

Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue 8, May/June 2017

"When it comes to fighting for your dreams, be a dragon. Breathe fire."
— Richelle E. Goodrich

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson



Dear Malden Public Schools Community,

A sincere thank you to all teachers, leaders, staff, parents, families, and the entire Malden community for a wonderful year. I wish you the best as you continue the great work you're doing on behalf of our students.

This year we accomplished:

- District-wide Instructional Focus Walks to share best practices on quality teaching and learning
- Strengthened data-driven instruction with the goal of improving student achievement by 5%
- Made a commitment to diversity by refining hiring practices and engaging in difficult discussions through the Harvard RIDES initiative
- Adoption of Restorative Justice as a district-wide Social Emotional Learning approach
- Established the newly created Family and Community Engagement Committee
- Showcased the work of our students and teachers at school committee meetings
- Adopted a new Substance Abuse Prevention policy

All of these accomplishments and more, would not have been possible without your hard work and dedication. Because of you, Malden will reach the goal of providing a globally competitive educational opportunity to every child, every day, in every classroom.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Dr. Charles Grandson

Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment:

- The support I have received this year from MPS staff as the Interim Assistant Superintendent has been both overwhelming and humbling. My sincerest thanks to all who have helped to make this year so professionally rewarding for me. And of course, thanks for all you do to make our kids both academically and socially successful.

Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson Student Support Services:

- The Special Education Extended Year Program for eligible students will be held at the Early Learning Center, Linden Steam Academy, and Malden High School, Mondays through Thursdays, July 10th through August 10th.
- The Special Education Department thanks those who are retiring for their years of service to Malden's students especially Administrative Assistant, Ellyne Feldstein!

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Title I:



- Title I is wrapping up our last Family Engagement Evening this month. The families enjoyed an evening of pizza and entertainment by **Johnny the K**, a local past teacher. Johnny sings and makes us laugh with his wit, as he gives an important message of kindness and tolerance.
- We have partnered with **Pisa Pizza** this summer. Every incoming K through grade 8 child who returns his/her Summer Reading Log and Readers Response to their new teacher, will receive a certificate for a free large cheese pizza. The coupon is good for eat in or take out, not delivery.

Literacy:



- Each school is completing their DIBELS and GRADES assessments. Data will be reviewed and analyzed with each teacher, along with celebrations and steps for next year will be planned by all K-5 teachers.

- There will be two reading events this summer. They will be citywide, but will be held at the Beebe School. On July 10th at 6pm **The Little Red Wagon** from UNH will present a show with a pirate theme. On August 8th at 6pm, **The Tanglewood Marionettes** will present Sleeping Beauty.

ELL:



- Title III Adult ESL Celebration. Family members of our English Learners worked hard this year taking English classes at the Ferryway and the Beebe. Come support our families and celebrate their achievement in learning English. The celebration begins at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16 at the Beebe cafeteria with food from around the world followed by a certificate ceremony.

- Title III sponsored a Saturday field trip on June 3rd to the New England Aquarium. 90 students from SEI classrooms attended the event. Thank you to Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Howes, Ms. Barone, Ms. Kelley, Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Terranova, and Ms. Coughlin-Carusio for making the trip possible.

Humanities:



- Malden Access TV (MATV) hosted a middle school art show in May, featuring artwork by students from Beebe, Salemwood, Forestdale, Ferryway, and Linden Steam Academy. Students in the K-8 schools are also competing in a sign contest held by the city to create new billboards around Malden.

- On May 15th at Malden High School, there was an award ceremony for the 69 students who participated in the National Latin Exam. Twenty-four students received awards, including twelve silver medals and two gold medals.

Nursing and Health:



- In June, we are discussing "Skin"-the functions, the changes that can occur and need for protective measures. Discussion continues on for water, boat, swimming, and hiking measures.
- We are finishing mandated screenings and recording them, sending letters home for failures. We are sending letters home requesting new updated Physicals and immunizations, as required by DPH. We are letting 8th graders know what they need for entering HS. The Nurse offices have seen over 65,000 visits this year.

STEM:



- K-8 summer math calendars will be handed out and posted on the Malden math website.
- Ninth grade students took the Biology MCAS exam on June 5th and June 6th.

Technology Integration:



- Grade 6 students have been sharpening and testing their research skills using scavenger hunts relating to curriculum topics. Discovering the best search engines to use, citing URLs and creating hyperlinks are just a few of the skills being tested. Students in grades 7 & 8 have been busy the past few months creating their own websites and blogs on topics connected to their core subjects such as the Renaissance in Social Studies. Using Google Sites and Edublogs.org. are fun and creative tools to enhance communication skills.

- As we wind down to the end of the year, here are a few highlights of the ways in which MHS Chromebooks have changed the way students learn and demonstrate their understandings. Students in ELA classes produced online portfolios containing their accomplishments for the year. In Social Studies classes, students created and presented Generation Citizen Projects to state and local lawmakers at the State House and in class. The program Desmos has been a game changer for Math students who spent less time creating graphs and more time analyzing them. Virtual labs in Science provided the means to perform experiments that were never possible before. ESL students used Quizlet, the learning tool, to help them study more productively. This is just the tip of the iceberg of the impact Chromebooks have had this year. To keep these import devices working, a student-run help desk was created. So far, these help desk students have serviced over 200 devices since the program began in February 2017.

