



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff, Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of the Milton Public Schools
From: Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: November 22, 2011

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

With all of the baking, shopping and traveling that comes with Thanksgiving, it can sometimes be easy to forget the meaning behind the holiday. That being said, I wanted to be sure that I express how grateful I am to the entire Milton Public School community.

In my thirty-eight plus years with the Milton Public Schools, I continue to marvel at the many things I have to be thankful for: motivated, interested and high-performing students; a fantastic, highly educated and dedicated faculty and staff; clean, safe and modern school buildings; the support of our many town departments and my own family and friends.

And perhaps, I'm most thankful for the unwavering support of you -- the parents and guardians of our Milton Public School students. Without your backing, none of the awards, accolades and achievements of which we are so proud would be possible.

I am always amazed at the abundance of time, energy and passion our parents bring to our schools. Especially at this time of year, I would like to say thank you. – Mary C. Gormley

CURRICULUM NEWS

Full Day Kindergarten Registration – 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.

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.

In my last Eblast, I shared with you our Pierce Middle School students who joined the “280 Club” by scoring the highest possible score on the MCAS exams. This time, I am happy to share the names of our

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

elementary students who also achieved the highest scores. First, please join me in congratulating Edward Freking, a third-grader at Glover who got a 280 in both Math and English Language Arts (ELA.)

Other third-grade students who received a perfect score include: Shea Flanagan Patrick Kennedy, Joseph Paolucci and Jonathan Truong, all of Collicot; Luke Botsford, Anna Crowley, Ejiroghene Egodogbare, Alexander Foster, Hannah Scanlan and Jason Flanagan, all of Cunningham; Lydia Papile, Katherine Possi and Hudson Smith, all of Glover; and William Reason of Tucker.

Fourth-graders who received a perfect score include Ece Buyukozer, Justin Chan, Michael Doyle and Daniel Flaherty, all of Collicot; Shayla Kelley of Cunningham; and Aemilla Ferreira of Glover.

Congratulations to all these students and their teachers!

* * *

We have even more great news. Continental Math scores were recently released, and our students did very well. We are especially pleased with the high number of perfect scores. Our fifth-grade team (district-wide) currently has a perfect score.

Continental Math League is a nationally organized contest held each year. The contest consists of 5 meets per year held in schools all over the United States. Each meet has 6 non-routine problems that take creativity and "thinking out of the box" to solve. There is a time limit of 30 minutes.

Here are a few sample questions, given to our Grade Five students:

** A number is divisible by 3 if the sum of its digits is divisible by 3. For example, 189 is divisible by 3 since $1 + 8 + 9 = 18$ is divisible by 3. Which of the following numbers is not divisible by 15?*

A) 155,445 B) 55,555 C) 57,435 D) 40,635 E) 891,720

** Samantha saved \$13 by buying a used DVD. She paid \$5 less than half the original price of a new one. How much did Samantha pay for the used DVD?*

** Eight students play a game where each student says the sum of all the numbers said by the previous students. If the first student says 4, what number does the 6th student say?*

Please see the item below in my Ambassador Page for the list of Grade Four and Grade Five students who achieved perfect scores in the first round of Continental Math. This is quite an accomplishment!

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On **Saturday, November 19th**, we hosted the Eastern District Senior Auditions at Milton High School. Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett and her talented faculty, the event went extremely well. We are also grateful to the many music students, FAME parents, and MHS custodians for their work on Saturday, along with Julius Ramirez, technology support, for troubleshooting the online scoring all day. Our music teachers, Patricia Ostrem, Gary Good, Dawn Sykes, and Colleen Martin all gave their time and effort, along with Rebecca Damiani, who is serving as the Eastern District Festival Coordinator and helped to oversee this huge audition.

I'm also very happy to report that we have 21 students from MHS who were accepted to participate in the Eastern District Senior Festival. We also have 11 students who scored so high that they received recommendations to move to the next step and audition for the Massachusetts All State Festival. This is a wonderful honor.

