



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians of Milton Public Schools
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: January 26, 2011

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

As I began to prepare this newsletter, I was struck by how many items pertain to our extracurricular activities. As educators, we tend to focus on classroom curriculum, educational standards and assessments, but none of us have lost sight of the fact that the arts, music, drama, athletics and after-school activities are just as important.

From the innovative programs of Mock Trial and Debate; our long-standing Future Problem Solvers Club; the incredible production of State Fair which recently wrapped up at Pierce Middle School and the upcoming Cabaret for our high school musicians, we could not be more proud of our students who participate in these events.

Extracurricular activities have an enormous impact on the level of success our students achieve. When students participate in the sports, clubs, and activities out side the normal day schools see lower drop out rates, higher attendance, increases in student achievement, and higher college attendance percentages. Clubs, activities, and athletics are the reason many students excel during the school day. We also do not underestimate the power of a coach or club advisor to be a positive influence on our students' lives.

I have long been opposed to the practice of charging students a fee to participate in clubs, athletics or after-school activities, but unfortunately budgetary constraints make this necessary. We have tried and will continue to try to reduce or eliminate these fees in the future.

Meanwhile, we have a dedicated group of students and parents/guardians who are taking on this very topic by hosting a Walk-a-thon at Milton High on February 12, 2011 from 1 to 4 pm. The purpose of this fundraiser is to supplement the school budget and user fees. Instead of encouraging each team/club to organize its own fundraiser, we came up with the idea of one, all-encompassing event in order to both maintain equity and encourage camaraderie among the teams and clubs.

If you would like to help with this event as either a volunteer or a sponsor, please contact lkessler@ifb.org. – Mary C. Gormley

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the January 19, 2011 School Committee meeting we received a very positive report from the Tucker Site Council. Among the school's most recent accolades was the fact that Tucker fifth graders ranked 1st in the state for growth in Math and 5th in the state for growth in ELA based on the most recent MCAS scores. In addition, they tied for 13th in the state for overall student growth.

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Also at this meeting, representatives from two new sports groups made presentations to the School Committee. First, the Crew demonstration was given by Milton residents and parents Mike Ricciuti, Terry Driscoll, John Rhee and Brad Moriarty. Chris Marietta of Wayland who is with the Wayland Weston High School Crew program was also present. The group talked about securing sculls and storage space and discussed various launch sites along the Neponset River. At this point, the group estimates that this would be a two-season activity and would cost approximately \$700 per student per season. They hope to raise money to offset some of the capital costs and will report back to the School Committee with more information as they progress.

We also heard from a group interested in forming a Rugby team. Milton parent Ned Corcoran and MPS teacher Joe Dolan have begun to raise funds and determine the level of interest in town. As with Crew, this sport would be open to both boys and girls.

School Committee members expressed some concern about the cost of these programs and the potential for fundraising efforts to interfere with some of the current sports' budgets. The Administration and School Committee agreed that a proposal regarding how new sports can be introduced into the Milton Public Schools should be drafted and this matter can be further discussed at a future School Committee meeting.

Representatives from the Milton Foundation for Education made a presentation to unveil the newest round of Competitive Grants released by the organization to our teachers. Please see the item below under MFE for details on these grants.

We also approved the school's Annual Report and heard an abbreviated report from the Finance Subcommittee. The Consolidated Facilities committee reported that they are still interviewing for the head of that department.

The next School Committee meeting will be held tonight, **January 26, 2011 at 7 pm** in the MHS library.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Please note that our Kindergarten Information Night will be held on **Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 7 pm** in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium at Milton High School. If your child will be five years old before September 1, 2011, we encourage you to fill out a pre-registration form as soon as possible. This form can be downloaded from the following site:

http://www.miltonps.org/documents/KindergartenPreRegistrationFlyer2011_000.pdf

Once you have pre-registered, we welcome you to attend this event where you will learn more about the registration process for Kindergarten.