Athletics:



- Congratulations to the following for earning Northeast Conference All-Star recognition! Kevin Gilligan (Baseball), Vitya Teague & Tiffany Yu (Tennis), Andy Tham & Steven Sexton (Boys Lacrosse), Renee Spadafora & Athena Goon (Girls Lacrosse), McKenzie Furlong & Caitlin Leonard (Softball).

Physical Education:



- Female Sports Participation Summer Project: In collaboration with MHS Team Physician, Dr. Jessica Knapp. Female sport participation offers numerous benefits to participants, including reduction in obesity, increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, decreased rates of depression, improved self-esteem, higher future education levels and socioeconomic status in adulthood. The positive effects of female sport participation by elementary students may mitigate the effects of these stressors. Our proposed project leverages female role models from MHS to increase female sports participation, healthy food choices, and introduce them to local community supported agriculture.

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ELC:



- Students participated in a school-wide Career Day on May 24th and 25th. Careers included the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools, firefighters, police officers, EMTs, musicians, librarians, nurse, DPW workers, nutritionists, photographer, and restaurant owner. A great time was had by all and a special thank you to our volunteers.
- The ELC hosted a Family Literacy Event featuring Where the Wild Things Are on June 14th from 2:30-4 in the ELC library.

Beebe:



- Beebe School is proud to recognize two students from Mr. Legere's seventh grade technology/Engineering classes at the Beebe School who put their acquired skills in communication technologies into real world practice. A contest presented by AAA of New England in traffic safety was their challenge. Traffic and pedestrian crashes are one of the leading causes of injury and death for children ages 5 to 18. One student's message could save a life. We are proud to announce that Crystal Wang won first place and was awarded \$300.00. Jing Ren placed second and was awarded \$200.00. Congratulations to Crystal and Jing.
- Beebe Showcase 2017 was on Thursday, June 8th from 5:30 to 8:00 P.M. The Beebe School Theme team organized this year's theme "Endangered Species." The corridors and bulletin boards had many wonderful displays and projects developed by our students and teachers. Also, our instrumental students, under the direction of Mr. Weithman, demonstrated their musical skills when they performed for parents that evening at 6:30 P.M. as part of the this special event.

Ferryway:



• On May 20th a group of 8th graders participated in the Eastern Regional Junior Solar Sprint hosted by Belmont High School. Ferryway had the largest contingent of students of the 10 schools represented at this event. Students had worked after school for weeks with Mrs. Waldrip and Mr. Leonard to build solar powered cars for competition. Ferryway students took home awards for Innovation and People's Choice. The students exhibited great sportsmanship and teamwork and represented the Ferryway as proud ambassadors of our school.

- On May 19th, 2017, the entire Ferryway School participated in a Community Clean Up Day. Each grade level was assigned a park or area around the Ferryway to clean. The DPW did demonstrations on cleaning the storm drains and JRM Recycle did a presentation how Malden Recycles and demonstrated how the recycle truck works. This was a wonderful community event organized by Mrs. Israelson and helps the Ferryway build strong relationships with the world around us.

Forestdale:



- In May, the Forestdale School 7th graders in Ms. Kutler's math classes hosted a "probability carnival" for Forestdale 3rd graders, 4th graders, and the community. Students used their knowledge of probability to create and analyze board games that showcase their skills, while challenging the players to think critically about the games they were playing. The 3rd and 4th graders are already looking forward to creating games of their own when they reach 7th grade!
- Music is coming alive this month for our students! Forestdale father and Somerville Public Schools Fine Arts Director Rick Saunders visited Forestdale with students from Somerville High School who came to showcase their percussion, music, and dance groups for our students, while emphasizing the cultural importance of the music and dance. The very next day Ms. Barber put on the annual spring concert filled with inspirational music which featured a performance of John Lennon's "Imagine" in voice and sign language by our 4th graders.

Linden:



- June 1st was the Linden STEAM Academy's annual Exhibition Night that brought thousands of parents and community members to the building to witness hands on project based learning.
- June 15th was our 8th grade graduation ceremony.

Salemwood:



- On Friday May 19th, 2017, our Grade 7 students were presented with the Class Act recognition by Channel 7 Christa Delcamp.
- On Friday May 26th, Salemwood had its first Salemwood Pride Day- a whole day of Social Emotional Learning and Enrichment, where students put in practice all the skills that they have learned throughout the year to work as a team and to problem solve in a healthy and productive way. The theme for the day was "Grow the good"

MHS:



- MHS graduated more than 400 students on Sunday, June 4th. The Class of 2017 was treated to a beautiful day and received over \$110,000 in scholarships at the graduation ceremony.
- Malden High School is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant for its theatre program from Lexus and the Massachusetts Education Theater Guild. The committee said they "were very impressed by your full understanding of exactly what needs your program has and that those needs were balanced between tech improvements and program training. The enthusiasm of your principal also helped us to realize that he values the program as an important part of the whole school culture. Further, the obvious collaboration of different people...theatrical, musical and tech puts your program in the best light possible to make substantial changes in the years ahead."

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

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