

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AND
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
2011-2012**

The Students and the Schools

The school year began under the leadership of Superintendent Mary Gormley, Assistant Superintendent John Phelan and Assistant Superintendent for Business Matthew Gillis.

Our district includes four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. We also include two pre-K classrooms as well as the Milton Community Schools which runs before and after school programs. Our district offers Adult Education courses throughout the year as well as private music instruction for students, school vacation camps, a thriving Saturday Program, Summer Enrichment opportunities and weekly summer camps.

As of June, 2012, Milton's total enrollment was 3,886 students in our public schools, a figure that decreased from the previous June, based on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Although the district enrollment decreased as a whole, the Collicot and Tucker elementary schools, along with the Pierce Middle School, saw enrollment gains.

During the 2011-12 year, as in the past, the Milton Public School students performed at very high levels of achievement. Our high school students are consistently accepted at highly competitive colleges and universities at a rate that is significantly higher than most other school districts, our middle school students continue to thrive under the "team" model, which breaks the large number of 6th, 7th and 8th graders at each level down into smaller teams which give students a more personalized experience. In addition, our elementary school students continue to thrive in both French Immersion and English/FLES classrooms.

In the past year, we reinforced our district's core values which are: High Academic Achievement for All Students, Excellence in the Classroom, Collaborative Relationships and Communication, Respect for Human Differences, Risk Taking, and Innovation for Education.

One of the more challenging tasks for the 2011-12 school year was the hiring of 31 new teachers and four administrators. The school system benefitted from a competitive pool of applicants and many search teams produced an excellent class of new staff.

This past school year, we realized excellent results on Milton High School's Advanced Placement Program results. The goal of increasing the percentage of qualifying scores on the AP exams was not only achieved, but exceeded. During the 2011-2012 school year, the number of tests takers increased by 22 students and the number of tests increased by 22. But perhaps the best news is that the percentage of

students earning 3's, 4's and 5's increased twelve percentage points -- from 54% to 66%!

The MCAS tests taken by students in the spring of 2012 earned our district a notable honor. Each of our six schools earned a Level 1 designation from the state, which resulted in the entire district being named a Level 1 district. This distinction is earned by fewer than 25% of districts in the commonwealth. In addition, two of Milton's elementary schools, the Collicot and Glover Elementary Schools, were named as Commendation Schools by the DESE for high student growth. Collicot was commended for High Progress and Narrowing Proficiency Gaps; while Glover was commended for High Progress.

Also, during the 2011-2012 year, we undertook the project of posting all our curriculum materials online. The curriculum is organized by school level and by subject, so parents/guardians can easily access the curriculum for their child, not only for each grade, but also for each subject.

Curriculum materials can be found at: www.miltonps.org/admin-curriculum.php

This was the first year we hosted Rachel's Challenge, a national program named for the first victim of the Columbine High School shootings. In October, representatives from this organization came to the Milton Public Schools and worked with our student leaders to deliver a highly regarded anti-violence and anti-bullying message.

Collicot Elementary School:

The Collicot School, under the new leadership of Principal Janet Sheehan, had a total of 633 students enrolled in PreK-5 during the 2011-2012 school year. The Collicot School has been recognized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in past years for student achievement in the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System). For the Spring 2012 MCAS, the Collicot was awarded Commendation School status in recognition of High Progress and Narrowing Proficiency Gaps among students.

The School Improvement Plan developed by the Collicot School Site Council reflected district core values and goals focusing on topics that included curriculum, assessment, engaging all learners, technology, diversity awareness, and new anti-bullying regulations. Faculty members worked hard to meet the goals of the School Improvement Plan and participated in numerous professional development activities to improve curriculum and instruction. Activities focused on the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core Standards, differentiated instruction, anti-bullying legislation, MCAS analysis, supporting English Language Learners, and Study Island implementation. The district provided additional opportunities for professional growth through workshop offerings in the content areas and technology, which were often led by district teacher leaders.

Strong partnerships with our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Milton Foundation for Education (MFE) also supported efforts to meet school and district goals. The PTO equipped second grade classrooms with SMART Board technology and increased fundraising efforts in the spring to provide additional grade 3 and grade 4 SMART Boards for the next school year. Cultural and

enrichment events provided by the PTO enhanced the curriculum throughout the school year. The "One Book, One School" event continued to be a great success in involving the entire school community in appreciating literacy and diversity. Additional enrichment programs included a Flamenco Dance Project presentation to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month, author visits, a New England Percussion Ensemble performance, and a presentation of Asian folk tales and myths. The PTO continued to award classroom grants that were utilized by teachers for special projects. Parents continued efforts to support learning through the before school Math League and the annual Science Fair. The Safe Routes to School Program continued this year with a new "Walk Across America" initiative.

The MFE and PTO partnered to provide Outdoor Classroom activities for students to explore our own Nature Trail with naturalists from Mass Audubon. MFE funds supported the integration of technology in grades 3-5 classrooms by funding highly motivating document cameras to enhance science and other content area learning experiences. The MFE awarded individual classroom and grade level grants to support learning, and we were very fortunate to receive a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the MFE to support classroom libraries for the next school year.

Additional partnerships included the Diversity Committee and PTO working together to plan events to welcome new families to the school community. The Meet the Artists program expanded to include third graders this year, and students appreciated art history through literature and projects that focused on the "Art of the Americas" theme. It is our parent volunteers who made this program and so many programs such a great success!

The year ended with a celebration of our fifth graders' transition to Pierce Middle School and the acceptance of their lovely gift of six podiums--one for each grade level to utilize for classroom presentations and public speaking activities. We also celebrated the accomplishments of many students in grades 3-5 who were recognized for their performance in the Study Island enrichment program and in national competitions such as Continental Math and WordMasters. Additionally, students received awards for academic achievement, citizenship, leadership, and school spirit. It was another successful year for our students thanks to the tremendous support of our parents and community at large!

Cunningham Elementary School:

The Cunningham Elementary School, under the leadership of Dr. Karen Spaulding, had 459 students during the 2011-12 school year. Cunningham leadership, faculty, staff, families and students remain committed to high expectations for student learning in an environment that is nurturing and supportive.

In ELA, the Cunningham has teachers that implement Open Court, Reader's Workshop, Reads Naturally and Lucy Calkin's writing curriculum. There was a move to embed technology in ELA mainly because of the success the Math Curriculum has seen. Conversation around refining assessments and

building consistency around ELA instruction also took place in staff meetings. Journal writing was embraced for the first time at each grade level. Students were given numerous opportunities to write about their thinking or of free writes. Many of the entries were selected and put through the writing process.

Everyday Math was the curriculum used at each grade level. Teachers appreciated the consistency of a common curriculum and common end of unit assessments.

Cunningham MCAS data: Kindergarten classrooms participated in a pilot assessment program as part of the NAEYC accreditation for the Full Day Kindergarten grant. The classes went to Trailside Museum for the field trip. Kindergarten also had an annual Reading Day where members of the community came to visit in read in the classrooms.

