



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

MARY C. GORMLEY  
Superintendent of Schools  
(617)-696-4808/09

JOHN P. PHELAN  
Assistant Superintendent  
For Curriculum & Personnel  
(617)-696-4811/12

MATTHEW J. GILLIS  
Assistant Superintendent  
For Business Affairs  
(617) 696-5041

To: Faculty, Staff, Parents and Guardians of Milton Public Schools  
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent  
Re: E-Blast Newsletter  
Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2012

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

*A family's involvement in a child's school community is a major contributing factor to success in school. I compare the parent/guardian, child and school relationship to that of a triangle. The shape is not complete without involvement, collaboration, and commitment from all three groups.*

*These days, many families are headed by working adults with busy schedules that may not be able to attend every school event. I ask that each of you continue to work hard to find time in those busy schedules, to get involved with school groups, and to make every effort to attend several school events throughout the year.*

*An elementary, middle or high-school aged student knows if their parent/guardian makes an effort to attend Open Houses, PTO meetings, plays and/or athletic events. It should come as no surprise that districts with high student achievement have high rates of parental support and participation.*

*There are scheduled Open Houses in each of our schools beginning this week and continuing through the coming weeks. Please refer to the schedule below. I encourage each of you who are parents/guardians to attend the Open House at your child's school. Our teachers are busily preparing presentations to explain the scope and sequence of their grade or discipline, expectations, homework and grading policies and daily schedules. Also, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet the person who is so important to your child on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, as important as it is for a parent to meet the teacher, our teachers love meeting parents and sharing their world with them! Attending your child's upcoming Open House will send a message to your child that you are involved and support their daily efforts in the classroom.*

*One final thought on parental involvement: In the early grades, reading to or with your child every day or night creates a love and interest of reading in children. A parent is a child's first and most important mentor and children need to see their parents reading for pleasure.*

*Please enjoy this beautiful month. I look forward to seeing you out in the schools. – Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent of Schools*

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Our last School Committee meeting was held on September 5th. Below is a summary of that meeting:*

The September 5th meeting of the School Committee began with Citizen Speak. Annie Davis came to encourage Milton residents to participate in "Milton Reads." This is a One Book, One Town event, with the idea that the entire community will read the same book, "To Kill A Mockingbird," in order to achieve a shared

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

cultural experience. "Milton Reads" will run from **September 14th** to **November 15th**. Please see the "Library News" item below for more information.

As part of the Superintendent's Report, the committee was updated on the new STEM initiative taking place in the elementary schools. Holly Concannon, Elementary Math & K-8 Technology Coordinator, along with Marilyn Decker, K-12 Science Director, introduced the program. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. These subjects are important components of state and national science standards and this program introduces those subjects starting in first grade.

All students in first grade English classrooms will be exposed to the STEM curriculum as part of their science unit. STEM uses open-ended problems which require teamwork and creativity to solve. For example, first graders would be asked to build a strong wall out of Legos after reading "The Three Little Pigs." Later in the year, they will explore pulleys, gears, motors and sensors as part of the engineering component.

Each of the nine first-grade English teachers in the district completed a two-day Professional Development course at Tufts University before the start of school to familiarize themselves with the curriculum. Each year the STEM curriculum will continue onto the next grade, with the ultimate goal of a Grade 1-5 STEM program.

See the presentation at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/1stgradeSTEM.pdf>

Assistant Superintendent John Phelan wanted to remind parents and guardians to read the MPS Handbooks which were sent home and are also available on our website:

Collicot handbook: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CollicotHB12-13.pdf>

Cunningham: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunninghamHB12-13.pdf>

Glover handbook: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/GloverHB12-13.pdf>

Tucker handbook: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/TuckerHB12-13.pdf>

Pierce: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/PMSHB12-13.pdf>

Milton High: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MHSHB12-13.pdf>

As part of the Chairman's Report, School Committee members voted to appoint SC member Becky Padera as the Milton delegate to the MASC conference. There was also discussion on developing a strategic plan for the Milton Public Schools and the need to identify a source of funding to hire a consultant to assist with the plan.

There was also discussion of the First Grade Assignment Policy. Committee members continued to discuss a possible cap and lottery system, as well as creating a timeline for this process. This will be discussed further at the next School Committee meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 19th** at 7pm in the Milton High School library.

