

# METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

### SEPTEMBER, 2015

#### UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
September 25		K-12 Early Release PD Day	All Schools
September 28	6:30	School Committee Workshop	CGS
October 1	6:30	District Wide PTO Meeting	MHS Caf�
October 12 <sup>th</sup>		Columbus Day – NO School	

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

*Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal*

On September 16th the **Adopt-A-Grandparent Club** will have its first event of the school year at the Methuen Senior Center. New club members will be introduced along with reinforcing the clubs mission of bringing Methuen's eyes of the past together with the eyes of the future. The day will end with games of 45's surely to be enjoyed by all.

The **Drama/Music Theater Club** met on September 8th to discuss auditions for the fall production of "Shrek The Musical". The meeting was also geared towards making posters for auditions and developing strategies for growing the drama program with an emphasis on recruiting incoming freshman. "Shrek The Musical" will be on January 7th-9th at the Methuen High School auditorium.

On October 12th, Dutch students will arrive in Methuen for an eight day stay with host families in Methuen. Exchange students will have a unique opportunity to experience life as a Methuen High School student. The program is made possible thanks to the **Dutch Exchange Program**.

#### Methuen High School Upcoming Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
September 14		MHS Picture Day	Methuen High School
September 16	TBT	First Adopt-A-Grandparent Event	Methuen Senior Center
September 29	6:00 pm	Methuen High School Open House	Methuen High School
October 12	TBT	Dutch exchange students arrive	City of Methuen

#### COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

*Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal*

This year the CGS had its Open House on August 31st. We had many parents show up. Our opening day went well.

The PTO sponsored a Tea and Tissues breakfast for all Kindergarten Parents on their first day of school. The PTO will have their fundraiser beginning Sept 18 and running through to October 2nd. Their first meeting of the year is scheduled for September 17 in the Media Center at 7pm. They are also having a Dining Out Night fundraiser which will be held at Margaritas at the Loop on Thursday, Sept 24th.

School pictures will be taken on September 30th. Look for notices to come home soon

### **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**

Open House for grades 1-4 was held August 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:30, and was very well attended. The building looked great and the rooms were welcoming for our returning students. Opening day went very smoothly and the additional support with enforcing the circulation pattern at arrival/dismissal from Methuen PD was greatly appreciated. The students and teachers are getting back into their routines, as well as implementing new initiatives and directives and we are all looking forward to a productive year.

Kindergarten teachers conducted student screenings on September 1 and 2 and held Open Houses on Thursday, September 3, 2015. The addition of a seventh teacher will lower the numbers in each classroom and we have been extremely busy getting a certified teacher and moving others within the building to accommodate the addition. Though some adjustments to the classroom rosters were necessary, which is always difficult, we hope that everything will run smoothly once our new kindergarteners get into a daily routine.

Assessments in ELA and Math started on 9/8 and will assist the teachers in determining the students' skills after the summer vacation as well as areas that need some refresher or intervention. The students are also practicing building routines with their classes, such as fire drills, hallway behavior, cafeteria protocol, etc. Teachers and staff specialists are working to create schedules to insure students get appropriate services.

Grade level teams will be working on developing their student learning and professional practice goals, reviewing and analyzing standardized testing results, developing individualized improvement plans for students who scored poorly on those tests, and working out start-of-the-year issues.

#### **Upper School**

New Associate Principal, Robert Marino met with upper school staff at a 'Meet & Greet' during the day and with PTO in the evening of August 20.

Open house took place on September 1. Parents were able to meet Mr. Marino at 4:30, then they met teachers at 5:00.

Teachers are eager to implement new Math and Writing strategies with new materials for Math; Eureka Math and for Writing; Lucy Calkins

Student Council elections have begun and a student council will be chosen by October.

Mr. Parker has organized a trip to Camp Lincoln for grade 8 students on September 28.

A date for the Fall Festival has been set for Saturday, October 17.

Teachers will bring this data to common planning meetings and work alongside coaches, administrators, and support staff in order to best meet the needs of all students.

Teachers will present Educator Plans to their evaluators in October.

### **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal*

The school year is off to a great start at the Tenney. Here is what is happening:

- Our second annual Back to School picnic was a great success attended by almost 200 staff and families. It featured gelato donated by Dolce Fredo Gelato, music and a chance to get a back-to-school haircut, and visits from the Methuen Fire and police departments. As usual, our fabulous PTO did a great job coordinating the event.
- Thanks to a last minute jump in enrollments, we now have eight kindergarten classrooms. Staff jumped in to support the teachers hired just before school started. Our parents were wonderfully supportive as well.
- Our Open Houses are expected to attract big crowds. In addition to presentations done by grade level, the Tenney is hosting the traditional Community Fair during Open House hours. Organizations like Girls on the Run, The Nevins Library, Rangerland, Debbie's Treasure Chest and more will set up displays in the cafeteria to share information with parents.
- Our PBIS program continues to expand. Our school-based team created an informative brochure for parents, created new Tenney R.O.C.K.S hallway bulletin boards and posters and are planning an assembly to celebrate the program
- We welcomed Carrie Ingrassia to the Tenney as our new Special Education Administrator. Ms. Ingrassia, who previously held that position at the Timony swapped positions with Judith Martin, who had worked at the Tenney for several years..

Coming up:

- First PTO meeting of the year: Sept 17, 7 pm

### **TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal*

I am very proud of the staff and students at the Timony for the outstanding opening of school that we had. Everything was smooth, staff supported each other, and students came together to help new additions to the school and other students in need of assistance.

September promises to be a busy and exciting month at the Timony. We will hold our Open House on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for all families and our PTO is holding their first meeting on

September 17<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month our eighth graders will be attending Camp Lincoln to work on team building skills. This is always a popular event for both students and teachers. The administrative team is currently planning a family scavenger hunt as a way to get our families involved and familiar with our school.

Initial assessments in Math and English/Language Arts will begin the week of September 8<sup>th</sup> in all grades. These assessments will provide vital baseline information on all of our students to help us address their specific needs. It will also provide information about our building as a whole so that we can work to fill any gaps that exist in our instruction.

September will be very busy at the Timony and will be a great start to what is going to be a busy and productive new school year.