

# METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

### SEPTEMBER, 2016

#### UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b><i>PLEASE SEE SCHOOL UPDATES BELOW FOR HAPPENINGS IN THEIR SCHOOLS</i></b>			
September 14	7:00 p.m.	SEPAC Meeting	Timony Media Center
September 26	6:30 p.m.	School Committee W/S	CGS Media Center
September 30	Early Release	K-12 Professional Development Day	
October 10	NO SCHOOL	Columbus Day	
<b><i>Tuesday</i></b> October 11	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting	MHS Media Center

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

*Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal*

##### **MOCK TRIAL**

First meeting for the Mock Trial team will be on Tuesday, Sept 13th. We will be holding a fundraiser at Orange Leaf at a date to be named later and hope to go to Boston to watch Harvard Law Students practice a mock trial.

##### **BEST BUDDIES**

MHS Best Buddies chapter meeting will be held on 9/15 to rally the troops for the organizations upcoming Relay Race. On 9/22, the chapter will hold a sign-ups meeting in the cafeteria at 2:05-3:30. All are welcome to renew membership and/or recruit new members! Everyone is encouraged to bring his/her iPad for easy access to enrollment.

##### **STRATEGIES GAMES CLUB**

Strategy Games Club will be meeting weekly starting Wednesday 9/7 from 2 to 4pm. The club will be discussing and planning for the 2016-17 year.

##### **ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT**

Adopt-A-Grandparent will kick off our 15th year this September! The club will meet to discuss this year's events and activities

##### **BOOKS AND BAGELS**

The B&B Club will hold its first meeting on Thursday Sept. 13. This first meeting welcomes old and new members. The meeting is informational in nature. Using a PowerPoint presentation members will be made aware of the club's rules, and expectations. We will discuss our annual holiday fundraiser and of course the titles of books that we will be reading and discussing each month.

The first "read" of the month is: *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* by Patrick Ness and copies will be distributed to members. We will choose class liaisons and group leaders for each month's "read".

We are looking forward to meeting with our new group of enthusiastic readers and enjoy another year of lively discussions and fun as we discuss books, and enjoy a bagel or two!

### **Events planned for the month of September:**

- MHS Fall Athletic Parent Information Night - Thursday, September 8 , 2016
- MHS Picture Day - Monday, September 12, 2016
- MHS Orientation to NECC Field Trip - Wednesday, September 21, 2016
- MHS Open House - Thursday, September 29, 2016
- Early Release PD Day - Friday, September 30 , 2016

### **Other Upcoming Events**

- MHS SAT Administration - Saturday, October 1, 2016
- MHS MEFA Financial Aid Seminar - Wednesday, October 5, 2016
- MHS Homecoming Dance/Open House/Community Day - Saturday, October 8, 2016
- MHS 5K Road Race/Walk - Sunday, October 9, 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**

- Open house for grades K-4 occurred prior to the first day of school, on September 29th. We had great parent and family attendance. Teachers enjoyed meeting the newest members of their learning community.
- We had a great start to school! Kindergarten students began on September 6th. The building is now full with 1,020 students from preK-8! It is a busy place with lots of activity!
- Our first PTO meeting is scheduled for September 15th from 7:00- 8:00pm in the CGS media center.
- On September 16th, we will have our school-wide Fundraiser Kickoff. Each year, this fundraiser helps to supply the funds for enrichment and other great opportunities!
- All students will be showing their best smiles on September 27th, as it is individual school picture day!
- The SEPAC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14th in the Timony library from 7:00-9:00pm.

### **UPPER**

It was a smooth start for the CGS Upper School and we welcomed all of our students back with an assembly. Our students were excited to back to school and see their friends and teachers. We had a successful open house for parents both in the morning and in the evening so that it would be convenient for many parents to attend. We are planning our first PTO Meeting for September 15 and our Fundraiser Kickoff on September 16. It looks to be a promising and exciting start to the school year.

