



The Pipeline

February 2006

Volume I Issue 5

Spotlight on Riverdale

Read-a-While, Walk-a-Mile, a program that encourages reading and fitness at the Riverdale School, has just passed its midpoint.

Students are eagerly working on reaching the goal of reading 13 books and walking 13 miles before the April running of the Boston Marathon.

A special guest, Doug Mirabelli, formerly of the Boston Red Sox, recently visited the school to motivate students to keep their eyes on the finish line and work towards their goal.

There are "leaders of the pack" in each classroom who were given gift bags sent by the Red Sox.

Several classes participated in the assembly by reciting a poem, singing, and presenting Mr. Mirabelli with an ABC book of memories of his career in Boston.

District Administration and School Committee

- On January 11th, the administration held a presentation on curriculum initiatives at Dedham High School, sponsored by the Dedham Educational Partnership, called Curriculum Initiatives: What do the standards look like in the classroom? Clare Sullivan, Elementary Curriculum Specialist, and John Laflamme, Secondary English Language Arts Department Chair, began the evening with a general presentation on: What is Differentiated Instruction? They provided an overview of the concepts involved and gave several concrete examples of how to meet the diverse needs of students in every classroom. Parents in attendance could then choose to attend 24 different presentations and tours by Dedham educators. Presentations included: What is E-Instruction?, Properties of Triangles and Quadrilaterals (high school level), How is Video Streaming being used in Elementary Science? and What are we doing in grades six-eight science and technology? Many of the presentations will be and may be seen on cable in March. ~Peg Dougherty, Assistant Superintendent

February 15th
School Committee Meeting

March 6th
DEP Meet the Candidates Night
Come meet candidates for the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen
7 p.m.
Dedham High School

Dedham High School

- Dedham High School will offer SAT preparation for students taking the May or June SATs. The Kaplan Program will begin the first week of March on Tuesday & Thursday evenings at DHS for a cost of \$599.00 for Dedham students. The College Prep Plus Program will begin the first week of March on Sunday mornings at the Dedham Community House for a cost of \$350.00. Also, Kaplan is providing a free SAT practice test at DHS on January 28th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm with a snow/rain date of February 4th. Parents will receive more information in the mail.
- The Education Cooperative (TEC) held open houses on Jan. 26 and Jan. 31 for parents and students interested in learning more about its Summer and Academic Year Internship Programs, World Classes, Spotlight Program and other programs. If you are interested, please call 781-326-2373 or check online at www.tec-coop.org.

February 2nd
Science Olympiad

February 6th
PTO Meeting

February 7th
8th Grade Anti-Bullying Program

**February 8th*
12th Grade Speaker:
Mark Marinella

Dedham Middle School

- Math Lab, a new course at DMS, integrates technology into the math curriculum. Students attend Math Lab 2 days within a 6-day rotation. Grade 6 students have been busy working on a software program called Yearly Progress Pro. This is a research-based assessment, instructional and intervention tool which enables students to enhance their math skills, with weekly tests and various enrichment exercises relevant to their individual math needs. These enrichment exercises aid students in escalating their abilities to solve various math problems.
- Grade 7 students have been busy working in computer classes with Microsoft PowerPoint and the Internet. The students have learned to create, edit and enhance presentations through the use of clipart, digital pictures, Internet images, Word Art, slide transitions and designs and custom animation. During the first part of the school year, students created presentations in conjunction with their science classes and curriculum. The second part of the fall was devoted to instruction in HyperStudio which involves the use of buttons, text objects, animation and sound in presentations.

