



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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I would like to take this opportunity to communicate to the entire Milton Public Schools Community about the life of the late Charles C. Winchester and his impact on the Town of Milton.

Charles C. Winchester grew up in Reading and Newton, Massachusetts and graduated from Dartmouth College and Boston College Law School. He was a recognized patent attorney with the firm of Fish and Richardson in Boston. Since 1965 Mr. Winchester has called the Town of Milton home along with his wife, Janet and their six children, all of whom attended the Milton Public Schools. Mr. and Mrs. Winchester are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren.

Few individuals in Milton have served as long or held such a diverse record of public service as Mr. Winchester. During his time in Milton he served on the Glover PTO Board; was a Town Meeting Member; Warrant Committee Member & Chairman; and School Committee Member & Chairman. We in the Milton Public Schools will be forever grateful for Mr. Winchester's vision and attention to every facet of Milton's School Building Program in his role as the Chairperson over the past 11 years. He chaired biweekly meetings and worked with over 25 fellow committee members to oversee the \$152 million school building project. Mr. Winchester worked directly with the project's architects, construction companies, town departments, administrators, superintendents, school committees, donors, MA School Building Authority personnel, and hundreds of others to ensure that the schools were successfully built and that every taxpayer dollar was protected.

Milton's 4,000 public school students, along with our teachers and support staff live, learn and teach everyday in healthy and magnificent classrooms, language labs, auditoriums, gymnasiums, and athletic fields. Generations of Milton's children from pre-school through grade twelve will study and learn in these wonderful educational facilities because of the efforts of many – and because of the leadership of one, Mr. Charles C. Winchester. As Senator Brian A. Joyce said at our recent Special Town Meeting, "...there are hundreds of people who contributed to make Milton's School Building Program a success, but there was only one person who assured the project's success from beginning to end. That person was "Charlie" Winchester."

Milton High School's auditorium was named the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium in his honor at last year's Milton High School graduation ceremony. At this event, I took the opportunity to tell our graduates that they should emulate Mr. Winchester's dedication, commitment and integrity in their lives. On Saturday, November 14th the afternoon performance of "The Music Man" performed by the Milton High School Drama and Music students will be dedicated in memory of Mr. Winchester. It will be held in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium.

Mr. Winchester passed away last month after an illness. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and to all who will miss him. – Mary C. Gormley

School Committee Update

The School Committee met on Tuesday, October 20th. At this meeting, Milton High School Principal Dr. Drottter presented the latest SAT results from the 2009 test taken by MHS seniors. The results indicate a naturally occurring year-to-year variability. Despite this variability, Dr. Drottter was pleased to report a strong performance by MHS when compared to state and national scores. In addition, MHS has a very high participation rate in the percentage of students taking the SAT. Nationally, only about half of graduating high

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school seniors take the SAT exams. Since 2006, in Milton, we have had between 95 and 100% of our seniors take the SAT.

To see the data on SAT scores on our home page, click here:

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

Next, Martha Sherman, Elementary Coordinator for Reading, Language Arts & Social Studies, presented the most recent MCAS scores. The district data was discussed and compared to the past two years. There was improvement in some areas and decline in some areas. To see the data, and the presentation, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MCAS10-20-09.pdf>

After the presentation of data, School Committee Members went over the Superintendent's evaluation.

Following this item, school committee members nominated Glenn Pavlicek to represent them at the joint conference of Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Mass. Association of School Superintendents (MASS). The MASC Delegate Assembly is held during the four-day event in Hyannis, at which time officers are elected and the Assembly considers resolutions submitted in conformance with the MASC By-Laws. Members then voted on a series of resolutions which will be presented at the conference so that Mr. Pavlicek can best represent the interests of the Milton School Committee.

Discussion of the FY11 Budget followed, with the finance sub-committee report, the reading of the MPS Stimulus Grant draft, a report from our Special Town Meeting, and an update from the School Building Committee. The next School Committee meeting will be held **November 3rd** at 7 p.m. in the MHS Library.

Curriculum Information

We are pleased to report that our leadership team, in coordination with the Milton School Committee, will be hiring several part-time educational assistants for elementary classrooms whose enrollment reaches 26 students and above. These part-time positions will be funded from the Federal Stimulus money provided to the Milton Public Schools. These funds are available to our schools for one year only. These educational assistants will be assigned to these classrooms for three hours per day, five days per week and will remain with their classroom as long as the class enrollment remains at 26 or higher. The educational assistant will be reassigned if the enrollment drops below 26. It is our intention that this decision will provide an enhanced experience in the classroom.

