



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 28, 2010.

With the long weekend ahead of us and the start of summer just around the corner, we are once again preparing our senior class for the next step in their lives. This is always a special honor for my colleagues and me; and the conclusion of their Milton Public School career can be a bittersweet moment for many of our upcoming graduates. We are extremely proud of this year's class and we wish them a lifetime of happiness and learning. I would like to present a letter to all Milton parents, written by one of our Milton Public School parents, Dr. John Knight:

Dear Milton Parents,

I am the founder and director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research (CeASAR) at Children's Hospital Boston. This was not always my job title. I previously served at Children's as acting Blackfan Medical Service Chief, where I supervised the inpatient medical care of the middle childhood group (ages 2-10).

My career changed in 1998 with the death of Ryan Whitney, a boy I had watched grow up in my Milton neighborhood. He went drinking with a few friends up at the Quincy quarries, fell in and drowned. He was 19 years old. I shall never forget watching the 6 o'clock news and seeing his father, Dr. Richard Whitney, my neighbor and colleague, climbing into the back of an ambulance to identify his son's body. I knew that if it could happen to a nice family like the Whitney's, it could happen to any family; it could even happen to mine. Since 1998, I have dedicated my career 100 percent to preventing more needless tragedies like Ryan's.

Part of our mission at CeASAR is outreach to schools. I am currently donating my time as a consultant to the Milton Public Schools, and in this role produced a website, www.teen-safe.org, where parents can learn how to protect their child's life, health, and future in only 15 minutes. You can spend more time at the site, and I hope that many of you will do so. The welcome page opens with a video interview with Dick and Karen Whitney; you won't want to miss that. You will then move through a slide presentation that summarizes the latest science in easy-to-understand language. You can breeze through the slides and text quickly, or listen to my audio narration and Dr. Sion Kim Harris's (Sion is leader of the CeASAR neuroscience team), which takes a bit longer.

Following that, there is a page with 11 questions from parents, many of whom you will recognize from MHS, asking for advice about what parents should do or say in specific situations (What should I do if my teen wants to go to...), and my answers.

Last, there is a 10-item multiple choice quiz, which I hope all of you all will complete. However, if you are the parent of a graduating senior, MHS Principal Dr. John Drottar is requesting that you complete it as part of your child's check-out. After completing the quiz on-line, you will receive your score and in the lower left-hand corner of that screen you will see a button that says, "Click here for a printable confirmation." A pop-up window will give you a receipt, which you can print and send with your child to school or email to hs-principal@miltonps.org. If you do not have Internet access, you may use a computer at the Milton library or

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MHS. If you wish a hard copy (sadly without video), call 617-355-5433 and we will mail you one. Thank you so much for your assistance and partnership.

You see, I am not just the “hair club president”; I am also the father of a MHS student. *We* have no spare sons and daughters. *Together* we can keep our children safe, healthy, and successful.

Before closing, I must say a word about our educational leaders in Milton. I have met with many school officials over the years; we in Milton have the BEST: Principal John Drottar, Supt. Mary Gormley, Asst. Supt. John Phelan, Head Nurse Margaret Gibbons, Science Dept. Head Barbara Plonski, School Committee Member Kristan Bagley-Jones, SADD coordinator Lisa Spinelli, and others. I have met with many school leaders over the years, who expressed great interest in what I had to say, but the air went out of that balloon soon after I left the room. With Milton, I was scheduled for 15 minutes, but they kept me there for 1 hour and 15 minutes; their excitement was genuine and it has not faded. It is at my urging that they are requesting all parents of graduating seniors to complete the Teen-Safe program, and provide the confirmation number, as part of your child’s check-out. Their agreement poses a bit of a professional risk, but they have the *courage* to do it; it poses the benefit of protecting many students; and they have the *vision* to make it so. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with all of them.

Sincerely,

John R. Knight, MD

Curriculum News

Reminder: There will be no school on Monday, May 31st in honor of Memorial Day. School will be back in session on Tuesday, June 1st.

