



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Milton Public School Parents & Guardians
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent of Schools
Re: E-Update October 30, 2008

From the Office of the Superintendent

Every day of every year the staff of the Milton Public Schools work collectively to provide a high quality education to the children of Milton. A critical component to achieving this goal is maintaining a strong partnership between a child's teacher and a child's family. As Superintendent, it is my goal to enhance this partnership in order to raise the level of achievement for all students. Parents and guardians who actively communicate with their child's teacher and are more active participants in our school community will positively impact their child's school experience and his/her academic achievement.

Individual Parent/Guardian and Teacher Conferences are an opportune time to communicate with your child's teacher. These conferences are available for every student in the Milton Public Schools in November. I strongly urge each of you to schedule and attend a Parent/Guardian and Teacher Conference to discuss your child's strengths and challenges. It is important that you attend these conferences. They represent one of the best vehicles through which you can learn how your child is performing in school.

All schools will hold their traditional afternoon/evening conference sessions on specific days during the week of November 17th. In addition to these times, every Milton Public School teacher is available during a new early release half day on Wednesday, November 19th. Please go to the "CALENDAR" section of the Milton Public Schools website (www.miltonps.org) to see the conference dates. If you have any questions regarding the scheduling of your parent/guardian conference, please contact the school secretary at your child's school.

We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your child. I hope that this "E-Update" will offer some opportunities for you to become, or continue to be, an active and contributing member of our school community. – Mary Gormley

International Experiences:

- If your child attends Milton High School – or you happen to be in the building on October 29th or 31st - you may think you have traveled to a foreign land! Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Milton resident Steve Shapiro and MHS history teacher Kathleen Kelley, MHS will host more than 500 visiting Japanese students. This incredible cultural event will introduce our students to Japanese culture as well as show off our high school to our Japanese guests. The visiting students will be paired up with one of our student "ambassadors" and will assemble in the auditorium for a musical performance featuring the talents of each group. During the day, the student "ambassadors" will shadow their Milton counterparts during classes and lunch. Milton High School will be the only school the Japanese students visit on their trip. The exchange has been arranged by American Learning, Inc. a non-profit cultural exchange organization founded in 1991 by Mr. Shapiro.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

- This month, both Milton High School and Pierce Middle School will host visitors from France. Milton High School welcomes 24 students from Chevrollier High School in Angers, France. MHS French teacher Anne Marie Laine, herself a graduate of Chevrollier High School, is the leader of the exchange along with Director of World Languages Gracie Burke and MHS French teacher Pat Menard. The French students will stay with Milton families, attend school and will visit Boston, Salem, Plymouth, the JFK Library, Cambridge and Harvard University during their stay. The Milton High School students will travel to France in February of 2009 to complete the exchange.
- Not to be outdone, the Pierce Middle School is also hosting 25 students from St. Marcel, France. PMS French teacher Claude Bird is the exchange coordinator with assistance from PMS French teacher Jeannne Roulleau and Director of World Languages, Gracie Burke. Their Boston area itinerary is similar to that of the group visiting the high school and will definitely make for an exciting trip. The middle school students will travel to France in April to complete their part of the exchange.

School Committee Update

There have been two school committee meetings since my last newsletter. Several issues were discussed on October 7th, including:

- Ada Rosmarin, Director of Milton Early Childhood Alliance, was honored for her work on our district's full-day kindergarten program. Ms. Rosmarin was praised and recognized by School Committee Chair Beirne Lovely and honored with a framed photo of this year's kindergarten classes.
- This year's Student Representatives for the School Committee were welcomed. They include Siobhan O'Grady, Ben Richman, Ben McCarthy, Charlie Rosmarin and Catherine Beatrice.
- Representatives from MPEG (Milton Public Education and Government Television) attended the Oct. 7th meeting. Bob Kelly, Paul Yovino, Bernie Lynch and Marvin Gordon came to discuss the partnership they would like to form with the School Committee. This group would take over local programming from Comcast and was interested in using a small space at Pierce Middle School for this purpose.
- SC Chair Beirne Lovely thanked everyone who was involved with the Milton Boosters Swing for Sports fundraiser. Over \$30,000 was raised at the Golf/Tennis Event held at Wollaston Golf Club. The money raised at this event will benefit our athletic programs.
- Data regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was prepared and presented by the Leadership Team. One area of concern is special education, and the Leadership Team is meeting to address this issue. To view these presentations please go to the Milton Public Schools website at www.miltonps.org and click on "School Committee Presentations" listed under the "NEWS" section.

At the school committee meeting held last week (Oct 21st), the following items were discussed:

- Budget Update: Milton's Warrant Committee and Board of Selectmen recommended to the Special Town Meeting held on October 21st that two new teachers be hired to fill critical needs at the Pierce Middle School and Tucker Elementary School. Special Town Meeting voted to fund the two new teachers to meet AYP and MCAS needs in both schools. We are very grateful to the Town for these positions.
- Janet MacNeil and Margaret Eberhardt presented information on Milton Outdoor Classrooms, a non-profit group partnered with the Milton Public Schools. They discussed the group's plan to create outdoor

classroom space at Pierce Middle School and the new Collicot/Cunningham school grounds as well as continue their work in the existing outdoor classrooms at Glover, Tucker and Milton High School. The MOC works to promote outdoor learning not only by building classrooms, but also by educating parents, teachers and the community about the importance of respecting and protecting natural habitats. The MOC will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the MHS library. They are looking for volunteers to assist with fundraising, publicity, classroom instruction and maintenance of the outdoor spaces. For more information, please visit their website at www.miltonoutdoorclassrooms.com

- Milton High School Principal Dr. John Drottter spoke to committee members about the high school's policy on what organizations may attend the high school's post-secondary options fair. In addition to colleges, universities, and union organizations the Milton Public Schools has traditionally allowed military recruiting agencies to attend these fairs. Dr. Drottter noted that it has also been the school's policy to allow groups to attend who offer alternative career choices to the military, including groups such as Milton for Peace. School Committee Members reiterated their wish that all attendees offer legitimate post-secondary choices and that political statements of any kind would not be welcome.
- Data on SAT and Advanced Placement scores for MHS students were presented by Dr. Drottter. A chart accompanying the presentation shows that our Advanced Placement Program is vibrant and continuing to expand. Additionally, Milton's SAT scores have steadily improved since 2001. To view these presentations please go to the Milton Public Schools website at www.miltonps.org and click on "School Committee Presentations" listed under the "NEWS" section.
- Pierce Middle School Principal James Jette and Tucker Elementary School Principal Drew Echelson presented data on test scores for their schools and plans to meet AYP. They discussed areas for improvement, including student support, teacher support, family support and administrator accountability. To view these presentations please go to the Milton Public Schools website at www.miltonps.org and click on "School Committee Presentations" listed under the "NEWS" section.

Communication Update

- The Milton Public Schools new website is currently under construction. The administrative team is working with Jackrabbit Design in East Milton to come up a more eye-catching and user-friendly site. The website is tentatively scheduled to launch in December
- In addition to my E-Updates, E-Blasts have also been sent from the Pierce Middle School and Milton High school. Please expect upcoming E-Blasts from your child's elementary school principals.

Upcoming Events

- On Monday, November 3rd at 7pm in Milton High Auditorium the Milton Public School system and the PTO Presidents are pleased to offer a free interactive seminar for all parents, guardians and citizens on **Children and the Internet**. This seminar will be provided in conjunction with Professor Greg Hall and the Bentley College Honors Cyber Psychology Program. On this night Bentley College Honors students, who completed a Cyber Psychology course, will present an interactive seminar focusing on the issues of internet safety, social networking and the implications of on-line media and curriculum resources.
- There is **no school for students** on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2008.
- Don't forget to mark your calendars for November 7th and 8th. Our incredible Milton High Students will be performing *Gypsy* for the first time since 1981. Kyle Greene, Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett, along

with Rebecca Damiani, Gary Good and Patricia Ostrem, have been putting in long hours to prepare the dozens of cast and crew members for this event. The performances will be Friday, November 7th at 7:30 pm, Saturday, November 8th at 2:00 pm, and Saturday, November 8th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$7 for senior citizens and students. They will be sold in the main office at MHS and at the door.