## **MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal*

I would like to keep everyone updated as to the happenings at the Marsh Grammar School in September 2016.

- Open House for grades 1-4 was held August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30, and was very well attended. The building has been freshly painted throughout, thoroughly cleaned, and the rooms were welcoming for our returning students. Opening day went very smoothly, and all students were

dismissed and on their way home well before 3:30pm! The students and teachers are getting back into their routines, and we are all looking forward to a productive year.

- Kindergarten teachers held Open House on August 29<sup>th</sup> in two morning sessions and then started their screenings in the afternoon. PTO held a Meet and Greet on the playground in the afternoon for students and parents to meet each other and have a complimentary popsicle. Kindergarten students start on September 6, which is always an exciting day for students and staff!
- Grade level instructional schedules were created over the summer, and support staff have been coordinating with classroom teachers to make sure students receive all services they need to encourage academic progress.
- Assessments in ELA and Math will begin in the next week. The results of the assessments will assist the teachers in determining the students' skills after the summer vacation, as well as identifying areas that need some refresher or intervention. The teachers are also reviewing building routines with their classes, such as fire drills, PBIS expectations for hallway behavior, cafeteria protocol, etc.
- Grade level teams will be working on developing their student learning and professional practice goals, reviewing and analyzing standardized testing results, and working out start-of-the-year issues in their schedule meetings.
- At the Marsh Upper School we had a great opening day. Student assemblies were held for all grade levels. Then later that same day we held an open house for parents. Parents met with Upper School Associate Principal Mr. Marino in the auditorium before venturing off to meet with upper school teachers. Right now, we are asking teachers to begin to look at data in preparation for creating educator plans that they will submit to administration in October. We will be meeting with teachers this month to discuss the data as a team to ensure that all plans are in line with school and district goals.



### **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal*

We are off to a great start to the 2016-2017 school year at the Tenney. Our Opening Days went smoothly and staff and students were so pleased to see each other. The first week of school was devoted to building routines and rituals to ensure that the remainder of the school year has limited distractions and disruptions.

and we were Here is a look at some of the highlights of the last few weeks:

- The Third Annual Back to School Picnic drew about 300 members of the Tenney family to our front lawn. Folks brought their picnic dinners, talked to Methuen firemen and police officers and checked out their safety vehicles, met PTO members and played games.
- Thank you to Zwicker and Associates, Attorneys at Law of Andover. The firm adopted our school and did some back to school shopping for us. The firm provided bags of supplies, including

calculators and ear buds for Chrome Books that will enhance our students' learning. Special thanks to Kevin Amill for coordinating the effort.

- Our Tenney Rocks the Nevins program brought together 25 7th and 8th graders every Friday during the summer at the Nevins Library to talk about books, enjoy activities related to the books and stay in touch over the summer with the Tenney family. Tenney staff volunteered their time and attended as well. The program was so successful we hope to continue the partnership through the school year. At our last gathering, we tie-dyed Tenney Rocks the Nevins shirts and enjoyed cake. Thanks Nevins staff!
- We instituted the first Coffee with Tenney Administrative Team in August. Parents were invited to the school to chat with the principals, dean and special education administrator. The summer gathering was so successful. We will continue the coffees through the school year.
- To celebrate the start of the school year, the administrative team hosted a cookout for the staff. Ms. Simone, Ms. Ingrassia, Mr. DeRubeis, Mr. Bateman and Ms. Donovan manned the grill while staff members reconnected, planned and posed for start of the year team photos.
- Our Open Houses were well attended and featured community fairs. In addition to meeting teachers and checking out their new classrooms, students and families had a chance to learn about all sorts of Methuen offerings. They were able to join Methuen Girl and Boy Scout troops, learn about adult education opportunities, get a Nevins Library card and more.
- Our initiative to educate parents about the importance of good attendance kicks off with Attendance Awareness Month. Details about the impact of good attendance will be shared with students and families through social media, classroom discussion and information sent home. We have also identified almost 100 students who were chronically absent last year and will work with their families to improve their children's attendance for this school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days of school in September go on to miss nearly a month of school. And those lost days translate into not reading at grade level and falling behind peers.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – PTO's first meeting of the Year 7 pm

