



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff, Parents and Guardians of Milton Public Schools
From: Mary Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: January 9, 2012

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” -- B.F. Skinner

One of the best parts of my job is interacting with the hundreds of talented people that comprise the Milton Public Schools. Our teachers, administrators, staff members and volunteers are all hard-working and top-notch professionals. I also feel fortunate to work closely with another talented group of individuals, the Milton Foundation for Education.

The Milton Foundation for Education is an independent, not-for-profit corporation, separate and distinct from the Milton Public Schools. Established in 1995 to make possible innovative programs and opportunities that are beyond the reach of the school system's budget, the MFE Trustees are people from the community who donate their time to help the Foundation achieve its goals.

The Milton Foundation for Education's mission is to enhance the quality of education and expand educational opportunities within the Milton Public Schools by generating and distributing financial and other resources for such purposes.

“From preschool right up to graduating senior, some part of the school day, week or year is impacted by the work of the Milton Foundation for Education,” explained MFE President Margaret Eberhardt. “Through the generous donations of parents, community members and our community partners, the Foundation has been able to enhance and enrich the MPS curriculum for 16 years.”

Eberhardt said that the MFE has funded books, smart boards, physical fitness equipment, language labs, music equipment, a bio tech lab, a Saturday Program, a printer's press, enhanced technology, hands on elementary science and much more.

“The Board is committed and driven to support the creative work of teachers and administrators to provide the best possible learning environment for each and every student,” she said.

Twice a year, the MFE awards grants to Milton Public School teachers and staff members who submit grant proposals. Please see my item below under “MFE” about the recipients of the Fall 2011 Competitive Grants.

The MFE is also responsible for one of my favorite events of the year, the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards. Each spring, the MFE accepts nominations from parents and high school students to honor educators in the Milton Public Schools. Awards are given at a ceremony attended by family, friends, students and colleagues to celebrate this special acknowledgement.

None of these events would be possible without the incredible amount of fundraising done by the MFE members. Their annual Monster Dash, held in October each year, generates nearly \$10,000 for science programs in our elementary schools.

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*Their largest fundraiser -- The Celebration for Education -- will be held on **March 10th**. (See their item under the MFE heading below) Please make every effort to support this incredible organization, which does so much good work for every one of our students in the Milton Public Schools. – Mary C. Gormley*

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our most recent meeting was held on Wednesday, January 4th at 7:30 pm. A summary of this meeting is provided below:

The first meeting of 2012 began with a visit from the Cunningham School Site Council, led by Cunningham Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding. Also in attendance were Roberta Williams, Jeanne Conley, Stephanie O’Keefe and Linda Thernize. They discussed the Cunningham Writing Initiative, which helps to assess current writing instruction. For common assessment, they went over programs such as Study Island, Math as a Slam Dunk, After-School support and a new Advanced Enrichment Pilot Group in Grades 3 and 4. Dr. Spaulding discussed the focus on excellence in teaching and her techniques for sharing the latest research trends with her staff. One of her goals, she said, was to bring every classroom in Cunningham online with SmartBoard technology. She also mentioned the planning of an ethnobotanical garden, which will examine how different cultures use plants.

As part of the Superintendent’s Report, we went through a list of school-sponsored events, which are listed below under “Upcoming Events.”

Mr. Pavlicek explained that the School Committee is in its “road show,” season, where members of the committee will travel to each school to present the FY13 budget to parents and community members. Below is a schedule of the remaining dates:

January 9th	6:30 pm	Cunningham/Collicot Library
January 10th	7:00 pm	Tucker Library
January 11th	7:30 pm	Warrant Committee/Town Hall
January 12th	6:30 pm	Glover Library

To see a draft version of the FY13 Budget, please visit this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FY13BudgetPresentation.pdf>

The finance subcommittee discussed the three budget options: **Level Dollar Funded Budget** (\$34,029,343) is the exact same dollar amount as the current budget year. It results in a reduction of services due to contractual obligations and other cost increases required to deliver services. **Level Service Budget**, (\$35,739,719) includes all the services provided in the current year and includes next year’s projected costs. **Advancement Budget** (\$36,218,319) includes all of the current budget services and adds additional resources necessary to improve the quality of instruction and the advancement of student achievement. The School Committee voted unanimously to support the Advancement Budget.