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We are thrilled to announce that the Milton Public Schools had two elementary teams who placed first regionally in the Continental Mathematics Euclidean Division for the 2009-2010 school year.

Our Fourth Grade Team placed first in Massachusetts out of 23 schools that participated in this division. Regionally, this team placed 5th out of 397 schools in Canada, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Please help me to congratulate the following team members: **Collicot** students Abigail Lang, Regina Scott and Mary Kate Murtagh; **Cunningham** students Serena Chen and Josha Kackley; **Glover** students James Eder and William Jrolf; and **Tucker** student Isaac Robinson.

A team representing our Fifth Grade also placed first in Massachusetts out of 26 schools that participated in this division. Regionally this team placed 20th out of 405 schools in Canada, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Please congratulate our fifth grade team: **Collicot** students Matthew DiCarlo, Julianne Viola, Mariah Conway and Val Ryan Rafanan; **Cunningham** students Sarah Lam; Delia McDonough and Anthony Hancock; **Glover** student Maggie O’Hanlon; and **Tucker** student Allegra Giddings.

The Continental Math League is designed to both maximize student opportunities to participate and to improve their problem solving capabilities. Students participate in a series of meets during the school year. Each meet consists of a set of six problems. Highest scores for each meet are entered in the competition. Our students participate with other students on the same grade level from schools all over the United States. We are very proud of our elementary school students for their performance in these meets.

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In my last E-blast, I included a list of some the colleges to which our senior class members have been accepted. I would like to update that list with information about all of the colleges and universities, including an asterisk next to those which our students will attend. To view the complete list, please click on the link below:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/Classof2010Colleges.pdf>

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Please be sure to check out our Summer Reading Lists on our homepage. Comprehensive lists for elementary, middle and high school students can be found under the "News" section of the website.

www.miltonps.org

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Kindergarten Screening is being held from June 1st through June 4th. If you have not received your child's screening appointment, please contact Colleen MacDougall at cmacdougall@miltonps.org to check your registration status.

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Following is a letter from Dr. John Drottar, MHS principal:

As was mentioned in the introduction to this E-blast, the Milton Public Schools are working with Dr. John Knight and colleagues at Children's Hospital in Boston to provide you with a cutting-edge scientific presentation on preventing alcohol and drug-related tragedies during this important season of celebration.

This presentation is available to you at no charge. Please go to www.teen-safe.org or if you do not have Internet access, call 617-355-5433 and we will mail you a booklet. We respectfully request that all parents take advantage of this opportunity, and for parents of graduating seniors, we ask that you submit the printout you will receive at the end of the experience as part of your teen's "check-out" process before graduation.

Recently I went on line to view the web presentation by Dr. Knight. I have worked with high school age children for more than thirty years and I have seen numerous presentations on the topic of teen safety relative to alcohol and drug use. The presentation by Dr. Knight is one of the best I have seen. As an educator, I value the quality and significance of the information. As a parent, I value the practicality and usefulness of the information.

I am asking for your help in the effort to promote the safety of every student. Please take the time (about 15 minutes) to view the web presentation. Our goal is to get confirmation that a parent of each senior has reviewed the information. At the conclusion of the presentation, there is a verification form that should be printed and returned to the Main Office at Milton High School. **This is part of the sign-out process for the end of the year and graduation.** You may give it to your son/daughter to return, or you may email a copy to hs-principal@miltonps.org. We are hoping for 100% participation. Following is a sample of the form:



Parents who need verification for their child's school may either print this page, or send a note or email to their child's school. Include your name, your child's name, the date you completed this quiz, and the following confirmation code.

Your confirmation code is: #####

Upcoming Events

As many of you know, Milton High School, like many area schools, holds an all-night graduation party for our senior class on the night of their graduation. This is a wonderful event that not only creates lifelong memories for our students; it also plays a vital role in keeping our young men and women safe and entertained

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on what can be a very dangerous night. This event cannot occur without a large number of volunteers and we are still in need of several more volunteers.

