



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 the Milton Public Schools
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: January 24, 2012

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

"All I really need to know... I learned in kindergarten." -- Robert Fulghum

Some of you may have read Robert Fulghum's collection of essays about some of life's basic lessons. For those who have not, the book is a treasure of short stories and anecdotes about the simple lessons of childhood. Kindergarten is a magical time for students and an introduction to what we hope will be the start of a 13-year relationship with the Milton Public Schools.

*For those of you with children entering kindergarten this fall, please be aware of our Information Night being held this **Wednesday, January 25th** at 7pm in the Charles Winchester Auditorium at Milton High School. If your child will be 5 years old before September 1, 2012, please make every effort to attend this meeting. Many of the questions you may have about registration, screening, full-day kindergarten and school placement will be answered and you will have an opportunity to meet our Elementary Principals. – Mary C. Gormley*

Corrections from our last E-blast: The Pierce Player who performed as Nathan Detroit in Guys & Dolls was Matthew McAuliffe not Matthew McCarthy. Also, we misspelled the name of one of our fifth-grade WordMasters. Congratulations to Aidan Braithwaite for his hard work.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The most recent meeting of the school committee was held on **January 18th**. Below is a summary of that meeting:

At Citizens' Speak, Laura Kessler gave a brief presentation about the upcoming Walkathon begin held at Milton High School on **Saturday, February 11th** from 1 to 4pm. She urged students, parents and community members to support this by sponsoring the event or sponsoring an individual student. For more information, contact Laura Kessler at LKessler@ifb.org.

As part of the Superintendent's Report, the Collicot Site Council came and presented their School Improvement Plan with Principal Janet Sheehan. Among the information they presented was the improvement in MCAS and AYP data and the fact that Collicot School received a commendation from the state for high growth. Principal Sheehan spoke about the school's success with enrichment programs, such as before-school math leagues, before school Study Island sessions and Meet the Artist programs. Ms. Sheehan said she hopes to increase the number of Smart Boards at Collicot, and also talked about the success of the "One Book, One School" program.

The Milton PAC, a group of parents who advocate for students with special needs, gave the next presentation. Jerry Vitti and Vinita Russell were joined by Karen Clasby, Administrator of Pupil Personnel

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Services. Mr. Vitti and Ms. Russell spoke about the three main programs run by the PAC: meetings, roundtable discussions and Parent Speak. They also spoke about some of their concerns regarding potential budget cuts. They encouraged parents who would like information about this group to visit their website at:

<http://www.miltonpac.org/board.htm>

As part of the Chairman's Report, Mr. Pavlicek discussed the timeline for the state releasing local aid figures. He also told School Committee members that a local construction company has offered to put signage on the exterior of MPS building at no charge to indicate the names of some of the spaces. For example, the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium at Milton High School is only indicated by a sign on the interior of the building. Mr. Pavlicek asked the policy subcommittee to review the issues of naming and/or signage.

Members then had a first reading of the Concussion Policy. The next meeting for the School Committee will be held on **February 1st**.

BUDGET INFO

For those of you who saw the School Committee's recent budget presentations, you may be aware that our FY13 budget is dependent on the amount of Local Aid coming to our town from the state. Some predictions are that Milton may receive less aid this year than last year, which would have very negative consequences for our school budget. At one of our budget presentations, a parent asked for our local legislators' email addresses for parents/guardians who may wish to address this issue. To review the FY13 budget, or see a list of Q&A's, visit here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/committee-budget.php> To contact a legislator, see the list below:

walter.timilty@mahouse.gov

linda.dorcenaforry@mahouse.gov

angelo.scaccia@mahouse.gov

brian.joyce@masenate.gov

CURRICULUM NEWS

The Milton Adult Education program has released its Winter/Spring 2012 course brochure. It can be viewed at <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/AdultEdBrochure-Spring2012.pdf>. Online registration is open now, or you can register in person Monday, February 13th and Wednesday, February 15th from 6-8pm in the MHS Main Office.

