

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER, 2014

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. James Giuca, Principal

The new era for Methuen High School began Wednesday, September 3, with all grades back together in the new building. Staff and students remarked that it was an enjoyable first day. After the handing out of schedules and students learning classroom directions, the day flowed smoothly. The evacuation practice on Wednesday helped make for a good Fire Department Coordinated evacuation drill on Thursday.

The high school Open House will be September 16, from 6:00 to 8:00.

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer! I am very excited for the 2014-2015 school year. The first day of school and Open Houses for grades 1-8 went off without a hitch!

We do have some slight changes to personnel and office locations this year. The Main office will no longer house all three principals as it has the past five years. I have decided to restore the Upper School and Lower School offices to their original locations in either end of the building. Visitors will still check into the main office, but will then be directed to the appropriate grade level office. The Special Education office will return to the main office. The CGS welcomes Mr. David Lacroix to the CGS as Interim Dean of Students for this school year. Mr. Lacroix was previously a teacher at the Methuen High. Also, Officer Paul Ramirez will be joining our team permanently this year.

We expect to have a great year at the CGS!

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

I hope everyone had a great summer! The opening of school went very well and the students, parents, and staff are excited and prepared for a successful school year. I would like to take this opportunity to keep everyone updated on all the great things happening at the Marsh.

Lower School

Marsh Grammar School had a very busy summer, housing a number of summer programs and students until the second week of August. The custodians did a phenomenal job of getting the school cleaned and prepped for the teachers' and students' return.

Open House was held on Tuesday, September 2nd for Lower School. Attendance was good and the students received warm welcomes from their new teachers and old friends. Kindergarten

students had screenings on the 3rd and 4th, Open House on the 5th and their first day will be September 9th.

Opening day was busy but (thankfully) fairly uneventful. Administration visited all the classrooms on the first day, and students new to the district were welcomed into the Marsh Family by guidance counselors and teachers.

Marsh PTO is holding their first “Kindergarten Kickoff” on September 8th as a meet and greet for new kindergarten students and parents. The first PTO fundraiser packets will be going home with students on September 12th.

We are looking forward to a great year of fun and learning at Marsh Grammar School!

Upper School

We had an extremely successful opening day.

- Mrs. Lakow, Mr. Sierpina and Mr. Parker were able to visit all classes.
- Mrs. Lakow met with 5th/6th and 7th/8th graders to review expectations for the year.
- Students are very excited about staff and team changes.
- Looking for feedback on our Open House being held first week of school.
- Brief meeting with grade 8 parents immediately prior to Open House.
- Guidance counselors have met with all students **new** to Marsh and set up appointments for a check-in.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Interim Principal

Members of the Tenney family celebrated the start of the school year with a picnic Monday August 25th on the school’s front lawn. About 300 students, family members and staff attended. They enjoyed music, informal games and the chance to socialize. Fredo Dolce Gelato provided the treats and Martin’s Flower Mart also sponsored the event which was organized by the Tenney PTO. The picnic was so successful that it will become an annual event.

Thanks to a donation secured by Holly Gray, general music teacher, the Tenney has a baby grand piano. The piano replaces the instrument relocated to the high school. The PTO helped fund moving the piano and Thomas Walters, fine arts director helped with the project.

Coming up: Sept. 10: Open House, Lower, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 11 Open House , Upper, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Sept. 25: PTO meeting 7 pm

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

The opening of school at the Timony was great. The students and staff were happy and excited to begin again. There are new staff members and many exciting changes taking place this year. Students in our Special Education and Second Language Learner subgroups will experience some changes in service delivery that we expect will improve their opportunities for success. Our math programs and instruction will also see some significant changes. Upper school will pilot some ‘vertical teaming’ strategies between grades 7 and 8 and in the lower school some of our students will have the opportunity to participate in a new math pilot run by Dr. Regina Panasuk of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. We will hosting our open house on September 10 from 6-8 pm and are looking to having all of our Timony families attend!