On Fridays in first grade they had a "Mystery Reader." A surprise relative of the student(s) came into the class to read. The first grades also benefitted from visits from two scientists, a marine/environmental biologist, and a yoga instructor. They enjoyed field trips to Cunningham Park and Franklin Park Zoo.

In second grade, students had a field trip to the Big Apple Circus and had a field day at Cunningham Park. The English second grades went to International Night, which was hosted by the Diversity Committee.

The third grade students went on a trip to Plimoth Plantation. The classrooms held a Halloween/Winter themed station where parents were invited. In June, the students participated in Field Day and Community Read.

In grade four, students held a Winter Poetry Reading. They also went on a field trip to Franklin Park Zoo. Students completed projects that focused on endangered species. These projects were shared at the "Endangered Animal Research Reports and Projects." Parents also were able to witness students making oral presentations on famous people. Many students dressed up as their person and presented a report. Grade 4 also held the "Celebrating Our Differences Program."

The fifth grade participated in a school-wide pajama drive. As a result, they won a visit from the Boston Bruins. They also went to UMass/Boston for a Boston Harbor Science Cruise. The students toured the State House and went to Pierce for a play.

The FLES program purchased new textbooks for third/fourth grade. The textbook curriculum directly aligns with national learning standards for foreign language.

Two Cunningham students were selected as winners of the fifth annual Curiosity Challenge sponsored by The Cambridge Science Festival. These students were chosen from more than 1500 entries. The challenge is open to students between the ages of 5 and 14, who submit artwork or a piece of writing that shows their curiosity and how it prompted them to explore their world. These students were given an award at Walker Memorial Building at MIT and their work was published in a book designed by the Cambridge Science Festival.

Finally, Cunningham Elementary School made adequate yearly progress in the aggregate and all subgroups for both English Language Arts and Mathematics. This progress earned Cunningham a "Level 1" status.

Glover Elementary School:

Under the leadership of Principal Stephanie Nephew, Glover Elementary School's 529 students in grades K through 5 had another remarkable year.

Glover Elementary School Under the state's new guidelines for MCAS, Glover was recognized as a Level 1 school, the highest designation attainable. In addition, Glover was named a Commendation School, for High Progress and Narrowing Proficiency Gaps.

Glover has maintained a partnership with UMass/ Boston, instructing fifth-grade students on local watershed issues. Glover students participated in engaging Science Museum and Aquarium programs during in-school projects. Parent/guardian involvement continues to support and enhance the curriculum and instructional experiences at Glover. Meet the Artist and Junior Achievement's JA in a Day programs provided opportunities for parents/guardians to volunteer in rich learning experiences for our children. All kindergarten through second-grade classrooms were involved in Meet the Artists, and all students in grades three through five participated in the one day Junior Achievement experience where parent/guardian volunteers shared hands-on activities to introduce business and economy. Parents/guardians continue to support early literacy by volunteering to be mystery readers. Finally, Glover parents/guardians continued the tradition of Family Literacy Night, as well as Math Curriculum night.

Continuing their strong tradition of community service, Glover students participated in Soccer Uniform drives, collected clothing for Cradles to Crayons and helped with a town wide effort to collect food for the Milton Food Pantry. The school also initiated an exciting genealogy project, with students helping to create a large map inside the school. Each students identified countries where they could trace their ancestry and were able to mark those countries on the map.

During the 2011-12 school year, with the help of the PTO and the MFE, Glover school became fully equipped with Smartboards. Teachers continue to explore engaging activities and lessons to meet the needs of all our learners. More than 50 students participated in the fourth annual Glover musical productions of "Gotta Be Jazz" with the grades 3-5 and "Go Fish" with grades 1-3.

Tucker Elementary School

Tucker School concluded the 2011-2012 school year with 374 students under the leadership of Principal Marcia Uretsky. The year began with our annual Back-to-School Pot Luck and Dance in the playground which brings all the families together to kick off the school year.

Tucker Elementary School had several accomplishments this year. The Tucker School continued to move forward with strong student growth and was designated by the state as a Level 1 school as a result of the Spring 2012 MCAS.

The Tucker School was awarded a Commendation Grant for being a Title I school with high student growth. The grant awarded the school with \$60,000 which provided professional development collaboration between Tucker and the JFK School in Randolph. The goal of the collaboration was to share best practices through site visits, learning walks, and collaborative lesson planning. The grant also allowed Tucker to purchase 30 iPads for student use and document cameras for each grade level. Tucker is now 100% SmartBoard accessible in every classroom. The school is aggressively finding strategies to use technology in daily lessons and to close the achievement gap.

Several programs to support students were continued to support students including Title One Morning Math Program and Title I small group targeted instruction. Tucker also offered enrichment opportunities for students. After-school enrichment clubs offered students the opportunity to participate in paper maché, illustration, drama, basketball clinics, and double-dutch jumprope. Gary Good offered small group instrumental lessons at Tucker which allowed access to more Tucker students. Our first team competed in the Boston Beantown Jumpers in the spring. With the support of the Tucker PTO, the Continental Math Enrichment League was held on Fridays for grades three and four. We offered two before school Book Clubs.

Tucker students were involved in community service projects this year. All fifth graders participated in community service projects ranging from helping in the Kindergarten classrooms, offering art classes, helping in the cafeteria, book drives, and numerous fundraising projects such as bake sales and Celtics Pride Day. Money from these events supported Birthday Wishes, a group that provides birthday parties to children living in shelters, to the Jimmy Fund.

In WordMasters Competition, Tucker students earned three medals, nine certificates and one perfect score. In Continental Math League exams, students earned three awards and eleven certificates: three first place, four second place, and four third place.

Tucker's Diversity Night was renamed Unity Night to reflect how this evening celebrates and unifies the school community. This celebration was moved to the High School auditorium and featured student music and dance performances from cultures around the world. Tucker third- through fifth-graders work with OriginaNations Dance Company. Tucker parents Eugenie Knight and Starleen Baylon choreographed dances for Kindergarten and first grades.

The Tucker PTO sponsored several enrichment programs throughout the year including: our Lantern Walk, Family Dinner and math Night, a special program by the Boston Ballet, the NEC Children's Opera, and a special family night with storyteller Len Cabral.

The Meet the Artist Art Docent Program was in full swing for its second year and extended to grades three and four. This is a parent/guardian-run program supported by a grant from the MFE. All students in kindergarten through grade three work in small groups with adult volunteers to learn about six different artists. They read a book about the artist, view posters of the artist's work, and participate in an art project in the "style of the artist."

On March 2nd, Dr. Seuss's birthday, we celebrated Read Across America Day. Tucker staff and others from the Milton community read books to Tucker students.

Tucker held its third annual Field Day at Kelly Field. Thanks to the work of Coach Ben Jones and Tucker parents and guardians, students celebrated the end of a busy and successful year with field day games and a picnic.

