



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff, Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of Milton Public Schools
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” -- Charles William Eliot

The final days of school are upon us and with that come a flurry of end-of-the-year activities. Before your family begins planning vacation, please take a few minutes to go over your child's summer reading obligations.

Every student in the Milton Public School system is required to do some reading during the summer months. Some grade levels require book reports or other projects; other grade levels also have math requirements. Please check what the expectations are for each grade level under the “Curriculum” heading below.

The benefits of summer reading are immeasurable. There are volumes of research that confirm just how important it is for children to maintain their reading skills. The following examples are summarized from a collection of resources that can be found by visiting the Collaborative Summer Library Program link:

<http://cslpreads.org/learning-tools/summer-reading-research.html>

- Numerous studies have shown that reading over the summer prevents “summer reading loss.”
- Children living in poverty are more likely to lose reading skills over the summer than children whose families are more affluent.
- Some researchers estimate 50-67% of the achievement gap, for children living in poverty and for children of color, is the result of summer learning loss.
- Summer reading loss is cumulative. Children don't “catch up” in fall because the other children are moving ahead with their skills. By the end of 6th grade, children who lose reading skills over the summer are two years behind their classmates.

We recommend that you encourage your children to do a little bit of reading each day during the summer rather than wait until late August. Visit the Milton Public Library to stock up on reading materials before leaving town or organize a book swap with your neighbors.

*Please note that the last day of school -- **Friday, June 15th** -- will be half-day for students. I wish all our families a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall! – Mary C. Gormley*

PERSONNEL UPDATE

We have some more good news to share. Michelle Kreuzer, Milton High School's Math, Business and Technology Department Head, has been appointed as the new Vice Principal of Milton High School. Prior to her role as department head, Ms. Kreuzer served as a math teacher at Milton High School since 2002 as well as our high school's field hockey coach. We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Kreuzer to this position and we are excited about the leadership team of Mr. Jette, Ms. Beech and Ms. Kreuzer. I would once again like to thank outgoing Vice Principal Alan Cron for his years of service at Milton High and wish him all the best in his new job.

The search for a new MHS Mathematics, Business and Technology Department Head will begin immediately. Currently the search for a new Cunningham Principal is underway and we have reopened the posting for our Elementary Reading, Language Arts and Social Studies Coordinator.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our last School Committee meeting was June 6th. Below is a summary of that meeting:

The meeting began with a reception to honor this year's Milton Public Schools retirees. Please join me in congratulating the following staff members:

Dr. Anthony Bonacci, Edward Burke, Jeanne Glynn, Nora Goonan, James Greene, Michael McCormick, Maryllen McDermott, Eileen Neret, Patricia Sampson, Ann Saur and Martha Sherman.

As part of the Superintendent's Report, there was a discussion of the First Grade Assignment Planning. The issue of high enrollment in French Immersion for incoming first graders led to a discussion of how to keep class sizes within the agreed-upon cap for the fall of 2012. A proposal to close the French Immersion program to parents who have not yet begun the registration process for their first-graders for the fall of 2012 was voted on and unanimously approved. In addition, a letter will be sent to parents of incoming first graders in an effort to create a second strand of English at the Cunningham school.

The appointment of Dr. Karen Spaulding as the new principal of the Pierce Middle School was announced at School Committee and preparations were announced to create a screening committee for the new Cunningham principal.

As part of the Chairman's Report, School Committee members discussed the process of how to fill the seat vacated by Denis Keohane last month. Twelve candidates have applied and School Committee members have discussed different options for interviewing and screening those candidates. It was agreed that the interviews would be held at the next meeting on **June 13th** at 7 pm.

In addition, School Committee members voted to ratify the contract of AFSCME Local 1395. The vote was re-taken and the contract was unanimously approved.

School Committee members had the first reading of the Naming New Facilities policy; and a second reading of the district's Wellness Policy. A vote on the latter policy was postponed to clarify some details of the policy.

