

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume II No.6 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 31, 2018

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All Aboard the
POLAR EXPRESS
at Forestdale School!



Superintendent John Oteri

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

I sincerely hope that everyone is enjoying the Winter Break and getting some well-earned rest, spending days and evenings that carry a much smaller agenda than when school is in session. I cannot believe that December has drawn to a close and a new year, 2019, is upon us! It has been a great few months in the district and I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your kindness, patience, thoughtful words, and sense of humor throughout these past months. This profession is challenging, to say the least, and each day I think about

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**HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR**



And they're off!: Malden HS winter sports seasons begin

All of Malden High School's winter athletic teams have begun their seasons and there are exciting games to watch at all levels on nearly a daily basis. The MHS Golden Tornado co-ed swim team is off to a great start with a 2-0 record out of the gate. Above, they are shown at their season opener, a win over Salem High. *Courtesy/MHS Athletics*



Above, Superintendent Oteri, right, has his ticket punched by "Conductor" and Forestdale K-8 School Principal Don Concannon for a presentation of "The Polar Express". *Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*

'Tis the Season: Malden High School
National Honor Society members raise
over \$7,500 for Housing Families, Inc.

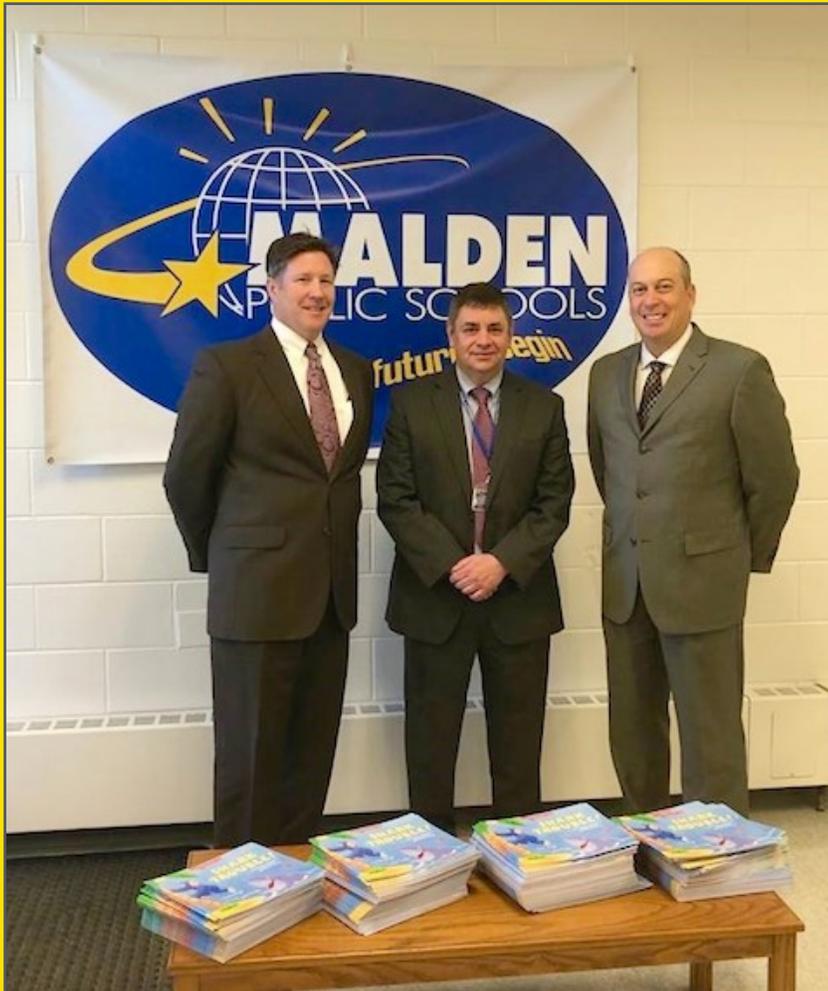
One of the most active groups at MHS helps homeless for the holidays