We are asking for help with this event now in its 17th year. You do not need to be the parent of a graduating senior to help out. The party will be held **Sunday June 6, 2010** beginning at 10:30pm.

This event has become part of the MHS culture with close to 100% participation. It is a community-supported way for all seniors to get together one last time in a safe, alcohol free, drug free environment to party until dawn with rocking music, plenty of food and great entertainment.

Volunteers are needed in all areas -- light lifting, lots of sitting, interacting with the kids, never seeing the kids, moving fast, never moving at all, staying out late or getting up early. Volunteer by emailing:

MiltonANP@gmail.com Below are the "shifts" for the volunteers:

Sunday, June 6th

Shift One:	5:30pm to 7:30pm	Set up and decorating
Shift Two:	10pm to 2am	Doors Open at 10:30pm
Shift Three:	2am to 5am	Hypnotist Show, party

Monday, June 7th

Shift Four:	5am to 6am	Pack Up
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In my last E-blast, we talked about the upcoming Milton Garden tour to benefit the Pierce Middle School's Outdoor Classroom. This event is happening on **Friday, June 11th and Saturday, June 12th**. To make this a success, we need your help. You can volunteer to help with ticket sales or be a garden guide. Garden guides will be assigned to one of the gardens and will welcome people on the tour by checking their program guide and making sure that people stay on the designated paths in the gardens. *No* garden expertise is necessary. We also need people to buy tickets and take the self guided tour. To volunteer and to buy tickets, please visit: www.miltongardentour.com. Please pass the word along to your friends and family who may be interested in visiting the gardens and/or volunteering. Thanks in advance for your help.

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We would like to tell you about an upcoming community event right here in Milton which honors a man who was a friend to the Milton Public Schools.

The Second-Annual M.A.D. Scramble Five Mile Road Race, held in memory of Milton Police Detective Mike Devin, will be held on **July 1st at 6:30pm**.

As the residency officer for the Milton Public Schools before his death in a car accident more than two years ago, Det. Devin had his hand on the pulse of many of our students. We knew that he always looked out for our students and kept a close eye on Milton's teenagers and their families. We knew him as a fair and caring man.

Detective Devin's children attended Milton Public Schools and his daughter Kerri teaches math at Pierce Middle School. After their father's death, they set up a fund to honor those causes which were important to him. This road race is how they raise money for students and schools in his name.

As a touching anecdote, I would like to share with you how much Det. Devin's family cares about our students. Recently, Kerry visited our office with a check for \$250.00 as a donation towards the purchase of surveillance cameras.

"We know he would want to give to this and since he can't be here to do it, we wanted to donate for him," she said.

Please consider participating in the "Scramble" -- a scenic multi-terrain event that is run on roads as well as the gravel paths, trails, and open fields hugging Turner's Pond and the Pine Tree & Trout Brook areas.

You may register online at www.coolrunning.com or mail your form to 94 Antwerp St, Milton, MA 02186. Information about the race can be found at www.madmemorialfund.org. All proceeds of the race benefit the Michael A. Devin Memorial Fund which supports scholarships for graduating seniors, Milton High School

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athletic programs, and other programs that provide assistance to children and families in the Town of Milton. For more information, contact madmemorialfund@gmail.com or call Brian Devin at 617-696-0853.

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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

In my last E-blast, I asked for parent volunteers to help with grant writing. I was amazed by the response and would like to thank all those who contacted me about this volunteer opportunity.

I also received several calls and emails from Milton Public School parents who are in the security systems business and volunteered to evaluate our proposals for installing surveillance cameras at Milton High School. It is good to know that we have such dedicated and involved parents. Thanks to all who responded. If you would like more information about our grant-writing process or to speak with our grant writer, please contact Chris Masalsky at cmasalsky@miltonps.org

News Around Town

We are encouraging the Milton Public School community to participate in two upcoming events at Milton Hospital. Milton Hospital and Milton Public Schools are collaborating on this event and we hope you will join us on these “Get Healthy Initiatives”.

First, Milton Hospital will be hosting its “Community Health Walk” on **June 12th at 10am**. This 5K walk will begin and end at Milton Hospital. The entrance fee for the walk is \$15 and children 12 and under are free.