Members voted to approve the FY 13 Fee Schedule. Tuition for pre-school was raised for FY13 as were adult education courses and some facility rental rates. To view the new Fee Schedule, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FY13FeeSchedule.pdf>

The next meeting will be held on **June 13th** at 7 pm @ MHS Library following the School Committee Volunteer Reception at 6 pm. A joint meeting of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen will be held on **Tuesday, June 19th** at 7 pm for the purpose of voting in a new school committee member.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Summer Reading: All Milton Public School students are required to complete some type of summer reading. Different grade levels have differing requirements. Please read below for more info:

Elementary: We require that all students read a minimum of five books and keep a reading log. In addition, all students entering grade four and five are required to complete a simple book project on two of their summer reading selections. These can be included as two of the five required books. Students should fill in the titles of the books that they have read and return either reading log to their teacher during the first few days of school. We always strive to have 100% participation in our Summer Reading Program. For project ideas and/or the summer reading titles, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/ElementarySummerReading2012.pdf>

Middle: The philosophy of the Pierce Middle School on Summer Reading is to guide students to read for pleasure and enjoyment. We feel continuous reading not only fosters an important life skill, but ensures and enhances the academic transition to the next school year. As part of our proactive stance to create productive citizens, we would like to utilize our summer reading program as a teaching opportunity to promote discussion and awareness around social conflicts that can occur during adolescence. The English Department has selected book titles that showcase issues around teasing, bullying, acceptance and the hard choices that students are faced with in the middle school years and beyond. Students must read a total of four books; three free choice books and one required text. To access the summer reading requirements, click here:

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

In addition, all students entering grades 6, 7 and 8 will have summer math to complete on Study Island. Students can access this by logging on to their Study Island account. Any questions can be directed to Curriculum Coordinator Amy Gale at agale@miltonps.org or Technology Coordinator Holly Concannon at hconcannon@miltonps.org.

High School: Milton High School students entering grades nine through twelve must do required reading and may also take part in a voluntary summer reading program. Details are explained on the summer assignment handouts, which can be found at http://www.edline.net/pages/Milton_High_School/Department_Pages/Humanities Please note that your reading assignment may be based on what level course you are taking (college prep or honors), and students enrolled in AP courses have their own assignment link on the site provided above.

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As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and approved by the Milton School Committee at their June 6, 2012 meeting: As of June 7, 2012 enrollment for Grade 1 French Immersion for the 2012-13 school year is closed. Families who have not completed the enrollment process by this date will not be able to enter the French Immersion program for the 2012-13 school year.

Currently the Milton School Committee is exploring the option of possibly "capping" the overall enrollment of the French Immersion in school years beyond 2012-13. Future updates will be posted on the district's new student registration web site at: <http://www.miltonps.org/about-student-reg.php>.

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We have some excellent news from the national media. Milton High School was recently named to the 2012 High School Challenge list. Schools that make the list are in the top 9 percent of all high schools measured with the criteria listed. In past years, this list was published in Newsweek but it now appears in the Washington Post by the same author. The Challenge Index is the measure of how effectively a school prepares its students for college.

Milton High placed #640 out of 1,920 public, charter and private high schools on the list. To see more about the criteria and search the list by state, region or nationally, please visit this link:

<http://apps.washingtonpost.com/local/highschoolchallenge/>

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There's a new addition to the Cunningham/Collicot cafetorium. A beautiful, hand-made quilt was recently hung as part of a wonderful project.

Last year, Milton Visual Arts Alliance parent Laura Cannata wrote a grant to bring professional textile artist Clara Wainwright into the schools to create a collaborative project. Clara is a local artist who is well known for creating events like First Night in Boston. She came to our schools to work with fifth-grade ACE students, each of whom made their own self-portrait using fabric. These portraits were compiled to support the main goal of bringing together the two schools as well as reaching out to the surrounding communities.

The main goal of this project--called "All Together Whole"--was to bring together two school communities while allowing students to showcase their talents and gain confidence and pride in their work. Thank you to all who participated.

