed field trips during October, Tenney seventh graders went into the wild during the traditional Camp Lincoln field trip. They canoed, took part in archery lessons and did team-building exercises. The fourth graders explored the mills of Lowell. The PTO helped defray the cost of the trips.
- Our Word Part of the Week party is *on*. Each week, we celebrate a special prefix, suffix or root school-wide. Teachers use the Seven-Step Strategy to build understanding and students showcase their new knowledge by posting the related words and sentences on two special bulletin boards. The Word Part of the Week is shared with family on the Tenney Grammar PTO page and on the school's website.
- Our 8th grade parents are invited to a four part series of seminars hosted by the Tenney and the CGS. Navigating Grade 8, a Parent's Survival Guide was held Nov. 5 in the Tenney Auditorium. In future seminars, parents will learn how to help their children get academically, socially and emotionally ready for life beyond elementary school. Paula Simone and Maria McLaughlin, associate principals at the Tenney and CGS are hosting the program.
- Staff continues efforts to bring parents into our school to be part of the learning process. Our 8th grade is planning a "Are You Smarter than 8th Grader" contest second grade teachers Courtney and Sarah Norman, welcomed parents to a Pumpkin Math Party.
- We started a new tradition at the Tenney during our staff meeting in November. Teachers Courtney Petzold and Katie Collins presented how they promote two-way communication with blogs and parent surveys. Katie Collins discussed a parent support guide she has created. Each month staff will have the opportunity to model great ideas and practice to peers.
- Our Peer Leaders, led by Joyce Wyman, are collecting gently used coats for the Coats for Kids program.

Coming up:

- Nov. 19, 7 p.m.: Staff Lounge: PTO Fundraiser
- Nov. 20, 7 p.m.: Tenney Chorus sings the Star Spangled Banner at the University of Lowell-Notre Dame Hockey game
- Nov. 21, 1 p.m.: Look for the Tenney family in the Methuen Santa parade
- Dec. 3: 8th grade Fundraiser at Bada Bing. Fifteen percent of all proceeds go to end-of-year activities

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Kerry Calobrisi, Dean of Students

Rotary Club Readers: Members of our local Rotary Club, volunteer to read aloud to an audience of our Kindergarten students. Guest readers talk about why reading is important to them in their lives and then read a favorite book or books to the children. Our students benefit from meeting community members who really care about reading.

Red Cross “Pillow Case Project”: The Pillowcase Project is a preparedness education program for Timony students in grade 4, which teaches students about personal and family preparedness, local hazards, and basic coping skills. The program leads students through a “learn, practice, share” framework to engage them in disaster preparedness. Students receive a sturdy pillowcase upon completion of the program in which they are encouraged to build their personal emergency supplies kit. Presentations are customized to focus on a hazard that is important and relevant to our Methuen community.

Red Ribbon Week: Red Ribbon Week is our Nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention campaign. Each year Upper School students pledge to commit to a substance-free lifestyle. Students receive critical substance prevention information through their Health classes and the work presented by S.A.D.D Club members.

S.O.A.R Rewards: Timony students know that S.O.A.R stands for **S**afety, **O**wnership, **A**cceptance and **R**esponsibility. Upper and Lower School students who, were “caught” by staff members demonstrating S.O.A.R behaviors received positive recognitions. Students who accrued a targeted number of positives (80 for Upper/50 for Lower) were treated to an out of the classroom activity. Upper School students earned an open gym activity and Lower School students enjoyed an animated short film, “Spookily the Square Pumpkin”, which presents an anti-bullying message.

Fall Festival: The Timony PTO organized a wonderful school-wide event for our Timony families, our Annual Fall Festival. Students and their families had the opportunity to dress in costumes; enjoy snacks and beverages; participate in seasonal activity stations and also transform some our Timony staff members into toilet paper Mummies.

SADD UPDATE

District-Wide:

Each group did activities for Red Ribbon Week(Oct 23-31)

High School:

They continue to hold weekly meetings. During the October 21st meeting, students did fall arts and crafts with pumpkins, paint, and leaves writing what good habits they are “falling” into this year. Additionally, students made red ribbon pins to be handed out to staff and students for red ribbon week.

Close to 90 students attended the orientation/welcome back breakfast on Tuesday, October 27th which was attended by Superintendent Scannell, Assistant Superintendent Brandi Kwong, Principal Barden, Officer Mellor and head of Health and Wellness, Jeff Osgood. Students had breakfast and were revered for their efforts in making the school community a healthier, more positive place.

Tenney: In addition to the spirit week, we had a trivia question of the day and designed a special pink shirt for the Friday spirit day (Drugs Stink Wear Pink).

I have designed the tree theme and will be organizing the decorating night for next week or possibly the 9th at the latest. We will be making paperclip angels, signing a tree shirt pledge and who knows what else.

I also plan to have a shirt and gear sale around Thanksgiving time (new items to be included) so parents can get the items for Christmas.

I would also like to organize with my group a fundraiser for Make a Wish foundation. Kids who make a donation (whatever they can afford) will be given a snowflake to add to a display with a powerful quote about small gestures changing the world.

Marsh: We are in full swing with red ribbon week at the Marsh. We all wore red yesterday. We also made red ribbons for staff to wear. We have large posters hanging in the front windows of the upper school and we are in the midst of a door decorating contest. The judging will be tomorrow. I have also spent time this week discussing with my HR. My next mtg is Nov 9th. I have a ton of students with signed contracts already.

CGS: The SADD CGS group has met weekly and has completed several times this month and have completed several activities, including brainstorming some ways that they would like to make their school a better place. They completed fall arts and crafts and we discussed as a whole group what they would like to see changed about their school environment. They will be attending a field trip to pilgrim lanes to go glow bowling on Friday, November 6th from 6-8pm.

Timony: Our first meeting is open to new members including our former 6th graders who are now in 7th grade, and any 8th graders who are interested in participating in SADD this year.

October 8:

- reviewed contracts
- Provided a list of 2015 meeting dates and activities.

- discussed the purpose of SADD
- discussed conduct and expectations of members
- Discussed Red Ribbon Week. Students in grades 5-8 will be signing 'red ribbon' contracts (to remain tobacco, alcohol and drug free) during health class. SADD students will hang a display of these 500+ red ribbons in the glass corridor leading into the cafeteria
- Determine interest in becoming a student leader to assist in managing attendance, projects, bulletin board updates, etc.

October 22:

- Students were very busy hanging the 500+ red ribbon contracts in the glass corridor leading into the cafeteria.