



The Pipeline

December 2005

Volume I Issue 3

Spotlight on Greenlodge

Greenlodge is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! There are many activities and events planned throughout the year to celebrate. Students will devote the January Sharing Assembly to life and historical events from 50 years ago.

Also, the Greenlodge School 50th Anniversary Gala will be held at the Endicott Estate on January 20th. The evening will include appetizers, coffee, desserts and a cash bar. There will be music and raffles to entertain. Come celebrate with friends!

The event runs from 7 p.m. to midnight and tickets are available for \$25 through the school. Call 781-461-5989 for more information.

Anyone with memorabilia from their years at the Greenlodge School is encouraged to share the wealth by loaning it to be on display at the gala. Individual, class or candid pictures, articles and other memorabilia are much appreciated. Please drop items off at the school office.

District Administration and School Committee

- The school year is flying by at warp speed! Teachers and administrators are working hard on several initiatives, including curriculum committees, sub-committees of the district Curriculum and Assessment and Professional Development committees. The sub-committees are: PreK-12 Technology, Elementary English Language Arts, Elementary Math, Elementary Science, Elementary Social Studies, Secondary Writing across the Curriculum, Middle School Math, High School Math, and High School Advanced Placement. Also, high school teachers and administrators will be reviewing procedures for parents nights, exams, and graduation requirements. Just think, in a blink of the eye it will be 2006! Happy Holidays to all!
~Peg Dougherty, Assistant Superintendent

Dedham High School

- Dr. Jeff Bostic of Mass. General Hospital captivated more than 50 guests at the most recent DHS Parents' Organization meeting. Dr. Bostic, who specializes in adolescent psychiatry, discussed adolescent development and how parents can most effectively deal with it. All who attended left with a greater understanding of this developmental age.
- A new Advanced Placement (AP) Committee, comprised of teachers, administrative staff and parents, has been created to examine the procedures and practices of DHS' AP courses. The committee has sent a survey to current and prospective AP students and their parents to inquire about the perceived benefits of enrolling in AP courses. Committee recommendations expect to enhance and enrich this program.
- Junior Dan Withrow was elected as delegate for Mass. Student Government Day. Katie Kelly was elected alternate delegate. On April 7th, both students will visit the State House to participate in a mock session of the state legislature and mock committee hearings.

Dedham Middle School

- For the next three months, students are attending MCAS Math Enrichment Programs for grade 6 and MCAS ELA Enrichment Programs for grade 7. Students voluntarily attend these weekly after-school sessions which are being taught by Middle School teachers.
- The Technology Consultant from Masscue, Laura Keating, met with teachers and parents to share ideas on the technology vision for the new middle school. Those ideas will be assimilated and consideration will be given to suggestions as we move forward with the technology plan for the new school.
- The new Middle School building is approximately 65% complete. The exterior brick is almost complete. The plan is that the building be waterproof and closed up before winter. Then, the interior work can continue during the bad weather. The roadway and new bus loop are also being completed. The interior area of the building containing the cafeteria, kitchen, gym, and administrative offices is waterproof and closed to the outside elements. The 8th grade wing is the furthest along; all of the interior walls are up and have two coats of paint. The 6th and 7th grade wing is the least furthest along. The target completion date is April 1, 2006 and work is progressing to meet that date.

December 7th
School Committee hosts Sen. Walsh and Rep. Coughlin
January 4th
School Committee meeting
Agenda: athletic programs at the middle school and high school

December 2nd & 3rd
Drama Club Presents "Final Dress Rehearsal"
December 5th
PTO College Financial Aid Night
December 14th
Winter Concert
December 16th
Progress Reports Issued

December 5th
PTO Meeting
December 12th and 13th
Chorus/Band Holiday Performance
December 15th
DMS Chorus at Dedham Savings
December 16th
Progress Reports Issued
Ongoing
Box Tops for Education

Avery Elementary School

- The School Committee unanimously approved the Avery School Improvement Plan. The plan, which will be posted on the school's website, calls for improvement to the school's academic achievement, communications, facilities and social climate. Copies will be sent home to each family.
- The 3rd graders are swinging hard at reading with the World Series reading program. Students are reading series books then score a "batting average" based on their recall of setting, character, plot and visualization.
- The 5th grade parents have overwhelmingly voted for the students to go to New York for the class trip, tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 7th. The next fundraiser is a pancake breakfast at Applebees, on Saturday, December 10th. Santa is also stopping by. All are welcome.

December 5th
5th grade parents meeting

December 10th
Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's

Curran Early Childhood Education Center

- The ECEC has formed an advisory committee to look into the drop-off and pick-up procedures at the school. Drop-off and pick-up were cited as an area of concern on a recent parent survey. The committee is hoping to look at ways to address safety issues and alleviate traffic problems caused by the shortage of parking. The first meeting will December 5th at 3pm.

December 2nd
Polar Express

January 11th
Go For The Stars Program

Greenlodge Elementary School

- The Student Council is spearheading a collection of used coats and jackets of all sizes in good condition for those in need. Collection boxes can be found in the lobby of the school.
- The School Council has distributed a survey to all families to gauge the strengths and needs of the school. The results will be used as the basis of a School Improvement Plan.
- Verizon Pioneers, a group of volunteers from the telecommunications industry dedicated to many civic causes, visited the school recently. They gave a dictionary to each 3rd grade student, donated a rug with the U.S. map on it for a classroom, and will return in the spring to paint the U.S. map and a map of the Solar System on the playground.