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Last week, we received news that three of our Pierce students won top honors at the International House of Blues Foundation annual art contest.

Pierce sixth-grader Nick Daly won first place in the art competition, while Lucas Kery and Ruby D'Amato tied for second place. Great job!

Drawing Us Together 2012 was an opportunity for 6th through 12th grade students to create original artworks inspired by the theme: The Arts Inspire Hope. In creating their artwork, students were encouraged to consider how the arts can inspire hope in challenging times and difficult circumstances.

Nick, Lucas and Ruby's work was displayed, along with their fellow Pierce ACE students, at the House of Blues in Boston earlier this week.

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In my last E-blast, I listed the names of the Century Club members. Unfortunately, an error was made and Talia Nutting was not identified as having been a Century Club member for all four years of high school. Less than 10 seniors earned this honor, and we are sorry that we did not recognize Talia as one of them.

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Pierce Middle School musicians had a wonderful day at the recent Great East Festival. Pierce sent seven groups, nearly 450 students in all, to the event this year. Bravo to the students, directors, accompanist and chaperones for making the day both a musical and fun-time-at-the-park success! Pierce Middle School received two platinum medals: one for the Sixth Grade Chorus; and one for the Seventh & Eighth Grade Chorus. The two bands and two string ensembles each won gold medals.

This year the awards were as follows: Band 6: Gold Award; Band 7 & 8: Gold Award (both led by teacher Dave Adams); Chorus 6: Platinum Award (a first ever for a 6th grade ensemble!); Mixed Chorus 7 & 8: Gold Award; Select Chorus 7 & 8: Platinum Award (led by teachers Dawn Sykes and accompanist Gary Good); Strings 6, 7 & 8 Gold Award, Chamber Orchestra 6; 7 & 8: Gold Award (led by Patricia Ostrem). It was a great day-- even the weather cooperated!

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Congratulations to the following Pierce Middle School students and their teachers Robyn Thompson and Stephanie Sherman. The students were recognized at the Pierce Juried Art Show which took place at the Milton Art Center earlier this week. The Best in Show award has been selected and the Art Department is proud to announce that seventh-grader Davidson Lamarre won for his Relationship Quilt called "C+P".

The works of grade 8 Logo Challenge Winners were also on display at the event.

Henry Bajon & Emme Cronin designed sneaker logos that were voted on by peers. Their final designs can be purchased on key-chains, magnets and stickers online! Click here to see the winning logos:

<http://www.cafepress.com/piercemiddleschool>

Grade 8 Ceramics: First place: Anne Marie Grudem; Second place: Gwen Curtis; Third place: Damian Bowers. Honorable Mentions: Mairead Dambruch, Kate Driscoll, Victoria Volta, Julia Blutt, Cole Kroninger, Scott Cummings and Madeline Scott. **Tunnel Book:** First place: Erin McCarthy; Second place: Lila Crum; Third Place: Emme Cronin; Honorable Mention: Ana Pimental, Emily Dsida and Anne Marie Grudem.

Grade 7 Ceramics: First Place: Maya Watanabe; Second Place: Emily Laine; Third Place: Morgan Smith; Honorable Mentions: Michelle Zhang, Juliana Viola and Gregory Hebard. **Quilts:** First Place: Michelle Zhang; Second Place: Stavro Minias; Third Place: Colin Whitaker; Honorable Mentions: Aislinn O'Brien, Matt Roche, Ben Corson, Cameron Trowers, Kip Melcher, Hannah O'Toole and Lilly Tennyson.

Grade 6: Drawings: First Place: Patrick Taugher & Vecenya Zayas; Second Place: Madelyne Shea; Honorable Mentions: Serena Chen, Laura McNeeley, Colleen Linehan and Mark Walsh. **Paintings:** First Place: Jillian Radley; Second Place: Rosalind Smith; Third Place: Griffin McLaughlin. Honorable Mentions: Julberthy Charles, James Eder and Timothy Karoff. **Collographs:** First Place: Kenzie Caputo; Second Place: Claire Casey; Third Place: Sawyer Flanagan; Honorable Mentions: Grady Stoodt and Caroline Cronin.

