

# Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue 5, February 2017

"The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth."

-Dan Rather

## Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson



*Malden High School students with Superintendent Grandson after an informative discussion about their experience as MPS students.*

Greetings Malden Public Schools Faculty, Staff, and Community,

My vision for Malden Public Schools is to provide every child with access to a globally competitive education. The month of March brings with it an exciting opportunity to reconnect with our earlier goals and objectives outlined at the faculty convocation this past August. I am proud to serve as superintendent of a school system committed to providing a quality education to all students. Recently, I have been reminded of a quote that has helped me reconnect with my purpose as an urban educator. In *Results Now*, Mike Schmoker writes:

"Generous amounts of close, purposeful reading, rereading, writing, and talking as underemphasized as they are in K-12 education, are the essence of authentic literacy. These simple activities are the foundation for a trained, powerful mind – and a promising future. They are the way up and out of boredom, poverty, and intellectual inadequacy. And they're the ticket to ensuring that record numbers of minority and disadvantaged youngsters attend and graduate from college. We have yet to realize how much is at stake here."

Amidst on-going debates about whether or not college is for everyone, or whether or not assigning homework is necessary for modern day students, we know what's "at stake" if we do not equip our students with the tools necessary to academically compete with their peers locally, state-wide, nationally, and globally. This month, our budget process, my Report of Entry Findings, and our analysis of feedback from our DESE District Comprehensive Review will provide us with the platform to determine how we will work together as a community to provide our students with an un-paralleled educational opportunity. Together, we have the power to change the trajectory of the lives of our students and their families. Schools are best positioned to transform communities and society. As I mentioned at our opening day in August, we must... "believe it can be done."

Best,  
Dr. Charles Grandson  
Superintendent

## Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan

### Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment:

*There was a great article in the January 2017 Educational Leadership titled "The Teacher as Warm Demander". The following quotes from the article resonated the highly effective teaching and learning we see in our classrooms.*

- "A teacher stance that communicates both warmth and a nonnegotiable demand for student effort and mutual respect. This stance - often called the warm demander - is central to sustaining academic engagement..."
- "Becoming a warm demander begins with establishing a caring relationship that convinces students that you believe in them. The saying goes 'It's not what you say that matters; it's how you say it.' In acting as a warm demander, "how you say it" matters, but who you are and what students believe about your intentions matter more."
- "Warm demanders care enough to relentlessly insist on two things: that students treat the teacher and one another respectfully and that they complete the academic tasks necessary for successful futures."
- "What makes warm demanders different is that they insist on students meeting those expectations. They establish supports to ensure that students will learn, and they communicate clearly to students that showing respect to the teacher and to classmates is nonnegotiable."
- "The students interviewed... were clear that the teachers who helped them the most never gave up; they provided a variety of activities to help different kinds of learners and taught until the light bulb went on for every student."

*THANKS TO ALL OF THE "WARM DEMANDERS" IN MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*

## Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson

### Student Support Services:



The Malden SEPAC is pleased and very proud to announce that Maura Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, will be awarded the Federation for Children with Special Needs "Community Partnership Award for School Administrator." This award will be presented to Maura at the Federation's Vision of the Community Conference in Boston on March 4, 2017. With Maura's retirement this school year, the SEPAC wanted to recognize her dedication to the special needs community not only in Malden but in the community at large.

## Business Manager: Toni Mertz:

- Please submit all requisitions for purchases by March 31, 2017.

# Superintendent's Newsletter

## Title I:



- Title I has their most popular family event in March, all starting a 6:00PM.
  - Thursday, March 2 at Forestdale
  - Thursday, March 9 at Linden
  - Thursday, March 16 at Ferryway
  - Thursday, March 23 at Beebe
  - Thursday, March 30 at Salemwood

## Literacy:



- This month we held "Sense of Urgency" meetings to review the progress of our students who were not making benchmark.
- At each school we will be reviewing student's writing.

## ELL:



- Twenty-eight English learner students in grades 6 - 8 attended a Title III sponsored English enrichment program held at the Salemwood School during February vacation. A similar Title III program was held at Malden High School that had thirty-two English learner students participating in English enrichment classes during vacation.
- The Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) is a student-run, community-based, nonprofit public service organization affiliated with Harvard College. Starting on February 27, Harvard students will come to Malden High School once a week to tutor English learner students. Additionally, PBHA sponsors Saturday tutoring at Harvard's campus. This program started on February 18 and forty-seven Malden High School English learner students attended the Saturday program.

## Humanities:



- Twenty-two students from Malden High School won awards in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for 2016-2017. The students scored in all categories: drawing and illustration, printmaking, digital art, design, ceramics and glass, painting, mixed media, and editorial cartoons. Congratulations to students and staff for their hard work!
- The MHS Mock Trial team won its third straight competition this month. They will now move on to the regional competition in Worcester the weekend of March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Good luck, team!

