



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Milton Public Schools Parents, Guardians, Faculty & Staff
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent of Schools
Re: E-Update, Friday, May 21, 2010

From the Office of the Superintendent

This time of year is always exhilarating, with so many events happening over the next few weeks. But this spring, especially, there have been some exciting appointments that I would like to announce to the Milton Public School community.

First of all, we have hired a new principal of the Cunningham Elementary School. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Spaulding will take on this role effective July 1, 2010.

Dr. Spaulding has been with us since 2008 and is currently the Assistant Principal/Math & Science Coordinator for the Pierce Middle School and is an experienced teacher and administrator.

"We are thrilled and excited that she will be our new principal at Cunningham," said School Committee Chair Lynda-Lee Sheridan. "Dr. Spaulding has proven herself to be a strong academic leader and we look forward to working with her in her new role."

Next, I'd like to share the news that our current Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services Jeff Rubin has agreed to remain for another year in his position. This is wonderful news, which not only gives us one more year of Mr. Rubin's extraordinary talents, but will allow for continuity in the Special Services Department

Both of these announcements come on the heels of our recent news that Stephanie Nephew will be our new Glover Principal; and Michelle Kruezer has been named Milton High's new Math, Business and Technology Department Head.

Please join me in congratulating these administrators on their new positions. – Mary C. Gormley

School Committee Update

Our last school committee meeting was held on May 18th. Below is a summary from that meeting:

Citizens Speak: Several parents of the incoming first-grade class spoke about their dissatisfaction with our current assignment plan, which will require 7% of families choosing French Immersion to attend a school other than their home school. For the Fall of 2010, 62% of parents of first-graders initially requested the French Immersion Program. A new French Immersion Class was added at the Cunningham Elementary School to accommodate the Kindergarten students that are moving up to first grade at that school. There will also be a French Immersion Auxiliary Class at the Tucker Elementary School to ensure that all students who want the French Immersion Program will have a seat.

Next, Stephanie Nephew was introduced to the School Committee as the new Principal of Glover School effective July 1, 2010. Also, we introduced Michele Kruezer, the new department head at Milton High School for Mathematics, Business, and Technology.

We also heard from Bill Ritchie, Director of Facilities, who gave an update on the solar panels recently installed on the roof of the Cunningham/Collicot Schools. When this project is finished, we will have 250 panels on three different sections of the building's roof. These panels are expected to generate some of the

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

school's electricity and save as much as \$15,000 per year. A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the MPS website at www.miltonps.org.

Next, Alan Cron, Vice Principal at MHS, spoke to the committee about the district's policy on bullying. Mr. Cron has been working with a committee for the past year to develop a comprehensive strategy to address this issue. He talked about the anti-bullying legislation which was recently passed in Massachusetts and how the MPS policy relates to it. The new Massachusetts bullying law requires all public school districts to have an appropriate policy in place by October 1, 2010, which puts the Milton Schools ahead of schedule on this issue. This was a first reading of the new Bullying/Peer Aggression Policy. We are grateful to the following individuals who served on the BPAC (Bullying Prevention Advisory Committee): Alan Cron (Chair), Natalie Mooney, Brian Powers, Rich Guarino, Kathy Sullivan, Steve Traister, Lisa Veldran, Mary Downey-Tipping, Amanda Brink, Mary Rooney and Kerry O'Leary. A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the MPS website at www.miltonps.org.

Finally, we discussed different options to fund video surveillance cameras for the Milton Public Schools. Following the recent security-related incidents at Milton High School, we have prioritized several community safety initiatives, including the purchase of monitoring systems and the development of more responsive emergency plans. At this time, we have \$50,000 from the School Building Committee to put towards the purchase of the camera system. We are in need of an additional \$150,000, which we hope to raise through grants and donations from individuals or groups. One donor has pledged to contribute matching funds for this project. Please contact me at mgormley@miltonps.org if you would like more information on this topic.

The next School Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 7pm in the Milton High School Library.

Curriculum Information

Please note there will be no school on Memorial Day, **May 31st**.

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Kindergarten Screenings appointments have been put in the mail and should arrive in the homes on Saturday or Monday. Screenings will be held June 1-4, 2010. If you still need to submit documentation for Kindergarten Registration, please contact Colleen MacDougall at cmacdougall@miltonps.org or 617-696-4470 x5510.

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Congratulations to members of the Pierce Middle School Math Club, who were recently notified that they performed well in the Math Olympiad. The following students were recognized: Sixth-graders Zack Fischer, Patrick McDonough and Cole O'Flaherty, along with seventh-grader Eddie Hines. In addition, Zack Fischer received a trophy for scoring the highest for the team. Congratulations also to their coach, Pierce Middle School math teacher Colleen Sampson.