* * *

This year each elementary school will host its own Grade One Information Night on **Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 7 pm**. **It is important for you to note that we had previously advertised that this would be held at Milton High School. The location has now been changed.** Parents/guardians of current Milton Public School Kindergarten students should attend the information session at their school. Parents of students who do not currently attend the Milton Public Schools can attend the Grade One Information Night at any of the four elementary schools. This information is for parents whose child will be six years old before September 1, 2011. Information about our World Language program will be presented as well as curriculum and other necessary information.

For questions or further information about either event, please contact John Febres in the Registrar's Office at 617-696-4470 x5510.

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We would also like to notify parents of 5th grade students that Pierce Middle School will be holding an Information Night for incoming sixth graders on **Wednesday, March 2, 2011 from 6 to 7 pm** in the Pierce auditorium.

Among the topics covered will be: Course Offerings for 6th Graders; Teams and Team Structure; Scheduling and Scheduling Timelines; After School Activities and Clubs; Student Expectations; and Welcome to Middle School Transition Camp.

* * *

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our own Gracie Burke, Director of World Languages for the Milton Public Schools was recently informed that she has been promoted from “Chevalier” to “Officier” in the Order des Palmes Academiques.

This group is associated with the National Ministry of Education of the Republic of France. This distinguished award is given to those who have made a major contribution to French education and culture. Ms. Burke has been recognized for the work that she has done promoting the French language and culture in the United States. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Burke on this wonderful accomplishment.

* * *

We are happy to announce that we recently hired a new English Language Education Program Coordinator for the Milton Public Schools. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Alysa D. Buchanan to our schools.

Ms. Buchanan will be taking over for Mary Duggan who will be retiring from this position but will remain Team Chairperson at Glover Elementary School.

Ms. Buchanan previously worked with the Franklin Public Schools in the same position. During her time in Franklin, she developed the English Language Development Program which began with approximately twenty students and eventually grew to almost eighty who spoke twenty-two different languages. She has also previously taught teachers and students in charter and public schools in Jersey City and Newark, New Jersey.

Ms. Buchanan is the recipient of many grants and awards, most notably the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Award for her literacy volunteer work in El Salvador and Central America. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from New Jersey City University and a Masters Degree in Urban Education and English as A Second Language.

The English Language Education Program is designed to assist limited and non-English proficient students to develop their English language skills (in speaking, listening, reading and writing) while they continue to gain academic skills in core subject areas. Placement in the program is based on an initial English screening. Based on the results of this screening, students receive English support according to their individual needs. This support can take place within the classroom setting as well as out of the classroom. Teachers of English Language Learners (ELL's) have specific state standards that they are held to which are called the English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes (ELPBO's) which drive the instruction in our program. ELL's participate in the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPA) which is a yearly standardized test of their English proficiency. Once the students have met the highest level of proficiency on the MEPA test and are able to complete grade level work, they are exited from the program. We then continue to monitor exited students for two years to ensure academic success.

* * *

The Milton Public School system is excited to announce the Milton Public Saturday Program (MPSP). This program is sponsored by the Milton Foundation for Education. The MPSP was a huge success in its first year with over 120 students in grades 4-7 attending incredible enrichment classes for four consecutive Saturdays. This year we are going to extend the program to our grade 3 students and increase the sessions from

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four to six Saturdays. The program will be held **March 5th, March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th** from 8:30 am to noon at Pierce Middle School. It is open to Milton Public Schools students in grades 3-7.

Some of the enrichment classes offered this year will be Exploration Art, Readers' Theater and Poetry. Courses in physical education, science, cooking, and technology will also be offered as well as math and reading support classes.

We will be publicizing the course offerings, tuition, and registration information in the next few weeks. The Milton Public Schools is grateful to the Milton Foundation for Education for supporting this exciting opportunity for the students and families of Milton.

