

# Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol.1, Issue 4, January 2017

"Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth."  
-Helen Caldicott

## Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson



*Grand opening of the Grab & Go Breakfast Program at the Salemwood school (right to left): State Senator Jason Lewis, State Representative Paul Donato, State Representative Paul Brodeur, Pat Patriot, and Superintendent Dr. Charles Grandson*

Greetings Malden Public Schools Community,

As we close out the month of January I am excited about all we have planned for the next few months to continue to reach our goal of providing "a globally competitive educational opportunity for all" Malden students! Below are some of our current initiatives:

**Academic Interventions:** At our January Principal's meeting, we discussed identifying students who need additional support to score proficient on MCAS. Principals will be working with teams of teachers to develop or strengthen school-based strategies to ensure that we continue to help ALL students reach proficiency!

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** School Committee member Emmanuel Marsh and I visited Boston Public Schools' Harvard-Kent elementary school in Charlestown as a model school for implementing Open Circle (SEL curriculum). A report of the findings will be shared at the Social Emotional & Physical Well-being subcommittee meeting. All are welcome to attend.

**Diversity Challenge!** : MPS Principals and district leaders will attend the annual Nemnet Diversity Career Fair at the Winsor School in Boston, MA, Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Diverse candidates throughout New England will be present.

In February I will be presenting my **Report of Entry Findings** to the greater community, outlining a new district vision to provide a world-class educational opportunity to Malden families. As always, thank you – for all you do daily to make MPS the best district to lead and serve.

Best,  
Dr. Charles Grandson  
Superintendent

### **Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan** **Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment:**

- Congratulations to our Kindergarten Students! They have spent 5587 hours on *Footsteps 2 Brilliance*, and have read 19 million words and 65,000 books!!
- Per the DESE, "On Jan. 4, 2017, *Education Week* released the 21st edition of its annual *Quality Counts* report on state education systems and for the third year in a row listed Massachusetts first in the nation in overall quality. The Commonwealth was also top in the nation on two of the indices that went into the overall ranking; K-12 achievement and the publication's Chance for Success Index, which considers outcomes from early childhood through adulthood".

### **Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson** **Student Support Services:**

- Save the Date! The Malden Public Schools will be sponsoring Special Olympics for our students and at least nine other local school districts at MacDonald Stadium on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Rain date May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On January 26, 2017, the Malden SEPAC sponsored "Boston vs. Bullies", an award winning educational program which uses the power of Boston sports to help stop bullying in our schools.

### **Business Manager: Toni Mertz:**

- All W-2's have been mailed home. If you have not received your W-2, please contact the business office to verify your home address and instructions on getting a replacement W-2.
- Budget process is underway. All Principals and Directors will be receiving budget worksheets to be filled out and return to the business office electronically.

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## Title I:



- Just finishing up our Family Games Nights, which has been a huge success.
- The Parent Breakfast for February will be sharing information with parents on Next Generation MCAS.

## Literacy:



- Data meetings are complete and flex groupings are well underway.
- Every K-4 classroom should be doing daily read a-louds with their students.

## ELL:



- All schools are wrapping up ACCESS for English Learners testing and it will be completed by February 8 for all English learners grades K - 12. The schools will have tested 1,387 students with four different assessments in listening, reading, writing and speaking.
- Title III will be offering ELA MCAS Prep Classes for English learners during February vacation. Grades 6 - 8 will be held at the Salemwood School and grades 9 - 12 at Malden High School. The program will run Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 - 12:00.

## Humanities:



- The art, music, and foreign languages faculty in grades K-12 are meeting to collaborate, share best practices, and discuss vertical alignment during the January professional development day.
- The 5-8 English and history/social studies faculty are working with the WriteBoston organization to develop strategies for helping all students engage with complex text and ideas.

## Nursing and Health:



- The Health Goal is "To learn how your mind and body work together, so you can better understand and keep yourself healthy.". At the Middle School level, they are focusing on emotional/mental health, social health, conflict resolution skills, bullying, safety, puberty/sexual health/gender/stereotyping and the body systems- especially the teenage brain.
- We continue to do mandated screenings in all the schools. We work with staff to ensure students' safety and wellbeing are top priority. We continue to have new students entering Malden schools almost every day, and we are kept busy seeing to the health needs of our students.

## STEM:



- On February 16th scientists from the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be coming to Malden to speak to students in grades 6-12 about their work and personal passions for science.
- A new course kicked off at Malden High School second semester. Creative Engineering is now offered in the Makerspace at MHS.