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We would also like to acknowledge the 22 Latin students from Pierce who attended a 3-day convention in Worcester for Latin students.

These students who represented the Milton Public Schools won awards in academic, artistic and athletic competition. Please join me in congratulating all the winners. **Academic:** Ben Donahue: fifth place in vocabulary; Julian Miller: fourth place in Roman life; Max Welz: fifth place in Roman history; Simon Eder: fifth place in derivatives; Andrew Issner: second place in Roman history; Mitchell Hause: third place in mythology. **Artistic:** Renee Chiu: fourth place in greeting cards, third place in large models and fourth place in oil/acrylic painting; Liv Jensen: third place in black/white photography, fifth place in color photography, first

place in mosaic and first place in sculpture; Tim Eberhardt: third place in mixed media; Christian Jamal: second place in color photography. **Athletic:** Julian Miller: second place in 50-meter freestyle swimming competition. We are proud of all our Pierce students who competed!

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If you have not already done so, please take a moment to review the 2010-2011 School Calendar. The first day of school for students will be September 1st. Here is the link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2010-11SchoolCalendar.pdf>

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We recently had a very successful event in our schools. Wednesday, May 5, 2010 was Massachusetts Walk to School Day.

The Milton Public Schools have made a commitment to having pedestrian and bicycle safety training as part of the Elementary Physical Education Curriculum. The Elementary PE instructors have received training in pedestrian and bicycle safety for children through the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program.

The Safe Routes to School Program is a federally funded, state administered program, tasked with increasing the number of children who walk and bicycle to school. In addition to reduced traffic, children get more exercise and arrive at school alert and ready to learn. Also, with proper training, they learn to be safe and learn traffic rules.

We are grateful to all the parents who helped to make Walk to School Day such a fantastic event and we hope that all students who are able make an effort to walk, bike, scooter or carpool to school for the rest of the year.

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We are proud to announce that our graduating class of 2010 has received acceptances to many esteemed colleges and universities. Below is a sample list of some of the colleges they will be attending:

Amherst College, Babson College, Bay State College, Becker College, Bentley University, Boston College, Boston University, Bridgewater State College, Brown University, Bryant University, Catholic University of America Champlain College, Clemson University, College of Charleston, College of the Holy Cross, Curry College, Drexel University, Emmanuel College, Fitchburg State College, Flagler College, Florida Memorial University, Framingham State College, Franklin Pierce University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Hampton University, Hofstra University, Holy Cross College, Iona College, James Madison University, Johnson & Wales University, Julliard School, Lincoln Technical Institute, Louisiana State University, Lyndon State College, Lynn University, Marist College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Merrimack College, National University of Ireland, Galway, North Carolina A&T State University, Northeastern University, Ohio State University, Plymouth State University, Providence College, Purdue University, Queens University of Charlotte, Quincy College, Quinnipiac University, Regis College, Rhode Island College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Roger Williams University, Saint Anselm College, Saint Joseph's University, Saint Michaels College, Salem State College, San Francisco Art Institute, Sarah Lawrence College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Simmons College, Spelman College, St. John's University – Queens Campus, St. Lawrence University, St. Thomas University, Stonehill College, Stony Brook University, Suffolk University, Syracuse University, Temple University, University of British Columbia Okanagan, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Delaware, University of Hartford, University of Maine at Farmington, University of Maryland, College Park, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of Massachusetts, Boston, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, University of Montana, Missoula, University of New Hampshire, University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, Vassar College, Warren Wilson College, Wentworth

Institute of Technology, Western New England College, Western Washington University, Westfield State College, Wheaton College, Wheelock College, Worcester State College, Xavier University of Louisiana.

Upcoming Events

The Pierce Players will be presenting “Mirror Image,” a real enchanted musical for the whole family, on Thursday and Friday, **June 3rd and 4th** at 7pm at Pierce Middle School. General Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 617-696-4570. The flyer can be found on our home page at www.miltonps.org.

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The Milton High School Class of 2010 Graduation Ceremony will be held Sunday, **June 6, 2010** at 2 pm at the Copeland Field House.

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Our FAVA parents (Friends and Advocates for the Visual Arts) are holding a summer art school. Four one-week sessions will be held beginning **July 5th**. Each session has a different theme; for example, “Back to the 60s” with tie dye, sand art and macramé. The camp is based on learning and having fun with an emphasis on process over product. Parents can register for one week or all four. Proceeds from FAVA classes and camps benefit the art programs in the Milton Public Schools. For more information, please visit www.miltonfava.com

Fundraising/Grant News

The item below was written by Chris Masalsky. Mr. Masalsky is a part-time grant writer for the Milton Public Schools. His position is funded through the generosity of the Milton Foundation for Education.

