



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Milton Public Schools Parents, Guardians & Staff
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent of Schools
Re: E-Update, May 27, 2009

From the Office of the Superintendent

This week is Senior Week at Milton High School. Our graduating class members have a full schedule, with Awards Night, the Booster's Banquet, a Senior Breakfast, the Senior Prom and of course, their graduation ceremony on May 31st.

This is a time of transition for our twelfth-graders. Some have been with the Milton Public Schools since kindergarten. Some joined us as recently as this year. But all of these students will soon be part of a very special group – Milton High School graduates.

Parents of the Class of 2009, as well as many of the rest of us, are likely to be reflecting on their own high school graduations. And while we might not remember every word of every speech, most of us remember the feelings of excitement, anxiety, promise and anticipation.

As superintendent, I frequently receive phone calls from former Milton High graduates. Some need transcripts or records for job applications. Others are calling to volunteer their time or talents for their alma mater. Recently, I received a call from a former student, now living in Arizona, who had heard about the recent tragedies in Milton and wanted to talk to someone here.

This is what it means to be a Milton High School graduate. The students' obligations are fulfilled. But the bond remains. We hope that all of our students understand that their school is not just a place to spend six or seven hours a day. It is a home, a family, a community. We are proud of our seniors and wish them every success in the future. And we hope they remember – as we all should remember -- what an exceptional school system they represent.

Best wishes to the Class of 2009. – Mary C. Gormley

Curriculum Information

Registration for Summer Enrichment is underway. The program will run from June 29 to July 31st. Walk-in registration will be available from 5 to 7 p.m. in the MHS lobby on June 9th. To download the brochure, please visit the following link: <http://www.miltonps.org/departments-summer.php>

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Our guidance department at Milton High School just released data on this year's graduating class. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments during their years at MHS and wish them great success with their future plans. Among the 258 students in the Class of 2009:

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

192 students will plan to attend a four-year college; 24 plan to attend a two-year college; seven students will attend a post-grad program; two students will enter the military; six will begin full-time employment; one student has deferred college acceptance and will participate in a Rotary Exchange Program in Croatia; and 18 students are undecided or have not reported.

Congratulations and warm wishes to all member of the Class of 2009.

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Speaking of graduating seniors, we would like to commend Evelyn Orlando, a student in Mme. Laine's French Humanities class. Along with her classmates, Evelyn recently entered an essay contest sponsored by the French Consulate in Boston. She was just notified that she has won the contest, earning a two-week, all expense paid trip to Paris. Evelyn's essay was chosen from more than 250 received from the region. She will join 130 young people and 20 teachers on her Parisian trip, which will allow for the discovery of French culture and civilization through the eyes of the young. We are very proud of Evelyn and wish her "bon voyage."

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The Milton Foundation for Education recently honored this year's Outstanding Teachers at a ceremony at the MHS Auditorium. The following teachers were honored this year: Krista Sinton – Glover; Laura Horowitz – Tucker; Kathleen Caccamo – Collicot; Tanya Walsh – Cunningham; Elizabeth MacElhaney – Pierce Middle School; Kristin Masciarelli – Milton High School; and Martha Sherman, who received the Mary Grassa O'Neill Award. Congratulations to this year's recipients.

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For those of you who have noticed the beautiful grounds around Milton High School, we have to give credit to some of our students.

Milton High recently received a Community Service grant, which enabled some students from our alternative program at Milton High to participate in a landscaping project on our campus.

In addition to planting flowers at the entrance and sprucing up the grounds, these students also spent some time beautifying the school's courtyard/Outdoor Classroom.

We are grateful to these students, as well as teachers Brian Mackinaw and Megan Johnson, who worked with the students, and Yolanda Beech, who secured the grant.

School Committee Updates

Below are summaries of each school committee meeting held since my last E-blast. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the MHS library.

April 27 Topics discussed at this meeting included the announcement of two finalists for the business administrator position, and the posting of the position for Tucker Elementary School's principal. A new football coach, Jim Bowes, has been hired as head coach of the Milton High football team.

It was also announced that our leadership team, which includes the superintendent, assistant superintendent and all six principals have agreed to a zero percent wage increase for next year. The school committee voted that all non-union school department personnel who make more than \$50,000 annually will also receive a zero percent increase. Those who make less than \$50,000 will receive a 1% raise next year. This measure is expected to save nearly \$100,000 for next year's budget.

