



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: Milton Public Schools Parents, Guardians, Faculty & Staff
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent of Schools
Re: E-Update, Thursday, June 17, 2010

Another school year is drawing to a close! We wish all our Milton Public School families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

*One of the joys of summer vacation is the prospect of additional free time to spend reading for pleasure. A day at the beach, a long drive, a plane or train ride are all excellent opportunities to enjoy reading materials. We require that all elementary school students read a **minimum of five books** and keep a reading log. Students entering grades 4 and 5 are required to complete a simple project on two of those books. A copy of the reading log, suggestions for projects and a comprehensive list of grade-appropriate books can be found here:*

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/ElemSummerReading2010.pdf>

*Our middle school students have slightly different requirements. Students entering grades 6-8 must read **a total of four books**; three free choice books and one book from the grade-specific booklist. They must also complete a Book Reflection sheet and complete a Summer Reading Log, both of which must be brought to the first day of school. There are some fun incentives for Pierce students to read more than four books. For more information about the Pierce Summer Reading program, visit:*

http://www.edline.net/pages/Charles_S_Pierce_MS

*Milton High School students entering grades 9-12 read **at least three books**; and students who are in honors classes may be required to read more than three. Each student will read one free choice book as well as titles from the English Department and Social Studies Department list. Extra credit may be given for reading additional books.*

Because there are different lists and requirements for each grade level, we encourage students and parents to visit the guidelines posted below:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MHSSummerReading2010.pdf>

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A Fond Farewell: *In this last E-blast of the season, I would like to thank and congratulate Beverly Quinn on her retirement from the Milton Public Schools. Ms. Quinn has been the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent here in Milton for the past 17 years. For those of you who have met or spoken with Ms. Quinn, you know that she is an extraordinary source of information and assistance.*

When I was a principal, I knew that Bev Quinn was the person who knew everything. I often hear our principals (past and former) call Bev for information and I always smile and remember how I would often do the same. Since the day I came to Central Office, she has been my constant; the person I could always rely on; the person who I could confide in; and, the person whose advice I have never doubted and always valued. I will always value her hard work and the thousands of kindnesses she has shown to many students, parents, and teachers over the years.

I want to personally thank and congratulate Bev Quinn from the bottom of my heart. I wish her health and happiness in the next wonderful chapter of her life. – Mary C. Gormley

School Committee Update

The last school committee meeting of the school year took place on Tuesday, June 8th. The meeting was preceded by a Retiree Reception to honor the nine staff members who are retiring this year. Thank you and best wishes to: Paul Ajemian, William Baino, Aidan Cooper, Denise Kelly, Dr. Dore Korschun, Barbara Leuer, Beverly Quinn, Deborah Sinrich and Patricia Turner.

Below is a summary of the SC meeting:

As part of the superintendent's report, I introduced Dr. Karen Spaulding, the new principal of Cunningham Elementary School. We reviewed Dr. Spaulding's credentials and she answered questions from School Committee members at this time.

Next, I read an update from Athletic Director Steve Traister. Please refer to the "Athletics" category below for a full report.

Chris Masalsky presented a report to the School Committee on his efforts with grant writing. Mr. Masalsky is a part-time grant writer for the Milton Public Schools, a position funded by the Milton Foundation for Education. He detailed the many grants for which the MPS has applied and also discussed those grants which we have received.

One current situation that Mr. Masalsky is investigating is to procure funding for a \$175,000 video surveillance system for Milton High School. So far, we have received \$50,000 from the School Building Fund and the promise of an additional \$50,000 from the Copeland Family Foundation, if this amount is matched. We are looking for input from the public on how to raise the final \$75,000 to purchase this equipment. Please contact our office at 617-696-4809 or email Mr. Masalsky at cmasalsky@miltonps.org with any leads.

Next, Ms. Sheridan thanked all the volunteers who helped to make the All Night Graduation Party such a success. We are grateful to all the parents and friends of the Class of 2010 for their efforts.

The Health and Wellness Subcommittee presented their report next and informed the School Committee that they are looking for an additional parent to join this committee. They expressed preference to a middle school parent, but all are welcome.

The Policy Subcommittee made a motion to approve the Milton Public Schools' new anti-bullying policy after a second reading. The motion was approved. A copy of this document has been posted on the MPS homepage and can be accessed through this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/BullyingPeerAggressionPolicy.pdf>

Next, the Finance Subcommittee presented a report, which included information on Full Day Kindergarten (FDK). It has been decided by the Finance Subcommittee that the Educational Assistants in the FDK classes will be a .8 FTE for the 2010-11 school year.