The recent incidents at Milton High School heightened our awareness of everyday vulnerabilities and changed how our community views school security. In many ways, Milton High School is the center of communal life - hosting meetings, athletic events, music lessons, recreational programs, and countless other activities. Unfortunately, these recent incidents make clear that the Milton Public Schools must adopt new approaches to ensure the safety of our students and everyone who uses our school facilities.

Our current highest priority is raising funds to purchase a comprehensive video monitoring system for Milton High School. The addition of this resource will enable the school administration and local police to maintain vigilant supervision of our facilities and respond effectively to any incidents that may occur – all the while maintaining the openness and freedom of access that we all value deeply. Police Chief Richard Wells says that the video monitoring system is a key law enforcement tool. “The safety of your children is our utmost responsibility. These are your sons and daughters and we want to have every capability to protect them.”

The cost of this project is approximately \$200,000 but the return on this investment – improved student safety, a more comfortable learning environment, and renewed confidence throughout our community – will far outweigh the costs. We are proud to announce that we have already received \$50,000 from the School Building Committee and a pledge of an additional \$50,000 to be paid once we have raised the remaining \$100,000. The commitment of these funds reflects the recognition of the importance of this project to the community. According to Milton High School Principal Dr. John Drottar, “I can think of nothing more important to the learning environment than safety. High-quality instruction can only occur when students and teachers feel secure. It is our responsibility to create safe, comfortable, responsive learning environments.”

We are also requesting your help in raising funds to offset the immediate costs associated with keeping our students safe. Please reach out to your employer and others in your personal networks who can help support this project. Companies in the Technology Sector would make great partners in this effort, such as Raytheon, Ipswich, and Textron. If you are an employee at one of these companies or have a suggestion for a funding

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

partnership, please connect with us to discuss sponsorship opportunities in our ongoing efforts to improve the learning environment for all of Milton's children.

Later this year, we will also apply for major funding from two federal sources to support the development of more responsive emergency plans. The REMS (Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools) grant program through the Department of Education, and the SOS (Save Our Schools) program through the Department of Justice.

The Milton Public Schools will be applying for several major educational enhancement grants over the next several months. First and foremost, we will apply for \$1,000,000 in federal funds to support our physical education programs through the Carol M. White PEP Grant. We will also apply for \$200k through the Nellie Mae Foundation to provide seed funding for an academic mentoring program for at-risk students at Milton High School.

In addition to these initiatives, we are continuing to write several proposals in support of Milton Outdoor Classrooms (MOC). Our recent partnership with the New England Wildflower Society increases our capacity to create outdoor classroom spaces, integrate environmental education into our curriculum and support the conservation of local plant and animal habitats.

Also, a big "thank you" to all of you who shop at Stop and Shop! We just received a check for \$500 from the Stop & Shop A+ Program - which automatically donates a percentage of each shopping order to the Milton Public Schools. To participate, you just need to register your Stop & Shop card online at <http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus> - and then every time you shop with your card, Stop and Shop will automatically make a donation. Please visit their website and sign up today!

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We will be forming a Grant Writing Committee of 10-15 parents and other interested parties to assist our part-time Grant Writer Chris Masalsky with research and fundraising duties. Anyone who may be interested in volunteering for this committee is asked to contact me at mgormley@miltonps.org. The committee is expected to meet four or five times a year to brainstorm leads, develop strategies, etc.

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Some of our high school parents may have noticed a series of colorful banners, emblazoned with the words "Milton" and our logo, the Wildcat Pawprint, along the entrance ways to Milton High on Gile Road.

These banners have been generously sponsored by various local groups, businesses and individuals as part of a fundraising effort to help the high school athletic program. They can be seen at both the Blue Hill Parkway entrance and the Canton Avenue entrance to the building, as well as in the parking areas and in Brooks Field.

These banners will continue to be installed in and around the high school athletic areas during the next week or so.

Several spots are still available for sponsorship and can be installed in time for the Milton High graduation on June 6th. Additionally, spots in the Copeland Field House will be available in the next several weeks. For more information, please contact Kate Sumner at kate@gofullcontact.com

News Around Town

Calling all Milton green-thumbs (and those who simply love gardens!)

A tour of some of Milton's most inspired private and little-known public gardens will be held next month in town with proceeds to benefit the Pierce Middle School Outdoor Classroom Fund. This tour begins at Cunningham Hall on Edge Hill Road where maps of the homes will be distributed.

This two-day event will be held Friday, **June 11th** from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday, **June 12th** from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Tickets are required and can be ordered online.

For more information, visit their website at www.miltongardentour.com

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public Library will hold its Annual Bag Sale tomorrow, (Saturday) **May 22nd** from 10am to 2pm. Here's a great opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading or simply browse the thousands of titles on sale. Visit the library on Canton Avenue to find great books at \$4 per bag. For more information, visit www.miltonlibrary.org.