### CURRICULUM NEWS

Reminder: There will be no school on Wednesday, September 26th in observance of Yom Kippur.

\* \* \*

Please note the following schedule of Open Houses in our schools:

Pierce Middle School: September 12th at 6:30pm

Milton High School: September 13th at 6:30pm

Cunningham Elementary: Thursday, September 20th at 6:30pm

Tucker Elementary: Thursday, September 20th at 6:30pm

Collicot Elementary: Thursday, September 27th at 6:30pm

Glover Elementary: Thursday, September 27th at 6:30pm

\* \* \*

There are two new ways to keep up with what is going on at Milton High School. Milton High Happenings is an online blog focused on sharing news and achievements of MHS students and staff with the Milton community. You can subscribe to Milton High Happenings by email on the top right section of the blog.

<http://miltonhighhappenings.blogspot.com>

In addition to the blog, Milton High will also use a Twitter account for daily news and updates. Please follow @MHS\_Tweets on Twitter, if you have an account. The hashtag #MiltonHS can be used to easily search for MHS tweets. The high school administration hopes that these new tools combined with the use of the high school edline site will enhance communication with students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community.

\* \* \*

*Below is a more detailed description by of our new STEM program, written by Cunningham First Grade Teacher Bernadette Moonan. The STEM curriculum being introduced to our Grade One English classes this fall stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Math.*

STEM is an exciting program that will be incorporated into science, math, technology, and literacy lessons. It is a great way to promote problem solving in young learners and lends itself to children's natural tendency to explore through hands on learning. While the focus is on science, technology, and engineering, the program lends itself to mathematics and literacy standards as well. In addition to the educational benefits, the students will be build confidence and learn from one another through cooperative learning experiences and constructive sharing of new learning at the end of each lesson. The lessons will begin with vocabulary building and learning the basics of the Lego blocks through guided exploration, and will evolve into using computer programming to make their structures move and make sound. I can't wait to see the excitement on the children's faces when they realize that they can build a structure and use the computer programming to make it move!

\* \* \*

The very popular "Meet The Artist" program will continue this year in our elementary schools. If any parent or guardian wishes to volunteer to help, please contact your room parents or teachers to set up a time to teach a lesson. Parents can also sign up during the upcoming Open Houses.

Further questions on the program or how to sign up to volunteer can be directed to Jessica Gillooly at [jesskill@gmail.com](mailto:jesskill@gmail.com)

\* \* \*

Online registration is now available for the Fall semester of the Milton Adult Education program. Walk in registration will be held on **Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** at the main office at Milton High School from 6 to 8 pm.

To view the brochure visit: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/AdultEdBrochure-Fall2012.PDF>

To register online visit: [www.tinyurl.com/miltonadulthood](http://www.tinyurl.com/miltonadulthood)

\* \* \*

Milton High School students can sign up for a Fall SAT Prep Course now! See the brochure at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/SATFall2012.pdf>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Milton High School Boosters is having a Kickoff Tailgate Cookout at Brooks Field for the Milton Community to help cheer on the High School Varsity Football team when they face Newton North on **Friday, September 14th**.

Starting at 5pm (kickoff at 7pm) at Brooks Field, there will be a variety of activities including face painting, creating team banners, and music. A cookout will be held in the North End Zone of the football field under the Boosters tent and there is a special for \$3 which includes a burger or hot dog, corn on the cob or chips and a bottle of water. Join the Milton High Cheerleaders creating the new MHS Football "team walk line" heading into the Brooks field, and then enjoy the game. Game entry fees are free for students with ID and \$5 for all others. For more information, please click here:

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

\* \* \*

The MHS Cheerleaders are hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Wildcat Fun Night of the year on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm @ Glover. Click here to view the details: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/wildcat.pdf>

\* \* \*

Join us for the 2012 ¡CelebrateMilton! event on **Sunday, October 7th**. The event will be held rain or shine from 12-4pm. If the weather cooperates, we'll be outdoors at Milton High School. If it rains, we'll be indoors at the Collicot and Cunningham Elementary Schools. Hope to see you there!