Next, we heard from SC Member Lynda-Lee Sheridan on the Policy Subcommittee, which asked for and received an extension on the concussion policy. This policy will be presented at the next meeting. She also completed a second reading of the Social Media Policy, which will be discussed at the next meeting, as well.

The next School Committee Meeting -- outside of the district-wide budget discussions -- will be held on **January 18th at 7 pm** at Milton High School.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Each year, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 participate in the WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition entered by approximately 215,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking which encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade

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level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete a set of twenty analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students to learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Though most vocabulary-boosting and analogy-solving activities have been created for high school students, the WordMasters materials have been specifically designed for younger students, in grades three through eight.

First Meet Results: **Third Grade** students who earned outstanding results in the year's first WordMaster Challenge meet included Samuel Dunnington, Dominique Thomas, Kate McDonald, Nathan Fraser, and Norman Harris. **Fourth Grade** students who earned outstanding results in the year's first WordMaster Challenge meet included Ethan Aaker, Luke Botsford, Thomas Hamblet, Shaylen vanGestel, Ella Zimmermann, and Brendan Scott. Three **Fifth Grade** students won highest honors in the WordMaster Challenge. Charles Gatnick, Eliza O'Donnell and Matteo Mastandrea earned a perfect score in the year's first meet, held in December. In the entire country, only 130 fifth graders achieved perfect results. Other fifth graders who also achieved outstanding results in this meet included Martin Folan, Kristen Rose, Shayla Kelley, Liam Michalski, Aidan Brathwaite, Anne Corcoran, Henry McKay, Timothy Cummings, Gray Davis and Samuel Coover.

Sample WordMasters Analogy Questions:

Grade 3:

WOBBLY : FALL :: FLIMSY ; _____

a. bounce / b. break / c. lag / d. spill / e. bleak)

Grade 4:

TREE: ORCHARD: _____

a. rain : cyclone / b. waterfall: cascade / c. animal: herd / d. forest : glade / e. peach : pie)

Grade 5:

NOISE : SILENT :: POLLUTION : _____

a. muffled / b. boisterous / c. fruitless / d. harsh / e. pristine)

**answers at bottom of E-blast*

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It is time to begin the process of registering your children for kindergarten for the Fall of 2012. Parents/guardians of children who will enter kindergarten in the Fall of 2012 should fill out a pre-registration form at: www.tinyurl.com/kindergartenprereg

Also, please mark your calendars for Kindergarten Information Night on **Wednesday, January 25th at 7pm** in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium. Everyone who pre-registers will receive updates on timelines and information on the registration process. Please note: children must be 5 years of age before September 1, 2012 in order to register for Kindergarten.

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Congratulations to the 21 Milton High students who performed in the Eastern Senior District Festival this past weekend. We had students in all four of the performance groups--the chorus, concert band, orchestra and jazz ensemble. Rebecca Damiani was the Festival Coordinator. Gary Good and Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett attended on Saturday and got to see how far the students had come after rehearsing all day on Friday.

According to Dr. Burdett, the concert was great and the parents and guardians were so proud! There are three auditions coming up - January 21st is All State, January 28th is Junior District and February 4th is SEMSBA.

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We have also had some great news from our Continental Math scores. We just received scores from the fall meet, and two of our Grade Five students received perfect scores. Congratulations to Julia Nerenberg and Synnove Ask. We also had many Grade Four and Grade Five students receive a score of 5, which is excellent.

