

Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol.1, Issue 2, Nov. 2016

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
-Margaret Mead

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson



Celebrating Ms. MJ McBride's kindergarten class at Salemwood for achieving over 1 million words read on "Footsteps 2 Brilliance."

Dear Malden Public Schools Community,

We are excited about all that we've accomplished over the past few months and all that's in store for the upcoming months.

Family And Community Engagement (FACE) Advisory Council:

- On 11/29/16, 40 parents joined MPS staff, Mayor Gary Christenson, School Committee Members Emmanuel Marsh and Jerry Leone to brainstorm ways to strengthen MPS. Kristy Magras, Family and Community Engagement Manager, facilitated the meeting and parents divided into sub-committees; Budget and Grants, Parent/Family Involvement, and MPS Community Communication. Next meeting is January 18th, 2017. All are welcome!

Superintendent's Entry Plan Update:

- During the month December I will compile my findings to date, engage in additional data analysis, and vet findings with school and district leaders with the plan of sharing the Report of Findings at the January School Committee meeting. Thanks to all teachers, parents, and leaders who participated in the process.

Budget Process Community Forum:

- In the coming days we will be announcing a date and location for a community forum on the FY18 budget process to allow members of MPS and the Malden community the opportunity to participate in the budget development process. More information to come!

As always, thanks for all you continue to do on a daily basis to provide Malden students with a quality education, every day, in every classroom.

Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

- Grades 3-8 students will be taking the new MCAS called the *Next Generation MCAS* this spring. Current high school students (Class of 2020 and prior) will take the original MCAS also known as the *Legacy MCAS* to meet their high school competency determination. This year's current grade 8 students who are the Class of 2021 will be the first high school students to take the *Next Generation MCAS* to meet their high school competency determination.
- Thanks to all MPS Faculty for participating in our November 8, 2016 Professional Development Day. Per the PD Day Eval Survey, 92.5% ranked the PD Day as Highly Effective/Effective.
- As always, thanks for everything you do to make our students academically and socially successful.

Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson

Student Support Services

- The Malden SEPAC will be sponsoring "Boston vs. Bullies" in January. Keep tuned for date, time, and location.
- Kathleen Quill, Ed.D., Malden's consultant on autism, was the keynote speaker on November 17th in Columbus, Ohio, at OCALICON, a major autism and disabilities conference.
- Thanks to Dave DePlacido, teacher in the Linden Steam Academy Pathways Program, and his middle school students for rehabilitating broken tricycles for the ELC. Great community service, thank you!

Business Manager: Toni Mertz:

- Units A & B Longevity will be paid out Dec.9th
- There are 5 paychecks in December. There will be no health insurance deductions on the December 30th paycheck.

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Title I



- Title I just completed its third round of Parent Breakfasts, with the last topic being "The New Math and How to Support Your Child at Home". Parents were given some great take-homes to use with their child.

• On November 16, there was a very successful Parent Academy on Literacy Centers with the literacy coaches as the presenters. The next Parent Academy will be on December 6 at 6:00pm at the Salemwood library. It will be presented by Cambridge Health Alliance and the topic will be wellness and healthy choices.

Literacy



- The teachers are becoming familiar with and enjoying the new version of the *Reading Street* program.
- Right now we are in the midst of "Sense of Urgency" meetings with teachers, where we look at and analyze student progress. We are seeing amazing results with student growth

in many places.

ELL:



- Free adult ESL classes for family members of our English learners will be held at Beebe School: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and Ferryway School: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30

a.m. and 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- After-school tutoring for English learners will begin the first week of December in all schools.

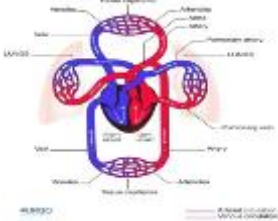
Humanities:

- At Malden High School, the history/social studies department is improving its literacy strategies, while the English department is developing open response writing instruction with

"Writing with Colors".

- The middle school ELA department just completed their first assessment as part of the Five-District Partnership using our new assessment platform, MasteryConnect.

Nursing and Health



- In conjunction with the Board of Health, flus shots have been given to staff at most of the schools.

