

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 2015

UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
October 15 th	7:00 p.m.	SEPAC Monthly Meeting	CGS, Auditorium
October 24 th	9-1 p.m.	“MYCHIP” Masonic Youth Children Identification Program	Tenney Grammar School
October 26 th	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Workshop	Marsh Grammar School
October 31 st	10:00 a.m.	CGS 4 th Annual 5K Race & Family Fun Run	
November 3 rd	<i>ELECTION DAY - NO CLASSES P.D. DAY FOR TEACHERS</i>		
November 9 th	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Business Mtg.	MHS Media Center

METHUEN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HAYRIDES

October 16 th	6-10 p.m.	Haunted Hayrides ONLY	Simone's Riverside Farms
October 17 th	12-5 p.m.	Happy Hayrides	Simone's Riverside Farms
October 17 th	6-10 p.m.	Haunted Hayrides ONLY (also rain date for Oct 16 th)	
October 18 th	<i>RAIN DATE FOR OCTOBER 17TH</i>		

SAME SCHEDULE (as the 17th) ALL TICKETS WILL BE HONORED

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal

The MHS Drama club is off to a phenomenal start with over 80 kids signed up to participate in **SHREK THE MUSICAL**. Final auditions were held on Thursday October 1 and the cast list will go up next week. Show dates are set for January, 7, 8 and 9.

MHS Video club is back for a second year, and already in full swing, with club members working on several different projects, including animation and special effects using “Adobe After Effects”, music looping in Garageband, video editing with Adobe Premiere, graphic design and image manipulation with Photoshop, and green screen effects in the studio. Video club students are also helping to create an intro sequence for the new, upcoming TV series with Superintendent Judith Scannell, which will be produced in our MHS TV studio during block 5.

MHS Senior Class The senior class is excited for two activities in the fall. The senior class will have its first senior class trip to NYC on Sunday November 8th to see the Broadway Show, Jersey Boys. The senior class is also preparing for its first fundraiser with the first annual MHS Lip Sync Battle. Students and staff will compete to become the Lip Sync Battle Champion.

Methuen High School Upcoming Dates

Date	Time	Event	Location
October 13	TBT	Senior Class Photo	Methuen High School
October 14	7:15 am	PSAT's	Methuen High School
October 14	7:25am	MHS College, Careers and Community Service Fair	MHS Fieldhouse
October 16	TBT	JROTC Blood Drive	MHS Fieldhouse
October 28 <i>TENTATIVE</i>	6-8 p.m.	MEFA College/Financial Aid Night	MHS <i>Auditorium (English) Café (Spanish)</i>

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

LOWER SCHOOL

- The kindergarten students will visit Applecrest Farm in New Hampshire on Tuesday, October 6th. This engaging experience will provide students with science knowledge such as how bees are helpful in pollinating the apple blossoms. It is always a great time!
- Our annual CGS Fundraiser is wrapping up this week. We appreciate the dedication of our PTO, and thank our families for their generosity. We hope to use the proceeds to fund our enrichment opportunities within the school.
- The CGS PBIS team (comprised of teachers, support staff and administrators) attended implementation workshops in Worcester, MA. The workshops guided the team in determining strengths and weaknesses within our first year of implementation. The school philosophy is, "CGS is the BEST" and includes behavior expectations within the school, playground and busses. We will continue to collect data and make adjustments as we proceed with implementation.

UPPER SCHOOL

- The upper school is having its first 8th grade field trip on October 21st. We will be headed to Crescent Farms in Bradford, MA where activities will include a hayride, ice cream, pumpkin picking and a team-building corn maze activity. We are also looking forward to a visit from Essex Technical School on October 28th as they will be presenting information about their high school to our 8th grade students.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

Lower School

- Teachers have been reviewing and reminding students about safety procedures in and around the building. We have had two fire drills and teachers reviewed the ALICE procedures with returning students. School Resource Officer Gardner visited the kindergarten classrooms to informally discuss components of the ALICE program, and the kindergarten teachers supported that effort through their own talks with students.
- Assessments in ELA and math have been completed and Student Achievement Plans (SAP) are being prepared for students whose performance on the assessments and in class indicate a need for more directed classroom strategies and instructional techniques to help them make better

progress toward proficiency. Special Education and ELL teachers collaborate and contribute to the SAP preparation and implementation with the classroom teachers in recognizing and addressing each student's individual needs.

- Kindergarten classes are planning a trip to the apple orchard early in October and the 4th grade will be going to the Lowell Mills during the month as part of their socials studies curriculum studying immigrants. All students complete relevant pre- and post- activities associated with the field trips to enhance their learning experiences.
- Grade level teams met with the ELA, Math and ELL coaches last month in their weekly meetings to help implement the ATLAS curriculum changes and new Eureka math program, as well as to develop meaningful content and language objectives.

Upper School

- Administration has begun the process of walking through classes. We have also begun using Teach point as a tool to provide feedback to teachers after they have been observed. Administration provides this feedback using the Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice: Rubric from the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation.
- Teachers recently attended professional development sessions to receive information about both Eureka Math and Lucy Calkins Writing. Teachers were also engaged by content coaches in conversations about the implementation of this program. Coaches were able to facilitate positive discussions as they also collected valuable feedback and information from teachers collectively across grade levels.
- Grade 8 attended their field trip to Camp Lincoln. Teachers reported back after the trip stating that students were exposed to valuable team building and life lessons.
- Two 7th grade teachers are retiring this month. We have two new teachers ready to begin in their place. We plan to hold open house meetings in order to give parents/guardians an opportunity to meet with them. We will plan these meetings as soon as possible.
- Student Council is up and running. They have already begun their well established recycling program. Classrooms have recycling baskets and Student Council students send out a schedule and regularly pickup recycling for each classroom.
- The Fall Festival will be held October 17th from 10-2. The festival is wonderful family event held each year here at the Marsh. This year the festivities will include:

A dunk tank	Bouncy houses	
Hayrides	Pumpkin decorating	
Indoor carnival type games	Food, snacks, slush, etc.	
Raffles	Silent Auctions	And more...