Secondly, in addition to the walk, Milton Hospital will also host its Third Annual Community Health Day on the hospital grounds. The fair will include “behind the scenes” tours of the operating rooms, ER and other departments. All are welcome. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.miltonhospital.org/pdfs/schoolreg.pdf>

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Citizens for a Diverse Milton (CDM) is an organization composed of parents of children in the Milton Public Schools and other community members who believe that diversity enriches our schools and community.

CDM’s goal is to ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to achieve to their potential. Established in 1999, CDM has worked with us on a continual basis to increase the number of teachers of color and to make our schools truly welcoming of all families. While CDM’s area of focus is racial, cultural and linguistic diversity, it encourages appreciation of other differences such as sexual orientation, religion, and economic status.

Some of CDM’s accomplishments include: the 2001 report “Diversity in the Milton Public Schools”; distributing over \$10,000 in grants to MPS teachers; collaboration with the MPS School Committee to create one of the first official diversity policies in a public school system in Massachusetts; working with MPS Administration to increase the number of teachers and staff of color; and co-leading an effort with the Administration to create an integrated system of diversity committees in every school.

Parents who are interested in attending a CDM should contact Pat Latimore (platimore@aol.com) or Chris Navin (navinassociates@comcast.net) for more information. CDM meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the downstairs of the Milton Library at 7:00pm.

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The following events will take place at the Milton Public Library in the month of June:

June 1: "[Married to Distraction](#): Restoring Intimacy and Strengthening Your Marriage in an age of Interruption" Edward and Sue Hallowell feel they have been preparing for this book for their 20 years of marriage. Join them for a thoughtful and helpful look at marriage in an age when there is always something to call your attention away. 7:00pm.

June 9th : The 6th Annual [Library Literary Gala](#) features guest author Jeffrey Zaslow and will be held at Granite Links in Quincy at 6:00 pm. For tickets and further information, call Ingrid Shaffer at 617-696-9044 or email literarygala2010@comcast.net

June 16th : The Summer Reading Program Cook-Out. Food and music with [Vic & Sticks Recycled Rhythm](#). Music starts at 4pm, food available 4:30pm-6:30pm. Through June 19th : [Friends Bag Sale](#) continues in the Lower Floor Book Shop.

Get a bag of books for \$5! Sales are Tuesday and Saturday, 10am-2pm and on Wednesday evenings 6:30pm-8:30pm.

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If you are reading this email before June 7th you are in luck. It means you have not missed The Friends of the Milton Council on Aging 14th Annual Golf Tournament, being held on **Monday, June 7th** at the Milton Hoosic Club golf course in Canton.

In addition to golfing, raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. They have a list of great prizes for you to take a chance on. If you are feeling more charitable, you can sponsor a hole for \$200.00 or co-sponsor a hole for \$150.00 or a cart for \$50.00.

Contributions in any amount are also greatly appreciated All of the proceeds from this tournament go towards the crucial van transportation service the Milton Council on Aging provides. Donations can be made to: Milton Council on Aging, 10 Walnut Street, Milton.

Athletics

Baseball

Coach Ted Curley's team has qualified for the state tournament and finished second in the Herget Division with a current record of 13 wins and 8 losses. The team has been led on the hill by seniors Willie Archibald and Matt O'Neill, and the hitting of Mike Muse. They Milton Nine has one game remaining before the state tournament starts next week.

Softball

At this point softball has a record of 13 wins and 7 losses with 2 more regular season games left this weekend at the Cardinal Spellman Tournament. They have already qualified for the state tournament. Coach RJ Maturo's squad has been led by senior lead off hitter Morgan Sumner and junior pitcher Brenna Callahan, who threw her first career no-hitter last week against Needham.

Boys Lacrosse

Under former Milton High standout Kevin Lynch, the team made steady improvement over the course of the season and finished their season Monday by defeating Dedham. Though their record is not great, Coach Lynch's team has been in almost every game and has played with enthusiasm. The team has been led this year by senior Justin Stancato.

