



# 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, September 24, 2010

*This is the time of year when MCAS scores arrive in the mail from the spring testing round. For parents with students who took the MCAS, there is a certain amount of stress involved in opening those envelopes.*

*If your child's scores are high, average or low, we would like to remind all our parents/guardians that the MCAS is only one assessment tool, and is not a measure of your child's overall academic experience.*

*Here in the Milton Public Schools, we have always been dedicated to the education of the whole child. We burst with pride when one of our talented art students brings home a Gold Key from local art contests -- when our basketball players receive local and national attention -- and when our Latin students receive high scores in state competitions.*

*It is my personal goal to ensure that every child in our schools is given the tools to achieve. I support assessment tools, but I do not believe that we must be constrained by them.*

*We are very aware that scores do not define a child, nor do they capture those intangible qualities that make our children unique: creativity, enthusiasm, passion and persistence.*

*As a district, we are pleased with the overall results. We have made unbelievable progress, but realize there is more work to be done. I know that we are ready for the challenge.*

*As parents, I hope you will join me in analyzing the MCAS data, gleaning the important facts from it, and moving on to the important work of everyday teaching and learning.*

*If you have any questions about any of our assessment methods, including MCAS, SATs and AP exams, please begin -- as with any issues concerning your child -- by contacting his/her teacher, then the school principal, department head and finally, my office. Thank you.*

## School Committee

The most recent School Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Below is a summary of that meeting. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in the MHS library and meetings will remain on Wednesdays for the remainder of the year.

### Chairman's Report

Mary McLaughlin & Margaret Eberhardt spoke about the Milton Foundation for Education celebrating its 15th birthday. Ms. McLaughlin discussed the fundraising efforts of the MFE, their competitive grants program and the special events they planned for Open Houses at the schools.

### Superintendent's Report

- a. We presented the latest MCAS data to the community at this meeting, with scores and AYP data. The presentation was made by Assistant Superintendent John Phelan and Elementary Language Arts/Social Studies Coordinator and Title I Director Martha Sherman. Our presentation is posted on the web at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MCASPresentation9-22.pdf>

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- b. Next, I presented the Superintendent's Self Reflection for 2010. This document can be viewed on our homepage at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/SuptSelf-Evaluation.pdf>
- c. School Choice Committee. At the request of School Committee Member Huban, we will convene a committee to explore the option of school choice for the Milton Public Schools. At this time, we are looking for parent/guardian/staff volunteers to serve on this committee. School Choice is a state law that allows a parent to send their children to schools in communities other than the city or town they reside. Tuition is paid by the sending district to the receiving district. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact [croche@miltonps.org](mailto:croche@miltonps.org)
- d. I also discussed our upcoming Coordinated Program Review. For more details about this evaluation, please see my item under "Curriculum News" below.

#### Finance Subcommittee Report

- a. Action Item- Surveillance Cameras/Security Vote. After reviewing the bids from several firms who install and maintain these types of systems, the SC voted to award the contract to BCM Controls for the cost of \$275,000. The cost of these cameras is being partially underwritten by the School Building Committee and a grant from the Copeland Family Foundation. The cameras are expected to be installed at both the Pierce Middle School and at Milton High School during the month of October.

### **Curriculum News**

We have fantastic news from the Collicot School. After the MCAS results were reported, the state recognized a total of 187 schools in the entire state for Narrowing Proficiency Gaps, High Growth and/or Exiting Accountability status in 2010.

We are pleased to announce that the Collicot School was commended for their High Growth in the 2010 Accountability Status. The Commendation Schools were recognized for their steady progress in raising student achievement.

Governor Deval Patrick stated, "There are so many great success stories in schools across the Commonwealth because of the efforts of administrators, teachers, students and parents who are united and committed to making every effort to ensure that every child that walks through the door receives a high quality education. I congratulate all of these schools"

Collicot is one of 63 schools in the Commonwealth commended for High Growth. They met the criteria of having a medial growth percentile of 60% or greater in MCAS ELA and MCAS MATH for two consecutive years (2001-2010) and a participation rate of 95% or more students taking the test and also meeting their student attendance rate target. Please join me in congratulating the staff, students and parents/guardians for their hard work and their outstanding achievement. Well done!

