

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume II No.10 APRIL NEWSLETTER APRIL 30, 2019

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NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONS!

The Malden High School Robotics Team won FIRST PLACE in the 2019 New England Regional Botball Tournament. The win earns the team a berth in the Nationals! Congratulations!

Courtesy Photo



'Skype-ing' with a NASA Astronaut

Beebe School students got the thrill of a lifetime when they had the opportunity to 'Skype' with NASA astronaut Jessica Meir. *Story, Page 5*



Superintendent John Oteri

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

While some may regard April as a "short" month in the school year, due to the vacation week everyone enjoyed in the middle, that is hardly the case here at the Malden Public Schools. As usual, the achievements, activities and, most importantly, the learning and success of our students, was nonstop.

Continued on P.3

Proud Moment for Malden

From left, Veterans Affairs Director Kevin Jarvis, Mayor Gary Christenson, Angela Tejada Soliz, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark, Supt. John Oteri. Congratulations were offered that day to MHS senior Angela Tejada Soliz on her service academy acceptances to Coast Guard and West Point. Angela chose Coast Guard!

Malden state Sen. Lewis spends day at Malden H.S. listening and interacting with students & educators

A frequent visitor and strong backer of the Malden Public Schools, state Sen. Jason Lewis, left, spent the entire day at Malden High recently. Senator Lewis listened to points of view and interacted with many students and educators on a variety of issues surrounding the field of education and equity funding. Supt. Oteri, right, Mayor Christenson, and MHS Principal Mastrangelo joined students in Ms. Filer's class for a presentation on the issue of "Vaping in Schools" during the Senator's visit. Sen. Lewis said that addressing the growing epidemic of vaping is high on his priority list this session.



WAH LUM ACADEMY STUDENTS ADDRESS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

On hand for the presentation on "Pedestrian Safety" by students and staff of the Wah Lum Academy, at the corner of Ferry Street and Eastern Avenue, were Mayor and School Committee Chairman Christenson, Ward One School Committeeman Drummey, state Sen. Jason Lewis, D-5th Middlesex and other community members. Many Wah Lum students attend the Malden Public Schools. *Courtesy Photo/City of Malden*

‘Skype-ing with an Astronaut’

Beebe School students get thrill of a lifetime when they get to talk ‘live’ with NASA astronaut Jessica Meir on Skype

By Yasmine Alayan
The Blue and Gold

On April 24, the fifth and sixth grade students at Beebe K-8 School “skyped” with astronaut Jessica Meir. Meir is the sister of Becka Playford, a teacher at the Beebe. Playford had to follow a strict protocol to organize the Skype call.

First, Playford submitted a proposal to NASA, requesting a Skype call. The proposal included coordinating the event and all the technical details involved. Principal Barbara O’Brien and MPS Director of Instructional Technology Natalia Brennan collaborated with NASA. Once all of that was sorted out, they were able to send it in. Playford said that awaiting the results was difficult as “sending a proposal to NASA does not guarantee a call to be arranged.” After three weeks, NASA got back to the school and the Skype call had been organized.

One of NASA’s main purposes is to educate people about their space program and



NASA astronaut Jessica Meir, sister of Beebe School educator Becka Playford, interacted with Beebe fifth and sixth grade students via “Skype” on April 24. *Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*

science in general. Along with the lesson, the students were allowed to ask as many questions as they pleased. But putting the science and technology to the side, Playford said she also saw this as an opportunity for the students to realize that “[anyone] can make [their] dreams come true.”

