



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians of the Milton Public Schools
From: Mary Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: October 28, 2010

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

As we do every year around this time, we recently inducted several students into the Milton High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. It was a privilege for me to attend last week's ceremony and to meet the young men and women who have worked so hard to earn this honor. These students have reached the top rung of the academic ladder, not by accident, but through hours and hours of diligent hard work and study. We appreciate and admire their effort.

Similarly, a group of students at the Pierce Middle School were also commended for their academic achievements. I recently attended the "280 Luncheon" to honor those students who achieved the highest possible score on last spring's MCAS exams. As I said to the students, such high scores are only achieved by giving 100 percent of your effort.

This is what we in the Milton Public Schools aim to instill in all of our students and our teachers -- to give their best effort each and every day. Please see the list of hard-working students below, under "Curriculum" and congratulate them on their success.

I would also like to remind all parents and guardians of the upcoming parent/teacher conference schedule. Conferences are an essential means of communication and I encourage all of you to participate. Please note the schedule for Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences below. – Mary C. Gormley:

Elementary Schools

- All sessions (Early Release, Afternoon, Evening) held on November 17th (Early Release Day)

Middle School

- Early Release session held on November 17th (Early Release Day)
- Afternoon and Evening Sessions held on November 18th

High School

- All sessions (Early Release, Afternoon, Evening) held on November 17th (Early Release Day)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

There have been two School Committee meetings since my last E-blast. Below are summaries of those meetings.

October 6th:

At this meeting, members of the School Committee gave their comments about the Superintendent's self-reflection, which was delivered on September 22nd.

To view this report, please visit this link:

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<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/SuptSelf-Evaluation.pdf>

Other issues discussed at the Oct. 6th meeting included a report on the Glover Safe Routes to School program and a presentation on our arts program with input from Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett and teacher representatives Karen Hughes (Milton High School) and Patricia Sampson (Elementary). Dr. Burdett addressed the affects of a 2007-2008 cut at the elementary level that brought art and music to 50 percent.

Next, we presented a diversity report on the Milton Public Schools. Among the findings of that report was that enrollment has been steady at 70 percent white and 30 percent minority for the past three years while the teaching staff is currently eight percent non-white. The report says in 2006-2007 the district had seven percent non-white teachers and since that time it has leveled at eight percent. The report also covered embracing diversity, diversity in schools, enrollment data, student achievement, events such as Celebrate Milton and our work with groups such as Citizen for Diverse Milton.

Following this presentation, the School Committee laid out its goals for the coming year including the review of school choice; reviewing the sustainability of programs; creating an academic review of fine arts and social studies; creating measurable academic goals; and assessing needs town-wide.

October 20:

This meeting began by recognizing a group of parents who had come to Citizen Speak to advocate in favor of restoring the visual arts budget.

Other business included a vote by the School Committee on the Memorandum of Agreement to form a Department of Facilities. The committee unanimously approved the agreement.

Next, Dr. John Drottar, Milton High School principal, reviewed SAT and AP test performance. While noting that SAT scores had slipped slightly compared to the state average, Dr. Drottar explained that this might be attributed to the large number of students who take the test. Nearly 98% of our high school students take the SAT and our AP enrollment is well above the state average. Dr. Drottar spoke about efforts to strengthen our test prep programs.

The two newest student representatives were introduced to the committee, John Savino and Michelle Nabi, both seniors.

Margaret Gibbons, Director of Nurses, announced that there would be a flu clinic on Monday, November 8th from 4:00 – 7:00pm at the Pierce Middle School. The clinic is targeted at students in grades 6-12. Please read the item below for more information on the flu clinics.

CURRICULUM NEWS

We are proud to announce the 17 newest members of the Milton High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students are chosen for NHS based on careful consideration of their scholarship, leadership, service and character.

New Members: Nicole Bebrin, Teresa Cichello, Ashley Ciulla, Brittany Cremen, Elisa Gao, Marshall Greenwood, Brendan Hale, Erika Hodlin, Catherine Manning, Mariah Ramdial, Teresa Ruscito, Colleen Ryan, Chelsea Smith, Rebecca Thorne, Michaela Walsh, Carolyn Ward and Joy Watts.