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There are a variety of special education classrooms in the Milton Public Schools which provide different levels of services, under the leadership of our special education director, Jeffrey Rubin. In addition to the programs below, all schools also offer a full schedule of speech, occupational and physical therapy for students in need of those services. All schools also offer academic support in reading/language arts and mathematics. Adjustment counseling is available at the high school, middle school, Glover, Tucker and in the STEP programs.

Collicot Elementary School:

- Language Based Classrooms in Grades 3, 4 and 5: Services students with language-based learning and cognitive disabilities. Sub-separate classroom with inclusion opportunities.
- Preschool Programs: Five pre-school classrooms for 3-5 year olds; seven integrated half-day sessions and one sub-separate full day classroom for students with significant disabilities.
- NECC Classroom: New England Center for Children contracted services through their Partners Program for autistic students in Grades K and 1. Substantial ABA-based curriculum with inclusion opportunities.

Cunningham Elementary School:

- STEP Classroom: Sub-separate classroom with inclusion opportunities for emotionally/behaviorally disabled students.
- LEAP Classroom: Elementary sub-separate classroom for cognitively/developmentally disabled students. Inclusion opportunities when educationally appropriate.

Glover Elementary School:

- Co-taught Classrooms in Grades K, 2,3,4,5; services students with moderate to significant disabilities. Full-time co-taught with a special educator and regular educator. Grade-level curriculum and pace in a full inclusion model.

Tucker Elementary School:

- Co-taught Classrooms in Grades K,1,2,3. See description above.

Pierce Elementary School:

- REACH program in Grades 6, 7, 8: Sub-separate classroom for middle grades students with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Inclusion opportunities when educationally appropriate.
- STEP 2 program: Grades 6, 7, 8: Sub-separate classroom for students with emotional/behavioral disabilities. Inclusion opportunities are encouraged and available when educationally appropriate.
- Language-Based Program Grades 6, 7, 8: Supported inclusion program for students with language based learning disabilities.

Milton High School:

- ACHIEVE, Grades 9-12: Sub-separate classroom for cognitively disabled students. Academic/life skills curriculum with a strong vocational training and hands-on supported job placements.
- Transitions A: Sub-separate classroom for cognitively disabled students. Pull-out for English, math, social studies all other classes are within the regular education setting. Transitions A for students without challenging behaviors.
- Transitions B: Sub-separate classroom for cognitively disabled students. Pull-out for English, math, social studies all other classes are within the regular education setting. Transitions B for students with behavioral challenges.
- Language-Based: Sub-separate classroom for language based learning disabilities.
- Alternative Program: Pull-out program for at-risk students. Academic and psycho/social support.

Health News

As you may be aware, the flu vaccine has been more difficult to obtain this year than initially thought. The Milton Public Schools requested a large number of doses in the hope of having a seasonal flu clinic sometime this fall. However, as of this writing, we have not received a confirmation that does of the vaccine will be sent to us and thus cannot make a date certain. Parents should try to schedule immunizations through their local pediatricians, if possible. There are also delays for the H1N1 vaccine. Our Head Nurse Margaret Gibbons advises the following:

1. Stay at home if you have flu-like symptoms. Do not return to school or work until you have gone 24 hours without a fever (without the use of fever reducing drugs).
2. Practice proper cough etiquette and hand washing techniques.
3. Have emergency phone numbers up to date at school.
4. Have a plan ready if your child gets sick at school and needs to be dismissed.

In addition, we have asked teachers to be vigilant and send a child to the health room for assessment if they appear sick in class. We never solicit "visitors" but we may be able to limit some exposure if we can get students home sooner rather than later. Please help us to keep all our students as healthy as possible.

Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in November. There will be a half-day of school on **November 18th** to allow for conferences during the afternoon and in some cases, evening hours. Please be sure to sign up for a conference with your child's teacher if you have not already done so.

Upcoming Events

Don't forget that **November 11th** is Veteran's Day and there will be no school.

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Our extremely talented Milton High School Drama Club, along with some new singing and dancing talent from our elementary schools, will be presenting *The Music Man* on **November 13th and 14th** in the Winchester Auditorium. Please come to support this wonderful cast and enjoy a fantastic show. For ticket information, please call 617-696-4470.

