



# 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, Wednesday, August 4, 2010

*As August begins, we hope that you all have been enjoying this beautiful summer. Here in the Milton Public Schools, we have been working on a variety of issues – from hiring new teachers and administrators to overseeing hundreds of students enrolled in our summer programs, as well as supervising professional development offerings for our faculty.*

*I would like to remind you to help your child complete his/her summer reading requirements. Please enjoy the last weeks of summer and we look forward to seeing all of you in Milton once school begins. The first day of school for Grades 1-12 will be Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and the first day for kindergarteners will be Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. – Mary C. Gormley*

## School Committee

Members of the Milton School Committee will meet on **August 24th** at the Milton High School Library at 7 P.M.

## Curriculum News

For any of you who may think our school buildings are shuttered for the summer, we have news for you. During the summer weeks, we have been running a variety of programs for Milton students, including:

- Our largest program has been **Milton Summer Enrichment**, which enrolled 560 students this year. Students of all ages participated in a vast array of program offerings.
- Nearly 150 students have attended **Pierce Camp**, a one-week orientation program for incoming sixth-graders.
- Seventy students from Tucker Elementary School were enrolled in the Title One-funded **Tucker Scholars** program.
- Our friends at FAVA have been offering summer workshops at Pierce Middle School. Their **Arts & Craft Camp** was fully enrolled with more than 80 students taking a variety of art courses.
- **Applied Music Lessons** for more than 25 students have been held at Pierce Middle School this summer by arrangement with the individual music teachers.
- Our partners at Milton Community Schools run **Camp Cunningham**, which will conclude on August 25<sup>th</sup>. This program for 90 campers offers sports, games and swimming at Cunningham pool.
- **The ASCAP Music Theory and Composition program** was held at Milton High School this summer. Thirty four students took this week-long program focusing on music composition, which is funded by a grant from the Irving Caesar Foundation.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

In addition, the Milton Public Schools also run programs for students in Special Education at Cunningham School. Please see below under “PAC/Special Education News for more info about these camps.

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We are pleased to announce that, due to state aid, we will be hiring an English Reading Teacher and a French Reading Teacher for our elementary schools. The stimulus funds were granted to all operating districts in FY11 to offset the reductions in Chapter 70 aid. These positions will service all Grade 1 and 2 students throughout the four elementary schools.

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We would also like to remind parents that summer reading lists are available on our website. There is required reading at every grade level and additional projects and/or book reports are also required at several grade levels. If you are unsure of your child’s reading obligations, please check the sites below:

Elementary: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/ElemSummerReading2010.pdf>

Middle: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/PMSSummerReading2010.pdf>

High School: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MHSSummerReading2010.pdf>

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In case you missed it, Milton High School made *Newsweek* magazine’s list of the top 1,600 American public high schools, placing at number 692. This annual survey, published in June, ranks the best high schools in the country “based on how hard school staffs work to challenge students with advanced placement, college level courses, and tests.” The list of 1,600 schools represents only 6 percent of all the public schools in the United States. Here is a link to the article:

<http://www.newsweek.com/feature/2010/americas-best-high-schools/list.html>

## **New Appointments/Staff Changes**

*We have several new appointments to announce.*

**Andrew Boles** has been hired as the new Assistant Principal at Pierce Middle School. Mr. Boles has been the Assistant Principal at the Dedham Middle School since 2007. He also served as both a teacher and assistant principal at the Joseph Martin Middle School in Taunton for more than 7 years.

“Mr. Boles is a team player who gets deeply immersed in the curriculum wherever he has worked,” said Pierce Principal James Jette. “We are looking for Mr. Boles to bring his talents and expertise to the Pierce to help enhance the overall educational experience for all of our students, faculty and staff. We have heard many positive things about Mr. Boles; he is proactive, fair and consistent and he uses each interaction as a learning opportunity. We feel he will be a great fit for the Pierce and the Milton Public Schools.”

A Milton resident, Mr. Boles is a graduate of Westfield State College and received his master’s degree from Bridgewater State College.

**Amy Gale** has been hired as Curriculum Coordinator at Pierce Middle School. Ms. Gale worked for the past five years at the Richard J. Murphy School in Boston as a sixth-grade teacher. She also taught Grades Four, Five and Six at the Lyndon Pilot School in Boston, where she was a faculty member for nearly a decade. Ms. Gale is a graduate of Drew University in Madison, N.J. and received her master’s degree from Simmons College in Boston.

