

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 2014

DISTRICT WIDE UPCOMING EVENT

Thursday, November 6th 6:00-8:00 p.m. MHS Informational Open House Grades 6-8

MHS UPCOMING DATES

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
October 11, 2014	8:00 a.m.	SAT & Subject Test	Methuen High School
October 14, 2014	1:00 p.m.	Senior Class Photograph	Field House
October 15, 2014	7:25 a.m.	Colleges, Careers & Community Service Fair	Field House
October 17, 2014	7:30 a.m.	JROTC Blood Drive	Field House
October 24, 2014	7:25 a.m.	Keene State College Choir Festival	Keene State College

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

- The JROTC website is updated with new staff members and events for the next few months. Cadets have done a great job, spearheaded by the efforts of Cadet Captain Scougall.
- On October 3rd Methuen High School held its 2nd annual **Club and Activity Fair** for freshman which displayed forty three different after school clubs. This Fair allowed students to speak directly with club representatives and to sign up for the club of their choice.
- The **Italian Club** hosted its first Italian Cultural Night with various student performances followed by the professional theater troupe Pazzi Lazzi straight from Boston. Ms. Catherine Healey-Follonier and her senior class organized the event to celebrate the visiting Italian exchange program guests and the Italian Heritage month celebration.
- **Best Buddies** is off to a record breaking membership year with a total of 75 members, 35 associate members and 20 active "Pair Buddies". On October 7th members will welcome parents for an informational evening at Methuen High School. The club is hosting a Halloween Haunting and invites members to dress in costume and share some fun with 'ghoul' friends on October 28th. Also, this month the clubs' annual Yankee Candle fundraiser has begun.
- The **Senior Class** is excited for their first senior class trip to New York City on Saturday, November 1st, 2014. The senior class will be bringing three busses of students to Times Square for some sightseeing and to see the Broadway performance of Wicked.

- **Adopt-A-Grandparent** is off and running. We're trying to come up with new ways of incorporating more students into the club. We've had almost 70 students sign up and all appear to be making the commitment. Other than playing cards, students have already played Wii with the senior citizens and we're trying to come up with a feasible format for senior citizens to be "living history books" and engage students in small groups sharing their life experiences and lessons.

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

- Grade 8 will be going on a field trip to Camp Lincoln to promote team work and character values (10/8 and 10/9). There will also be two high school presentations for Grade 8; one from Essex Tech and the other from Greater Lawrence Technical School.
- The CGS just began its fall fundraiser. This year we are going back to the catalog sales as well as the direct donation. We're hoping this change will be a better fit for parents.
- Picture day will be Wednesday, October 1st. All staff and students will have their picture taken. Staff members will have a school ID badge displaying the current photo.
- Our CGS 5K Fall Race will take place later this month on October 25th. This year we are adding a variety of family- fun festivities! We plan to have "Buddy's Boneyard" with spooky crafts and face painting.
- Grade level tutoring will begin this month. The inclusive reading program will take place in grades 1-3. We are all looking forward to continuing this worthy initiative.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

I would like to keep everyone updated on all the great things happening at the Marsh in October.

Lower School

- September was a very busy month in Lower School! We welcomed three new teachers to grade 4 (Mrs. LaBrie, Mrs. Healey, Mrs. McLennan) and one to grade 3 (Ms. Magnan). Two classrooms of students "looped" with their previous year's teacher, which has been very successful. Our new kindergarten students arrived on September 9th and they have been getting used to the routines, expectations and schedule of public school. We've also welcomed many new students in the last few weeks.
- All grades completed their beginning-of-the-year assessments in reading, phonics and math. Teachers use this information to help target students that need intervention or enrichment during the school day. All classroom teachers are also developing lists of "high needs" students (as defined by DESE) that they will maintain and use throughout the school year to identify areas of academic weakness, plan and implement interventions, and monitor each student's progress over the school year.
- Kindergarten through Grade 4 classrooms have been working with the ELA coach during grade level meetings on the Lucy Calkins Writing Program. They have given students the initial narrative assessment and worked on scoring student work together using the rubric provided with the L.C. materials. There is a lot of writing going on throughout the building.
- MCAS scores were sent home to parents in Grade 4 on October 1, 2014. Progress reports will be sent home on October 15, 2014.

Upper School

- Both grade 8 teams went for a day of team-building at Camp Lincoln in NH. Students had a great time and teachers felt it was successful.