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Parents are reminded of the upcoming Kindergarten Information Night on **Wednesday, January 25th** at 7pm at Milton High School's Charles C. Winchester Auditorium. For more information, please contact the student registrar at 617-696-4470 x 5510. Students must be 5 years of age before September 1, 2012 to enter Kindergarten. For more information, please visit: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/KRegFlyer2012.pdf>

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Grade One Information Night will be held on **Thursday, February 2nd** for parents and guardians of students entering Grade One in September of 2012. Each of our four elementary schools will host its own event. Current MPS parents and guardians should attend the meeting at their current school. Parents and guardians of new incoming students may attend any of the meetings. A presentation will be given on the Elementary Language Programs. Students must be 6 years of age on or before August 31, 2012 to enroll in Grade One. Each school's program will begin at 7pm.

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The Milton High School Program of Studies Night for parents and guardians of students in grades 8 to 11 is scheduled for **Thursday, February 9th** at 7pm in the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium at Milton High School. The program will present an overview of the course selection process for the upcoming year as well as a review of leveling practices, graduation requirements and college entrance requirements. Parents of current eighth grade students are encouraged to attend. Administrators, department heads and guidance counselors will be available to answer questions at the conclusion of the formal presentation. For more information, please contact the MHS guidance office at 617-696-4470.

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Parents and guardians should be aware that the School Committee Policy Manual, a copy of which has been kept in each of our school offices over the years is available online. To view the most recent version of our School Committee policies, go to: <http://www.miltonps.org/committee-policies.php>

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Congratulations to the 14 Latin students who won medals in the recent 2012 National Etymology Exam. For our students who competed in the Advanced Level, a **Gold** medal was earned by Patrick Kelly. **Silver** medals were earned by Dawn Barrett, Jamaal Grant, Jonathan Maher, Ludjy Derisier, Molly Madden and Nick Savage. **Bronze** medals were earned by Christian Farrar, Eliza Trickett, Emily Lenane and Phillip Wikina. For our students who competed in the Lower Level, A **Silver** medal was earned by Albert Enyedy; and **Bronze** medals were earned by Brendan Hunt and Chris Ricciuti.

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Also, we are very proud of some of our high school artists, who recently were featured in an opening at the Arnhiem Gallery at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design as part of an exhibition entitled "Big Problems, Loud Generation, Greater Solution: An Art Exhibition by the Students of Milton High School Drawing 1 Course." Great job by our students and their teacher, Kassandra Derby. The exhibition will run at the Arnhiem Gallery, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston, through **February 2nd**.

* * *

Pierce Mock Trial Update: The Pierce Mock Trial is gearing up for their second session and culminating trial. During their first session club members worked on building arguments, anticipating counterpoints and asking focused questions of witnesses. Pierce parent Leigh Mills offered her expertise in law and worked regularly with the group of eighth graders.

This past December the students argued a case concerning a student who was suspended for violating a school dress code. Assistant Principal Andy Boles along with advisors Ellen Gehret and Dave Querzoli faced thoughtful questioning as they took to the witness stand for the trial. Seventh grade Geography teacher Chris Callahan volunteered as the jury's foreman and helped a group of students with interest in joining the club during the second session decide the verdict.

Mock Trial Club members are Sindhu Banerjee, Georgia Bell, Maddy Brown, Ben Donahue, Kate Driscoll, Kate McAuliffe, Emma Heller, Tyler Volpe-Knock, Kalyani Twyman, Lizzie Lawless, Michaela Olson, Matthew Ryan, Maeve Lydon, and Hailley Sullivan.

The club meets each Monday and is currently organizing its second session. Their culminating trial will deal with the misuse of technology or social networking in a school. New members are always welcomed, as well as any assistance from Pierce parents (preferably with experience in law).