Next, a PowerPoint presentation was shown on the 2010 budget, which outlined the cuts and consolidations for next year. This is the same presentation made at the April 30 Open Budget Meeting. To see this presentation, please visit the following link:

http://www.miltonps.org/documents/budget/090430_FY10_Hearing_files/frame.htm

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Following the presentation, school committee members discussed the possible consequences of the non-contingent budget to students, parents and teachers.

April 30th A brief school committee meeting was held before the scheduled Open Budget Meeting. Linda Lee Sheridan was unanimously elected as chairman of the school committee. Following the vote, members attended the Open Budget Meeting, held in the high school auditorium. This meeting was designed to give parents and community members a chance to see the 2010 budget, ask questions and receive answers from the administration. Again, please see the above link if you wish to review the presentation.

May 5 & May 7 These were brief school committee meetings held prior to town meeting to discuss the upcoming budget presentation on the Milton Public Schools at town meeting.

May 19 The meeting began with a brief discussion of the H1N1 virus, or Swine Flu by Milton High School nurse Margaret Gibbons. Next, guidance director Ken Aubert made a presentation on this year's graduating class of Milton High and the college admission process. Several seniors attended with Mr. Aubert to discuss their experiences. A list of colleges to which MHS students have been accepted was distributed.

Michael Goodless spoke on behalf of the Milton High School Athletic Hall of Fame committee. Please see item below in "News Around Town."

It was also reported that parents of next year's incoming kindergarten class overwhelmingly chose the full-day option, with 332 enrolled in FDK and 13 in the half-day program. Ada Rosmarin has submitted a grant request to add additional classrooms in order to expand this program in our schools.

A grant for \$23,000 has been given to the Milton Public Schools by NStar in order to replace the light fixtures at MHS, Pierce and Glover school gymnasiums. The new fixtures will be more energy efficient and are expected to save the schools tens of thousands of dollars in energy bills.

A discussion of next year's athletic program followed. School committee members discussed fundraising amounts, user fees and various options to ensure adequate funding for high school sports.

News Around Town

The Town of Milton will hold a Special Town Election on June 8 to approve or reject a proposed \$3.4 million override to Proposition 2 ½.

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The Milton High School Athletic Hall of Fame has released the name of this year's inductees. They are: The 1974 Baseball Team; the 1988 Boys' Basketball Team; the 1990 Girls' Basketball Team; Matthew Bianculli (1995); Ray Blake (1993); Solomon Demeke (1990); Paul Dorsey, coach; Jackie Langley Driscoll (1973); Cathy Eldridge (1990); Dick Fitzhenry, coach; Dick Gallery (1951); Tom Giatrakos (1992); Michael Goodless, coach; Clinton Graham (2002); David Marad (1963); Paul McGonigle (1950); Lisa Bent Sterling (1989); Mark Sullivan (1982); Neil Wallace (1953); and Francis "Inga" Walsh (1944). In addition, one of our school committee members, Beirne Lovely, has been honored with the Chairman's Award for his long-standing support for Milton's athletes. An induction ceremony and banquet will be held in October. Please contact Mike Goodless at (617) 462-2028 for more information or tickets. Congratulations to all.

Upcoming Events

MAY 27	Milton High School Booster's Banquet, 6 p.m., Copeland Field House
MAY 29	MHS Senior Prom, 8 p.m. at Sheraton, Braintree
MAY 31	Milton High School Graduation, 2 p.m. at Copeland Field House, MHS.
JUNE 8	Special Town Election on Proposition 2 ½ Override

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Athletic Update

Baseball: Coach Ted Curley's team has qualified for the state tournament with a record of 10 wins and 9 losses. The team has been led by senior Matt McDougall and junior Matt O'Neill. Coach Curley also garnered his 250th win of his career this year.

Softball: At this point softball has a record of 9 wins and 8 losses with 5 more regular season games left. In order to qualify for the state tournament, Coach RJ Maturo's team must win a least two of their remaining games. This year's squad has been led by senior third baseman Mckenzie Sumner.

Boys Lacrosse: Under first year coach and former Milton High standout Kevin Lynch, the team made steady improvement over the course of the season. Coach Lynch brought a youthful energy to the team that was led by the play of senior James Fennessey.

