



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff, Parents and Guardians of Milton Public Schools
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: Friday, July 8, 2011

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

Greetings to all of our Milton Public School families! We hope your summer has gotten off to a good start. Despite the fact that we have only been out of school for a few weeks we are busily preparing for the fall here in the Central Office. A highlight of the fall is the on-site visit to Milton High School from the NEASC team.

Every ten years as part of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation process, Milton High School will host a team of educators and professionals. This visit is part of an exhaustive evaluation which follows a two-year self-study by the staff at Milton High School.

NEASC is a voluntary accrediting agency of more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities, and vocational, technical, and career institutions. Of these, approximately 650 schools have been accredited through the Association's Commission on Public Secondary Schools. The Commission works with individual schools to improve the quality of education through a continuous process of evaluation and accreditation.

To become a member of NEASC a school must meet the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. The purpose of the self-study is to provide an opportunity for the school's professional staff to review all the educational programs, processes, systems, and practices to determine the degree to which the school meets those rigorous Standards. The Standards were established to ensure that the necessary ingredients for effective education exist within the school. While accreditation by the Association does not imply perfection, it does ensure that the school has the resources, leadership and organization necessary to support the ongoing improvement required of all schools.

One of the major requirements for NEASC membership is that the entire school be evaluated following the extensive self-study. This evaluation is conducted by a visiting committee of professional educators, sent by the Commission, who review all materials prepared by the faculty in the self-assessment, visit classes, and talk with students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members during their four-day visit to the school. Milton High School has been scheduled for a visit by the evaluation team from November 6-9, 2011.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, founded in 1885, is the oldest accrediting agency in the country and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the sole agency to award accreditation to elementary schools, intermediate schools, and high schools in New England.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank the staff members at Milton High School who have participated in the NEASC process over the past two years. – Mary C. Gormley

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our most recent School Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, June 29th. Below is a summary of that meeting:

This meeting began with Citizen's Speak, during which Betsy Hartford presented a gift to the Milton Public Schools of \$500 in honor of her son, Alec, who recently graduated from Milton High. She specifically thanked Tracy Grandeau, MHS Special Education Chairperson, Bridget Canty, MHS Special Education Teacher, and Ken Aubert, MHS Guidance Department Head for their help with her son's academic career.

Next, Kathleen Peto brought up the issue of library staffing for the elementary schools and expressed concern that students may not have enough access to their libraries and also that an additional librarian is necessary.

The Superintendent's Report was presented and began with a summary of the NEASC evaluation. Dr. John Drottar, Milton High School Principal, Michelle Kreuzer, Milton High School Math, Business & Technology Department Head and Co-Chair of the NEASC Steering Committee and Brian Borde, Milton High School Social Studies Teacher and Co-Chair of the NEASC Steering Committee, presented the NEASC information to the committee. They informed the board that there will be a preliminary visit about one month before the official on-site visit. They also asked that any Milton High School parents who would be interested in participating in the fall evaluation and on-site visit contact them.

It was reported that MPEG, the group which runs the community cable programming in Milton, has been working with our schools to secure studio space at either Pierce Middle School or Milton High School. It is hoped that this could provide an educational opportunity for our students once the studio is completed.

End-of-the-year report cards have been mailed or sent electronically. An enrollment report was given and so far we have signed up 280 kindergartners and 25 new Elementary students to our district. We expect to see a few more registrations come in during the summer.

Summer reading is required at every grade level and math requirements exist at some grade levels. Check www.miltonps.org for more specific info about your child's expectations. The Milton Public Library is offering a "Chill Out and Read" program in cooperation with our schools to help students complete their summer reading.

We currently have more than 600 students enrolled in Milton Summer Enrichment this year. This is a wonderful program being run by Barbara Perry and Chase Eschauzier and has our highest enrollment ever.

We also would like to remind you that FAVA is running their Arts & Crafts Summer Camp during the month of July (<http://miltonfava.wordpress.com/>) and our own Bill Deschenes is running Spotlight Summer Theater Camp at Pierce Middle School from July 18 to 22; and July 25 to 29. (<http://spotlightcamp.weebly.com/index.html>)

For the Chairman's Report, Mr. Pavlicek asked for a delegate for the MASC meeting in the fall. Denis Keohane will be representing the Milton School Committee. School committee members also voted to approve an updated calendar and confirmed their retreat meeting on July 13th.

