

Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol.1, Issue 3, December 2016

"Not having heard something is not as good as having heard it; having heard it is not as good as having seen it; having seen it is not as good as knowing it; knowing it is not as good as putting it into practice."

Xun Kuang

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson



Linden STEAM Academy Instructional Focus Walks (left to right): Dr. Blummer - Superintendent Induction Program, Bonnie Page - MEA President, Principal Brandsfield, Dr. Grandson, Martin Trice - Mystic Valley Charter School and Mayor Christenson

Greetings Malden Public Schools Community,

During the Holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, teachers, leaders, and staff for all you do to make our school system an environment committed to delivering on the promise of providing a globally competitive education to every child, every day, in every classroom. We have laid a good foundation this past semester beginning with our faculty convocation, a smooth and thoughtful school opening week, as well as our goal setting/ self-assessments, use of Mastery Connect as an instructional tool for better outcomes in student learning, and our District-wide Instructional Focus Walks that allow us to learn from one another and share the great work happening in our classrooms daily.

We have some challenging, but rewarding work ahead of us as we return from the holiday vacation. Some questions for us to consider:

- How do we ensure that students who need it, receive additional academic and/or social-emotional interventions and support?
- What additional resources and training do we need as educators to meet the rapidly changing social-emotional needs of the students we serve?
- What are our current and desired student achievement outcomes as a school system? Are we satisfied with our current results? If so, how do we sustain it, if not, how do we go from good to great?

As we look forward to reflecting on big ideas in 2017, I hope all faculty and staff take the time over the holidays to spend time with family and friends and hopefully also relax and rejuvenate. In the new year, I look forward to continuing to work alongside Malden's finest with the goal of improving the life chances of Malden students and families by providing a globally competitive educational opportunity for all.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes,

Dr. Charles Grandson,
Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment:

- Thanks to all for your support with our Staff and Student Surveys. Authentic feedback is vital to know what we do best and what we could do better.
- A special thank-you to all for giving our students the extra TLC so many of them need, especially around the holidays.

Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson

Student Support Services:

- The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is pleased to invite staff and parents to a "Boston vs. Bullies" presentation on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the Linden School, 6:30 pm - 8pm.
- Leslie Leslie from the Federation for Children with Special Needs, will speak about "Understanding Learning Styles with Special Needs" on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the Forestdale School, 6:30 - 8pm.

Business Manager: Toni Mertz:

- Half of the teacher's contractual stipends will be paid on January 13, 2017.
- Budget worksheets for all Principals, Administrators, and Directors will be going out in January.

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Title I:



- Family Game Night will be happening at each school 6pm-7:30-January 10 @ Forestdale, January 17 @ Beebe, January 19 @ Linden, January 24 @

Salemwood, January 31 @ Ferryway Bring your favorite game to share.

Literacy:



- Winter Benchmark testing is done and all Instructional Plan meetings will be completed by January 6, 2017.
- New student groups based on instructional need will begin by January 11.

ELL:



- ACCESS for English Learners testing will be happening in all schools between Thursday, January 5 and Wednesday, February 8 for all English learners grades K - 12.
- Registration for free ESL classes for students' parents and guardians continues at the Beebe School on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:30 and at the Ferryway School on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.

Humanities:



- The Malden High School theatre program staged "Godspell" in the Jenkins Auditorium last month, and many schools featured winter concerts this December for chorus, band, and music classes, K-12.
- English, history/social studies, art, music, and foreign language classes in grades 6-12 are preparing to conduct midterm exams using the MasteryConnect platform so that teachers can improve their focus on helping students meet content objectives.

STEM:



- The MHS Science Department has been awarded roughly \$26,000 worth of biotechnology equipment from the Mass Life Sciences Grant. Out of 105 schools, 49 were selected for this award.
- A four-part professional development series "Elementary Math Academies" kicked off on December 1st with 28 participants working hard after school to learn differentiation strategies in math centers.

Nursing and Health:



- The Nurses are continuously busy ensuring that we have a health record for every student and updating immunizations, physicals. We are starting mandating screenings (vision, hearing, BMI) in some schools. The Nurses have been busy with students/staff who have GI/flu viruses. The Nurses are teaching/encouraging students to wash hands frequently and encouraging healthy habits.
- The Health teachers are encouraging Healthy habits, and are working with students on conflict resolution and bullying issues. They are also working with students on emotions.

