



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

MARY C. GORMLEY  
Superintendent of Schools  
617-696-4808/09

JOHN P. PHELAN  
Assistant Superintendent  
For Curriculum & Personnel  
617-696-4811/12

MATTHEW J. GILLIS  
School Business Administrator  
617-696-5041

To: Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians of Milton Public Schools  
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent  
Re: E-Blast Newsletter  
Date: December 22, 2010

### **From the Desk of the Superintendent:**

*Our leadership team and School Committee are in the midst of developing the FY12 Budget. The Central Office administrators have been working with the Finance Subcommittee, building Principals, other administrators and the Warrant Committee.*

*There is little optimism the revenue from the state will meet the needs of our town to be able to maintain the same level of services provided this year. At the direction of Milton's Warrant Committee, we are developing two budgets: a Level Service Budget and a Level Funded Budget.*

*The first budget is a Level Service Budget. Typically, a Level Service Budget provides for salary increases and moves the system ahead with only additional funds for raises and anticipated Special Education costs.*

*The FY12 Level Service budget is unique in that we have been using Federal Stimulus and JOBS Bill revenue to fund 17.1 FTE for this current year, FY11. These Stimulus and JOBS Bill funds enabled the Milton Public Schools to hire Special Education teachers, Reading Teachers and restore the Pierce Middle School Assistant Principal and High School Guidance Department Head positions. All of the positions hired under Stimulus and JOBS Bill in FY11 are reflected in the FY12 Level Service budget.*

*The second budget is a Level Funded Budget. A Level Funded Budget provides the Milton Public Schools the same number of dollars in FY12 that was appropriated by the Town in FY11. A Level Funded Budget requires the Milton Public Schools to make drastic cuts and reductions. The cuts and reductions are currently in draft form are categorized as salary and non-salary reductions. Some of those ideas may happen exactly as presented and some may not.*

*As always, we will know more after the Governor releases the state's budget in late January, and still more after the House of Representatives releases their version of the state's budget, which typically occurs in March.*

*In order to build a Level Funded Budget, we presented a draft non-salary reduction list and a draft salary reduction list and shared those lists at School Committee meetings on November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. The list was also shared with the building staff in each of the schools before the Holiday vacation. The lists can be found at <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2012ReductionSummary.pdf>*

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*Each Monday morning, our School Committee's Finance Subcommittee and Central Office Leadership Team meet to discuss budgetary and financial issues that impact the Milton Public Schools. These posted meetings have full agendas. Commonly in attendance are School Committee Member Mary Kelly, Chair of the Finance Sub Committee, School Committee Members Denis Keohane and Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent John Phelan, Business Administrator Matthew Gillis and Superintendent Mary Gormley. The Milton Educator's Association president Margaret Gibbons frequently attends as do other School Committee members. The meetings are open to the public.*

*An Open Budget Hearing by the School Committee and individual PTO Budget Presentations are scheduled for January. Your input is always welcome and we encourage those who are interested to attend. PTO Budget Presentations will be posted by each PTO.*

*I would like to wish each and every staff member and family in the Milton Public Schools a very happy holiday season and a healthy New Year. Enjoy the vacation with your families and we look forward to seeing our students again in 2011. – Mary C. Gormley*

### **GIFT INFORMATION:**

At this time of year our office receives many inquiries from parents about gift-giving policies for our staff. As always, we would like to remind parents that all gifts and/or donations to classroom charity projects are voluntary. We have found this website to be very helpful:

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=ethmodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Ieth&b=terminalcontent&f=pubed\\_giftstopublicschoolteachers\\_dec2010&csid=Ieth](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=ethmodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Ieth&b=terminalcontent&f=pubed_giftstopublicschoolteachers_dec2010&csid=Ieth)

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

*There have been three School Committee meetings since my last E-blast. Below is a summary of those meetings:*

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>:** At this meeting we received a report from the Cunningham Site Council which included Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding; parent representative John Gillooly and teacher representative Margaret Sadock. The Site Council updated the School Committee on the start of the school year at Cunningham. The presentation can be viewed by clicking here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunninghamSiteCouncilSCPresentation11-3-10.pdf>

Milton High School Vice-Principal Alan Cron spoke about the upcoming bullying presentations and the bullying/peer aggression policy in the Milton Public Schools.

Assistant Superintendent John Phelan spoke about professional development for our teachers. We also heard a Finance Subcommittee report which included budget updates for special education, athletics, facilities, personnel and utilities.

