



# From the Desk of the Superintendent

Volume III No.8 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER February 29, 2020

Twitter: @MaldenPublic

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH!



Proudly displaying one of the prizewinning Door Decorating Contest entries at the Malden High main office *Courtesy/Malden High School*



### BEEBE STUDENTS LEARN from 'The Chi Master' @ Playworks NE Convention

Beebe School 4th and 5th graders joined more than 200 students from four other school districts at a two-day Leadership Convention. Above, Stephon Lilly entertains as "The Chi Master". *See More, Page 6* Courtesy/Playworks NE

### TOWN HALL-STYLE MEETING HELD ON NEW STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT

A Town Hall-style meeting was hosted Feb. 3 by Malden Public Schools at the Senior Center on the new Student Opportunity Act (SOA). An information segment explained the new legislation and the impact it will have on Malden. Additionally, public input was solicited and documented regarding how the new SOA funds received should be allocated.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

#### Greetings to all,

Even though Leap Year in 2020 gave us an extra day, the month of February is the shortest of our academic and calendar year when our school vacation week is factored in. Regardless, this past month was full of achievement and, notably, some important and valuable information sharing on a variety of levels. I was especially proud of the energy and excitement shown by our students and staff in recognizing Black History Month with some fantastic, creative displays and presentations. We started the month with a successful, district-wide Town Hall meeting centered on *See Page 7*



# Malden officials take proactive approach, preventative measures to combat flu season and spread of illness in district's schools

By Steve Freker  
For the Malden Public Schools

The population of the Malden Public Schools district community is over 7,700 when combining its students, educators and staff.

Safeguarding health, districtwide, is a top priority and an ongoing process with continuous monitoring, Malden Superintendent of Schools John Oteri told the members of the Malden School Committee and others in

[Superintendent's Safety Update, P.6](#)

attendance at the February meeting, held at the Malden Senior Center.

Malden school officials have teamed up with the Malden Public Health Director and other public safety agencies in a proactive approach to the health of students and staff.

Supt. Oteri said he has been meeting regularly with Malden Public Health Director Chris Webb and members of the city's Emergency Management Team to discuss health issues, planned responses and actions as they pertain to the Malden Public Schools. Early Learning Center Principal Peter Dolan also serves as the Malden school system's emergency and safety management director. Topics of discussion included the flu season as well as the potential impact of the coronavirus outbreak, which originated in a



Simple, common sense measures like covering your face when you cough or sneeze can help prevent the spread of colds and flu virus. The Malden Public Schools is urging all students and staff to take steps to help keep everyone healthy during flu and cold season.

*Courtesy Photo*

## Cold & Flu Prevention

**Cover your mouth.  
Get a flu shot.  
Wash your hands.**



**If you aren't feeling well, stay at home.  
If you have flu symptoms, rest and drink fluids.**

province of China, and now had spread to over 100 countries, including the United States. "We are continuously monitoring reports and advisories from both the federal CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and state and local agencies on both the flu and

the coronavirus," Supt. Oteri said. "Our top priorities is to keep our public health and safety officials and personnel informed and our students and staff safe, healthwise." Close to home, Supt. Oteri said there have been cases of *See Page 8*

# Malden READS presents 2020 book selection; Reaffirms partnership with Malden Public Schools



Members of Malden Reads presented copies of their 2020 Book Selection, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, to members of the Malden School Committee, including chairman, Mayor Gary Christenson and Superintendent of Schools John Oteri. Mary Christenson is shown above, front and center, with Malden Reads facilitators Anne D'Urso-Rose, left and Jodie Zalk, right. Supt. Oteri third row, at right. *Steve Freker Photo/ For the Malden Public Schools*

## Group celebrates 10th season by distributing copies of 2020 book selection *Fahrenheit 451*

Representatives of Malden Reads, an active community reading program with a decade of citywide programming now under its belt, appeared at the February School Committee meeting to help kick off its 2020 campaign by distributing complementary copies of this year's book selection to members of the school board.

This year's pick is the futuristic classic by renowned science fiction icon Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*, first published in 1953. Malden Reads facilitators Anne D'Urso Rose and Jodie Zalk thanked the School Committee for its continuing support and lauded the strong partnership the group has had for the past 10 years, since its inception, with the Malden Public Schools. Zalk said that since Malden Reads launched 10 years ago,

the group has held 49 book discussions, hosted 41 family and children events and introduced 52 other book titles in addition to its 10 main selections. Malden Reads is especially proud that no less than 14 authors have come to Malden to discuss their books, Zalk added.