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Please watch your inboxes for a very special end-of-the-year Video E-blast. Our talented students at Milton High School along with their teacher Sean LoPresti are preparing a Video E-blast to be released before the end of school. The topic will be "health and wellness," and it will feature many of our Milton Public Schools colleagues as well as a few special "guest stars." We hope you will enjoy watching it.

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We are pleased to announce that members of our Milton High Class of 2012 will attend the following schools. In addition, one of our seniors will be joining the United States Navy, and another will be entering the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis.

American University in Cairo, Arizona State University, Bay State College, Benjamin Franklin Institute, Bentley University, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Bridgewater State University, Bridgton Academy, Bryant University, Bunker Hill Community College, Champlain College, Colby College, Colby-Sawyer College, College of the Holy Cross, Columbia University, Concordia University-Montreal, Curry College, Dartmouth College, Dean College, Drexel University, Duke University, Duquesne University, Eastern Nazarene College, Elon University, Emmanuel College, Endicott College, Fisher College, Flagler College, Florida A&M University, Georgetown University, Goucher College, Harvard University, Hofstra University, Iona College, Lincoln Technical Institute, Loyola University-Maryland, Loyola University-New Orleans, Maine College of Art, Manhattan College, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Massasoit Community College - Canton, McGill University-Montreal, Michigan State University, Montserrat College of Art, New York University, Newbury College, Nichols College, Northeastern University, Norwich University, Ohio Northern University, Ohio State University, Parsons-The New School for Design, Plymouth State University, Porter and Chester Institute, Proctor Academy, Quincy College, Regis College, Regis University-Denver, Roger Williams University, Roxbury Community College, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Saint Anselm College, Saint Augustine College, Saint John's University, Saint Michael's College, Salem State University, Salve Regina University, Simmons College, Southern New Hampshire University, Stonehill College, Suffolk University, Syracuse University, The Catholic University of America, Tufts University, United States Air Force Academy, Universal Technical Institute, University of British Columbia, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Connecticut, University of Maryland, College Park, University

of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Commonwealth Honors College) University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Isenberg School), University of Massachusetts, Boston, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, University of Missouri - Columbia, University of New Hampshire, University of North Texas, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rhode Island, University of South Carolina, University of Southern Indiana, University of Southern Maine, University of Tampa, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, Wagner College, Washington and Jefferson College, Wellesley College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wesleyan University, Westfield State University, Wheelock College, Widener University, Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State University.

TOWN OF MILTON 350th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

I hope everyone was able to enjoy at least part of the festivities over the past weekend to celebrate our town's 350th anniversary. I would like to thank everyone who helped to organize the wonderful events. We know that a great deal of work went into planning and executing this past weekend. A special thank you to the members of the 350th Anniversary Committee including our own School Committee Vice Chair Lynda-Lee Sheridan who served as the Chair. Please join me in thanking the rest of the committee as well: David Connolly, Vice-Chair; Mary McLaughlin, Vice-Chair; Dorothy Cutler, Treasurer; Ursula Beattie, Janet Christensen, Hyacinth Crichlow, Pat Desmond, Brian Doherty, Kevin Donahue, Kathy Fagan, Emma Jean Moulton, Beth Neville and Wallace Sisson.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

The following item was submitted by our Transportation Director, Pam Dorsey:

Final Call For Bus Registration!! We're halfway there! We need EVERY student who rides a bus to re-register for next year. Many students who live two miles from school (and get the bus for free) have not yet registered for next year. If you do not register, there may not be a bus seat available for your child when school starts. Even if you get a free bus, you MUST register now!

If you have already registered, thank you. Your child's bus pass will be mailed out by early August. If you haven't already registered, please DO IT NOW! Please email your child's name, address, school and grade to pdorsey@miltonps.org. If you pay for the bus, please note that payment can also be handled online through UniBank on the www.miltonps.org homepage (no additional charge).