Next, members voted to approve a bid to complete necessary ductwork and roof repairs to school buildings before the scheduled installation of solar panels this fall.

They also voted to authorize funds to reinstate a Grade Five teacher at Cunningham/Collicot schools. This position had previously been cut due to budget issues but has been replaced because of enrollment figures. School Committee members also voted to accept grants of \$12,150 from the Copeland Foundation for the purchase of Smartboards; \$250 from the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office for Operation Graduation; \$5,200 from Fuller Village Residents Association from the "Salute the Arts" fundraiser; and \$2,000 from FAVA for Smartboards.

The next public meeting of the School Committee will be held **Wednesday, September 14th at 7pm.**

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CURRICULUM NEWS

All student class assignments at the elementary level, team assignments at the Pierce and schedules for Milton High School students will be sent on **August 18th**. These communications will also provide updated program information, drop off/ pick up logistics and a quick list of early fall events.

As you know, our elementary schools are closed for the summer, therefore parents who have questions or concerns should call the Superintendent's Office (617-696-4808 or 4811). The offices at Pierce Middle School and Milton High School remain open all summer Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm.

* * *

The following item was written by Holly Concannon, Elementary Mathematics and K-8 Technology Coordinator.

This year, the Milton Public Schools has access to a great resource for preparing our students for the state standardized tests. We have purchased a district license for a web-based program called Study Island which is accessible to students from school or home. If you have Internet access, your child can access Study Island from home as well as school to prepare for the state assessments. Students in grades 3-8 have been using the program during this past academic year.

The Milton Public Schools would like to encourage your child to continue this work over the summer. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will have a summer math assignment to complete. This work will help the students retain the mathematics they learned this year, as well as help prepare them for the 2011-2012 school year. Although there will be only one assignment to complete, students are welcomed and encouraged to use Study Island as much as desired this summer. Take advantage of the Math, grade 4 English Language Arts, and grade 5 Science topics whenever you can.

We are excited about the potential benefits this program can bring to our students, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by using Study Island. Please feel free to contact Study Island at 800-419-3191 or support@studyisland.com if you have any questions.

* * *

Here are the final results for Grades 3-5 in Continental Math. Congratulations to all the students who worked so hard to achieve these fantastic results:

Collicot: Grade 3, First Place Medals went to: Carly Carte, Mary Fox and Alexander Malisheski; Second Place went to Katherine Morrissey, Shea Flanagan, Molly Murtagh and Alex Dhima; Third Place went to: Edward Enyedy, Mary Fox, Margaret Loughnane, Katherine Biagiotti, Katherine Delaney, Clarissa Waldmann and Ethan Aaker. Grade 4, First Place Medals went to: Veronica Harris and Dietrich Werner; Second Place went to Matteo Mastandrea; and Third Place went to William Maniscalco. Grade 5, First Place Medal went to Sawyer Flanagan; Second Place went to Regina Scott; and Third Place went to Abigail Lang and Victoria Chen.

Cunningham: Grade 3, First Place Medal went to Thomas Hamblet; Second Place went to Macie Cappilis; and Third Place Medal went to Jason Flanagan. Grade 4, First Place Medals went to William Conforti and Shayla Kelley; Second Place went to Mark Cuerra, Alexis Daley, Julia deBord, Katherine Murray, Sarah Hancock. Third Place went to Samantha Van Gestel, Colin Harrington and Karisa Lasoff. Grade 5, First Place Medal went to James Conley; Second Place went to Jack Weiler; Third Place went to Caroline McGilvray, Elias Dow, Caleb Farwell and Robert Dexter.

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Glover: Grade 3, First Place Medal went to Taylor Vrettas; Second Place went to Ryan Mazzotta and Catherine Le; Third Place went to Edward Freking and John Febres. Grade 4, First Place Medal went to Aemilla Ferreira; Second Place went to Katharine Barrett, Julia Nerenberg and Eliza O'Donnell; Third Place went to Kyle Loria and Aidan Braithwaite. Grade 5, First Place Medal went to Timothy Karoff; Second Place went to Kevin McDonough, Ryan Au and James Eder. Third Place went to Heidi Freking.

