



The Pipeline

January 2006

Volume I Issue 4

Spotlight on Oakdale

In an effort to continue and encourage positive student behavior, while maintaining a strong sense of community, Oakdale School has implemented a school wide incentive program.

This program recognizes individual students for excellence and personal achievement. A student may show excellence in academic, community, arts, physical, and social areas.

When a child is recognized by our principal, Ms. Armstrong, as showing Outstanding Excellence, an oak leaf is placed on the oak tree mural in the main corridor.

A letter is also mailed home to let the student's family know of the honor. The oak tree mural represents the high expectations Oakdale School has for its school community.

District Administration and School Committee

- Since early fall the School Committee and Administration have been developing the fiscal year '07 budget. Given contractual cost increases, cost increases in mandated programs and the expectation of increases in utility costs, the budget process is especially challenging this year. Meeting our budget requirements has and will need careful consideration. As we consider the choices before us, be assured that we will focus on maintaining a comprehensive educational program designed to meet the diverse learning needs of our students. The School Committee is committed to making this process transparent, and is increasing efforts to communicate the processes we will go through to arrive at our final budget. To that end, we are holding a Public Hearing January 4th to discuss and vote our proposed budget. Then the town administrator will review our request and submit the town's budget the week of January 16th and the plans will then be reviewed by the Finance Committee. Please check the Pipeline, local newspapers and school bulletins for the dates and times of all meetings.

January 4th
School Committee budget, athletic waiver hearing starts at 6 p.m.

January 11th
DEP presentation "Classroom Instruction" 6:30 p.m. @ High School cafeteria

January 18th
School Committee meeting

Dedham High School

- Mr. Dave Goerlitz, lead model for Winston tobacco advertising from 1982–1988 presented his award-winning assembly program to grades 9–12 December 8th. The core of his message was “Don’t be tricked, duped or lied to about this product which, when used as intended, will shorten your breath, put lines in your face and kill you prematurely. If you’re addicted to tobacco or to anything for that matter, you need to know that you are surrounded by a community of professionals who stand ready to help you break that addiction and take back your life!” Mr. Goerlitz then met with Ms. Scully’s TV/Video class to talk about advertising and production. He ended his stay at DHS by having lunch with students and staff in the Alternative Education Program fielding questions about his work. The program was made possible by a grant from The Dedham Education Foundation.

January 11th
"Consent"
(Date rape program for Grades 9-12)

January 12th
Grade 8 anti-bullying program

Dedham Middle School

- On January 24th and 25th, Michael Jackman of the Norfolk County District Attorney’s Education and Intervention Unit will present an anti-bullying program at Dedham Middle School. Recognizing that bullying is one of the most underrated and enduring problems in schools today, the District Attorney’s office has developed this middle school program to address words, actions and other behavior that are intentional, cruel and threatening. Mr. Jackman will talk with the students about the characteristics of the people involved in bullying, including the bully, the target and the bystander. He will explain why some young people become bullies and, most importantly, what students and staff can do about it.

January 5th
Geography Bee

January 12th
SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) Meeting

Curran Early Childhood Education Center

- The Curran ECEC will conduct screenings for Dedham children ages 3-4 on Wednesday, January 25th. The screening includes the following areas of development: cognitive, language, speech and motor. The Center encourages parents with concerns about their child's development to schedule an appointment by calling the school at 781-461-5978.

January 11th
“Go For The Stars”
January 25th
Parenting program "Personal Safety Skills for Children"

Avery Elementary School

- Starting this month, Mr. Campbell will be sending home monthly math facts logs with the children. It is his hope that the students will practice their math facts every night for at least 5 minutes. It is important that students work on mastering their math facts so teachers are able to concentrate on higher-level math concepts in school. More information will follow after the holiday break.
- This February, Avery will be holding its first Cultural Appreciation Day. The Avery School is a wonderfully diverse community and it is our hope to celebrate this diversity. Each class will be working on projects and activities related to a specific country represented within our school. Community involvement will be crucial to the celebration's success. Stay tuned for more information.

January 9th
PTO and School
Council Meeting

January 27th
Winterfest

Greenlodge Elementary School

- Spreading Holiday Cheer! The 5th Grade Chorus held a performance at The Dedham Savings Bank Main Office on Dec. 19th. They sang a variety of songs, including some holiday classics and some current holiday hits. The performance was enjoyed by family, friends, and people stopping by. Thank you to the Dedham Savings Bank for the opportunity to share the holiday spirit.
- The "Holiday Shoppe" was held on December 15 & 16. This annual event gives students an opportunity to shop for small gifts for family and friends. It also provides a fun atmosphere for learning good lessons on money management, the need for good math skills, and the joys of giving.

January 5th
PTO Meeting
January 6th
Sidewalk Sam
January 20th
50th Anniversary
Gala
***January 26th ***
Anti-Bullying
Program

Oakdale Elementary School

- The Oakdale holiday concert was held on December 16th. It was a festive celebration and the children did a fabulous job.
- On December 23rd, the student council was "Dressed for snow and ready to go". The students dressed in red and green, and the student council travelled through the school caroling for coins to be donated to charity.
- To encourage math conversations at home, Ms. Armstrong is sending home a math challenge problem along with her monthly newsletter. Each family is encouraged to participate and send it back to school.

January 3rd
PTO Meeting at the
Endicott Estate

January 10th
Rob Surette
presents Amazing
Hero Art.

Riverdale Elementary School

- The anti-bullying/conflict resolution programs Quit It (1st-3rd grades) and Bullyproof (4th and 5th grades) are continuing this year. Mrs. Sheehy, our adjustment counselor, and Ashley Anechiarico, a Simmons College graduate school student working with Mrs. Sheehy this year, are going into the 1st grade classrooms to work with students. The curriculum promotes friendship and empathy and teaches conflict resolution strategies. Each lesson includes activities geared to the developmental needs of students, such as: class discussions, role plays, creative drawing and writing activities, physical games and exercises and connections to children's literature. The children receive a vocabulary and a conceptual framework that allows students to understand the concepts of teasing and bullying. In the coming months ask your children what they have learned about getting along with others during Quit It and Bullyproof lessons.

January 10th
PTO Meeting

February 9th
Comedy Night and
Silent Auction at
the Dedham
Community Theater

Community Events and Announcements

The **Dedham High School Boosters Club** will host an "Italian Night" on Saturday, February 11th at Moseley's on the Charles. Proceeds benefit the students, musicians and athletes of Dedham High School. Contact Bob Crisp at 781-326-3316 for tickets or more information.

The **Dedham Education Foundation's** Annual Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, March 3rd. For more information, contact Tracey Nelson at 781-326-9824.

DID YOU KNOW???

There's a new way to
help your child's
teachers!

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.

This is a unique
organization that,
with very little
effort on your part,
could help you fill
classrooms with
everything from
notebooks to pencils
to computers. For
more information,
check online at
www.classroomwishlist.org.

Check it out today!