Playford was clearly ecstatic about being able to provide her fellow staff and students with this incredibly rare experience and the students were able to learn a lot. Playford “enjoyed sharing the information.” After the Skype call **Continued Page 8**

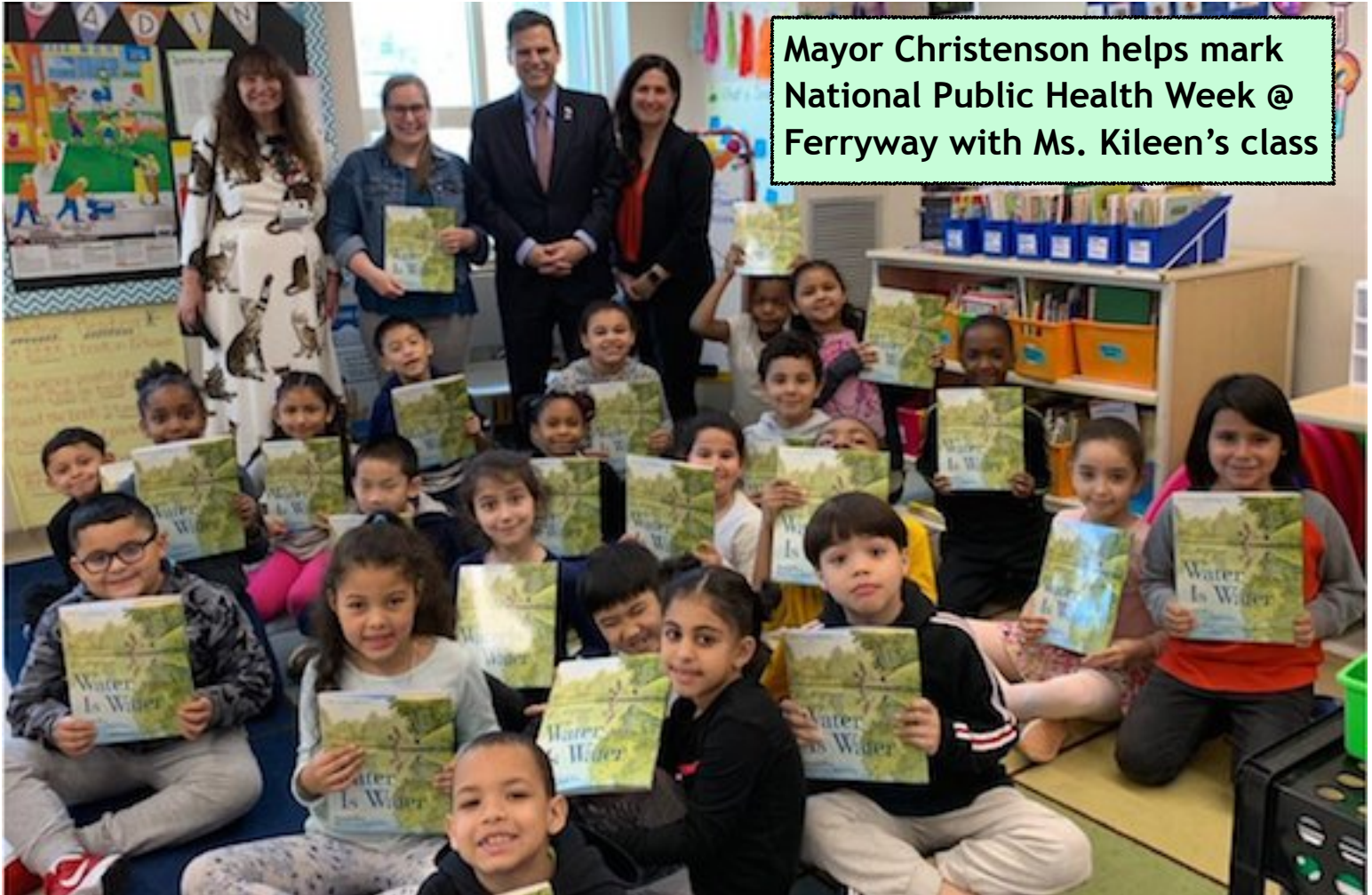
Malden Public Schools Mission Statement

Malden Public Schools is a place where students are encouraged to follow their dreams and become well rounded members of our community. The Malden Public Schools prepare students to be independent thinkers and enthusiastic learners who: Work hard; Respect others; Cherish our diversity; Seek challenges; Discover and develop their individual talents; Strive for academic excellence; and Look to demonstrate personal and social responsibility. Malden Public Schools graduates are prepared to be active participants in our economy and democracy.

