



The Pipeline

November 2005

Volume I Issue 2

THANKS!

The first town-wide PTO meeting held on October 18th by the Dedham Educational Partnership (DEP) was a huge success and well attended. Jeanne Johnson, Director of the DPS Food Service, provided samples of the food our students are served and several high school students provided free babysitting while parents enjoyed a presentation by the School Committee and PTO Presidents. Each PTO shared important information and ideas. Superintendent Fernandes asked for volunteers for two committees being formed: the Wellness Committee and the Athletic Complex Study Committee. Anyone interested may contact Mr. Fernandes.

You may contact the DEP with ideas or suggestions for our newsletter at dep@dedham.mec.edu. We welcome your input.

Happy Thanksgiving!

District Administration and School Committee

- As many know there is no topic in education on which there is greater agreement than the need for "parent involvement" and communication. Increased communication and parental involvement are on-going initiatives of the School Committee. We bring both goals together in two events this month. I invite you to join us on November 2nd from 6-6:45PM at Town Hall for School Committee "office hours" and on November 9th for an interactive meeting regarding MCAS and our district being held at the high school at 7 p.m. Both of these events will be an opportunity for you as parents / community members to ask questions and learn about our system in a casual atmosphere. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!
~Dimitria Sullivan, Chair, Dedham School Committee

- *November 2nd***
School Committee office hours
- *November 9th***
Townwide MCAS results presentation at the High School
- *November 29th***
Presentation of curriculum initiatives

Dedham High School

- In order to implement the initiative to improve student writing across the curriculum, the English and Language Arts Department will be creating a committee to survey teachers to find out about their current writing practices, research the best practices in writing, and decide on a training module to bring to all high school departments.
- Two seniors deserve mention this month: Michael Torchio has been named a commended scholar by the National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test as a result of his scores on the PSAT and, as a result, is ranked among the top 5% of high school seniors across the nation. Richard Henderson is the student representative to the School Committee.

- *November 7th***
PTO Meeting:
Guest Speaker Jeff Q Bostic, M.D., Ed.D. – Raising and Surviving Adolescents
- *November 10th***
First Term Ends

Dedham Middle School

- In October, all 6th graders attended the Alton Jones program at the University of Rhode Island in order to promote team building in a wilderness setting. The program is designed to increase student appreciation, understanding and concern for the environment and for each other. URI's Environmental Education Center's field teachers are trained and experienced in outdoor teaching methods and work with the students in small groups to foster teamwork. There were programs involving low ropes and challenges along forest paths or open fields.
- Thirty-five members of the DMS chorus performed "America the Beautiful" in front of a crowd of 10,000 at opening night of the Providence Bruins' season. The students enjoyed the game after their performance.

- *November 18th***
Report Cards Issued
- *Ongoing***
Box Tops for Education

Avery Elementary School

- This month, students will be voting for four Student Council members. Nomination papers have been filed and campaign posters are being made. The council works with Principal Campbell to discuss school policies and improvements to the school.
- Beginner American Sign Language will be offered starting this month. Students will learn basic signs and communication as well as learn about the deaf culture and current topics in the deaf community. The 10 week class is open to students in grade 4 and 5 as well as adults. All schools are welcome to participate! Classes run from 3:30-4:30, in the school library. The cost is \$10 per class (pay as you come).

- *November 18th***
Comedy fundraiser at Kikuyama restaurant
- *November 20th***
Trip to see the Providence Bruins take on the Albany River Rats

Curran Early Childhood Education Center

- The three year old preschool program will continue as a pilot in the 2006-07 school year. One three day a week preschool class for 3 year olds will be held in the 2006-2007 school year. To be eligible, children must be 3 September 1, 2005.
- The Curran ECEC is beginning a series of programs with speakers on early learning issues and/or parenting supports. The first program titled "Realistic Expectations for Children" with Margaret Eaton, consultant with Home Health and Childcare, is scheduled in the gym November 7, from 7:30-9:00. This is open to all.