* * *

Screening committees have been formed to fill the positions for Collicot Principal and Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services. The screening committees are as follows:

Collicot Principal: Administrators: Superintendent Mary Gormley; Assistant Superintendent John Phelan; Cunningham Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding; School Committee representative Kristan Bagley-Jones; Unit B Representatives Holly Concannon and Gracie Burke; Teacher Representatives Kerry O'Leary and Nancy Trifone; and Parent Representatives Susanna Ryan, Abe Cardoza and Amy Farley.

Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services: Administrators: Superintendent Mary Gormley; Assistant Superintendent John Phelan; Principal Dr. John Drottar; Interim Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services Dr. Patricia Delval; School Committee Representative Denis Keohane; Teacher Representatives Tara Kostek, Kelli Horton and Sally Rush; Unit B Representative Margaret Gibbons, Director of Nurses; Parent Representatives Nicque Bradshaw, Kathy Fagan, Kevin Lenane; and Dr. Marius M. Solomon.

* * *

Congratulations to our 22 students for their outstanding work at the Eastern District Senior Music Festival. We appreciate all the hard work these students did preparing for this festival. Their efforts resulted in a fantastic concert last Saturday afternoon.

The students are: **Orchestra:** Catherine Dambruch, Caeleigh MacNeil, Abigail Greenwood, Gordon Jarvis, Brendan Hayward and Elizabeth Mahon. **Chorus:** Cristina Ruscito, Teresa Ruscito, Rebecca Liberman, Talia Nutting, Andrew Mowe, Aaron Sanchez, Garith Christopher, Mardoche Michel, Adam Hanna, Kathleen Hill, Nancy Killoran and Leah Hainline. **Jazz:** Willie Archibald; **Band:** Steven Staffa, Rebecca Simms and Laura Hess.

These students should be very proud of their accomplishments! Congratulations to Rebecca Damiani who was the Festival Coordinator. Bravo to her for volunteering to do this task which requires countless hours working with teachers throughout the Eastern District. Thank you to Gary Good for stepping in at the last minute to be the pianist for the Festival Concert Band. Milton was very well represented at this event and it was a proud moment.

* * *

Please join us in congratulating our Future Problem Solvers teams from our elementary schools. Teams from all four schools competed last weekend in the Glover cafeteria at the Annual Future Problem Solving Qualifying Bowl. The coaches are Lori Henry for Glover/Tucker and Marti McKenna for Cunningham/Collicot.

This year's qualifying problem related to Genetic Testing. Students were asked to ponder some of the following questions and develop answers: *Scientists are currently looking into the genetic testing of humans so that we will know if we are genetically prone to obesity, smoking, violence, etc. How will people respond to the*

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availability of such tests? How much will be shared with insurance companies and law enforcement agencies? What are the benefits and drawbacks to genetic testing? Will some governments, employers, or insurance companies require it? Will genetic testing become the “Big Brother” of the future?

At Tucker our students are James Collins, Khalil Darouichi, Ann Josephine Auguste and Eva Chow. At Glover our students are Kevin McDonough, Claire Casey, Heidi Freking, Kaleigh Pentland, Ashley Thermidor-Payne, Andrew Gray, Timothy Karoff and Griffin McLaughlin. From Collicot our students are Samantha Rice, Jack Cullen, Abby Lang, and Domenic Jancaterino. From Cunningham our students are Joshua Kackley, Serena Chen, Mackenzie Moore and Audra Furgal.

* * *

We are also pleased to report that we have a new partnership with the Forbes House Museum.

The Forbes House Museum is a historical treasure right here in Milton, and thanks to new initiatives at the elementary, middle and high school level, Milton students will be able to explore all the museum and its grounds have to offer.

Students in grade 5 visit the museum during their annual “History of Milton” tour and now will be exposed to more of the museum’s amazing works of art. Experts from the Forbes Museum will visit with elementary schools prior to their visit to teach students about the art they will see at the museum.

At Pierce Middle School Art and English teachers are working together to help students use the artwork at the museum as an impetus to writing.

At the High School freshman Modern World Cultures classes will use the life of Captain Forbes to study the China Trade in the nineteenth century, making connections between world events and people who lived right here in Milton.