- Salemwood and Ferryway Health teachers are busy teaching the Cardio Vascular System and how it works.

STEM:



- District Math: Elementary math is working to adopt math centers in their classrooms, middle and high school math are working to adopt a new strategy for open response questions.

- District Science: Elementary science is working to incorporate STEMscopes into their science lessons, middle school science is infusing more technology into their lessons with Gizmos, high school science is working to learn about and adapt to the new science standards.

Technology Integration:



- The Google environment has been used extensively at Malden High School over the past few years and is now being integrated into the K-8 schools.

- This year every grade 7 & 8 student has been issued a Dell Chromebook for daily classroom

use.

Athletics



- The Malden High School Athletic Department offers over twenty sports at the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity levels. The coaching staff consists of nearly thirty highly motivated individuals teaching MHS students/ athletes sportsmanship,

academic achievement, athletic competency, and skills

Physical Education



- The MPS physical education department consists of fourteen highly educated individuals teaching grades K- 12 students sports related physical activity and fitness.

- Physical Activity and Fitness focuses on individual competence

and versatility in movement skills, understanding movement concepts and body dynamics, and relating physical activity to lifelong health.

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ELC:



- ELC families donated many can goods/food items to the Bread of Life for Thanksgiving. Students also participated in a hat day for their donations!
- We are continuing our work on our PBIS matrix. Each classroom has "adopted" a common area in the building to post how to be safe and be a friend in that location!

Beebe:



- The holiday season will begin at the Beebe School on November 22nd when Grade 3 students perform on stage for friends and families for the annual Beebe School Thanksgiving Program.

- Beebe School students, teachers, and parents will be marching alongside the Beebe float in the city's Holiday Parade of Traditions.

Ferryway:



- Ferryway hosted Boston vs. Bullies, a 3-day program presented by the Sports Museum to help stop bullying in our schools.

- Ferryway Middle School students participated in a Fall Dance hosted by our 7th Grade Team.

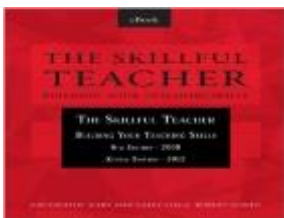
Forestdale:



- The Forestdale School students made Veteran's Day cards to be handed out on Veteran's Day at the Texas Road House.

- Senora Markarian's Spanish K-8 classes have been learning a popular hand game as a brain break while moving to Latin music.

Linden:



- Jon Saphier, author of "The Skillful Teacher", visited the Linden November 2nd to visit classrooms and talk with teachers.

- Principal Bransfield presented at the DESE's Dissemination Fair on November 18th. The

topic was how data drives instruction and student groupings.

Salemwood:



- On November 16, our Gr. 8 students visited Malden High School where they talked about the expectations and challenges of being a ninth grader.

- On November 18, the school principal and six teachers participated in this year's DESE Dissemination Fair Program on reducing chronic absenteeism in the school setting.

MHS:



- The MHS Drama Club just finished four performances of "Godspell" from 11/17-11/19. Huge crowds saw all of the shows and the reviews were tremendous. Said one playgoer, "From set design to acting to wardrobe to

live musical accompaniment to vocal talent to the lighting and sound, not to mention my own personal accolades for the "tweaking" of the piece to reflect current political waters, I just cannot say enough about how thrilled I was by the performance!"

- Thanksgiving is known mostly for the Malden-Medford football game, but MHS is most proud of the service its students partake around the holiday. This season, students have supported Bread of Life (both in fundraising and in volunteering at their annual Thanksgiving dinner at Malden High), Danny's Run, and Greater Malden Behavioral Health among many other charitable organizations. MHS students truly understand what it means to be involved in their community.

School Committee:

Mayor Gary Christenson, Chairperson | Michael Drummey, Ward 1 | Emmanuel Marsh, Ward 2 | Lawrence Silverman, Ward 3 | Leonard Iovino, Vice Chair, Ward 4 | Tara M. Beardsley, Ward 5 | Jerry Leone, Ward 6 | Catherine Bordonaro, Ward 7 | John Froio, Ward 8

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Charles Grandson