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The Milton Public Schools will be holding a series of Open Houses on **Saturday, November 14th** in order for the public to get an up-close look of our beautiful school buildings. All six Milton Public School buildings will be open for tours and we invite the entire community to come and have a look around. Please note the schedule below:

Collicot and Cunningham	12:00 pm-2:00pm
Glover	10:00am-12:00pm
Tucker	10:00am-12:00pm
Pierce	10:00am-12:00pm
MHS	10:00am-12:00pm

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Here's an opportunity to burn some calories before Thanksgiving and benefit a great cause! On **Saturday, November 21st at 9:00 am**, the second annual Milton 5K Gobbler for Best Buddies will take place at the Cunningham School.

You can sign up as an individual or start a team with friends and family. Prizes will be awarded for top finishers and fundraisers. All proceeds from the 5K will benefit Best Buddies Massachusetts; a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. We are proud to have two Best Buddies chapters in our schools – one at Pierce Middle School and another at Milton High School. We hope you can attend this fun event! Runners and walkers are encouraged to sign up online at

www.bestbuddiesma.org/gobbler

Milton Foundation for Education

Save the Date - Saturday November 21st, Celebration for Education at Lombardo's in Randolph!
Sponsored by the Milton Foundation for Education and co-chaired by Margaret Eberhardt, Erika Donahue and Denise Queally.

Celebration is Milton's largest fundraiser with all proceeds benefiting our six public schools. Attracting over 600 people and featuring a silent auction, live auction, casino, comedian, dinner and dancing, Celebration provides an excellent forum to demonstrate your passionate commitment to quality public education in Milton.

Up and Away: Beyond the Basics! is this year's event theme. Money raised will fund a wide variety of enrichment programs for students.

The Milton Foundation for Education recognizes that part of what makes a Milton education so special is the emphasis on activities that supplement classroom learning –master music classes, media production workshops, independent language study and artists-in-residence.

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Your support of this year's Celebration will ensure that our students receive a diverse array of enrichment opportunities that help them achieve their true academic potential. We are looking for volunteers, especially for our Casino (40 minute shifts - we will train you!) on that day for setup or Sunday for clean up. You can also help through a cash sponsorship or by donating items for our auctions.

Tickets are now available online, and the first 100 tickets purchased online receive a free casino raffle ticket at check in. For more information go to:

www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org or email miltoncfe2009@gmail.com

News Around Town

The Milton Public Library has three upcoming events. "Mixing Fact and Fiction to Write a Page Turner," an author talk, will be presented by Hank Phillippi Ryan & Hallie Ephron on **Thursday, November 5th** at 7:30 pm.

Charlie Pierce, nationally known sportswriter, author and game show panelist ("Only A Game," and "Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me."), will read from his new book, "*Idiot America: How Stupidity Became a Virtue in the Land of the Free*" on **Tuesday, November 10th** at 7 pm.

Also, "High Style, Low Cash or Everything You Wanted To Know About Re-modeling!" -- a workshop featuring Emily Innes, owner of Innes Interiors will be held on **Sunday, November 15th** at 2 p.m.

All three events are sponsored by the Milton Library Foundation and will be held in the Keyes Community Room.

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The Friends of the Milton Council on Aging will be sponsoring Milton Shopalooza 2009 on **Friday, November 6th** from 5 to 8 pm at Cunningham Hall, 75 Edge Hill Road.

This event features over 35 crafters and vendors, who will be offering high quality products just in time for the gift giving season. Proceeds from this event will benefit various Milton charities.

Grant News

WANTED: Employees from State Street, Bank of America, Verizon, NStar. Do you work for one of these companies? If so, have you served as a volunteer in the Milton Public Schools? Or have you made a donation to the Milton Foundation for Education or one of Milton's PTOs? Please get in touch with us, because **your company will make a grant award** to the Milton Public Schools!

State Street, BOA, NStar and Verizon all honor their employees' contributions to schools and non-profits by making matching grant awards and volunteer grants. To find out if your volunteer service or monetary contribution qualifies for a grant, please contact Chris Masalsky the grant writer for the Milton Public Schools: cmasalsky@miltonps.org, (617) 696-4470 x5545.

Mr. Masalsky (Grant Writer for the Milton Public Schools and funded by the Milton Foundation for Education) will connect you with the person in your corporate office who runs their grant program, and help you to secure the funds. It's an easy process - just a few minutes of your time can earn big rewards for the Milton Public Schools!