For more information about bus routes, deadlines and registration, please click here:

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

As the summer progresses, buses will become full and unregistered students will go on a wait list with no guarantee that additional seats will become available before school starts. Please email me the student's name, address, school and grade to: pdorsey@miltonps.org

NEWS AROUND TOWN

The following item was sent to us by Barbara Ann Joyce, Blood Drive Coordinator for the American Red Cross:

The supply of Type O negative blood continues to be at critical levels. The supply has been at critical levels for the past few weeks and has not recovered. With the difficult summer months approaching, we need your help to replenish the current supply and help prevent a further drop. Since Type O negative blood can be used for all patients in need, it is crucial that there is a sufficient supply. Make an appointment today, 800-Red Cross (800-733-2767) or redcrossblood.org

Beth Israel Deaconess- Milton will be hosting a blood drive on **Saturday June 30th** at the Medical Center, 199 Reedsdale Road, from 9 am to 2 pm. Donors' gifts include Showcase Cinema movie passes, a case of Walgreens water and Red Sox t-shirts. Please consider donating blood!

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

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I would like to extend best wishes to Milton Public Library Director Phil McNulty who will be leaving his position shortly. Mr. McNulty will be heading to the Newton Free Library. He had served as Director in Milton since 2003 and was instrumental in both securing the funding and overseeing the beautiful library addition and renovation. We especially appreciated the strong relationship Mr. McNulty forged with the Milton Public Schools. He will be missed.

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There are several great options for summer camps and classes right here in Milton. For the artistically inclined, Art Space is running several camps for different age groups. For more information about ArtSpace Summer Camps, please click here:

http://www.artspacemilton.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/ArtCrafts-Summer_12.pdf

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In addition, the folks at Milton Art Center (MAC) are also offering several different types of art classes and camps. Please explore the options at MAC by clicking here:

<http://miltonfava.tumblr.com/Summer%20camps>

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As in past years, the Milton Parks and Recreation department has several summer camps and sports camps to offer. For more information about these, please click here:

http://www.townofmilton.org/Public_Documents/F0000FCED/summer

ATHLETICS

The Milton High School Athletic Hall of Fame is pleased to announce that the following athletes will be inducted on October 20th. Please join me in congratulating:

James Flaherty, Dan Egan, Paul MacDonald, Michael Ferris, John Whelpley, Sean Goodwin, Kevin Blake, Alisha Moran, Jackie Donahue, Ellen McCarthy Needham, Jim Fredericksen, Elimu Nelson Joe Sidoti, the 1955 Indoor Track team, Tara Bligh, the 1957 Outdoor Track team, Jenna Bortolotti, 1972 Indoor Track, Adam Donovan, the 1996 Girls' Cross Country team and Dennis Duggan.

For more information about the Hall of Fame, please click here:

http://www.edline.net/pages/Milton_Public_Schools/Milton_High_School_Athletic_Ha

AMBASSADOR PAGE

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

Students: Please join me in recognizing our very talented artists from Pierce Middle School. Nick Daly won first place in the House of Blues art competition, while Lucas Kery and Ruby D'Amato tied for second place. Great job!

Faculty/Staff: I would like once more to congratulate our 2012 retirees: Dr. Anthony Bonacci, Edward Burke, Jeanne Glynn, Nora Goonan, James Greene, Michael McCormick, Maryellen McDermott, Eileen Neret, Patricia

Sampson, Ann Saur and Martha Sherman. We will make every effort to fill their positions, but we will never be able to replace this very talented group of people.

Volunteer: This past weekend could not have happened without the hard work of hundreds of volunteers. I would especially like to thank Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Mary McLaughlin, Kathy Fagan, Pat Desmond, Gary Kelly, Brian Kelly and Milton Police Chief Richard Wells. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who worked the concession stands this past weekend at our town's 350th Anniversary to help benefit the Milton Public Schools. Members of the PTOs, FAME and the Boosters all worked very hard for our students and I am very grateful.

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