¡CelebrateMilton! is a volunteer effort of Milton residents who actively encourage Milton's diverse populations to appreciate and enjoy one another. We sponsor an annual event that has drawn thousands of residents since its beginning in 1994. The organization also recognizes outstanding residents with its Community Builder Awards, and supports community efforts with financial grants to organizations and individuals who bring our mission to life in the community.

\* \* \*

Please Save the Date for the annual Swing for Sports event. This golf and tennis tournament will be held on **Tuesday, October 23rd** and is a wonderful event and a major fundraiser for our student athletes. This event is organized by the Milton High Boosters. More details will be provided in the next Eblast.

\* \* \*

The Forbes House Museum is hosting its annual meeting on Thursday, Septmbr 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Join them in celebration of a successful year at the Forbes House Museum!

Event flyer: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FHMFlyer.pdf>

## PAC/SPECIAL ED NEWS

Please Save the Date: The first PAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 18th** from 7 to 9pm at the Pierce Middle School library. Ahead of the meeting, we need everyone who is willing to fill out a brief survey. The survey results will be used to determine the direction of the PAC for the upcoming school year. There are a lot of issues that require the leadership of the PAC from providing "supporting individual families" to issues before the administration and school committee. Here is your chance to influence the direction of the PAC. The survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2BGYP2B>

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Annual Bag Sale at the Friends of the Library Book Shop has been extended through **Saturday, September 15th**. There is a great selection of books for children and adults. Fill a bag for \$5. The shop is located on the lower level of the Milton Public Library. Shop hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm; Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm; and Fridays from 10am to noon.

\* \* \*

*The following items were submitted by Milton Public Library's Young Adult Librarian, Emily Calkins:*

On **Friday, September 14th**, the library will show "Wrath of the Titans" (2012) at 3 pm. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for the movie and snacks!

On Tuesday, September 18th, the library's teen Anime & Manga Club will meet from 6:30-8pm. The club meets monthly to watch and discuss Japanese anime. This month, we'll also be making candy sushi from cereal treats, fruit roll-ups and other delicious treats. Advance registration is required and can be completed on the [library's events calendar](#).

On **Saturday, September 22nd** at 1:30pm teen and pre-teen fans of Super Smash Bros. Brawl can show off their skills at the library's quarterly video game tournament! Players will face-off on the library's Wii and the tournament champion will take home a Game Stop gift card. The library will provide snacks for players and spectators alike. This event is limited to students in grades 6-12. Space is limited so [register](#) early!

On **Monday, September 24th** teens aged 13-17 are invited to join the Teen Services department for the first meeting of the library's new Teen Advisory Group! This group will plan programs, help choose new books and video games for the library, and other great stuff. Members will earn community service credit and have a chance to help shape teen services at the library. The Teen Advisory Group will meet monthly. Snacks will be served!

For questions about these programs or other questions about library services for young adults, please contact Emily Calkins at [ecalkins@ocln.org](mailto:ecalkins@ocln.org) or 617-698-4958.

\* \* \*

By now I hope you have all heard of Milton Reads 2012! -- One Book, One Town. This town-wide program aims to have the town reading the same book, To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee. This is truly a town-wide initiative and many groups throughout the town have graciously come forward to sponsor events and programs relating to the book and its themes.

Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk or they can be purchased at the Friends of the Library bookstore during operating hours. Books can also be ordered online at the link below.

Please plan on attending the Milton Reads 2012! kickoff on **Saturday, September 15th** at 2pm at the Milton Public Library. To see a calendar of additional Milton Reads events click here: <http://miltonreads2012.wordpress.com/program-events/>

\* \* \*

Perfect Timing! Join us for a fascinating view of our American Presidents three weeks before the 2012 election at the primary fundraising event for the Milton Public Library.

The 8th Annual Literary Gala, "Where Stories Begin," will take place on **Thursday October 18th** at 6:00pm at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. This year's guest authors are Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy, TIME magazine editors and best-selling authors of *The Presidents Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity*.

Tickets begin at \$250 with sponsorships available at higher levels. For more information please contact Danielle Gollenberg at Liz Page Associates, event producers at 617-296-8806 or [dgollenberg@lizpageassociates.com](mailto:dgollenberg@lizpageassociates.com) This event is hosted by the Milton Library Foundation.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186



## MFE

The Milton Foundation for Education's 14th Annual Milton Monster Dash 5K Run/Walk & Kids' Fun Run will be held on **Sunday, October 28th** at Cunningham Park.

