



From the Desk of the Superintendent

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For timely updates and information.... Twitter: @MaldenPublic Website: maldenps.org

A 25-year Malden kindergarten educator honored for innovation

Fenway Bowl selects Beebe's Wendy Yaakov for 1st Honor Roll

By Steve Freker
For the Malden Public Schools

When it came to creating a new and innovative way to engage with her students and accent their learning, it would be quite fitting to say Wendy Yaakov hit a home run. Actually, scored a game-changing touchdown, might be a more appropriate way to phrase it. The Malden Public Schools kindergarten educator was recently

acknowledged and honored by the board of the "Fenway Bowl" and named to its Honor Roll for her pandemic-era efforts to boost her classroom offerings and brighten her students' lives and learning. The Fenway Bowl is the newest NCAA collegiate football bowl game that has been added to the list, which now numbers 36 in all. Due to COVID-19 the **See P.2**



Wendy Yaakov and her "MVPs".. Most Valuable Puppets are shown during sa a recent YouTube video



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all in the Malden Public Schools Community, I sincerely hope that all of you enjoyed the Winter Break and if you were able to celebrate any holidays, that it brought you and your loved ones some joy and comfort. We have come to the end of one of the most trying and at times traumatic years in all of history. It is not a stretch to say that we were all quite ready to say goodbye to 2020, while bidding each other "Happy New Year" and welcoming in 2021. We know full well that COVID-19 is with us still **See P.3**



Superintendent John Oteri

Beebe Teacher becomes a YouTube sensation !

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10 college football bowl games, including the Fenway Bowl, were canceled. The expressed mission of the Fenway Bowl is to promote, support, and strengthen education for all across New England; To honor, recognize, and thank educators for their selfless contribution to the educational system and their students; and to celebrate students and empower them to make the most of their opportunities and choices. Yaakov is one of 30 educators, from all the New England states, who were honored by being named to the Inaugural Fenway Bowl Honor Roll for their efforts and inspiration they provided to students and their families. Though she is a seasoned, 25-year teacher in the Malden Public Schools, she is still able to be surprised.

"I had never heard of the Fenway Bowl, until one day in December, I was looking through my emails and I received an email from someone at the Boston Globe saying, 'Earlier this month, we put out a call to education groups and associations across New England, asking for stories of educators who have gone above and beyond for their communities this year,'" Yaakov explained. "I was very excited and proud! I love sharing the power of books and stories!" Yaakov said this week.



Just before the 2020-21 school year started, in early September, Yaakov, who is an educator at Malden's Beebe K-8 School, created her own YouTube Channel. Regularly, she comes up with (and "stars" in!) a read-aloud performance where she uses stories, puppets and songs to deliver a message and continue her goal of

developing and "maintaining a growth mindset" for her students. "The biggest challenge for me during remote teaching has been the lack of hands-on teaching. Kindergarten children thrive when they learn through play and social interactions and no amount of technology can replicate that," the Beebe kindergarten teacher said.

Malden Public Schools prepared for return of some students and staff to buildings in January & February

The Malden Public Schools are preparing for the return of its highest needs and several grades of its younger students for in-person learning in the schools buildings in the coming weeks. All established and negotiated protocols will be in place to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all students, educators, administrators and staff when they arrive. The following is a timetable for the return:

Monday, January 4- January 15: All Remote Learning for all high needs students and staff who are currently engaged in in-person learning.

Tuesday, January 19: High needs staff and students return to in-person learning

Monday, January 25: PreK through Grade 2 staff, and staff who service PreK through Grade 2 students return to buildings in-person to prepare for hybrid in-person learning.

Monday, February 1: Optional (families choose) hybrid in-person learning begins for students in PreK through grade 2

All Malden Public Schools students are eligible for Pandemic-EBT extended funds

Hello Malden Public Schools Families,

We have great news to announce to ALL Malden Families. All students in our school will get Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) funds for the 2020-2021 school year to help buy food. P-EBT funds can be used to help you buy healthy food for your student and family. It's important to stay healthy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How much will I get?

Students in a fully remote learning situation will get \$117.20 per month.

Students in a hybrid learning situation will get \$58.60 per month.

Students attending school either half-day or fully in person are not

How will I get P-EBT funds in 2021?

I got P-EBT in the past on a P-EBT card: Starting in January, check your P-EBT card for funds on the 25th of each month for the rest of the school year.

I got P-EBT in the past on my DTA EBT card: Starting in January, check your EBT card for funds on the 25th of each month for the rest of the school year.

If you are new to P-EBT:

If you get SNAP and/or TAFDC, check your DTA EBT card for funds.

If you do NOT get SNAP and/or TAFDC, you will get a letter in the mail from the DTA. You will also get a P-EBT card in the mail in a different envelope. **KEEP THE LETTER UNTIL YOU HAVE GOTTEN AND**

PINNED THE CARD. The letter has your students' case number that you need to PIN the card.

Each month, funds will be added to your card on the 25th of each month for the month before. Example: your February P-EBT funds will be based on your students' learning situation in January.

