

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 2016

UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
PLEASE SEE SCHOOL UPDATES BELOW FOR HAPPENINGS IN THEIR SCHOOLS			
October 12	6-7:15 p.m.	Parent Support Group (MPS Autism Resources)	Nevins Library
October 19	7-9 p.m.	SEPAC Mtg-Basic Rights W/S	Timony Media Ctr
October 24	6:30 p.m.	School Committee W/S	MGS Media Center
October 24-28		RED RIBBON WEEK	
October 26	6:30 p.m.	DistrictWide PTO Meeting	Timony, Auditorium
October 28	Early Release	K-12 Professional Development Day	
October 29	10:00 a.m.	CGS 5K and Family Run	CGS
November 1	6:30 p.m.	District Wide Parent Meeting MPS Mental Health Initiative	TBD
November 8	NO CLASSES	K-12 Professional Development Day	
November 9	7-9 p.m.	SEPAC -Asperger/Autism Network	Timony Media Ctr
November 11	CLOSED	Veteran's Day	
November 14	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting	MHS Media Center

Something new and exciting happening at MHS: Captains Club will be an opportunity to educate our athletes on ways to effectively take on leadership roles in our school and community using the 5 Pillars of the MIAA as a Framework. On Tuesday, September 27th Captains Club Session had their first meeting.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL, CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal

JROTC

Introduction:

The new school year has begun and with that so has the new year for the Methuen JROTC Ranger Battalion. The entire month of September, the Army Instructors and the JROTC staff have been hard at work preparing the Ranger Battalion for the upcoming year. Here are some of the events that took place in the Methuen JROTC for the month of September.

Meetings:

On the 6th, 20th, and 22nd of September the Ranger Battalion conducted meetings which consisted of the Drill team, Mentorship, and Academic team. All of these meetings kicked off their respective activities, by telling the cadets what they need to expect, the days they are going to meet, and when the competitions are going to take place for those activities.

Color Guards:

On the 9th, 16th, and 23rd the Methuen Ranger Battalion performed Color Guard for the home Football games at Nicholson Stadium. Cadet Command Sergeant Major John Wizboski, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Keyla Fondeur, Cadet Captain Michael DaSilva, Cadet Sergeant Nathan Bui, and

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10.6.16

Cadet Staff Sergeant Michael Wizboski were several cadets who performed Color Guard. All of these Color Guards were supervised by LT COL Stansbury and also in attendance was Cadet Lieutenant Jacob Godfrey who took pictures.

Battalion Formation:

On the 28th the Ranger Battalion will have a Battalion Formation where the JROTC Ranger cards will be passed out, a picture of the whole battalion will be taken, and where information about upcoming events will be given. The sale of this Ranger cards will be used to help offset the cost of the Military Ball that is going to take place in March.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society will be starting the admissions process for new NHS members in the next week. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Monday, November 21.

Senior Class

The Senior Class will be traveling to NYC for a day trip for their first Senior Class Trip on Saturday November 12th. They will be seeing the Broadway show Phantom of the Opera.

Student Council

The Student Council is running the Homecoming Dance on October 8th in the Field House from 7-10pm. Hundreds of MHS students will be in attendance for this fun filled night

Dutch Exchange

On Monday October 10th, sixteen Dutch exchange students and two teachers will arrive at Methuen High School for an 8 day stay. Methuen High School is proud to host these students and teachers!

The MHS Democrats & Republicans

"The MHS Democrats & Republicans in cooperation with the League of Women Voters registered more than 60 high school students to vote in this year's election. The event was so successful they will be returning in the spring.

Next the club will focus its attention on the 2016 election, having its members create "student profiles" regarding their choice for candidates. These profiles will be displayed on the TV screens at MHS as well as on MCTV"

Adopt-A-Grandparent

Adopt-A-Grandparent still continues to meet every Wednesday afternoon at the senior center. We're teaching new members how to play 45s!

OTHER NEWS

Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) Financial Aid Seminar
Was held on October 5, 2016

MHS Senior College Planning Presentation
Was held on October 5, 2016

PSAT Administration
October 19, 2016
7:15 AM - 11:28 AM at MHS

MHS Colleges, Careers, & Community Service Fair

October 19, 2016

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in the MHS Field House

Events planned for the month of October:

- MHS Homecoming Dance/Open House/Community Day - Saturday, October 8, 2016
- MHS 5K Road Race/Walk - Sunday, October 9, 2016
- Senior Class Photograph - Tuesday, October 11, 2016
- MHS Sallie Mae/Dee 1's Knowledge for College - Monday, October 17, 2016
- MHS PSAT Administration - Wednesday, October 19, 2016
- MHS College Fair - Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Also, a complete list of MHS athletic events can be viewed by selecting the link [Athletics Calendar](#) on the MHS webpage.

