

Tornado Times
Monday, February 22, 2016
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Go Malden!



The Tornado Times is put out at the beginning of each school week.

The contents of the Tornado Times are intended to inform Malden High School students and staff as well as the greater Malden High School community. If you would like to add something please submit the contents to Principal Dana F. Brown, dbrown@maldenps.org. Stories, pictures, reminders, club, activity, and class notes are all welcome.

Good day!

As we wind our way through the remainder of this interesting winter weather I want to share some of the “stuff” that is compartmentalized in one piece of my mind. It may be informative, or not. I truly understand and appreciate that each of you has your own “list.” I write to keep myself somewhat focused.

As the education pendulum swings to and fro, as politicians and others weigh in on what is best for students, teachers, and staff, it is important to keep going back to our vision. It is well thought out and well written, appropriate for these times and beyond, and applicable to all of our students and their greater community. So, as we deal with changes, suggestions, mandates et al, let’s keep going back to the vision and mission.

Malden High School Vision Statement

The Malden High School community believes in the potential of all students to learn, to grow, and to become active, conscientious participants in the 21st century global society. We believe that students learn most effectively in a safe, respectful environment that encourages diverse viewpoints, promotes critical thinking and perseverance, and establishes rigorous standards for all. We honor the diverse nature of our community, promote social awareness and community involvement, and strive to meet the needs of all students through innovative methods and continual professional development. We are committed to ensuring that Malden High School graduates are thoughtful, independent, purpose-driven, lifelong learners. We seek to equip all students with the skills and habits necessary to successfully navigate and contribute to our ever-changing world.

I had my **fingerprinting** done recently at Alliance Security in Everett, close by, a 10 minute process. I paid \$55 although there are other cheaper places around. June is the deadline for everyone working for the MPS or for any other District.

My principal **certification** is up in 2018. Do you know when yours expires and what you have to do to recertify? ELL regs, SPED regs, RETELL? It is the professional educator's responsibility to be prepared to recertify, not the District's.

March is the month when we put the finishing touches on the **Program of Studies** for 2016-2017. Simultaneously we start thinking about **course-staffing assignments** for next year as well. Please contact any guidance counselor, teacher-leader, special education program manager, curriculum director, or house principal with any ideas or concerns.

As soon as we get to April 1st we'll start thinking and planning for "summer" programs at MHS. Got an idea?

In the same vein the Mayor's Office will start promoting their summer youth jobs program this month. Mayor Christenson's 2016 Summer Youth Employment Program application process begins on **Monday, February 29th!** Applications must be filled out online on the City of Malden website under "employment" beginning Monday, February 29th 2016 or you can click on: www.cityofmalden.org/MSYEP/.

The finals for the **33rd Annual Shakespeare Competition** for high school students were held this past Saturday at the Campus Center Theater at Mt. Ida College. Senior Kamila Regalado acquitted herself wonderfully. Congratulations to Kamila and our ELA Department at MHS.

The next couple of months are historically difficult ones for some of our seniors. Not all of our graduating students know what is in store for them next year. Some undocumented graduates will struggle with the uncertainty; can they go to work or attend school? Some graduating students are going right to work after MHS. Where? Some will join a branch of the military. Some will wander. Some graduates will go to a two year or a four year college. Which college? Only time and their financial aid package will tell. My point is that we have to be able to deal with all of the various scenarios and the students who star in them. Be patient, be flexible, be kind...like you always are.

Malden High School is **exploring** other league possibilities for our interscholastic athletic program. Malden High School has been part of the Greater Boston League for many years but in the past ten years the league has dwindled from a robust nine teams to the current four. Scheduling is a major issue. Finding consistent opponents year to year is difficult and our teams often don't have the "rivalry" focus that a league provides. League championships, while still valued, have lost some of their luster. The process is complex; Malden High School has to apply to another league and be accepted into that league. Simultaneously this process has to be approved by our own School Committee. We will keep you informed as we proceed. If you have any thoughts or concerns I would love to hear them.

The **buildout for the Malden Public Schools Central Office** has begun in earnest in Holland 101 and Holland 104. The project is expected to take 8-10 weeks. When completed the new offices

will house the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, administrative support staff, conference space, storage space, all of the Directors, the Partnership for Community Schools, maybe Title I, and more. They will join the MPS Business Office and the MPS Special Education Office, already located on the first floor of the Holland Building, adjacent to the gym.

