

# METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

### SEPTEMBER 2017

#### 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> |               |  |                   |
| 9/20  | 6 p.m.        | <i>Superintendent's Annual District Wide School Dept. Safety Protocol Meeting<br/>In conjunction with Lt. Joseph Aiello,<br/>Unit Supervisor of the School Resource Officers</i> | Timony Auditorium |
| 9/25  | 6:30 pm       | School Committee Workshop  | MHS-Media         |
| 9/29  | Early Release | K-12 – Teacher's Professional Development  | D-Wide            |
|   | 8:00 P.M.     | <b><i>"THE EDWARDS TWINS"</i></b>  | MHS-Audit         |
| 10/9  | NO School     | Columbus Day – All Buildings   |                   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b> 10/10  | 6:30 p.m.     | School Committee Meeting   | MHS-Media         |

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

*Submitted by Mr. Richard Barden, Principal*

- Please note that clubs and activities are being formed this month. News and updates will be available on the October form

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday, September 12 -</b>  | MHS Connections   |
| <b>Tuesday, September 19 -</b>  | MHS Summer Reading Discussions                              |
| <b>Saturday, September 23 -</b> | MHS NESBA Band Competition                                  |
| <b>Tuesday, September 26 -</b>  | MHS Connections   |
| <b>Thursday, September 28 -</b> | 6:00pm MHS Annual Open House                                |
| <b>Friday, September 29 -</b>   | 8:00pm MHS Fundraiser "The Edwards Twins"                   |
| <b>Tuesday, October 3 -</b>     | 6:00pm MHS MEFA College Financing Seminar                   |
|                                 | 7:00pm MHS Senior College Planning Presentation             |
| <b>Friday, October 6 -</b>      | 7:00pm MHS Homecoming Football Game                         |
| <b>Saturday, October 7 -</b>    | MHS SAT Administration                                      |
|                                 | 1:00pm MHS Grades 5-8 Open House-Methuen Community Festival |
|                                 | 7:00pm MHS Homecoming Dance                                 |
| <b>Sunday, October 8 -</b>      | 9:30am MHS 5K Run/Walk                                      |

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 28th. We had great parent and family attendance. Teachers enjoyed meeting the newest members of their learning communities.
- Teachers arrived at school to find a wealth of new materials!  
In kindergarten classrooms, teachers will be using FUNdations to foster solid foundational literacy skills. In grades 1 and 2, students will use iPads to continue using LEXIA CORE5 reading. In grades 3 and 4, teachers will implement the new science curriculum using enriching hands-on discovery kits with accompanying literature. Students and teachers are thrilled to have these materials!
- We had a great start to school! Preschool and Kindergarten students began on September 5th. The building is now full with students from preK-8. It is a busy place!
- The students are excited to participate in our first POPCORN DAY of the year on September 15th!
- All students will be showing their best smiles on September 26th, as it is individual school picture day!

### **UPPER**

The opening of school, at the CGS, was an exciting time for students and staff. Everyone was ready to begin the year with a renewed excitement for learning. Our first day Open House brought in many families to visit classrooms and teachers. The month of September will include: Popcorn Day, Grade 5 at Quarrybrook, class assemblies, the launch of Reading plus for grades 5 and 6 and an early release day.

## **MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Ms. Mary Jean Fawcett, Acting Principal*

Open House for grades 1-4 was held August 28th from 5:00-6:30 and for grades 5-8 was held on August 29th from 5:00-6:30. Both were very well attended.

Opening day went very smoothly, and all students were dismissed and on their way home well before 3:30 p.m.! The teachers have reviewed building routines with their classes, such as fire drills, PBIS expectations for hallway behavior, cafeteria protocol, etc. 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 28<sup>th</sup> in two morning sessions, with screenings over the next 2-1/2 days. Kindergarten and preschool students started their school year on September 5<sup>th</sup> and, while there were a few tears from children and adults, everyone had a great first day!

Grade level meetings will start the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Discussion will include start-up issues and concerns, developing student learning and professional practice goals, reviewing and analyzing available standardized testing results, and reviewing Writing Standards in Action exemplars provided by the DESE (as time allows).

The first of several upper school field trips to Quarry Brook Experiential Education Center will take place on Wednesday, September 27th for Grade 5 students.

### **TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Ms. Mary Beth Donovan, Principal*

We are off to a good start at the Tenney! As we enter the second week of school, our students are settling into the routines established by teachers so learning can happen without disruption or distraction. A special thank you to our Tenney families for partnering with us to keep our children safe, especially during drop off and pick-up times. We hope to keep the traffic lines moving and the start and end of every day calm and happy for all our Tenney family.

Here is a quick look at the start of the school year:

- Staff celebrated our first day together with the second annual Tenney BBQ. The admin team manned the grill and in between meetings and setting up rooms, the entire staff sat down to enjoy some time together and pose for a big “family” portrait.
- Our first fire drill held the third day of school was a success. Our students were recognized for their respect for the process, school safety and speed. Our entire building emptied in record time, just over three minutes. Teachers practiced with their students in advance to establish routines.
- Our new School Safety Officer David Gardner has been meeting with classes to introduce himself and review safety rules.
- Our Back Pack Program, which provides food to students and families who may need extra help over the weekend, is about to get started, thanks to the volunteer work and generosity of our staff.
- The Tenney Grammar School stands for Respect, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness and Safety. This is why Tenney ROCKS. In an effort to spread the kindness so often experienced inside, the Tenney is bringing it outside to a Kindness ROCKS Garden. Gardens like this can be found across the nation. Colorfully painted rocks with images and messages of kindness are on display to visit, add to or even take in a moment of need. Staff has started the movement at Tenney and want students, family, friends and community members to help spread kindness and watch it grow. Teachers have already started to create some of the kindness rocks. Liz Fulks, our health teacher is coordinating.
- We look forward to working with our new cafeteria monitors. The addition of these positions will help with supervision of meals.

And finally, we look forward to the first meeting of our fabulous PTO. It is set for Sept. 21 in our staff lounge at 7 pm.

### **TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES**

*Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal*

September is here and the building is buzzing with activity. Our returning students are back and joined by many new registrations. Beginning today, (9/5) we are all back to school with the addition of our Pre K and K students who started today. Our new Pre K and K students were met with smiling faces of their teachers, guidance counselors and administration as well as by signs and bulletin boards with their names displayed and welcoming them to school.

In upper school, our students are working their way through their schedules and have the opportunity to sign up for band or chorus for the year. They are excited to have the choice and we are working to make those adjustments.

8th grade students will be heading out on their first field trip over the next two weeks to Camp Lincoln in NH. They will work on team building and problem solving activities as they develop strong peer relationships that we hope will last the year and into high school.