- *Sample Question A (Grade Four): Susan owes Jack \$24, Jack owes Betty \$16 and Betty owes Susan \$8. Susan should give Jack and Betty each \$ _____ to settle all debts.*
- *Sample Question B (Grade Five): Charlene and Donna together have 192 marbles. If Donna gives Charlene 50 of her marbles, then Charlene will have 3 times as many marbles as Donna will have. How many marbles did Donna start with?*

**Answers at bottom of E-blast*

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Parents of Milton High seniors should be aware of the following information, submitted by Guidance Department Head Ken Aubert:

Free help in completing the FAFSA will be available statewide to Massachusetts families on **January 29th** at the 8th Annual FAFSA Day, a College Goal Sunday program. At FAFSA Day, volunteer financial aid and higher education experts will help families complete the FAFSA and offer one-on-one assistance. FAFSA Day is held at 27 locations across Massachusetts. For families who are unable to attend on Sunday, January 29th some locations will host evening FAFSA Day sessions. Locations, dates and times are listed at www.FAFSAday.org. Families are encouraged to register for a specific location and to arrive early. The services are free and available to anyone entering college in 2012, and low-income, first generation students are especially encouraged to attend.

FAFSA Day is a volunteer-driven effort sponsored by Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, MEFA, American Student Assistance, and the YMCA. To register or find more information on FAFSA DAY, please visit www.FAFSAday.org. For questions or additional information, call 877-424-7627.

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Our high school debate team recently attended a tournament in Sudbury, with more than 59 public forum debate teams competing. Coaches Nick Fitzgerald and Nancy Warn helped our students as they were researching, sharing information and preparing until the debating began Saturday morning.

Although our Milton team did not make it to the final round, we had three teams finish 3-1 for the day. Tess Deaibes and Corina Delerme, Beylul Negassi and Evy Oliverio as well as Isabell Smith and Yaritzi Nunez were all 3-1 on the day. Tess, Corina, Evy and Isabell are all new to public forum debate this year.

In addition, due to competing well two tournaments in a row, Isabell and Yaritzi as well as Beylul and Evy have already qualified for the state tournament at the end of the season in late March/early April. We are very proud of all our debaters; however we wanted to celebrate the success of these students. There are two more competitions in January for our debate team and we wish them all luck.

The coaches also wanted to thank Mike Matisoff for accompanying them to this tournament and for filling in as a judge for the day.

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Our Milton High Robotics Team recently hosted a Bowled Over Scrimmage at Milton High School. Bowled Over is the 2011-12 First Tech Challenge Robotics Competition. Eight teams from across

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Massachusetts competed in an informal robotics meet that helps teams to prepare for competition and to learn from one another. The scrimmage was held right here at Milton High School and was a great success. Thanks to coach Marilyn Decker, along with her parent volunteers: Edith Enyedy, Jose Ramos, David Gallagher, Allan Neville and Mark Woodward. The Robotics Team members are: President John Maher, Vice President Patrick Kelly, Quentin Brown, Albert Enyedy, Tue-Quan Dang, Yusuf Solomon, Rafael Ramos, Connor Bryne and David Collins.

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I have been working with several groups over the years to get our students to take advantage of the amazing opportunities in science we have in the Greater Boston area. Recently, I have been talking to some parents, including Dr. Shivraj Sohur, a physician scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is full of ideas on how we could facilitate our students volunteering in Boston research labs. The experience can increase achievement as well as create and develop unique interests in biomedical (and other) research that can be experienced only in laboratories, and through hands-on work and opportunities.

We need your help. Dr. Sohur and I are open to any ideas of how we can place some of our incoming 9th or 10th graders this summer (and perhaps beyond) in research laboratories. Specifically, if you have any leads about research internships for high school students, or if you work in a lab that could accommodate one or more of our students, please contact us (mgormley@miltonps.org; uss11@hotmail.com). Our children are excited to learn; they will benefit immensely from such an experience and I am certain they will be an asset to any learning/research environment.

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This winter, Primary Source will be hosting two teachers from Beijing's Dandelion Middle School, an educational facility for children of migrant workers. The teachers will be in the United States for six weeks, and one of their scheduled stops will be at the Glover Elementary School on **January 20th**.