The School Committee approved the second reading of the Homeless Policy. The Policy Subcommittee had a first reading for a Gift Policy and deferred discussion on a Procurement Policy. A brief Facilities Subcommittee report was also given.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>:** This meeting began with a Citizen's Speak discussion about funding for the elementary arts budget.

The Superintendent's goals were presented at this meeting as part of an annual cycle. School Committee Chair Lynda-Lee Sheridan updated members on the votes taken at the recent MASC annual meeting. We received a FY12 budget development update from Matthew Gillis with a focus on athletics/athletic fees. Mr. Gillis discussed our goal would be to reduce or eliminate athletic fees with focused fundraising as part of this goal. Additionally, Mr. Gillis examined the budget impact of personnel and student activities.

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**December 8th:** This meeting began with an update from the Collicot Site Council. Representatives of the Site Council included Principal Gerard Schultz, parent representative Courtney Affanato and teacher representative Janis Gordon. The group reviewed the most recent MCAS data in which Collicot was cited for High Growth. This was a wonderful achievement for Collicot. In addition to reviewing the strengths and weaknesses shown by the MCAS data, the Site Council also discussed curriculum initiatives, including RTI (response to intervention); a proposed expansion of the Study Island computer program for both science and reading in grades three through five; and additional focus on Open Response questions.

The School Committee viewed a presentation by Robert Patterson of Patterson Associates. He attended this meeting to discuss the installation of solar panel arrays on the roofs of four of our Milton Public School buildings: Milton High, Pierce, Glover and Tucker. The Cunningham/Collicot building also has solar panels installed. Mr. Patterson reviewed several key points, including:

- The solar panels will require no capital investment from the Milton Public Schools.
- Entering into a contract with a PVC contractor to install the panels will potentially provide the MPS with low-cost electricity for 20 years.
- Installing the panels and using the electricity they generate is expected to save the MPS approximately 13-15% on energy bills, or approximately \$120,000 per year.
- Using solar energy will reduce the carbon footprints of our buildings.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Patterson and Facilities Director Bill Ritchie answered many questions from SC members. They subsequently voted unanimously to authorize \$9,000 to prepare a Request for Proposals for a solar panel contract to meet a federal deadline of May, 2011.

Next, there was a presentation by the Finance Subcommittee, which outlined what cuts may be necessary to meet next year's budget. In addition to consolidating services at some levels and combining responsibilities, it may also be necessary to make certain cuts. To see a draft copy of these budget reductions, click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2012ReductionSummary11-17-10.pdf>

Finally, the School Committee voted to accept a \$25,000 grant from the Copeland Family Foundation to help fund a new video surveillance system in our schools. We are grateful for this gift.

*The next School Committee Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7pm in the MHS Library. The January 5, 2011 meeting has been cancelled.*

## **CURRICULUM NEWS**

It's Kindergarten Registration Time! We are beginning the registration process for children who will be five years old before September 1, 2011. There are four steps to register your child for Kindergarten in the Milton Public Schools:

1. Complete and return a pre-registration form. These can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.miltonps.org/documents/KindergartenPreRegistrationFlyer2011\\_000.pdf](http://www.miltonps.org/documents/KindergartenPreRegistrationFlyer2011_000.pdf)
2. Attend the Kindergarten Information Night, which has been rescheduled to **Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 7pm** in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium at Milton High, 25 Gile Road.
3. Complete the "New Student Registration Packet" which will be distributed, with directions, at the Kindergarten Information Night.
4. Bring your child to Kindergarten screening in June of 2011, by appointment.

If you have additional questions about registering children for Kindergarten, please visit the "About" section link at [www.miltonps.org](http://www.miltonps.org) or contact the student registrar at 617-696-4470 x 5510.

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**First Grade Information Night** has also been rescheduled. The new date is February 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium at Milton High, 25 Gile Road.

\* \* \*

We would like congratulate Principal of Collicot Elementary School, Gerard Schultz who recently announced his plan to retire at the end of this school year. We will be forming a principal search committee and will post more information about this in the next E-blast. I am sure that you join me in thanking Mr. Schultz for his dedication to the Collicot Community and Milton Public Schools. I wish him years of health and happiness in his well deserved retirement.

Also, our long time colleague Dr. Susan Whalen, a Milton Public Schools school psychologist, has announced her retirement. Dr. Whalen has worked in the educational arena for approximately 40 years and her last 8 years were spent in the Milton Public Schools where she has been a valuable asset. We are grateful for her many years of service and wish her true happiness in retirement.