While the District Office renovation is occurring Special Education staff members Ida O'Leary and Larry Simon are rooming with Ron Janowicz. School Psychologist Joe Wexler has moved into the Holland Office Conference Room, between Holland Guidance Counselor Caitlin Quinn and House Principal Marilyn Slattery. Finally, Athletics has moved up to Brunelli 483, one of the interior rooms on the 4th floor of the Brunelli Building. Dan Keefe and Jeanne Marquardo are there until the buildout is complete. Please let our student-athletes know!

As our winter sports seasons come to a close I want to congratulate all of our student-athletes and coaches for their efforts; in track Allan Liang placed seventh in the State (out of 24) in the shot put. Congratulations to Allan. Our swim team also stood out this winter. Several of our swimmers placed in the North Sectionals and moved on to the State Finals in their respective races. Official results to follow later but word is our student-athletes broke some school records....

From our art teachers: "**Congratulations to Malden High School art students** for having 22 pieces of art accepted into the 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. -- *more than were awarded to the surrounding district high schools (Medford, Everett, Lynn, Melrose, Somerville, Revere) combined.* The winners include one Gold and four Silver Key Awards. We are very proud of all of our talented and dedicated MHS art students." Italics are my emphasis.

City of Malden Municipal Scholarship Notification: The City of Malden Municipal Scholarship application will be available starting Monday, February 8, 2016 to any Malden resident seeking further education resulting in a degree, diploma, or certificate. The only requirement when applying is that the resident must have lived in the City of Malden for at least 2 years prior to Sunday, May 1, 2016. You may pick up an application in the City Clerk's Office or the Malden Public Library. Completed applications are to be turned in to the City Clerk's Office NO LATER than Wednesday, May 11, 2016. **Please talk up the scholarship process to our seniors. They have to do some work; apply, follow up, submit supporting documents etc.**

I've learned of two more recent MHS grads who have become **Resident Assistants** in their college dormitory this semester.. I wish I had time to do the research but I know of many MHS grads who have gone on to do this. Says a lot, doesn't it?

Malden High School's Play Production group performs "**All the King's Actors**" at 9:00am on Saturday, February 27th at Manchester Essex Regional High School in the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild's Drama Festival. Admission is \$10.00. A school showing with talkback will take place here on Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 pm in the Jenkins Auditorium.

The older I get the more I realize just how important “institutional knowledge” is. We are not working in a vacuum. Our school’s rich history dates back more than 150 years and while many things have changed over the years it is always good to know who came before us, what they said and did, and how they fared in the end. Use the information however you see fit.

I sense a breaking point soon in the Massachusetts charter school debate. Is there enough public support and financial backing for “two” public school systems? Any and all answers impact us in some way.

On March 2,3,4,7,8 we will host **MCAS retests in ELA and Mathematics** for any student in 11th or 12th grade who has still not passed the test for their Competency Determination. A quiet piece of the PARCC push by this state and others is to test students annually in grades 9, 10 and 11. Enough.

If you are an ELL student at MHS your last 5 weeks consisted of midterms and ACCESS sandwiched around the MCAS Biology re-test. Time in front of teachers was somewhat limited. Some of our most vulnerable students spending the least amount of time learning; enough.

On Thursday, March 3rd we will host an “**assembly**” day. During the assembly period students will return to their homerooms for a **survey** (first of the year!!). The survey will be on student beliefs around technology. Tufts University is conducting the survey. Through a Tufts University/National Science Foundation grant the “makerspace” was reconfigured, some staff training was done, and some after-school programming was accomplished. In exchange we have to complete the survey.

Later in the spring the entire student body will be asked to complete the **Youth Risk Behavior Survey** (mandated every two years).

Malden High School senior Heresa LaForce competes in the **Poetry out Loud state semi-finals** on Saturday, March 5th at 9:00 am, Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. This is Heresa’s second trip to the state semi-finals. Best wishes.

The Class of 2017 **presents Junior Varieties on Friday March 11th and Saturday 12th**, 7:00 pm. This is the biggest annual fundraiser at Malden High School. Contact Advisors Heather Northrop or Amy Cianci if you would like to help or contribute in any way.

Our **robotics team** is gearing up for a big spring. Under the tutelage of Mr. Bazz and Mr. Morrison our students are working to make sure they are ready for whatever challenges come their way.

