



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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

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

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

To: Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians of Milton Public Schools
From: Mary Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: February 28, 2011

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

I have some very important announcements to make in today's E-blast. First, I am happy to announce that we have hired a new principal for the Collicot Elementary School. Please join me in welcoming Janet Sheehan as our newest administrator.

Ms. Sheehan has served as principal of the Joseph Osgood School in Cohasset since 2001. Many of you may remember Ms. Sheehan from the Collicot where she served as assistant principal from 1997 to 2001. Ms. Sheehan is an outstanding educational leader who will be an incredible asset to our district.

"As a current Collicot parent and a member of the Collicot Principal Search Committee, I am extremely excited about our selection for the new Collicot Principal," said Susanna Ryan. "She clearly stood out among the pool of other highly qualified candidates. While the Collicot community will be sad to see Mr. Schultz move on in his retirement, it is clear that he will be leaving the school in good hands. The 11 member Collicot Principal Search Committee is grateful to Superintendent Mary Gormley for allowing us to have a voice in this important decision for our school."

I would like to second Ms. Ryan's sentiments about Mr. Gerard Schultz, current Collicot Principal. We were fortunate to have such a skilled principal at the helm of the Collicot for the past several years and we wish Mr. Schultz all the best in his retirement.

My second piece of news is to let you know that the Milton Warrant Committee voted on February 16th to allocate \$637,307 above level-funding to the Milton Public Schools. With these additional funds the School Committee's Finance Subcommittee has proposed that all teacher positions be restored that were on the proposed cut list. This is great news and it will allow us to restore several positions that have been cut in prior years, including English and French reading teachers at the elementary level; a math teacher at the middle school level; a science teacher at the high school level; and a nurse at the Collicot/Cunningham schools.

My third piece of news is to let you know that one of our town's very hardworking volunteer groups, M-PACE, is in the midst of its fundraising campaign. This group collects donations through the excise tax bills. By checking the box to make a voluntary donation you will contribute to provide funding for art and cultural programming in the Milton Public Schools. M-PACE funds countless field trips, cultural performances, such as live Shakespearean plays and other enriching activities in all of our schools. Please help to support this worthwhile cause by checking the box on your excise tax forms.

I also wanted to mention that last month's introduction dealing with the Consolidated Facilities Committee was written by Tony Cichello, chairman of that group. I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Cichello and the other members of this committee for their hard work through the years. Other Consolidated

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Facilities Committee members include: Jeremiah Cahalane, Kathryn Fagan, Lynda Lee Sheridan, Chris Huban, Richard Williams and Murray Regan. Mary Cobb was a previous member of this committee.

Lastly I would like to say thank you to School Committee Member Kristan Bagley Jones, Don Jones, Laura Kessler, and all of the students and business that participated in the Milton High School Walkathon. Approximately \$22,000 was raised to support Milton High School Athletics, Clubs, and Activities. Thank you! – Mary C. Gormley

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The School Committee met on February 9th and February 16th.

On February 9th the School Committee was presented with an overview of the changes to the math curriculum. This presentation was made by Milton High School Mathematics Department Head Michelle Kreuzer, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator Amy Gale, Milton High School Vice-Principal Alan Cron, Middle School Principal James Jette, High School Guidance Department Head Kenneth Aubert and Milton High School Principal Dr. John Drottar. The changes include integration of algebra and geometry at the middle and high school levels. These changes will not only increase the amount of time spent on each subject, they will address the state's new common core standards and ensure a true three-year preparation period for Grade 8 MCAS.

The group also addressed the Program of Studies at Milton High School. The addition of a Law & Government course and adding Biology for 9th graders are some of the content changes.

We also discussed the search for a new Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services. Our screening committee is doing a wonderful job and the finalists' names will be forthcoming.

It has been a long, snowy winter and we realize that the addition of snow days has affected our school calendar. At this point, we have had five snow days, which will make our last day of school **June 21st**. This will be a half-day session.

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On February 16th the School Committee met with the Warrant Committee to present the FY12 Budget. To see the FY 2012 Budget presentation, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2012FullPresentation-2-11-11.pdf>

The School Committee meeting is scheduled for March 2nd at 7 pm in the Milton High School library.

CURRICULUM NEWS

The final sign-up for the Milton Public Saturday Program will be held **tonight**, Monday, February 28th at Cunningham Elementary School from 4 to 6pm. This program is for students in grades 3-7 and it will be held at Pierce Middle School on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to noon. The program begins March 5th and runs through April 9th. To view the course brochure, please click here:

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

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The deadline to choose an Elementary Program for Grade 1 is March 2nd. Please visit the Milton Public Schools website for information regarding this process including a letter I wrote to all current Kindergarten parents/guardians highlighting a change in the student assignment process. The letter can be viewed at <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/Gr1AssignmentProcess2-18-11.pdf>

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The deadline to finalize the paperwork for Kindergarten Registration for the Fall of 2011 is April 29, 2011. Please visit our website for more information.

<http://www.miltonps.org/about-student-reg.php#FDK>

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As mentioned in the School Committee update, we have introduced several changes to our math curriculum. To see an in-depth presentation of these changes, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MathCurriculum6-12.pdf>

* * *

We are also very excited to announce that our Future Problem Solving teams have done extremely well this year. Three of our elementary teams (Cunningham, Collicot and Tucker) are invited to the Future Problem Solvers State Bowl in Marlborough on **Saturday, March 19th**. They will be tackling the topic of water quality at this bowl. At Tucker our students are James Collins, Khalil Darouichi, Ann Josephine Auguste and Eva Chow. 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. The coaches are Lori Henry for the Tucker team and Marti McKenna for the Cunningham & Collicot teams.

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Enrollment figures for the 2010-2011 year have been released. Please click here to see the latest data:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/SharedEnrollmentChart.2-11-11.pdf>

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The month of March is a very busy time for our art and music students and faculty. Please review the upcoming activities for visual and performing arts:

Youth Art Month (YAM) events:

- March 1-31 Art work by Milton High School and Pierce Middle School students is on display at the Milton Council on Aging Senior Center
- March 7-31 Milton High School Art Fair is unveiled during J period. Students and parents are invited to view the Art Fair in the Main Lobby of MHS for the entire month of March. Classroom teachers are also encouraged to bring their classes to the exhibit. In the display cabinet in the main lobby, senior Ben Richman will have his series of wood sculptures that won a Gold Key and a Gold Key Portfolio.
- March 16 Art Fair for grade 6 students, 5-6 p.m. in Pierce Middle School library.
- March 23 Art Fair for grade 7 students, 5-6 p.m. in Pierce Middle School library
- March 28-Apr.1 Tucker and Glover Schools display masks created in Art classes
- March 30 Art Fair for grade 8 students, 5-6 p.m. in Pierce Middle School library

Music in our Schools Month (MIOSM)

- March 1-31 Music will be played from 7:45-7:50 a.m. at Milton High School by Milton High School TRI-M students
- March 2 Induction Ceremony for TRI-M at Milton High School, 4 p.m., Charles Winchester Auditorium. Twenty Milton High School students are being inducted into TRI-M.
- March 2 Pierce Grade 6 Chorus will perform at the Step-Up Day at Pierce at 10 am

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- March 3 Milton High School Gospel Choir is performing at Winter Valley at 4 pm March 4 Collicot School 4th graders to attend the Boston Lyric Opera performance of Hansel and Gretel
- March 4-5 Eastern District Jr. Festival at Lincoln-Sudbury High School. Five Milton High School and eleven Pierce Middle School students were selected by audition to participate
- March 6 Milton High School chorus members perform at Temple Shalom
- March 9 MIOSM Chorus Concert, grades 7-12 in the Charles Winchester Auditorium, Milton High School, 7 pm.
- March 10 MIOSM Chorus Concert, grades 6 and 9-12 in the Charles Winchester Auditorium, Milton High School, 7 pm.
- March 14 MIOSM Jazz Concert featuring the Milton High School Jazz Ensemble and the Illinois Wesleyan University Jazz Ensemble in the Charles Winchester Auditorium, Milton High School, 7 pm
- March 16 MIOSM Strings Concert, grades 5-12 in the Charles Winchester Auditorium, Milton High School, 7 pm.
- March 17 Collicot School, K-2 Concert at 9:15 a.m. in Collicot cafeteria
- March 18 Cunningham School, K-2 Concert at 9:15 a.m. in the Cunningham cafeteria
- March 18-19 Sr. SEMSBA Festival at East Bridgewater High School. Forty-three students from Milton High School were selected by audition to participate.
- March 22 MIOSM Band Concert, grades 5-12 in the Charles Winchester Auditorium, Milton High School, 7 pm.
- March 24-26 All State Conference and Festival, World Trade Center & Symphony Hall
Music faculty attends workshops at Massachusetts All State Conference
7 Milton High School students were selected to participate in All State Festival. Milton High School TRI-M members attend and work at conference.
- March 31-
Apr. 3 MENC All-Eastern Honors Festival in Baltimore, MD
Nancy Killoran was selected to perform in the Eastern Division Festival Chorus based on her high score at MA State audition 2010. All Eastern includes: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, American-European schools
- March 31,
Apr. 1 Milton High School Faculty/Staff Talent Show to raise money for clubs/activities and athletics. Tickets to this fundraiser are \$10 and available in the Main Office.

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March is also Read Across Tucker Month. As part of the celebration, this **Wednesday, March 2nd** is Read Across America day. Tucker parents should be sure to check the school website and make plans to participate in the many exciting events taking place during the next few weeks.

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Step Up Day will be held for current fifth-graders on **Wednesday, March 2nd**. Step Up Day is when all the 5th grade classes get an opportunity to come and learn more about the middle school.

Parents are invited to attend Grade Five Information Night later that evening, **March 2nd from 6 to 7pm**. This is a very important session for you to learn more about the Pierce and get the answers to any

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questions/concerns you may have about the transition from grade 5 to grade 6. It is not necessary to bring your fifth-grade child with you to this event.

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Before the February break the Collicot PTO and Diversity Committee distributed the books for the "One Book, One School-The Jennifer Kelly Project" to every student at the Collicot School.

The book chosen this year was "The Hundred Dresses" by Eleanor Estes, which focuses on themes of poverty/classism, bullying and ethnicity, and embraces these current topical issues allowing for discussion with students in a thoughtful manner. Students were encouraged to enjoy this book over the February vacation and read it on their own or with a family member. Beginning today, they will participate in many themed events related to this book such as trivia questions, classroom and library projects and on **March 10th at 6:30 pm**, a "Big Adventure Night," with a Dress and Canned Food Drive, activities and games.

Jennifer Kelly, mother of Collicot students Liam, Ava and Ronan, passed away unexpectedly in the summer of 2009. Ms. Kelly was a huge presence in the Milton school community. She gave endlessly to Collicot and was particularly passionate about the One Book, One School program. Thanks to the generous donations and support of the Collicot school community, we are now in the second year of the program. The Collicot PTO and Diversity Committee are proud that we are able to make this happen in honor of Jennifer and all the love she gave to the school. For more information, please contact collicotpto@gmail.com.

PAC/SPECIAL ED NEWS

The PAC Elementary Roundtable scheduled for this Thursday, March 3rd has been rescheduled to **Thursday, May 12th at 7pm** in the Pierce Middle School Library. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn about Special Education programs and services available through the Milton Public Schools.

Also, mark your calendars for the PAC Basic Rights presentation on **March 24th at 7pm** in the Pierce Middle School Library and the PAC Pre-School Roundtable on **April 14th at 7pm** at the Collicot Library. For more information on these events, please visit www.miltonpac.org

GRANT/FUNDRAISING NEWS

The following item was written by our grant writer, Chris Masalsky:

The Cunningham and Collicot Schools have applied for a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's Toolbox for Education in support of a sound-dampening project in the cafeteria/stage area shared by the schools. Currently, the space presents "acoustical challenges" (extreme reverberation and echo) that inhibit conversations, presentations, and musical performances. The application of sound-dampening insulation to all metal surfaces in the area will eliminate our acoustic problems and ensure that generations of students will enjoy group learning activities and performing arts events. The creation of this functional common space will provide our teachers and administrators with the flexibility to implement creative lessons and projects that are currently unworkable given current limitations.

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We are currently seeking funds for the Robotics Club at the Pierce Middle School. This great program encourages students to explore a wide variety of scientific concepts, and encourages them to consider careers in engineering. Robotics Clubs are traditionally supported by nearby high-tech corporations, and we will be approaching several area businesses requesting funds - the first of which will be Amgen. Amgen has a long tradition of supporting K-12 science programs, and has made grants to several area robotics programs. If you or someone you know is an Amgen employee, we would love to have your support for this project, as most

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companies prefer to donate to causes that are important to their employees. A letter of support can go a long way! Please contact the district's grant writer, Chris Masalsky at (617 696-5040 x5545) or cmasalsky@miltonps.org.

Milton Foundation for Education

Red Sox Raffle Tickets are on sale now! Share your optimism for the upcoming baseball season and support the MFE by buying raffle tickets to our spring raffle. The winner receives 2 tickets to opening day at Fenway on Friday, April 8th, Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees.

Also included is a limo ride into Boston, overnight stay in the city and bottle of champagne. Tickets are \$10 each, or 3 for \$25, and will be sold at upcoming school events.

Contact Raffle Chair Tom Flynn for more details at Tflynnclmp@aol.com. The winner will be drawn on **April 2nd** at the Big Backyard Bash.

For more information about this year's events, visit www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org

NEWS AROUND TOWN

The Friends of Milton Crew are holding an information night and you're invited! Come learn about the new rowing team that is starting up at Milton High. Rowing is one of the oldest of Olympic sports and with the Neponset river right outside our window we have an ideal setting. The plan is to have boats in the water this spring and the group welcomes you to come and hear their plans and ask any questions you might have. Information night is **Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm** at the high school in the Health Room #133.

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Please remember the Milton Public Library has a Friends of the Library bookstore. Friends Book Shop is open every Tuesday & Saturday 10am-2pm, and every Wednesday 6:30pm-8:30pm throughout the fall and winter months.

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The Forbes House Museum will be hosting a Keechong Dinner on **Thursday, March 31st**. This special event is fast approaching so treat yourself to an elegant dinner in this historic setting on Thursday evening March 31st at 6:30 pm in the halls of Forbes House Museum.

The Keechong Society derives from the Chinese nickname for Russell & Company, which was a leading American mercantile house in East Asia in the 19th century. The founders of Russell & Company were James and Thomas Handasyd Perkins, uncles to Captain Robert Bennet Forbes.

Tickets for the Keechong Dinner are \$250 per person, with proceeds going to The Forbes House Museum Fund. The guest speaker will be Carl Nold, President and CEO of Historic New England. He will be speaking on the preservation of historic houses in the 21st century. For more info visit the website at <http://www.forbeshousemuseum.org/>.

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:

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Students: Although we mentioned them above, we must be sure that everyone knows the great work that our students in the Future Problem Solvers groups have done. This is a group of fifth-graders who meet with their librarian “coach” to work on their problem-solving skills. The students compete in events called “Bowls” against students from other schools, and they work very hard on their problems. This year, three of our teams made it to the State Bowl, which is a very unusual achievement. Again, please recognize these students for their efforts: **Tucker:** James Collins, Khalil Darouichi, Ann Josephine Auguste and Eva Chow. **Collicot:** Samantha Rice, Jack Cullen, Abby Lang, and Domenic Jancaterino. **Cunningham:** Joshua Kackley, Serena Chen, Mackenzie Moore and Audra Furgal.

Teachers: The Future Problem Solving students are lucky to have two wonderful coaches. I would like to thank Lori Henry, our long-time coach of the Glover and Tucker teams and Marti McKenna, our new coach for the Cunningham & Collicot teams.

Volunteers: We cannot thank this group of volunteers enough. Please join me in recognizing our PTO presidents, who give enormous amounts of time to our schools, our teachers and our students. Many, many thanks to the following PTO presidents:

Milton High: Charlotte Hopkins and Cheryl McDermott

Pierce Middle School: Lori Ferrante and Ray Czwakiel

Collicot: Julio & Sheila Varela and Jim & Amy Delaney

Cunningham: Annellen Lydon, Tricia Sullivan, Karyn Viveiros and Mary Anne Rull

Glover: Becky Padera and Margaret Carels

Tucker: Annemarie Johnson and Debra May Hughes

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