No longer have your P-EBT card? Request a replacement card at DTAconnect.com/pebt. If you need help getting a new card, contact (Kenny Tran, ktran@maldenps.org). If you need a new EBT card, call DTA at 1-877-382-2363.

IMPORTANT: Using P-EBT does not impact you or your student's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to this program.

Need more food help?

If you are eligible for P-EBT you are likely eligible for SNAP, ongoing monthly food funds. Check your eligibility and apply at DTAConnect.com.

You can also get FREE grab and go school meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) at the following schools, Monday through Friday, 10:30-1 PM You can pick up weekend meals on Fridays.

Beebe School

Ferryway School

Forestdale School

Linden STEAM Academy

Malden High School

Salemwood School

Get help: visit MAp-EBT.org

Sincerely,

John Oteri

Superintendent of the Malden Public Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE: The #1 priority of our response to the crisis caused by the pandemic has been the safety & well-being of our students, families & our staff, and that will not change

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and that many of the challenges and multi-layered issues we have had to face are continuing. But fortunately, by addressing the challenges and at the same time focusing on the positives, we can see that "light at the end of the tunnel". While the pandemic certainly continues to exist, we do know much more about the virus than we did when the pandemic was first declared almost a year ago in March. We now have vaccines and distribution is under way in phases. As for our students, educators and staff members,

our next steps include a return of our highest needs students and their staff to in-person learning on January 19. Also, on February 1, we are looking forward to the first-time return of our youngest students and their educators in Pre-K to Grade 2, in a hybrid learning model. Everyone in the Malden Public Schools has worked diligently and compassionately to deliver the best possible academic instruction and support on many levels, and for that I am so thankful, as are our students and their families. Happy New Year to all as we embark on 2021!

-Superintendent John Oteri

In these trying times, there is help in the form of mental health resources

Assistance available from state-based, national agencies

Mental Health Resources

From the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)

- National Help Line (1-800-662-4357)
- Disaster Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746)
- Treatment locators is a free directory to help find local options for care
 - Substance Use (FindTreatment.gov)
 - Behavioral Health Treatment (findtreatment.samhsa.gov)

Massachusetts state resource phone lines and webpages: Massachusetts 2-1-1 line (dial 2-1-1) 2-1-1 HelpSteps page

Network of Care Massachusetts is a comprehensive statewide online resource to help patients find information on mental health supports and services in their community. massachusetts.networkofcare.org

The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Multilingual Resources page (mass.gov) offers non-English information for coping with stress and other behavioral health conditions during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

MCPAP for Moms mcpapformoms.org provides mental health resources for expectant mothers and families

The NAMI Massachusetts COMPASS provides a mental health resource phone hotline and email address. namimass.org

NAMI Massachusetts also published a region-based list of Emergency Service Providers (ESPs) to provide assistance with mental health crises

NAMI Massachusetts also hosts virtual support groups for individuals and families dealing with mental illness during the state of emergency - the Connection Recovery Support Group and Family Support Groups



A helpful way to find help for a variety of needs is by using the Treatment Locator from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).

Visit the Children's Mental Health Campaign COVID-19 Resource Page for information specific to assisting children with behavioral health needs and additional resources.

HandholdMA.org (877-382-1609) If you are worried your child is experiencing a mental health crisis.

samaritanshope.org/ 24/7 Crisis hotline. Calls or texts (877-870-4673)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7: 800-273-8255

Addiction Treatment and Recovery Resources

MA Help Line (1-800-327-5050) is a toll free phone line statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment and recovery services.

Malden Overcoming Addiction maldenovercomingaddiction.com

The Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center has COVID-19 specific resources for seeking addiction care

Rize Massachusetts' resources page provides a variety of recommendations for recovery resources.

Health Resources in Action published an informative guide to recovery resources for reference during times of COVID-19 emergency.

Shatterproof, a national advocacy organization for recovery supports, offers a virtual recovery meeting guide.

**Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. Day is Monday,
January 18, 2021**



Dr. King recognized the power of service. He famously said, "Everyone can be great because everybody can serve." Observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday through service

is a way to begin each year with a commitment to making your community a better place. Your service honors Dr. King's life and teachings and helps meet community challenges. Service also brings people together of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The MLK Day of Service encourages all types of service, particularly projects that have a lasting impact and connect participants to ongoing service. The most successful projects connect to the life and teaching of Dr. King, meet a pressing community need, and include time to reflect on his teachings.

**Three Free meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner)
for all students who reside in Malden are now
available at ALL FIVE K-8 Schools and @
Malden High School from
Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

The Malden Public Schools continues to provide free meals, every weekday, Monday through Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at all five of our K-8 schools: Beebe School, Ferryway School, Forestdale School, Linden School, Salemwood School and Malden High School. At this time, three meals may be picked up at one stop for each student in a household. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are now provided. Also, on Fridays, free meals for the weekend days (Saturday and Sunday) can be picked up. The meals are free for all Malden Public Schools and any student of any school who resides in Malden.



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.