



From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume III No.4 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER October 31, 2019

Twitter: @MaldenPublic



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

Among the many events that took place in October was the first Malden Public Schools (MPS) District Visioning Team meeting. The team is working on the district plan, which will serve as our official roadmap for improvement in MPS over the next several years, and it is of critical importance to Malden students, families, and staff. It will define our shared vision for the future of the school district, the overarching goals and programs that will help us achieve that vision. The outcomes that will help us measure our success in achieving that vision. This team represents our district as a whole. It includes students, family members, teachers, school and district leaders, school committee members, and community partners. We are excited to announce that our district is one of just 14 statewide that received a Teacher Diversification Pilot Program grant from the state Dept. of Elementary and **See P.9**



Superintendent John Oteri

LIONS & SHARKS.. & BULLDOGS.. OH MY!

This time of year turns our schools into a veritable "Malden Menagerie". Clockwise, from left, the Lion Dancers of Malden HS thrilled kids from Malden Public Schools elementary grades at a Halloween Party. Salemwood educators' version of the "Shark Tank". Beebe Bulldog greets homeroom winners. *Courtesy Photos / Ms. Fox, Asian Culture Club Advisor/ Salemwood School / Beebe School*

Malden Public Schools selected to take part in DESE's 'Influence 100' Program

Mass. Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) chooses 15 districts to participate in initiative designed to strengthen pipeline of diverse education leaders

MALDEN — The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has announced that 15 school districts statewide including the Malden Public Schools, will participate in the Influence 100 pilot program, an initiative aimed at increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of superintendents and creating more culturally responsive districts and leaders in order to promote better outcomes for students.

Two Malden Public Schools principals, Abdel Sepulveda (Ferryway K-8) and Rafael Garcia (Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy) are representing the Malden district in Influence 100. Over the next four years, they will be part of group of 100 racially and ethnically diverse school leaders who will engage to Influence 100 fellows in the leadership development programming.

Influence 100 launched Friday, October 11, the same day that DESE began the second cohort of InSPIRED fellows, In-Service Professionals who are committed to Increasing the Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the teacher workforce. InSPIRED fellows meet with high school and college students to encourage them to consider teaching, and this year, the fellowship will also host regional groups in order to support retention of culturally responsive and diverse educators.



The participants at the inaugural launch of DESE's Influence 100 program are shown on October 11. Included are Malden Public Schools principals Abdel Sepulveda and Rafael Garcia (third row from rear, third and second from left). Also attending the launch was Malden Supt. John Oteri (fourth row, third from left). *Courtesy Photo/Malden Public Schools*

Both Influence 100 and the InSPIRED fellows aim to diversify the Commonwealth's educator workforce. Approximately 40 percent of the Commonwealth's public school students are students of color, but only 8 percent of teachers and 4 percent of superintendents identify themselves that way. In "Our Way Forward," Elementary and Secondary

Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley included increasing educator diversity as an evidence-based practice that will help address achievement gaps and improve instruction for all students.

"I look forward to working with the Influence 100 fellows and districts and with the second cohort of
See INFLUENCE 100, Page 10

We already knew
our educators were
'Super Heroes'!

It's no big secret that we already consider our Malden Public Schools educators "Super Heroes"! But these Beebe School folks went the "extra mile" with their costumes for the school's Halloween Celebration recently. *Courtesy*

Photo/Beebe School



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.



Malden HS Rainbow Lions Club attends state DESE-hosted Mass. GSA Leadership Council Meeting

Officers of the Malden High School Rainbow Lions Club, from left, Matt Scott, Angel Cruz (President), Cheyanne Rivera (Vice President) and Mayahuel Morse attended the Mass. Gender and Sexuality (GSA) Leadership Council meeting held at Mass. Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) headquarters in Malden Square Monday. *Courtesy Photo/ Mr. Morrison/Rainbow Lions Adviser*

Malden K-8 schools participating in PBIS program to promote social-cultural equity

Framework emphasizes clear, culturally equitable social behavior, academic & school climate outcomes for all students

PBIS: Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support

By **STEVE FREKER**
For the Malden Public Schools

The Malden Public Schools has implemented a new program designed to promote and clarify culturally equitable social behavior, academic and school climate goals for all students.