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Milton High Mock Trial Update: Our Milton High School Mock Trial Team is gearing up for their three preliminary state competitions. They will take place Thursday, **January 26th** against Catholic Memorial; Monday, **January 30th** against Needham; and Monday, **February 6th** against Westwood. The case packet and the competition is organized and sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Association in association with the Brown Rudnick Law Firm. Students have dissected the case packet filled with affidavits, evidence, and rules about competing in Mock Trials. This year, the case is about a school teacher being accused of negligence by the legal guardian of a boy who was bullied in school. For two of the competitions, Milton will be defending the teacher and for our last competition Milton will switch sides to prosecute.

Local attorney and Milton High School parent Michael Chinman has volunteered his time on multiple occasions to teach the students about the law and courtroom etiquette. The Milton High School Mock Trial Team is part of high school history teacher and Mock Trial "coach" Mike Matisoff's Law and Government class, a history elective. This year, the team is made up of 17 students composed of freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The freshman participants are Donnacha Kennedy, Sharon Lui, and Gillian Veneto. The sophomore participants are Mittou Metayer and Catherine Pamphil. The junior participants are Nicholas Juzyca, Yuri Onishuk, Madeline Richards, Gregory Rodney, and Damaris Sweeney. The senior participants are Lenerick Budron, Justin Curley, Jarred DiManno, Amanda McField, John Murtagh, Zach Obasiolu, and Caroline Ware.

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Milton High School Debate Team Update: The debate team continues to do well. At the moment we are most impressed that three of our student teams have already qualified for the State Tournament at the end of March. This is the first time we have had so many teams qualify this early in the season. We are planning to send twelve debaters to Revere High School on **January 28th** to debate whether or not a college education is a prudent investment.

In February, coaches Nick Fitzgerald and Nancy Warn will bring the team to compete in their third national tournament of the year at Harvard University. Christopher Ricciuti, Michael Ricciuti, Cormac Conners and Trezure Lardeur will compete at this tournament in which the topic is: "Resolved: Birthright citizenship should be abolished in the United States." The Public Forum Debate elective continues to be our best preparation and learning opportunity. We are excited that we have more students enrolled in next semester's course than we had this semester. Course selections for the 2012-2013 school year will begin shortly after our midyear exams. Students interested in the course for next year should talk to their guidance counselor or Mr. Fitzgerald in room 212.

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The Milton High School Robotics Team recently competed in a qualifying match for the FIRST Tech Challenge at Arlington High School. After competing in five qualifying matches, our Milton team was ranked second overall and went on to the elimination matches. Our Milton High students competed in several elimination rounds and made it to the finals where we narrowly missed taking first place in the tournament. The team came home with a finalist trophy.

Pat Kelly was the leader of the team during the match and coached drivers Quentin Brown and Tue Quan Dang, while team members Albert Enyedy, Yusuf Solomon, and Connor Bryne and mentor Edith Enyedy supported the team in the pits. The Milton High School Robotics Team was started this fall with Jon Maher, President, Patrick Kelly, Vice President and team members Quentin Brown, Connor Bryne, David Collins, Tue Quan Dang, Albert Enyedy and Rafael Ramos. The team has been supported by engineering/science mentors Edith Enyedy, David Gallagher, Allan Neville, Mark Woodward and Rafael Ramos and is coached by K-12 Science Director, Marilyn Decker. The PTC Corporation provided a grant of \$1000 to get the team started. Congratulations for a fantastic effort!

* * *

Elementary Future Problem Solving Update: Our eight teams will compete in a Qualifying Bowl at Glover Elementary School this **Saturday, January 28th**. Each team, made up of four students will go into a classroom and be given a futuristic scenario on Human Rights, a topic that they have been researching and discussing with their coaches, Joanne Magliozzi (Tucker), Anna Higgins (Collicot), Emily Hyde (Cunningham) and Christina Reynolds (Glover). All the coaches are being mentored by Elementary Librarian Lori Henry, who was the long-time coach for FPS.