Glover was selected by our friends at Primary Source because one of our Glover third-grade teachers, Shauna O'Leary, visited the Dandelion Middle School during a Primary Source-sponsored visit to China several years ago. We are looking forward to this visit and know that our guests will be warmly received at Glover Elementary School.

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There will be no school on **Monday, January 16th** in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

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Please keep in mind that February Recess will be held from **Monday, February 20th to Friday, February 24th** this year. Students will return to school on **Monday, February 27th**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Pierce Players will be performing the classic musical GUYS AND DOLLS JR on **Thursday, January 19th and Friday, January 20th at 7 pm at the Pierce Auditorium**. The show features a cast and crew of nearly 100 talented Pierce Middle School students, headed by Hope Huban as Miss Adelaide, Matthew McCarthy as Nathan Detroit, Colette Nourie as Sarah Brown, Michael Wyatt as Sky Masterson and Nick Marinilli as Nicely-Nicely Johnson. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Ms. McReynolds at 617.696.4570. See the flyer at:

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

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PAC/SPED NEWS

Please review the following schedule for upcoming PAC meetings. All meetings are held in the Pierce Middle School Library from 7- 9 pm.

January 19th: Elementary Roundtable – Co- Taught Team presentation. Speakers include: Tucker Elementary School Principal Marcia Uretsky, SPED Chair Mary Tipping, Co-Taught Grade One teachers Caitlin O’Brien & Cassi Kelble, Maggie Wagner - SLP and Melissa Arbor - OT

January 26th: Parent Speak

February 9th: Middle School Roundtable – Educational Assessment Presentation. Speakers include Pierce Middle School Principal James Jette and SPED Chair Deanna Magill

February 9th: Parent Speak

GRANT/FUNDRAISING NEWS

The date has been set for the fourth-annual Milton High School Walkathon. This hugely successful fundraiser, being organized by student leaders, along with SC Member Kristen Bagley Jones and Laura Kessler, will be held on **February 11th** in the Copeland Field House at Milton High School. Funds from this event go directly to help fund our athletic programs, along with clubs and activities. Nearly 1,000 students participated in this walkathon last year and we are hoping for an equally enthusiastic turnout for such a great cause! To volunteer or sponsor a student, please contact Kristan Bagley Jones at bagleyjones@comcast.net or Laura Kessler at LKessler@ifb.org

MFE

Save the Date! The Milton Foundation for Education is pleased to announce “The Big Beach Ball,” fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, March 10th**. This year’s Celebration for Education event will again be held at the Boston Marriott in Quincy. We look forward to a night of surf, sand and fun! More details will be forthcoming. For more information, please visit www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org

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The Milton Foundation for Education recently announced the recipients of their fall grants. This program is designed to encourage and reward effective, innovative teaching. The proposed projects are expected to show direct benefit to students and impact classroom teaching. Teachers and staff members in all grades may apply individually or in groups.

The MFE has funded hundreds of projects since 1995 with the goal of supporting a wide diversity of teacher-initiated projects in the arts, mathematics, music, science, the environment, history, literature, language, social skills, and valuing diversity. These investments in Milton’s children provide educational enhancements that will extend beyond the duration of the money.

The most recent grants include:

“Vocabulary Development Through Greek and Latin,” -- submitted by Janis Powell at Glover for the purchase of Cryptomania and a set of dictionaries to teach Greek and Latin word roots, prefixes and suffixes for vocabulary development.

“Make Your Own Map,” -- submitted by Mary Cate Theobald and Susan Hennessey at Cunningham for the purchase of map molding kits and white board maps for all fourth-grade students.

“Project Adventure Low Ropes Course,” -- submitted by John O’Leary and Colleen Queally at Pierce for the purchase of additional supplies for the low ropes course to allow more students to access the activity.