Tucker: Grade 3, First Place Medals went to Brendan Scott and Emily Dobrindt; Second Place went to Vanessa Lorden and Madigan Cooper; Third Place went to Alisa Lorden. Grade 4, First Place Medal went to Emily Schewe; Second Place went to Hannah Mitchell; Third Place went to Samuel Coover and Sonia Bot. Grade 5, First Place Medal went to Isaac Robinson; Second Place went to Khalil Darouichi, Xavier Fischer and William Leclerc; Third Place went to Ann Josephine Auguste, Andrew Hansbury, Paul Rustico and Nathania Marc.

* * *

The following item was written by Chase Eschauzier, co-director of Milton Summer Enrichment along with Barbara Perry.

Everything is going terrific with summer enrichment. We are serving 630 students at this point, including Tucker Summer Scholars, the new French Immersion summer support program, the high school program, and of course, the enrichment courses. Students seem happy and are engaged with their teachers during their courses. The teachers have worked very hard to craft their courses to be fun and lively as well as academically, socially, and athletically enriching. Drop off and pick up has been going smoothly and we are pleased by everyone's responsiveness to the procedures. Administration has been incredibly supportive and a big thank you goes out to the staff and high school volunteers for making the start of the program such smooth sailing.

* * *

The Milton Music Department received a grant from ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) for the fifth year in a row thanks to the hard work and support of Marion McEttrick. Marion has worked with the Music Department every year to submit the grant application. She has been a champion for getting music opportunities out to the instrumental students in the Milton Public Schools.

This grant allows the Music Department to offer at NO COST to students, a weeklong, 15-hour workshop to teach music theory and composition to instrumental students who have completed at least one year of lessons. The students work with Gary Good and Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett on basic musicianship skills and basic music theory concepts in order to learn how to write music. They use the computer program, FINALE, to help them make their compositions look professional.

On the last day of the workshop the students are given a master class with Mr. Greg Fritze, Composition Chair at Berklee College of Music. He listens to their compositions and critiques them, giving the students encouragement and suggestions to continue their writing.

This summer about 70 students will attend the June/July 2011 workshops.

* * *

We are pleased to announce the year-end results for the WordMasters Challenge. Our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 participate in this national language arts competition entered by approximately 215,000 students annually. Word Masters consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. Students become familiar with a set of interesting words and then apply their critical thinking skills to use those words to

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complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. WordMasters materials are specifically designed for younger students and help students to learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Please join me in congratulating the following WordMaster winners:

COLLICOT SCHOOL

1st Place: Shea Flanagan & Phillip Synnott (gr. 3); Brendan Cox (gr. 4); Shane Berry & Regina Scott (gr. 5)

2nd Place: Jackson Humphreys (gr. 3); Michael Doyle, Matteo Mastandrea, and Dietrich Warner (gr. 4); Sawyer Flanagan (gr. 5)

3rd Place: Katherine Delaney & Carley Carte (gr. 3); Julia DeFilippo, Martin Folan, and Jack Long (gr. 4); Thomas Elliott (gr. 5)

CUNNINGHAM SCHOOL

1st Place: Thomas Hamblet (gr. 3); Kianna Barrett & Abdur-Rahman Hosein (gr. 4); Patrick Taugher (gr. 5)

2nd Place: Anna Rull (gr.3); Rebecca Norris (gr. 4); James Conley (gr. 5)

3rd Place: Macie Capplis (gr. 3); William Conforti, Audrey Pugh, and Seamus Slymon (gr. 4); Caleb Farwell & Alyssa Foster (gr. 5)

GLOVER SCHOOL

1st Place: Ryan Mazzota (gr. 3); Alison Brink (gr. 4); Timothy Karoff (gr. 5)

2nd Place: Sophia Deal (gr. 3); Aidan Brathwaite (gr. 4); Claire Casey (gr. 5)

3rd Place: Matthew Creamer & Amalia Halprin (gr. 3); Penelope Holland (gr. 4); James Eder & Nicholas Fahy (gr. 5)

TUCKER SCHOOL

1st Place: Ava Duggan (gr. 3); Hannah Mitchell (gr. 4); Benjamin Scott (gr. 5)

2nd Place: Alisa Lordan (gr. 3); Isabell Smith (gr. 4); Andrew Hansbury (gr. 5)

3rd Place: Grace Quijano (gr. 3); Alexandra Lipson (gr. 4); Xavier Fischer (gr. 5)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following item was written by Anthony Cichello on behalf of the School Building Committee:

Final touches on the school building project are underway with the installation this week of historic photos of the 1909 Milton High School building being installed at both the current Pierce Middle School and Milton High School. The photos, located outside the auditorium in each of those buildings, are part of the project's effort to preserve for future generations aspects of the 1909 high school building.