The program is called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) monitors the training and implementation of the PBIS program at all three descending levels, statewide, district and at schools within the district.

This past May and June, Malden Public Schools educators underwent a two-day PBIS Academy training through DESE and PBIS “teams” were formed for each of the local, respective K-8 schools (Beebe, Ferryway, Forestdale, Linden S.T.E.A.M., Salemwood), tasked with developing ideas and plans to introduce and implement PBIS practices at their places of learning.

The participation of the Malden schools in PBIS is all part of the Malden Public Schools’ stated commitment to an emphasis on promoting and instilling cultural proficiency and equity on a continuing basis, according to third-year Superintendent John Oteri.



At the Salemwood K-8 School, the “Salemwood Shark” is the adopted mascot for the school as part of the PBIS program. Students feed the shark “bait” as rewards for positive behavior, above.
Courtesy Photo, Malden Public Schools

According to information provided by DESE, “PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) is a framework for organizing the implementation of evidence-based practices across a multi-tiered support system. PBIS focuses on making improvements in the school or classroom environment to ensure students will successfully meet social, behavioral, and academic standards.

Each schools creates and nurtures its own approach to the implementation of PBIS, while staying within the program’s framework. The Beebe School, for instance, puts its school mascot, the Beebe Bulldog, front and center. The new, resounding school theme is B.A.R.K., which stands for BE: Accepting, Responsible & Kind. Students in respective homerooms **See P.6**



The Beebe Bulldog and his many “bones” on bulletin board. *Courtesy/Beebe School*

Forestdale School's Fall Festival drew a great crowd



The Forestdale School Fall Festival drew a large group of parents and students, shown at left... even a dinosaur! Everyone had a blast. Even "Dino"!
Courtesy PhotoMalden Public Schools



ZOMBIE TAG TAKES OVER MHS !

Over 100 Malden High School students participated in the popular Halloween-time fun of "ZOMBIE TAG" at MHS, where they roamed the halls (AFTER school, of course!) on the Friday before Halloween, using tried-and-true game regulations. The whole show is a fundraiser for the MHS Fine Arts Club, whose advisor is Mr. Luongo, a longtime MPS art educator at the high school. *Courtesy Photo/Mr. Mastrangelo/MHS*



Malden Public Schools welcome officials who were visiting from Ota, Japan

On October 23, eight elected officials from Ota-Ku, Tokyo, Japan visited schools in Malden and Salem, Mass. Salem is the Sister City of Ota-ku and the Sister City program is organized by Mr. Peter Dolan, Principal of the Early Learning Center (ELC) (Above, third from left). The delegation toured the ELC, Linden STEAM Academy, and Malden High School. They also met with Superintendent John Oteri (Above, fourth from left). The purpose of the visit was to see our students and staff doing what they do best in our classrooms, learn about our curriculum and instruction, daily operations, and our special programs. They spoke with the Superintendent to gain information on how the district is organized and the challenges that American schools face today. The group was very impressed with what they saw in our classrooms and were going back to Ota to have further discussions on how to adopt what we do here and replicate it in Ota. Supt. Oteri provided some souvenir Golden Tornado sports caps to the Japanese visitors. *Courtesy/ Malden Public Schools*

MPS participates in PBIS program for social-cultural equity

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who demonstrate acts or actions that reflect the school theme of B.A.R.K. receive :“Beebe Bucks”. The class with the most Beebe Bucks then can choose a reward from the PBIS menu and buy a “bone” for the Bulldog’s dish. The Salemwood School has a similar program which uses its mascot, the “Salemwood Shark” and “bait”. The other schools in the district have their PBIS versions in place as well. All of the schools are holding regular assemblies to celebrate students’ positive and social-cultural equitable achievements. According to PBIS.com, “The key to PBIS implementation is staff consistency. All staff members need to be aware of goals, process, and measures. Tier 1 implementation may require professional development to orient all school personnel – particularly around at least four core practices”:

–Teaching school-wide expectations

–Acknowledging appropriate behavior

–Correcting errors

Requesting assistance

The Malden Public Schools, along with DESE, are closely monitoring the progress

and results of our involvement and participation in PBIS with some positive expectations.