New Officers: President Ciaran Connors, Vice President Brenna Callahan, Secretary Brianna Butlin, Treasurer Brendan Saur, Public Relations Officer Emily Regan and Historian Lauren Sweeney.

I would also like to thank Dr. Sheila Walsh, the National Honor Society Advisor for all the work she does with these students.

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Congratulations to students in the MCAS 280 Club! The Pierce Administration and Guidance Staff recognized each student who scored a 280 (highest scaled score) on the spring 2010 MCAS in Math, ELA, or both. The students were treated to a special luncheon in the Pierce library which was catered by the Pierce staff. The entire administrative team attended the luncheon to congratulate the students on their outstanding achievements.

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Although we have many students who score exceptionally well on the MCAS and throughout the school year, these individuals really stood above all with their MCAS scores. We had one student, Michaela Olson, who scored a 280 on both the Math and English Language Arts (ELA) sections of the MCAS.

GRADE SIX: Mariah Conway (M); Julia Mastandrea (ELA); Val Rafanan (M); Juliana Viola (ELA); Katie Abbott (ELA); Chloe Debord (ELA); Sarah Lam (M); Colin Carroll (ELA); John Stenson (ELA); Edwin Duprevil (M); Ethan Walko (M); Julia Butler (Math) and Adriana Estevez (ELA) **GRADE SEVEN:** Alexis Belash (M) Isabel Belash (ELA), Leah Bombach (ELA), Mary Corcoran (ELA), Mairead Dambrusch (ELA), Allegra Dennooyer (ELA), Simon Eder (M), Liam Halloran (M), Emma Heller (ELA), Sadie Marcus (ELA), Meaghan McDougall (ELA), and Michaela Olson (M) (ELA). **GRADE EIGHT:** Renee Chiu (M), Tansy Massey-Green (M), Shane McLaughlin (M), Emma Pred-Sosa (ELA) and Kate Stockbridge (ELA).

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We are also excited to introduce a new program for our elementary schools. Meet the Artists is an exciting new K-2 art history program that will be run by parent volunteers. Designed by two art educators, Meet the Artists seeks to support the visual arts, reading, math, and social studies curricula in the Milton Public Schools by studying the lives and works of six famous artists—Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Georgia O’Keeffe, Paul Klee, and Wassily Kandinsky.

Funded by a grant from the Milton Foundation for Education, this program is a great way for parents to become involved by bringing the work and ideas of artists into the primary classrooms. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering--a small time commitment--please email Emily McElhinney at emcelhinney@gmail.com.

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We would also like to bid farewell to our recent visitors from France. As part of an exchange program, our World Language department arranged for 24 students and 3 teachers to visit Milton and stay with our families.

The students were here from October 10th to October 21st and were able to visit many historical sites in the area. Along with their local host families, the exchange students visited Plimoth Plantation, the Mayflower and Salem.

They also toured many Boston sites including the Freedom Trail, the Black Heritage Trail, the State House, Beacon Hill, the Public Garden, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere’s House and the Old South Meeting House.

Our Milton students will visit France for two weeks in February and will be hosted by the same families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Milton High School is proud to announce that their production of *Anything Goes* will be running **November 5th and 6th** at the Charles Winchester Auditorium at MHS. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for seniors/students and will be available at the MHS office during school hours and at the door.

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

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The Milton Public Schools Second Annual Flu Clinic (combined seasonal and H1N1) will take place on **Monday, November 8th** from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Pierce Middle School. This clinic is intended for students in grades 6 – 12. Parents/guardians must bring their health insurance card and complete a permission form. If there are any questions regarding the flu clinic, parents/guardians can contact Margaret Gibbons, Director of Nurses, at 617-696-4470 ext.1.

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The Milton Public Schools have been very fortunate to welcome Dr. Gregory Hall to our school for the past few years. Dr. Hall has given presentations on social networking and technology in the classroom for our teachers and students in past years.

This year, Dr. Hall will be holding two events: a Parent Presentation on Anti-Bullying on **Tuesday, November 9th** at 7 pm; and a series of Student Assemblies on **Wednesday, November 10th**.

Dr. Hall is a professor at Bentley College and will be joined by 22 of his students to address many of the issues surrounding bullying. His students will give first-hand and real life examples of how bullying can affect the victims, the bystanders and the bully.

Dr. Hall intends to share prevention strategies, communication issues, and how social networking sites fit into this topic.

For those of you who were able to make the John Halligan presentation, this will be a totally different and more interactive experience. We encourage parents of all grade levels to attend this event.

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Save the Date! We are happy to announce that we will once again be offering the Milton Public Saturday Program this spring.

The program will run six consecutive Saturdays -- **March 5th, March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th** from 8:30 am to noon.

We are looking for teachers to share their talents and teach in our enrichment program. Do you have an interest or talent in Science, Writing, Poetry, Mysteries, Drama, Sports, Art, Cooking, Music, Gardening, or Computers & Technology?

Start thinking and get ready to bring us all of your creative ideas! The protocol for applying is coming soon.....don't miss out!

PAC/SPECIAL ED NEWS

The item below was submitted by Nicque Bradshaw of the Milton PAC:

Please join us on **Thursday, November 4th** for our first very important PAC meeting of the 2010-2011 year from 7-9pm at the Pierce Middle School Library.

Superintendent Gormley and Dr. DeVal will be introducing and distributing the Parent's Guide to Special Education Programs. This comprehensive booklet describes all of Milton Public School's offerings for children in need of special services. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about this great new resource!

Our guest speaker, Kevin Lenane, M.Ed/Ed.S, will also be presenting on Transition Planning. So whether you are just beginning your journey with special education or your child is currently in high school, this information will both inform and prepare you for the "best next steps." Remember, knowledge is power, so come out and be informed!

Also, please join us on **Tuesday, November 16th** at 6 pm at the Pierce Middle School library for a Middle School Roundtable Discussion with Superintendent Gormley, Dr. DeVal, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel Mr. John Phelan and Principal James Jette as they discuss special education programs and services at the middle school with parents. The PAC encourages all elementary and middle school parents and guardians to attend and learn what programs and services are available for your child. Come get your questions answered and concerns addressed!

Finally, please note that our Parent Support Group will meet the 3rd Thursday every month at the Milton Public Library. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 18th** at 7 pm. These are Support Group meetings which differ from the regular PAC meetings and will be facilitated by Social Worker Vinita Russell.

FUNDRAISING/GRANT NEWS

The following item was written by our part-time Grant Writer, Christopher Masalsky.

The Milton Public Schools will pursue a REMS (Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools) grant from the US Department of Education. A grant award would complement our recent efforts to improve school security and student safety, including the planned installation of security cameras at Milton High School. Grant funds would enable a coordinated emergency management plan, comprehensive training for teachers and students, and the purchase of critical emergency supplies. In preparation for this proposal, we will work with several community partners and coordinate our efforts with all local and regional emergency response and homeland security plans.

We are also looking to reach out to local family and corporate foundations to support innovative educational programs in our schools. The next several e-blast updates will feature profiles of these foundations, along with requests for your help. If you have a personal or professional connection with a foundation trustee, let us know! You could provide the spark for a major gift.

This month's foundation is The Robertson Trust, a family foundation based in Milton. The trust made over \$50,000 in grants during 2009, including several awards to educational institutions. The trustees are: Cynthia S. Robertson, Michael S. Robertson, and Philip S. Robertson (who serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Business and Industry Council). Are you connected with the Robertson Trust? Please connect with us!

MFE

The Eleventh Annual Milton Monster Dash will take place on **Sunday, October 31st** at 1 pm at Cunningham Park.

Organizers from the Milton Foundation for Education expect several hundred participants – from the competitive to the costumed – to run, jog and walk the course this weekend.

The event is a fundraiser to benefit the Sam Cichello Memorial Fund, which supports science enrichment in the Milton Public Schools. Register online by visiting www.active.com Registration begins at 11:30 am; and kid's activities begin 12:30 pm.