Each team will brainstorm problems and solutions based on this topic, and produce a final solution stated in an action plan format. They will have two hours in which to complete a booklet. They have been hard at work preparing for this competition. The students have done well and they have confidence that they will continue to do so. The booklets will be mailed to the state evaluators, and we will be notified about the results some time in February. If a team does well, they go on to the State Bowl on **March 24th**. Just the experience of a Qualifying Bowl is quite exciting and what is important is that the students understand the process, learn and use these higher level thinking skills, and have fun working with their team.

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The Pierce Future Problem Solvers have been diligently preparing for the upcoming State Bowl Qualifier. The Future Problem Solvers at Pierce are divided into two teams, consisting of three students each, and are coached by Nicole Hoyceanyls.

The junior division team of sixth graders David Casaz, Joshua Kackley, and Timothy Karoff, and the middle school division team of seventh grader Ryan Rafanan, and eighth graders Carleen Mullally and Michaela Olson will be competing against other students from Massachusetts in their division for a chance to advance to the State Bowl competition later in the school year. In the fall these two teams were introduced to a six step problem solving process where students use research and their creative minds to solve a problem set in a futuristic scene. The students began by using this problem solving strategy on a problem related to coral reefs and most recently on a problem related to human rights. The teams will use their research and skills to tackle a problem related to human rights for the State Bowl Qualifier, which will take place on **January 28th** at Glover Elementary.

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The Milton High School chapter of TRI-M (international honor society for music) created a new way for students to prepare for their music performance mid-year exams--the Olympic Games! For five days, there are "Olympic games" that students may attend as a spectator or competitor (teams of up to three people). The topics vary and prizes are given out every day. The final day is the grand prize and will include all the topics that were covered throughout the other days. Day 1 was all about key signatures and sight reading. Day 2 was all about enharmonic equivalents, intervals, and chromatics. Day 3 covered rhythms and conducting. Day 4 included musical terms and symbols.

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The members of our Milton High School Quiz Show team must be getting very excited. This **Sunday, January 29th**, they will report to the PBS studios for their taping. They will compete in the Quiz Show against Hingham High School from approximately 8:30 to 10:30am. Parents and guardians, fellow students, teachers and administrators are all welcome to attend the taping. Tickets are free, but must be reserved by visiting www.highschoolquizshow.org

Our Milton student supporters are being given high priority for tickets, since we have a team competing. Good luck to Nicholas Juzyca, Michael Musto, Julia Clark and Destiny Edouard, all of whom are expected to comprise the Milton High School team, with Jack Caljouw and Courtney Driscoll serving as alternates.

"We have been practicing every day and will be until the competition," said Nancy Mikels, Milton High School teacher and Quiz Show coach. "I think we have a pretty strong team. I am proud of the students' efforts

to prepare and I am proud to have these young adults represent Milton High School. They are terrific young adults who are focused and academically inclined.”

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Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of *Guys & Dolls*, who performed this past weekend at the Pierce Middle School. As always, the level of talent and dedication truly shows in these productions. I appreciate how much hard work goes into making it look easy! Also, many thanks to William Deschenes, our drama teacher and director of Pierce Players.

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Congratulations to the seven MHS students who were selected after a very competitive audition to participate in the 2012 Massachusetts All State Music Festival: *Concert Band*: Carolyn Truax and Rebecca Simms; *Orchestra*: Rose Moerschel and Lily Moerschel; *Chorus*: Rebecca Liberman, Andrew Mowe and Talia Nutting. The Festival will be in early March and will culminate with a performance at Boston's Symphony Hall. Bravo!

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Parents and guardians who have their children in the After School Enrichment Program in the Milton Community Schools should be aware that we have just formed an exciting partnership with Harvard University. The Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency (PEAR) at Harvard will be visiting Milton's after-school program this year to observe different activities offered and to help create a tool to evaluate the quality of the programs. Some of our After School students may be asked to complete a short survey at the end of the observation. These will be voluntary and completely anonymous. We look forward to working with our fellow educators at Harvard in this program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are proud to be hosting a program in March which has long terms benefits for young people who have gone through a crisis in their lives. Comfort Zone Camp is partnering with Samaritans Suicide Prevention & Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health/Suicide Prevention to offer a free one-day program dedicated solely to children and teens who have experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or primary caregiver by suicide.