- A date has been announced for this year's Milton Foundation for Education's "Celebration for Education". The Milton Foundation for Celebration will host "Shake, Rattle and Roll," on November 22nd at Lombardo's of Randolph. There will be a new format this year, which promises a little something for everyone: a casino, good food, good drink, dancing, and both silent and live auctions. There are many ways to support this incredible fundraiser:
 - **Sponsors:** We accept contributions of all sizes. Sponsorship is critical to our success.
 - **Donations:** Do you have a unique talent or professional skill you could donate? Does your company have an in at the Garden, Fenway Park or Gillette Stadium? Could you spare some frequent flyer miles? Do you have access to spa or restaurant gift certificates, weekend getaways, sports and theater tickets, handcrafted items, artwork, golf outings? Deadline November 7th.
 - **Volunteers:** Whatever your talent, we can use you! We especially need dealers for the night of the event.
 - **Attend:** Tickets are \$75 each and include dinner, along with some casino chips to get you started. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible, since organizers are hoping to sell out this fantastic event. Any questions? Visit the Milton Foundation for Education website: <http://www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org>

Milton Public Schools Ambassadors 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:

Student Highlights:

Girls' Cross Country Undefeated

By Danielle Lambert
Milton High School
Class of 2009

This year Milton girls went undefeated in their cross country season with a final record of 11-0 – something that has not happened since 1998.

Great devotion and determination was the driving force for this excellent season starting with impressive leadership from the senior captains Chelsea Mitchell, Maria Lannon and Evelyn Orlando.

Especially exciting meets included the Milton vs. Braintree meet when the girls swept all top eight places and the Milton vs. Natick when Milton won by one point. Milton has not beaten Natick in over eight years but was able to this year thanks to Milton runner Jessica Brennan, a senior who gave up being soccer captain this year to join the team.

Milton will be competing in the state level meet on Saturday November 8th at Franklin Park. If they place in the top five teams, they have a chance of continuing on to All-States on Saturday November 15th.

No matter how far they make it, they had an unbelievable season with a promising future due to their young team of juniors and sophomores which include top runners Olivia Collins and Emily Hughes.

Field Hockey Team News

By Emily Lynch with Morgan Sumner
Milton High School
Class of 2010

The Milton High field hockey team, led by MHS Mathematics teacher and Head Coach Michelle Kreuzer, put forward a valiant effort this season. Although the girls suffered some tough initial losses, they did not provide their competition with an easy match.

Highlights of the season included an outstanding game against Notre Dame Academy, and against Norwood High School. The team played a strong first half against the formidable Walpole team, eventually losing 5-0. In addition, the team suffered the loss of Captain McKenzie Sumner for a portion of the season due to a knee injury, but the Wildcats still remained positive.

Even though it was not reflected in their win/loss record, the girls' attitude toward the game and toward one another remained optimistic throughout the season. The camaraderie and high level of sportsmanship dominated despite the team's 5-11-1, record. This young team is comprised of skillful athletes who look forward to making it to next year's tournament.

Advanced Placement Honors

A group of recently-released scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams has 58 Milton High students appearing in all the highest categories.

Congratulations to Joshua Rosmarin, who achieved the highest level – **AP National Scholar**. This designation is granted to a student who receives an average grade of at least 4 on all AP exams taken. In addition, National Scholars must receive a grade of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

We are proud to announce 13 students were designated **AP Scholars with Distinction**. This is granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Those students are: Jaime Albarelli, Christine Buckland, Peter Chinman, Bridget Cichello, Rachel Horowitz, Rory MacNeil, Alexa McKenzie, Joshua Rosmarin, Max Staffa, Kassi Stein, Sara Surette-Fahey, William Trinh and Ian Woodward.

An additional 12 students were named as **AP Scholars with Honor**. This requires an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. The students who achieved this designation were: Ariel Carpenter, Michael Donlon, Gidley Dorlus, Emma Flaherty, Kyla Gineitis, Max Liberman, Michelle Martinelli, Meredith O'Neil, Nathan Palmer, William Rutecki, Stephen Schroth and Ian Sloane.

Also, 33 students were designated **AP Scholars**. This group was required to receive grades of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams. These students are: Sarah Campbell, Sinead Conlon, Elizabeth Coover, Julia Curran, Mark DeCristoforo, Jemimah Dorilas, Alexandra Fall, Rebecca Fall, Brianna Gallivan, Elisabeth Grills, Julia Hanna, Daniel Higgins, Imaribe Iyamu, Gabriela Kassel, Brianan Kiernan, Daniel Lamere, Catherine Lawton, Kelly Lynch, Kayla MacLeod, Kyle McGuire, Kendra Nutting, Sam Preer, Joel Recane, Sarah Robinson, Kelsey Rodriguez, Ellen Schmarsow, Savonne Setalsingh, Lindsay Shepard, Jason Simpre, Elizabeth Sorgi, Olivia Thompson, Anna Todd and Katherine Walsh.