Currently in fabrication are commemorative plaques detailing the history of that building which are expected to be installed by the end of the summer. The plaques contain portions of a historical narrative of Milton High School and its predecessor buildings, which was put together by former Town Administrator John Cronin. We commend him for his efforts.

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The Cronin historical narrative, along with copies of the posted photos and many others, will be compiled on a CD, copies of which will be provided to the Milton Library, Milton Historic Commission and the Pierce and Milton High Schools.

In addition to these efforts, by summer's end, it is anticipated that commemorative plaques and signage will be in place at the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium, the Copeland Field House, the John Riordan Weight/Fitness room, and the Dr. Mary Grassa O'Neill Library, all at Milton High School; along with the Brian A. Joyce Auditorium at the Pierce Middle School.

MILTON FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

The following item was written by Margaret Eberhardt, president of the Milton Foundation for Education.

On Monday, June 13th, the Milton Foundation for Education had our last meeting of the year. It was an exciting and productive year for the Foundation. The MFE celebrated its 15th birthday, held its first "Milton Stars Society" event to thank donors, reinvented the Celebration for Education and doubled the amount of money the MFE raised for the schools. The MFE would like to thank the community, parents, teachers and administrators for their support.

During the last week of school, Celebration 2011 co-chairs Patti Elliot, Lisa Viola and Astrid Hajjar, along with President Mary McLaughlin, presented each of the six school principals with a "big check" for \$10,000. Each school will receive \$10,000 from the Big Backyard Bash Celebration.

Please visit the website www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org to see pictures of the presentations and to learn more about how the money will be used at each school.

The Milton Foundation for Education wishes everyone a wonderful restful summer. We will see you in September

NEWS AROUND TOWN

The following item is an update from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority:

The focus of the MWRA's project on Adams Street has been in the Milton Village area for the past couple of months. The pipe has just about been completely installed in Milton and the pressure testing is just about completed. Next week, or the week just after the 4th of July will see the paving program begin. A paving contractor will put the final course on Adams Street, up over the hill. In addition, work on Adams Street between Centre and Brook began on July 1st. Neighbors and motorists will soon notice the raised castings. The traffic around the paving will flow at the direction of the Milton Police Department. Watch for temporary detours.

Neighbors in the Milton Village area will see a pit activated on Adams Street just in front of Citizen's Bank. This pit will be there for four or five days while connections are made and there will be activity on Adams Street between the MBTA bridge and the Neponset River Bridge. The activity between the bridges will last about two weeks.

Within a week or two, work will begin on the approach slab on Bryant Avenue. This work is expected to take two to three weeks.

Completion of these tasks represent the conclusion of most of the work in Milton. There will be some paving required around East Milton Square. There will be an update when that work is scheduled. Pipe installation and cleaning will be continuing in Dorchester Lower Mills.

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“Save the Date!” The Milton Public Library will be holding its annual Gala on **October 19th**. This is always a fun event for our Milton Public School parents and is the most important fundraiser of the year for our town’s library.

* * *

The following item was written by Elaine Fort Weischedel, Children's Librarian at the Milton Public Library.

There’s something going on for children almost every week day at the Milton Public Library, and it’s all free! A variety of workshops, story times, and crafts are available, with programs for all ages, from babies to sixth graders. Friday afternoons, through August 19th children are invited to drop by to “Chill-out & Read,” getting some of their summer reading done in the comfortable and cool children’s room. Do-it-yourself craft activities, word games, and other activities will be available in the Story Hour Room from 2 to 4 p.m. On Monday afternoons, also from 2 to 4 p.m., July 11th through August 15th, the Story Hour Room will be set up for Family Game Time, with a selection of board games for children and parents to play together. Families are also encouraged to bring along a family favorite to play with others.

I’m very excited about the new summer reading partnership between the library and the elementary schools. Kids can go to the library’s summer reading page http://www.miltonlibrary.org/childrens_summer.asp, join the summer reading club and keep track of their reading on line. During the summer I’ll be preparing some lists of new titles to add to the existing summer reading choices on the elementary list.

