



# The Pipeline

April 2006

Volume I Issue 7

## Spotlight on Avery School

The Avery School is a wonderfully diverse community comprised of over 20 cultures with 15 languages spoken at home.

In celebration of its rich culture, the Avery School will hold its first Multicultural Day in June. Each classroom will represent one of the following countries: Benin (Africa), Haiti, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Ireland, England, Greece, Italy, Brazil, Lebanon, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Portugal/Spain.

Students will share samples of their country's culture, foods, music, literature, and arts with the rest of the school community.

Parents and members of the community will be invited to presentations and performances in the afternoon. If you have any artifacts, recipes, or information that would enhance this very special day, please contact Principal Campbell at 781.326.5354 or [ccampbell@Dedham.mec.edu](mailto:ccampbell@Dedham.mec.edu)

### District Administration and School Committee

Technology is being utilized to expand and enhance opportunities for learning for all students. A tech update:

- The use of Blackboard, our online classroom learning solution, continues to grow. As of March, there were 422 active courses and 1,705 active users. The service is receiving close to 60,000 views every day!
- Skillstutor, our web-based math program has been used for 17,000 minutes of skill building math exercises. Our students have logged over 283 hours of math practice from home using this program!
- United Streaming provides digital video downloads for classroom instruction. This product has eliminated the need to purchase videotapes or DVDs for it provides our teachers with access to 4,000 videos and 40,000 current video clips on demand, sorted by content and grade level. From September 2005 to March 2006, 809 videos were downloaded. The top three downloads were: America in the 20th Century: World War I, Getting to Know Electricity, and Early Settlers: The Era of Colonization. For additional information about any of these programs please contact your child's teacher or the Administrator of Technology, Liz McGonagle. [emcgonagle@dedham.mec.edu](mailto:emcgonagle@dedham.mec.edu).

**\*April 6th\***  
Internet Safety Awareness Night  
7 p.m.  
Middle School Auditorium

**\*April 12th\***  
School Committee Meeting

**\*April 14th-23rd\***  
April Vacation

**\*May 3rd\***  
School Committee Meeting

### Dedham High School

- The Science Olympiad Team earned two medals at the recent state competition. Annie Levine and Michael Torchio finished in third place in "Quantum Quandry". Dan Sullivan and Michael Vogel finished in third place in "Water Striders". Dan Sullivan and Matt Fay each won silver medals.
- Almost fifty pints of blood were donated to the American Red Cross by DHS staff and students during the recent blood drive at the school. The blood drive was sponsored by SADD.
- March students of the month are Danielle Robidoux and Joseph Kiklis. Both students will receive \$50 savings bonds from Dedham Savings and a week of free lunch in the school cafeteria due to their persistence, hard work and consideration of their peers. Danielle, as Belle, was the lead in the senior class play, *Beauty and the Beast*, which was a huge success.

**\*April 4th\***  
Shakespeare Now—Macbeth  
**\*April 5th\***  
Senior Scholarship Assembly  
**\*April 7th\***  
Sophomore Semi-Formal—Endicott Estate  
**\*April 29th\***  
Senior Fashion Show

### Dedham Middle School

- Cingular One donated American Idol tickets which were raffled off to middle school students. Ben Bardeen, a 7th grader, won the tickets and he and his mother flew to Hollywood to attend two live American Idol shows.
- The annual school musical, *Once On This Island*, is now in rehearsal with fifty students participating. This musical program has lots of singing and dancing; the Caribbean music is so lively that you will want to get up and dance. The students have worked very hard and their talents really come through in this performance. The play will be presented April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dedham Middle School Auditorium.
- Plans are underway for the 6th grade Coca Café. At the end of their poetry unit, the students share their own poetry with classmates in a faux-coffee house setting. Students dress in black and applaud each other with "snaps" instead of "claps". Sixth grade parents should anticipate an invitation to their students' Coca Café.

**\*April 6th\***  
PAC Meeting

**\*April 12th\***  
*Once On This Island*  
7 p.m.

**\*April 24th\***  
Guest Speaker on Adolescent Psychology at Dedham Public Library

### **Curran Early Childhood Education Center**

- The Curran Center is pleased to host an InSight Education Center program, “When Saying ‘No’ Is Not Enough.... Consequences That Work!” Children, like adults, are individuals. Discipline strategies that work for one child may not work for another. This workshop will help parents and teachers tailor their discipline styles to meet the behavioral needs of each child in their care. Participatpns will learn how to help children problem-solve and gain self control while teaching them to take responsibility for their actions. The program runs April 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration is \$25. Call 781-294-8004. Some scholarships are available. Call the school for details
- The Curran ECEC r will be offering a six-week summer program designed just for early childhood aged children. It runs from June 26-August 4. Air conditioned facilities are the site for weekly themes, wading pools, story time, arts & crafts, singing, dancing and playing outside. Registration forms are available at the Center and are due May 15th. This is a great way for children to maintain friendships over the summer vacation or become acquainted with their new school! If you have any questions about the program and/or registration, please email Genevieve Davis at gdavis@dedham.mec.edu or call the school at 781-461-5978.