The following 21 students have been selected for the Eastern District Festival: **Orchestra:** Amelie Carpenter, Brendan Hayward, Caeleigh MacNeil, Lily Moerschel, Rose Moerschel and Rebecca Simms. **Concert Band:** Ellen Chow, Laura Hess, Ian Kelly, Carolyn Truax, Phil Wikina. **Jazz Ensemble:** Will Hess. **Chorus:** David Cleckley, Emily Driscoll, Andrew Flynn, Nancy Killoran, Rebecca Liberman, Bailey McDonnell, Andrew Mowe, Talia Nutting and Cristina Ruscito.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

And these 11 students have been recommended to audition for All State in January: **Orchestra:** Brendan Hayward, Lily Moerschel, Rose Moerschel, Rebecca Simms. **Concert Band:** Carolyn Truax. **Jazz Ensemble:** Will Hess. **Chorus:** David Cleckley, Rebecca Liberman, Andrew Mowe, Talia Nutting and Cristina Ruscito.

Well done!

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The Milton High Debate Team had a fantastic performance at a recent tournament in Lexington. Maya Rosmarin and Ailsa Jeffries made it to the final round, and ultimately placed second overall.

“In front of the largest audience we have ever seen for a final round, Maya and Ailsa were fantastic,” said Nick Fitzgerald, who coaches the team, along with Nancy Warn. “They put Milton High on the map of competitive high school debate.”

Out of 75 teams, Milton High teams placed 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. There were only four teams at the competition that did not lose a single round all day, and three of these four were from Milton High. In addition to Maya and Ailsa, Evy Oliverio & Beylul Negassi, and Chris Ricciuti & Cormac Connors finished the day undefeated. Two of our other teams (Isabell Smith & Yaritzi Nunez and Michael Ricciuti & Jack Caljouw) finished with winning records. Beylul Negassi finished 5th out of 150 students in individual competition, and Ailsa Jeffries placed 10th.

We are very proud of the students and the coaches for their performance!

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The Forbes House Museum hosts an essay and drawing contest every year since the 1920's. Students from many of our neighboring towns enter and our Milton students have traditionally done very well, earning many of the top prizes.

The 2012 Lincoln Essay & Drawing Contest topic question and drawing theme was just released for those students interested in entering this contest in March.

Grades 4-8: Slavery was one of the major issues which brought on the Civil War in April of 1861. It was not until January 1, 1863, however, that President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The President has often been criticized for waiting so long to issue this historic document. If you had been president, what steps would you have taken to end slavery?

Grades K-3: When President Lincoln took office in 1861, the family had a number of pets including a pony and goats for his young sons Willie and Tad. Draw a picture of the Lincoln family and their pets.

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.

For more information, including submission guidelines, please visit <http://www.forbeshousemuseum.org/> or email info@forbeshousemuseum.org

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The following item is from our Director of Guidance, Ken Aubert:

MHS Guidance Department Sponsors Financial Aid Night

Every family applying for college financial aid needs to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and send it to their prospective colleges and universities. Students already enrolled at a college or university must complete the FAFSA each year to remain eligible for many types of financial aid.

The Milton High Guidance Department is sponsoring a Financial Aid Night on **Wednesday, December 7th** at 7pm in the Charles Winchester Auditorium. The guest speaker will be Stephanie Wells from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, who will provide an overview of how to pay for college including types and sources of financial aid, an overview of financial aid applications, and packaging policies.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The FAFSA is required to be eligible for federal student aid programs such as Pell grants, Stafford, Perkins and PLUS loans, and federal work-study programs. Also, states and colleges use FAFSA information to award financial aid packages. A FAFSA is required as part of the application for a Federal PLUS Loan, which is a college loan program for parents. Previously, a FAFSA was only required for a Federal Stafford Loan for students, a non-credit based loan featuring a low fixed interest rate. Each college and university requires the FAFSA but deadlines differ from college to college. Parents and students should check with their colleges about deadlines; many deadlines are as early as February 1.

Ken Aubert, Director of Guidance at Milton High, suggests that “every family sending a child to college should file a FAFSA and see how much financial aid they might be eligible for. Many families who think they are not eligible are sometimes surprised by the financial aid award that their child receives.” Aubert adds that “prior to completing a FAFSA, parents should obtain a FAFSA personal identification number (PIN) at www.fafsa.gov. The PIN serves as an electronic signature, and filing electronically speeds up processing over submitting a paper application.”

Free help in completing the FAFSA will be available statewide to Massachusetts families on **Sunday, 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 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 2011, 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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We recently had a wonderful cultural event here in our elementary schools, thanks to the Milton Visual Arts Alliance and Celebrate Milton.