December 6th
2nd Annual Holiday Yankee Swap

December 19th
5th Grade Chorus Performs at Dedham Savings Bank

December 23rd
Holiday Concert & Sharing Assembly

Oakdale Elementary School

- As part of National Education Week, Oakdale is encouraging all students to turn off their televisions and read. When the students reach their goal of 1,000 minutes, Ms. Armstrong has promised to wear her pajamas to school.
- Pennies for Our Pals was initiated as a way to collect money to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Approximately \$3,000 was raised in the effort and will be contributed to the American Red Cross. Great job Oakdale students!
- Parent volunteers are being coordinated to read in each classroom during DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time.

December 6th
PTO party- Colonial in Norwood

December 7th
Earth Balloon Program

December 13th through 15th
Holiday Gift Shop

December 16th
Holiday Concert

Riverdale Elementary School

- Students at Riverdale have caught the attention of Doug Mirabelli as they launch a program called Read-a-While, Walk-a-Mile. The Red Sox catcher sent a letter challenging students to exercise both their minds and bodies over the next few months. His letter, which is signed and posted outside the library/media center, features a photograph of Mirabelli wearing a T-shirt proclaiming, "Riverdale is the Place to Be." In the program, the goal for each student is to read 13 books and walk 13 miles between November and the April running of the Boston Marathon. Parents and teachers will help keep track of the books that students read. Staff members will monitor walking distances at morning and lunch recess on a designated course on the playground. As the Red Sox season starts up in the spring, Mirabelli will be checking back to see who has met the challenge. More details will be available as the program gets started via the weekly notices.

December 12th
5th Grade Holiday Fest

December 13th
PTO Holiday Party

December 19th and 20th
Parent Conferences

DID YOU KNOW???

There is a comprehensive, web-based program that provides teachers, students, and PARENTS with instant access to age appropriate Internet sites, activities, and MCAS open response writing practice. And it can be accessed from home or any computer with Internet access!

This program, MASSLearns.com, is used by students and teachers throughout the Dedham school system everyday, and it is available at home for homework help and research.

The information is arranged by subject matter and grade level, making it easy to find the information you need.

You can access it by going to the Dedham Schools' website: <http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us/> (or any of the elementary school sites) and clicking on the "MASSLearns.com Guest Login" link.

Check it out today!

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

A note from Superintendent Antonio Fernandes on the Riverdale Principal Search

I am pleased to announce that the process identifying a new Principal for the Riverdale School is about to begin. I am looking forward to securing a dynamic leader and educator for this elementary school who will be a compliment to our excellent professional team. At this point in time, a Search Committee must be formed to assist in this important endeavor. The Search Committee will be composed of representatives of the School Committee, administration, staff and Riverdale parents, each stakeholders in our public school system. The committee will be expected to screen applications, participate in interview sessions and make a recommendation for the position. More details regarding meeting commitments will follow however, if you are an interested parent willing to serve on this committee, I encourage you to submit a letter of interest to my office no later than December 16. I would appreciate knowing a little bit about you and what you feel you would contribute to this collaborative effort. The address is Superintendent's Office, 1106 High Street, PO Box 246, Dedham, MA 02027. If you have any questions about the Search Committee or the process, please feel free to contact my office at 781-326-5622, ext. 11.

District Techology Update

The Dedham Public Schools has a variety of technology resources available to students and staff for teaching and learning. Computers are available in every classroom and library media center and are used by our teachers and students daily. Using an assortment of research-based software programs teachers are able to assess and reinforce the individual skills that our students need to succeed. For example, all of our students in grades 3-8 will be using the award winning web-based math assessment Yearly Progress Pro (www.yearlyprogresspro.com) this year. This program provides teachers with an individualized report for each student identifying the skills that need improvement, then assigns exercises to strengthen these targeted areas and records the student's progress. Skillstutor (<http://www.achievementtechnologies.com>) is another web-based math program that our students are using to practice and apply math skills.

This year we are very excited to introduce several new applications designed to support learning and teaching, including United Streaming and E-Instruction CPS. The United Streaming application (www.unitedstreaming.com) provides digital video on demand to our classrooms. This tool provides staff with access to over 40,000 educational video clips. Teachers can search this web site by grade level and subject area to quickly locate clips they can use to present information such as a complex math or science concept or to bring to life a historical moment in time. These videos can be shown to the class using the classroom computer. Video clips can also be downloaded and used in student multimedia presentations such as a PowerPoint show and used as a study aide.

Dedham Youth Sports

The **Dedham Youth Soccer** Board has requested that all interested players who wish to register for the 2006 spring soccer season do so by December 15, 2005. This is earlier than in the past. However, the Boston Area Youth Soccer organization requires that all towns submit rosters to the organization by the last week of December. Failure to do so can limit a town's ability to register the optimum amount of teams in the divisions it wishes to compete in. To encourage early registration, the DYS Board has instituted a registration schedule. Registration through December 15 will guarantee a child's placement on a team. Those who register between December 16 and December 30 will be placed on a waiting list. DYS will not charge a late fee during this period. Those who register after December 31 will be placed on a waiting list and required to pay a late registration fee. If you have any questions, please contact Bernie Dolan at mdolan2408@aol.com.

Community Events and Announcements

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.

Blue Hills Ski Area in conjunction with the Riverdale School is offering "The Junior Program" ski/snowboard lessons. The program includes five days of great fun and learning on the snow at blue Hills Ski Area, plus a BONUS Family Fun Day. Each participant will receive a FREE lift ticket for family fun day at Ragged Mountain Resort. The lessons will be held on Mondays beginning on January 2, 2006 from 5 – 5:30 PM. Rentals are available if required. Reservations must be received by December 15th. To participate, please contact Suzanne Kelleher at 781-326-5178.