



# The Pipeline

May 2006

Volume I Issue 8

## Spotlight on the NEW Dedham Middle School

Excitement is growing about the completion of the new Dedham Middle School. Students entering the 6th, 7th & 8th grades this fall will be the first Dedham students to enjoy the state-of-the-art building.

At present, the construction is 86% complete. The 8th grade wing needs only student lockers installed and work on the 6th and 7th grade wing is progressing. The administrative area, auditorium, gymnasium and media center are well on their way to completion, needing only carpet or lighting installed. In addition, the crew is working in earnest on the outside of the building, which is being graded and cleaned. By the middle of July, staff will vacate the "old" school to occupy its newer counterpart.

The School Department welcomes all Dedham students and parents to the opening of the new Dedham Middle School. Stay tuned for more.

### District Administration and School Committee

- Great news! The new Dedham Middle School is on track to come within 5% of its original budget. In fact, due to lower than expected interest rates, and the receipt of grant monies earlier than expected (the first \$13.5 million installment of the state grant is due in May), the overall cost of the project to the town's taxpayers will be less than the original projections. The new middle school will provide Dedham's students with a superior facility in which to learn for decades to come! We look forward to welcoming the community into the new facility very soon!  
~Andy Lawlor, Chairman of the School Building Rehabilitation Committee

### Dedham High School

- This June, Michael Torchio will graduate as the top student in the DHS Class of 2006, but academic achievements are not all Mike is about. He has been a five-year member of the DHS track and cross country teams and captain of those teams during his senior year. In addition, Mike has been involved in National Honor Society, the Student Council, and the Student Leadership Team. Mike was named a commended scholar by the National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test. His natural academic ability and his involvement in the Dedham High community are affording him some exceptional college choices.
- As #2 in the Class of 2006, Rich Henderson was accepted early admission to Brown University, where he will study mathematics and computer science. Rich has combined his involvement in the Science Olympiad, Student School Committee Representative, School Council and National Honor Society to make a difference at DHS. In March, Rich successfully ran for Town Meeting Representative (District 7) and is now Dedham's youngest Town Meeting Representative.
- Ranked #3 in the DHS graduating class is Emily Stefans, who will be attending the University of Connecticut this fall. Emily's achievements are not only academic. She also excels in sports, as Emily was a contributing member of the State Championship Field Hockey Team this fall. She has broken school records as a member of the Winter and Spring Track Teams. In addition to being a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council Public Relations Officer, Emily works part-time.

### Dedham Middle School

- On May 3rd, the 7th Grade French students went to the MFA for a French art tour and to Sel de la Terre in Boston for a French lunch. The trip exposed students to French art beyond what they experience in the classroom. The classes have studied French food vocabulary and French restaurant etiquette.
- The Bears 6th grade team will be going to Harrison Gray Otis House on May 31st. The house, located near Mass. General Hospital in Boston, exemplifies the Greek and Roman architecture the students studied in social studies.
- On May 12th, the 7th grade Dolphin Team will be taking a field trip to New York City, where they will tour the United Nations building and visit the Bronx Zoo. The trip builds on social studies units on Africa and the United Nations and the science classes' study of biomes and taxonomy.

**\*May 5th\***

District In-Service Day  
**\*May 10th\***  
Middle School and High School Spring Concert  
**\*May 29th\***  
Memorial Day- No School

**\*May 6th\***

SAT Exams

**\*May 12th & 13th\***

Drama Club Production,  
*Cinderella*

**\*May 16th\***

National Honor Society Banquet

**\*May 17th\***

Chorus Concert

**\*May 19th\***

Junior/Senior Prom

**\*May 30th\***

Spring Athletes Booster Club Banquet

**\*May 9th\***

Special Education Open House

**\*May 11th\***

PAC Meeting

**\*May 15th-26th\***

MCAS Testing

**\*May 30th\***

DMSPP Meeting

**\*June 1st\***

Grade 5 student orientation

**\*\*\*\*\* A SUPER JOB \*\*\*\*\***

The administration is pleased to announce that four Avery School teachers (**Janice Fortuna, Maureen Tannetta, Marie Pace and Kristen Cannon**) have been accepted into the Teaching American History Federal Grant Program entitled Walking in the Footsteps of Legends and Ordinary Folk: Boston as Backdrop and Battleground being offered through The Education Collaborative. The federal grant program is aimed at "supporting programs that raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of American history". For this offering TEC has partnered with UMass Boston and a variety of nationally renowned museums. Elementary educators from across all of the TEC towns were allowed to submit proposals in a highly competitive application process. The four Avery teachers will begin the specialized professional development work in the next few months.