One of the most active extracurricular groups at Malden High School is the National Honor Society, led by its advisor Mr. Marques. Malden High's John W. Hutchins Chapter of the National Honor Society is one of the charter groups in the nation, establishing its chapter in 1921, the same year NHS was founded nationally. NHS recognizes outstanding high school students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of service, leadership, character and academics. This year the NHS raised over \$7,500 in donations for items donated to Housing Families, Inc., which serves the homeless in Malden and other communities in the region. Mr. Marques noted the students themselves take any and all donated money and buy the necessary toys, gifts, food cards, hats/gloves, laundry detergents/cleaners and many other items for the needy. *Courtesy/Housing Families, Inc.*

Malden's elementary schools receive donation of books from StonehamBank

Malden Public Schools community partner promotes power of reading, financial literacy



By Steve Freker

For the Malden Public Schools

Hundreds of Malden Public Schools students will have the opportunity to improve their literacy due to a recent donation of 400 books provided by StonehamBank. StonehamBank Chief Executive Officer Edward Doherty and others in a December 6 visit here presented MPS Superintendent John Oteri with 400 copies of books for the Malden elementary schools as part of their mission to promote literacy. "We are grateful for terrific community partners like StonehamBank who support our literacy and reading initiatives in Malden," Superintendent John Oteri said.

See DONATION, Page 10

Shown at left, From l-r, StonehamBank CEO Edward Doherty, Malden Superintendent John Oteri and StonehamBank Commercial Loan Officer Michael DeMarco with the 400 book donation to the Malden Public Schools.

Steve Freker Photo/MPS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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how I could have done things a little faster, a little better, a little differently. Having your support encourages me to hold onto a growth mindset and approach each day with a promise to do my best to grow and improve. Thank you! I am excited to look toward 2019 and all the promise it holds as we continue our work together. A special thanks goes out to the many educators, administrators and staff members who put together the treasure trove of creative holiday season performances which included either singular or combined presentations of vocal and instrumental music, dance, spoken word, acting and art. To take on these challenges on behalf of the hundreds of excited and smiling students on stage, and their proud families in the audiences, is truly inspiring to me. We are so proud of all you as we close out 2018 and look toward our work together in the second half of the year. **Happy New Year to all!**

—Superintendent John Oteri

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Project Equity: Superintendents demand educational equity for all students

Community Forum planned @ Malden High School's Jenkins Auditorium, Tuesday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Dear Malden Colleagues and Community Stakeholders,

I know you care greatly about your children, the education they receive, and the job market and economy that awaits them in the coming years.

In recent years, it has become evident to parents, teachers, superintendents, school committees, and lawmakers that the educational model we are currently using is in desperate need of an overhaul. The way we teach and the way students learn will have a significant impact on our economy in the coming years. Right now, that educational model is broken and needs to be overhauled to meet those needs.

Simply put, we must find ways to expand access to educational opportunities for all our students, teach viable work-related skills, and most importantly, insure we include students in the bottom of the income bracket. Our local and statewide economy is dependent on all of us to insure all students have the skill set for today's workplace.

To that end, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents is sponsoring community forums on **Tuesday January 8th at 6 p.m.** in three locations: Fitchburg State University, **Malden High School (Jenkins Auditorium)**, and New Bedford High School. Local and state educational leaders will discuss the gravity of the situation and propose solutions. It is our hope that these forums will bring attention to this critical issue and instigate the changes needed to insure all students, regardless of zip code or income level, have equal access to educational opportunities.

I strongly encourage you to attend one of these upcoming forums. To learn more, go to www.massupt.org

John Oteri

Superintendent of Schools

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!



All of the actors/performers in the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy's production of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* take a bow at the end of this fantastic show! Courtesy/Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy/MPS

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.