### **TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal*

We are off to a great start at the Timony. Grades 1 - 8 had a great opening last week and we welcomed Pre K and Kindergarten today. Now our building is full and bustling with students getting back into their routines. We are excited to welcome families into the building for open house tomorrow from 5:30 - 7:30. Each grade level meets at a different time so parents can attend different grade level meetings. Notices will be sent home today as a reminder. We are very excited for our parent community to see all of the changes here at the Timony.

We are excited to bring back our vocabulary initiative in both lower and upper school and will be focusing on a Word of the Week each week. The teachers and the academic coaches select words from different curriculums to focus on as we all work to improve our vocabulary. We are also continuing our work with our Positive Behavioral Support system. We define behavioral expectations for all students around the building and look for opportunities to celebrate students' success.

### **MPS COMMUNITY PROGRAM UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Robert Kfoury, Director*

#### **Rangers' Club**

*FY16 - up to 365 students per month in Rangers' Club*

- Went very smoothly overall

- Updated Parent-Student Handbook online at our MPS website link, which has a lot of program information
- Bocce at SOI was very successful and will offer for two sessions in FY17
- ALICE training completed - thanks to CGS for hosting
- Eureka Math training to homework staff (included 21st CCLC staff) by all grammar school math coaches

### **Rangers' Club**

- *FY17 - 354 enrolled for October*
- New in FY17:
- We now have two new DPT playgrounds which were ready for school opening; and repair to LS rear playground completed; outside playground fence scheduled to be completed by early October – Thanks to Jeff Osgood, Tim Miller, and Supt. Scannell for working with us to choose the most appropriate playgrounds – THE KIDS LOVE THEM! - Thanks to Bruce Stella and his Timony staff for helping to make installation work by school opening.
- Early stages of Greenhouse planning; MHS location with goal of MHS students mentoring our K-8s daily A-S and in summer; if successful, we hope to have Greenhouses at each school in future.
- Planning Lego STEM/Robotics offering, music and art offerings, more health & fitness offerings, maybe language(s); considering rotation of each at each school
- Collaboration with CREST (e.g., transportation, woodworking) mtg. 9/8/16 w/ Director & staff to explore
- Infinite Campus - hope to share information more easily with administrators, teachers, and guidance; hope to offer payment options to parents through this system

### **Rangers' Camp**

- Appx. 300 students attended
- Very successful summer; offering more clubs and events this year than ever w/ increase in upper school enrollment
- 29 field trips and special event days & 7 full-day field trips to Cedardale Groveland
- 27 CPR/1st aid staff trained w/certifications

### **21st CCLC Programs (TNY & DPT)**

- FY16 - had 174 students enrolled (94 TNY; 80 DPT) during school year and nearly 120 for the summer program (most ever at this level for school year & summer), which enjoyed a successful collaboration with Title I (appx. 60 T-I students); ELA focus
- Eureka Math training for staff and plan to have 2nd phase of that in FY17; also for FY17 RC staff
- Summer Pilot - Lego STEM - extremely successful!! - will do in FY17
- PROGRAM CHANGE: will only offer 2-days/week schedule for Grades 1 & 2 - Mondays & Wednesdays, and Grades 3 & 4 - Tuesdays & Thursdays; **should increase school year enrollment to appx. 200**; Math & STEM focus this year
- FY17 applications went out to nearly 100 students that participated in the summer program; will work with CGS to ID returning and referred SEI students.
- LGBTQ Presentation: The Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students - it is a joint initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth; DATE & Time: Tuesday, 9/27/16, from 6:15pm - 8:15pm @ MHS Auditorium