**Curran Early Childhood Education Center**

- The staff of the Dr. Thomas J. Curran Early Childhood Education Center will welcome parents and children attending the preschool or kindergarten programs in 2006-07 to tour the building on May 3rd. Tours will begin in the gym from 9:00 until 11:00 A.M. Families may come at any time in that time period. This is a wonderful opportunity for incoming students to see the program with classes in session.
- On May 8th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the ECEC will host a free workshop on children's emotional intelligence led by licensed psychologist Deborah Weinstock-Savoy. The program will address how to help children recognize feelings, control impulses, and express emotions appropriately. Depending on participant interest, other topics might include: handling tantrums, helping "shy" children, and encouraging empathy.

**\*May 10th\***  
Teacher/Staff appreciation luncheon  
**\*May 10th\***  
Special InSight Education Program  
**\*May 15th\***  
Final PTO Meeting

**Avery Elementary School**

- The Avery School PTO and the Dedham Cultural Council will present a spring concert on Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m. at Saint Susanna's Church. The Parkway Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Peter Freisinger, will perform a varied program to highlight three talented local musicians. The program includes Die Fledermaus Overture, a premiere piece by classical guitarist Koray Sazli, a movement from a Mozart piano concerto, "April in Paris" and "Sing, Sing, Sing". The program is supported in part by the DCC and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Donation is \$10; \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children under 12 years. For tickets, call 781-461-1823. For more information, visit [www.ParkwayConcertOrchestra.org](http://www.ParkwayConcertOrchestra.org).

**\*May 24th\***  
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon  
**\*June 2nd\***  
Family Day Cookout

**Greenlodge Elementary School**

- The "Fit and Lit" program is off and running. To promote fitness and literacy, the students are asked to exercise and read for 30 minutes every day. Each student is asked to track their exercise and reading activities for each day in May. Special charms will be rewarded to everyone who completes each goal.
- The Going for the Green Golf Tournament will be held June 1st at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton. Proceeds benefit the installation of a Peaceful Playground covered outdoor structure next to the playground. Contact Steve Dailey at 781-329-7537 for more info on playing or sponsoring.
- Conflict Resolution was the latest TRIBES theme and the ABCD method was encouraged. Ask about the problem, Brainstorm solutions, Choose the best one, Do it!
- The 5th grade floor Hockey league had another successful season with the Ducks taking the championship. Many thanks to Mr. Cronin for organizing and coaching.

**\*May 12th\***  
Variety Show  
**\*May 16th\***  
PTO Meeting  
**\*May 19th\***  
Teachers' Luncheon  
**\*June 1st\***  
Golf Tournament  
**\*June 9th\***  
Field Day

**Oakdale Elementary School**

- Second Grade Math Night was a huge success at Oakdale. Parents and children enjoyed a festive night and participated in problem-solving number games. There was over 90% family participation, and everyone had a great time playing together.
- Spring is in the air and Oakdale students have been recording independent reading. The children have completed a reading incentive program, "Warm up to a Good Book".

**\*May 8th\***  
School Governance Council meeting  
**\*May 11th\***  
5th grade Talent Show

**Riverdale Elementary School**

- The Read-a-While, Walk-a-Mile program that encourages reading and fitness has recently come to an end at Riverdale. With 100% participation, ninety-five students met the goal of reading 13 books and walking 13 miles. Those students were recognized at a special assembly May 2nd. It was wonderful to see how many families were committed to supporting their children at home to reach this goal!

**\*May 13th\***  
Riverdale Spring Fair  
**\*May 16th\***  
PTO Meeting

**Community Events**

A new support group, the East Coast Eagles Support Group, aims to help parents of teens by providing a circle of support for parents to listen and/or share their similar struggles. The group is about being with other parents, grandparents, siblings, and/or guardians who understand the stress created for all when living with a struggling teen. The first meeting will take place Sunday, May 7th at 3PM at St. Susanna's Church. The guest speaker will be Tony Streit, Director of The YouthLearn Initiative, Education Development Center, Inc. Tony will speak about the internet. To learn more about the group or register for the meeting, visit [www.ecesg.org](http://www.ecesg.org).