The Malden Public Schools: 'Our Diversity is Our Strength'

The Malden school district is ranked #1 as the most culturally diverse by *niche.com* in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with Malden High School rated the #1 most culturally diverse secondary education school overall. Throughout the district, all educators, administrators and students are unified in our stated mission to cherish and embrace our diversity, striving for excellence in the classroom and beyond.



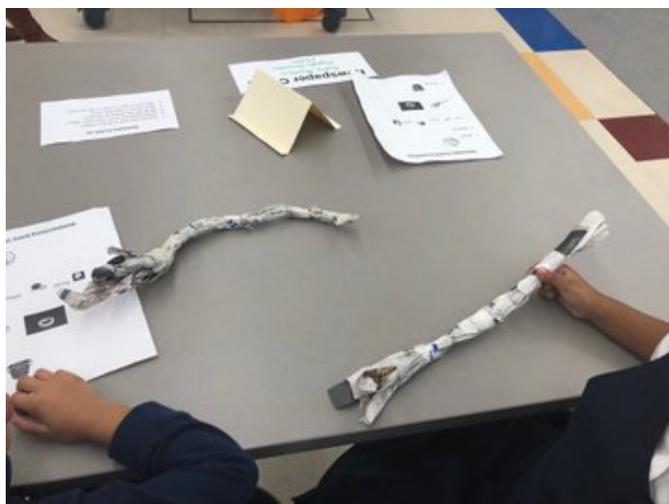
The Malden High Youth Civics Council had some notable guests at its October meeting at the Malden Teen Enrichment Center, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson and Councilor at large Steven Winslow. *Courtesy/MTEC*

A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMON LANGUAGE
USED, EXEMPLIFYING THE BELIEFS, VALUES,
STRENGTH IN RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPECT FOR
DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY.

Ferryway School hosts 'Wally' the Red Sox mascot

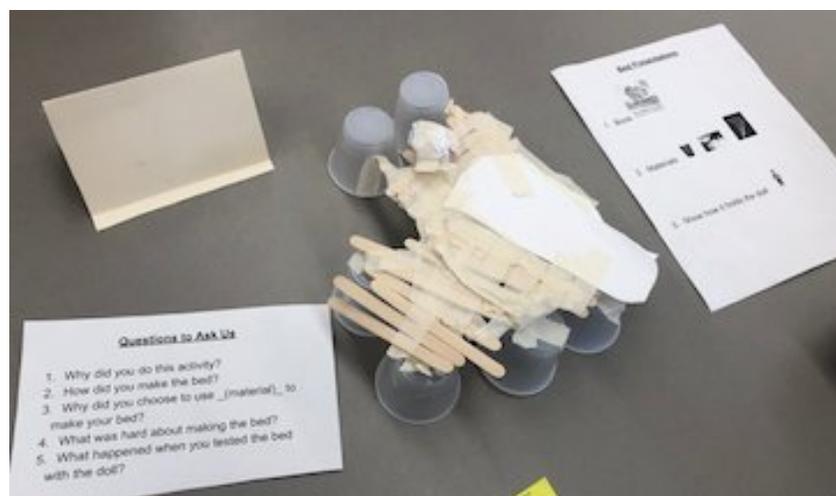
"Wally" the Boston Red Sox mascot, entertained the students and staff at the Ferryway School on October 15, coming to Malden to help promote reading and its importance to all students.



Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy KINDERGARTEN S.T.E.M. SHOWCASE held Oct. 30

Many of our youngest innovators and future engineers created some impressive displays, research and presentations at the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy's annual Kindergarten S.T.E.M. Showcase. Yes, these are Kindergartners!