## Technology Integration:



- Elementary and middle school students continue to "Code" using the MIT Scratch programming. When creating stories, Middle School students are now able to program scene changes, add notes and instruments and glide "Sprites". These abilities continue to tap into logical thinking and computational skills, problem solving, persistence, collaboration, and communication.
- G Suite for Education (Google Apps) is in full swing for grades 7-12. The Chromebook has become an instrumental device allowing students to research information and to collaborate and communicate with others online. With G Suite, learning can take place from anywhere and at any time!

## Athletics:



- The holidays may be over but the spirit at Malden High School is still going strong. The Revere/Malden Co-Op Hockey team got a chance to play at Frozen Fenway. In addition, the boys and girls basketball teams are off to a great start and looking for tournament births. The swim team is undefeated at 8-0, and the gymnastics team is going strong with first year head coach and teacher Melissa Macey. Also, the wrestling team is competing and fighting hard! Last but not least the indoor track team is leading the pack in the GBL, with the girls team winning the league for the fourth straight year!

## Physical Education:



- Veteran physical education teacher, Matthew Gillis (Linden Steam Academy) went above and beyond his duties on this one. Matthew wrote and secured a grant offered through the Boston Bruins organization. The program is run by the Boston Bruins School Assembly team and Boston Bruins Director of Health, Fitness, and Wellness John Whitesides, who will run the kids through fun and engaging activities that teach them how to eat healthily and get out and move. In order to reach as many kids as possible, this program is an all school assembly that will keep the kids engaged and enthusiastic and will give them the building blocks they need to make healthier life choices.



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## ELC:



- All students were assessed last month with our newly designed common assessment. And all families received a report card so, they could learn more about their child's progress.

• Last month, students and families enjoyed many activities including our Book Fair, Raising A Reader Community Workshop, and Class Picture Day.

## Beebe:



Bee will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup>

## Ferryway:



- Grade 8 students organized a food drive. Over 1500 non-perishable food items were collected for the Bread of Life.
- The Beebe School Council has started organizing the annual Beebe School Parent Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup>
- Third Grade Student, Jacob Fuentes received the Richard A LaPierre Pioneer Award. It is given to a young person who demonstrates a pioneering spirit by working hard and breaking down barriers, which we all know is true of Jacob. It was presented to Jacob by Paul Medeiros, CEO of Easter Seals MA, at a banquet on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. We are all proud of Jacob's tenacity and perseverance.

- The Ferryway School hosted their bi-annual Enrichment Showcase on Friday, January 20, 2017. Students participate in enrichment activities throughout the school year. On this day, we invite families and community members into the school to observe the students as they participate in activities such as cooking, jewelry making, calligraphy, art appreciation, games, dancing, drama, and so much more. This is held twice a year and is possible as a result of the Ferryway Schools status as an Extended Learning Time School.

## Forestdale:



- Forestdale School was visited by representatives from Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) as one of their model schools. The team included members of the Boston Public Schools, members of the BSRI board of directors and investors, and throughout the process members of our staff were interviewed by Jon Saphier about BSRI.

- A representative of the United Nations of Boston came to moderate a mock Model U.N. debate simulation on food security with the 7&8th graders during their Model U.N. unit in Social Studies.

## Linden:



- Deb Gesualdo just completed concerts in grades 2-4.

- Jon Saphier and BSRI finished up two days of video. Jon spent time looking at center based instruction in grades K-8
- The Drama Club will be putting on the play Alice

## Salemwood:



- On January 20th Salemwood had a day of service and kindness to celebrate the service of our 44th president and to welcome our 45th one. Every grade level worked on a project to make their school and community a better place.

• On January 23rd, we had the grand opening of our Grab&Go Breakfast Program. Pat the Patriot, State Senator Jason Lewis, Rep Paul Donato, and Rep. Paul Brodeur, Superintendent Dr. Grandson, and Maria Luise representing attended the event.

## MHS:



- Malden High held its annual Poetry Out Loud competition and senior Paul Araiza is our winner. Paul will now move on to the regional competition.
- MHS partnered with Gear Up to hold our first ever MCAC

(Massachusetts College Acceptance Celebration). In just a few hours, 31 students completed applications to 46 colleges and 12 students were accepted on-the-spot to either Western New England University or North Shore Community College.



[Permanent Superintendent Search Committee Announced](#)

## 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