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MCAS data for all schools in the district is also available on line. To view the School Committee presentation on MCAS, please click here: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MCASPresentation9-22.pdf>

To view the Massachusetts Department of Education data on Milton MCAS performance click here: [http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/performance\\_level.aspx?linkid=32&orgcode=01890000&fycode=2009&orgtypecode=5&](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/performance_level.aspx?linkid=32&orgcode=01890000&fycode=2009&orgtypecode=5&)

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I also wanted to inform parents and guardians that this fall the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will conduct a Coordinated Program Review in the Milton Public Schools.

This evaluation takes place in all public and private schools every six years and will address programs in Special Education, Civil Rights and English Learner Education. The Department will review written documentation being submitted this month and in November a team of four people will make its onsite visit. At

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the time of the onsite visit the team will review individual student records, interview administrators, teachers and parents/guardians, and observe instructional sites. After the onsite visit, the DESE team will prepare a report for the Superintendent and School Committee with detailed findings for each program. The final report will be available on the DOE website.

I am confident that the Program Review will be a useful and positive experience for staff members and that the report will be helpful in planning for the continued improvement of educational services for all students.

\* \* \*

With a new school year in session we wanted to be sure that parents/guardians are aware of the state's new Bullying Law and the Milton Public School's response to the issue of bullying. Last spring we enacted a new policy which can be viewed on the website: [www.miltonps.org/committee-policies.php#Bullying](http://www.miltonps.org/committee-policies.php#Bullying). In addition, we wanted to be sure that both parents/guardians and students are aware of a new "hotline" that has been made available. To make an anonymous report of a bullying incident, please call 617-696-4470 x 5444

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Our newest principals, Stephanie Nephew and Dr. Karen Spaulding, have been interviewed for a local cable show. They will appear on *My Town Matters* to discuss curriculum, educational philosophy, their role in the Milton Public Schools and other school-related issues.

The program will air Monday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm on cable Channels 8, 10 and 22.

\* \* \*

For those of you who missed it, Milton High's Marching Band took the field during half-time of our football team's first home game on September 11th.

The Marching Band has returned after a hiatus of more than two decades. Nearly 60 high school students outfitted in red, white and black and track pants and jackets with "Milton High Wildcats" embossed on the lapel, arrived to loud cheers and gave a magnificent performance.

The band looked and sounded fantastic; however, co-directors Gary Good and Rebecca Damiani said they would sound even better with some equipment upgrades.

It seems the Marching Band is short a few French horns; the percussion instruments need to be modernized; and our sousaphone is older than some of our teachers and administrators!

If any parents or guardians are interested in donating to our new Marching Band or would like to help in the effort to solicit donations, please contact the co-directors: [ggood@miltonps.org](mailto:ggood@miltonps.org) or [rdamiani@miltonps.org](mailto:rdamiani@miltonps.org)

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Parents/guardians of high school students should be aware that we will be hosting our annual Japanese Exchange on **Thursday, September 30th**.

We plan to host 280 Japanese students from the Sakae Higashi High School, in Saitama, Japan (a suburb one hour north of Tokyo)

This is a wonderful program which brings together students from a high school in Japan with our own high school students. The Japanese students get to experience a "typical day" in an American high school, while our students are exposed to the cultural differences between the countries. Several cross-cultural events are planned, including performances in the auditorium by both Japanese and Milton students.

This exchange is organized by MHS Social Studies teacher Kathleen Kelly and Steve Shapiro of Pinnacle Learning.

## Upcoming Events

Registration for our Adult Education programs will be held on **October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** from 6-9 pm in the Milton High School main office on 25 Gile Road.

There are plenty of classes to choose from this year, including old standbys and new offerings including Beginner Irish Step, Stained Glass Workshop and Skin Care & Makeup Application.

To view the complete Adult Ed booklet, click here:

[http://www.miltonps.org/documents/AdultEdBrochure-Fall2010\\_002.pdf](http://www.miltonps.org/documents/AdultEdBrochure-Fall2010_002.pdf)

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We would like to remind our parents/guardians that **Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** is International Walk to School Day, when students from across the US along with over 40 countries will join together to walk and bicycle to school. This event is part of Massachusetts Safe Routes to School program in which our district participates.