**\*April 3rd\***  
PTO Meeting

**\*April 5th\***  
Southwick Wild  
Animal Park  
Zoo mobile

**\*April 24th-30th\***  
TV - Turnoff Week

### **Avery Elementary School**

- Chris Poulos, professional bicycle stunt rider and motivational speaker, presented at the Avery School on March 3rd. Chris’ exciting and interactive assembly included topics such as anti-bullying, self-esteem, education, and positive thinking. A special thank you to Mrs. Rumpp and the PTO!
- On March 13th, Betsy Evans, author of *You Can't Come To My Birthday Party! Conflict Resolution With Young Children*, presented an effective six-step mediation process that adults can use to support young children at these tense and emotional times. Special thanks to the Dedham Police and the PTO!
- Avery's 6th annual Ladies' Night was held on March 22nd at the VFW Hall. Close to 40 vendors displayed products ranging from jewelry to Tupperware. The evening was a great success!

**\*April 10th\***  
PTO Meeting  
**\*Week of April  
10th\***

School Spirit Week  
**\*April 29th\***  
Playground  
Cleanup

### **Greenlodge Elementary School**

- The 4th graders joined with other 4th graders across the U.S. to learn about the Iditarod, an annual dogsled race across the Alaskan wilderness. Each class adopted a musher and sent messages of encouragement. They also researched the history of the race.
- Spring is in the air. The 3rd graders have begun working with volunteers from the Endicott Greenhouse to learn about plants and the effects of various environmental elements such as erosion and lighting color.
- The annual Variety Show is back. Get your act together! Sign-up now. The show goes on April 28th.

**\*April 11th\***  
PTO Meeting

**\*April 28th\***  
Variety Show

### **Oakdale Elementary School**

- Congratulations to Oakdale School for winning the annual DEF Spelling Bee. Representing Oakdale School were fourth graders Olivia Toomey, Parsina Ionnicles, and alternate Morgan McKenna. Fifth grade spelling scholars included Kate Nosky, Jackson Lawler, and alternate Michael Corrado.
- Oakdale kicked off their spring reading program by reminding children to “Warm up to a Good Book”. The children wore summer clothes and had a “Beach Blanket Bash” enjoying their lunch picnic style while listening to Beach Boys music.
- Fourth Graders participated in a squid dissection at the high school. They continued their biological study with a trip to the New England Aquarium.
- Many guest readers celebrated Read Across America Day at Oakdale School, including Gene Lavanchy from Fox 25 News, children’s author Jana Dillon, and our state representative Bob Coughlin.

**\*April 4th\***  
PTO meeting

**\*April 10th-12th\***  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences

**\*May 1st\***  
Staff Appreciation  
Luncheon

### **Riverdale Elementary School**

- One of the goals of our school improvement plan is to create a caring, respectful and safe school environment. The plan also requires a service learning component. To accomplish this we are instituting a recycling program, with help from Noble and Greenough School. We have placed recycling bins supplied by Nobles in each classroom as well as the office area, library and specialist areas. Nobles also has supplied two large bins which the children fill with the classroom containers. When full, the large bins are picked up and emptied by Nobles and then returned. This program is free to Riverdale School, thanks to the generosity and cooperation we have with Noble and Greenough School. Special thanks to Joseph Cazeault, Director of Buildings and Grounds at Nobles for helping coordinate the effort as well as supplying the bins, and to former Riverdale parent Tim Carey, who is a member of our school site council and on the staff at Nobles.

**\*April 7th\***  
Last day to submit  
miles and books for  
Read/Walk Program  
**\*April 10th &  
12th\***  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences  
**\*April 11th\***  
PTO meeting

### **Community Events**

The Dedham High School Alumni Association is holding a dinner dance on May 6th at the "Old" Dedham Middle School. The event, **Save the Last Dance For... Our Alma Mater**, will be one of the last in that building prior to its demolition. For more information, contact Alumni Association President Tom Clinton at 781-751-9190.