According to John Phelan, “Ms. Gale has extensive experience as a teacher and as a curriculum facilitator during her tenure in the Boston Public Schools. Ms. Gale’s work ethic, knowledge base and philosophy on teaching and learning are a great fit for the students and staff of the Pierce Middle School.”

**Marilyn Decker** has been hired as our new Science Director K-12. Ms. Decker comes to us from the Wellesley school system where she served as the Director of Professional Development. Previously, Ms. Decker was the Director of Analytical and Applied Sciences for Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, KY. She also worked for nearly a decade for the Boston Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and as Senior Program Director for Science. Ms. Decker received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

I can affirm that Ms. Decker is an outstanding science educator and administrator with a proven record. She competed against a large field of qualified candidates for this position. Her experience in science education is extensive at the state and national level. We are confident that we found the very best person to lead our science department.

Before the end of school, we also announced the hiring of two new elementary principals: **Karen Spaulding** at Cunningham Elementary School; and **Stephanie Nephew** at Glover Elementary School. Both principals are busy preparing their schools for the first day of school in September.

**Charlene Roche** has been hired as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Ms. Roche has worked as secretary to the Milton School Committee since 2006. She has previously worked in accounts payable and as an administrative assistant to the Vice President at a large insurance company. She is a graduate of Aquinas College in Milton. Ms. Roche was a member of the Pierce PTO; and has been a longtime supporter of both the Milton Boosters and the Milton Foundation for Education.

I would also like to announce that **Joanne Bonner**, Pierce Middle School Librarian/Teacher has retired from the Milton Public Schools. Mrs. Bonner taught at the Tucker Elementary, Cunningham Elementary and Pierce Middle School during her career. I would like to thank Ms. Bonner for her years of service and congratulate her on her retirement.

### **Back-to-School Info**

**School Times:** Milton High: 7:50 AM to 2:19 PM; Pierce Middle School: 7:48 AM to 2:21 PM; Collicot & Cunningham: 8:20 AM to 2:44 PM; Glover & Tucker: 8:50 AM to 3:14 PM.

**Telephone Numbers:** Collicot: 617-696-4282; Cunningham: 617-696-4285; Glover: 617-696-4288; Tucker: 617-696-4291; Pierce Middle School: 617-696-4568; Milton High: 617-696-4470.

**Website:** There is a great deal of information available on our website. Please visit [www.miltonps.org](http://www.miltonps.org) and take a few minutes to see what’s new.

**School Committee:** Meetings are held in the Milton High School Library. They are typically held at 7 PM on the first and third Tuesday of every month while school is in session. For more information about the school committee, including members’ contact information, budget, minutes or presentations, visit:

<http://www.miltonps.org/committee.php>

**School Calendar:** Both the district-wide calendar of events and the school calendar, which lists vacation dates, holidays, etc. for the 2010/2011 school year can be found here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/calendar.php>

**Bus Information:** Any student who is registered for the bus will receive a packet of information with times and bus stops by mid-August. If you have not registered for the bus and need transportation services, visit:

[www.miltonps.org/departments-transportation.php](http://www.miltonps.org/departments-transportation.php)

Bus routes will be posted on the website as soon as they are available and will be in the local newspapers as well.

**Assignments:** *Elementary:* Teacher assignments for the elementary schools will be mailed out mid-August. *Middle:* Team assignments and first period class assignments for Pierce students will be shown on the label of the letter mailed to parents the third week of August. *High School:* The schedules previously mailed out for Milton High School students were tentative and some changes may occur. Final MHS schedules will be mailed out mid-August.

## **Facilities Update**

*Below is a report by Bill Ritchie, MPS Facilities Director.*

During the summer there is a long list of maintenance projects going on in each of our schools. All the school classrooms in the district are emptied out and floors are cleaned and waxed. Carpets get cleaned and walls are painted as needed. Many windows get adjusted for proper operation. All HVAC and life safety equipment is tested and certified, which includes all fire alarms, sprinkler systems, generators and back up power generators. All roof top heating and A/C units get new filters. All boilers and hot water heaters are serviced, inspected and certified for use.

Major projects: The front and rear exterior of Glover was scraped and painted by in-house staff. The Copeland Field House wood floor was given a new coat of water-based urethane and it will shine for opening day. The High School exterior duct work in the rear of the auditorium will get new insulation. The High School Solar Panels are all installed and up and running. Collicot and Cunningham will get new energy efficient gym lights with a free grant from the electrical company.

The entire facilities crew works tirelessly to make sure the schools are in tip top shape for opening day.