Courtesy Photos/MPS



- Questions to Ask Us**
1. Why did you do this activity?
 2. How did you make the bed?
 3. Why did you choose to use (material), to make your bed?
 4. What was hard about making the bed?
 5. What happened when you tested the bed with the doll?

AN 'OPEN HOUSE' for 'TINY HOUSE'

Hosted by Mr. Bazzinotti, an MHS educator, one of the marvels of the Malden Public Schools, the solar-powered "Tiny House" at MHS, held an Open House on Oct. 24. Students, staff & others visited. *Courtesy Photo*



Middle School Baseball & Softball Programs Launched this Fall by MPS Athletics: Teams Make a Big Splash in new GBL!



Malden Public Schools Athletic Director Charlie Conefrey launched two new middle schools programs for 6-7-8 graders this fall: Baseball & Softball... and he could not be more pleased with the results. Two Greater Boston League playoff teams! Above, the Malden team shows great sportsmanship by taking a photo with Revere after a Junior Tornado playoff win! *Steve Freker Photo/MPS*



Also on October 11, Mass. DESE began its second cohort of InSPIRED fellows, In-Service Professionals who are committed to Increasing the Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the teacher workforce. InSPIRED fellows meet with high school and college students to encourage them to consider teaching, and this year, the fellowship will also host regional groups in order to support retention of culturally responsive and diverse educators. *Courtesy photo/DESE*

TOWN HALL MEETING PLANNED ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION NOV. 20
 Dr. Amante and MPS will host a Town Hall Meeting on November 20, MHS Jenkins Auditorium, 6-8 PM. This meeting will be open to all students, families and stakeholders and will focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Malden Public Schools and the role of race. Dr. Darnisa Amante is an educational and racial equity strategist that is deeply committed to the study of culture; innovation; and adult development. Since earning her master’s degree in Anthropology from Brandeis University, and her doctorate from Harvard’s Educational Leadership Doctorate (Ed.L.D.), Dr. Amante has honed her knowledge of culture and adult development to transform organizational and school cultures on issues of equity; change management and re-design. Dr. Amante currently serves as the President of The Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP) and an adjunct lecturer at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT’S NEWSLETTER Continued from Page One

Secondary Education (DESE). Another exciting program that MPS is participating in is the Influence 100 Program which was launched in October. Further details of the program is provided on the pages of

of this newsletter. I encourage everyone to take part in the many events and activities that MPS is organizing this fall. Please follow us on Twitter @MaldenPublic and also please use our website: www.maldenps.org

Malden participates in ‘Influence 100’ program sponsored by Mass. DESE which is working to diversify the state’s educational workforce

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of InSPIRED fellows to make our schools more welcoming and supportive of students and educators of all backgrounds,” said Commissioner Riley.

"Malden Public Schools is proud to be one of 15 districts in the Influence 100 program from DESE," said Malden Superintendent of Schools John Oteri, who was present at the Friday launch of the program.

Malden has two fellows as part of the program, Mr. Abdel Sepelveda, from the Ferryway School and Mr. Rafael Garcia from the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy. They will participate in a two-year leadership development program about the nuances of being a superintendent in Massachusetts, with a focus on what it takes to lead a district to be more culturally responsive and intentional in diversifying the educator workforce to better serve all student. Funded by the Barr Foundation, the Nellie Mae

Education Foundation, and Education Leaders of Color, the program includes two components: a fellowship program for qualified educators who desire to move into the superintendent role in the next five years and support for school districts to become more culturally responsive and to diversify their educator workforce.

“I was proud to be part of the design team for Influence 100, and I believe the pilot will help broaden the pipeline of future superintendents who are prepared for the job and who share a commitment to welcoming and nurturing all students and educators,” said Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Executive Director Thomas Scott.

“The Teacher Diversification Grant and Influence 100 Program augments the work the district is doing to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion around recruitment and retention as well as the work on cultural proficiency,” Superintendent Oteri said.