“Student Dry Erase Boards,” -- submitted by Michelle Kreuzer, Ben Kelly, Nancy Mikels, Dan Jarboe, Laura Andrade and Fred Palascak of Milton High School for the purchase of double-sided dry erase boards with blank and grid sides for use in math class.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

On **Thursday, January 12th from 6:15 to 8:30pm**, the Milton Public Library will present its Classic Movie Series. This month's film is *Casablanca*. The evening's host, Pierce Middle School's own Jeff Stoodt, will offer a trivia quiz and award prizes at 6:15, before the film begins at 6:30. This film will be shown at 6:30 sharp. Location: Keys Community Room. For more information, Contact: Reference Department (617) 698-5757.

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The folks at ArtSpace Milton are offering several programs for school-aged children. A PreK Art Extravaganza will be held **Thursday, January 12th** and run through Thursday, March 8th from 1:30 to 2:30pm. This program is for ages 3.5 to 5 and the cost is \$100. It is located in the Keys Room, Milton Public Library and is taught by Janet Gilmore and Karen Hainline. Students will explore a variety of art materials and incorporate imaginative play, stories and fun! Process is emphasized over product. This 1 hour class is a drop off, and runs for 8 weeks. Class size is limited, so register early! For information or to register please contact: karenhainline@comcast.net

Also, a Valentine "Crafternoon," will be held on **Saturday, January 28th from 2 to 4pm**. This will be held at the Keys Community Room at the Milton Public Library.

Spend an afternoon making two beautiful and unique Valentine cards! First, students will learn the legend of St. Valentine and why we send cards on February 14th. Then we will make a pop-up card and an accordion card, both with matching envelopes. This workshop for children 6 and over and the cost is \$15.00 and includes all materials. To register, please email the instructor, Patricia Turner, at patricia@mailpass.com The library is also hosting a Friday Film Night for teens. In honor of "Friday the 13th," they will be screening a horror film on **Friday, January 13th from 3 to 5pm**. The movie will be determined by a vote of teens. To cast your vote, visit the library's teen page at <http://miltonlibrary.org/teen.asp>

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The new Milton Art Center held its Grand Opening at its location in the former East Milton Branch Library on Edge Hill Road. Classes for all ages and ability levels will begin immediately, including: Puppets and Masks; Painting, "Illustrate en Francais," Floral Workshop, Virtual Woodworking, Pastels, Photo Boot Camp, Quilting, etc. For information on how to register and details of these and other classes, visit: <http://miltonfava.tumblr.com/Classes%20at%20334%20Edgehill>

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Please join us for a town-wide event being held on **Monday, January 16th** at the Concord Baptist Church, 180 Blue Hill Avenue. We will be joining the Milton Interfaith Clergy Association in their event to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -- "The Milton Community's Annual Memorial Celebration." Here is the schedule of events:

5:30 pm – 6:15 pm: Milton High School Gospel Chorus

St. Mary of the Hills Liturgical Dancers

Collicot/Cunningham After-School Singers

Action Dialogue led by Milton High School Students

6:15 pm – 6:45 pm: A Simple Supper Will Be Served

6:45 pm – 7:00 pm: View Display of Student Essays, Poems & Artwork

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm: The MLK, Jr. Memorial Celebration Featuring: MICA

Scholarship Winners,

UMass Boston Emerging Leaders Program: Diversity Project Update, the St. Agatha Church Puppeteers, and Everyone Pledging the Milton NPFH Resolution of Respect.

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This is an annual event in which the Milton Public Schools are proud to be included.

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On **Thursday, January 26th from 6 to 8pm**, the Milton Public Library will host the Anime & Manga Club. Join us for the first meeting of the new Teen Anime & Manga club! Teens and tweens grades 6-12 are invited to come hang out, try some anime and manga-inspired papercraft, watch the anime movie Metropolis (2001), enjoy some Japanese snacks, and talk manga. Sponsored by the Friends of the Milton Public Library. Contact: Emily Calkins 617-698-5757 ecalkins@ocln.org

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The Milton Parks and Rec Department has various programs available for school aged children. For more info about Parks and Rec programs visit:

http://www.townofmilton.org/Public_Documents/MiltonMA_Recreation/news

MILTON'S 350th ANNIVERSARY

The following item was submitted by Lynda-Lee Sheridan, chair of the committee:

We have been hard at work these last 10 months planning and preparing for our yearlong celebration of Milton's 350th Anniversary. Each month during 2012, I will highlight some of the events planned for that month.

