



The Pipeline

March 2006

Volume I Issue 6

Spotlight on the ECEC

A new program at the Curran Early Childhood Education Center is designed to fit the first goal on its School Improvement Plan: to improve students' development of literacy skills.

"Recipe For Reading" will partner teachers and parents to foster literacy in school and at home.

This spring, ECEC families will participate in a literacy workshop where parents and children will read stories around a food theme like pizza or ice cream. Then families will "make-it-and-take-it", working together to read recipes, ingredients and food labels and make the tasty treats!

The school's staff and administration hope that children and their families will become more aware of how spending time together cooking can become a rich learning experience.

District Administration and School Committee

• The 2005-2006 in-service program includes five afternoon sessions (September 27, December 1, January 30, March 9, and May 5), and one full-day session (October 28). This year, as last year, everyone is enrolled in an in-service course that meets all six sessions. Below is a list of which educators are enrolled in each course.

Art: Art Education; **Music:** Music Education; **Health/PE:** Health and Wellness; **Librarians:** Information Literacy and Tech Integration; **Guidance:** Issues in Counseling; **Pre-k/kindergarten:** Guided Reading/Project Read; **Grade 1:** Making Project Read Story Form Work in Your Existing Program; **Grade 2 and Title I:** Writing Strategies; **Grade 3:** Achieving Mathematical Power; **Grade 4:** Project-based Learning; **Grade 5:** Writing Across the Curriculum; **Grades 6-8 teams:** Teaming Around Instruction; **Grades 6-12 aides:** Technology Seminar for Teaching Assistants; **Grades 6 - 12 Special Education:** Effective Inclusion Practices; **High School:** Algebraic Thinking, Assessment for Improving Student Achievement, Behavior Management, Differentiated Instruction in Language Acquisition, I-Life, Integration of Technology, and Teaching Reading in the Content Areas. ~Peg Dougherty, Assistant Superintendent

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 is offering the Kaplan SAT Review Program on Tuesday & Thursday evenings in March and April.
- The Dedham High School Social Studies Department is proud to announce that junior Lauren Mawe won the American Legion Oratorical Contest for Norfolk County. Contestants made an 8-10 minute prepared speech, without notes, on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution. Lauren's essay was "The Bill of Rights: Reciprocal Rights and Duties." She now goes on to the zone level to be held in Charlestown in three weeks.
- The Art Department is proud to announce that Dedham High School has won seven awards in this year's Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards contest: Carolyn Tannetta won a silver key in sculpture; Catherine Buckley, John Murphy and Nicole Costello won honorable mentions in photography; Rebecca Bernazzani won an honorable mention in sculpture and Meghan Dietzel earned an honorable mention in the drawing category.

March 14th
DEA Volleyball Game

March 15th
SADD Blood Drive

March 17th and 18th
Senior Play
Beauty and the Beast

March 21st
Boosters Winter Sports Banquet

Dedham Middle School

- The winter ski trip to Gunstock will take place on Saturday, March 4th. This ski trip is sponsored by School Resource Officer Huyler and supported through the Dedham Police Department. Ski trip registrations and information are available in the main office.
- Detective John Connolly of the Dedham Police Department conducted an important Internet safety program in all seventh grade reading classes. The dangerous use of instant messaging, the use of My Space, and the dangers associated with revealing personal information on the Internet were emphasized in this presentation. Recent media reports detail the dangers of predators on the Internet who often target early adolescents.
- The annual school musical, *Once On This Island*, is now in rehearsal with fifty students participating. The play will be performed on April 12th.

March 7th
School Council Meeting and Grade 7 National French Exam

March 16th
DMS Students to see Senior Play
March 28th-30th
Language Arts and Literature MCAS

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ **Helpful Homework Hints** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Most teachers assign homework on a regular basis because practice is needed before students fully understand new skills or concepts. Homework also increases the amount of learning time available and allows students to do more in-depth learning. Here are some general guidelines for helping with homework:

- ✓ Find out how much and what type of homework is assigned in each class, how students are expected to prepare it and turn it in, and what students can do when they don't understand something; help your child manage the workload by dividing it into small doses.
- ✓ Talk to your child each day about homework assignments. Go over work. See if it's complete. Ask questions about it. But don't do your child's homework yourself.
- ✓ Help your child develop a homework schedule that he or she can stick to.
- ✓ Provide a suitable place for study (if possible, make it quiet and away from the distractions of TV, phone, and loud music).
- ✓ Reward progress. Use lots of praise. Display good work.
- ✓ Avoid making homework a punishment.

Avery Elementary School

- Our Library Media Center kicked off a six week course to teach computer skills to parents. The classes cover Microsoft programs, email functions and internet searching depending on the needs of the group. All levels are welcome.
- Mrs. Kieffner's 1st grade class took part in a Scholastic Book Club Contest, reading 100 books. One hundred books have been donated in their name to a school affected by Hurricane Katrina!
- Several of Avery's students participated in the St. Jude Math-athon raising over \$1700!
- The Cashore Marionettes performed the show *Simple Gifts* on February 2nd. This program is a series of touching character portrayals and scenes from everyday life set to a succession of original and classical music including Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven, and Copeland.