School Committee members are trying to work out a meeting schedule for the summer months and are tentatively planning for an August meeting.

A Volunteer Reception, hosted by the School Committee, was held Tuesday, June 15th at the Cunningham/Collicot library.

Curriculum Information

- Great news! Milton High School made *Newsweek* magazine's list of the top 1,600 American public high schools, placing at number 692. This annual survey ranks the best high schools in the country "based on how hard school staffs work to challenge students with advanced placement, college level courses, and tests." The list of 1,600 schools represents only 6 percent of all the public schools in the United States. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment.
- The last day of school for half-day kindergarten students will be Friday, June 18. For all other students, **Monday, June 21st** will be the last day of school. This is a half day and no lunch will be served.

- Report cards for elementary school students will be sent home on the last day of school. Pierce Middle School progress reports will be sent home in the mail approximately one week after school ends. Milton High School will send report cards home by the end of the week of June 25th.
- Elementary teacher assignments for next year will be sent home in the mail in August.
- We have great news from our elementary schools regarding WordMasters. The 2010 WordMasters Challenge results are in and all of our schools did very well. The WordMasters Challenge is a national language arts competition entered by over 220,000 students annually which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. Please see the Ambassador Page below for a listing of all our winners!
- Congratulations to our Pierce Middle School musicians. They recently attended the Great East Music Festival and came home with a busload of awards. Many thanks to Strings Director Patricia Ostrem; Band Director Lauren Kapalka; Chorus Director Dawn Sykes; and Accompaniment for Chorus Gary Good. Also, thank you to Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett for helping to lead such a talented department. Congratulations to our students, who won the following awards: **Gold** medal rating for Band 6; Chorus 6; Strings 6; Band 7&8; Mixed Chorus 7&8; Strings 7&8. **Platinum** medal rating for Honors Chorus 7&8.

Budget/Business News

First, we have a bit of consumer-friendly news about the Milton Public Schools. Parents now have the ability to pay on-line for many of the fee-based programs offered by the Milton Public Schools. Our school department website, www.miltonps.org now has a Unibank icon, which can be used to make secure online payments. This feature can currently be used for full day kindergarten and bus fees. Other programs will be added during the next fiscal year.

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The following article was written by Matthew J. Gillis, Milton Public School Business Administrator:

It is with mixed emotions that we move from this year's budget, FY10, to next year's budget, FY11. The voters at Town Meeting approved a school budget with a 1.3% increase from the revised FY10 budget (see TABLE 1.) Administratively, there is relief knowing the bottom line budget number for next year.

Words alone may never do justice to how appreciative the staff at the Milton Public Schools is for the parent support we receive in our collaborative endeavor of educating our children. We are thankful for the continued support of countless parents and citizens. Educating the children in our system without your continued support would make attaining our general goal of high student achievement a much tougher challenge.

It is with a heavy heart that we will reduce approximately 17 full-time equivalent positions, most through layoff or reduction in hours of work (see TABLE 2.) Our student enrollment (See TABLE 3) continues to grow and we are disappointed that we were unable to add teaching staff, but understand the economic climate impacts us all.

BUDGET

Table 1	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual	FY10 Budget	FY11 Budget
Budget	\$30,886,741	\$32,033,377	\$31,681,456	\$32,976,036	\$33,391,036
\$ Increase	Base Year	\$1,146,636	(\$351,921)	\$1,294,580*	\$415,000
% Increase	Base Year	3.7%	-1.1%	4.1%*	1.3%

* As most readers may recall, FY10 Budget included an override for School and Town services.

STAFF REDUCTIONS

Table 2	Reduction Area	Position	FTE	School
	Admin/Guidance	Dir of Guidance	1.0	High
	Administration	Asst. Principal	1.0	Middle
	Administration	Asst. Principal	.5	Elementary
	Kindergarten Support	Kindergarten Aides	7.1*	Elementary
	Administration	Data Systems Specialist	.5	District Wide
	Administration	Data Systems Specialist	.5	District Wide
	Instruction Support	Classroom Aides	5.0	District Wide
	Instruction	ELE/English Teacher	.6	District Wide
	Administration	Registrar	.5	District Wide
	Facilities	Custodian	1.0	District Wide
		Total	17.2	

* This may be reduced because the Finance Subcommittee has approved FDK Educational Assistants at a level of .8 FTE.