Recently, we have adopted bicycle and pedestrian safety training as part of the Physical Education curriculum. One of SRTS's biggest advocates is Milton parent Erick Ask, who provided the following information:

*International Walk to School day is part of the larger Safe Routes to School program, which funded the training of the elementary Physical Education teachers and of which Glover and Cunningham now participate directly. SRTS is a federally funded program administered by each state's executive branch. The purpose of the program is to encourage children to walk and bike to school. Compared to forty years ago, the percentage of walker/bikers has dropped dramatically. In addition, PE time and outdoor activity has decreased while childhood obesity and related diseases such as diabetes have increased. This program is designed to encourage more physical activity for our children, decrease traffic congestion and improve safety around the schools.*

*There is a lot of activity going on to assure our children can safely walk and bike to school and we encourage you to participate. If your morning commute does not allow this then please consider forming a walking school bus or bike train in which adults from the neighborhood volunteer to walk/bike groups of children to/from school. If your school does not have an SRTS committee, please volunteer to start one. Many parents already are walking/biking their children and would not mind taking a few more children with them.*

*For more information please view this YouTube video from Safe Routes to School:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqBp8w0KCP8> or contact Erick Ask at [erickmari@verizon.net](mailto:erickmari@verizon.net)

\* \* \*

The Milton Public Schools will be presenting a very powerful lecture given by Mr. John Halligan to all Milton parents.

Mr. Halligan's son, Ryan, died by suicide in 2003 after being bullied by classmates at school and online. He was 13 years old.

Mr. Halligan's presentation will be held in the Milton High School auditorium on **Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. He will cover the lessons learned too late for his family regarding how to deal with bullying, cyber bullying, and teen depression.

This lecture is not appropriate for children, but all Milton parents/guardians are welcome.

Mr. Halligan will speak to Milton High School students during the school day on October 12<sup>th</sup> and he will also address students at Pierce Middle School on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

\* \* \*

Please remember our "Swing for Sports" fundraiser to be held on **Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Wollaston Golf Course. This golf and tennis event is one of the main fundraisers for the Milton High Boosters, who support our sports teams. Please consider helping our student athletes and join us for an afternoon with friends at the Wollaston Golf Course. Contact any of our hardworking event organizers for more information. John Davis: [jdavis@cahilldavisgroups.com](mailto:jdavis@cahilldavisgroups.com) Kara Russo: [rkwgg@comcast.net](mailto:rkwgg@comcast.net) Laura Phelan: [tkoll@comcast.net](mailto:tkoll@comcast.net) or Kevin Walsh: [kevin\\_walsh@emcorgroup.com](mailto:kevin_walsh@emcorgroup.com) or click the link below:

[www.miltonps.org/documents/SwingforSports.pdf](http://www.miltonps.org/documents/SwingforSports.pdf)

\* \* \*

Please note that our Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on **Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. This group works very hard to honor past student-athletes from Milton High School. This year's unveiling ceremony at the Copeland Field House at Milton High will be held at 5:30pm. Following the unveiling, a ceremony will be held at Lantana in Randolph starting at 6:30pm.

Tickets to this event are \$60 and should be purchased in advance by contacting Mike Goodless at 617-462-2028.

This year's student-athlete inductees are: Fred Bortoloti (1942); Donald Giles (1939); Dudley O'Leary (1954); Jeffrey Sullivan, Steve Poelaert (1974); Mark Arnold (1984); Joe Bianculli (1991); Kevin Bligh (1988); Jean Mazzotti Courtney (1988); Jennifer Duggan Korn (1995); Gerry Harran (1986); Greg Lovely (1997); Greg McTigue (1990); and Kate Moynihan (1996).

Also being inducted are Karen Duggan McLaughlin (coach); the entire 1963 Football Team; and the entire 1996 Boys Basketball Team. Congratulations to this year's inductees.

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Milton High School's upcoming musical, "Anything Goes," will be held on **November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and November 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 and 7pm** at the Milton High auditorium. There are over 60 students involved in the production including cast, crew and pit orchestra. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors and can be purchased in advance at the MHS office. Be sure to save the date!

### **District Calendar Update**

As a result of the renegotiated contract with our teachers, there have been some revisions to the current school calendar. The new calendar is attached to this email and can also be downloaded at:

[http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2010-11SchoolCalendarRevised9-7-10\\_000.pdf](http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2010-11SchoolCalendarRevised9-7-10_000.pdf)

A summary of the changes are as follows:

- The February 16<sup>th</sup> Early Release Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences has been cancelled. That day will now be a full day of school.
- The March 18<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day has been cancelled. That day will now be a full day of school.
- As a result of these changes the current projected last day of school is moved up a day to June 14, 2011.

### **Volunteer Updates**

I would like to let the Milton Public School community know that one of our most hard-working volunteers, Kate Sumner, is stepping down from her role as head of our Banner program.