Superintendent of Schools, John Oteri praised the work of Malden Reads, thanking them for including Malden Public Schools so prominently in their mission. "We have found many common goals between Malden Reads and the Malden Public Schools," Supt. Oteri said, "particularly in increasing and improving literacy in our community. Malden Reads has helped build a commonality between generations and cultures in our community," Supt. Oteri added.

—Steve Freker



## **Thank you, Stoneham Bank! Donation will come in 'hand-y' for Malden Public Schools students, staff**

***Local financial institution donates 3,000 hand sanitizer products***

Malden Public Schools Superintendent Oteri, second from left, joined Mayor and School Committee chairman Gary Christenson, second from right, on February 21 gratefully accepted a generous donation of 3,000 hand sanitizer bottles from Stoneham Bank representatives, also shown above. The donation will help safeguard the health of Malden Public Schools students and staff as the winter season winds down and flu season continues. *Courtesy Photo/Malden Public Schools*



### **FIN-TASTIC RECOGNITION CEREMONY for the 'SALEMWOOD SCHOOL SHARKS'**

Shown above are the first honorees of the "S.H.A.R.K.s of the Semester" ceremony. Salemwood School students recognized for being: Safe, Helpful, Attentive, Respectful and Kind. The Salemwood Sharks promotion is part of the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) management system put into place this school year.

*Courtesy/ Salemwood K-8 School*



BLACK HISTORY MONTH— Ferryway School staff & students welcomed this informative display of books in honor and recognition of Black History Month in February. *Courtesy Photo*

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a green headscarf and a pink patterned top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. Behind her is a large red poster with the word "COUNT!" in large white letters. The poster features a stylized geometric pattern and some flowers. At the bottom of the poster, there is text about the census and a website address.

An accurate census brings diverse schools and communities the funding and opportunities we deserve.  
The census is safe and easy.  
Fill out your census today at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

nea  
NEA CENSUS  
READY, SET, COUNT!  
CENSUS 2020

# HISTORY MADE! BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMP!

*Yohanni Costa*



Junior Yohanni Costa has written new Malden High School athletic history! On February 29 she won a second straight MIAA Girls State Wrestling Championship in the 147 pound weight class. For the second year she went through all her marches and pinning her opponent in the finals. This is the first time in a school history an MHS wrestler has won two State Titles. *Courtesy Photo*



## Beebe Students learn about 'Community' at Playworks New England Leadership Convention

Over February Vacation a group of Beebe School 4th and 5th graders participated in a two-day Leadership Convention hosted by Playworks New England at the Hennigan Center in Jamaica Plain, along with 150 other students from Boston, New Bedford, Cambridge, Waltham and other communities. The theme of the event was "Community". Students learned about what it means to be part of a community and the importance of giving back Courtesy/Playworks New England



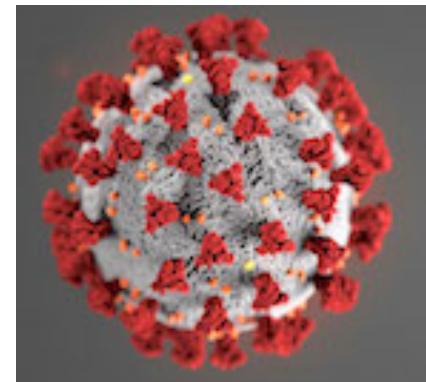
## MALDEN VISIONING COMMITTEE HOLDS PRODUCTIVE MEETING—

Members of the Malden Public Schools staff have come together for Visioning Committee meetings such as the one above held at Malden High School's Gallery. Many ideas are coming together as the committee maps out plans for the direction and future of the district.

# Superintendent Oteri issues advisory to families, staff on coronavirus (COVID-19) with safety steps and precautions

***Malden Public Schools closely monitoring issue and potential impact it could have locally***

***Malden Public Schools Superintendent John Oteri has issued the following advisory on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and outlined steps and precautions that may be taken to avoid infection. This letter is available to be read in a number of different languages which correspond with the Malden Public Schools' population on the district website: maldenps.org***



### Dear Malden Public School Families and Staff:

We understand that families and staff have questions regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it may impact the Malden School Community. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Malden Health Department continue to assure us that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. However, we are encouraging families to be particularly vigilant in taking some general precautions to remain as healthy as possible. We have taken precautions in our schools with extra cleaning and making sure hand sanitizer is available. Additionally, we continue to work closely with Malden's

The coronavirus is having a major impact in China and has now been diagnosed in 115 countries across the world. Above is an enhanced image of the coronavirus.