Many individuals and organizations have made donations to help us sponsor events and we greatly thank them. However, the Copeland Family Foundation recently gave us a check for \$150,000, which has enabled us to plan some really exciting events. Their generosity to the Milton community is well documented and this is one more example of their commitment. You can find a complete listing of donors on our web site: www.milton350thanniversary.org.

Saturday, January 21st from 2 to 4pm: Milton Art Exhibit Opening and Reception. Twenty-five Milton based artists will exhibit paintings of Milton at the Milton Public Library, from January 21-February, 2012. The exhibit and reception will be the Opening Event of the yearlong celebration for Milton's 350th anniversary. A special creative art activity for young children will be offered during the reception, free of charge. The Greg Massaro Jazz Duo will provide music, and light refreshments will be served. (Snow date January 28th)

The Milton Historical Society exhibit of Clifton Fasch photography is also being presented at the Milton Public Library. The opening reception for the Fasch exhibit will be held at the same time as the Milton Art Exhibit, **January 21st, 2 to 4pm.**

A Special Dinner with wine pairings will be held **Thursday, January 26th from 6 to 9pm** at Marketplace Café sponsored by Fruit Center Marketplace. Join us for a spectacular four-course dinner prepared by one of Boston's best chefs Chris Douglass chef/owner of Ashmont Grill and Tavolo, with wines perfectly paired to each dish by Dan Michaud of Ruby Wines. A colonial themed menu is planned. For further details on this very special evening, check the Fruit Center website at www.fruitcentermarketplace.com. The VIP cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres and champagne starts at 6 pm costs \$150, which includes dinner. Dinner begins at 7pm and costs \$100. Seating is limited so make your reservations early. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Milton 350th Celebration. The Fruit Center Marketplace has also pledged to match these proceeds up to \$5,000.

January 29th, from 2 to 5pm at Cunningham Park: Family Skating and Bowling. In recognition of Milton's 350th anniversary, Cunningham Foundation will host a free family skating day (weather permitting) at Cunningham Park and family bowling in Cunningham Hall. Refreshments will be served.

It's not too late to purchase our memorabilia, especially the 2012 commemorative calendar, which contain many of the event dates and features watercolors of Milton, by Milton residents. Calendars can be

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purchased at all of the MPS offices and at select businesses in town. All memorabilia items can be seen on our web site and purchased at Town Hall.

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Also, as part of the town's 350th Anniversary, we will be putting together brief histories of our school buildings. In this issue, we will feature the Cunningham School:

History of Cunningham Elementary School: Mrs. Mary Abbott Cunningham, daughter of Ralph B. Forbes and sister of Robert B. and John M., was born in 1814 and lived for many years on Adams Street, with her husband, the Rev. Francis Cunningham. Upon her death in 1904, Mrs. Cunningham's estate honored her wishes for a town park, and purchased 100 acres of land on Edge Hill Road. Cunningham Park was opened in 1905 and is presently owned and operated by the Cunningham Foundation.

In 1934, the Town voted to appoint a committee of five citizens to procure plans for a junior high school building to be built on a site opposite the Cunningham Park. The land for the school had been offered by the Trustees of the Cunningham Foundation to the Town in January of 1934.

The purpose of the new school was to relieve the overcrowded high school building on Brook Road, comprised at the time of Grades 7 through 12. The new building was designed to accommodate 600 students at the junior high level.

The committee recommended Ralph Harrington Doane, a Milton resident, as the architect. Mr. Doane had been a Commissioner of School Buildings in Boston. The total estimate for the building costs, including the architect's fees, was \$431,500.