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE *Continued from Page One*

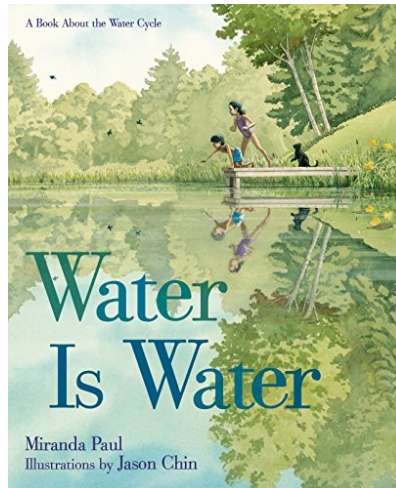
This month we continued two primary policy objectives. We continue to work in conjunction with our elected officials to support the goals of Project Equity, which calls for equity in educational funding. We must work to expand equal access to educational opportunities for all of our students, locally and statewide. Senator Lewis spent a full day in our district, promoting that concept, listening and interacting with our students and staff. We held our first Open House Job Fair on April 25 with an expressed purpose of promoting diversity in our staff by recruiting educator candidates of diverse cultures and backgrounds. We will continue pursuing these and other goals that support inclusion and reflect our student population as we move forward.

—Superintendent John Oteri



Mayor Christenson helps mark National Public Health Week @ Ferryway with Ms. Kileen's class

Malden Mayor and School Committee chairman Gary Christenson, above, helped Ms. Kileen's class at the Ferryway K-8 School mark National Public Week by taking a mathematics quiz and then reading from *Water is Water* by Miranda Paul. Below, the Mayor sits with students who learn a new song. *Courtesy Photos/City of Malden*



Students in Ms. Kileen's fifth grade class are studying our environment with the help of the book *Water is Water* by Miranda Paul.

Courtesy/NPHW.org

Everyone deserves to live a long and healthy life in a safe environment. To make that possible, we need to address the causes of poor health and disease risk among individuals and within our communities. Where we live, learn, work, worship and play affects each of us. It can determine our health and life expectancy. In the workplace, let's partner across public and private sectors to make sure decisions are made with the public's health in mind. Within our communities, let's start new conversations with our neighbors and become advocates for positive change. Working together, we can build healthier communities and eventually, the healthiest nation. But we need everyone's help to get there.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT! Students & Staff at Ferryway School respond to call for Housing Families donations



Here is what the staff at Housing Families Inc., which provides services to the homeless in the region, had to say about the outpouring of generosity shown by the students and staff at the Ferryway School after their call for assistance: "Thank you so much @FerrywayMalden 1st & 8th graders for this amazing donation of cleaning supplies and heartwarming letters you wrote to welcome our families into our units. It means a lot to our families!" **Courtesy/Housing Families**

Congratulations to
the Malden High
Robotics Team!
NEW ENGLAND
CHAMPIONS 2019!!!



Malden students are impressive during annual 'Day on the Hill'

Civic-minded MHS seniors interact with state legislators

A group of civic-minded Malden High School students were quite impressive in their recent appearance and participation in the annual Student Government Day: "A Day on the Hill," where high school students take part in an interactive experience with state legislators at the State House in Boston. Supt. Oteri attended with the students who are shown with members of Malden's state delegation. Included are Sen. Jason Lewis and state Reps. Steve Ultrino and Paul Donato. *Courtesy/MPS*