\* \* \*

The Pierce Middle School recently held its winter concert with members of band, strings and chorus participating. The concerts were beautifully conducted and the Pierce faculty should be proud of their students, as should the parents.

It is also important to note that Pierce's performing arts program is going strong. Among the various groups, including ACE, Band, Chorus, Strings and the Pierce Players, there are 506 students involved. This represents more than 60 percent of students at Pierce. Congratulations to all!

\* \* \*

As most of you already know, we have had a major anti-bullying initiative here in the Milton Public Schools. On November 9, 2010 students from Bentley University facilitated programs for parents and guardians of elementary, middle, and high school students. I would like to thank those parents who participated in these sessions. On November 10, 2010 the same Bentley students partnered with Milton High School and Pierce Middle School student leaders at rallies and assemblies at each school. These upbeat rallies delivered the message that students have the power to change the culture and end bullying. I am very grateful to Professor Gregory Hall, a Milton resident, for bringing these programs to our schools.

\* \* \*

November was Family Literacy Month. Our schools participated in a variety of ways and some events will continue into December. For example: **Glover** students participated in "Read for a Cause" - for one week students had parents/guardians sponsor their independent reading. Students logged their pages and raised money for Cradles to Crayons. During this week, students read thousands of pages and fundraised over \$1400. They also participated in a bookmark design contest. Three bookmarks from each grade level will be reproduced and used as party favors for Family Literacy Night. The Glover Book Fair was held December 8, 9 and 10, 2010. **Tucker** school has hosted Family Read Alouds with the Principal, where they have reached out to families to collect pictures of themselves reading their favorite book together. These are posted outside the library. In addition, Librarian Lori Henry is collecting the family favorites for display for Tucker students to check out. Tucker also began our Take a Book, Leave a Book Program in which students are welcome to take a donated book and/or leave a book for others. This collection is located in the front hallway. The intent is that all Tucker children have books at home they can read for Home Reading. The **Cunningham** school held Family Literacy Night on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Guest poet and educator, Sara Holbrook performed during the school day and evening of December 8, 2010. In addition to conducting two assemblies with students, Ms.

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Holbrook organized a workshop with a small class which other teachers can observe and repeat in their own classrooms. Cunningham students are also doing a Literacy Door Decorating contest. Each classroom is decorating their door with a scene from the class's favorite book. Teachers have been encouraged to include families in this process. Parents are helping with judging. Finally, the most recent Cunningham Connection newsletter includes ways that families can support literacy at home. **Collicot** held a book fair at Barnes and Noble in Braintree. Finally, all four elementary schools did a read aloud in all classrooms of the book *One* by Kathryn Otoshi as part of the anti-bullying curriculum.

At **Pierce**, author and poet Sara Holbrook visited on December 9, 2010 and offered a grade 6 assembly as well as in-class writing workshops (teachers chosen by lottery). In addition, she ran a 2.5 hour poetry workshop strand for all Milton teachers after school. Pierce administrators planned Literacy Night event for **December 16, 2010**. Author of *The Revealers* (a grade 7 summer reading book), Doug Wilhelm was on hand as our keynote speaker and will run a breakout session on writing for parents and students. Mr. Wilhelm also offered a Grade Seven assembly during the day. In addition, Pierce held its Scholastic Book Fair on December 16 and 17, 2010. Teachers are currently working on creating a document outlining expectations for independent/home reading.

We encourage all parents to consider the importance of reading together as a family. Governor Deval Patrick's office has posted some helpful information and ideas on the role of the parent in family literacy. Please click here to review:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/familylit/month/month5.html>

\* \* \*

The Tucker Elementary School, in partnership with Milton Early Childhood Alliance, has been hosting a series of parenting lectures for all MPS parents.

The meetings took place on Friday mornings from 8-9:30am. The lectures were facilitated by Joelle Auguste and covered topics including discipline, communication and building relationships. We are very pleased with the outcome of this lecture series and would like to thank those parents who attended MECA for organizing this, and the Tucker School for hosting the event.