ENROLLMENT TREND SUMMARY

The following data is based on the October 1 reports submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The numbers in *italics* are projections.

Table 3	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
School Year					
Pre-K	128	132	106	<i>122</i>	<i>122</i>
K-5	1730	1821	1918	<i>1965</i>	<i>1993</i>
6-8	870	851	865	<i>880</i>	<i>944</i>
9-12	1035	1067	1113	<i>1091</i>	<i>1069</i>
Ungraded	5	5	5	5	5
Total	3768	3876	4008	<i>4064</i>	<i>4133</i>

Note: The School Administration initially budgeted for four additional classroom teachers to address class size and student achievement concerns, but with the tough economy, that request was not funded.

Upcoming Events

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The final registration session for Milton Summer Enrichment programs will be held on **Thursday, June 24th** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the lobby of Pierce Middle School. There are limited openings in some programs. For more information about cost, hours, or a brochure, please visit the following link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/departments-summer.php>

MFE News

The Milton Foundation for Education is pleased to announce a new round of grant winners for Spring of 2010. As part of the Competitive Grants Program, the MFE was able to award more than \$15,000 to teachers to make possible innovative programs and opportunities to enhance our students' experiences.

Grants were awarded at each of our schools, with amounts ranging from under \$300 to over \$1,200 per grant. They include: high speed cameras for the Pierce Middle School to help demonstrate math and science concepts for students; take-home books for the Readers Workshop Initiative at Tucker Elementary School; and audio books for English support classes at Milton High School.

Thank you to the MFE for their generous funding of these grants.

* * *

In addition, we would like to recognize the contributions of four members of the MFE Board of Trustees who will be stepping down. Many thanks to Gary Kelly, Annellen Lydon, and Anne Comber for all their hard work and dedication.

At the same time, we would like to welcome new board members Robert Davis, Laura Conway and Meg Kaster. We look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

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Also, there has been significant change to the annual Celebration for Education event hosted by Milton Foundation for Education. Instead of the traditional fall gala, organizers are revamping the fundraising event.

Next year's "Celebration" event will have a new theme, a new location and many new surprises. It will be held on **Saturday, April 2, 2011** at the Boston Marriott in Quincy. For more information about this event, please visit the website at

<http://www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org/>

Special Education/PAC News

The following was written by Nicque Bradshaw, newly-elected Chairperson of the Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council:

The Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is led by an elected board of volunteer parents who hosts meetings and other events throughout the school year, and provides information and support to all Milton families of children receiving special education services. The PAC works collaboratively with the Milton Public Schools on the development, planning and evaluation of special education programs, and advocates for the best possible services for our students.

This year, in collaboration with the MPS Administration, we held two Roundtables (Preschool and Middle School) and begun the process of creating a Special Education Guide for parents. In addition, the new website, www.miltonpac.org, PAC Brochure and monthly Parent Support Group has assisted parents in accessing important information.

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The recently elected PAC Board is meeting and making plans for the 2010-2011 school year. Upcoming events & meetings will include a Dessert Potluck Social, Middle School, High School, Elementary and Preschool Roundtables, Basic Rights and other workshops, as well as our ongoing monthly Parent Support Group. However, we need to hear from you and need your participation. This is *your* PAC. We are here to serve *you*!

Nicque Bradshaw, Chair nmhsmile@hotmail.com
Leslie Cheverie, Treasurer lkmc1@yahoo.com
Jerry Vitti, Vice Chair gvitti@hfi-mass.com

Chris Lenane, Member-at-Large (Special Education Initiatives) kevinchris3@verizon.net
Vinita Russell, Member-at-Large (Membership and Outreach) vinita64@comcast.net
Cathy Tobin, Member-at-Large (Special Education Programs) cathymtobin@yahoo.com

News Around Town

For anyone who missed the recent graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2010, one of our local websites has posted footage of the remarks from Salutatorian Sam Shepard and Valedictorian Alexandra Houlihan. Thanks to Frank Schroth from My Town Matters for providing this material. To view the video, click the link below:

<http://02186.mytownmatters.com/?p=9869>

Milton High Athletic Hall of Fame

We are pleased to announce that the MHS Athletic Hall of Fame has announced this year's inductees. Congratulations to: The 1963 Football Team; the 1996 Boys Basketball Team; Mark Arnold, 1984, gymnastics; Joe Bianculli, 1991, Hockey, Baseball; Kevin Bligh, 1988, Football; Fred Bortolotti, 1942, Football, Basketball, Baseball; Don Giles, 1939, Football, Basketball, Baseball; Jerry Haran, 1986, Gymnastics; Jennifer (Duggan) Korn, 1995, Soccer, Softball, Track; Greg Lovely, 1997, Basketball, Baseball, Golf; Jean (Courtney) Mazzota, 1988, Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball; Karen (Duggan) McLaughlin, 1966, Coach, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Tennis; Greg McTigue, 1990, Football, Basketball; Kate Moynihan, 1996, Volleyball, Track; Dudley O'Leary, 1954, Track; Steve Poelaert, 1974, Hockey, Baseball; Jeffrey Sullivan, 1956, Football, Basketball, Baseball.

An induction ceremony will be held October 23, 2010 at Lantana's in Randolph. For more information, please visit: http://www.edline.net/pages/Milton_Public_Schools/Milton_High_School_Athletic_Ha

Athletics

Any student entering Milton High School this fall who is interested in participating in athletics must come to one of the sign-up dates in August below:

August 13th 9AM – 12PM
August 16th – 19th 10AM – 2PM
August 23rd – 26th 7AM - 12PM

In order to participate in our athletic program, students must:

- Have academic eligibility from the previous academic school year (All incoming freshmen are eligible!)

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- Have a signed “Parental Permission” (Can be found on MHS Athletics page)
- Have a current copy of their physical from a physician (Dated within 13 months)
- Have a check made payable to “MHS Athletics” for \$250 or \$500 for Ice Hockey

For more information about our athletic offerings, coach emails, first practice sessions, payment options, and more, please visit this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FallAthleticInformation.pdf>

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2010 Spring Sports Wrap-up:

Baseball

Coach Ted Curley’s team qualified for the state tournament and finished second in the Herget Division with a regular season record of 13 wins and 7 losses. The team was led on the hill by junior Willie Archibald and seniors Mike Bortolotti and Matt O’Neill, and the hitting of Mike Muse. After beating Stoughton in the opening round of the state tournament the Wildcats lost to the second seed Duxbury 4 to 3.

Softball

Softball finished the regular season with a record of 14 wins and 8 losses. They qualified for the state tournament and lost a tough opening game to rival Braintree 7 to 6. Coach RJ Maturo’s squad was led by senior lead off hitter Morgan Sumner and junior pitcher Brenna Callahan, who threw her first career no-hitter a few weeks back against Needham.

Boys Lacrosse

Under former Milton High standout Kevin Lynch, the team made steady improvement over the course of the season and finished their season by defeating Dedham. Though their record is not great Coach Lynch’s team has been in almost every game and has played with enthusiasm. The team was led this year by senior Justin Stancato.

Girls Lacrosse

Coach Barbara Wright’s girls’ lacrosse team finished the season strong by beating Dedham on Senior Day. Though they did not qualify for the tournament the team played inspired all year. The team has dealt with a lot of injuries this year. However, with a lot of freshmen and sophomores seeing playing time the future looks bright. Seniors Clare Luscinskas, Katie Higgins and Gillian Riordan were the leaders for the Wildcats.

Boys Track

Coach Chuck Ajemian’s team finished with a team record of three and four. Many individual performers did very well in the state meets and competed in the Bay State Conference meet. The team was led by seniors Steve Manning and Cullen Cockrell. Sophomore sprinter Matt Lezama also had an outstanding spring.

Girls Track

Although Coach Dale Snyder’s girls’ track team did not finish a great team record at three and four, but many individual had stellar seasons. The team was led by seniors Olivia Beaulieu, Cheryl Tran, Kate Madigan and Emily Hughes.

Boys Tennis

Coach Paul Ajemian’s team fought hard all year but came up short in their quest for a state tournament qualification bid. The team was led by senior Sam Shepard and junior Steve Staffa.

Girls Tennis

Veteran Coach Liz Mercer's team qualified for the state tournament and finished with a record of 11-7. They lost in the first round of the state tournament at Hopkinton. Junior Ariana Launie had an excellent season at number singles finishing undefeated and senior valedictorian Ali Houlihan had a terrific year at second singles.