The school opened in September of 1935 and served as a junior high school until June of 1980, when Milton High School was expanded to include a 9th grade class and the Cunningham 7th and 8th graders were moved to Pierce Junior High.

After 1980, the Cunningham school building served a variety of purposes, including the Milton Public School's central administration offices, the Thatcher Montessori School, Milton Academy Day Care, the Council on Aging and the Milton Visiting Nurses Association. It also hosted the Milton Art Museum.

The school reopened in September of 1987 as an elementary school with 111 kindergarten and first-grade students and Mary B. Schofield serving as principal. Subsequent principals included Mary C. Gormley, William Baino, Dr. Dore Korschun, Christine Gerber and the current principal, Dr. Karen Spaulding.

In the past decade, the Cunningham school has seen many physical changes. During a major renovation project, which began in August 2004, Cunningham students were relocated to the "1909" building site on Brook Road. The doors to the school reopened in August, 2007 with a new look based on its historic design. The Cunningham Elementary School, which now had a capacity of more than 500 students, was physically connected to its neighbor, the Collicot Elementary School. The two schools shared a cafeteria, kitchen, library/media center and several specialty classrooms, but Cunningham maintained its own gym, kindergarten playground areas and administrative space.

The "new Cunningham" is a beautiful, modern, yet historic building with sweeping views of the park, named after its benefactor. It was designed with many energy-saving and technologically advanced features, including a solar array on its roof and high-tech "Smartboards," in many classrooms. Now, 77 years after its doors first opened, Cunningham School serves more than 450 students in grades K through Five.

ATHLETICS

The following update on Winter Sports at Milton High has been submitted by Athletic Director, Steve Traister:

BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys' basketball team is currently 0-5. They have been in every game and are lead by seniors Colin Stanley (captain), Eric Ogamba, Richkaard Verrier, Jarred DiManno, Evan Jones, Lucas Shapiro, Dasean Benjamin, Hughens Dely, and cameraman Nate Breslin. Juniors Tyler Green, AJ Flanagan, have played great offensively and Akim Matondo and newcomer Jonge DaSilva have also made contributions. Cormac Connors is

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our lone sophomore who has seen time and freshmen Juwan Gooding, Kyle Padmore, and Malik Malcolm have been developing into the core of the present and future.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls Basketball is off to a 1-5 start. Playing without injured senior captains Samantha Curley and Katie Krauss, the Wildcats are getting better every day and they beat Madison Park 41-29 in their last game before December Vacation.

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

The Milton High School Boys' Hockey Team is off to a solid start with a 5-1 record. After a 3-2 loss to Herget Division foe, Norwood, the Wildcats upset Braintree, 2-0. Both goals were scored by senior Brian Higgins (3 goals, 7 assists, 10 pts., on the season). They went on to win The Danny Sullivan Memorial Christmas Tournament, in Quincy, with victories over King Philip and Quincy High Schools. Senior Captain, Paul Curran, had a hat trick in the final game (5-5-10) and Terrance Walsh (4-4-8) also scored. Mike Grant (3-4-7) and Jack O'Brien (2-3-5) have been pleasant surprises offensively. Senior Captain, Dan Curran, and junior Pat Miller have been stalwart on defense, and senior Captain Jay Hankard has been sharp in goal with some support from Luke Nourie and Aidan Killeen.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

The Lady Wildcats are 3-2 after beating Newton North last night. Captains Haley Dutton and Erin Carmody are working hard leading the team. A powerful junior class, including Erin Higgins, Monica Riordan, Courtney Driscoll, Liz Johnson, Grace Driscoll and Julie Rush, has been responsible for the early success. Freshmen Sarah Park is getting stronger and more confident in goal every game.