Technology Integration:



- Elementary & Middle School students are learning how to code using MIT's Scratch program and many have participated in the Code.org "2016 Hour of Code".
- K-12 students are using BrainPop's online tools to create, construct, and collaborate as they learn and explore the world around us. Check out BrainPop, BrainPop Jr, and BrainPOP ESL with your students at home!

Athletics:



- The freshman duo of Nour and Batoul Chouiki have had an immediate impact on the girl's indoor track team. In addition to running impressive times in various events throughout the young season, the twins ran big personal bests at the MSTCA Winter Festival Invitational in Boston. Their times of 1:47.42 and 1:47.93 rank 3rd and 4th among all freshman runners in the state of MA.

Physical Education:



- The MPS physical education department in collaboration with Dr. Jessica Knapp (Malden High School Sports Doctor) has a plan to help increase female participation in sports. The "Mentoring Program to Increase Girls Participation in Sports" has a plan to leverage senior internship program to help facilitate and lead skill sessions at the middle school grade level. For more information, please contact the Director of Athletics: Charlie Conefrey- cconefrey@maldenps.org

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ELC:



- This month, all students enjoyed the KidzFun Program. Students participated in exciting physical activities!!
- On Friday, December 16, the PTO and CFCE co-sponsored a Holiday Event- Playful Tunes! Holiday Basket raffle tickets were also on sale as a fundraiser for our PTO. A great time was had by ELC and Malden families!

Beebe:



- The 7th grade students are currently working on a Model UN unit. This work encompasses several different objectives: analysis, synthesis, debating, research using their chromebooks, and writing. Our topic this year is "Food Security." Students received their assigned representative countries. Students will work with a partner and complete one position paper using Google docs and sharing that one document with fellow students. Our "debate" is scheduled for next Monday, December 19. A representative from UNA-GB, the Model UN folks, will be here to moderate the debate.
- Beebe held its annual Winter Concert performed by our Grade One Students. This concert is all about winter! The first graders will be singing about all the wonderful things you can do in the snow: make snowmen, drink hot cocoa, wear scarves and hats! Join us to hear an afternoon of singing and celebration!

Ferryway:



- The fourth grade at Ferryway has teamed up with Lucy's Love Bus - a nonprofit organization that delivers comfort and quality of life to pediatric cancer patients by providing free integrative therapies. The students have raised over \$500 by selling t-shirts and bracelets, along with donating their own money. We have paired up with a buddy, Jack, who has leukemia. Our goal is to raise \$1000 to provide him with music therapies at home. The students have also been writing him letters.
- A group of Ferryway seventh and eighth grade girls attended the Empowering Girls Conference at the Broad Institute in Cambridge. Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth hosted the Conference. The Conference included speakers and interactive breakout sessions, which fostered confidence building, self-assertion and goal setting. The YWCA in conjunction with The Wonder Years after-school enrichment program generously provided Funding and transportation.

Forestdale:



- Forestdale students grades 3-8 gave a presentation to the School Committee using our P.R.I.D.E., Positivity, Respect, Independence, Determination, Excellence, theme to give multiple examples of where these values show up in our curriculum and day to day activities.
- To begin promoting a connection between writing at the high school level and elementary and middle school, students are beginning to implement the Writing with **COLORS** strategy to strengthen their writing in the classroom.

Linden:



- The Linden STEAM Academy drama club and adviser Danae O'Bryan is preparing for our upcoming play this fall.
- Deb Gesualdo has also been practicing with our middle school chorus, they too will be performing after the New Year.
- Both projects are keeping the "arts" alive and well at the STEAM Academy.

Salemwood:



- On Saturday, December 10, 2016 Salemwood had its first Winter Fest sponsored by our PTO. Almost 300 families participated in this student-centered event. There were multiple hands-on stations where students were able to create, play, and have wholesome fun with their teachers and family members.
- On Friday, December 16, 2016, members of our Grade 8 class went to the state house for this year's Civic's Day. They were awarded one of the three awards given that day for their outstanding work.

MHS:



- NHS Fundraising: Congrats to Mr. Marques and the National Honor Society for reaching their \$10,000 fundraising goal in support of Housing Families!
- Winter Concert: Amazing job by Mr. Cole, Ms. O'Brien-Mazza, and all of the students in the orchestra, bands, and choral arts society at the Winter Concert on Friday night. Best quote of the night overheard from a parent after the show: "I can't believe my kid's a part of sounding like that!"

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