The annual **Student-Faculty basketball game** will be held on Wednesday, March 16th at 3:00 p.m. in the Finn Gym. Contact Shauna Campbell if you are interested in playing or helping in any way.

Spring Sports begins on Monday, March 21st. Academic Eligibility is based on the second quarter report card.

There is an 11:00 am dismissal on Friday, March 25th due to Good Friday. Breakfast will be served. There is no lunch that day.

Adjustment Counselors at Malden High School are clinical social workers licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Some of their thoughts:

- ❖ *Although we are here to help and assist students with mental health needs and social emotional issues we are always happy to help and be there for staff as well. Their jobs are very demanding; they are not only in a position to educate our students but are often on the "front lines" of a student's social emotional and mental health symptoms.*
- ❖ *As part of our license we are required by law to keep all information a student shares confidential unless we have concerns about their safety.*
- ❖ *We work with students to share the parts of their story they feel comfortable sharing so teachers can know a little bit about what's going on.*
- ❖ *We work with students on communicating so when they leave Malden High they can be successful in the world despite having a mental illness or a traumatic upbringing.*
- ❖ *Part of our job is to help explain behavior not make excuses for behavior.*
- ❖ *I've also had some experiences with teachers recently where they took on more with a student than they felt they could handle. Teachers can come to us as soon as they feel a student needs support or if they need support themselves.*
- ❖ *We appreciate teachers' patience and acknowledge the frustration that comes with our calling students from class, especially those students that are not passing and have poor attendance. We are not trying to make anyone else's job more difficult but are instead trying to attend to the more immediate social/emotional concerns which require attention before/in order for students to be in a position to learn.*

Other Notes:

- Students can self-refer to an adjustment counselor or can be referred by a parent, guardian, another student, or by any adult in the building.
- Each respective house principal meets regularly with their guidance counselor and adjustment counselor to discuss students within their house who may be experiencing social/emotional issues. Feel free to talk to any house principal, guidance counselor, or adjustment counselor about student concerns.
- Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our adjustment counselors for more specific information about their roles or how they can support you:

- ★ Megan Huth, Holland House
- ★ Rachel Gelling, Boyle House
- ★ Julia Gombos, Jenkins House
- ★ Jane Sulick, Brunelli House
- ★ Marie Doehler, Pathways

February:

Monday, February 22, 2016	7,3,2,1,4	Early-release, Content
Tuesday, February 23, 2016	6,7,1,2,3,4	
Wednesday, February 24, 2016	5,6,7,1,2,3	Play Production
Thursday, February 25, 2016	4,5,6,7,1,2	
Friday, February 26, 2016	3,4,5,6,7,1	
Saturday, February 27, 2016	xxxxxxxx	Play Production
Sunday, February 28, 2016	xxxxxxxx	xxxx
Monday, February 29, 2016	2,3,4,5,6	Early-release, Special Interest

The Malden High School Class of 2017 Invites You To: The 76th Annual Junior Varieties!

March 11th and 12th, 2016, 7:00 pm

Malden High School Jenkins Auditorium!

Junior Varieties 2016 Ad Book Sponsorship

- ❖ Gold Level Sponsorship \$500, Back Cover of Program, colors and logo included; please email Heather Northrop as soon as possible if interested; hnorthrop@maldenps.org
- ❖ Blue Level Sponsorship, \$350, Inside Front or Inside Back Cover of Program, colors and logo included; please email Heather Northrop as soon as possible if interested; hnorthrop@maldenps.org
- ❖ Nedlam Sponsorship, \$200, Full page Advertisement
- ❖ Golden Tornado Sponsorship, \$100, 1/2 page Advertisement
- ❖ MHS Alumni Sponsorship, \$25, Listed as Supporter
- ❖ "I performed in Junior Varieties", \$15, Listed as Past Performer
- ❖ Patron, \$10

Please make check or money order payable to:

Please send payment to: Heather Northrop, c/o Malden High School,

Malden High School, Class of 2017

77 Salem Street, Malden MA 02148

Name _____ MHS Class (if applicable)_____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Level of Support:

Gold _____ Blue _____ Nedlam _____

Golden Tornado _____

MHS Alumni "I performed" _____ Patron _____

Someone will contact you regarding preferred logo/wording for your advertisement.

**The free book giveaway before February vacation will happen on February 12.
Please let me know if you have any books to contribute. Thanks.--Abbey Dick**

Advanced Manufacturing trip before vacation went well!



The Greece crew made it back successfully!