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Coach Chuck Ajemian's boys indoor track team is 2 and 0 this year. It has a very solid chance of competing for the Herget Division title this winter. The team is led by captains Justin Trafford, Jamaal Grant and Jon Maher. Both the girls and boys track teams meets are held at the Reggie Lewis Center.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

The girls track team has 65 members. There is JV group which has about 30 girls; which compete at the Copeland Field House every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. This is the first time the girls track program has a distinct JV program and a varsity program. The Girl's Varsity group participates at the Reggie Lewis Center on Thursday. At the present time the girls record is 1 win and 1 lost. Our next dual meet is Thursday, January 12, versus Walpole.

The girls participated in the Team Pentathlon Competition at the Reggie Lewis Center. The girls placed third overall: Molly Dempsey high jumped 4' 11", Chayna McDermott longed jumped 15', Angie Higgins hurdled in 9.10 sec, Kristina Fredenique shot putted 25' and Courtney Ware ran the 800M run in 2:43 seconds. The girls accumulated 2851 points to capture the third place plaque.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team is 9-5 and off to a great start on the season. Tuesday night we defeated Bay State League rival Norwood 46-21. This past Saturday they participated in the Cohasset Tournament. The team is lead by captains Senior Jared Michaud 9-4 and Junior Peter Hailer 11-3 also making an impact in the league are Freshman Keith Martin 9-3 and Sophomore Jonathan Carrera 14-0.

BOYS & GIRLS SKI TEAM

The MHS Co-ed Ski Team is anxiously waiting for the 1st big snow fall of the season. With the lack of snow, team members are being lead through Dry Land Practices by Tri Captains Jesse Chase, Greta Goltz, and Jimmy Goltz. The team will be participating in their 1st Giant Slalom Race of the season on Thursday, Jan, 12th at Ski Ward.

WINTER CHEERLEADING

The cheerleaders have been cheering on the Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, and Hockey teams. The team will start competing in February and are looking forward to the Bay State League Competition on February 9th at Braintree HS. This talented group of athletes is led by an outstanding pair of captains: Bridget Renehan and Alexis Marathas.

Milton athletic schedules can be found at: www.highschoolsports.net or our website at www.miltonps.org under "Athletics."

AMBASSADOR PAGE

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

Student: I would like to congratulate Maeve Doyle, an eighth-grade student at Pierce Middle School. Maeve was nominated and will represent Milton on Project 351, a statewide initiative to recognize student leaders. Maeve, a member of the Orion Team, is also the 8th Grade Student Council President. She will join student ambassadors from all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns for a day of service in the Commonwealth. Owen McElhinney, one of her teachers, said, "Maeve has shown great respect for others and takes great pride in helping with the food drives and the toy drives for disadvantaged kids." We are very proud of Maeve, her family, and her teachers.

Teacher/Staff Member: I would like to recognize one of our high school teachers, who will be retiring. Jeanne Glynn has been a fixture at Milton High School, in both the English Department, as a Drama teacher, and at countless productions of the Drama club. Prior to her tenure at Milton High School, Ms. Glynn worked as a consultant in the media industry, and brought that real world experience to the classroom. She was able to talk first-hand with students about the importance of proper writing, public speaking, and well-orchestrated presentations. Her prior business experience was a valuable asset in her teaching. She served as advisor to both the Drama Club and the National Honor Society during her years at Milton High School. We wish her well in her retirement.

Volunteer: We are fortunate to have parents like Karen Wallace in our schools. Ms. Wallace has volunteered countless hours with our guidance department, helping students with the college application and financial aid process. And despite the fact that her son, Skylar Abrams graduated from Milton High School last year (and currently attends Georgetown University,) Ms. Wallace continues to help out, not only with the guidance department, but also with the Milton High School Boosters. She was a key organizer of the Boosters Banquet last spring, and has volunteered to help out again this year. We are very grateful.

**Answers to Continental Math Sample Questions:*

Question A: \$8

Question B: 98

**Answers to WordMasters Sample Questions:*

Grade 3: B break

Grade 4: C animal : herd

Grade 5: E pristine

The Milton Public School system is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the provision of quality educational programs for all students. The Milton Public School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, age or sexual orientation.