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

LOWER

- 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 the enrichment opportunities within the school.
- The first "CGS PUP Rally" of 2016 will be held on October 7th. All students will participate in this event. Our own *Buddy the Bulldog* will make an appearance to help encourage all students to follow our CGS motto: CGS is the BEST! Staff and students are responding positively to this significant initiative.
- The Mobile Dentist program will visit our school on October 11th. Each year, CGS families utilize this important community service.
- The CGS kindergarten students will visit Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro, MA on October 12th. This engaging experience will provide students with key science knowledge. Students will learn that bees are important garden helpers, as they are responsible for pollinating apple blossoms. It is always a great time!

UPPER

Welcome to fall everyone. The following things are happening in the month of October:

- Hogwarts' Running Club every Wednesday
- PBIS Pup Rally 10/7
- Mobile Dentist 10/11
- Student Council begins 10/13
- WBZ Meteorologist, Danielle Niles, Grade 5 Presentation 10/26
- CGS 5K Road Race 10/29

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

LOWER

- Teachers have been reviewing and reminding students about safety procedures in and around the building. We have had two fire drills and one ALICE drill so that the students are familiar with the procedures during each type of situation.

- Assessments in ELA and Math are underway to establish where students are performing at the beginning of the year. This data, along with formal and informal classroom assessments, is used by teachers to help determine intervention topics, guided reading groups, and review/reteaching needed, as well as to develop their student learning and professional practice goals.
- Picture Day is October 14th.
- PTO is hosting a "Trunk or Treat" time on October 14th. This is a new event for organization, and should be fun for the children and the trunk decorators!
- Grade 4 will be visiting the Tsongas Industrial History Center on October 31st as complete relevant pre-and post- activities associated with the field trips to enhance their learning experiences.
- Firefighter Phil is coming to present to grades 1, 2 and 3 on October 26th.
- Grade level teams met with the ELA and Math coaches last month regarding the independent reading block and new math resources. Grades 3 and 4 also reviewed preliminary MCAS information together, discussed indentified strenghts and weaknesses, as well as possible ways to address and improve areas of concern.
- Our first PBIS assembly for grades PK-4 was held in the Upper School gym on September 30th. The kids reviewed the needs for Safety, Respect and Responsibility, recited the Marsh Star Pledge, and were very excited to meet the new Marsh eagle mascot!!!

UPPER

- We ended September with an assembly, reviewing our core values; Safety, Respect, and Responsibility. We also celebrated the success we have had as a school implementing these core values and we rewarded several students with certificates recognizing their efforts. We were also able to introduce our new Mascot, The Marsh Eagle!
- On October 4, 5, and 6, grade 8 students attended a field trip at Camp Lincoln. Students participated in team building activities and challenged themselves and each other, working together to complete complex tasks.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal

We have settled into the new school year quickly and efficiently. Our teaching staff has worked hard to teach students routines and rituals that will support their learning and create classrooms that are free of distractions and disruptions. As we close the first month of school, here is a quick look at what is happening at the Tenney:

- Upper School students are learning about democracy by participating in a mock election. The Kennedy Museum is helping with the effort, supplying the Tenney with materials, lesson plans suggestions and of course, ballots. To make this a real-life experience, students will have the opportunity to register to vote and cast their ballot in November. Tenney votes will be tallied with votes cast by students across the country.
- Many of our Tenney teachers are keeping parents up to date on classroom activities using apps like REMIND and Instagram.
- We are so fortunate to have such supportive, involved parents. During our two Open houses 170 parents/guardians filled out CORI forms. We look forward to having these volunteers in our schools, chaperoning field trips and supporting students and staff.
- The Tenney honors those who serve our country. We are looking for the names and pictures of Tenney students and families who are on active duty or who have served a soldiers, airmen or sailors. Their pictures will be displayed on the Heroes Wall outside our Main Office. Thanks to Ms. Wyman and our Peer Leaders.