Girls Lacrosse

Coach Barbara Wright's girls lacrosse team finished the season strong by beating Dedham on Senior Day on Monday. Though they did not qualify for the tournament the team played inspired all year. The team has dealt with a lot of injuries this year. However, with a lot of freshmen and sophomores seeing playing time

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the future looks bright. Seniors Clare Luscinskas, Katie Higgins and Gillian Riordan have been the leaders for the Wildcats.

Boys Track

Coach Chuck Ajemian's team finished with a team record of three and four. Many individual performers did very well in the state meets and competed today in the Bay State Conference meet. The team was led by seniors Steve Manning and Cullen Cockrell. Sophomore sprinter Matt Lezama also had an outstanding spring.

Girls Track

Although Coach Dale Snyder's girls' track team did not finish a great team record at three and four, but many individual had stellar seasons. The team was led by seniors Olivia Beaulieu, Cheryl Tran, Kate Madigan and Emily Hughes.

Boys Tennis

Coach Paul Ajemian's team fought hard all year but came up short in their quest for a state tournament qualification bid. The team was led by senior Sam Shepard and junior Steve Staffa.

Girls Tennis

Veteran Coach Liz Mercer's team has qualified for the state tournament which will begin next year. Junior Ariana Launie had an excellent season at number singles and Senior Ali Houlihan has had a terrific year at second singles.

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:

Teachers: The following teachers and staff will be retiring at the end of this school year. On behalf of each of the students they have taught and worked with, I want to thank them publicly for their contributions to the Milton Public Schools. They represent decades of hard work, dedication and experience and they will truly be missed. Please join me in wishing them a healthy and enjoyable retirement:

Paul Ajemian – Math Dept. Head at Milton High School
William Baino – Social Studies Teacher at Pierce
Aidan Cooper – District wide Adjustment Counselor
Denise Kelly – Milton Public Schools Registrar
Dr. Dore Korschun – Principal at Glover Elementary School
Barbara Leuer – Custodian at Tucker Elementary
Beverly Quinn – Executive Asst. to the Supt.
Deborah Sinrich – Special Ed Teacher at Glover Elementary
Patricia Turner – Art teacher at Pierce Middle

Volunteers: Don't our schools look fantastic this time of year? Flowers are in bloom, grass is green and trees and shrubs are trimmed and mulched. For all of this, we would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to several local landscapers who volunteer their time, equipment and manpower to the Milton Public Schools.

John E. Driscoll Landscaping has been a longtime friend and volunteer at the Collicot and Cunningham Schools. Mr. Driscoll has been providing free landscaping services for this very large site for the last few years to these two schools. We would like to thank him and his team of employees for their hard work and dedication.

Coulter Landscaping, has been taking care of the landscaping needs at the Tucker Elementary School. Everything looks fantastic at the Tucker and we are grateful to Tom Coulter and his crew for all their efforts.

Eagle Farms has generously agreed to maintain the island in front of Milton High School, at the intersection of Gile Road and Canton Avenue. Many of you may have noticed the beautiful new plantings in this area. We would like to thank Eagle Farms for this service.

We'd also like to thank *Towne Tree & Landscaping*, who recently donated labor to help install several new trees for the Cunningham and Collicot Outdoor Classroom.

If any other local landscaping companies are interested in "adopting" a school by volunteering labor, equipment or materials, we are still very much in need of help at Pierce Middle School, Glover Elementary School and the Milton High School main campus. If you think you can help in any way, please contact Bill Ritchie, Director of Facilities for the Milton Public Schools at britchie@miltonps.org

Students: I'd like to make a special mention to the Class of 2010. Each and every one of these seniors has worked diligently to get where they are today. We wish these students well during the next chapter of their lives. We hope that the Milton Public Schools have made a lasting, positive impression on them and that they will continue to represent our schools and our town with pride. They will always be "our students," and we hope they know that we will be here for them if they need anything. Good luck and best wishes to all members of the Class of 2010!