Girls Lacrosse: Coach Barbara Wright's girls' finished the season with a record of 7 wins and 11 losses. Though they did not qualify for the tournament the team played inspired all year. Senior Britney O'Rourke was the leader of team.

Boys Track: Coach Chuck Ajemian's team finished with a team record of five and two. Many individual performers did very well in the state meets and competed today in the Bay State Conference meet. The team was led by senior sprinter/jumper Paul Connor and Senior shot putter Shad Sommers.

Girls Track: Though Hall of Fame coach Dale Snyder's team did not have a great team record, many individual had stellar seasons. The team was led by seniors Chelsea Mitchell and Jessica Brennan.

Boys Tennis: Coach Paul Ajemian's team fought hard all year and was led by senior Ian Golembeski and sophomore Steve Staffa.

Girls Tennis: Veteran Coach Liz Mercer's team unfortunately did not qualify for the state tournament. However sophomore Ariana Launie had an excellent season and did very well in the Individual State Tournament.

Ambassador Page

Each month, 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 Highlight: Our very own Wally Heller, a Cunningham first-grader, recently won a statewide contest, sponsored by Massachusetts State Treasurer Tim Cahill and the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Wally submitted a drawing of Cunningham Elementary School and an essay, explaining why he thinks his school is "The Ideal School." Nearly 2,500 students entered the contest and Wally was one of only 14 winners. He will attend a ceremony at the State House next week. Great job!

Teacher Highlight: Congratulations are doubly in order for Tucker Elementary School teacher Soondari Barker. Ms. Barker was recently honored by Milton Early Childhood Alliance with their MECA Professional Recognition Award for her outstanding contribution to the children and families of the town of Milton. Secondly, Ms. Barker was named runner-up in the final round of the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year contest. This extremely competitive event, sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, selects a teacher each year who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession,

and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. As runner-up, Ms. Barker will be honored at a State House ceremony later this year. This is a well-deserved honor.

Volunteer Highlight: We are lucky to have so many worthy individuals to choose from when it comes time to highlight one for our E-blast. At this time, we would like to publicly thank John Driscoll, of J.E. Driscoll Landscaping, for his years of quiet service to our schools. Mr. Driscoll has been mowing the grass and taking care of the lawns at the Cunningham & Collicot schools since the building opened – and donating countless hours at the 1909 wing in years past. His trucks can often be seen outside the Cunningham/Collicot building trimming, mowing, planting, raking and generally helping keep our grounds beautiful. We are very grateful to Mr. Driscoll for his efforts and welcome any additional assistance with grounds maintenance for our other Milton Public School properties. Especially in these economic times, it is encouraging to see such a wonderful example of community service. Thanks again to John Driscoll.

Swine Flu Update

As more cases of influenza-like illness or H1N1 are identified, it is important for us to provide factual updates. Presently, there have been 4 confirmed cases of H1N1 all at Milton High School. All student cases have recovered and have returned to normal activity.

Is it safe for my child to go to school?

At this time, the state and local health departments have advised us that students can continue to come to school, **as long as they are not sick and do not have flu symptoms. Flu-like symptoms include: fever (over 100 degrees F.), feverishness, cough, sore throat, runny nose, or headache. Additional symptoms may be experienced with swine flu, including muscle pain, fatigue, and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea. THIS IS THE KEY TO LIMITING THE SPREAD OF FLU IN OUR SCHOOLS.**

What should I do if my child is sick?

Flu spreads easily. **If you think your child is getting the flu, it is very important that he/she does not go to school or other places where they might make other people sick.** Clinical Management & Treatment: Children with fever and one of the following: cough, sore throat, headache or runny nose, should stay home from school for at 7 days from the onset of illness (or 24 hours after the end of illness). They should not return to school before the end of the exclusion period even if asymptomatic because viral shedding can continue for 7 days. A health care provider's note recommending a child return to school before the end of the full exclusion period does not supersede the public health guidance during this outbreak. However, students who have recovered from influenza-like illness do not need to be "cleared" by a health care provider before returning to school after the end of their 7 day exclusion period.

Mrs. Gibbons is working closely with local Board of Health officials on a daily basis.

Extensive precautions are being taken in the cleaning of our schools with our custodial staff.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and our schools healthy.