\* \* \*

*Please read about some of our wonderful programs in place at our schools:*

### **Pierce Middle School Mock Trial Club**

The Mock Trial Club at the Pierce Middle School recently held its first trial date. Fourteen students from Pierce did an amazing job in their first court date. The students worked diligently for ten weeks, learning background on our legal system, rules and procedures of the courtroom and strategies for this case. The Honorable Judge Robert Baylor and a jury heard the case at the Quincy District Court on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. This team is being coached by Deb Tracy and Dave Querzoli with the help of Attorney Michael Mahoney of Milton and Attorney Daniel Tracy of Hingham. The eighth-graders included: Shannon MacLeod, Sean Ng Pack, Madison Peltier, Ciara Swan, Mohoniqua Pierre-Louis, Alana Wilson, Samantha Steefel, Colman Lydon, Christine Stafford, Andrew Issner, Matt McCarthy and Portia Moesinger. Congratulations to all.

### **Milton High School Mock Trial Club**

Students in the Mock Trial Club at the Milton High School are currently studying a criminal case for its mock trial program. The students will have to be ready to present both sides of a fictional case in the statewide competition sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Foundation and the law firm of Brown Rudnick against other high schools in Massachusetts. The students will be required to have a firm knowledge of the law, rules and

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procedures of the courtroom and all pertinent case information when competing without the use of any notes or written materials. The first round of the competition will begin at the end of January. The students have been getting familiar with the case and are learning trial procedures. This team has enlisted the help of Attorneys Maura Richards, Dawn Karol and Michael Mahoney along with MHS advisor Michael Matisoff to help prepare for their competitions. The students will be facing serious competition, but with their hard work and diligence they are sure to be a success.

### **Milton High Debate Team**

Members of our Debate Team, now established in its second year, recently competed in the Seventh Annual Patriot Games at George Mason University in Washington D.C. The trip was a huge learning experience according to co-coach Nick Fitzgerald. At the end of the regulation competition, sophomore Ailsa Jeffries and junior Maya Rosmarin were ranked 14th out of 84 teams. They qualified for the playoffs in their first national tournament. The coaches for this team are MHS English teacher Nick Fitzgerald and MHS history teacher Nancy Warn. The topic for the Washington competition was whether "cyber bullying" should be a criminal offense. The following ten students on the team made the trip to Washington for this competition. Congratulations to all! Colin Faherty, Ciaran Conners, John Savino, Tucker Kibbee, Shane Grey, Maya Rosmarin, Phil Rebrovic, Ailsa Jeffries, Catherine Spino and Isabella Carter.

### **Pierce Robotics Team**

We are proud to announce that our Robotics Team, "The Mooseheads," took part in two recent competitions.

On Saturday, December 4, 2010, the team received the Mechanical Design Award at the Quincy Qualifying Tournament. To earn this award, judges looked for teams whose work stands out. Judges interview teams to learn their strategies for solving missions and their understanding of the design process. They also evaluate the robot's mechanical design, degree of innovation, and programming effectiveness to further assess overall design quality. Only 12 teams of the 47 earned trophies. This is the first time the Pierce team has ever been recognized for our robot design. The Mooseheads hope to make it to the state competition in 2011.

In November, the Mooseheads hosted the First Annual Pierce Middle School Robotics Tournament. The team has been led by David Romeo, grade 7 science teacher. Milton High student Pat Kelly served as acting coach during the Milton tournament since Mr. Romeo was supervising the event. The middle-school students competed against one another with the theme of Bio-Medical Engineering: Body Forward.

"This program is designed to get children excited about science and technology -- and teach them valuable employment and life skills," said Mr. Romeo. "I am very proud of all my kids as they honored the spirit of friendly competition. As a bonus, they had a lot of fun!"

The mission of the competition was to research some aspect of the human body for either improving or altering our current understanding of the way the body works. Teams were judged on four aspects: Competition, Project Judging, Technical Judging and Teamwork Judging.

The following students are participating team members: Sindhu Banerjee, Connor Bynre, Nolan Carvalho, Cole Salamone, Danny Stockbridge, Rudy Chase, Liam Chase, Abdul Naidjate, Joshua Kery, Albert Enyedy, Markell Luc, Zac Longinidis, Alden Hebard, Will Breslin, Amen Negassi, Yusuff Solmon, Joseph O'Connor, Alex Dustin and Zak Fischer.

The Pierce team plans to compete in several more of these types of tournaments throughout the remainder of the school year.