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Mr. Masalsky has been busy working on other grant opportunities, as well. His recent grant writing efforts have focused on creating expanded learning opportunities for Milton's students, including:

- A \$32,700 request from the Wal-Mart Foundation and an \$18,000 request from National Grid to establish a "Saturday School" program at the Pierce Middle School. The grant would provide funds for students in grades 3-8 performing at below "proficient" on MCAS Math and ELA to attend a 14-week Saturday enrichment and preparatory program at no cost.

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- Multiple requests to support the individual music lesson "scholarship" program with the Music Drives Us Foundation, the Fender Music Foundation and several family foundations that focus on music education
- A \$5,000 request from the Lowe's Foundation for Outdoor Classrooms at the Pierce Middle School, and a second \$5,000 request from Lowe's for a curtain system at the Glover Elementary School.

We recently received small grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to cover the costs of several arts-related field trips, including the annual trip for elementary students to the Boston Symphony Orchestra. We also submitted multiple requests for field trip support through Target. Upcoming proposals will request further funding to expand the Milton Outdoor Classrooms initiative and enhance the service-learning program at Milton High School. We have also made initial contact with Curry College regarding integrating our service learning program with their "Curry Cares" service initiative. And the federal ARRA/Stimulus "Race To The Top" Innovation Funds will be released shortly; we are watching this opportunity closely.

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At the recent Special Town Meeting, a special ceremony was held to “unveil” the new solar panels on the roof of Milton High. These panels were purchased with the help of Sustainable Milton, through the generosity of Milton residents, who took part in the Community Solar Challenge. The panels were installed during the summer and are located to the left of the main entrance. Here is the link to the website where everyone can see how much energy is being collected as well as the weather data.

<http://www.sunviewer.net/portals/MHS/>

Athletics

Girls Cross Country: Congratulations to the Milton Girls’ Cross Country Team and Coach Dale Synder, which recently won the Division 2 title at the Catholic Memorial Invitational at Franklin Park. Olivia Collins and Emily Hughes finished in first and second place overall, with the team taking the top spot in the meet. In addition to Collins and Hughes, runners Clara Heiden, Bri Butlin, Emily Lynch and Angelica Rizzi rounded out the team and all finished in the top 20. In addition, this team, for the second straight year, have finished the regular season undefeated and captured the Herget Division championship. They will compete in State Meets in the weeks ahead. They have been led by junior runner Mairead Kiernan. This past Saturday, the team won the Bay State Conference Cross Country Meet for the second year in a row.

Boys’ Cross Country: Coach Dale Snyder’s boys finished with a 3-8 record. This young team has a bunch of underclassmen contributing this year. Junior Brendan Saur has had a terrific season. The future looks bright.

Both the Girls’ and Boy’s Cross Country Teams will participate in the MIAA Eastern Mass Championship on **November 7th** at Franklin Park. The top 5 teams will advance to the All State Meet in Northfield, Mass on Nov 14th. Best of luck to our Milton runners.

Cheerleading: Coach Jessica Parsons’ squad is preparing for the Bay State Conference Competition on Tuesday, November 3rd at Braintree High School. The girls have also performed at the walk-a-thon and all of our football games.

Field Hockey: For the first time in a few years the girls have qualified for the Division 1 State Tournament with a record of 13-4-2. Coach Michelle Kreuzer’s squad is led by senior captains Maggie Atkinson, Morgan Sumner, Jessica Robinson and Katherine Lemelman.

The team will be competing this Friday night, November 6th at Duxbury in the State Tournament at 5 pm.

Football: First year head coach Jim Bowes' team is currently 2-6. They will play Framingham at home this Friday night at 7th pm. The Wildcats are led by senior captains; Tom Phelan, Dajeon Simpson, Brendan Gallahue and Maduka Nwanekezi. The Wildcats will also be hosting Braintree in the annual holiday showdown this Thanksgiving.

Girls Soccer: This year's team has been bitten badly by the injury bug. Many key starters have missed time with injuries. The team finished 4-10-4. Coach Brian Borde's club has been led by senior goalkeeper Micaela Butlin.

Boys Soccer: Coach Mike Madden's team has a 3-12-2 record with one game left. Stephen Farmer has had an outstanding senior season. Despite their record, they still have an outside shot of qualifying for the State Tournament, with a lot of freshmen and sophomores seeing significant time on the pitch.