- MCAS data has been shared with teachers and they have been analyzing it for their Student Learning Goals. MCAS results went home with all Upper School Students on October 1st.
- ISSPs (Individual Student Success Plans) have been written for all students who scored below 230 on either the Math or ELA MCAS test and will be sent home with first trimester progress reports.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Principal

- The PBIS program which started in the Upper School in January (FY'14) expanded to the Lower School at the start of this school year. During our Open house, parents were provided with information regarding Positive Behavior Support as well as a copy of our expectations – initial feedback was extremely positive and many were already informed by their children.
- Open House in both Upper and Lower schools featured a Community Fair. After visiting with teachers, parents got to mingle in our cafeteria. They met with guidance counselors and Special Education staff who offered advice about how to motivate students, handle homework, and other related issues. Specialists showcased the curriculum for their classes. Local organizations were on hand as well. The Nevins Library offered library cards, parents learned about Ranger Club, and information was passed out about various after school programs, including Girls on the Run and the Play and Read program. More than 300 parents filled out CORI forms over the two nights. We look forward to them volunteering in our school.
- Our Ice Cream Social brought in 250 parents and children and more than 30 staff members. The first PTO meeting of the year followed and that was also well attended.

Staff and teachers have planned a variety of events for the upcoming month:

- Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant, Tenney Fundraiser every Tuesday in October.
- Yankee Candle Fundraiser, Oct. 3 to Oct. 17.
- Yard sale, Oct. 18, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Grade 4 field trip to Tsongas Industrial Center, week of Oct. 20
- Grade 7 field trip to Camp Lincoln, week of Oct. 20
- Monster Bash, Oct. 24

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

- Teachers and students in grades 1 & 2 are excited about math! Students are learning and growing with Sadlier Mathematics; a new math program by Dr. Regina Panasuk.
- Lower school students are reluctant to put their pencils down! Their teachers have begun to launch several lessons using the Lucy Calkins writing program.
- Our Timony School Spirit Council is overjoyed by the delivery of three brand new Buddy Benches. Buddy Benches are a way to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. Let's spread the message of inclusion and kindness! The Spirit Council worked diligently to fundraise and collaborated with outside partnerships to bring this wonderful idea to life for our students.
- Students in our Upper School will participate in National Red Ribbon Week, October 27th - 31st. The Red Ribbon Campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of young people during Red Ribbon Week. Students will be encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to being drug free by: attending an assembly

with Anthony Scuderi, keynote speaker and by wearing red, as a symbol of choosing to live a drug-free lifestyle.

- Students in grades pre-K through 8 are eagerly awaiting their first PBS S.O.A.R. reward the week of October 31st. Students and teachers are gearing up for our Fall Dance Party. Students are challenged everyday to demonstrate S.O.A.R expectations: Safety, Ownership, Acceptance and Responsibility.
- Welcome new Timony Families! Families who are to our school community will be invited for a night of good old fashioned Bingo. Families will have the opportunity to meet one another, form friendly acquaintances, enjoy snacks and win fabulous prizes.

JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP

Students qualify for the Adams Scholarship by scoring at the Advanced and Proficient levels on grade 10 MCAS tests and having a combined score that places them in the top 25% of students in their district. The Adams scholarship provides a tuition waiver to a Massachusetts state college or university. There is no application for the Adams scholarship award. Students who qualify for the scholarship receive an award letter in the fall of their senior year.

The tuition waiver is in effect for eight semesters provided that the student maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. If the GPA falls below 3.0 the student loses the tuition waiver. The tuition waiver must be used within 6 years of a student's high school graduation.

In order to use the award, students must present their award letter to the financial aid office of the Massachusetts state college or university they plan to attend and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The tuition waiver applies to all Massachusetts public state colleges and universities with the exception of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

Nicholas	Abourizk		Kayleigh	Forgetta		Nicholas	Perry
Anthony	Adams		Madison	Fotino		Bryanna	Phillips
Tristan	Allen		Beline	Francisque		Nancy	Pocoli
Devin	Allen		Lauren	Gagnon		Aryanna	Poirier
Heer	Amin		Shane	Garon		Liam	Rademacher
Jennifer	Arasi		Shane	Godek		Samar	Ramy
Devin	Arias		Nicole	Gregg		Evan	Reeves
Lauren	Arsenault		Dalton	Griebel		James	Rego
Tealla	Baglione		Edilenie	Guzman		Samson	Rios
Rebecca	Beaulieu		Noah	Haded		Ian	Rossi
Makayla	Berg		Bronwen	Hall		Freddy	Santiago
Quentin	Bethune		Cooper	Hammel		Brooke	Sardella
Tyler	Bihl		Jordan	Hanson		Taylor	Saunders
Kelley	Blackwell		Ryan	Harris		Rachel	Schwarz
	Blazon-						
Autumn	Brown		Jacob	Hemond		Ian	Scougall
Cameron	Bolduc		Sara	Hines		Nicholas	Shepherd
Paul	Bowler		Emily	Hitchcock		Kayla	Simone
Ashley	Brown		Sharlow	Hitchcock		Alyson	Sinatra
Megan	Bruneau		Shawn	Houle		Aaron	Therrien
Quinn	Burke		Mileika	Jaime		Marissa	Trent
Anthony	Cabrera		Dakota	Koester		Ashley	Urena