Kate first came to us a few years ago, when our athletic budget was in dire straits and we needed to do some serious fundraising. Since then, she has led a team of dedicated parents and other volunteers to sell the sponsorship banners, which can be seen in the Copeland Field House and in the Brooks Field area.

The money from these banners has been crucial in keeping our athletic program afloat in difficult economic times.

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I'm very grateful to Milton Public School parent Judy McDonough for volunteering to chair this important committee. Please contact my office if you would like to co-chair our Banner Committee.

I am also very grateful to all the volunteers who helped to make the program such a huge success. Please join me in thanking: Bill Curran, Joe Indelicato, Steve Dinn, Ann O'Connor, Mark Ware, Mary McCarthy, Sue & Steven Rice, Robin & Ted Curley, Kathy Flaherty, Janet Potts, Lynn O'Sullivan, Gary Kelly, Joe Debesse, Keith McDermott, Beth Fahey, Donna Carerra, Carole & Bill Kavey, Linda Donovan, Steve Regan and Mike O'Toole.

Please contact Kate Sumner at [kate@gofullcontact.com](mailto:kate@gofullcontact.com) or Judy McDonough at [judymcd15@aol.com](mailto:judymcd15@aol.com) if you would be interested in assisting with this important fundraising tool.

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I would also like to thank everyone who responded to our requests for volunteers for the new Mock Trial Program. We had nearly a dozen parents/guardians come forward to offer their assistance. This goes to show, yet again, what wonderful parents/guardians we have in the Milton Public Schools. Thank you!

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Some of our parents/guardians may not realize that we have a "secret weapon" available to our teachers in the Milton Public Schools.

A group of residents from Fuller Village on Brush Hill Road have been volunteering to help in our classrooms for the past several years.

This group changes from year to year, though there are some veterans who have been with us from the start of the program. Their ranks have included former teachers, attorneys, salespeople, secretaries and homemakers -- all of whom bring their life experiences and enthusiasm for learning -- to our students.

This year's Fuller Village volunteers are: Marge Panarese, Blossom Glassman, Barbara & Bob Varnerin, Paula Silbert, Mary Polychrones, Ann Cahill, Jean Powers, Nancy Kearns and Ginny Coghlan. If they help out in your child's classroom, please be sure to thank them for their time!

### **Grant/Fundraising News**

We have some good news from our grant writer, Chris Masalsky. He recently received word that Milton qualified for a MIIA Loss Control Grant, which will pay for roof inspection & repair program for school district. This grant totals \$4,300.

The Loss Control Grant is from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. MIIA Loss Control Grants are available to its member municipalities and are awarded to fund equipment purchases and/or to implement training programs that address safety and loss prevention issues.

### **PAC/Special Education News**

I recently sent out an E-blast informing the community that Milton's Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services, Jeff Rubin, is resigning from his current position to become the Head of School at the Willow Hill School in Sudbury. Milton's students, staff, parents, and Special Education Programs have benefitted from his vision, leadership and hard work. I am sure that you will join me in thanking Jeff for his years of service to the Milton Public Schools and in wishing him success in his new position.

As we wish Mr. Rubin farewell, we would also like to welcome Dr. Patricia DeVal. Dr. DeVal has been named Interim Director of Pupil Personnel for the Milton Public Schools, replacing outgoing Director Jeff Rubin.

Dr. DeVal started her career in education in Connecticut, receiving her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Southern Connecticut State University. She taught at the elementary school level before coming to Massachusetts where she received her doctoral degree in Reading from Boston University.

In the Quincy Public Schools Dr. DeVal taught at the middle school level in reading and special education. As an administrator, she served as the Director of Special Education, Out of District Chairperson, Early Childhood Coordinator and retired after five years as Elementary School Principal. Since her retirement she has worked as a College Counselor at the Woodward School and as Compliance Monitor/CPR Coordinator in the Milton Public Schools.

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The Milton PAC would like all parents and guardians to be aware of the following opportunities:

There will be a PAC representative at each Open House this month. Please stop by our table to pick up literature, purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to attend a Red Sox vs. New York Yankee game on October 1<sup>st</sup> while supporting Special Education in Milton, or just say "Hi".

The Parent Support Group will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday night of each month at the Milton Public Library. The first meeting will be held on **October 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00pm.

The Milton Parks and Recreation "Gym Buddy" program is accepting applications. This program begins on **September 29<sup>th</sup>** and is a wonderful opportunity for developmentally delayed and/or physically handicapped adults and children to socialize and interact with their peers. It also provides a community service learning opportunity for local high school students.