Robin Tagliaferri, the Executive Director of the Museum, has been working with educators from all of our schools and has been integral in strengthening our relationship with the Forbes House Museum. She is excited to work with all of our Milton students and expose them to a piece of history in their own back yard.

Captain Robert Bennet Forbes (1804 ~ 1889) was one of many Boston-based shipping magnates that thrived on world trade in the 19th century and much of his trading business took place in China. The Forbes House is furnished with original furniture, art, and objects from the Forbes family, and collections include American, European, and China Trade heirlooms.

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Please note that artwork from Pierce Middle School students is currently on display at the Milton Senior Center and Milton High School art students’ work is being exhibited at the Milton Public Library during the next week.

* * *

We are very proud of our six students from the high school who are currently participating in the 2011 Real World Design Challenge sponsored by the Product Development Company.

Brenna Callahan, Emily Regan, John Savino, Jon Maher, Kevin Liu and Peter Eberhardt are designing the exterior geometry and internal structure of an airliner wing using aeroelastic tailoring methods. They are evaluating the forces of flight, lift, weight, thrust, and drag with the goal of enhancing the fuel efficiency of their plane. The team must submit their solution by the end of this month and will find out their placement in mid-February.

The challenge is part of an annual national competition which involves high school students from over thirty states. The goal of the challenge is to inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and careers.

For more information about this competition, click here:

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

This is the first year that MHS has participated in the competition. Great job and good luck!

* * *

The state is offering free assistance to parents who need help filling out financial aid forms for college. Assistance with completing the FAFSA will be available at various locations throughout the state on January 30th. To find a local site, please check www.fafsaday.org

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Congratulations to Kaitlin "Kate" Reed, grade 7 A.C.E. (Honors Art) student. We were recently informed that Kate won an Honorable Mention in the WGBH & Solomon's Fine Rugs: Design-A-Rug Contest. All of the 7th and 8th grade A.C.E. students participated through a unit on Home Design. All submissions were judged by a panel of interior designers, magazine editors and Solomon's Collection. Congratulations to Kate for her accomplishment!

* * *

We would also like to announce that John O. Febres has been hired as the Student Registrar/Residency Coordinator for the Milton Public Schools. Mr. Febres comes to us with a well rounded background in Education. Before joining our schools, John was a school teacher, Administrator and Manager in the Boston Public Schools.

Mr. Febres has over ten years experience in the Education field, a degree in Child Psychology and is fluent in Spanish. John is passionate about education and enthusiastic about joining the Milton Public Schools.

John and his wife Miriam are residents of Milton and their two children, daughter Marcela and son John ("Ziggy") attend the Glover school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Wednesday, February 2, 2011 our high school students will be performing in a Cabaret, the Music Department talent show. This will take place at 7 pm in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium at Milton High School. Please come to support our talented musicians.

Today is "**No Name Calling Day**". More than 4,000 bright red bracelets inscribed with the motto: "One goal, one community: Moving beyond bullying" were distributed and students will be reminded of the lessons taught in an earlier session with Bentley University students about creating a kinder school climate. Anti-bullying activities are planned to take place throughout the week. Teachers at all the elementary schools will teach about the lasting damage of cruel words using paper hearts as props, while the Middle School will focus on the power of bystanders to stop bullies. This week in the Milton Public Schools, celebrations of random acts of kindness and the importance of friendship will be a top priority.

PAC/SPECIAL ED NEWS

The following item was written by Nicque Bradshaw of the Milton PAC:

The Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) would like to wish all parents and guardians a Happy New Year and tell you about the following events:

The Parent Support Group: Meets the third Thursday every month at the Milton Public Library. Upcoming dates are **February 17th, March 17th and May 19th.**

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Also, the Search Committee for the new Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services position (Special Education Director) has been formed. Nicque Bradshaw, Kathy Fagan, Kevin Lenane, and Marius Solomon are our parent representatives. Milton Public Schools Administration is committed to holding Roundtable Discussions so parents can learn about special education programs and services available at each level and get their questions answered. The Milton High School & Out-of-District Placement Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for **Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm** in the High School library; the Elementary Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for **Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7 pm** in the Cunningham Library; and the Pre-School Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for **Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm** in the Collicot Library.