- ELA Coach Christine Staugler was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Dollar General. The money will be used to buy books for independent reading.
- Students of Band/Music Teacher Brian Fulks will be traveling in style to watch the Boston Symphony Orchestra later this year. Mr. Fulks was awarded a grant to subsidize transportation.
- Our PTO parents, led by Eleni Varitimos organized the first Tenney Gear sale of the year. The first order of performance shirts, t-shirts and sweatshirts will be delivered soon. The biggest fundraiser event for our PTO, the Yankee Candle Sale is ongoing now.
- The Tenney School Council met for the first time this year. Superintendent Scannell spoke about plans for the year ahead.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 20 : PTO Meeting

Oct. 21: Monster bash

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

- The Timony Grammar School is excited to share the Grade 3 Team applied for and received a free Field Trip to the Museum of Science inclusive of transportation cost. The students are very excited to have this wonderful opportunity funded through Google.
- The Timony Food Pantry is off to a good start. The shelves are well stocked and the first backpacks will be sent home on Friday, October 7th. Last year the program served over 25 families through the commitment and generosity of Kate Vachon and the entire Timony staff.
- Leahy Behavior Clinic has begun servicing students twice a week at the Timony, as well as providing support to parents who need assistance with getting services. Leahy is working very closely with the Timony Guidance Department to better meet the social and emotional needs of all students.
- The Upper School has begun the weekly early Wednesday morning "Open "Gym" time when all students in Grades 5-8 can participate in physical activities prior to the start of the school day.
- Thank you to Mr. Kfoury for the new play equipment that was installed in both the upper and lower school play areas. It is a wonderful addition to the Timony and enjoyed by everyone.

SADD UPDATES

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school group is in full swing with two meetings under their belt and their first, official event on Wednesday, October 5th. From 6-8pm in the school cafeteria, students will bring their own pumpkins to carve or paint and there will be music and fall crafts. The group has combined forces with Mr. Curran and the Captain's Club(the captains of the sports teams), to promote wellness and healthy living in the school for the year. For Red Ribbon week, the entire school will view a recording of Anthony Sideri speaking to the captains and the SADD group about the dangers of substance abuse. Additionally, all students and staff will wear red and a red ribbon pin for Red Ribbon Day on October 26th. The SADD group will meet every other Wednesday after school in Ms. Rubino's room.

Red Ribbon Week October 24th is upon us this month and this year the SADD group and athletics Captain's Club are teaming up to make the event memorable.

On Monday, October 24th, Anthony Sideri will speak to the fall sports captains and the SADD group from 2-3pm. He will speak to the students about his experiences with substance abuse and is an engaging and relatable speaker. We will record the event and ask that all staff show their block 7 class the recording on Wednesday, October 26th, Red Ribbon Day. I will send the link to the video via email the morning of October 26th. I will provide a few essential questions with the video and I hope this video will stimulate conversation about the dangers of substance abuse.

Red Ribbon Day, Wednesday, October 26th all staff:

- Wear red
- Wear a red ribbon pin
- Show the recording of Anthony Sideri's presentation during block 7.

CGS

We are excited to have a new advisor, Mr. Matt Twomey, at the school. He is a beloved, 7th grade teacher and volleyball coach at the high school. He joins the crew with many great ideas and will be holding a meeting this month to kick off the group.

MARSH

We are off to a great start at the Marsh. I had my first meeting on 9/21 and have about 60 signed contracts so far. Our first activity will be Red Ribbon Week in October. I will be joining forces with our health teacher to do some building-based activities to raise awareness.

TENNEY

We are excited to have a new advisor, Ms. Danielle Abdallah. She is a graduate of Presentation of Mary and began teaching the Upper School Therapeutic Intervention Program in September 2012. At the Tenney, I am currently the upper school liaison for the PTO, as well as on the PBIS Team. She is looking forward to getting started with her group this month!

TIMONY

Our first meeting of the year will be held on October 13. It is during this meeting that I hope to gain some fresh faces from my 7th grade students.

We will begin the year with the red ribbon campaign. During health classes, students in grades 5-8 will pledge to stay tobacco, alcohol and drug free. They will sign this red ribbon pledge and these will be displayed in our glass corridor.

We look forward to the NO FIRST TIME presentation being sponsored at our school on Wednesday, October 26th... I will urge SADD students to wear their SADD apparel with red arm bands and be a visible presence in the audience

Plans for 2016-7:

- Red ribbon campaign (October)
- Methuen festival of trees and/or Timony's annual holiday celebration (November/December)
- Methuen SADD Skateland event highlighting positive social activities (January/February)
- Kick Butts campaign (March)
- Back to School program fundraiser for Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (April/May)
- Additional field trips with other Methuen SADD programs (TBA)
- End of year wrap up...
- ***October Meeting dates:*** October 13,20