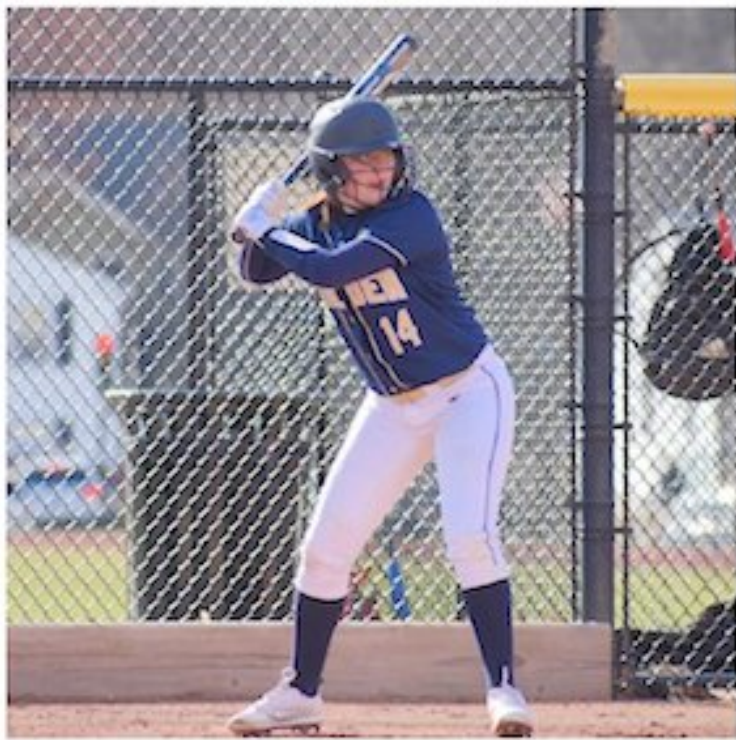


READY TO LAUNCH In-school television studio set to go @ MHS

Under the direction of 25-year Malden High School veteran educator Mr. Valente, a new in-school television studio, fully staffed by MHS students, is ready to launch with the new 2019-2020 school year which begins in late August. A dream for many years, the student-manned, in-house TV studio will serve Malden High School and all of the Malden Public Schools with its programming and coverage. *Courtesy Photo/MPS*



Spring Sports Teams in full bloom!



THERE ARE OVER 250 MALDEN STUDENT-ATHLETES PARTICIPATING in 11 VARSITY SPORTS this SPRING!



Beebe School musicians perform @ Annual Spring Concert

The talented Beebe School Band drew a lot of praise for its excellent performance at the annual Spring Concert. *Courtesy/ Malden Public Schools*

Malden Public Schools' first-ever Job Fair draws many interested educators to MHS

Malden Public Schools held its first-ever Open House Job Fair on April 25. The well-attended event was a success and the “vibe” at the Job Fair was that Malden Public Schools is becoming a popular destination for educator hopefuls. Superintendent Oteri is leading a concerted campaign to attract candidates that would help increase diversity in the Malden Public Schools staff of educators and administrators. He has been attending regional forums and job fairs, and now Malden has created its own pool of candidates. *Courtesy Photo/ Malden Public Schools*



BEEBE STUDENTS 'SKYPE' WITH A NASA ASTRONAUT

Continued from Page 3

many of the students continued asking Playford questions when they saw her in the halls. The students got an inside look on Meir's life. By first grade, Meir had already decided her that she would become an astronaut. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Biology from International Space University. She received her Doctorate in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. Meir studied the physiology of marine mammals and birds focusing in on the oxygen reduction in emperor penguins and Northern California elephant seals. She became an assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School, where she continued her research. Playford hoped that students could use her sister's story as inspiration to follow their own dreams. To take whatever they are passionate about and not dismiss it as a dream and instead, work hard and be persistent to shape the future of which they could be happy and proud.