Hannah	Carey		Seina	Koga		Katrina	Vallario
Jacob	Carr		George	Le		Matthew	Vermette
Shae	Carter		Payton	Lima		Benjamin	Viscosi
Matthew	Cayer		Tayla	Longo		Joseph	Wakim
Giovanni	Cesar		Taylor	Madden		Michael	Wakim
Emily	Clifford		Michelle	Malek		Cameron	Walsh
Kaitlin	Clifford		Cassandra	Mazzone		Alycia	Wells
Nicholas	Comerford		William	McGrath		Kyle	Whittaker
Devyn	Conley		Kailey	McKenzie		Ashanti	Williams
	Conner-						
Melanie	Myers		Madeleine	McKeon		Serian	Williams
Renee	Cormier		Heather	McLaughlin		Scott	Wojtowicz
Emily	Corsetto		Peter	Menzies		Brenna	Wood
Anthony	Couture		Jaime	Moynihan		Melody	Wood
Jessica	Da Mota		Caroline	Mulligan		Matteo	Zingales
Kelvis	DeCastro, Jr.		Shana	Murphy			
Mackenzie	Derepentigny		Josette	Nammour			
Alexander	Diep		Cuong	Nguyen			
Connor	Donovan		Liana	Nguyen			
Kelly	Dorandi		Bertina	Nherrisson			
Jacob	Dubois		Jimmy	Njoroje			
Megan	Dunn		Lexus	Ocasio			
Mounier	Elhout		Jasmine	Om			
John	Farnkoff		Jenna	O'Malley			
Kurtis	Foden		Sara	Ospina			
Alexis	Fontaine		Pavan	Patel			

SNAPSHOT OF A.P. EXAM DATA, METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL

In 2013, 630 AP Examinations administered at MHS

In 2014, 735, AP Examinations administered at MHS.

In 2013, a total of 238 qualifying scores earned (38%)

in 2014, a total of 292 qualifying scores earned (40%)

In 2013, 43 total AP Scholars (8 w/distinction, 3 w/honors, 32 scholars)

In 2014, 56 total AP Scholars(14 w/distinction, 12 w/honors, 30 scholars)

While total exams given, total number of qualifying scores, and total number of AP Scholars rose significantly, percentage of total number of students earning qualifying scores also rose slightly.

We are proud to announce that 56 Methuen High School students and recent graduates have been recognized by The College Board as AP Scholars.

AP Scholars with Distinction (14)

For earning a score of 3 or higher on 5 or more AP examinations and for earning at least a score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken.

Michaela Cullum-Doyle
Benjamin Fitzgerald
Olivia Lavoie
Sydney Littlefield
Kellie McDonald
Lina Nguyen
Chihiro Shimomoto

Matthew Downing
Brandon Karmelowicz
Emma Limperis
Abigail Marzec
Alicia Moro
Samantha Perry
Siufong Tran

AP Scholar with Honors (12) - for earning a score of 3 or higher on 4 or more AP examinations and for earning at least a score of 3.25 on all AP exams taken.

Keidelyn Abreu
Brian Cole
Shane Godek
Reagan Katulege
Caroline Mulligan
Danielle Thibodeau

Mark Catipon
Courtney Cuscuna
Alyssa Joubert
Lauren McAndrew
Ian Rossi
Joseph Wakim

AP Scholar (30) - for earning a 3 or higher on 3 or more AP examinations

Sandra Adome
Michaela Auterio
Jacob Branchaud
Jamie Coronella
Maxine Harvey
Emily Hitchcock
James Holden
Alexander Le
Kelly Lennon
Madeleine McKeon
Tam Nguyen
Trushti Patel
Derek Rosone
Simon Ton
Michael Wakim

Bo Armstrong
Brady Baron
Melanie Conner-Myers
Fallon Forbes
Tyler Hayes
Sharlow Hitchcock
Ashely Horan
George Le
William McGrath
Anthony Nguyen
Justin Ordway
Laura Quinn
Jennifer Santamaria
Karina Trinidad
Cilei Wu

SADD UPDATE

District-Wide: Red Ribbon Week activities will take place at all schools. The advisors have begun planning for the Methuen Festival of Trees (70's Peace, Love, and Drug-Free theme) and the Santa Parade. More details to come. Attached after the school-specific updates is the history of Red Ribbon and sample activities.