- *March 6th*
School Council
- *March 13th*
Bullying Program
and
Parent Workshop
- *March 22nd*
Avery PTO Ladies
Night at the VFW

Curran Early Childhood Education Center

- Summer of 06 Fun!! The Curran Center will be offering a six-week summer program to children enrolled in the 2005-2006 & 2006-2007 school years. The program runs from June 26 through August 4. Weekly themes, wading pools, story time, arts & crafts, singing, dancing and playing outside are some of the fun activities planned. Registration forms for the summer program went home in your child's backpack and needs to be sent in by May 15. If you have any questions please contact Genevieve Davis at 781-461-5978.
- Information on personal safety skills for children: R.A.D. KIDS believes in three basic but critically fundamental principles in building self esteem of children: (1) "No one has the right to hurt me." (2) "I don't have the right to hurt anyone else unless I need to escape physical danger or harm." (3) "It's not my fault when someone tricks me or hurts me. For further info visit www.indefenseboston.org

- *March 6th*
PTO Candidates
Night
- *March 10th*
Parent's Night
Out
- *March 30th*
Parent teacher
conference -
kindergarten

Greenlodge Elementary School

- As a way to build a home/school connection, Greenlodge has instituted a program where all students maintain a nightly Math Facts study log. Students are asked to study their math facts at home with other family members for at least 10 minutes each night and turn in their logs on Fridays. This helps to develop a strong family involvement in the children's studies, improves the base knowledge of the students, and allows the teachers to concentrate on more complex math concepts.
- The 5th Grade Choruses from Avery and Greenlodge have been invited to sing the National Anthem at the opening game of the New England Revolution. To help raise funds for the trip, the 5th graders sponsored a Hat Day on Feb. 17th. For a \$1.00 donation, students and staff were able to wear a hat in school. The participation was overwhelming. Thanks for the support!

- *March 9th*
A.M. PTO
Meeting
- *March 10th*
'50s Family Sock
Hop
- *March 11th*
PTO Skating Party

Save the dates-- 2006 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Systems (MCAS) Tests

Grade 3 Reading	March 27-April 7	Grade 4 Language and Literature	March 29-April 7
Grade 7 Language and Literature	March 30-April 7	Grades 4 & 10 ELA Composition	March 28
Grade 7 ELA Composition	March 29	Grade 10 ELA Language and Literature	March 29
Grade 10 ELA Language and Literature	March 30		

For a complete schedule and more information, visit www.doe.mass.edu/mcas.

A BIG THANK YOU!

To all the parents and community members who have donated using the Classroom Wishlist Web site.

There's still time to help!

Classroom Wishlist runs a website that lets teachers publish their classroom supply needs so that community members and parents can make specific donations directly to a class to meet exact needs.

You can make a tax deductible donation directly to Classroom Wishlist, which then buys the items and ships them directly to the school.

More teachers are signing up every day.

For more information, visit online at:

www.classroomwishlist.org

Check it out today!

Oakdale Elementary School

- An assembly was held to present money collected from "Pennies for Pals". About \$3,500.00 was donated to Habitat for Humanity.
- The Student Council sponsored a "Lollies for Life" fundraiser. Students bought hearts with lollipops that were delivered on Valentine's Day. Students raised \$800.00 which was donated to Life is Good Sunshine Camp.
- The third graders made Valentine's Day cards and heart bags with candy that were delivered to recipients of the Meals on Wheels program in Dedham.
- The Oakdale Spelling Bee Team will be competing on March 3rd at the annual competition. Representing Oakdale will be fourth graders Olivia Toomey, Parthena Ioannidis and alternate Morgan McKenna. Fifth grade scholars include Katie Nosky, Jackson Lawler and alternate Michael Corrado.

March 7th
PTO meeting
Meet the School Committee candidates
March 13th
School Governance Council Meeting
March 20th
Fourth Grade field trip to the New England Aquarium

Riverdale Elementary School

- Riverdale School will be full of wild and stylish footwear to celebrate Read Across America Day on Thursday, March 2, 2006. The annual event sponsored by the National Education Association is held every year on Dr. Seuss' birthday to motivate and encourage students to read. This year our school will coordinate the event with the Read-a-while, Walk-a-mile program. The feet of Riverdale students have been racking up an incredible amount of miles since November. In honor of the Boston Red Sox support of this program, Dr. Seuss' book *Fox in Socks*, as well his other books, will be the read aloud that day in many classrooms. If the weather permits, the entire school will hold a Crazy Socks Parade by walking one lap around the marked track in the back playground (a quarter mile) at the beginning of morning recess. Students and staff will be encouraged to roll up their pant legs and show off their colorful or mismatched socks.

March 14th
PTO Meeting
March 22nd
Kids for Kids Concert
March 24th
5th grade trip to Old Sturbridge Village

Youth Sports and Community Events

On Saturday, March 25th, the Dedham Police Department, Office of Community & School Resources in conjunction with the Massachusetts Freemasons and the Dedham Junior Woman's Club will hold a **Masonic Child Identification Program (MyCHIP)** at the Dedham Middle School. The MyCHIP program consists of a videotape, fingerprinting, DNA swab and dental impression, all of which are given to the child's family to be used in an emergency. All parents are urged to participate in this free event. If you have participated at one of our past events, it is recommended that you update your kit at this year's event.

The Dedham Education Foundation will hold its annual **Spelling Bee** on March 3rd at Dedham High School. The Student Competition will start promptly at 7 p.m. The Adult Competition will start upon the conclusion of the Student Competition. All funds raised from this event fund grants throughout the school system.

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.

Something for parents and kids! The **Friends of the Dedham Public Library** are now sponsoring the **Museum Pass Program** through support from local businesses and individuals. This program enables families to share museum "memberships" in much the same way the library enables them to share books. DPL provides family passes to eight museums in the metropolitan area: the Museum of Science, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Children's Museum, the Aquarium, Zoo New England, Plymouth Plantation, the JFK Library and The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Families need only to go to the library with a library card to reserve a museum pass for a specific day. Some of the passes require payment of a nominal fee for admission. Dedham residents may call the main library at 781-751-9280 to reserve the passes.