“Lose the Training Wheels” is coming back to Milton! Milton Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with Braintree Recreation, is excited to announce that “Lose the Training Wheels,” a very successful national nonprofit program designed to teach youth over age 8 with disabilities how to ride a two-wheel bicycle, will be coming back to Milton during April vacation. The program takes place in 75-minute sessions over five days at Milton High School and costs \$150 (includes a T-shirt and helmet). Openings will be held for Milton and Braintree residents until the end of February. If after that there are any spots left, registration will then be opened to non-residents. The program filled quickly last year and there are already nine non-residents on the waiting list. Interested participants are urged to sign up as soon as possible! For information, contact Dave Perdios of Milton Parks & Recreation at (617) 898-4941 or dperdios@townofmilton.org or visit www.losethetrainingwheels.org/

Also, please save the date for the “Basic Rights Workshop” presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs on **Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7pm**

*ALL PAC Meetings will be held at the Pierce Middle School library from 7-9pm unless otherwise noted.

GRANT/FUNDRAISING NEWS

The following item was written by the Walk-A-Thon Student Planning Committee:

On **Saturday, February 12, 2011** from 1 to 4 pm, Milton High students will be participating in the Third Annual Walk-A-Thon-- “Gotta Love Sports and Clubs” -- at the Copeland Field House to support sports and clubs at the high school.

Our sports program and clubs have traditionally done fundraising to ensure that these activities are fully funded. We love our sports and clubs and think they go a long way in making Milton High School a very special place. Whether you have kids at the high school now or plan to in the future, attended MHS yourself or just enjoy the memory of your own high school events like Friday night football games or being in the Art or Drama club, we hope you will consider supporting the Walk-A-Thon.

In past years, MHS students were asked to do individual fundraising on behalf of their teams and clubs and we asked the community to support those efforts time and time again. This year, we cut back on the fundraising requests by the teams and this is the *ONLY* fundraising activity that MHS students and their families are being asked to do this year for sports and clubs (other than the Boosters – and please support them too!)

Soon, MHS students and some grade 8 students will be asking friends, family and neighbors to make a donation for the Walk-A-Thon. We hope you will consider giving (any amount is OK) to a teen you know. If you would like to give directly to the walk, donations can be made out to “Milton High School Activities Fund” and sent directly to the Milton High School at 25 Gile Road, Milton MA, 02186, Attn: Walk-A-Thon. Your donations are tax-deductible.

In addition, volunteers are needed to hang signs, inflate balloons, set up tables, register and check-out walkers, collect and tally pledges, photocopy pledge sheets, monitor the track, hand out water, provide entertainment activity support and to help our janitors with light clean-up. Set up begins at noon and clean-up runs from 4 to 5 pm. Any assistance you can provide for any part of the Walk-A-Thon is appreciated. Please respond to lkessler@ifb.org with a two-hour block of time if you are able to help MHS students with this event.

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If you have any questions, please call Dr. John Drottar, MHS Principal at (617) 696-4470. Thank you for your anticipated support. Sincerely,
The Walk-A-Thon Student Planning Committee: Skyler Abrams, Isabel Andrews, Garith Christopher, Derek Curley, Samantha Curley, Molly Dempsey, Hana DiTullio, Adam Hanna, Ally Jones, Evan Jones, Katie Krauss, Emily McClellan, Katherine Phelan, Alicia Powers, Mariel Sager, Lucas Shapiro, Catherine Spino, Colin Stanley, Gyasi Slaughter, Braedy Taugher and Sam Taugher. Many thanks also to The Walk-A-Thon Advisory Committee: Superintendent Mary Gormley, Dr. John Drottar, Steve Traister, Laura Kessler, Kristan Bagley Jones and Don Jones.

