

# Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue 7, April/May 2017

"Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds."  
- Orison Swett Marden

## Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson

### Community 'N Unity Day



MPS Student organizers Tamerlie Roc, Landache Jean, Lovelyne Pierre-Louis, and Guetchina Letang at Malden's first Community 'N Unity Day.



Performance by Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy, performing the Lion Dance.

Dear Malden Public Schools Community,

As we enter the spring season, I am reminded of all we have to be thankful for as a district community. Malden thrives off of the diversity of its student body and the commitment and tenacity of the faculty, staff, and leaders.

In our final two months of school, as we look forward to wrapping up our state testing preparing year-end ceremonies and graduation, we've accomplished a great deal over the course of the academic year of which I am proud to have served as your superintendent during what I believe is a pivotal time for this community and school district.

Over the next few weeks we will enter the budget season and many decisions will have to be made to ensure that we prepare a quality foundation for next school year. Our focus during the budget process is providing a balanced budget that protects the high-quality education that MPS strives to provide. Thank you for providing the example of what we can accomplish if provided the resources for success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Grandson

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

- All evidence in TeachPoint were due by the close of school on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Your evidence collection should demonstrate meeting the 4 standards and meeting your 2 goals as listed below:  
Standard 1 = Curriculum, Planning, Assessment  
Standard 2 = Teaching All Students  
Standard 3 = Family and Community Engagement  
Standard 4 = Professional Culture  
Student Learning Goal  
Professional Practice Goals

*As always, please see your TeachPoint Leader for any assistance you may need.*

- SEI Teacher Endorsement Letters will be sent to all staff who have not yet provided their endorsement to Central Office. The letter will allow for staff to indicate they are in the process of obtaining this by returning it to us with the course information.

*As always, thanks for everything you do to make our students academically and socially successful.*

## Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson Student Support Services:

- On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, in the Malden HS gym 11am- 12pm, all families of children with disabilities were invited for an hour of fun with Malden High School student athletes, sponsored by SEPAC.
- On Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 9am - 1pm, we cheered on our student athletes and volunteers at the Special Olympics in the MacDonald Stadium.



Photos by Paul Hammersley

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## Title I:



- This month's Title 1 Breakfast at each school is on how to minimize the summer slump. It is titled Summer Jump! Learn about activities right here in Malden or around the area that are low cost or even free to do as a family. Get some tips on what families can do at home to support children's learning and have fun while doing it.

- Our final Parent Academy for the year was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Salemwood School middle school cafeteria. The topic was Transitioning from Middle School to High School with guest speaker Ted Lombardi, the high school principal.

## Literacy:



- We just finished our final round of looking at student writing. This is to support teacher preparation for Next Generation MCAS. Teachers have been working hard all year preparing students to be ready for this new state assessment. Looking at the students' writing has been a very positive experience.

- Spring GRADE and DIBELS final benchmarks will be given in May.

## ELL:



- The ESL Department and Title III will be offering after school professional development for teachers, "Engaging Linguistically Diverse Families" and "Supporting English Learners from Haiti." Information was sent to all schools.

- The Chinese Cultural Connection and Malden Reads will sponsor a family event at the Salemwood School on May 11<sup>th</sup>. "Potluck Dinner and Resources to Help your Child Succeed," for families of students in grades Pre-K - 4. There will be 20 representatives from local agencies to support Malden families.

## Humanities:



- The MHS Play Production class performed eight ten-minute plays. The students constructed a black box on the stage, and the audience sat on the stage to watch the performances.

- MHS hosted the Blue and Gold Gallery at 350 Main Street, which is free and open to the public until May 16<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Jing Ren, a 7th grade Beebe student, who won first place in Middlesex County for a fire prevention poster as part of the Annual Arson Watch Reward Program Poster Contest.

## Nursing and Health:



- The lower grades, K-4, are working on teeth this month. They are exploring plaque, fluoride, tartar, cavity, brushing, and flossing, etc. The MS students are talking about puberty and hygiene. Discussions will be on terminology of gender spectrum and expressions, recognizing biases as well. Discussions will include the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty, as well as reproductive organs.

- The schools continue to do mandated screenings-vision for all students in grades K-5, grade 7, and grade 10. Hearing for all students in grades K-3, grade 7 and grade 10. Height and weight (BMIs) are also done at these grades. They are preparing for field trips, which includes checking to see which students need epi-pens, inhalers, etc., and if a nurse is needed on the field trip.

## STEM:



- Research for Better Teaching (RBT) is beginning their work with math coaches in the district
- Math Summer Enrichment forms are available for rising 9th-12th graders. Students should see their math teachers to sign up.