The program meets every Wednesday 6:00 – 7:30pm at the Glover School gym starting September 29<sup>th</sup> and continuing through March 23rd. The program offers activities such as athletics, arts and crafts, games, and special events. Contact Dave Perdios at [dperdios@townofmilton.org](mailto:dperdios@townofmilton.org) for more information.

### **MFE News**

This Fall, the Milton Foundation for Education will celebrate its 15th Birthday, and the MFE is inviting parents and residents to learn more about how the foundation has enhanced the education of students in the Milton Public Schools since 1995. The Milton Foundation for Education has awarded \$2 million in grants to teachers and schools since its creation in 1995. Twice a year, the MFE solicits proposals from teachers and staff and in the last 15 years has funded a wide array of teacher-initiated projects. Through Glover's "Turner's Pond Study", Cunningham's "Elm Tree Farm" project, Collicot's "Using Maps to Understand the World", Tucker's "GeoSafari Theater", Pierce's "Incentive Program for Academic Achievement", and Milton High School's "Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band's CD," literally thousands of Milton's children have been touched by the grants provided by the Milton Foundation for Education over the years.

In addition, the MFE sponsors the Celebration for Education each year with funds earmarked for specific departments or disciplines within the school system. The Milton Foundation for Education also sponsors the Monster Dash, an annual road race that funds science enrichment in the elementary schools. For more information on the MFE and its grants or to make a donation in honor of their 15th Birthday, please visit their website at [www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org](http://www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org)

### **News Around Town**

Tomorrow, Saturday, **September 25th**, the Milton Department of Public Works will hold a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day for Milton residents. Collection hours are from 9am to noon. The collection takes place at the DPW Yard (629 Randolph Avenue), rain or shine. For more information on what can/cannot be disposed and what charges may apply, please visit this link:

[http://www.townofmilton.org/Public\\_Documents/MiltonMA\\_DPW/DPW](http://www.townofmilton.org/Public_Documents/MiltonMA_DPW/DPW)

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Bob Halloran of Channel 5 News will be speaking at the Milton Library on Tuesday, **September 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm to talk about his new book, *Breakdown: A Season of Gang Warfare, High School Football, and the Coach who Policed the Streets*.

As part of a month-long celebration of the Milton Public Library -- and an early Halloween treat -- there will be a screening of the movie *Caspar* on **Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** at 1pm.

The event for children ages 5-12. There will be Boo Bags and Apple Cider for sale, along with carved pumpkins and raffle prizes.

Roni Noland continues her series of chats at the library with the Job Doctor Wednesday mornings at 10:30am. Ms. Noland is available to answer your questions about resumes & cover letters, networking, social networking, interviewing & job search strategy. Free and open to all Milton Library patrons.

Friends Book Shop is open every Tuesday & Saturday 10am-2pm, and every Wednesday 6:30pm-8:30pm throughout the fall/winter months.

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Please join the Milton community on **Sunday October 3rd** from 12-4pm at the "Celebrate Milton" event. This is the 17th annual Celebrate Milton event presented by Fruit Center Marketplace and it has something for the whole family. Free amusements (huge inflatable slides, bounce houses, etc) will be supplied by the Copeland Family Foundation. In addition, there will be all-day entertainment, including performances by the Milton Academy Jazz Band, the cast of Milton High's fall musical, InSync dance studio and more.

There will be food for sale, provided by and benefitting FAME; Free Child Identification Program (CHIP), sponsored by the Milton Lodge of Masons; and a "Walk and Talk" with Milton's elected officials at the high school track

More than 60 local organizations and businesses will be exhibiting their goods and services, including a Local Emergency Planning exhibit presented by Milton Hospital, Milton Police Department, Milton Fire Department, and Fallon Ambulance.

Weather permitting, the event will be outdoors, at the front entrance of Milton High School. In the event of rain, it will be held inside the Collicot/Cunningham Schools.

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On Friday, **November 12th** at 8pm, Milton resident Pauline Wells and a very skilled cast of musicians including her friends from DEVRI, as well as the Gaelic Column, the New York City Police Department Pipe Band and many others will return to the Wilbur Theater in a tribute performance to salute the Veterans of America.

This event is ideal for those of you who are members of the military or have family members who have served in the armed forces, but it will be enjoyable for people of all ages.