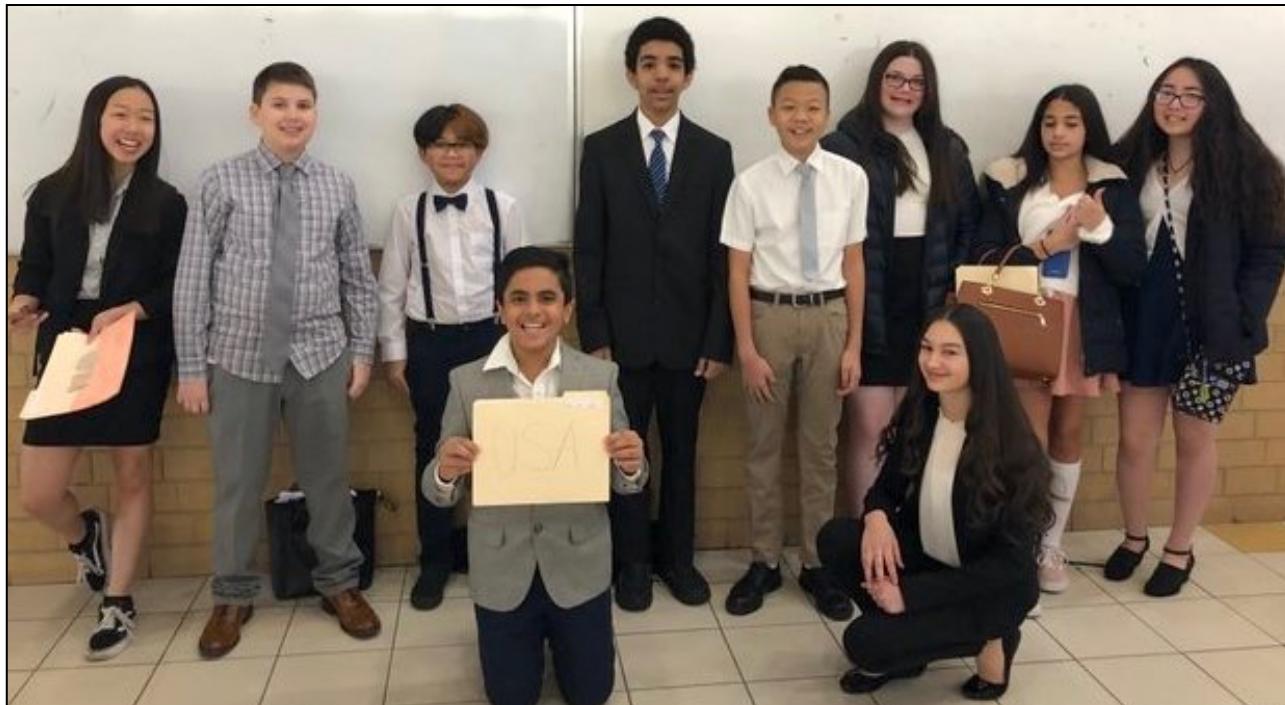
Emergency Management Team and the School Department is in daily contact with our Health Department. The following actions can help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items.
- Avoid close contact with

*Continued on Page 10*

# 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.**



This contingent from the Linden STEAM Academy did a tremendous job representing their school and the Malden Public Schools district at the Model United Nations competition held at Northeastern University in Boston. Courtesy/Linden STEAM Academy

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Follow on Twitter: **@MaldenPublic**

### *Continued from Page One*

providing information about the new Student Opportunity Act (SOA) and how it will affect the Malden Public Schools. We also asked for public input from those in attendance on areas of improvement in our schools and received a substantial number of comments from attendees at the Town Hall, which included many parents of children enrolled in our school. These are key stakeholders whose opinions and contributions are highly valued. We followed up this meeting with an online survey, open to all in the city, which concluded late last week and resulted in more valuable data and information from those who participated. Written surveys were also available to the public. In addition, Malden hosted an SOA Community Bill

Signing presentation, hosted by state Sen. Jason Lewis, where more opinions were sought and received. Combining all of this data, as well as additional fact-based input from our directors, we were able to formulate a general guide on how funds may be allocated, which must be submitted to the state by April 1. Some clear findings from the comments solicited, are areas of improvement which will greatly assist our students, such as increased funding for students' social emotional and physical health and hiring additional teachers to reduce class sizes. We are expecting a \$2.1 million increase in state funding and the

great news is that this means no layoffs of personnel and that some critical needs will be targeted. All final decisions on exact spending will be determined in our upcoming annual FY21 school budget deliberations. This past month also saw us get a two-time State Girls Wrestling Champion in Yohanni Costa of MHS and some terrific Visioning Committee planning for the district's future. Some of our 7th and 8th grade students did a great job at the Model UN competition and the Beebe School sent some 4th and 5th graders to Playworks team-building camp. As always, thank you to all of our staff and all you do for Malden's students! —*Superintendent John Oteri*