A one-day session of Comfort Zone Camp will be held **Saturday, March 31st** at the Cunningham Elementary School. This camp is open to those ages 7-17 (18 if still in high school) and campers must be a resident of Massachusetts due to funding. There is no charge to attend, however, registration is required. This event includes an optional parent and guardian program at the same time and location, but separate from the kids. Childcare can be provided for children under age 7, with advance notice. Applications need to be received no later than **March 9th**. To apply online visit:

<http://www.comfortzonecamp.org/parents-and-guardians/register-a-camper>

To receive an application by email, please contact Heather at HLaCasse@comfortzonecamp.org. Whether the child's loss was ten years ago or three months ago, please encourage them to attend -- you may have an opportunity to change the course of their life -- especially teens who will be graduating and meeting new people, and could find themselves struggling to talk about their family member, or how to tell their story. For more information, see the flyer at:

<https://www.comfortzonecamp.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1>

Please help to spread the word to families who need this free resource, as we provide a place for bereaved kids and teens to break the isolation, build lasting friendships, and learn coping skills for their daily lives.

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PAC/SPECIAL ED NEWS

The next PAC event will be a Parent Speak, to be held at Pierce Middle School Library on **January 26th** from 7-9pm. Also, there will be a Middle School Roundtable on **February 9th** from 7 to 9pm at the Pierce Middle School Library. This is the Educational Assessment Presentation with Pierce Middle School Principal James Jette and SPED Chair Deanna Magill. The Roundtable will be followed by a Parent Speak.

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The following info was sent to us by Mary Kinsella Scannell, a Milton parent who works at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, along with her husband, Bob Scannell:

Project B.I.N.D. (Boston Inclusion Network for Disabilities) is a new initiative at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester specifically designed to encourage the educational and social enrichment and advancement of children with special needs throughout Dorchester and the surrounding neighborhoods. Together with a network of partners, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester will provide access to exceptional after school programs and activities while nurturing the full inclusion of children of all abilities in such activities. Project B.I.N.D. will also provide a support network for families and will engage in advocacy work around inclusion. Benefits for children with special needs and disabilities:

- Increasing inclusion within the community by participating in mainstream after-school programs. This, in turn, fosters individual growth, friendships, and awareness
- Exploring opportunities and developing relationships that may develop into lifelong hobbies, interests and/or relationships
- Extending the benefits of mainstream schooling to after-schooling to after-school programs
- Increasing general independence for the children
- Benefits for volunteers, tutors, and affiliated organizations:
- Fostering a personal understanding about children with special needs and disabilities and the importance of inclusion in society
- Providing a structured venue to work with children with special needs and disabilities
- Creating new friendships and mentoring relationships and the satisfaction that comes from knowing that you have made an impact in a child's life
- Expanding career development and personal experiences
-

Our model of inclusion:

A true model of inclusion operates imperceptibly. Supports, accommodations and modifications are purposefully designed to be virtually undetectable. Children with special needs participate right alongside their peers at the Club. This offers them what every child wants; the opportunity to be just a kid, without being singled out or segregated in any way. By interweaving Project B.I.N.D. into all of our programs and activities, the Club has opened new doors for children with special needs. They can participate in the early childhood programs, make new friends in the Games Room, move to music in a ballet or hip hop class, receive tutoring in the Education Center, go for a swim, take an art class, learn to play guitar, or shoot baskets in the gym. They can build positive, supportive friendships with Club staff. Free time spent with other children can lead to new friendships that will help these children feel more accepted at the Club and at school. www.bgcdorchester.org

MFE

Tickets for the Big Beach Ball to benefit the Milton Foundation for Education will be going on sale this week. This very exciting fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, March 10th** at the Boston Marriott in Quincy. Tickets will be available beginning January 26th at \$65/person, or \$60 if purchased by February 17, 2012. New

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this year: Reserve a table of ten at \$70/person, including reserved seating, 2 bottles of wine and a dessert specialty. For more ticket information, contact Meg Kaster at cmkaster@comcast.net.