This is sure to be a brilliant evening of music. In addition, this concert will benefit two wonderful charities: Cops For Kids with Cancer [www.copsforkidswithcancer.org](http://www.copsforkidswithcancer.org) and the Ahern Family Charitable Foundation for Massachusetts Military Veterans [www.ahernfoundation.org](http://www.ahernfoundation.org)  
To purchase tickets, visit [www.wilburtheater.net](http://www.wilburtheater.net)

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We'd also like to welcome one of our own Milton Public School parents to her new position as Town Accountant.

After a very lengthy process, Amy Dexter was hired as the new Town Accountant effective September 13, 2010. Ms. Dexter replaced David Grab, who resigned to take a position in Fall River. Ms. Dexter previously worked for Island Oasis Frozen Cocktail Co., Inc. of Walpole, MA. as the Assistant Controller and

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CSP, Inc. of Billerica, MA, as the Corporate Controller. Ms. Dexter is the mother of four and received a BS Accountancy from Bentley College in Waltham. Congratulations!

## **Athletics**

I mentioned the Swing for Sports fundraiser above (under “Upcoming Events”) I wanted to inform Milton Public School parents -- and especially parents of our student-athletes --that we have taken several steps to help consolidate the amount of fundraising that is asked of our athletes and their parents.

Instead of constantly running various fundraisers throughout the school year, we have managed to focus our athletic fundraising efforts to four main events. These are:

- **Swing for Sports:** (please see item above re: this Booster’s event at the Wollaston Golf Course on October 18<sup>th</sup>.)
- **Banner Sales:** Another wonderful fundraiser. This group is looking for a new leader. Please refer to item above under “Volunteer Updates” These banners hang in the Copeland Field House, the Brooks Field and Gile Road areas and are available in many different price ranges. Any community member or local business interested in purchasing a banner should visit this link:  
<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/miltoninsideflyer.pdf>
- **Irish Night & Irish Raffle:** Our highly successful raffle and evening of Irish entertainment takes place in early spring. The evening of entertainment is another enjoyable event in our calendar made possible by several sponsors.
- **Walk-A-Thon:** An event which involves the students directly. Students who participate in sports, drama, music and other after-school clubs raise money through sponsorships for this fun, all-day event.

We hope that our parents and the Milton community are able to support one or more of these fundraisers. We think it is important that students continue to be able to participate in sports, clubs and activities without constantly performing fundraising activities.

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In my last E-blast, I spoke about the innovative new program to help address sports-related head injuries. Unfortunately, I neglected to thank the Monack family, whose contribution made this program available. The Monacks made a donation to Milton High in memory of their son, Gregory, a former Milton Public School student who died in a car accident at age 19. To honor their son, the Monacks established the Gregory B. Monack Foundation, which makes donations to support music and sports programs. The Impact Program at Milton High is a direct result of their contribution, and for that, we are very grateful.

For more information about the foundation, please visit

<http://gregorybmonackfoundation.org/index.html>

## **Ambassador Page**

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

**Students:** We would like to commend five of our high school students who attended the Neponset Valley Leadership Institute this past summer. This is a five-day intensive program where students learn about leadership in many different settings. This is a special project of The School to Careers Partnership, funded by generous business partners and local organizations. Only 24 students are selected regionally from Avon, Blue Hills Technical, Canton, Dedham, Milton, Norwood, Randolph, and Stoughton schools. Our Milton students were: **Jay Rosenberg, Caroline McGrath, Brenda Barcia, Zackary Obasiolu and Dan Tobin.** Well done!

**Faculty:** Congratulations to **Saviz Safizadeh** of the Pierce Middle School! We recently received word from the University of Arizona that Ms. Safizadeh has received honorable mention status in their seventh Annual Lesson Plan Competition put on by the University of Arizona's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. This is a program that recognizes the excellent planning of teachers across the country and for Ms. Safizadeh to be recognized is quite an honor. Her work will be publicized on their website and on their lesson CD which will be distributed to teachers all over the country. I am sure you join me in congratulating Savis Safizadeh for her outstanding work and contributions.

**Volunteer:** We would also like to recognize some "unsung heroes" of the Milton Public Schools. For the past few years, **Fallon Ambulance Service** has provided either EMTs or a fully-staffed ambulance to many of our home games for the football and hockey teams. They have also provided medical coverage for other sports when our trainer is not available or is scheduled for an away game. The Fallon family has been extremely generous to the Milton Public Schools through the years, not only by providing these essential medical services, but also in less-noticeable ways. For example, they recently donated warm-up clothing for the entire wrestling team. We thank them for their generosity.