Tickets for the activities are low in cost and sold at the entrances.

Additionally this year we are hosting a pumpkin decorating contest and an Apple Pie bake off! For Pumpkin entries: Carve or decorate a pumpkin to enter into our pumpkin contest. (In order to participate, bring your decorated pumpkin between 8:30 and noon)

Apple Pies: If you have a 'blue ribbon' apple pie—please enter it into our contest!

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal

With October here, staff and students at the Tenney have settled into routines that promote learning. Here is a sampling of activities:

- The number of parent and community volunteers continues to grow. During our two Open House nights, 167 people filled out CORI forms. That brings the number of Tenney volunteers up to almost 500. Senior clerk Margaret Sweeney coordinated the effort.
- We continue our work expanding PBIS at the Tenney. Each Friday, students who meet our Tenney R.O.C.K.S. expectations has the opportunity to win rewards. We are also recognizing those students who show perseverance and responsibility for their academic work with the much coveted *Show What You Know* gold tickets. Our kick off PBIS assembly on Oct. 9 featured Tenney talent and a staff and student created movie illustrating behavior expectations in all parts of Tenney life.
- Upper School Associate Principal Paula Simone and Dean of Students Carl DeRubeis and SRO Michael Farelli met with every upper school class to talk about academic expectations, upcoming events and opportunities for students to get involved in the life of the Tenney.
- Girls on the Run and Girls on Track programs are up and running! We have dozens of girls, coached by Tenney moms and staff after school learning about the power of keeping healthy with physical fitness and good self esteem.
- Tenney celebrated National Custodian Day Oct. 2 with thank you cards and appreciation for our crew.
- SRO Michael Farelli visited lower school classrooms to remind our youngest students the importance of listening and following directions, especially during fire and ALICE drills.
- Our first PTO meeting of the year was one of the best attended meetings in recent history. Plans were made for several events and the Yankee Candle fundraiser began. Forty percent of all sales from the fundraiser will help make events like the Monster Bash, dozens of field trips and Fun Day possible. The Yankee Candle fundraiser runs until Oct. 16.

Coming up

Picture Day: Oct. 15

PTO meeting: Oct 15, 7 pm

7th grade trip to Camp Lincoln: Oct 20 and 21

Monster Bash: Oct. 23

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

This month at the Timony, there are many great things happening in both upper and lower school.

- Picture day is coming up on October 9th. All students received an order form in their back pack mail on 10/2. Additional forms are available in the offices if you need one.
- Students will be participating in the first SOAR rewards starting this week. SOAR is the Timony's positive behavioral support system that we are implementing school wide. SOAR stands for Safety first, Owning your behavior, Accepting responsibility, Respecting others. When students are demonstrating those positive traits, they earn signatures from Timony staff members which earns them admission into different reward activities. The students are really looking forward to this first reward!
- Don't forget to check out the K - 4 fall art work that is currently being displayed at the Central Administration Building. Students have captured the colors of fall and are very proud of their work; as they should be!
- The PTO is sponsoring their Fall Festival again this year on Thursday, October 22nd from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. This is a great, family friendly event which helps to support our PTO. Please

remember that all funds raised by the PTO come directly back into the school to support our students. Please save the date and plan on coming out to the Fall Festival.

- The Red Ribbon Campaign will be taking place from October 23rd - 31st. Students will be participating in different activities and making pledges to be "drug free". Please look for more information and displays around the Timony during our Red Ribbon Campaign.

SADD UPDATE

District-Wide: The groups have discussed once again participating in the Festival of Trees. The theme will be Red Ribbon Week and the tree will memorialize those who students lost to addiction or struggling with addiction. The Tenney Grammar School will be used for a night of crafting for the event sometime in October. There will be more district-wide events to come.

High School: The MHS group has had 2 meetings this year. There is a grand total of 77 students signed up with signed contracts coming in daily. The MHS group will be using Google Classroom for communicating and collaborating; last week they worked in groups to make "wish lists" on Google Classroom. Students will be fundraising this year and hope to complete many activities. Below is a sample of activities on the wish list:

Hiking	Kayaking
Group dinner nights	Hayrides/fall activities
Snow tubing	Ice skating
Duck boats	Altitude sports park
Volunteer Work (cleaning up river, food pantry)	Barbecue

Students will be sponsoring Red Ribbon Week the last week of October. This will feature lunchtime activities in which students are asked to candidly discuss substance abuse/peer pressure in high school. Additionally, Ms. Rubino will have a guest speaker in her class, her aunt who lost her son to heroin addiction ten years ago.

CGS: The SADD CGS group will meet Wednesday this week for the first time. Students will be introduced to the group and given Contracts for Life. The November update will include the fall activities completed and the number of students signed up.

Marsh: Similarly, the Marsh group has a few goals for activities for this year:

Professional athlete/motivational speaker	
Chunky's	Local hike

Tenney: The Tenney SADD group is up and running and also has a wish list to complete for the year. This group is already planning a sweatshirt sale as a fundraiser. Included in this group's wish list are the following activities:

	Kick Butts Day
Outdoor activity like kayaking, ropes course or rock climbing (teambuilding)	
End of year celebration (catered event at Canobie Lake Park for example)	

Timony: This group had similar items on their wish list:

Group Kayaking on Plum Island	Outdoor activities
Ropes course in Kittery, ME	End of the year event