Organizers are still looking for donations for the event's Silent Auction. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Bridget Carpenter at (617) 283-4059 or email to mfeauction@gmail.com. We can make arrangements to pick up items from local businesses. Just email us!

Also, volunteers are always welcome. Learn about volunteer opportunities, by emailing Laura Conway at lpconway@rcn.com.

MILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Emily Calkins, the Young Adult librarian at Milton Public Library, sent us the following information:

On **February 10th**, we're doing another after school movie from (3-5pm). As usual, the movie choices are posted on the teen page of the MPL. On **February 29th**, I'll have our Wii and some board games set up in the Keys Community room for free play gaming. The other thing I wanted to mention is the library's teen Facebook page, which is found here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Milton-Public-Library-Teen-Services/119403874835552>.

I use the page to post updates about events and to promote new materials. It's mostly aimed at connecting with middle and high school students - they can post on the wall and I'll respond, but parents are welcome to "like" the page too!

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The MPL is also hosting a Chess-a-Palooza event on **Saturday, January 28th** from 9:30am to noon. International Master David Vigorito will serve as tournament director for "Chess-a-Palooza!" a fun and friendly scholastic chess tournament open to all Milton school students. Players of all abilities are welcome. The tournament will be limited to the first 50 entrants. Trophies and prizes will be awarded in grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-9. Sections may be modified depending on the number of entrants. Register on-line in advance and save. Cost is \$5 at the door with advance registration, or \$8 with registration on the day of the event (space permitting). This event is sponsored by The Friends of the Milton Public Library. For more information contact Christy Daniels at is2cd@gwmail.gwu.edu.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Forbes House Museum will hold its annual Lincoln Day celebration on Sunday, **February 12th** from 1 to 4pm at 215 Adams Street, Milton. Festivities for this annual event have been expanded in celebration of the Town of Milton 350th anniversary with support from the Milton Public Schools.

A demonstration by the Salem Light Infantry re-enactors is part of an afternoon full of activities to commemorate the Civil War. Salem Zouaves co-founder, Paul Kenworthy, says, "We recreate the exotic, flashy drill and uniforms of the original Salem Zouaves, including our signature bayonet and sabre fencing."

Originally a French- Algerian light infantry, the Zouaves perform in colorful Turkish uniforms; they are known for their athletic precision drill and preference for cold steel in battle.

Forbes House Museum is fortunate to have long-standing relationships with a number of talented re-enactor groups. Festivities for Lincoln Day will include drills and demonstrations by the 22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company A., the 7th Tennessee Company G., and the United States Sanitary Commission Boston Branch (the 22nd Massachusetts ladies civilian group). First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln, will make a guest appearance, inspecting and addressing the troops.

The FHM Lincoln Cabin will be open to visitors. Hot chocolate will be served in the tradition begun by Mary Bowditch Forbes in 1924. Suggested donation for Lincoln Day is \$5 per family.

The Lincoln Day celebration includes a concert of Civil War music with Dixon's Gold at 4:30pm at the Pierce Middle School Auditorium, Central Avenue, Milton. Dixon's Gold will perform with mandolin,

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mandocello, string bass, penny whistle, clarinet, banjo, trumpet and guitar along with vocals. The audience will be encouraged to sing along.

Tickets are \$10 per person for adults; \$8 per person for members; \$25 for a family of four; \$20 for a member family.