**READING IS
'FUN'-DAMENTAL
@ SALEMWOOD
SCHOOL in
DECEMBER**



Malden Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Chase, above right, joined School Committee Ward Four representative Mr. Iovino, left, in reading to kindergarten students at the Salemwood K-8 School as part of the Reading is Fundamental-sponsored activity this month on December 8. Mr. Iovino and Dr. Chase were among many city and school officials who took the time to visit schools and read to children that day. *Photos by Steve Freker/Malden Public Schools*



*Spreading Goodwill &
Seasons Greetings*

This group of thoughtful Malden High School students met in the MHS lobby before departing to go singing Holiday Carols to the delight of those in attendance at the Malden Senior Center *Steve Freker Photo/MPS*

Beebe Seasonal Concert a hit!

First-graders' vocal performance 'Winter is the Warmest Season'



Nothing but rave reviews for the Beebe School first-graders for their vocal performances in *Winter is the Warmest Season*. Above, they sing *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Other selections included: *We Can Work it Out*; *Simply Having a Wonderful Winter Time*; *Oh, Hear the Bells*; and *I'm Gonna Mail Myself to You*.

Malden Public Schools Photo

A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMON
LANGUAGE USED, EXEMPLIFYING
THE BELIEFS, VALUES, AND
STRENGTHS IN RELATIONSHIPS

MALDEN HIGH CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY @ STATE HOUSE

It started out as an invitation, over a decade ago, when former Malden state Rep. Christopher Fallon arranged for the Malden High School Choral Arts Society to perform a Holiday Concert at the Mass. State House. The performance was such a hit and so well-received, the MHS ensemble was invited back again the next year and the next year... and every year since, becoming a tradition. It has continued through present Rep. Steve Ultrino and last week they shined again! Great job Mr. Cole and Malden Choral Arts!



A Christmas Carol: Annual dramatic reading is held



Supt. Oteri, left and Mayor Christenson, fourth from right, were on hand for the annual dramatic reading of the Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol* along with members of the Malden High faculty who performed in traditional costumes.

Popular Gingerbread House Decorating Contest Returns to Ferryway School

Students & staff voted on this year's winning entries



Congratulations to the students and staff at the Ferryway K-8 School who participated in an exciting— and creative— contest making Decorated Gingerbread Holiday Houses. Some of the entries were gingerbread made from “scratch,” others were made using gingerbread cookies or crackers. Then the students and staff voted in schoolwide fashion for a winner! Steve Freker Photos/MP5



Malden Reads announces its selection for 2019: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*



Superintendent Oteri and Mayor Christenson, shown above, center, joined the members of the Malden School Committee as recipients of copies of the this year's Malden Reads selection, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, at the December 17 Malden School Committee meeting. Malden Reads co-facilitators Anne D'Urso-Rose and Jodie Zalk along with members of the Malden Reads Steering Committee were on hand to make the presentation that evening. *Courtesy Photo/Office of the Mayor*

Donation from StonehamBank puts 400 books in hands of Malden students

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"These 400 books will go to our students and help foster a lifelong love of reading and learning. We know that putting books into the hands of young readers increases their chances of success in later years," Superintendent Oteri added. StonehamBank CEO Mr. Doherty said he hopes Malden elementary students "discover a passion for knowledge" within the books they received.

CONGRATULATIONS! Malden High boys basketball wins Tornado Holiday Classic title



By Steve Freker/For the Malden Public Schools *Steve Freker Photos*

For many years since, high school basketball tournaments and the winter break holidays have gone hand-in-hand. These types of tournaments, usually four teams with a semifinal and then finals rounds, have continued to flourish in the succeeding decades to the point where it was hard to find teams not participating in a holiday basketball tournament. Malden High School basketball hosted many holiday tournaments through the years but the gym has been idle over the past couple of December vacation breaks. Present Malden High head boys basketball coach Don Nally decided this year to bring back the holiday tourney in Malden this year. He picked the right year, too, as his Malden High team went out and won this year's Tornado Holiday Classic championship, 68=56 Saturday night at Finn Gym, with senior David Mervilus, shown at right, with Coach Nally, pouring in a season-high 37 points to fuel the win.