**MPS ParentChild+ Program** The Malden Public Schools ParentChild+ School Readiness Program offers weekly home visits with free books and toys for children 18 months to 3 1/2 years of age. Malden Mayor and School Committee chairman Gary Christensen recently accompanied a staff member on a home visit and provided this birdseye glimpse of the program in action. More information on the program is available on the [maldenps.org](http://maldenps.org) website. Call Laura D'Angelo, Program Coordinator, at 781-397-6062 or email her at [ldangelo@maldenps.org](mailto:ldangelo@maldenps.org)

*Courtesy Photo/The Mayor's Office*



**Forestdale School students had a great supply of books to read accompanying the 'Black History Month' theme in February** Thanks to the efforts of the Malden Public Schools traveling librarian, the students at Forestdale School had plenty of choices for Black History Month reading. *Courtesy Photo*

## Malden Public Schools take proactive approach in district to combat flu season

### Continued from Page 3

the flu among students reported in some of the schools. An immediate response was an additional deep cleaning of those schools as a deterrent to the spread of the flu virus, with other procedures planned as well. Supt. Oteri said that on a daily basis all of the schools are cleaned well, with special attention and detail on cleaning touchpoints in buildings, classrooms and hallways. Information on fighting the spread of the flu virus has also been made available to families of students. "We advise all families to keep their students out of

school if they are ill and we ask staff to do the same," Supt. Oteri said. "We also advise them to reinforce the general, basic practices we are told to follow by the CDC and our local agencies like frequent handwashing and covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing." Supt. Oteri said that he is confident the Malden Public Schools district is prepared to respond to a an outbreak of the flu or other illness. "We are optimistic we have planned well to keep us healthy and safe," he told the School Committee.

## 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.



## 乒乓 A popular Malden tradition continues! Nearly 200

competed in Annual Malden Chinese Cultural Connections Ping Pong Tournament which kicked off the winter season. *Courtesy Photo/Malden Public Schools*



## Posse Scholarships

From left, Pryanna Alper (Centre College), Lana Giha (Bryn Mawr University) and Kerri Gilligan (Bucknell University) were honored at a Posse Foundation Awards Ceremony at the Fairmont Copley Hotel in Boston. The three MHS seniors have been awarded full, four-year scholarships to the schools listed above after a long, rigorous application process by the Posse Foundation. The Malden Public Schools have had a long and rewarding relationship with The Posse Foundation for many years.

*Courtesy Photo/Mr. Mastrangelo/MHS*



### Malden Sen. Lewis chairs Mass. state school budget hearing in Malden Friday, March 6

The Mass. state legislature's Joint Committee on Ways and Means, the state legislature's budget-writing committee, will hold one of its Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Hearings on Friday, March 6 beginning at 10:00am at the Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street, Malden. In his capacity as the Assistant Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senator Lewis has been invited to chair this hearing and host it in his legislative district. The topic of the Ways and Means hearing is Education Funding and Local Aid.

# **Superintendent Oteri issues informational advisory on coronavirus and safety steps, precautions**

## ***Continued from Page 6***

people who are sick, as much as possible

- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth when you cough

Please contact the school nurse if you are unsure whether your child should attend school or stay home. A student with a fever should remain home for at least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without use of medication.

For more information and updates please visit the Malden Health Department's website at

<https://www.cityofmalden.org/706/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>.

Malden Public Schools will remain open. We work closely with our local, state and federal health authorities and are given up-to-the-moment information. Should the situation change you can be assured we will notify you immediately.

Sincerely,

**John Oteri, Superintendent**

## **For more information**

**The Mass DPH** has created a website updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages. Visit: [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

For questions, call the DPH Epidemiology Line at 24 hours a day/7 days a week at 617-983-6800.

**USE THE FOLLOWING LINK to view valuable information on the Malden Public Schools' website ([maldenps.org](http://maldenps.org)) regarding the coronavirus.**

**UPDATED INFORMATION is added when it becomes available**

<https://maldenps.org/information/resources/health-services/coronavirus-information/>

After being connected to this link, access to the following information will be available:

[Superintendent's Letter to MPS Families](#)

Available in: Spanish Portuguese Arabic Vietnamese Haitian Creole

[Malden Public Schools Sick Day Guidelines](#)

[City of Malden Health Department: Updates and Information](#)

[MA Department of Public Health - Coronavirus Webpage](#)

[Center's for Disease Control & Prevention Updates](#)

Available in: English Chinese Spanish

[MA Department of Health Coronavirus Fact Sheets](#)

Available in:

English

Traditional and Simplified Chinese

Spanish

Portuguese Haitian Creole

Vietnamese