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MonsterDash2010.pdf>

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Also, please note that this year's Celebration for Education event, traditionally held in November, has been moved to **April 2, 2011**. In addition to the new date, the organizers are also introducing a new theme and venue.

“The Big Backyard Bash” will be a more casual event with a less expensive ticket price. Dancing, live music and great food, along with live and silent auctions will still be part of the event.

Stay tuned for more information about this exciting event. If you would like to volunteer for the Big Backyard Bash, please visit www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org

NEWS AROUND TOWN

On **Saturday, October 30th**, Sustainable Milton will be sponsoring the Eco Team Challenge Kick Off event at the Milton Public Library from 10 am to 1 pm. This is an event for families and/or groups who are interested in reducing their carbon footprint as part of a town-wide competition. For more information about the Eco Team Challenge, visit www.sustainablemilton.org/lowcarbodiet.html

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The Council on Aging would like to announce that Milton Shopalooza 2010 takes place on **Friday, November 5th**, from 5-8 pm, at the Pierce Middle School. Interested vendors can contact cdspiros@comcast.net.

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Milton Hospital will be hosting a Harvest Open House and Food Drive on **Saturday, November 6th** from 10 am to 2 pm in the Highland Lobby.

Visitors can meet and talk with the hospital's newest physicians and veteran staff members. Health information and blood pressure screenings will also be available. Attendees may bring food donations which will support the Milton Food Pantry and Quincy's Interfaith Social Services Food Pantry.

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A documentary film sponsored by Sustainable Milton will be shown at the Milton Public Library's conference room on **Wednesday, November 10th** at 7 pm.

Taking on similar themes as "Food Inc.," "King Corn" and "Fast Food Nation" this film, "Fresh," is a documentary by Ana Sofia Joanes that not only explores and explains the crises facing Americans and what they eat, but also showcases farmers and purveyors actively doing things to change the broken system.

Among several main characters, "Fresh" features urban farmer and activist Will Allen, the recipient of MacArthur's 2008 Genius Award, sustainable farmer and entrepreneur Joel Salatin and supermarket owner David Ball challenging our big-box- store dominated economy. Free popcorn, bring your own refillable water bottle!

ATHLETICS

I would like to extend a giant thank you and congratulations to the Milton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. They recently inducted the Class of 2010 into their ranks. At a ceremony at the Copeland Field House the following MHS Student/Athletes were inducted:

The 1963 Football Team, The 1996 Boys' Basketball Team, Mark Arnold, Joe Bianculli, Kevin Bligh, Fred Bortolotti, Don Giles, Gerry Haran, Jennifer Korn (Duggan), Greg Lovely, Jean Mazzota (Courtney), Karen McLaughlin (Duggan), Greg McTigue, Kate Moynihan, Dudley O'Leary, Steve Poelaert, and Jeffrey Sullivan.

Many thanks to the MHSAHOF board of directors for all their hard work: Chairperson Michael Goodless, Vice Chairperson Dennis Duggan, Secretary Margaret Gibbons, Treasurer Thomas Herget, and members Gary Kelly, Sean McDonagh, Richard Ryan, Dale Snyder and Sean Walsh.

I would also like to thank the Selection Committee of: Brian Borde, Paul Dorsey, Dennis Duggan, James Frederickson, Michael Goodless, Thomas Herget, Gary Maus, Sean McDonagh, Karen McLaughlin and Richard Ryan.

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The following summary was provided by Athletic Director Steve Traister.

CHEERLEADING: Coach Jessica Parson's squad is preparing for the Bay State Conference Competition on Wednesday November 3rd at Braintree High School. The girls have also performed at all of our football games. The team is led by senior tri-captains Veronica Surette-Fahey, Caroline Mullen and Kelsey Lord.

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY: Coach Dale Snyder's boys currently have a record of 1 and 7. The boys recently competed and finished 11th out of 27 teams in the Catholic Memorial Meet and are showing signs of improvement. Senior Brendan Saur has had another stellar season.

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

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The girls have been led by senior runner Mairead Kiernan, who recently placed second in the CM Invitational Meet. The girls also have a record of 1 and 7 but placed 5th as a team at the CM meet.

FIELD HOCKEY: First year coach, and former MHS standout, Jamie Donovan's squad is led by senior captains Ines Campbell, Abby Macomber and Emily McClellan. The team has been in a lot of close games and currently has a record of 4-8-1.

FOOTBALL: Head Coach Jim Bowes team is currently 2-5. They will host Wellesley this Friday night at 7 pm at Brooks Field. The Wildcats are led by seniors Olajuwon Dickerson, Matt Regan, Nick Noonan and Kemani Jones. The Cats will also be traveling to Braintree for the annual holiday showdown this Thanksgiving.

GIRLS SOCCER: The team currently has a record of 1-9-2. They have been led by the brilliant play of seniors Erin Feeney and the determination of senior Katherine Phelan. Coach Brian Borde's club has a lot of underclassmen contributing and looks to finish the season strong.

BOYS SOCCER: Coach Mike Madden's team has a 3-8-2 record, 3 and 0 against division 2 opponents, and thus has already qualified for the MIAA division 2 state tournament. Seniors Chris Zimmer and Skylar Abrams have played key roles on this year's squad.

VOLLEYBALL: Coach Robin Lee's team has been led by senior captain Liz Murphy and junior Samantha Curley. With five matches left the girls still have an outside chance of qualifying for the state tourney.

GOLF: The golf team qualified and competed in the MIAA Division 2 South Sectional Tournament this year. Coach Kevin Taylor's team finished with a record of 6-4-2 and was led by seniors Mike Mulkerrins and Will England, as well as, junior Sam Taugher.

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:

Faculty: We are very proud to announce that one of our very talented teachers, Josh Coben, has been honored with the X.J. Kennedy Poetry Prize for his recently-published book, "Makers of Shadows." Mr. Coben serves as both the Collicot/Cunningham School librarian and Cunningham French teacher. His poems have appeared in Atlanta Review, College English, The Evansville Review, Pleiades, Poet Lore and other journals, as well as in Arguing through Literature. Congratulations to Mr. Coben!

Students: The following Milton High students were recently notified that they have qualified to receive the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship based on their performance on the spring 2009 grade 10 MCAS tests. Congratulations to: William Archibald, Steven Arcieri, John Baublitz, Olivia Beaulieu, Nicole Bebrin, Emily Bowes, Brianna Butlin, Brenna Callahan, Thomas Callahan, Isabella Carter, Patrick Carter, Veronica Chen, Miranda Chinman, Garith Christopher, Teresa Cichello, Ashley Ciulla, Erin Connelly, Ciaran Connors, Casey Cosetta, Brittany Cremmen, Michael DeMille, Max Devin, Elisabeth Devine, Peter England, Colin Faherty, Ronaijah Gibson-Garrett, Kristen Grant, Marshall Greenwood, Kelly Griffin, Mary Henry, Kathleen Hill, Erika Hodlin, Emily Huban, Brianna Joyce, Emily Keohane, Devon Kesseli, Tucker Kibbee, Mairead Kiernan, Allen Lasoff II, Ariana Launie, Kevin Liu, Kelsey Lord, Lorenz Manker, Catherine Manning, Elizabeth Murphy, Paige Neelon, Shirley Ngai, Nicholas Noonan, Kathryn O'Donnell, Hallie Perlick, Angelica Pizzi, Nicole Pizzi, Emily Regan, Benjamin Richman, Michael Rodensky, Jay Rosenberg, Teresa Ruscito, Brendan Saur, John Savino, Alexandra Schiffman, Megan Smith, Steven Staffa, Lauren Sweeney, Andrew Tsang, Precilla Tuy, Carolyn Ward.

Volunteer: In this edition of the E-Blast, we would like to recognize Deborah Felton, Executive Director of Fuller Village for stepping up to help the Milton Public Schools in a pinch. Some students who previously attended the Massachusetts Hospital School's Swim Program have been displaced due to repairs at that facility. Rather than having these children discontinue classes, Ms. Felton offered the use of the pool at Fuller Village. We are very grateful to Ms. Felton, her staff at Fuller Village, and the volunteers who assist with this program.

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