The Civil War Concert with Dixon's Gold is made possible through a partnership with the Milton Public Schools. Over the past year and a half, the FHM has sought to partner with area museums and educational institutions. "We are pleased to continue the process of building a working relationship with Milton Public Schools," say FHM Executive Director, Robin Tagliaferri. "In the spirit of 350th anniversary celebration of the Town, we wanted to offer more activities for Lincoln Day. The use of the Pierce Middle School Auditorium makes that possible." For more information on Scott Shetler and Dixon's Gold, visit the website <http://www.cmonman.com/>.

For more information about all the infantry and civilian groups participating in Lincoln Day 2012, visit their websites:

<http://www.22ndmass.org/>

<http://www.54thmass.org/>

<http://7thtennesseeginfantry.org/>

<http://www.attleborogop.com/html/lincolnreenactors.html>

<http://salemzouaves.org/>

For more information on programs and events at Forbes House Museum, including Lincoln Day, visit our website at www.forbeshousemuseum.org.

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The Forbes House Museum is pleased to release its annual topic for the Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest, which is open to all K-8 students in Greater Boston and beyond. Original essays and drawings must be delivered to the FHM by the deadline date of **Friday, March 2nd** at 5pm. For complete submission guidelines, visit the FHM website at <http://forbeshousemuseum.org/educational.html>. A PDF brochure can also be downloaded, containing all necessary information.

An awards ceremony will take place in April. A prize of \$25 will be awarded to the first place winner of each grade level through the generosity of the Milton Village Office of Citizens Bank. Winners will also receive a one-year complimentary Family Membership to FHM.

For more information on Lincoln Day, the Lincoln Day Concert with Dixon's Gold or the Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest, contact the Forbes House Museum at (617) 696- 1815 or by e-mail at info@forbeshousemuseum.org. Visit our website at www.forbeshousemuseum.org or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/forbeshousemuseum>.

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The Milton Parks and Recreation Department will be holding a February Vacation Baseball Clinic for students ages 5-11. For more information, visit their link at:

http://www.townofmilton.org/Public_Documents/F0000FCED/Feb.%20Vac.%20Baseball%20Clinic

FAVA/MILTON ART CENTER

The folks at FAVA (Friends and Advocates for the Visual Arts) are introducing New FAVA After School Art Classes for Winter and Spring sessions. Classes will be held at the Collicot, Cunningham, Glover, and Tucker Schools. Among the offerings are: Mixed Media with Sue Hoy; Collage with Starleen Baylon; and Express Yourself! with Laurinda O'Connor. FAVA exists to provide more art opportunities for the children of Milton. FAVA provides fee based, after school art enrichment classes within the Milton Public Schools. FAVA has recently expanded into the MAC. The new Milton Art Center offers exhibits, classes, workshops, lectures, performance and cultural events for Milton residents of all ages. To register, please visit www.miltonartcenter.org.

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ARTSPACE MILTON

Artspace Milton is offering a “Valentine Crafternoon,” on **Saturday, January 28th from 2 to 4pm** at the Milton Public Library’s Keys Community Room.

Spend an afternoon making two beautiful and unique Valentine cards! First, a lesson will be offered on the legend of St. Valentine and why we send cards on February 14th. Then students will make a pop-up card and an accordion card, both with matching envelopes. This workshop for children aged six and over, costs \$15 and includes all materials. To register, please email the instructor, Patricia Turner, at patricia@mailpass.com

FAME

Save the Date! Milton High School will present its annual Cabaret on **Wednesday, February 8th** at 7pm in the Milton High School Auditorium. Also, for parents who are interested in being part of a parents/guardians group who help support music activities and opportunities in the Milton Public Schools, FAME meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the High School Music Suite. All are welcome.

ANTI-BULLYING INFORMATION

In addition to our [Bullying Prevention Curriculum](#), in observance of Name-Calling Week, (a week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds), throughout the week of **January 23rd**, student selected quotes and short poems will be read each morning over the PA system at each school, reminding students of the importance of being kind to one another and encouraging students to refrain from name calling of any kind.