This annual race is held in memory of Sam Cichello. To honor Sam's love of science, all proceeds of the Monster Dash go directly to "Sam's Fund" which supports science enrichment in the Milton Public Schools.

Registration opens at 9:30am; the Costume Fun Run begins at 10am; the 5K starts at 11am; and awards are held at noon. There will be fun activities for children, a DJ, and refreshments throughout the morning. The race is \$20 if registered by October 22nd and \$25 thereafter. Costumes are encouraged. For more information, contact [denisequeally@comcast.net](mailto:denisequeally@comcast.net)

\* \* \*

Save the Date! The Annual Celebration for Education will be held on **Saturday, March 9, 2013** at the Boston Marriott - Quincy. Mark your calendars and look for more information about this fun and exciting night to benefit the Milton Public Schools. Please visit our website at [www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org](http://www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org) for more information about the Foundation and upcoming events. Have a Happy, Healthy, Wonderful year of learning!!

## NEWS AROUND TOWN

*Below is a message from Governor Patrick on the start of a new school year:*

As schools across the Commonwealth open their doors, I'd like to welcome students, teachers and staff to the start of a new school year. New beginnings are often both exciting and challenging, and this one will be no exception. As you launch the new school year, I want you to know that I am inspired by all of your hard work and dedication to the pursuit of excellence.

Our students lead the nation in student achievement, and rank near the top in the world in math and science. Our educators encourage and enable those enviable results. Parents do so much at home and by engaging with the schools to support their children every day. All are working to shape the next generation and we are grateful for that.

Thank you all for making our Commonwealth better. And have a great year. I look forward to meeting you as I visit classrooms around the Commonwealth this fall.  
Sincerely, Governor Deval L. Patrick

\* \* \*

The Milton Parks & Recreation department is holding the signups for its Middle School ID program. Register online at:

[http://www.townofmilton.org/Public\\_Documents/F0000FCED/Online%20Park%20Registration](http://www.townofmilton.org/Public_Documents/F0000FCED/Online%20Park%20Registration) The Annual Registration Fee is \$20.00.

Tickets for upcoming events will be sold at Cunningham Hall on the following dates and times.\*\*\*You must be pre-registered online to purchase tickets\*\*\*

### 6th GRADE EVENT SALES

**Tuesday, September 11th** 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

### 7th GRADE EVENT SALES

**Wednesday, September 12th** 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

### 8th GRADE EVENT SALES

**Thursday, September 13th** 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

All GRADES (6, 7 & 8) EVENT SALES  
**Wednesday, September 19th 6:30 – 8:00 PM.**

Photo IDs for those who need them will be taken on all the event sales dates. Below is a list of events:

7th & 8th Grade: “WELCOME BACK DANCE” on **Friday, September 28th** from 7 – 9pm @ Fontbonne Academy (sneakers only) \$8.00

All Grades: “P & L PAINTBALL” on **Friday, October 5th** (Teacher PD Day-No School) 9am – 1:30pm. Bus departs from Milton High School Lower Parking Lot at 9 am and returns to Milton High School Lower Parking Lot @ 1:30pm. \$ 30.00

6th Grade: “GET ACQUAINTED DANCE” on Saturday, October 13th from 7 – 9pm @ Fontbonne Academy (sneakers only) \$8.00

All Grades: “Canobie Lake Park Scream Fest” on **Friday, October 26th** from 4 to 11 pm. Bus departs from Milton High School Lower Parking Lot at 4:00 pm & returns to Milton High School Lower Parking Lot @ 11:00 pm. \$30.00

Grades 6TH, 7TH & 8TH : “HOLIDAY DANCE” on **Saturday, December 1st** from 7 – 9pm @ Fontbonne Academy (sneakers only) \$8.00

\* \* \*

On **Saturday, September 15th** 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.

View the details at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/HHHWD.pdf>

\* \* \*

Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton will be hosting two upcoming community events this month. First, the hospital announces its eighteenth annual “Tee Off” golf tournament to be held on **Monday, September 24th** at [Wollaston Golf Club](#). Net proceeds from the tournament will support patient care, new technology and the future of healthcare services.