Also available on the Children’s Room web page at <http://www.miltonlibrary.org/children.asp> are links to two special databases. The link for Marshall Cavendish Digital provides access to a number of highly regarded reference book sets that offer children a wealth of information for reports or to satisfy curiosity. The link for World Book Online not only gives children (and adults!) access to World Book’s well-known encyclopedia, but also provides access to children’s encyclopedias in both French and Spanish. One mother recently described to me how she and her daughter look up something in the French L’Encyclopedie Decouverte every few days and read it together to practice their French in a fun way. Both databases require a Milton library card for access, and there’s no limit to the number of times you can access them.

Please feel free to call the Children’s Room for information or with questions. Our number is 617-898-4957. My e-mail address is eweischedel@ocln.org.

ATHLETICS

Our athletic director, Steve Traister, provided the following year-end wrap up to another highly successful spring sports season:

BASEBALL: Ted Curley’s MHS baseball team finished with a regular season record of 11 and 11. However, in the MIAA Division 2 South tournament they knocked off higher seeds Oliver Ames and Hingham. Their tourney run came to an end when they lost to Somerset in the sectional semi-final. Captains Willie Archibald, Kevin Lamere and Robbie O’Neil had great seasons. Captain Max Devin missed the season with a knee injury but led the team off the field.

SOFTBALL: Coach RJ Maturo’s squad finished with a record of 8 and 14. The team was led by senior captains, pitcher Brenna Callahan and first baseman Abby Macomber.

BOYS LACROSSE: Coach Ben Midura’s team finished with a 5 and 12 record. The boys were led by senior captains John Huntington and Brendan O’Halloran.

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GIRLS LACROSSE: First year coach and Milton High alumnus Caitlyn Finn's team finished with a 4 -13 and 1 record . The girls were led by the outstanding goaltending of Senior Captain Emma Drew and in the field by captains Katherine Phelan and Ines Campbell.

BOYS TRACK: Coach Chuck Ajemian's team finished with a record of 4 and 1. Captains Adrian Donahue, Matt Hunt, Kemani Jones and Brendan Saur had outstanding senior campaigns.

GIRLS TRACK: Dale Snyder's team finished with a 2 and 3 record this spring. The team was led by senior captains Olivia Walsh, Clara Heiden, Olivia Beaulieu, Mairead Kiernan and Janelle Corley.

BOYS TENNIS: Coach Paul Ajemian's boys had a record of 2 and 14 this season. Senior captain Steven Staffa the team in wins at the first singles. Senior captain Liam Wals also had a fine season.

GIRLS TENNIS: Coach Liz Mercer's team was led by senior captain Arianna Launie. The team finished with a record of 9 and 7. They beat Middleboro in the first round of the MIAA Division 2 South Sectional, before falling to an undefeated Medfield Team.

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:

Students: Let me take this opportunity to welcome each and every one of our incoming Kindergarteners along with their parents and guardians. After the registration, screening process and "Welcome to Kindergarten" events, we hope they are ready for us this fall. We are certainly looking forward to meeting them.

Faculty/Staff: We are so fortunate to have a wonderful staff working in the offices of each of our schools. These are the first faces our parents and guardians see when they visit and they play a very important role in keeping our schools running smoothly. I would like to recognize Joanne Barker, Annie Dutton, Susan Doyle, Gail Chase, Susan Higgins, Sandy Wyse, Lisa Huban and Jane Barrett. I am very grateful to this group for being true ambassadors for the Milton Public Schools.

Volunteer: I would like to personally thank the six Milton Foundation for Education board members who will be stepping down: **Lisa Viola** who served as the recording secretary, co-chair of Monster Dash and also one of the co-chairs of Celebration 2011. **Mary Keohane** who worked on the grants committee, was a co-chair of the Monster Dash, served on the data committee and was the school gift liaison for Celebration. **Yoshi Belash** was a co-chair of the Monster Dash and served on the grants committee. **Erika Donahue** was a previous MFE President, served on the Teacher of the Year committee and was a co-chair of Celebration 2009. **Rita Taugher** served the board for over six years as the board's treasurer. **Mary McLaughlin** was on the board for seven years, the last two as the MFE's President. She was previously the recording secretary and co-chaired Celebration in 2004. I would like to thank these six individuals for the contribution of their time, talent and energy to the students of the Milton Public Schools. I would also like to welcome the four new MFE board members: **Ami Joiner, Sheila Leddy, Julie Ritchie** and **Susan Sullivan**.

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