On Topic @ the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy



Students at the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy put together a display on "Bullying" and drew a lot of praise from educators and administrators. *Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*

THANK YOU TEAM FORESTDALE! It was a great effort in April by Forestdale School, Grade 5 teachers Pamela Skinner, Molly Whisler, Susan Horvitz, Anne Harney for having their students write letters of encouragement to the Forestdale third grade students who are taking the MCAS test for the first time. Forestdale Kindergarten teachers Johnna Lynch, Jillian Fitzgerald, and Second Grade teacher Shannon Piso, Paraprofessionals Kim Gaudet, Aylcia Maganaro, Jessa Martinos combined their classrooms to do peer reading with their students. The students were very excited and did a great job working together. ILP Teachers Jessica Trail, Christine Zuppa, Paraprofessionals Candice Powers, Amanda Bartlett, Beth Ganley, Lakshmi Arun, Cassia Scheffer, did a great job collaborating on the Forestdale MCAS. Truly a team effort!



SALEMWOOD TRIVIA NIGHT

Mayor Christenson greets Principal Van Hyunh and other staff members at the Salemwood School when he attended the school's Annual Trivia Night. A good time was had by all! *courtesy/ Malden Public Schools*



Thank you to all of our Administrative Professionals! April 24

School Committee approves 2019-2020 Academic Calendar at April Meeting

MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2019				
(2 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
26*	27*	28	29	X

8/26* First Day for Teachers
8/27* Prof Dev Day - All Grds
8/28 First Day of School for Grades PreK, 1-12
8/28-8/29 Kindergarten Orientation/Screening
8/30 No School

SEPTEMBER 2019				
(20 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
X	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

9/2 Labor Day
9/3 First Day of School for Kindergarten

OCTOBER 2019				
(22 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	(11)
14	15	16	17	18
(21)	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

10/11 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
10/14 Columbus Day
10/21 Late Entry Day MHS

NOVEMBER 2019				
(17 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
(4)	5*	6	7	8
X	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

11/4 Late Day Entry MHS
11/5* Prof Dev Day-All Grds
11/11 Veterans Day
11/27 11:00 Dismissal - Thanksgiving
11/28-29 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2019				
(15 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
(9)	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
X	X	X	X	X
X	X			

12/9 Late Entry MHS
12/20 11:00 Dismissal
12/23-1/1 Winter Vacation

JANUARY 2020				
(21 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
	X	X	2	3
(6)	7	8	9	(10)
13	14	15	16	17
X	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

1/2 School Resumes
1/6 Late Entry MHS
1/10 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
1/20 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2020				
(15 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	(7)
(10)	11	12	13	14
X	X	X	X	X
24	25	26	27	28

2/10 Late Entry MHS
2/7 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
2/17-21 February Vacation

MARCH 2020				
(21 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
(9)	10	11	12	13*
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

3/9 Late Entry MHS
3/13 * Prof Dev Day-All Grds

APRIL 2020				
(17 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
(6)	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
X	X	X	X	X
27	28	29	30	

4/6 Late Entry MHS
4/10 11:00 Dismissal - Good Friday
4/20-24 Spring Vacation

MAY 2020				
(20 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				(1)
(4)	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
X	26	27	28	29

5/1 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
5/4 Late Entry MHS
5/25 Memorial Day

JUNE 2020				
(10 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	(5)
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19

6/5 PD Early Dismissal PreK-12
6/12 Last day w/o snow days - 11:00 Dismissal
6/19 Last day w/five snow days - 11:00 Dismissal

First Day for Teachers – Monday, August 26, 2019

Please note that five (5) additional days are built into the calendar in case of inclement weather

○ Early Release PreK-12

□ Late Entry Dates for High School

The Malden Public Schools: 'Our Diversity is Our Strength'

The Malden district is near the top as one of the most diverse in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with Malden High School rated the #1 most diverse secondary education school statewide. We continue to dedicate ourselves to becoming more culturally proficient and understanding of our students background. Throughout the district, we embrace our diversity and strive to progress as one!



On April 26, the Malden High School Band (shown above), directed by Ms. Mazza (front row, far right) finished First Place in the Annual Music in the Park event held in Westfield. In addition, the Wind Ensemble was voted "Best in Show". The next day they received a Silver Medal from the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association. *Courtesy/Malden High School Band*

A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMON LANGUAGE USED, EXEMPLIFYING THE BELIEFS, VALUES, STRENGTHS IN RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY