

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2012

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION UPDATE

As you are aware, the building project is still on hold. The City is in the process of securing a builder since the contract with DIMEO was terminated as of December 31, 2011. It is anticipated that a new contractor will be hired shortly. With that, the project still could be completed for a September 2014 opening of school.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL 9th GRADE CAMPUS

As a school we achieved at a high rate of success the first semester of the school year. When compared to the first quarter for freshmen last year, we increased the number of A's earned by an average of 10% , Similarly, we reduced the number of C's by an average of 22%, D's by 45%, and F's by 85%. This was a result of our facility, the team approach with guidance and administrative support, high expectations, parental support, differentiated instruction with and without technology, and everyone putting in time after school hours.

Each month each team selects a student of the month, please check out our website for updated Students of the Month.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

We are having our first meeting of the new Wellness Committee on Monday February 13 at 1:00 pm at the High School main office conference room. The Committee is comprised of various people:

Director of School Nutrition Services		1 School Committee Member
1 Principal	1 Nurse	1 Gym Teacher
1 ELL Teacher	2 Parents	3 Students

They are looking to evaluate the current policy and critique its effectiveness, and to change areas of the policy that we realize to be ineffective. We are also going to try and adopt some of the new nutritional changes set by the USDA two weeks ago into the policy.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the 27th annual Science Fair.

I along with Mr. Harb and the entire Science Department would like to thank the students, parents, teachers, school administration and all those who helped make the science fair such a

great success. Each and every student was a great representative of Methuen High School, and should take pride in their work.

The top four award winners, by virtue of completing a detailed Individual Research Plan, have been invited to participate in the Regional Science Fair at Somerville High School. This year's winners of the Methuen High School Science Fair, Brian Gregg and Nathan Blazon-Brown will also proudly represent Methuen High School at the Massachusetts State Science Fair at MIT.

These students will be presenting their winning project at the workshop.

<u>Award</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
1 st Place	Brian	Gregg	The Effect of Light on
	Nathan	Blazon-Brown	Pilobolus Crystallinus
2 nd Place	Chihiro	Shimomoto	The Effects of Acidic Solutions
	Lina	Nguyen	in a Basic Environment
3 rd Place	Olivia	Lavoie	The Effects of Temperature
	Lauren	McAndrew	on the Rate of Diffusion Through a Semipermeable Membrane
4 th Place	Brian	Cole	Revved up on Magnesium
	Anthony	Nguyen	

MHS CAREER VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS

- Methuen High School emerged from this year's Regional DECA Competition in Marketing with 28 competitors including eight place winners. Highlighting the day was Nicolas Longo and his first-place finish in the category of Automotive Services Marketing. Also placing in the regional competition were seniors Diandra Danieli, Conor Clark, Steve Dostie, Rebecca Melvin, Jillian Falardeau, Matt Fehmel, and Ashley Goyau. Because of the top finishes in their respective categories, they are now eligible (and gearing up!) to compete at the annual State DECA Conference held on March 8-10 in Boston, Massachusetts. Most of these Methuen High School seniors are planning to pursue a major in business management, marketing, or finance and accounting upon graduation in June.
- Food for Life classes at the high school are glad to welcome back former recipient of the Family and Consumer Science Award and MHS graduate, Sydney Valentino. Sydney is in the culinary program at Southern New Hampshire University and will presenting and demonstrating an original recipe to the FCS classes. We are proud to have Sydney back to share her culinary expertise with our budding chefs!

SADD UPDATE

- The benefits on our school community of the system wide SADD program cannot be understated. The most effective prevention model promotes healthy lifestyle, community service, and an understanding of an individual's responsibility to a safe school community.

- Marsh- SADD group wrote letters and organized care packages for troops. Methuen Life may visit. Bowling outing scheduled for Feb. at Park Place Lanes- would like MHS students to join.
- Tenney- Ice cream social- make your own zip lock bag ice cream. Plan for Feb is to collect for a “broken heart”- MSPCA or a shelter. Discussed ways to raise money necessary to pay for T-shirts.
- Timony-tobacco awareness activities.
- Grade 9 Campus-donated warm clothing to Debbie’s Treasure Chest- organization run by a former student. March 8th- basketball tournament to raise money for Relay Team. Baked goods will be sold. Coaches vs. Cancer basketball game- signs sold for Relay Team. Arlington Homework Center- students will get involved.
- CGS- Feb 10 Pilgrim Lanes - bowling tournament. Most grammar schools and high school SADD groups will participate.
- The inmate presentations at all grammar schools took place and were hopefully very beneficial to all the students and staff. We attempted to also convey the message that there were committed adults in the school system that would help any student who needed it.

Community:

- There is a tentative February 29 meeting at the Nevins Library of a newly formed SADD parent support group. We are attempting to put together a group of committed parents of SADD members. Hopefully, they will help us expand our ability to provide fun, healthy, activities so that we continue to make SADD an attractive group to join. We have had very positive feedback from parents and we are excited about the possibility of the expansion of our program.
- Jackie Rubino’s interview has been airing regarding the influence of SADD on her teaching career.
- The introduction of the MVP (Methuen Violence Prevention Program) is going to be aired within the next week. The show focuses its attention on the formation of this new group from the Arlington Neighborhood; its two advisors MHS physical education instructor, Tony Curet, and Soucy-Lahey Homework Center coordinator Jo-an Mejia and MHS students.
- My next cable show will focus on the four junior SADD advisors whom have been instrumental in the development of this school wide drug prevention model.
- MVPs first community service project was to assist in the promotion of the Black Out Bullying Day by passing out arm bands, sign a petition, and make public announcements to promote peace.
- They will be going on a field trip to Bradford MA to witness the VIP Program (which was the model for Methuen’s MVP) to put on a play for a grammar school regarding violence, drugs, and the need for leadership.
- They have a March 6th date for an in-school training of the 9th graders who have been selected by Mr. Downs for their leadership skills. This two hour training will take place at the 9th grade campus and will be a major catalyst for the expansion of the MVP program in

the Methuen Public Schools. Mr. Giuca should be commended for his support for materials and pizza.

LIBRARY MEDIA DEPARTMENT - K-12

- Simon & Schuster Publishing (NYC) recently announced that Maria Mastrocola, Supervisor of Media Services for the Methuen Public Schools has won the Name the Newsletter contest. Her entry: “The Book Pantry: where academic & literary resources are stored” beat out thousands of entries that were submitted. The newsletter, which reaches 20,000 subscribers (twice a month,) will be introduced in March. For her efforts, Ms. Mastrocola will receive a box of books from their new spring book list.
- At the High School: For the second year, the high school media department is partnering with the Nevins Memorial Library in writing a grant to bring a local author to the high school. Last year’s Author Festival brought three nationally acclaimed authors to Methuen High School. Students in the Books & Bagels reading club and four English classes attended presentations with the authors. These sessions included tips on writing, character development and a lively discussion about the authors’ books. This year’s grant will bring local author, Mitali Perkins to the grade nine campus. Her wonderful books share her experience of growing up between two cultures, exploring some of the tensions immigrant kids face, and introducing some of the richness of Bengali culture.
- At the grammar schools: The media staff worked with the literacy and math coach at the Tenney as they welcomed author, Greg Tang to the school. Participating in Math Literacy Night and preparing the students for Mr. Tang’s presentation, the students were more than prepared for the big day. Mr. Tang did not disappoint with his straight forward but exciting presentations about math. The CGS media staff recently received a Cultural Council grant that will bring author, Coleen Murtagh Paratore to the school in March. The Marsh media center will invite the community to participate in Read Across America. In celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday, community and guest readers will participate in this national celebration. The other grammar schools will invite guest readers in May to celebrate Children’s Book Week. The Timony media center recently received a Target grant for \$500 allowing them to purchase some recently published books. Target then passed on their grant information to First Book. This organization provides access to new books for children in need. First Book provided every Timony second grader with a new book by popular children’s author, Mo Willems.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL JROTC

As part of our community service and service learning project, 5 Cadets on February 2nd greeted deployed soldiers returning from Afghanistan at Pease Air Force Base. It was an emotional and joyous day for our students, one they will always remember.

Please check out the pictures on the next page.

The Markmanship, Academic, and Physical Fitness Team Competitions will be held at the following locations:

February 11th in South Boston

March 3rd in Lawrence

March 10th in East Boston

The Annual Military Ball will be held on March 16th at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover, MA.