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We are very happy to announce the creation of a new scholarship at Milton High School: The Rabbi Nathan and Helen Korff Memorial Scholarship.

Rabbi and Mrs. Korff were devoted residents of Milton for more than 60 years and all three of their children are graduates of Milton High School. Rabbi Korff was an active spiritual and political leader in the Town of Milton. With the support of Mrs. Korff, he exerted influence in many areas to improve life in the community, offering benediction and invocation each year at the High School Graduation ceremonies and spearheading the establishment of such projects as Milton Residences for the Elderly. Consistent with Rabbi and Mrs. Korff's values and examples, this scholarship, established in their loving memory by their grandchildren, shall be awarded to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to moral and ethical leadership, lending support and assistance to those in need.

This scholarship will be awarded in the Spring of 2011 to a graduating senior. If you would like to make a donation to the Rabbi Nathan and Helen Korff Memorial Scholarship, please contact Dr. John Drottar at jdrottar@miltonps.org

* * *

Please help to support a very important fundraiser in our schools. The American Cancer Society Daffodil Days campaign will take place this year from February 14th to March 1st.

Last year our district was one of the top fundraisers in Southeastern Massachusetts and we would like to attain this goal again this year.

Milton High School teacher Mary Ann Donnelly is coordinating this effort for our schools. Additionally Collicot teacher Ann McIntyre is organizing this drive as well. A flyer will be forwarded to you via email and/or back pack express within the next few weeks. Go to <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/DaffodilDay.pdf> for the flyer.

* * *

We are happy to report that the Pierce Middle School has been selected to receive a Great American Salad Bar grant which will provide a new, fully equipped salad bar (valued at approximately \$3,000) for the school's cafeteria.

The salad bars were awarded by the Food Family Farming Foundation and made possible by customers at Whole Foods Market at Legacy Place in Dedham. The Pierce Middle School was one of 300 schools nationwide selected to receive a new salad bar, which will increase our ability to offer healthy, fresh food selections in our lunch program.

The salad bar grant was brought to our attention by a Milton parent, Jen Erbe Leggett, who sent us an email when she saw this great opportunity. If you have any leads on grants, please forward this information to Chris Masalsky (cmasalsky@miltonps.org) and we will move on it!

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MFE

The Milton Foundation for Education recently awarded their annual round of grants to MPS teachers as part of the MFE Competitive Grants Program. A total of \$12,500 worth of grants was awarded to teachers to fund a variety of innovative projects and ideas submitted by our teachers. These include the purchase of supplies for 6th graders to build a bioreactor in science class; the purchase of puppets and props for elementary music students to perform "Carnival of the Animals"; the purchase of non-fiction texts to be used for Reader's Workshop; the purchase of graphing calculators for student use at MHS; and the expansion of Study Island to include ELA and Science for both Elementary and Middle School students.

These grants allow our teachers to enhance their classroom curriculum by purchasing supplies, texts and materials outside the regular school budget. We are very grateful to the MFE for providing these grants.

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Also, please note that this year the Celebration for Education has a new date, new location, more affordable tickets and a whole new attitude.

This preview of summer will be held on April 2, 2011 at the Boston Marriott in Quincy and will be unlike any Celebration you've seen before. Don't miss this event!

The Backyard Bash will raise money to support all six Milton Public Schools and the ongoing work of the Milton Foundation for Education. Go to <http://miltonfoundationforeducation.org/events.php> for more details. To become a sponsor, donate auction items or learn about volunteer opportunities, email Patti Elliott at bigbackyardbash2011@yahoo.com.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

FAVA (Friends and Advocates for the Visual Arts), an after school art enrichment program in the schools, has an opportunity to expand its art program to the public in the East Milton Library space. FAVA art classes for children would remain in the schools.