Volleyball: Even though Coach Robin Lee's team has a record of 3-17 and they already qualified for the Division 2 State Tournament. Samantha Curley has had an outstanding sophomore campaign for the lady Wildcats.

Golf: Second year coach Kevin Taylor's team finished the season with an 8-8 record and qualified for the Division 2 South State Tournament. In early October the team also tied Needham High School for the Bay State Conference Meet Championship. On Tuesday, November 3rd, Senior Blake LeBrew will be competing in the MIAA State Individual Tournament at Blackstone Valley Country Club.

Ambassador Page

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

Milton High School:

The following students have qualified to receive the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Recipients become eligible for the scholarship based on their performance on the Grade 10 MCAS English Language Arts and Math tests. To qualify, a student must both score Advanced on one exam and either Proficient or Advanced on the other AND rank within the top 25 percent of students in their district. They must also be permanent legal Massachusetts residents to qualify. Adams Scholarship recipients receive free tuition at any Massachusetts public college or university for eight consecutive semesters or four years. It does not cover the cost of fees.

Congratulations to the following Adams Scholars: Emily Anderson, Kristin Behenna, William Benway, Cameron Blankenship, Michael Bortolotti, Dorian Burke, Kristen Canniff, Corey Carpenter, Kayla Carroll, Kristen Cockrell, Olivia Collins, David Corbett, Edward Corcoran, Peter Crapps, Melissa Donovan, Cameron Dow, Tara Dynan, Stephen Farmer, Deirdre Finn, Andrea Foster, Liam Fox, Liana Ginetic, Dana Hankard, Solana Herron-Smith, Katherine Higgins, Alexandra Houlihan, Michael Hoy, Christopher Hughes, Emily Hughes, Alexandria Hutchinson, Felicia Iyamu, Alexander Jamal, Jacqueline James, Patrick Joyce, Julie Keeler, Liam Kelly, William King, John Krauss, Emily Lawler, Lisa Liu, Clare Luscinskas, Emily Lynch, Alexa MacIsaac, Kate Madigan, Joseph Major, Stephen Manning, Eliot Marcus, Christine Martinelli, Benjamin McCarthy, Alison McIntyre, Emily McKnight, Elizabeth Meyer, Kelly Murtagh, Maureen Ogamba, Owen O'Sullivan, Sarah Palermo, Sophia Pompilus, Shelby Poon, Meaghan Powers, Devon Reilly, Jessica Robinson, Charles Rosmarin, Alexander Russian, Donald Ryan, Ethan Scheffler, Sam Shepard, John Shields, Emily Simy, Lauren Stafford, Cheryl Tran, Daria Turner, Emily Whipple, Haley Wilcox, Stephanie Wong.

Pierce Middle School:

We would like to congratulate one of our teachers, Kelly Connell of Pierce Middle School. Ms. Connell is in the process of completing the Egypt Forum Program, sponsored by Harvard University. This is a 12-month program of intensive learning, reflection and application to the classroom that is open to advanced K-12 teachers. The program works in three parts: Pre-travel class meetings at Harvard; travel to Egypt in April; and

post-travel class meeting during the summer and early fall. Ms. Connell is in the third and final phase, which requires implementation of new programs and projects in her classroom and community. The travel portion included a two-week stay in Cairo that focused on a broad overview of Egyptian politics, literature, history and society. Thank you to Ms. Connell for her hard work and dedication.

Elementary Schools:

Many friends of the Milton Public Schools recently ran the 11th annual Monster Dash to benefit the Sam Cichello Memorial Fund, which supports science enrichment in our schools. We are proud to say that the race T-shirts were designed by Cunningham third-grader Max Mijal.

More than 40 children submitted entries for the Monster Dash art competition, but the judges (Linda Casey, Mercedes Harris and elementary art teacher Patti Sampson) were wowed by the creativity of Max's design, his detail and use of perspective. Congratulations to Max!

Volunteer Recognition

We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to two of our local landscapers. 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 the entire site for the last few years to these two schools and continues to do so. We would like to thank him and his team of employees for their hard work and dedication.

Recently, another local company, Coulter Landscaping, has come forward and has agreed to take care of the landscaping needs at the Tucker Elementary School and Milton High School. Everything looks fantastic at the Tucker and we are grateful to Tom Coulter and his crew and will begin soon at Milton High School.

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. Please contact Bill Ritchie, Director of Facilities for the Milton Public Schools at britchie@miltonps.org