The fact that 58 students at Milton High earned recognition from the College Board for their results on the AP exams speaks volumes about the high level of achievement that is instilled at Milton High School. We commend these students, their parents and their teachers for their hard work and diligence. Milton High School is proud to offer 19 AP classes with a total of 523 openings for our students. This is our highest number ever.

It is important to note that a strong grade K-12 education prepares a high school student to enroll and achieve in an AP course. Therefore, the success of these students in AP courses is a success for all our schools. Congratulations to all!

Teacher Highlights:

Massachusetts Math & Science Initiative

We have great news to report about a new AP grant. Through a highly competitive process, Milton High School has been selected as one of the first ten high schools to participate in the Massachusetts Math & Science Initiative (MMSI).

The Milton Public Schools will partner with the Mass Insight Education & Research Institute to implement the MMSI program. This is an exciting initiative that will help to better prepare our students for college. Our high school will be part of the initiative for at least five years, during which time MMSI will provide over \$400,000 of training and support.

The Lead AP Teachers in Math, Science, and English provide leadership, mentoring, and support in the program. Our lead teachers will be at Milton High School are: **Tom Shaw (Science), Amy Starzynski (Math) and Dyanne Crowley (English)**. In addition to the Lead Teachers mentioned above, the following Milton AP teachers are also participating in the program: **Stephen Collyer (English), Michelle Kreuzer (Math), Jessica Parsons (Math), Melissa Burns (Science), Dale Snyder (Science), and Kara Yifru (Science)**.

The program also includes a substantial Pre-AP teacher training program that includes. This content-focused teacher training using the Laying the Foundation Pre-AP program with take place during the 2008-09 school year. The following Milton staff members are participating in the Pre-AP program: **Director of Science Barbara Plonski, Nick Fitzgerald (English), Humanities Director Stephanie Nephew, Mathematics Department Head Paul Ajemian, Nancy Mikels (Math), Kara Gallagher (Science), Debbie Cobb (Science), Amy Schabloski (Science), Joanne Bonner (English), Noa Lai (Math), Jen Gilbert (Science) and Kathy Bertrand (Science)**.

This grant affords Milton a program budget that includes:

- A total value of over \$400,000 for the five years of the program
- Training support at over \$28,000 per year
- Lead teacher stipends
- Support for student preparation sessions at over \$16,000 per year
- Equipment and supplies for AP classes

The MMSI “will measure our overall effectiveness by setting targets—for each of our schools and for the statewide program—for both AP participation and performance. ***Milton High School has successfully increased AP enrollment in math, science and English this year by 79 students or 34%.*** In 2008, with an enrollment of 232 the students of Milton High School earned 124 qualifying scores and in 2009 the goal is 150 qualifying scores. With outstanding teachers and the support provided through the program, Milton High School students are set to succeed this year. The Mass Math & Science Initiative is funded by the National Math & Science Initiative, a major new non-profit funded primarily by ExxonMobil Corporation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, which is designed to help America maintain its global leadership position in technological innovation.”

Volunteer Highlights:

Senior Citizens “Active in the Schools”

- Through a Senior Tax Work-Off program sponsored by the Town, we have been privileged to have a group of Milton’s Senior Citizens volunteer in our schools. If you would like more information please contact the Selectman’s Office at 617-898-4844.
- The Tucker Elementary School has had a long-standing partnership with Milton’s Council on Aging through their Director Mary Ann Sullivan. This pen pal partnership has proven to be one of the more

successful programs of its kind. For more information call the Milton Council on Aging at 617-898-4893.

- The Milton Public Schools and Fuller Village are piloting a new Milton Senior Citizen Volunteer Program with a large group of residents from Fuller Village. Our second grade teachers and elementary librarians will be surveying their staff regarding interest in integrating a volunteer into their classroom once a week. We look forward to the help of these very talented individuals. If you know a senior citizen interested in volunteering or learning more details about this program, please contact the Milton Public Schools Central Office at 617-696-4808.

Calendar of Events

Please be sure to visit the “CALENDAR” on the Milton Public Schools website at www.miltonps.org.