A desire to offer digital media classes in a MAC lab and space to store art equipment are two factors in FAVA's decision to look for space. FAVA currently has seven art teachers, all with art and media degrees, who teach a variety of after-school classes in the elementary and middle schools.

This group would also like to fund an Art association or co-op to establish an art gallery to showcase talented Milton and surrounding area artists. Towns bordering Milton, such as Quincy, Canton and Hyde Park all have Art associations that offer art festivals and exhibits for their residents.

Ideas for the main floor space at the East Milton branch currently being proposed are services for small businesses and space for meetings along with the art gallery. The bottom floor would be the art education center.

FAVA is interested in hearing from people who share their interests in art and education and would like to volunteer their thoughts or time to serve on committees that are being formed to pursue this opportunity. Please contact Joan@joanclifford.com for information or questions.

* * *

As many of you know, in addition to organizing an annual Fall event, CelebrateMilton! provides grants to individuals and organizations who strive to bring our mission to life within the community.

The grant applications for Community Grants are due to the organization no later than February 5, 2011.

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The primary mission of CelebrateMilton! is to strengthen the community through our diversity and to help each other learn about and ultimately respect our differences. These differences include but are not limited to religious, racial, cultural, economic, and abilities.

Even if you don't have a need for this funding, you may know someone who does. Please forward to your Milton contacts as well. For more information, please contact loribilewicz@yahoo.com

* * *

We would also like to let our community know that Lynn O'Sullivan, our Facilities Rental Coordinator, has been hired as the Rental and Facilities Coordinator for Milton Academy. We would like to thank her for her years of service to the Milton Public Schools and wish her well in her new position.

ATHLETICS

As some of you may have already seen in the local paper, there is an effort to start a new interscholastic sport at Milton High. A Crew team is in the works for boys and girls at Milton High. This would begin in Spring of 2011 for both rowers and coxswains and no prior experience is needed. An informational meeting was held in the Charles Winchester Auditorium at Milton High on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. At this meeting an eight-person shell was on display. It is expected that practices for Crew will take place on the Neponset River.

* * *

Milton High School is building it's first ever Rugby team. One of our own teachers, Joe Dolan, who also coaches Brookline High's Rugby team, is hoping to start practices in early February in preparation for the Spring season.

Once the team is formed, it is expected that local games will be played against North Quincy, Brookline, Cambridge and Catholic Memorial to name a few. For more information about the formation of a Rugby team, please contact jdolan@miltonps.org

* * *

The following item was written by Ben Midura, Varsity Boys' Lacrosse coach at MHS:

I have been in contact with the Milton Youth Lacrosse Program Board to discuss our relationship and their needs in order to grow Lacrosse in Milton and increase the number of opportunities for the youth of Milton to learn the game of Lacrosse. The success of the Milton High School Lacrosse Program is directly linked to the health and growth of Milton Youth Lacrosse, especially the increased involvement of dedicated public school parents and players. With that said, I ask each of you to read on and consider volunteering as coaches, program administrators or board members.

The biggest obstacle to the growth of Lacrosse in Milton is a lack of volunteer coaches at the youth level. The Milton Youth Lacrosse program serves players in grades 1 through 8 and is currently registering players for the upcoming Spring season. The program's goal is to have two teams at each level with approximately twenty players on each team. However, this goal may not be met because the youth program is in need of more volunteer coaches. In other words, there are boys in our town that are interested in Lacrosse who will not have the opportunity to play because there are not enough coaching volunteers for a second team at each level.

Although Spring registration deadline has passed, we are still offering a late registration period and we are still looking for coaches. Please go to the following website for information and registration: www.miltonlacrosse.org. Please take the time to checkout the program's website, consider volunteering, or pass this information along to anyone you know that may be interested.

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If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at bmidura@miltonps.org. I will be more than happy to further discuss the future of Lacrosse in the Milton community. Thank you for your time and support.