## **PAC/Special Education News**

This year's Special Education Summer programs have been very successful. Our eligible students are receiving academic instruction and therapies to prevent substantial regression. Our programs, most of which were run at Cunningham Elementary School, will be winding down over the next several weeks. The teachers and the students have been very productive and have enjoyed the wonderful weather and time with their peers.

There are several summer options offered for students in our Special Education program, including:

- Special Education Pre-School Integrated Classroom
- Substantially Separate Special Education Preschool
- Special Education for Elementary SPED (Co-Taught)
- Elementary Special Education: Developmentally Delayed Program
- Secondary Special Education: Developmentally Delayed Program
- Math and Reading Tutoring
- Speech/Language Therapy for Preschool through Grade 12
- Occupational and Physical Therapy for K-12

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Several months ago, under the leadership and guidance of Superintendent Gormley, the Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC), the Office of Special Education and various Milton Public School Academic Departments began the process of creating a Special Education Guide for parents. While the final

**25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186**

title of this dynamic document is still to be determined, the information will prove to be “parent friendly” and informative. The goal of this initiative was to create a useful and accessible tool to further support parents in the decision making process as well as clarify the outstanding programs and services being offered through Milton. We believe that this Parent Guide has achieved this goal. We are enthusiastic about the progress and anticipate that you will share our sentiments when it is available in the fall of 2010.

The Milton PAC is led by parents and provides information and support to all parents and guardians of children receiving special education services and other interested parties. We work collaboratively with the Milton Public Schools on the development, planning and evaluation of special education programs, and advocates for the best possible services for our students. For more information, visit our website, [www.miltonpac.org](http://www.miltonpac.org).

## **MFE News**

This fall, the Milton Foundation for Education will celebrate its 15th Birthday, and parents are invited to learn more about how the MFE has enhanced the education of students in the Milton public schools since 1995.

At every school’s Open House this fall, the MFE will be highlighting many of the contributions that they have made to the schools over the last decade and a half. The MFE invites parents to have a piece of birthday cake and discover how the MFE has supported the arts, physical education, math, science and technology, the libraries, languages and literature at every grade level and at every school. During the Open Houses, parents are encouraged to look for the stars which will be placed on hundreds of items donated by the MFE throughout the years, including language labs technology, bio-tech equipment, SMART Boards, books, globes, art supplies, and much more.

The Milton Foundation for Education has awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants to teachers and schools since its creation in 1995 and has made an enormous difference in our schools during that time. The MFE raises money primarily from two events—Celebration for Education and the Monster Dash—and from contributions to its annual fund appeal. For more information on the MFE and its grants or to make a donation in honor of their 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday, please visit their website at

[www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org](http://www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org).



## **News Around Town**

If you come by Milton High School from July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>, you may see many local students participating in a variety of fun Japanese workshops as part of the annual Explore Japan Enrichment and Exchange Program. The Explore Japan program involves the visit of 38 Japanese students to Milton and surrounding towns. The 38 host families have their children participate in fun workshops each day to learn about Japanese culture.

Workshops include calligraphy, origami, music, cuisine, popular culture and movies, martial arts and much more. The visiting Japanese students are from Osaka Jogakuin Jr./Sr. High School in Osaka Japan. The group also takes field trips to the MFA, Harvard Square, The Freedom Trail, Boston Harbor Cruise and Plimoth

**25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186**

Plantation. The program has been in operation for over a decade and hundreds of life-long international friendships have been the end result!

The program has been arranged by American Learning, Inc., a local student exchange organization founded by Milton resident Steve Shapiro. Any interested families can see their website at [www.americanlearning.com](http://www.americanlearning.com) for more information about the program.

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The Milton Police Department would like to remind residents about National Night Out, America's night out against crime. This event will be held at the Milton Police Department Headquarters, 40 Highland Street, on **August 4th**, from 5 to 9 PM.

The event will include family-friendly activities like moonwalks, face painting, cookout, the RE/MAX hot air balloon slide, a balloon artist and more. The police headquarters will also be open as well as a police vehicle display and a canine demonstration. Please help to support his wonderful event.

## **Athletics**

For those of you who missed it in our local papers, some Milton High School students participated at the national level and had great success.

Kate Madigan, Jannelle Corley, Cheryl Tran and Olivia Beaulieu participated in the New Balance National Outdoor Track Meet in Greensboro, North Carolina on June 18th. Their event was the 4 x 100M Shuttle Hurdles.

They finished 3rd overall in their race; which qualified them for the bronze medal and each girl earned All-American Status. According to Coach Dale Snyder, the girls ran a great race.

“It was a wonderful experience for these girls, because they were the third fastest team to compete in the United States this year,” he said.

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The Milton Legion Baseball team lost in the State finals this week. They had an incredible run. Different from past years – the legion team was made up of predominantly Milton High School players. They are: Mike Bortolotti, Matt O’Neill, Kevin Lamere, Steve Farmer, James Eckel, Coady Clarke (Alum), Coleman Durgin (Alum), Matt Mac Dougal (Alum), Mike Muse, Willie Archibald, Kerrigan Griffiths, Jack Davis, and Robbie O’Neil. It is great to see our students and former students do so well. The coaches were former Milton High Coach Matt Grogan and current MHS Freshman coach and Cunningham teacher assistant Matt Collins.

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Any student entering Milton High School this fall who is interested in participating in athletics must come to one of the signup dates in August below:

August 13<sup>th</sup> 9AM – 12PM  
August 16th – 19th 10AM – 2PM  
August 23rd – 26th 7AM - 12PM

In order to participate in our athletic program, students must:

- Have academic eligibility from the previous academic school year (All incoming freshmen are eligible!)
- Have a signed “Parental Permission” (Can be found on MHS Athletics page)
- Have a current copy of their physical from a physician (Dated within 13 months)
- Have a check made payable to “MHS Athletics” for \$250 or \$500 for Ice Hockey

**25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186**

For more information about our athletic offerings, coach emails, first practice sessions, payment options, and more, please visit this link:

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

## Summer Experiences

*Instead of our usual "Ambassador Page," I've decided to profile a few teachers and students from the Milton Public Schools who are having some extraordinary experiences during the summer months. If you know of a fulfilling summer experience, please let us know and we will do our best to profile it in an upcoming newsletter.*

### **Students:**

**Skyler Abrams**, an incoming senior at Milton High, was one of 26 students from around the nation selected to participate in the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Summer Business Institute at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business. Skyler was one of 300 students chosen based on GPA, teacher recommendation, and application essay to be hosted by the nations' top business schools such as Tuck, the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Johnson School of Business at Cornell University.

**Derek Curley**, an incoming senior at Milton High, is one of 10 American teenagers participating in a Boston Red Sox-sponsored program. The teens recently left for the Dominican Republic, where they will perform community service and play baseball at the Red Sox Dominican Academy, alongside 10 teammates from across the Dominican Republic. The program, *Lindos Suenos*, chooses applicants based on their love for the game of baseball and proven commitment to community service.

**Sean McDonough**, an incoming junior at Milton High, attended the Massachusetts State Police Junior Trooper Program in New Braintree, MA. Sean was one of 100 students selected statewide, based on a law enforcement essay he wrote. The Student Trooper program is an intensive, one week, residential learning experience for young adults, ages 15 thru 17. It is designed to expose young adults to the demands of police training and to develop better relationships between young people and the police that serve them.

**Faculty:** Cunningham's own **Kate Lavallo** is spending part of her summer in France, completing a three-week workshop with help from a grant from the French Consulate in Boston. Ms. Lavallo, a first grade French Immersion teacher, will be working with French teachers from all over the world. During the day, the teachers attend seminars on language methodology and in afternoons, they go on cultural excursions in the regions. Coursework can be used towards graduate degree credits. We hope that Ms. Lavallo enjoys her time in France!

Elementary Math Coordinator **Holly Concannon** offered DMI Institute training to over 30 motivated elementary teachers. This incredible math content training consisted of two sessions for teachers and will be offered again in the fall and spring of this upcoming school year.

**Jessica Parsons** and **Michelle Kreuzer** are working with the Cambridge Harvard Summer Academy, which pairs veteran educators with Harvard Teacher Education Program interns (as teachers) in the classroom. The summer academy focuses on project-based learning and will culminate in a morning and evening exhibition of student work. Ms. Kreuzer is teaching Geometry; which focuses six weeks on an architectural project called "Design a High School for your Grandchildren". Ms. Parsons, who teaches at Milton High (Geometry, Computer logic & Robotics and AP Statistics) is teaching robotics this summer at CHSA. Her course is centered on students creating an assistive technology device using Lego robots.

**Parents:** One of our own Milton parents, **Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, was recently named by Governor Deval Patrick to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Congratulations to Dr. Calderon-Rosado, who has been a researcher, educator and leader of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA), a Boston-based community building nonprofit organization. A former teacher and trained gerontologist, she is an excellent addition to the state Board.

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