In May, our PTO resurrected our Tucker Spring Fair with old fashioned games, prizes and food. In spite of the weather, a good time was had by all and it was decided this must be a yearly event.

Our year ended as it began with our Family Pot Luck Dinner and Dance. There is always a huge turn out from the Tucker families for the Pot Luck. It is a great way to celebrate the year, say goodbye to friends and wish them a wonderful summer.

Pierce Middle School:

The 2011-2012 school year at Pierce Middle School began with an enrollment of 854 students and under the leadership of Principal James Jette.

English: Students in Grade 6 did extremely well in English Language Arts on the spring 2012 MCAS. Eighty-one percent of students scored either proficient or advanced. This is 15% higher than the state with twice the percentage of students scoring in the advanced category as compared to the state. Grade 7 was equally impressive with 85% of Grade 7 scoring proficient or advanced as compared to the state, which was 71%. Students in grade 8 continued the trend of impressive performance with 91% of students scoring in the advanced or proficient category as compared to 81% of 8th grade students in the state.

Math: Students at the Pierce Middle School also scored well in mathematics with 82% of Pierce 6th grade students scoring proficient or higher on the 2012 Mathematics MCAS. Students in Grade 7 also did extremely well with 68% of that grade level scoring proficient or advanced. Students in Grade 8 topped off this positive showing with 73% scoring in either the advanced or proficient category. Relative to the state, all grade levels were notably above the state with 6th grade an incredible 22% above the state, 7th grade having 17% more students at proficient or advanced than the state, and 8th grade with 21% more students in the proficient and advanced categories relative to the state.

Science: Although not as notable as the results in mathematics and English Language Arts, students in 8th grade scored above the state on the Science Technology and Engineering Spring 2012 MCAS. The Pierce Middle School had 5% more students in the proficient and advanced categories relative to the state and half as many students in the warning/failing category.

The Pierce 280 Club tradition continued this year. Forty-eight students in grades 5-8 scored 280 in mathematics. There were 25 students in English Language Arts who scored a scaled score of 280. In science, 3 students scored 280. All of these students were honored at the annual Pierce 280 Club

Luncheon and were recognized by Superintendent Gormley and Assistant Superintendent Phelan.

A number of curriculum initiatives were implemented to continue the positive growth Pierce has made. Teachers met regularly to better align learning objectives in each curriculum area with the newly released state Curriculum Frameworks. This work included becoming familiar with the Common Core Standards and reflecting on the degree to which these are aligned with current expectations for learning at Pierce Middle School.

In addition, professional learning communities (PLCs) were initiated to support the implementation of a number of research-based instructional strategies and to explore in more depth some of the barriers that get in the way of student learning. English Language Arts teachers used Ellin Oliver Keene's text, *Comprehension Going Forward*, to anchor a year-long emphasis on strategies for comprehension. Grade 6 benchmark reading assessments (SRI) were implemented as well. Grade 8 teachers developed a year-long theme, "How do people tell their stories?", and added a common project to address new research learning standards. History teachers continued to develop common assessments and worked closely with high school curriculum leaders on the vertical alignment of learning standards. In math, common assessments, better aligned with the new standards, were developed and 8th grade teachers worked closely with the high school on vertical alignment. World language teachers worked diligently to better align their curriculum materials with learning standards and develop common assessments.

In order to better support students, teachers and administrators continued to align Math Investigations, a course designed for students who scored Needs Improvement or Warning/Failure on the most recent mathematics MCAS, and Advanced Initiative in Mathematics, a course developed in order to support students who are taking above-level mathematics classes. Professional development was offered in a number of areas including Study Island, differentiation, and implementing technology in the classroom. Teachers were also trained in use of Earshot, an online reporting and data management anti-bullying system.

The 2011-2012 school year began with an invitation to families who were new to the Milton Public Schools for an informational evening and tour of the Pierce Middle School in August. Pierce's commitment to welcoming all families continued with its annual Open House in September. With October, came the kick off of Rachel's Challenge, one of Pierce's anti-bullying efforts. A series of activities were then implemented at Pierce that supported Rachel's Challenge to us to be kind and compassionate to each other every day.

In early November, 5th grade families were invited to attend a Pierce Middle School Information Night. In December, Pierce students performed during a series of concerts at Milton High School. A celebration of the arts continued with the Winter Arts Festival. During this event a number of works of art created by the Pierce Creativity Club were displayed and sold. Pierce students were also proud to display their essays, poems, and works of art, which reflected the theme "Keeping the Dream Alive" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. These works were shown as part of the 2012 Milton Community's Annual Memorial Celebration of MLK. The month of January ended on an incredible note with the performance of *Guys and Dolls* by the Pierce Players.

With February came the National Geographic Geography Bee. A sixth grade student won the title of the 2012 Pierce Middle school Geography Bee winner and went onto the statewide finals in Worcester, where he placed in the top 20 overall. Positive recognition for Pierce Middle School students continued into March with a seventh-grade student winning the Pierce Middle School Spelling Bee. She went onto the State Regional Spelling Bee, where she placed 6th overall. The Pierce Future Problem Solvers competed in the State Bowl, where the junior team placed fourth in the written competition and second in the action plan presentations. The middle school team placed second in the written competition and first place for their action plan presentations.

March was also marked by a number of concerts in celebration of Music in Our Schools Month. As March is also Youth Art Month, and Pierce student artists showed off their talent at the Pierce Art Festival at the end of the month. In addition, the Pierce Diversity Committee hosted Family Fun Night in March. The Pierce Middle school was extremely proud to be recognized in March 2012 with a Bronze Award for the Healthier US School Challenge. The goal of this initiative is to improve the health of our children by promoting a healthier school environment. "Movie Night with Mr. Jette," a fundraising event for the Milton Foundation for Education, was a tremendous hit in March. The evening was full of fun, a great film, and pizza. The Pierce Middle School continues to be extremely grateful for the generosity of its families and the Milton Foundation for Education.

April 2012 brought more performances by our extremely talented students. The Pierce Jazz Band and Milton High School Jazz Band performed together in celebration of the Town of Milton's 350th Anniversary. The Pierce Select Chorus also showed their talents to all of Milton during this important celebration. For Milton's 350th Celebration, Pierce middle school students also contributed student work demonstrating both their understanding of the history of Milton and their incredible technological skills. The diversity of the Pierce Middle School was celebrated in April at the Global Community Celebration sponsored by the Pierce Middle School Diversity Committee. The evening aims to bring teachers, students, parents/guardians and the community together for a global-themed community wide event that celebrates diversity. Our Mock Trial Club, consisting of 10 Pierce Middle School students, competed in April at Quincy District Court. The topic for this year's competition was cyberbullying. The Pierce Lego Robotics Club also participated in several competitions this year.