* * *

The following item was written by our Athletic Director, Steve Traister:

Winter Sports Tidbits:

BOYS BASKETBALL

Coach Sean Lopresti's Boys Basketball team currently has a 4-6 record. They have been led by senior captains Skylar Abrams and Khiry Marchman. They will be hosting Norwood High School on Friday, January 28, 2011.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls' basketball team is being led by first year head coach, and Milton High graduate Bill Donovan. The girls currently have a record of 4-6. The team is stocked with a lot of talented underclassmen. They have been led by the play of senior captain Abby Macomber. The girls will be traveling to Norwood High School on Friday, January 28, 2011.

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

The boys' hockey team currently has a record of 6-3-2 record. Coach Paul Noonan's team is being led senior captains Kevin Lamere and Jack Davis, as well as the scoring of Paul Curran.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

The girls' hockey team currently has a record of 2-6-3 in the very competitive Bay State Herget division. Coach Maggie Radley's team is led by the outstanding goaltending of senior captain Emma Drew.

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Coach Chuck Ajemian's boys' indoor track team is lead by a quartet of senior captains Matt Hunt, Kemani Jones, Adrian Donahue and Max Devin. Along with our girls track team the boys' meets are held at the Reggie Lewis Center.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Coach Dale Snyder's girls' indoor track team has been led by senior captains Olivia Walsh, Claire Heiden and second leader scorer Miaread Kiernan.

WRESTLING

Head coach and Milton High alumnus Ted Carroll's team has built a very competitive squad loaded with freshmen and sophomores. The program was down to four athletes just two years ago and now has over thirty players competing. The team won its first Bay State Conference match in fours years when they beat Dedham back in December.

BOYS & GIRLS SKI TEAM

Coach Paul Ajemian team is led on the boys' side by senior captain Liam Walsh and the girls' team is led by captains Inez Campbell and Hallie Perlick. The team competes in meets at the Blue Hills Ski Area and Ski Ward in Shrewsbury.

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WINTER CHEERLEADING

Jessica Parson's cheerleading squad will host and compete February 10, 2011 in the Bay State Conference Cheerleading Competition here in the Copeland Field House. The team is led by senior captains Kelsey Lord, Caroline Mullen and Veronica Surette-Fahey.

*Milton athletic schedules can be found at: www.highschoolsports.net
Also, they can be found on our homepage, www.miltonps.org under Athletics.*

AMBASSADOR PAGE

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

Student: Alexis Moore, a 5th grade student at Tucker School, was recently featured on ABC World News with Diane Sawyer during a concert she was performing with the Boston Children's Choir. Alexis also participates in Ms. M's Mad Math Show and performs community service helping Kindergarten students during her recess period. Alexis is a member of the Jack and Jill Club, a club for up and coming African American Leaders. Here is a video clip of the news program:

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/healing-racial-divides-music-children-kids-choir-young-youth-race-harmony-tolerance-features-12476050>

Staff: In this issue of the E-blast we would like to recognize Beth Fahey, our Collicot/Cunningham physical education teacher. One of her colleagues said, "It is impossible to occupy the same room as Ms. Fahey without feeling her energy. Her sense of humor, passion for her craft, understanding of fitness, and belief that every child is worth every moment of her time go far in instilling in her students a love for movement and commitment to their own well being." We are proud of her efforts and dedication to the teaching profession.

Volunteer: We have an exciting new volunteer program in our schools. "Meet the Artists" is a Docent program in which parent volunteers go into our K-2 classrooms to teach students about artists and art history. We recently began a K-2 program in all four schools (covers 1,000 students). The volunteers include several parents throughout the district. We are grateful for this opportunity.

Student Work: We will be featuring various types of class work from our students as part of the Ambassador Page for the rest of the school year. For this edition we are including a poem written by Alexandra Lipson from Tucker School in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

I Dream a World

I dream a world
Where war will end
War means nothing
It's just pretend
Some will die
But right to cry
In my dream a world

I dream a world
That war will end
When all is bright
Show sun light

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Ponder about war
It shows fists and gore
But I dream peace, love,
And happiness
In my world

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