“Our ‘Tee Off’ golf event is always a great opportunity to bring together the hospital staff and community supporters around an important cause,” said hospital President, Joe Morrissey. “I have seen the improvements made possible by our generous community and sponsors and on behalf of the staff, we thank the community in advance for participating.”

Along with longest drive, hole-in-one, and closest-to-the-pin contests, the day will feature lunch, dinner, and raffles. The individual entrance fee is \$350, and sponsorships range from \$350 to \$15,000. Program book advertisements are available at a range of prices. To reserve a space or for more information, please contact Stephanie Shunda via e-mail at [Stephanie\\_Shunda@miltonhospital.org](mailto:Stephanie_Shunda@miltonhospital.org) or by phone at 617-313-1194.

The other BID-Milton event this month is the Third Annual Community Health Walk on **Saturday, September 29th** at 10am. Please enjoy a picturesque 5k through Milton.

View the event flyer at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/poster8.pdf>

\* \* \*

The 350th Committee has two exciting events coming up in October!

First, in celebration of our history of horse farming in Milton, we are sponsoring a Horse Show on **Saturday October 6th** from 9am to 4pm at Prowse Farm. This free event is open to the public and all are welcome. For those who would like to participate in the event, there will be a variety of classes to enter including: Pleasure, Equitation and Jumping Classes, and trophies and ribbons will be awarded. Food trucks will provide food for a fee and there will a used tack sale too. Bring your family to enjoy pony rides, a costume class, games and face painting too.

Our second event of the month will be Trolley Tours of Milton on **Sunday, October 21st** from 12-4pm. Beginning at Cunningham Park and traveling around the town to learn about our history and historical sites. Each tour will last approximately 2 hours and is appropriate for the whole family. It is strongly suggested that you pre-purchasing your tickets for this event.

Check out our booth at Celebrate Milton on **October 7th**. Buy some Milton 350th memorabilia, and help us plan for our legacy gift!

For more information about these events please go to our website at [Milton350th.com](http://Milton350th.com)

\* \* \*

There will be a free Child Identification Program (CHIP) Event taking place on **Sunday, October 7th** from noon to 4pm at Milton High School (Cunningham/Collicot School Buildings if it rains), as part of the ¡Celebrate Milton! event.

The purpose of this program is to give parents an easily distributed identification CD of their children, so that in the unfortunate situation that a child goes missing, the police can quickly get the word out and begin the search. The first hours after a child goes missing are the most critical, and parents that have a pre-made identification package to give to law enforcement ensure that no time is wasted. No information is retained by the event. Everything goes home with the parents, and hopefully will never be needed.

Milton Lodge AF & AM runs this event every year, free of charge, at ¡Celebrate Milton! They plan an important role in helping to keep Milton's teens and children safe.

For more information about CHIP, please click here: <http://www.mychip.org/>

### ATHLETICS

*This athletic update was provided by Steve Traister, Director of Athletics*

Early in this Fall season the Boys and girls soccer, field hockey and volleyball all have a 1-1 record. Golf and football both started the season with a loss last week. Cross country has their first meet is this Wednesday and Crew has not had their first race yet.

Milton athletic schedules can be found at <http://www.usatodayhss.com/school/Milton-High-School-Milton-MA/>

In addition, the MHS Athletic Department is looking for parent volunteers to help run our banner program. The banners are sold as a fundraiser to help balance our athletic budget. Banners that are sold hang in our field house and the parking lot and are a great way to advertise and show support for Milton High and our athletes. If anyone is interested they contact Athletic Director Steve Traister at [straister@miltonps.org](mailto:straister@miltonps.org) or 617-696-4470 ex 5515.

### 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:** Welcome to our 323 new kindergarten students. Nothing makes me smile more than the site of a kindergarten student on the first day of school and the buzz of excitement in the air in all of our Kindergarten classrooms!

**Staff:** I would like to thank our English first grade teachers who attended two full days of professional development training on STEM at Tufts University in preparation for this year's pilot program.

**Volunteer:** We have a wonderful program in our elementary schools called "Meet the Artist." One of our district's hardest-working volunteers, Jess Gillooly, is chairing this effort again this year. Help me to recognize Ms. Gillooly for all her efforts -- and elementary parents, please consider volunteering for this valuable program.

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.