May 2012 began with Pierce Middle School's Annual Grade 5 Step Up Day. Grade 6 chorus students performed during the school day for fifth grade students from all 4 elementary schools. Our future students had the opportunity to meet school administrators, guidance staff, and many of the grade six students. Also during this month, twelve Pierce Middle School students were honored at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Curiosity Award as part of the 2012 Cambridge Science Festival. Many Pierce musicians also

participated in the Great East Music Festival, which took place in North Andover. GMay was rounded out with yet another remarkable performance by the Pierce Players, My Son Pinocchio.

The Pierce Middle School engaged in a number of charitable efforts during the 2011-2012 school year. This work included "Hat Day", to raise money for "Friends of the Orphans"; a town-wide clothing as part of "Jeans for Teens," a Giving Wall, in collaboration with Milton Resident's Fund; a toy drive for My Brother's Keeper, Families Helping Families; a Student Council-sponsored Formal Day to benefit the Milton Animal Shelter; the Pierce Can and Food Drive for the Milton Food Pantry; a Milton Teen Clothing Shopping Day; and "Study Island for a Cause" where students asked family and friends to sponsor them as they completed Study Island math problems. These funds were donated to Camp Woodstock, a camp for at risk youth, in memory of former guidance counselor Emily Ayre. These charitable endeavors certainly helped many families in need, but also worked to boost the school spirit. Other school spirit events included a series of basketball games sponsored by Pierce Student Council.

Pierce Middle School faculty continued to be recognized for their achievements during this school year. Jonathan Turrisi, 8th grade history teacher, was selected as one of 28 teachers from across the United States to participate in a professional development experience on America's Early Wars. Stephanie Sherman, Pierce art teacher, won Artist's Magazine's 2012 All Media Art Competition with her painting/self portrait and placed third in the summer competition for the Juried Art Festival in Quincy. Another Pierce art teacher, Robyn Thompson, place "Best in Show" in the Juried Art Festival. Finally, Kate Friedman, grade 7 English Language Arts teacher, was honored as the Milton Foundation for Education's Teacher of the Year for the dedication, passion, and talent she brings to the Pierce Middle School.

In the spring of 2012, it was announced that Principal James Jette would be moving to Milton High School to serve as Principal; and Dr. Karen Spaulding of the Cunningham Elementary School would serve as the new Pierce Middle School Principal.

Milton High School:

There were 1024 students attending Milton High in the 2011-12 school year under the leadership of Principal Dr. Joseph Arangio and Assistant Principals Alan Cron and Yolanda Beech.

The leadership team at Milton High School was pleased to report continual growth in the number of Advanced Placement tests taken by our students (rising from 586 tests taken in 2011 to 608 in 2012) as well as the percentage of qualifying scores (rising from 54% in 2011 to 66% in 2012.)

During the 2010-2011 year, our students volunteered thousands of hours in our community-wide events including Celebrate Milton. Music students (both band and chorus) participated in the annual Veteran's Day and Memorial Day celebrations, and dozens of Milton High School students were involved in the planning of the town's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. We also held our

annual Career Day, which brings dozens of professionals from a wide variety of career fields to our high school to inspire our grade ten and eleven students.

Other highlights include:

SAT Prep classes provided twice a year for students

20 Advanced Placement courses offered (more than ALL local and surrounding private & public schools)

Special Education partnerships/opportunities

More than 70 clubs have been available to students

Homework Club after school in the library is open to all students

More than 390 students are playing fall sports

Approximately 300 students are participating in clubs/activities

Mock Trial – MHS Students compete each year in the Statewide Mock Trial Tournament. In October we get a case from the Massachusetts Bar Association that is based on real situations, real law, and real evidence.

Foods students sent packages to MHS alumni and friends serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they created the Courtyard garden in "grow bags"

Annual hosting of more than 300 students from the Sakae Higashi High School in Japan School to Career Partnership

Guidance Counselors host student/parent (one-on-one) meetings about postsecondary decisions

Bio-Tech Lab Opportunities

Drama students participate in the State Drama Festival, sponsored by the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild. MHS was one of 42 schools to make it to the semifinals out of 114 schools performing in the preliminaries.

MHS Drawing II students designed and painted a mural for Collicot Elementary School.

Clothing students also have the option to make quilts and blankets throughout the year which are donated to Project Linus, which provides blankets to children who are seriously ill or traumatized.

Milton High School sent a team of academic stars to compete on "High School Quiz Show," hosted by WGBH. Our students competed against nearly 100 teams to earn a spot in the final four. The Milton High team was selected to appear as one of the teams to compete in Season Three of the show.

Our high school also sent a team of students to the National Life Smarts championship in Philadelphia in April of 2012. Our students won an all-expense-paid trip to Philadelphia after winning a statewide competition in Boston in March. The LifeSmarts program, which is sponsored by the National Consumers League, helps students learn and develop marketplace skills to help them make more intelligent decisions as workers, consumers, and citizens.

College Board participation of students in the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program continued to increase in quantity and quality over the last several years. One hundred percent of the Class of 2012 took the SAT, and the combined reading and math score was 1043.

We had 42 students in the Classes of 2012 and 2013 who earned the distinction of Advanced Placement Scholar for their achievement in these college level examinations. Among these students, one qualified for the AP National Scholar by earning an average grade of at least 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams, 18 qualified for the Scholar with Distinction Award by earning a score of 3 or higher on five or more exams, and 19 qualified for the Scholar with Honor Award by earning a grade of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

As a result of taking the PSAT's in the fall of 2011, seven students were recognized for their exceptional academic promise. These students are placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2012 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

The Naviance college and career software program was fully implemented in grades nine through twelve. This web-based system for schools allows students, parents, guardians and counselors to manage all aspects of the college admissions process from researching schools to processing college applications, transcripts and related forms electronically.

A higher percentage of our graduating class chose to attend four-year college than in the past four years, with 81% choosing to pursue a bachelor's degrees and a total of 96% choosing post-secondary education.

Members of our Milton High Class of 2012 planned to attend the following schools. In addition, one of our seniors will be joining the United States Navy, and another will be entering the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis:

American University in Cairo, Arizona State University, Bay State College, Benjamin Franklin Institute, Bentley University, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Bridgewater State University, Bridgton Academy, Bryant University, Bunker Hill Community College, Champlain College, Colby College, Colby-Sawyer College, College of the Holy Cross, Columbia University, Concordia University-Montreal, Curry College, Dartmouth College, Dean College, Drexel University, Duke University, Duquesne University, Eastern Nazarene College, Elon University, Emmanuel College, Endicott College, Fisher College, Flagler College, Florida A&M University, Georgetown University, Goucher College, Harvard University, Hofstra University, Iona College, Lincoln Technical Institute, Loyola University-Maryland, Loyola University-New Orleans, Maine College of Art, Manhattan College, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Massasoit Community College - Canton, McGill University-Montreal, Michigan State University, Montserrat College of Art, New York University, Newbury College, Nichols College, Northeastern University, Norwich University, Ohio Northern University, Ohio State University, Parsons-The New School for Design, Plymouth State University, Porter and Chester Institute, Proctor Academy, Quincy College, Regis College, Regis University-Denver, Roger Williams University, Roxbury Community College, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Saint Anselm College, Saint Augustine College, Saint John's University, Saint Michael's College, Salem State University, Salve Regina University, Simmons College,

Southern New Hampshire University, Stonehill College, Suffolk University, Syracuse University, The Catholic University of America, Tufts University, United States Air Force Academy, Universal Technical Institute, University of British Columbia, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Connecticut, University of Maryland, College Park, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Commonwealth Honors College) University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Isenberg School), University of Massachusetts, Boston, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, University of Missouri - Columbia, University of New Hampshire, University of North Texas, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rhode Island, University of South Carolina, University of Southern Indiana, University of Southern Maine, University of Tampa, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, Wagner College, Washington and Jefferson College, Wellesley College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wesleyan University, Westfield State University, Wheelock College, Widener University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State University.