MHS:

Students have been meeting each week with a new structure. This year we have tiers of involvement: officers (shared positions by existing leaders). The core group(planners and loyal, dedicated members who will come to each event and attend extra planning/activity meetings), and a general group who will attend meetings when available and will be able to participate in field trips and activities if they so desire. So far, this structure has been working wonderfully. There are 6 officers, 25 members in the core group and close to 40 additional, general members. 7 members attended the Merrimack Valley Drug Coalition's first annual substance abuse awareness community fair. The event featured a panel of speakers (which included past SADD member Amanda Aziz) and current SADD students were able to explain the group to members of the community. We are planning our first trip to a haunted corn field. In addition to the general list of activities for Red Ribbon Week, the school nurse will be playing "Anonymous," regarding the topic of drugs all week, students will hand out information about Red Ribbon Week and SADD along with Red Ribbons at lunch, plus the daily announcements, guest speaker during class assemblies, Anthony Sideri, posters, a writing contest and "wear red day" will all occur at the High School. In addition, the band will wear red ribbons in support at the home game vs Tewksbury on October 10, and the art department is having an art contest.

CGS:

The first group meeting yielded 20 students, most are returning members from last year. They are interested in recruiting more members, but are intent on keeping ours a close-knit, dedicated group. They have amazing energy! This group will also participate in Red Ribbon week with some of the activities-a lunch table, handing out ribbons, announcements and "wear red day." In addition, these students have begun planning their first trip, dinner and a movie at the loop, and made a list of hopeful activities for the year.

TIMONY:

The September meeting was 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.

The primary focus of the meeting was to

- review contracts
- discuss the purpose of SADD
- discuss conduct and expectations of members
- describe Red Ribbon Week

October meetings are scheduled for October 9 and October 23.

TENNEY:

Students are working extremely hard to prepare for Red Ribbon Week. They have already met several times and have a wide range of activities planned for the week. In preparation, they are making red ribbons, posters, preparing announcements and "questions of the day" with an interactive display in school. In addition, they are changing the message on the school sign, sending social media updates, decorating the school as well as making locker decorations.

Marsh:

Things are off to a great start at the Marsh. 50 grade 8 students signed up for SADD. They have all returned their contracts. Red Ribbon Week was discussed at the first meeting. Mr. Parker and Mrs. Zracket discussed a door-decorating contest that week. We also have speakers from CAC coming on the 30th.

MPS Red Ribbon Activities 2014



October 23-31

This year, the Methuen Public School's district-wide SADD program will participate in Red Ribbon Week. Each school in the district will recognize the event in different ways, engaging the student population by means appropriate to grade and developmental level.

A brief history of Red Ribbon Week:

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the United States. It all started with the torture and murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena after investigating drug cartels in Mexico.

The first Red Ribbon Week was proclaimed in 1988 by the U.S. Congress in support of Agent Camarena and the cause he gave his life for -- combating drugs. The week is marked by the wearing of a red ribbon to send the message: Live drug-free!

National Red Ribbon Week is the last week of October. SADD chapters are encouraged to celebrate Red Ribbon Week to symbolize their commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and to create awareness of the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs (SADD.org).

Sample list of activities in Methuen Public Schools:

- Wearing and handing out red ribbons to students and staff.
- Red ribbon placed over school sign and throughout hallways.
- Door and hallway decorating contests following the theme of Red Ribbon Week 2014.
- "Wear red day."
- Essay/poetry contest with winner read over announcements.
- Daily Announcements with information.
- Guest Speaker at MHS during assembly- Anthony Scuderi.
- Former SADD students visiting health classes to speak.
- MHS Band wearing red, performing tribute.
- Superintendent Scannell calling system-wide and putting out contracts for life.
- Ongoing drug information videos
- Guidance department focusing on strategies to avoid substance use.
- History Departments focusing on the history of the drug trade
- Math departments focus on the financial consequences of the drug trade