In addition to Mr. Romeo, the following Pierce Middle School staff members helped to make the Pierce tournament a huge success: Dawn Sykes, Stephanie Sherman, Ann Saur, Kristin Cotter, Christopher Callahan, Louisa McCarthy, Saviz Safizadeh, Tracy Anthony, Kathy Bertrand, Scott Williams (Custodian), John Riley (Custodian), Jill Markarian, Jeff Stoodt, Jackie Morgan (Food Services and her staff), Andy Boles, Anna McReynolds and Emcee Larry Dorr!

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Congratulations to all the Milton High students who performed in their annual Cabaret on Thursday, December 2, 2010. More than 21 acts from rock bands to singers took the stage at the MHS auditorium. This event was jam packed with talent and was a fundraiser for the music department's spring trip to Cleveland, Ohio, where students will catch a Red Sox game, see the Cleveland Orchestra and visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

## **NEW PROGRAM**

*The following item was written by Maura Middleton.*

Season's Greetings from Ms. M's Mad Math Show!

My name is Maura Middleton, the creator and host of a new and exciting math show for Milton students. What is this new craze that is starting to sweep the nation (or at least Milton, I hope!)? Is it a game show with a theme or a theme show with a game?

It doesn't really matter -- it's all about having fun with math. In Ms. M's Mad Math Show, fifth grade students square off to participate in Mad Math Challenges. They work in teams to solve multi-step math problems that aim to relate to the real world in some way. Challenge participants strut their stuff as they explain their work and reason mathematically about the challenges they solved.

Ms. M's Mad Math Show is not only for fifth graders; it's a show that's fun for all ages. Ask our camera operator (I've spied him solving a number of math challenges from behind the camera!). I also hear that the younger siblings of some of our stars love the show too. The show airs on Milton Access Television on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at 4:30 pm, so be sure to watch or set your DVR to record!

The "Mad Math Show" was an idea that began to develop last January while I was teaching fifth grade math and science in Revere. I had wanted to try it out in my own classroom, but never found time. So at the end of the school year, I decided to take a leave of absence from my teaching position to have the time and energy to pursue creating a math show for students. I'm a resident of Milton, a graduate of Milton High School, and a former teacher at Collicot and Cunningham Schools, so creating my show in Milton and working with Milton Public School students was a natural fit. I'm truly grateful for all the support of the Milton Public Schools and the Milton community, and I hope you enjoy.

Would you like to get involved? There are new openings for 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to star on the show if you're available on a group of Saturday mornings from 9am to 12pm. There are also opportunities for high school students to participate in the making of the show or even making an appearance on the show as it relates to our math content. Be sure to watch for the casting call for Ms. M's Mad Math Show: High School Edition. I've got my eye on you, too, Pierce Middle School! Contact [msm@madmathshow.com](mailto:msm@madmathshow.com) for more information.

## **AWARDS**

We are very pleased to announce that The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized the Tucker Elementary School and Milton High School as having earned an ENERGY STAR rating. The Tucker building and Milton High are now listed on the ENERGY STAR registry at [www.energystar.gov/buildinglist](http://www.energystar.gov/buildinglist)

Buildings that earn the EPA's ENERGY STAR rating use 35 percent less energy and generate 35 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than similar buildings across the nation. The good news was shared during a recent meeting of the Facilities Subcommittee, which includes Milton School's Facilities Director William Ritchie, Milton School's HVAC technician James Egan, School Business Administrator Matthew Gillis and Facilities subcommittee members Rick Malmstrom along with John Kibbee, Joseph Murphy and School Committee members Lynda-Lee Sheridan and Denis Keohane.

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Of the four K-12 schools in Massachusetts to have earned the ENERGY STAR label in 2010, two are Milton Public School buildings.

“We are very proud of the work that has been done to improve the efficiency of our buildings,” said Matthew Gillis, School Business Administrator for the Milton Public Schools. “Not only does this save a substantial amount of money for the town, it reduces greenhouse gases and helps to conserve energy.”

William Ritchie has been working on energy conservation measures for all the district’s schools for well over five years now. The Facilities Subcommittee goal is to continue in their efforts in achieving the ENERGY STAR rating for the remaining four schools in the district.

\* \* \*

One of our local news websites, Milton Patch, recently honored four teachers in the Milton Public Schools who have done an extraordinary job throughout the year. With nominations from the leadership team, four educators were selected as the Milton Patch Teachers of the Year. The winners are:

- Gracie Burke – Grades 1-12 World Language Director
- Mary McCarthy – Glover Grade 1 Teacher
- David Romeo – Pierce Middle School Science Teacher
- Rebecca Damiani – Milton High School Music Teacher

From now until the end of the year, Milton Patch will be interviewing each of the winners along with administrators and others involved in the Milton Public Schools to illustrate what makes them such outstanding educators. There will also be a feature story on the Milton Public Schools: Teachers of the Year.