## Technology Integration:



- Next Generation MCAS ELA testing for grades 3 - 8 began on April 3. Students in grades 7 & 8 are using their Chromebooks to take the online exam while other grade levels are using a combination of Chromebooks, laptops, and desktop devices. The MCAS Math and Science sessions are administered online once students complete the ELA sections.
- This is Malden's third year using online state assessments and everything is going extremely well. We are looking forward to exam results which will be released in the fall. The Google site for Education is continuing to expand in the K-8 schools. Recently grade 6 students received Google accounts and the process is about to begin for Grade 5 students. Google Apps make it much easier to communicate and collaborate online. Teachers are using Google Classroom which provides the opportunity to give immediate feedback on student work. Technology continues to flourish in our schools making teaching and learning accessible at anytime and from anywhere.

## Athletics:



- Continuing efforts to increase participation within our school and community, the MHS Athletic Department would like to introduce the Malden Golden Tornadoes Cell Phone APP. The cell phone app is the first of its kind in all public schools throughout the state of Massachusetts. Please take a moment and head to the Google Play Store for android users or the iTunes store for iPhone users and download the APP for FREE! Stay up to date on all MHS related sporting events!

## Physical Education:



- The MPS Physical Education Department in conjunction with the MPS Special Education department is proud to present The Annual Special Olympics! The Special Olympics Malden Games were held on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at MacDonald Stadium. Opening ceremonies were scheduled between 9:15 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. As a community, we are proud to collaborate with the Special Olympics Massachusetts Team!

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## ELC:



- ELC and Malden families participated in a Story Walk sponsored by the Malden CFCE and Raising A Reader. A good time was had by all!
- Registration for next year is open. Please complete the registration form as soon as possible so you can get your first programming option.

## Beebe:



- Beebe School, as part of the school theme of health and environmental science, participated in an Earth Day celebration on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. On that day, the DPW gave demonstrations about the recycling and storm drain trucks. Grades 1-3 cleaned up the area of the Beebe School and planted flowers in our butterfly garden. Students in grades 4-8 were at Fellsmere, Devir, Amerige, and Coyetemore Lei Parks, as well as MacDonald Stadium and participated in a cleanup program that equaled a total of 675 hours of labor and net approximately 35 thirty-gallon bags of trash.
- At the Beebe, we have several students to congratulate this month. Congratulations to grade 7 student Jing Ren who won 1st Place in the Middlesex County Fire Safety Poster Contest. She will be honored at an Award Luncheon on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel. There she will receive a plaque and \$200. Grade 8 student Jiaqi Yen is the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the MWRA's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Contest. She will be presented a \$100 gift card and award at a ceremony scheduled for Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Deer Island Treatment Plant.

## Ferryway:



- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade hosted Shakespeare & Company. In addition to performing *Romeo & Juliet*, the Company put on a workshop in performance in which students participated in their own live performances. Ferryway invited the Linden Steam Academy to share in this performance. This performance was made possible as the result of a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts. Shakespeare & Company commented on the attentiveness and enthusiasm of the students saying this was one of the best experiences they have had in a school.
- The Ferryway School took in donations of cleaning supplies through May 5<sup>th</sup> to benefit Housing Families, a local community organization that helps at-risk and homeless families. Each grade has been asked to focus on a specific cleaning item but all cleaning donations are appreciated. These donations will help families in need at a time they really need it.

## Forestdale:



- The Forestdale School Library is open for business! As of Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, students were able to come down to the library and check out books with the help of volunteers from the Forestdale PTO. The library will be open in the afternoon for the remainder of the school year. Many thanks to PTO Vice President Rich LaMonica, School Committee Member Tara Beardsley, and Superintendent Grandson for supporting this initiative.
- Jason Lefebvre, published author of the children's book *Too Much Glue*, came to Forestdale for a program with each of our classrooms in K, 1, and 2. He did a dramatic reading of his book, and gave an engaging presentation on the process of dreaming, creating, and putting together a real life story. Thanks to the Forestdale PTO for sponsoring this great literary adventure for our students!

## Linden:



- The Linden STEAM Academy will present its Innovation Plan renewal to the school committee in June. The Linden will seek another five years as an innovation school from the DESE.
- There is new furniture in grades 6-8 as the Academy makes its move to true center-based instruction. The new look gives the grade 6-8 students the true "prep school" feel; putting into practice 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

## Salemwood:



- On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Gr. 7 and 8 students hosted their Spring Dance. This event was spearheaded 100% by our students. While 20 Salemwood teachers chaperoned the dance, we let the students use the leadership skills they've learned to run, organize, and plan a successful event.
- On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Salemwood had its first Spring Festival. The event was sponsored by Salemwood's PTO. More than 200 families joined over 40 Salemwood staff to celebrate spring and to raise funds for our students' activities.

## MHS:



- 23 Malden High School students volunteered for "Chemists Celebrate Earth Day" at the Museum of Science on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our students shared chemical demonstrations with visitors alongside college/university students from Northeastern, Salem State, and Beyond Benign.
- MHS Junior Jared Martino threw the first no-hitter for Malden High School since 2002 as part of a 2-0 win over Medford!

## 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