November 7th
PTO meeting
November 21st
Preschool lottery
November 22nd
MathStart Family Math Night

Greenlodge Elementary School

- Greenlodge welcomes the following new faculty: Susan Cummings and Meaghan Kenney (Grade 1), Cindy McGaffigan (Grade 5), Cindy Di Mascio (Special Education), Varsha Bhide (ESOL) and Katie Schmidt (Music).
- Fifteen members from the Council on Aging volunteer each Thursday to teach our students in grades 3 thru 5 knitting, crocheting, bead making, crafts, art, chess, and cribbage. It's a hit with students.
- The World Series of Reading is in full swing as the Red and Blue teams compete to see who can score the most runs. Each book that is read scores a run. The winning team gets to enjoy lunch in the gym and gets to choose a spirit event for the whole school. Last year's winners voted for "Wacky Wednesday".

November 15th
PTO Meeting
November 18th
Sharing Assembly
December 8th
PTO Meeting
December 15 & 16
Holiday Gift Shoppe

Oakdale Elementary School

- We have implemented Book Talks at Oakdale School. Each week a student from a different grade level gives a review on a book he or she has recently read. The Book Talks are done during Friday morning announcements.
- With each monthly school newsletter starting in November, there will be a principal's challenge included. Families can work together to find a solution to Ms. Armstrong's challenge.
- A recent production of Leland Faulker's "Dare to Dream" program was a great success and encouraged all children to use their powers of imagination.

November 8th
PTO meeting/Coffee with Principal Holli Armstrong
November 14th
School Governance Council meeting
November 18th
Third Grade Movie Night

Riverdale Elementary School

- We've started a program called "Caught being Good", which aims to promote a school atmosphere that encourages good work and acts of kindness to one another. Anyone in the school (student, staff member or parent) is encouraged to nominate others they catch "doing good". Students are then rewarded with a star with his or her name on it which is prominently displayed on a bulletin board inside the front door. Please drop in to see it! The children are very proud of their efforts!
- Each week during the school year Grade 5 students serve as "Office Helpers" during their lunch recess time. Pairs of students learn how to politely answer the phone, take messages, sort and distribute mail, notices and greet visitors to the school. The children enjoy this experience and their help is appreciated.

November 8th
PTO General Meeting
November 8th
Scholastic Book Fair in school library
November 14th-18th
Thanksgiving Basket Donations

Dedham Youth Sports

Dedham Youth Hockey's Learn To Skate program begins at Nobles & Greenough's Flood Rink on Sunday, November 6th, 12:30 p.m. for experienced skaters and 1:30 p.m. for beginning skaters. The program runs through mid-March and the cost is \$175.00. For more information, contact Neil Cronin at 781-329-6107 or ncroninjr@rcn.com.

Community Events and Announcements

The Dedham Junior Woman's Club will host a **Simon Evening of Giving** at the South Shore Plaza on Sunday November 20th from 7:30-10:30 p.m. This exclusive, after-hours shopping event kicks off the holiday season with a night of private shopping and family entertainment. Throughout the mall, there will be exclusive store discounts, door prizes, silent auctions, food sampling and more. To purchase a ticket to this wonderful shopping experience (\$10), please contact Abby Bragg at 781-329-2836.

The Junior Woman's Club **24th Annual Craft Show** will be held on Saturday November 19th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Dedham High School on Whiting Ave. Admission to the show is \$3.00 per person which includes an admission raffle ticket. Children under 12 are free. The show will feature many local crafters from Dedham, Norwood, Needham and Walpole. New to the craft show this year will be Pictures with Santa. Come and have your child's picture taken with Santa for \$7.00 each. Lunch will be served in the cafe and we will have a crafters' raffle. Proceeds from the show benefit the DJWC Scholarship fund, local charities and organizations.

From the State House

The state Committee on Education heard testimony for and against bills dealing with charter schools and charter school financing last month. Bills filed include one measure limiting the amount of charter school tuition deducted from the sending school district's state aid and another measure aimed at ensuring charter schools are held to accountability standards.