Milton Patch is a community news website, which provides school, government and breaking news as well as music, arts and sports coverage for the town of Milton.

To view this site, click here: <http://milton.patch.com/articles/milton-patch-announces-teachers-of-the-year>

## **GIVING/COMMUNITY SERVICE**

In honor of the holiday season, we would like to remind our parents how closely involved the Milton Public Schools are with our community. Throughout the year our students, teachers, staff, and administrators volunteer thousands of hours for worthwhile projects and charitable events. There are far too many to list in one newsletter, but I would like to take a bit of space to mention some of the most recent Giving projects:

In conjunction with Cradles to Crayons, students at Pierce Middle School recently collected 250 pairs of jeans to donate to needy teens. MHS Key Club and Sewing Club sponsored a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons. Three car loads of clothing were delivered, which included donations of brand new clothing and toys from The Nutshell of Milton and Chatham T Company on Cape Cod. The MHS Sewing Club is also cutting squares (from bolts of fleece donated by Polartec) which will be made into baby blankets and donated to Cradles to Crayons. Glover Elementary School organized fundraisers such as “Reading for a Cause” and a bake sale which raised more than \$2,000.

“The power of our community to come together shortly before Thanksgiving in such magnitude is truly something to be thankful for,” said Jen Tegan, the Milton Community Captain for Cradles to Crayons.

At Milton High, Elaine Lovett’s Foods classes have been working on a cookie project that is raising funds to donate to charitable causes chosen by the students. In addition, the same students have worked to prepare items for care packages to send to troops in Afghanistan and have established a relationship with a local soldier who is currently serving overseas.

For the past several years we have also collected hundreds of boxes of food for holiday meals in cooperation with the Milton Food Pantry. Not only do our students collect the necessary ingredients for these meals, but members of our football team arrive on site to unload the trucks, our PTO members deliver the boxes to the Pantry, and our generous parents contribute not only food, but cash donations as well.

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Another project, organized by Pierce Middle School teacher Ludmila Nivoroshkin, is an annual bake sale held during parent conferences. Students from her classroom sell treats to raise money for a small school in Burkina Faso, a West African country where Ms. Nivoroshkin formerly taught. This year students raised nearly \$400 over the two-day event to buy supplies for this school. One extremely generous parent donated a laptop for this cause.

During the week of November 8-12, MHS Key Club and Sewing Club sponsored a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons in which they collected three carloads of clothing. They received donations of brand new clothing and toys from The Nutshell and Chatham T Company on Cape Cod, who generously donated a whole car load of brand new goods. The idea behind this drive at MHS was "kids helping kids".

Mary Ann Donnelly's sewing classes are currently cutting squares from massive bolts of fleece (donated by Polartec) which will be made into baby blankets by volunteers for Cradles to Crayons.

Each school has also collected toys and/or clothing to give as holiday gifts during this season.

There are countless other ongoing projects in our schools not just during this season, but all year long. We are very proud of our students and staff who are constantly finding ways to actively participate in our community.

### **PAC/SPECIAL ED NEWS**

The Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) would like all parents and guardians to be aware of the following information:

A Parent's Guide to Special Education Programs is now available. This comprehensive booklet describes all of Milton Public School's offerings for children in need of special services. You can request a hard copy by contacting the Office of Pupil Personnel Services/Special Education or download a copy online. To view this document, please visit this link <http://www.miltonpac.org/announcements.htm> or <http://www.miltonps.org>

Kevin Lenane, M.Ed/Ed.S, recently conducted a workshop on Transition Planning. Vital information was presented concerning this important process. To view the PowerPoint Presentation, please visit this link <http://www.miltonpac.org/announcements.htm>

The MPS Administration has committed to holding Roundtable Discussions to present the various special education programs and services available at each level, as well as answer your questions. On November 16, 2010, the first of four discussions took place. The Middle School Roundtable was not only informative, but presented a responsive atmosphere for parents and guardians to address concerns. The Milton High School & Out-of-District Placement Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for **February 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm**. Everyone is welcomed.

