



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Milton Public Schools Parents & Guardians  
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent  
Re: E-Update for September 15, 2008

### FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

*The school year has officially begun! I am pleased to be sending my inaugural email out to parents and guardians with a wide variety of news and information. We all share a dream and a mission: to educate, challenge and empower all students to be productive, caring and contributing members of society. I hope you will agree that we are off to a great start. -- Mary Gormley*

- Massachusetts Governor **Deval Patrick** visited Milton High on Sept. 3 to discuss his recently unveiled Readiness Project. The governor, accompanied by Paul Reville, Massachusetts Secretary of Education, met with a group of parents, a classroom full of teachers, several student leaders, and the entire 10<sup>th</sup> grade class in the auditorium. For more info on the Readiness Project, a 10-year strategic plan for the future of schools in this state, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) Click "Deval Patrick," then click "Schools."
- A date has been set for the **Swing for Sports** fundraiser to benefit MHS sports programs. The Milton Boosters will hold golf and tennis tournaments at Wollaston Golf Club on Monday, Sept. 22. For those who wish to help out, but don't plan to play, there are many opportunities for sponsorships, etc. Check [https://www.edline.net/pages/Milton\\_Public\\_Schools](https://www.edline.net/pages/Milton_Public_Schools) and click on "Swing for Sports" for more information.
- The Milton Public Schools recently sent an ALERT-NOW message to notify the community about **West Nile Virus**. The virus was detected in a sample of mosquitoes collected from Milton. Information about WNV can be found at [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph) under "A" for arbovirus in the "Health Topics A to Z" index. Recorded information about WNV is also available at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968).

Our first School Committee meeting of the school year was held on Tuesday, September 2. Among the issues discussed were:

- The issue of **residency**, including the procedure for screening new students was discussed, as was the methods used to investigate whether non-residents are attending Milton Public Schools. An Anonymous School Residency Hotline number (617-698-1213) has been posted on the MPS homepage. [https://www.edline.net/pages/Milton\\_Public\\_Schools](https://www.edline.net/pages/Milton_Public_Schools)
- Our first year of **Full-Day Kindergarten** is off to a fantastic start. We have 14 full day classrooms and one half day at Cunningham. This means that 96% of our kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day programs.
- The Mass. Department of Education will release **MCAS** scores from the spring 2008 test on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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- Discussions revolving around the 2009-10 **budget** were brought up. It is important to keep in mind that we lost 17 teaching and support positions last spring during a difficult budget season. Two of those positions were recently restored with the help of the School Committee, but we are still in a deficit of 15 positions from last year.
- Jeff Rubin, administrator of Pupil Personnel Services, reviewed the recent Department of Education report, which analyzed our district's special education department. Milton completed its mid-cycle review last May and the DOE results were excellent. Out of the 42 areas that this monitoring covered, we were in total compliance with 39 and partially in compliance with the remaining three areas, which are currently being addressed. We are well on our way to our goal of full compliance.

The next Milton School Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Milton High School's Library.

There have been discussions, both at School Committee and in the local press, about the status of Pierce Middle School and Tucker Elementary School with regard to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Here is some pertinent information:

- The Milton Public Schools recently received Notice of Preliminary School Accountability from the Massachusetts Department of Education. The notice, required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, states that both **Pierce Middle School and Tucker Elementary School** did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
- The **Tucker** school has been classified as "School Identified for Improvement – Year 2." This means that Tucker was identified in this category for the 2007-8 school year (Year 1) and did not make AYP for 2008. This designation requires parental notification, improvement planning and technical assistance. Additionally, Tucker parents will be given the option of school choice within the district; supplemental educational services must be offered to low-income students in the Tucker community; and professional development must be increased.
- **Pierce Middle School** has been classified as "School in Restructuring – Year 1." This means that Pierce had been in the "Corrective Action" category in the 2007-8 school year and did not make AYP for 2008. This designation requires parental notification, technical assistance and a Plan for Fundamental Reform.
- For more information about this issue, visit the MPS homepage and click on "Notice of School Accountability Status."

Other news I'd like to share includes the opening of Pierce Middle School's front lot, our Edline website and our ALERT-NOW policy.

- Starting today, Monday, Sept. 15, the front entrance of **Pierce** will be open. Maps and directions for traffic flow will be sent to each Pierce parents before that date. The rest of the community is urged to keep in mind that the area around Pierce is a school zone and asked to drive cautiously, especially at the start and end of the school day.
- Parents who wish to receive training on how to navigate our **EdLine** website should attend an informational meeting to answer any questions on Edline at the Milton High School auditorium tonight, Monday, September 15th at 7:00PM.
- Those who wish to add or change a phone number to our **ALERT-NOW** system should contact their child's school. This system allows the school administration to leave a recorded message on parents' home, work or cell phones in case of a school closing or emergency.

Please see calendar below:

# September 2008

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                          | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| 14   | 15<br>Edline Information<br>Night @ MHS                   | 16<br>School<br>Committee<br>Meeting 7 pm in<br>MHS library   | 17<br>PMS Open House at<br>7:30 pm | 18<br>Glover School<br>Open House 6:30<br>pm               | 19     | 20       |
| 21   | 22<br>SWING FOR<br>SPORTS Fundraiser                      | 23<br>MCAS Scores<br>released by<br>D.O.E.                    | 24                                 | 25<br>Cunningham<br>School Open<br>House 5:30 – 7:30<br>pm | 26     | 27       |
| 28 Celebrate<br>Milton @<br>MHS fields.<br>12-4 p.m. | 29<br>Adult Education<br>Registration 6 p.m.<br>MHS lobby | 30<br>Adult Education<br>Registration 6<br>p.m. MHS<br>lobby. |                                    |  |        |          |