Ambassador Page

As part of our E-Update, we highlight students, teachers and members of the community whose hard work deserves recognition. Please read about some of their outstanding accomplishments below:

Volunteer: I would like to recognize Anne Thompson, a wonderful volunteer for the Milton Public Schools. Nearly 30 years ago, she and another parent, Barbara White, came up with the idea to give tours of Milton to all fifth-grade students in the Milton Public Schools. The pair worked together for many years, but eventually, Mrs. Thompson was the sole organizer and tour guide. She would narrate the tours as they made their way from the Forbes House to the Milton Cemetery and the Suffolk Resolves House, among other sites.

"This is not only part of the local history standards for social studies," said Martha Sherman, Elementary Coordinator for Reading, Language Arts & Social Studies, "but it also gives our students grounding in how the history of this community is so intricate to the history of this country."

Mrs. Thompson recently "passed the torch" to Donald Agnetta, a colleague on the Milton Historical Society, who conducted this year's tours. We are grateful for all the years Mrs. Thompson gave to our students, and to all those who help to teach our children about their wonderful community.

Faculty: I am pleased to announce that Barbara Plonski, Milton's Elementary Science Coordinator and Milton High School Science Department Head, has been appointed to the position of Director of School Services at Mass Insight Education and Research Institute, Inc. This is a very exciting professional opportunity for Barbara. On behalf of the Milton Public Schools, I want to thank Barbara for her years of dedication in her roles as teacher and administrator. Barbara Plonski built strong academic programs and made "science come alive" for our students and teachers. Barbara Plonski has worked collaboratively with the Milton Foundation for Education, Celebrate Milton, Trailside Museum and Wakefield Estates to only mention a few of the partnerships she has initiated and developed for the Milton Public Schools. I want to personally and professionally thank Barbara for her contributions to the Milton Public Schools and wish her success in this next professional chapter of her life.

Students: Our elementary schools students performed very well on the WordMasters Challenges, which were held throughout the school year. The most recent set of results brought good news to each of our schools:

Collicot: A team of fourth graders placed ninth in the nation for the WordMasters Challenge. This team was comprised of John Cullen, Abigail Lang, Regina Scott & Brendan Baker. In addition, 3rd grader Matteo Mastrandrea, 4th grader John Cullen and 5th grader Noah Scott all received medals for their top performances. Second place medals were won by 3rd grader Cianna O'Flaherty, 4th graders Abigail Lang & Regina Scott; and 5th graders Julia Mastrandrea & Julianna Viola. Third place medals were won by 3rd grader Veronica Harris, 4th grader Brendan Baker and 5th grader Andrew Arcieri.

Cunningham: Fourth grader Caleb Farwell and fifth grader Devin Quinlin both earned perfect scores in the year's third meet. In addition, top medals were won by 3rd grade Annabel Botsford, 4th grader Edward Curtis, and 5th grader Devin Quinlan. Second place awards went to 3rd grader William Conforti, 4th graders Serena Chen & Andrew Viveiros, 5th graders Omar Fraser & Alyssa Lum. Third place awards went to 3rd graders Seamus Slymon & Lucy Barron; 4th grader Nicholas Daly and 5th grader Michael Murray.

Glover: A team of third graders won highest honors in the WordMasters Challenge and tied for 8th place in the nation. The team was comprised of Aidan Brathwaite, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Grace Baker, Penelope Holland, Henry McKay & Madeline Riordan. In addition, Glover students Aidan Brathwaite, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Penelope Holland and Grace Baker all earned perfect scores in the meet. Top medals were won by 3rd graders Aidan Brathwaite & Elizabeth O'Donnell; 4th graders James Eder & Kevin McDonough; and 5th graders Colin

Carroll & Maya Watanabe. Second place awards went to 3rd graders Grace Baker & Penelope Holland; 4th graders Nicholas Fahy & Sachen Meier; and 5th grader Andrew Steele. Third place went to 3rd graders Henry McKay & Madeline Riordan; 4th graders Bianca Timmer; and 5th grader Katherine Steele.

Tucker: Third grader Sonia Bot earned the highest award and placed among the 20 highest-scoring third graders in the entire country. Sonia and fellow third grader Emily Schewe both earned perfect scores in this year's third meet. In addition, top medals were earned by 3rd grader Sonia Bot, 4th grader Benjamin Scott and 5th grader Andrew Duro. Second place awards went to 3rd grader Emily Schewe; 4th grader Bryce Richer; and 5th grader Madison Lipson. Third grade awards went to 3rd grader Hannah Mitchell; 4th graders Eva Chow, William LeClerc & Khalil Darouichi; and 5th graders Edwin Dupreuil & Audrey Hughes.