Also, in recognition of Massachusetts No Name Calling Day, on **Wednesday, January 25th**, all students and faculty members in the Milton Public Schools are encouraged to wear blue in support of our efforts to end bullying and name calling in our schools.

In other news, our BPAC is working with the School Committee to conduct our annual review of the district's Bullying Policy and Procedures as well as our District Bullying Prevention, Intervention and Response Plan. For more information, please visit our anti-bullying resources located on the main page of each schools web site as well as the district site: <http://www.miltonps.org>

TOWN of MILTON 350th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Plenty of events are coming up to help celebrate our town’s 350th Anniversary. On **January 26th**, there will be a wine dinner with Chris Douglass.

Join us for a spectacular four course dinner prepared by one of Boston’s best chefs, with wines perfectly paired to each dish. Chef/owner Chris Douglass of the Ashmont Grill and Tavolo; and Dan Michaud of Ruby Wines will prepare a colonial-inspired menu. Dan Michaud (a Milton resident) is the director of education at Ruby Wines and will speak about the wines. Only 72 reservations can be accepted.

A VIP reception will begin at 6 pm, with hors d’oeuvres and champagne. Tickets are \$150 for the reception and dinner. For dinner only (beginning at 7 pm), tickets are \$100. The dinner will be held at the Milton Marketplace Cafe, 2nd floor, 10 Bassett Street, Milton. For reservations call Michael Dwyer at 617-696-5274. This event is sponsored by The Fruit Center.

On **January 29th from 2 to 5pm**, the Cunningham Foundation will host a free family skating day at Cunningham Park with family bowling in Cunningham Hall. Skating will be located at the flooded field beside the pool (weather permitting), and bowling will be inside Cunningham Hall, lower level. Refreshments will be served.

ATHLETICS

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Congratulations to the following fall athletes, who were named to the Bay State Conference All Conference: Isabel Andrews - field hockey, Nicole Regan - field hockey, Sam Taugher - golf, Brian Higgins - golf, Kendall Stanley - girls soccer, Ryan Madden - boys soccer, Roy Butlin - boys soccer, Samantha Curley - volleyball and Katie Krauss - volleyball.

Also, the following fall athletes made the Patriot Ledger All Star Team: Ryan Madden - boys soccer, Samantha Curley - volleyball, Katie Krauss - volleyball and Matt Lezama - football. This is quite an achievement. Congratulations to these athletes and their coaches.

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 wanted to give a special thank you to Emma Jehanno, a Milton High senior who created the new logo being used by the Milton PAC. Emma created the logo using digital media. In addition to being a talented artist, Emma serves as President of Best Buddies at Milton High.



Teacher: In this Eblast, I would like to thank our administrators, teachers and staff who attend evening school events on almost every school night of the school year. Our teachers and staff serve as representatives to our PTOs, Site Councils, Boosters, Diversity Groups, FAME, FAVA, MVAA and more. I had the opportunity to participate in February's Special Education PAC Meeting at which the following administrators and teachers/staff presented on our elementary co-taught classroom model. This outstanding presentation should have been recorded and shown to all of our parents and guardians. The presenters were knowledgeable, articulate and gave a clear educational vision of the goals and objectives of how our co-taught classrooms work. I was very proud of these Milton Public School educators and I would like to personally thank: Marcia Uretsky, Tucker Principal; Mary Tipping, Tucker Special Education Chair; Caitlin O'Brien & Cassi Kelble, Tucker Co-Taught Grade 1 teachers; Maggie Wagner, Speech Therapist; Melissa Arbour, Occupational Therapist; and Karen Clasby, Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services. Well done!

Volunteer: I would like to recognize Hyacinth Crichlow for her hard work with our Athletic Department. Ms. Crichlow is in the process of setting up a school-based and after-school tennis program through the USTA. All of our physical education staff in grades K-12 recently participated in a professional development tennis clinic two weeks ago, which was facilitated by Ms. Crichlow. Her passion and dedication to the sport of tennis and to the students in the Milton Public Schools is admirable.

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.