The “Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian” is a multicultural arts education program that visited our four elementary schools recently. A family of woodcarvers from Oaxaca came to share their Mexican folk art with our students. Their brightly-painted pieces captivated the children, as did the artists’ presentations and demonstration.

To see photos of this event, please click here:

http://peiphoto.smugmug.com/Milton-Visual-Arts-Alliance/MVAA110411/19912833_6bS8fz

To learn more about this program, please click here:

http://www.thedancingchickens.com/dancingchickens/The_Visiting_Mexican_Artists_Program.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

A special opportunity to make your holiday cards for patients at Milton Hospital as well as residents of Fuller Village, Unquity House and Winter Valley, will be held on **Sunday, November 27th** at the Milton Public Library/Keys Room. Children of all ages and their parents are invited to make handmade cards which will be distributed in December. All creative materials will be provided as well as hot cocoa and snacks. Holiday music will be generously provided by the MHS String Quartet. \$2 per person suggested donation.

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The Pierce PTO is hosting its annual PTO Holiday Shopping Night on **Friday, December 2nd** from 6 to 9pm. We encourage all of our Pierce parents to come to check out this excellent opportunity to shop locally -- and help support the PTO’s fundraising efforts.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

We are still accepting applications for vendors. Do you make a craft (or have a friend or student who does)? Do you know anyone who wants a chance to sell their product (Tastefully Simple, Southern Living, etc.)? We want to make this as much of a fun shopping experience for everyone who attends as possible! Any interest, please contact Lori Ferrante at 617-515-4651 or lferrante@verizon.net.

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Our Milton High Robotics Club is going strong, but they are still in need of parent volunteers. The need is especially urgent, since this year for the first time our students will be participating in First Tech Challenge Robotics.

Students are constructing a Robot using Lego Mindstorms and Textrix robotics and will compete at local and regional meets throughout New England and the country. PTC Corporation has provided a \$1000 grant to help start the team. We are looking for parent volunteers who can help:

- Build the playing field
- Brainstorm designs for the robot
- Host a meet on December 17, 2011
- Program the robot (using Labview)

We would love to find a Milton Public School parent who fits the bill! If you are interested please contact, Marilyn Decker mdecker@miltonps.org

GRANT/FUNDRAISING NEWS

Some of you may have heard of the group M-PACE. Some of you may have contributed to this worthy cause through your excise tax bills. This group does a great deal of good for the Milton Public Schools. Donations to M-PACE help to fund cultural arts events and field trips for students in all six of our schools.

From Shakespearean plays at Milton High, to Egyptian art program at Pierce, to an annual field trip to the Boston Symphony for our elementary school students, the M-PACE funds are always put to good use.

This year the M-PACE fundraising efforts got a kick-start thanks to an anonymous \$500 donation from a Milton resident. We are hoping that this donation, paired with any other potential donations would allow us to offer even more cultural and artistic events for our students.

If you would like more information about M-PACE, please contact jshields@townofmilton.org

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A new, grass-roots aid organization aimed at providing financial assistance to teenagers throughout our community will be holding its kickoff fundraiser on **Saturday, November 26th** from 7 to 11pm.

The "Milton's Teens in Need" fundraiser costs \$20 per person and will be held at the Milton Women's Club, 90 Reedsdale Road. Proceeds will be earmarked for local teens to use for holiday gifts, school social fees, college applications and much more.

Come enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar (beer and wine), and the company of your friends and neighbors and celebrate the founding of this important new community organization.

If you have any questions please contact John Phelan at jphelan@miltonps.org or Karen DeLuca at kdeluca@miltonps.org.

ANTI-VIOLENCE/ANTI-BULLYING INFO

A group of Milton High Student Leaders recently traveled to Bentley College to participate in an Anti-Bullying, Leadership Training program.

Working together with Dr. Greg Hall and members of the Bentley Honors Program, the group of MHS Student Leaders, accompanied by Milton High's vice principal Alan Cron, spent the day planning a workshop they will present to Pierce Middle Schools new "Friends of Rachel" Club in December.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

This was an excellent opportunity for our high school leaders to interact with college students on this important topic.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

The following item was submitted by Milton Hospital President Joseph Morrissey:

Dear Milton Public School Parents:

As many of you may have read in last week's Milton Times, a proposed agreement between Milton Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, is currently being reviewed by the Department of Public Health. The agreement is designed to strengthen the relationship between the two hospitals, and to preserve and enhance the wonderful healthcare services offered at Milton Hospital.

