

**Tornado Times**  
**Monday, December 22, 2014**  
**Volume 12, Issue #17**

*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](mailto:dbrown@maldenps.org). Stories, pictures, reminders, club, activity, and class notes are all welcome.*

**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.

**Dear students and staff,**

**Yesterday was the darkest day of the year by percentage of sunlight. Starting today each day gets longer/lighter!**

**I hope you can find the right balance of work and play over the next couple of weeks; Merry Christmas to those who celebrate. I wish all a healthy and safe New Year!**

**Last week's Choral and Band concert was a pleasure to witness. The alumni coming back to sing "O Holy Night" is truly special. The place was packed!**

On Friday our Captains Council sponsored a party at the Newland Street Housing Development. Our students were gracious hosts and provided the snacks, games, and mentoring to the young people from the housing development. This is an ongoing effort as some of our students volunteer tutor there after school each week.

Each Saturday about thirty of our students volunteer at the Malden Recreation Program (Youth Basketball and Challenger Kickball). It is a real eye opener to see our students working with younger students. They are great!

Our winter sports teams are in action already with hockey, boys' basketball, and wrestling off to good starts. Come watch someone play over break!

This week:

special	23456	Monday, December 22, 2014	All staff meeting, 2 pm, Gallery
special	456	Tuesday, December 23, 2014	11 am dismissal, no lunch

**Return to school on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**The rotation on January 5<sup>th</sup> is 5,6,7,1,2.**

**It is an early-release day.**

**The building will be open during the break but not all day every day; please check before coming in.**

**Some of you have expressed interest in the Noyce Fellowship out of Tufts University. On Wednesday, January 7th between 10:45 am and 12:45 pm Brian Gravel from Tufts University will be here to answer questions about the Noyce Program for interested**

**math/science teachers. Brian will be in the Main Office Conference room during this time.**

**MHS Staff**

***Annual Cookie (or dessert) Time Get Together***

***Monday, December 22, 2014***



***2:00 PM***

***Gallery***



**Door prizes... parking spots...**

**If you don't want to bring anything in, but would like to contribute to the purchase of paper goods, decorations, and other items, you can send \$5.00 to Jane Sulick (H09) or Maureen Vona (Nurses Office).**

**Staff**

***Five District Partnership, (5DP)***

**Resources**

To access curriculum and yearlong plans, go to [5districts.com](http://5districts.com) and click on "Access Curriculum". The website also contains more information on the partnership, helpful links to improve your practice, and opportunities for you to get involved and provide feedback.

**Dear Malden Reads enthusiasts,**

Share Malden Reads with local folks on your holiday gift list! You can buy copies of the main book selection or any of the companion books for younger readers (see our story below). Attached is a Malden Reads bookplate that you can print, cut and include in the flyleaf of the book. We recommend purchasing books from our collaborative partner, the local bookstore [Bestsellers Cafe in Medford](#). All of the Malden Reads book selections are offered at a 20% discount. Call ahead to make sure supplies are still available. (They were as of this writing.)

Happy holidays to all & stay tuned for news about our programming for 2015!

Best regards,

[Malden Reads: One City, One Book](#)

**Malden Reads chooses companion books for young readers**

Malden Reads is highlighting a trio of books for younger readers in 2015 to accompany the main book selection [Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore](#) by Robin Sloan. The companion books were chosen in collaboration with Malden's local children's librarians and are as follows:

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

Written by Chris Grabenstein for readers in grades 4-7, this is the story of 12 kids, including a class clown and gamer extraordinaire, who are invited to spend the night in a new library, which was built by gaming genius Luigi Lemoncello. When the night is over, however, the doors to the library remain locked and the kids must use all their gaming, puzzle-solving, and collaborative skills to figure out how to get themselves out.

Malden Children's librarian Rebecca Smith said there's a lot to like about the adventure story. "[It] combines the marvelous fun of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with the intriguing mystery of *The Westing Game*, said Smith. "It is an engaging read...offering word puzzles, literary references, quirky characters and more."

**The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore**

Written by William Joyce for grades K-3, this is the story of a man who, after his life is uprooted

by a hurricane, finds new purpose in caring for books and sharing them with others. According to the publisher, Joyce began this book as a tribute to the late Bill Morris (a dry-witted pioneer of library promotions) but then the author was interrupted by hurricane Katrina and witnessed the devastation brought to his home state. He then added a focus to the book on the healing power of stories.

"William Joyce is an amazing talent and creative genius in the world of children's books, and *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* is his moving testimony to the power of books—to inspire us, to heal us, and to touch our souls and give joy," said Smith. "This work also shows how books enable their creators to achieve a special kind of immortality." Joyce's story has also been made into an Academy Award-winning animated short, which provides more fun and engaging discussion opportunities for young readers.

### **Reading Makes You Feel Good**

Written by Todd Parr for preschool aged students, the title really says it all. With brightly colored pictures, this book helps develop early literacy skills as it passes on its important lessons: reading teaches, entertains, and brings people together (all of which also happen to be important tenets of Malden Reads philosophy).

***Mr. Lamar is the lucky winner of our Transition Raffle. Thank you to everyone that continuously supports our class, Dawn, Staff and students.***

Dawn M. Frim M.ed.  
Transition Program  
MHS  
Rm. A205



The MA ESE Office of School & District Turnaround is sponsoring great workshop opportunities this year. [Get workshop descriptions](#) or [register now](#).

- \* *Getting Under the Hood of the "Tiered System of Supports" Model*  
February 5, 2015; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Worcester Technical High School, Worcester
- \* *Cultivating Strong School-Community Mental Health Partnerships*  
March 17, 2015, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Location TBD
- \* *Facilitating Critical Student Support Meetings*  
April 14, 2015; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Worcester Technical High School, Worcester

See details for each below:

**February 5, 2015; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Worcester Tech High School, Worcester**  
**Special Workshop: Getting Under the Hood of the "Tiered System of Supports" Model**  
Many schools and districts are now familiar with the "tiered system" model. Districts using the approach will tell you: it's a great framework for getting yourself better organized to do student support. But they'll also start hit some nuanced and more advanced: Do we do universal assessment or not (and how)? How do we fit better "support" strategies into an already packed school day and year? What do we track to know if we're being effective or to capture important information (e.g., quality of referred services)? We've got Tier 1 and 3 supports down, but what do we do for Tier 2?? This session will include a quick "Tiered Systems 101" refresher then dig into the details of to successfully implement a comprehensive and manageable tiered system.

**March 17, 2014, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, LOCATION TBD**

**Special Workshop | Developing Strong School-Community Mental Health Partnerships**

Parent academies and universities are kind of an established "thing" now. Many districts are doing them, dabbling in them, or seriously want to. As with most things, there are different models for how to organize an "academy" - so let's compare notes! This session will provide a highly interactive format that allows parent academy veterans and interested academy developers to explore different approaches and why they are being used, get ideas for addressing common challenges, and share practical lessons and tools.

**April 14, 2015; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Worcester Tech High School, Worcester**  
**Special Workshop| Making Internal & External Partnerships Really Work:**  
**Facilitating Critical Student Support Meetings**

A lot of times, great student support comes down to who you have in the room and how well you facilitate the discussion - whether it's a small meeting between a counselor and a parent, a larger meeting with a student support team, or a meeting with school partners.

Believe it or not, facilitating isn't just about personality and style – there's good science, methods, and tools that can help you get the most out of these moments. Please let me know if you have any questions and be sure to share these opportunities with you staff. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Enjoy the weekend.

**Moira Connolly**

Center for Educational Redesign

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