In the spring of 2012, it was announced that James Jette, principal of the Pierce Middle School, was appointed as the new Milton High School Principal, replacing interim Principal Dr. Joseph Arangio.

Program Highlights:

Math:

The Mathematics Department had a successful 2011-2012 school year. The tenth grade students posted high scores on the Spring 2012 Mathematics MCAS exam. Specifically, 88% of students scored either "Proficient" or higher, 67% scored in the "Advanced" category, and three students earned perfect scores of 280. The department offered Spring semester MCAS prep classes during the school day for students needing to retake the tenth grade Math MCAS or for those students who scored "Needs Improvement" or "Warning/Failing" on the eighth grade Math MCAS exam.

The Mathematics Department offered SAT Math Preparatory Courses after-school and on Saturdays during the Fall and Spring semesters. These courses were highly attended by Milton High School students and helped prepare both juniors and seniors for the exam. The mean SAT Mathematics score for the 2011-2012 school year was 529, a two point increase from the 2010-2011 school year. One hundred percent of senior students during the 2011-2012 school year took the SAT exam.

A number of teachers from the Mathematics Department participated in pre-AP mathematics training and/or attended AP Institutes/Workshops. The knowledge and skills acquired from these professional development opportunities have helped raise AP participation and exam scores. Notable gains in AP scores include the percentage of qualifying scores for Calculus AB which increased from 24% in 2011 to 63% in 2012 and for Micro-Economics in the Business Department which increased from 32% to 68%. These same skills have been shared with the entire mathematics department through collegial collaboration and in-house professional development opportunities.

Applying these skills have helped raise the level of rigor in all courses, including the college preparatory, honors, or AP levels.

Humanities:

The Humanities Department, led by Barbara Wright, underwent several changes and began some new initiatives during the 2011-12 school year.

Ninth grade English teachers worked diligently to align the curriculum for all 9th grade students. This was a year-long project that involved the incorporation of new literature, common assessment pieces and shared driving questions amongst teachers. Tenth grade students did exceptionally well on the MCAS exams, with 96% of our students scoring Proficient/Advanced on the ELA portion of the exam. Not one student failed the exam.

A new SAT prep course was offered to students as a Humanities elective, and a number of students participated in both Fall and Spring SAT prep courses that were offered in the afternoon and on weekends. The Fall session was run for the first time in the fall of last year. Students from The American Experience class visited the John F. Kennedy Library to participate in a budget simulation field trip. Students were expected to budget funds to the many facets of our federal government, and justify their spending to mock Congress assembled.

Milton High School invited students from area schools to join our 9th grade students in a presentation of Romeo and Juliet. More than 100 students from schools in Milton attended the presentation. Our high school English teachers participated in a day-long AP training course hosted by the College Board. The focus of the day-long Professional Development program was student-centered learning, as well as modeling pre-AP techniques that could be used in preparing students for Advanced Placement courses.

World Languages:

During the 2011-2012 school year, the World Language Department sponsored the following activities:

Field Trips: Educational trip to France and Spain. Twenty-five French and Spanish High School students participated and visited many cultural sites in Paris and Barcelona. Educational Trip to Quebec. Forty-one French Immersion seventh graders visited cultural sites in and around Quebec City trip over the Labor Day weekend.

Clubs, Cultural & After-School Activities: The Middle School French and Spanish clubs provided enrichment activities for students of French and Spanish. Russian was taught at the Middle School in the after-school program. The Language Department celebrated Foreign Language week in March 2011. Games, competitions, international fairs and special activities were organized district-wide. La Journée de la Francophonie was celebrated district-wide with games and cultural activities. During a celebration sponsored by the French Consulate, High School French students played French trivia games, ate croissants and watched the premiere of a popular French animated movie. The High School French Club created workshops with the Pre-School and the elementary schools to introduce younger students to French language and culture.

Spanish students celebrated the Day of the Dead and Cinco de Mayo in all schools. Middle School French Immersion students presented a dramatic adaptation of *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo at Pierce Middle School. High School French and Latin Clubs collected toys for Toys for Tots at Christmas. For the time, the KEY club collaborated in this effort. During the event, Pierce Middle School grade six students spearheaded a drive to raise funds for our sister school in Burkina Faso, Africa. The Student Council and the entire school were involved in the endeavor. Students study aspects of cultural life in Africa, exchange letters with the African students. The money raised provides over 100 students with the opportunity to attend school for the year as well as providing some staples such as rice and beans for entire families.

Media: The World Language Department worked with the Haitian American Institute of Francophonie in the creation of a TV documentary on the French Immersion program. The Spanish AP students created a series of story telling clips for elementary Spanish students to be shown on Milton TV.

Awards & Curriculum Development:

During the annual National Etymology Contest, seven of our High School students placed, winning gold, silver and bronze medals. We also placed in the National Latin High School Exams, with six students earning Cum Laude certificates. Three students won Cum Laude certificates and four students won Magna Cum Laude certificates at the National Medusa Exam.

One High School student placed second in the Classical Association of Massachusetts for her essay entitled "Gaming and Sports in the Ancient World: Let the Games Begin".

Instructors from the French Cultural Center of Boston, Alliance Française, came to Milton High School to test the proficiency of our French Immersion students in preparation for the introduction of the DELF (International French Proficiency Diploma) which 12th graders will take at the end of the French Immersion program. Middle School Latin students participated in a trip to the Massachusetts Junior Classical League State Convention in April. Students were exposed to various activities including: academic and artistic competitions, mythology, gladiator games, presentations, marching, costumes, history, and the camaraderie of meeting, collaborating, and competing with students of Latin from around the state. Middle School Latin students received certificates and/or awards for the National Latin Exam, and for the National Mythology Exam. The Latin Club at the Middle School provided enrichment activities for students of Latin.

2012 World Language Advanced Placement exams: sixty-three students participated in the French language exam, twenty-three in the Spanish language exam, six in the Spanish literature exam (first time offered at the High School) and nine in the Latin exam.

Science:

During the 2011-12 school year, the science department achieved the following:

Curriculum: Four new curriculum modules were implemented or piloted during the 2011-12 school year: Chemical Interactions (implemented) at the Pierce Middle School, Oceans in grade 5, Landforms in grade 4 and Diversity of Life (pilot) in grade 6

at the Pierce Middle School. In addition, the Milton Public School district is a partner with UMASS Boston in COSEE (Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence) New England. The COSEE program, led by Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft and Dr. Robert Chen led to the funding for the purchase of several Ocean Kits and professional development for teachers. COSEE also funded the fifth grade boat trip to UMass/Boston and the Boston Harbor. Also, David Romeo, 7th grade science teacher submitted an article for the FOSS newsletter. FOSS is a science curriculum program that is produced by The Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California Berkeley. Mr. Romeo's article was selected for the cover of the Fall 2012 newsletter and featured work by Pierce Middle school students. <http://lhsfoss.org/newsletters/present/index.html> At the high school, students in the Biotech class taught ninth grade students in biology how to run DNA electrophoresis protocols. The Biotech classroom was made possible by a generous grant from the Milton Foundation for Education.

Professional Development: PD sessions were designed and delivered on the following topics:

Landforms- all 4th grade teachers attended an all day professional development session.

Oceans- all 5th grade teachers attended an all day professional development session which also included presentations by UMB professors Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft and Dr. Robert Chen.

Making the Connection between Science and Literacy. This workshop for elementary teachers was part of the October professional development day.

Vertical Planning for middle and high school teachers. The purpose of this workshop was to develop the vertical articulation between middle and high school teachers as a way of supporting improved achievement at both levels. The workshop was modeled on the vertical planning documents produced by the College Board.

Introducing the Science Practices of the Next Generation of Science Standards.

This workshop was part of the grade level facilitators series.

Student Enrichment Activities and Awards:

The Pierce middle school robotics team had another good year under the direction of David Romeo. Jim Demaggio led the middle school rocket club. Each semester about 25 students participated in the club and funding was provided by the School to Career Partnership.

Students from the middle school received awards from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Marine Art Contest 2012: Kristy Chan, 6th place for her Squid painting Clara Tennyson, Honorable Mention for her Blue fin Tuna drawing and a Glover 5th grader, Hanganh Yo - Honorable Mention for her Squid picture.

Their artwork was displayed at an event in Falmouth over the summer and now is touring New England. Their work will be displayed at various venues, such as museums, throughout the year. Their beautiful work can be viewed on the Stellwagen Bank website <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/pgallery/contest2012.html> Darshelle Jean-Pierre and Olivia Kelly took part in the MIT KEYS Program a free science program for girls.

A large number of Pierce and elementary students participated in the Cambridge Science Festival's Curiosity Challenge. Twelve students from Pierce and two students from Cunningham were among the statewide winners.

A robotics team was started at the high school. Parents and volunteer engineering mentors worked tirelessly to help get the team off the ground. The team received a start up grant from PTC. PTC, a Needham based company, is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing technology companies that helps manufacturers design and develop products. The grant included a \$1000 award plus design and project management software. The team participated in the First Tech Challenge program and qualified for the state tournament. Dr. Chris Rogers, engineering professor at Tufts University conducted a workshop on robotics and music for the team and invited community members. In June, the team hosted a robotics workshop for elementary students. The high school team taught twenty-four 4th and 5th grade students during the four day workshop.

Music:

During the 2011-12 school year our music program was proud to see many of its students in grades seven through twelve selected for Senior and Junior Eastern District Music Festivals. Many were also chosen for the Senior and Junior SEMSBA Music Festivals and the Massachusetts All State Music Festival. One student at Milton High School received a recommendation to perform in the All Eastern Honors Chorus in Hartford, Connecticut for the 2013 Festival--only the sixth student in over 30 years to be recommended to perform in this prestigious festival. Eighteen Milton High School students were inducted into the music international honor society, TRI-M.

The Music Department hosted the Eastern District auditions for Senior District in November of 2011. We were honored that Rebecca Damiani was the Festival Coordinator for the Senior District Festival and auditions. We were only able to accomplish hosting both auditions with the help of hundreds of student volunteers and the parent/guardian support group, FAME.

There were many concerts given by the various choral and instrumental ensembles of Pierce Middle School and Milton High School. There were in-school assemblies at all of the elementary schools, highlighting skills learned in general music. One highlight of the year was the Milton High School production of *Footloose*, directed and choreographed by Rebecca Damiani and musically directed by Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett.

Sixty-eight students from the Milton High School music performing ensembles traveled to Washington, D.C. for a cultural trip. They attended a production of *Hairspray*, a concert at the Kennedy Center, and visited many historical sites and museums.

The performing groups at Pierce Middle School competed at the Great East Festival and received platinum and gold medal ratings. In addition, the bell ringers became an integral part of the Pierce performing groups, thanks to a donation of several sets of handbells from the Copeland Family Foundation.

Visual Arts:

It was a very successful year for the visual arts program. The Advanced Placement Studio Art and Photography students submitted 15 total portfolios, two in photography and the rest in studio art. Lily Melcher was awarded the highest possible score of a 5. Overall Milton High School AP Studio Art students have improved their scores by 67%. bringing them to the forefront as one of the largest improvements seen throughout the high schools AP performances.

In February of 2012, A group of students from Milton High and Pierce Middle School earned some of the highest honors from the 2012 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards. Four Gold Keys and one Silver Key were awarded to MHS students, as well as five Honorable Mentions. At Pierce, two Silver Keys and three Honorable Mentions were awarded. Their artwork was selected for these awards from over 14,000 entries. This annual art contest is open to students in Grades 7 to 12, with less than five percent winning the top honor, a Gold Key.

Also, several our high school artists were featured in an opening a 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 Drawing 1 Course." Our students and their teacher, Kassandra Derby, attended the opening in January.

Meet the Artists continued its success during 2011-12 school year in our elementary schools. In addition, the highly successful ACE program was expanded to be a separate class at each elementary school giving the opportunity to many more students. In prior years, ACE had been limited to 24 students, but this year, we were able to accommodate 80 students. There were art exhibits at all four elementary schools, as well as several art fairs at the middle school.

Athletics:

The Milton Public Schools had another highly successful year in athletics.

During the fall season we had three teams make the MIAA state tournament. The teams were girls' volleyball led by Coach Robin Lee qualified for the MIAA Division 2 Central Tournament, the golf team coached by Ben Kelly played in the MIAA Division 2 South Tournament and the boys' soccer led by Coach Mike Madden made the MIAA Division 2 South Tournament. The boys' soccer team won their preliminary round game.

During the winter our boys' hockey team coached by Paul Noonan won the MIAA Division 1 South Sectional Tournament and played for the Division 1 State title at the Boston Garden. Senior Paul Curran was named Boston Globe and Herald All Scholastic. In the spring Crew and Rugby became varsity sports. Pierce Middle School began a wrestling program with the help of Milton High wrestling coach Ted Carroll. This program ran Monday nights at the Copeland Field House.

For the 2011-2012 athletic seasons, the athletic fee was \$250 for all sports except for ice hockey which was \$500. There is a waiver system in place for students unable to pay the fee.

Pre-School Services:

The Milton Public Schools continues to provide an incredible Pre-School experience for our students who are identified with special education needs as well as for some fortunate role models students. The program is housed at the Collicot School and mandated by law for all children with a disability between the ages of three and five years old. Children must be diagnosed with a disability and are deemed eligible by a team which includes parents and/or guardians, educators, therapists and specialists in the area of the suspected disability. Currently, our district runs four half-day integrated classrooms and one full/half-day classroom for students with more significant disabilities. The integrated classrooms are composed of students with moderate disabilities and children who are non-disabled peer role models. Currently there are 31 students with disabilities and 37 peer role models enrolled. Parents/Guardians of the peers role models are charged tuition to attend, four sessions per week for \$2,300 per year and five sessions per week for \$2,875 per year and students with diagnosed disabilities attend free of charge.

Milton Community Schools:

Milton Community Schools continued to grow during the 2011/2012 school year providing enrichment opportunities outside of school hours at all four elementary schools, including the addition of a new Collicot/Cunningham Kindergarten After School Enrichment program. This was necessary to give the over 40 kindergartners their own space away from the noisy, full cafeteria housing the Collicot and Cunningham ASE programs. It also allowed our staff to specialize in age-appropriate activities for all students.

Nearly 300 students attended the Early School Arrival Programs, operating from 7 am until school begins. MCS also offered Morning Mindfulness Workshops at each school. These courses introduced elementary students to introspective meditation, focusing on breath awareness and how to use mindfulness to calm down, focus, and help in conflict resolution. Milton parent and certified meditation instructor Andrew Kelley presented these concepts successfully to several groups.

Over 600 students attended the After School Enrichment (ASE) programs, taking part in classes that included Karate, Computer, Creative Writing, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Drama, Homework Club, and Piano Playtime, small-group keyboard lessons and Espanol Es Excelente, a Spanish language and culture experience offered in cooperation with the MPS World Language Department. Parents had the option of choosing to use ASE for one day or class per week or using it every school day until 6 pm.

Our karate program continues to attract increasing numbers of students. It is offered at each ASE program one day per week as well as Saturday mornings at the Glover School Gym, with classes for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students. Over the past 20 years MCS's "Milton Ja Shin Do" has trained hundreds of Milton youths in the disciplines and skills needed to progress and be awarded many belt levels.

The December, February and April Vacation Camps once again ran at the Cunningham School; between 42 and 82 students attended each week. They took part

in seasonal art, craft, and cooking projects and participated in sports and games with a special event or performance each week.

Camp Cunningham attracted 140 students, most of whom attended all eight weeks of the summer. Campers swam at the Cunningham Pool, enjoyed making and eating weekly cooking projects, and enjoyed traditional summer camp activities including special events like carnival day and field trips to places including McCoy Stadium to cheer for the Pawtucket RedSox. Camp Cunningham's nurse provided coverage for the Special Education summer services program also held at the Cunningham/Collicot campus, another money-saving measure.

The Milton Community Schools office is located at Milton High School. Pam Dorsey and her staff administered Milton Community Schools programs and the Transportation Department from the office in Room 208. Laurie Dunn of Milton Community Schools handles the collection of Full Day Kindergarten tuition. Pam Dorsey has also taken over the processing and depositing of funds that come into Milton Public Schools from all departments except Food Service.

2010-2011 Participation in Community Schools Programs:

Camp Cunningham	113
ESAP Coll/Cunn	72
ESAP Glover	98
ESAP Tucker	107
ASE Collicot	160
ASE Cunningham	95
ASE Coll/Cunn K	51
ASE Glover	149
ASE Tucker	153
December Vacation Camp	42
February Vacation Camp	82
April Vacation Camp	68
Morning Mindfulness	77
Karate	115

Milton Adult Education Program:

The Milton Adult Education program had another successful year with Director Sean Walsh. The programs two semesters saw a total of 43 courses offered with more than 330 students participating. Popular courses included the Boot Camp workout classes, Introduction to Italian, and Cooking: Food without Fuss. Milton's residents continue to enjoy utilizing the wonderful facilities here in the Milton Public Schools.

Community Partnerships:

The Milton Public School are proud to partner with a variety of organizations to enhance the educational experiences of our students. During the 2011-12 school year, we continued to maintain strong bonds with some of our more traditional partnerships as well as develop new ties with other organizations.

We are continuing our strong relationship with Fuller Village. Working with both residents and the management of Fuller Village, we have developed a program where Fuller Village residents volunteer in our classrooms to assist our teachers by reading to students and helping with small tasks and errands. Our partnership with Fuller Village has been an excellent one for all parties.

As in past years, we also continued our partnership with Professor Greg Hall and the Bentley College community. A group of Milton High Student Leaders traveled to Bentley College in the fall of 2011 to participate in an Anti-Bullying, Leadership Training program. Working together with Dr. Greg Hall and members of the Bentley Honors Program, the group spent the day planning a workshop they later presented to Pierce Middle Schools. This was an excellent opportunity for our high school leaders to interact with college students on this important topic.

Also in November we continued our tradition of assisting the Milton Food Pantry during the holiday season. Not only does each school organize their own food drive, but we also “loan” some of our high school football players to help unload some of the heavier items being delivered to the Pantry this time of year.

We continue our relationship with the Milton Foundation for Education. This group runs a variety of fundraisers throughout the school year including the annual Monster Dash in October and the “The Big Beach Ball” -- its 13th annual Celebration for Education fundraising event held on March Boston Marriott Quincy. Literacy and “hands on science” were chosen as the specific education initiatives to be funded by this event.

We worked with the Milton Interfaith Clergy Association to organize and participate in the town wide Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. This annual event features musical performances, an essay and poetry contest and an appearance by the Milton High Gospel Chorus.

We were fortunate to have the support of MPACE, another local group (Milton Partnership for Arts & Cultural Enrichment), which awards grants to fund cultural activities through a voluntary check-off box on local excise tax bills.

We also continue to collaborate with the Milton Council on Aging (COA) and the Milton Selectmen’s Office by participating in the Senior Tax Work Off Program. Several of the participants in this program fulfill their hours by helping in our schools as volunteers. The Milton COA also maintains a wonderful long-standing partnership with the Tucker school known as the Pen Pal Program. Students at Tucker are partnered with a senior citizen and the pairs correspond throughout the school year. In the springtime, the COA hosts a luncheon where the students and seniors meet in person.

As part of a partnership with the Milton Board of Health, our school nurses assisted in a Flu Clinic, held at Pierce Middle School. The combined medical staff distributed hundreds of flu vaccines to Milton students as well as parents and guardians.

We worked with Harvard University on a research project affecting children in the After School Enrichment Program in the Milton Community Schools. Students and faculty from Harvard’s Program in Education, After-school and Resiliency (PEAR) visited Milton’s after-school program to observe different activities offered and to help create a tool to evaluate the quality of the programs.

A collaboration with the Milton Visual Arts Alliance and Celebrate Milton resulted in a unique cultural event in our elementary schools. The “Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian,” a multicultural arts education program, visited our four elementary schools in

October of 2011 . 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.

We were very proud to have worked with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Suicide Prevention to host program in March of 2012 which has long terms benefits for young people who have gone through a crisis in their lives.

Comfort Zone Camp, working with Samaritans Suicide Prevention, offered 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.

The one-day session of Comfort Zone Camp was held in March of 2012 at Cunningham Elementary School and was open to any Massachusetts resident ages 7-17 free of charge.

Many families utilized this free resource, which provided a place for bereaved kids and teens to break the isolation, build lasting friendships, and learn coping skills for their daily lives.

We have worked with Best Buddies of Massachusetts for years in the Milton Public Schools and have housed a chapter of Best Buddies in our schools. But in March of 2012, we hosted a wonderful regional event for this group. Best Buddies Massachusetts held its second annual formal at Milton High School. This formal provided an opportunity for students with intellectual disabilities, along with their Best Buddies, to attend a prom, similar to their peers. More than 400 students from all over the state came to our Copeland Field House to dance and celebrate friendship. Miss Massachusetts Teen USA was on hand for this event, as were many of our own Milton High students from our Best Buddies chapter.

We also continued to maintain strong relationships with the following local, national and international groups:

Milton Police Department; The Milton Fire Department; Citizens for Diverse Milton; Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Milton; Sustainable Milton; American Red Cross (Haiti); Milton Alumni Assoc.; Dr. Knight & the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Children's Hospital; Curry College; the Forbes House Museum, Milton Academy, Bridgewater State College; Cradles to Crayons; and Safe Routes to School.

Special Issues:

NEASC

On May 16th, 2012, the Milton Public Schools received word that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges board had voted to grant Milton High reaccreditation.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is the oldest of the six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. Since its inception in 1885, the Association has awarded membership and accreditation to those educational institutions in the six-state New England region that seek voluntary affiliation.

The accreditation program for public schools involves a threefold process: a self-study conducted by our professional staff, an on-site evaluation conducted by the Commission's visiting committee, and a follow-up program carried out by our school to implement the findings of its own self-study, the recommendations of the visiting committee and those identified by the Commission in the Follow-Up process. Continued accreditation requires that the school be reevaluated at least once every ten years and that it show continued progress addressing identified needs.

The NEASC letter to Milton High School listed 26 points of commendation, a remarkably high number. The letter also listed five recommendations of areas that should be addressed by February 1, 2013 and eight recommendations of issues to address in a two-year progress report. The leadership team formed a follow-up committee to address the recommendations

Consolidated Facilities:

As part of a town-wide initiative, a Consolidated Facilities department was created during the 2011-2012 school year. This department is responsible for coordination and care of all town-owned buildings that had been under the control of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. Bill Ritchie was appointed to lead the department, which became fully operational during the 2011-12 school year.

School Start Time Study:

In March of 2012, the School Start Time Committee presented to the School Committee. They were asked to review the school start times for Milton and comparable communities; review research literature on the topic of school start times and its impact on student achievement; solicit feedback from parents, staff, and students; and produce an executive summary.

The committee, made up of three administrators, three teachers and three parents, conducted a survey of parents/guardians, students and teachers on the topic of school start times.

After several meetings to discuss the data and the survey results, the committee concluded that later start times can have a positive impact on high school students. They also informed the committee that Milton High School currently has one of the later school start times, relative to comparable area high schools, so no change in start times was recommended.

Milton's 350th Anniversary:

There was a year-long collaboration between the Milton Public Schools and our town's 350 Anniversary Committee that resulted in many memorable moments for our schools and the residents of Milton. Our students served as both participants and volunteers in dozens of anniversary-related events, including the town-wide concert, the commemorative baseball game between

Milton High and Milton Academy; art exhibits, historical lectures, the parade and the fireworks, held on our high school grounds.

In addition, there was a presentation of student work from each grade level across all six Milton Public Schools in April of 2012. Students worked all year on projects ranging from research of the Bakers' Chocolate Factory in Grade 3, to a Patchwork Quilt in grade 5 to a video produced by Milton High School students.

Accolades:

One of our Pierce history teachers, Jonathan Turrisi, was one of 28 teachers selected from across the country to participate in a fully funded seminar on America's Early Wars held at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Loyola Pasiewicz, science teacher at Milton High School, was named one of only two teachers in Massachusetts to qualify to a Fellowship Program in the New Science Teacher Academy. This prestigious fellowship was awarded by the National Science Teachers Association, the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. Only 220 teachers in the nation were chosen for this honor. As part of the award, she will participate in a year-long professional development program designed to promote quality science teaching.

Finally, in the spring, the Milton Foundation for Education chose the following teachers for the prestigious Outstanding Teacher of the Year award:

Catherine Friedman (7th grade English, Pierce Middle School)

Laura McDermott (2nd grade, Collicot Elementary School)

Nancy Warn (US History and AP US History, Milton High School)

Meredith Kempf (Title 1 specialist, Grades 1-4 math, Tucker Elementary School)

Erin Power (5th grade, Cunningham Elementary School)

Mary McCarthy (1st grade, Glover Elementary School).

Dyanne Crowley, an English teacher at Milton High, was presented with the Mary Grassa O'Neill Award.

Faculty:

Faculty: The following staff and faculty retired from the Milton Public Schools in 2011-12: Dr. Anthony Bonacci, Edward Burke, Jeanne Glynn, Nora Goonan, James Greene, Michael McCormick, Maryellen McDermott, Eileen Neret, Patricia Sampson, Ann Saur and Martha Sherman.

The following staff and faculty were hired during the 2011-12 school year:

David Adams, Sara Anorve, Joseph Arangio, Jaimee Banks, Pamela Billings, Susan Bonner, Bridget Butler, Ramsay Cadet, Jay Campbell, Karen Clasby, Caitlin Clavette, Catherine DesRoche, Kristin Donovan, Frankie DuBois, Kevin Fender, Martine Fisher, Kelly Herbert, Anna Higgins, Emily Hyde, Angela Lathwell, Erin MacCurtain, Christopher Maine, Caroline Mannion, Nadine O'Garro, Fred Palascak, Christina Reynolds, Jessica

Royster, Jeanne Sgroi, Janet Sheehan, Laurie Smith-Michaels, Linda Stefanick, Margaret Wagner, Diane Wood, Robyn Zaremby, John Zitz.