The new relationship, if approved, would make Milton Hospital a "corporate affiliate" of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Some of the key elements of this new affiliation would include:

The same doctors, nurses, hospital administrators and staff you have grown to know and trust,
Growth of our medical staff, as Beth Israel Deaconess helps to recruit new primary care physicians and specialists to join our existing staff in caring for patients in our community,
Easier access to the world-class care offered at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, when our patients require more advanced treatment,
The same local Board of Directors, whose mission is to strengthen and expand Milton Hospital's services, with the addition of new Board members from Beth Israel Deaconess who will share their expertise,
A new name and logo for Milton Hospital, which we look forward to unveiling with pride as we begin a promising new chapter in our long history.

We are excited to continue to care for the residents of Milton, and its many surrounding communities, and look forward to finalizing our agreement in the coming weeks.

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The Town of Milton Parks and Recreation Department is currently offering signups for two exciting opportunities: On **Saturday, December 17th**, they will be sponsoring a New York City Holiday Shopping Trip for all ages, with round-trip bus tickets at \$49 per person.

Also, signups for the Blue Hill Ski Program, ages 7-17, have begun. Please visit the Parks and Rec website for more information on either of these programs.

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

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Looking for something to do with your children over the holiday weekend? The library is holding a fun event on **Friday, November 25th**.

Bring your whole family along for a fun afternoon! The library will have an assortment of board games for all ages--enjoy ours or bring your family favorite. All ages welcome (with an adult caretaker). Drop in at any time between 1pm and 4pm. No registration required. For more information, contact: Children's Room 617-898-4957 or click here:

<http://www.miltonlibrary.org/images/Publicity/famgame1111.jpg>

ATHLETICS

More great news from our volleyball team! Coach Robin Lee notified us that Samantha Curley has been named to the Division 2 All State Team by the Massachusetts Girls Volleyball Coaches Association.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

Also, the team was invited to Algonquin Regional High School recently to accept a Sportsmanship Award from the MIAA. Congratulations!

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The final signups for Winter Sports at Milton High will be held this **Monday, November 28th** from 2 to 4pm at the Milton High athletic office located next to the Copeland Field House entrance. Signups after this date will be subject to missing 20% of their team's scheduled games. Opportunities to try out and play may be limited for students who sign up after a team has started practicing.

Also, after sign ups and before trying out, students must obtain a "clearance card." For more information on the requirements for our student athletes, please visit:

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

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:

Students: Congratulations to the following students for achieving perfect scores in the first round of Continental Math: **Grade Four:** Thomas Hamblet of Cunningham. **Grade Five:** Eliza O'Donnell of Glover; Annabelle Bostford, Shayla Kelley, Samantha Vangestel and William McGourty, all of Cunningham and Hannah Mitchell of Tucker.

Teacher: We would like to highlight Rebecca Damiani, our very talented music teacher at Milton High. This year, Mrs. Damiani has been named the Senior Festival Coordinator by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. This is not only a wonderful honor, but it is also takes a great deal of time and effort to plan for the Senior District Festival, to be held in January. In addition, Mrs. Damiani is involved with the concert band, jazz ensemble, the marching band, our musical productions, the dance teams and the Faculty Talent Show. We appreciate all that she does for our students.

Volunteer: I would like to recognize one of our former Tucker teachers, Betsy Buchbinder, who has been one of Milton's most active volunteers. Mrs. Buchbinder, a lifelong resident of Milton, was an amazing and gifted teacher at Tucker Elementary School for 25 years.

She has since been an active volunteer for South Shore Elder Services, the Milton Council on Aging, the Fuller Village "We Remember When," committee, She has served on the boards of South Shore Elder Services, the Milton Council on Aging, Milton Residences for the Elderly and Milton Hospital and was vice president of the Milton Interagency Network for Elders. Mrs. Buchbinder was recently selected for the 24th annual Edythe B. Donkin Award. Well deserved!

Please see the article written by Sue Scheible of the Patriot Ledger which summarizes Mrs. Buchbinder's accomplishments.

http://www.patriotledger.com/lifestyle/50_plus/x1931302901/Betsy-Buchbinder-of-Milton-to-receive-South-Shore-Elder-Services-Donkin-award

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.

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