February 2nd
Grades 6 & 7 Dance and DEP Meeting

February 3rd
D.E.A. Volleyball game vs. Dedham Police

February 8th
DMSPG Meeting

February 16th
Grade 8 Dance

~~~~~STRAIGHT FROM THE TOP~~~~~

A note from Superintendent Antonio Fernandes on the district enrollment policy

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are at the halfway mark of this school year. In this Pipeline edition, I wish to take the opportunity to remind parents of the district's elementary school enrollment policy. Each year I receive parental requests to enroll their children in a school other than their neighborhood school. The Dedham Public Schools has a policy that establishes the guidelines for such approvals, which is very specific, and governs my decisions on these requests. An occasionally overlooked aspect of this process is that each request must be made on an annual basis. Please be aware that if your request has been approved in the past and you desire to continue an out of district enrollment, it is important that you submit a letter to my office by the first of May each year requesting that the agreement be continued. Thank you for your cooperation! If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact my office at 781-326-5622, ext. 11. ~Superintendent Fernandes

Curran Early Childhood Education Center

- Kindergarten registration for the 2006-2007 school year is still being held at the Curran Early Childhood Education Center. To be eligible, children must be 5 years old by September 1, 2006 and residents of Dedham. Please register in person with your child's birth certificate and proof of Dedham residency (a current utility bill with your name and address on it). A lottery for the tuition based full day kindergarten program will be held on March 1 at 9:30 A.M. in the school gym. If you are interested in entering your child's name into the lottery for full day kindergarten, please complete the form available in the school office, and submit with your kindergarten registration papers. Submitting this form is by no means a binding commitment to enrolling your child in the full day program. If your child is offered a place in full day kindergarten you may make the decision at that point. There are kindergarten scholarships available for families who meet the income guidelines for childcare subsidies determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- *February 13th* PTO Meeting
- *February 15th* Scot Canon's We Care Program
- *February 15th* Kindergarten Parent Orientation for 2006-07
- *February 27th* Preschool Screening

Avery Elementary School

- The Avery Student Council will be coordinating The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program this March. This 3-week-long coin drive supports the Society in its mission to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, as well as improve the quality of life of patients and their families.
- Avery parents, Eileen Kelly & Karol Kolostow, have started an after school knitting club, The Knit Wits. The first meeting was Wednesday, January 25th and they are off to a great start. Twenty-three children attended, as well some of the parents.
- Many concerned Avery parents turned out for the January 18th School Committee meeting to learn more about the current budget shortfall and proposed cuts, including the possibility of closing the Avery School.

TBA

Greenlodge Elementary School

- Greenlodge School has been chosen for a \$500 Community Spirit grant from Harvard Pilgrim. The grant will be used for soccer balls, playground balls, jump ropes, and other items for exercising during recess. Thank you to Ms. Martha Hoefler and Harvard Pilgrim.
- More than 175 friends gathered at the Endicott Estate to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Greenlodge School. Many alumni from over the years, current and former faculty members, and parents and friends of the school enjoyed the many pictures and memorabilia, and reminisced about the 'old days'. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to put this together.

- *March 2nd* Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration
- *March 11th* PTO Skating Party

Oakdale Elementary School

- Amazing Hero Art, an educational and inspirational program, was presented by artist David Surette Jan. 10th.
- "Caroling for Coins," initiated by the student council, raised \$425.00 for the Jimmy Fund.
- Ms. Armstrong continues to challenge students at Oakdale and has included a reading challenge along with the monthly math challenge. Each family is encouraged to participate and send both challenges back to school.

- *February 7th* PTO Meeting
- *February 8th* Seniors and Buddies, 5N and 3G

Youth Sports and Community Events

Dedham Girls Softball will be sponsoring Batting Clinics for 10U, 12U and 16U players. Timely registration for the spring season guarantees a spot at one of the clinics. Walk-in registration for spring softball will be held at Dedham Middle School on January 29th from 5-7:30 P.M., by calling 781-752-1111 or by logging on to dedhamgs.com.

Dedham Little League will be holding walk-in registration for those interested in playing spring baseball. The spring sign-ups are February 4th and 11th from 9:30-12 at Dedham Middle School. Log on to dedhamlittleleague.org for more information.