## Nursing and Health:



- Being healthy and learning how to keep healthy is one of the most important things we can do. We are teaching about dental hygiene and its link to our own individual health; we are teaching about relationships-friends and family; and we are teaching about exercise and the importance it plays in our health.
- We continue to do mandated screenings, as well as working with counselors and social workers in helping our students succeed. We presently have University of Massachusetts at Boston Nursing students doing "clinicals" in a couple of the schools. We are working with our school physician and the Malden Board of Health to ensure students are updated with medical care.

## STEM:



- On February 16th ten scientists from local universities spoke to over 2,000 students across grades 6-12 about their passion for science.
- The last Math Academy is on March 16th. The focus will be on Number Talks and performance tasks.

## Technology Integration:

- Students in grades 3 - 8 are getting ready for the MCAS onlin exams and are using the Massachusetts practice tests and onli tutorials at <http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/tutorial/>
- Students in Grade 8 Computers are using spreadsheets to collect, record, analyze, and interpret real word data through the use of complex formulas.

## Athletics:



- **Swim Team**-Undefeated Regular Season with numerous swimmers (boys and girls) qualifying and competing at states at Boston University.
- **Basketball-BOYS TOURNAMENT BOUND:** with a three-year absence Coach Nally has built a team to be reckoned with finishing undefeated at home.
- **Indoor Track-Girls** won their 4<sup>th</sup> GBL title in a row including winning GBL league meet. Several indoor track athletes will be competing individually at the state meets held at the Reggie Lewis Center.
- **Wrestling**-Two of our wrestlers excelled this season qualifying and are competing at the state meet in Methuen.

# Superintendent's Newsletter

## ELC:



- This month, the students were busy getting ready for their School Committee presentation by practicing their Friends at School Poem and making their posters showing how they are a friend and safe at school.
- Our families participated in several activities this month including a Raising A Reader Community Workshop, a PTO meeting, Parent Conferences, and a Parent Chat with Ms. Gordon.

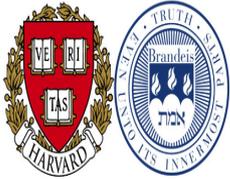
## Beebe:



This event, which promotes literacy at the Beebe, will be held on March 16th at 6:30PM. It is enjoyable to see students cheering on their parents. We are looking forward to seeing who will bring the trophy home for 2017.

- Aligned with the school and district goal of College and Career Awareness, February 28th to March 3rd is College Awareness Week at the Beebe School.
- The Beebe School is finalizing plans for its Annual Beebe School Parent Spelling Bee.

## Ferryway:



- On February 6, 2017, Ferryway students from Grades 1, 4, 6, 7 & 8 had the pleasure of presenting to the School Committee. They spoke about what they are learning, how they are learning, and developing strategies for their learning.
- On February 16, 2017, Grades 6, 7 & 8 participated in Malden Science Talks. Nick Holowka from Harvard University and Linnea Metcalf from Brandeis University spoke about how they became interested in Science and the particular field of research they do at the present time.

## Forestdale:



- The Forestdale School through the efforts of STEM Director, Ms. Shereen Escovitz was visited by a scientist from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The presenter was from Northeastern University and spoke to our students about her research on mosquitos.
- The Forestdale School Grade 6, 7, 8 students were given a presentation by Mrs. Fern Remedi-Brown, daughter of Holocaust survivor, Dr. Alan Brown. The presentation was outstanding. She showed a video clip interview of her father detailing his ordeal and struggling for survival in multiple Nazi work camps. She shared with our students stories and details about her father's perseverance to survive in the worst possible human conditions. In a slide show presentation, she shared pictures of her family and facts about Hungary during the German occupation in World War II.

## Linden:



- Linden STEAM Academy just received a national FUSE grant that aids in promoting hands on STEAM education differentiated for students at all learning levels
- Boston Bruins visited the Linden STEAM Academy to talk about physical fitness, healthy eating, and bully prevention with the entire school. Teacher and students exercised with Blades the Mascot and the students beat the teachers in a street hockey shoot-out.

## Salemwood:



- Grade 4 students went to the Plimoth Plantation, founded in 1947, which is a living history museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, that exhibits the original settlement of the Plymouth Colony established in the 17th century by English colonists, some of whom later became known as Pilgrims.
- Grade 6 students discussed in their Social Studies class the importance of being open to other cultures and their cultural practices. To celebrate their discussion they planned an international food festival in the middle school cafeteria.

## MHS:



- ELL students from Malden High School are attending Saturday tutoring sessions at Harvard with second language students from Harvard University Phillips Brooks House Association. Students are being tutored in language acquisition but also in difficult content areas. The first session had 48 students take the T from Malden to Harvard to partake!
- MHS had multiple participants in state meets in both wrestling and girls' and boys' swimming. The swimmers broke multiple school records at their state meet at the Boston University Aquatic Center. Also, the boys' basketball team received the #7 seed in the Division 1 North basketball tournament, their highest seed since the 2008-09 season. They play Somerville in the first round of the tournament on Tuesday, 2/28.

## 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