Consolidated Facilities

Here is an update on the Consolidated Facilities proposal written by Chairman of the Consolidated Facilities Exploratory Committee **Anthony Cichello**:

On May 6, 2010, Milton's Annual Town Meeting approved two warrant articles that pave the way for the formation of a new Town Public Facilities Department. This department will have oversight of nearly all Town buildings, including the Town's six school buildings. Goals of this consolidation initiative are to professionalize building management services, to obtain efficiencies in the sharing and use of resources and to improve the completeness and accuracy of information used to guide our building maintenance and capital planning functions. In short, we need to find the most effective and efficient way to use the limited available resources to properly maintain and preserve our investment in our schools and other buildings.

This initiative is a joint effort between the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. It will result in a unique department that will report jointly to the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Administrator and through them will ultimately be accountable to both elected boards.

Both committees, with the assistance of the Consolidated Facilities Committee, are now hard at work to complete work on a Memorandum of Understanding that will govern the operations of the new department. Once the agreement is complete, using funds approved at the Annual Town Meeting, a new Department Director will be hired to begin departmental operations. The current schedule calls for the Director to be in place by October 1, 2010.

Ambassador Page

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

Students: Congratulations to the following students who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society at Milton High School:

Skyler Abrams, William Archibald, Olivia Beaulieu, Brianna Butlin, Brenna Callahan, Isabella Carter, Veronica Chen, Miranda Chinman, Ciarán Connors, Amelia Connors, Casey Cosetta, Michael Demille, Max Devin, Elisabeth Devine, Catherine Dambruch, Peter England, Colin Faherty, Kevin Graham, Kristen Grant, Shane Grey, Kelly Griffin, Richard Guerra, Clara Heiden, Kathleen Hill, Emily Huban, John Huntington, Jonathan Ingraham, Kirby Jackson, Brianna Joyce, Emily Keohane, Devon Kesseli, Tucker Kibbee, Mairéad Kiernan, Ariana Launie, Kevin Liu, Kelsey Lord, Lorenz Manker, Caroline McGrath, Olivia McGrath, Emily McClellan, Caroline Morgan, Patrick Mullen, Elizabeth Murphy, Michelle Nabi, Paige Neelon, Shirley Ngai, Nicholas Noonan, Julia O'Brien, Kathryn O'Donnell, Robert O'Neil, Hallie Perlick, Katherine Phelan, Nicole Pizzi, Seamus Queally, Emily Regan, Kathryn Regan, Matthew Regan, Benjamin Richman, Michael Rodensky, Kaleen Rodriguez, Jay Rosenberg, Brendan Saur, John Savino, Alexandra Schiffman, Catherine Spino, Steven Staffa, Veronica Surette-Fahey, Lauren Sweeney, Braedy Taugher, Andrew Tsang, Precilla Tuy, Olivia Walsh, William Walsh.

In addition, we would like to congratulate the following newly-elected officers: President Ciarán Conners, Vice-President Brenna Callahan, Secretary Brianna Butlin, Treasurer Brendan Saur, Historian Lauren Sweeney and Public Relations Officer Emily Regan.

Teachers: Correction: In our last E-blast, we congratulated Jonathan Turrisi for his accomplishment in winning a Massachusetts Historical Society award. We mistakenly identified Mr. Turrisi as a MHS teacher. He is an eighth-grade history teacher at Pierce Middle School. We apologize for the error.

Please join me in congratulating **Bill Baino** of Pierce Middle School and **Carol Cove** (retired) of Milton High Guidance, both recent recipients of the Norfolk County Teacher's Association Educator Honor Award and Service Awards respectively. The contributions that these two educators have made to the Milton Public Schools are extraordinary. They will be honored at a Gala Awards Banquet to be held on **June 1st at Lombardo's** in Randolph. They are well-deserving of this honor.

Also, in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, we would like to recognize and thank each and every teacher in the Milton Public Schools. We appreciate the work that you do every day on behalf of the children in the Milton Public Schools. Thank you.

In recognition of Nurses Day on May 6th, we also want to thank our school nurses for their care and concern for the physical and emotional health of our students.

Also during the first week of May, we recognized our food service providers for their hard work and dedication to the students and faculty of the Milton Public Schools.

Volunteers: We would like to thank the volunteers from the Milton Foundation for Education who worked on the recent Outstanding Teacher of the Year ceremony on May 19th. This is always a wonderful event for our schools. Thank you to committee members Barbara Avitabile-Mullen, Erika Donahue, Roxanne Musto, Chair Annellen Lydon, Angie Rue-Van Allen and MFE President Mary McLaughlin for this event. It was truly a special evening.