### **GRANT/FUNDRAISING NEWS**

Do you have a connection to the Ronald M. Ansin Foundation? Based in Leominster, the foundation makes grants throughout Massachusetts for the arts, education, youth and social services. In 2009, the Ronald M. Ansin Foundation awarded grants to UMass-Amherst, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, the Merrimack Repertory Theater, and the Fitchburg Art Museum.

The Milton Public School system is looking to fund several innovative projects that would be excellent matches for the Ronald M. Ansin Foundation - including programs in music and the visual arts. Our proposal will be greatly enhanced through a personal connection to the foundation. The foundation's founder, Mr. Ronald Ansin, was a successful shoe manufacturer and banking executive, a graduate of Yale University, and a longtime trustee of the Applewild School in Fitchburg. If you can help us to "make the connection" with Mr. Ansin, please contact Grant Writer Chris Masalsky ([cmasalsky@miltonps.org](mailto:cmasalsky@miltonps.org)) or (617) 696-5040 x5545.

### **MFE**

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The Milton Foundation for Education hopes that everyone enjoyed a happy Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the upcoming holidays. We are grateful for our donors, sponsors and volunteers who give of their time, talent and treasure to help us enhance the education of the children in the Milton Public Schools. We couldn't do it without you!

The MFE wishes to recognize one of our former trustees, Anne Comber, and congratulate her on being an honored volunteer as part of the Thanks for Giving event held on November 21, 2010 by the Milton Interfaith Clergy Association.

Preparations for our biggest fundraiser, *Celebration for Education, the Big Backyard Bash, April 2, 2011*, are well on their way. For volunteer or sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at [bigbackyardbash2011@yahoo.com](mailto:bigbackyardbash2011@yahoo.com). For more information on the MFE, please visit our website at [miltonfoundationforeducation.org](http://miltonfoundationforeducation.org)

## **ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to the MHS Wildcat Girls Cross Country team who recently qualified for the state finals during the 2010 MIAA Eastern Mass Divisional Cross Country Championships at Franklin Park, Boston, MA. Mairead Kiernan finished 6<sup>th</sup> and Clara Heiden finished 11<sup>th</sup>. The team finished 5th overall. Also competing were Angelica Pizzi, Julia O'Brien, Molly Madden, Catherine Manning and Greta Goltz.

On Saturday, November 20, 2010, team members competed at the MIAA State Meet held in Gardner, Mass. Mairead Kiernan ended the season with a strong seventh-place finish. Clara Heiden, Angelica Pizzi, Julia O'Brien, Molly Madden, Catherine Manning, and Greta Gotz also competed and placed well. The Milton team took 11<sup>th</sup> place overall. Congratulations to all the girls.

## **AMBASSADOR PAGE**

**Students:** I mentioned the Pierce Robotics Team in an item above, but I want to be sure that our hardworking students know how much we appreciate them. Please congratulate the following participating team members: Sindhu Banerjee, Connor Bynre, Nolan Carvalho, Cole Salamone, Danny Stockbridge, Rudy Chase, Liam Chase, Abdul Naidjate, Joshua Kerry, Albert Enyedy, Markell Luc, Zac Longinidis, Alden Hebard, Will Breslin, Amen Negassi, Yusuff Solmon, Joseph O'Connor, Alex Dustin and Zak Fischer.

**Faculty:** Congratulations to three of our Pierce teachers who just learned they have met the standard for National Board Certification. Julie Cranmer (Grade 6 Math), David Romeo (Grade 7 Science) and Noa Lai (Grade 8 Math) all received the good news. This is a great accomplishment for all since the process required a great deal of time and effort. Depending on their specific content area, teachers had to submit a portfolio, take a three hour exam, submit the evaluation of student work, document their accomplishments, etc. These three teachers will join our four additional teachers that are National Board Certified from past years. Those teachers are: Catherine Friedman – Grade 7 English; Ellen Gehret – Grade 7 English; Christine Charbonneau – Grade 8 English (Dual certified in English and History); and Owen McElhinney – Grade 8 History. Great job!

**Volunteer:** I spoke in the "Giving/Community Service" item about what a wonderful job our students do in our local, state, national and even international community. At this time, I would also like to thank the countless parents who have given so generously of their time. We acknowledge and appreciate each and every parent who gives time in the classroom, on the sports fields, driving to school-sponsored events, attending PTO meetings and the myriad of other ways our parents continue to help our students succeed. We are thankful for you all. Please enjoy your holidays.

*The Milton Public School system is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the provision of quality educational programs for all students. The Milton Public School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, age or sexual orientation.*

**25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186**

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