



The Pipeline

September/October 2005

Volume I Issue I

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first Dedham Educational Partnership newsletter. As an advisory group to the School Committee, the partnership hopes to improve student performance and achievement by strengthening the home/school partnership. This newsletter is one way to do that. We hope we can provide you with important information about the Dedham Public School District, and link all seven schools to the home and to the community at large.

In the newsletter, you will find information about our schools, PTOs, youth sports and community activities as well as School Committee and School Administration notices. We welcome your input and submissions at dep@dedham.mec.edu.

Thanks, and have a great school year.

~Your Dedham Educational Partnership representatives

District Administration and School Committee

Welcome to the 2005-2006 school year! We would like to take this opportunity to ask for your assistance in helping us provide the most effective educational program for your children. Your involvement and support is critical to student learning and success in school. As we move into the school year, a leading goal for the Administration and the School Committee is to heighten community awareness about the many fine attributes of our system. We intend to bring the community's attention to the level of professionalism and dedication that exists within our school district. The town of Dedham has a lot to be proud of-- starting with its schools. Sincerely, Superintendent Antonio Fernandes and Dimitria Sullivan, Chair, School Committee.

- *October 18th*
Townwide PTO meeting hosted by DEP-- dinner and childcare provided
- *October 28th*
No School for Professional Development Day
- *November 9th*
MCAS results presentation

Dedham High School

- Dedham High School is promoting initiatives to improve student performance and achievement. The first initiative will take place on October 12th as all sophomore and junior students will take the PSAT during the school day, rather than students electing to take it on a Saturday. The Guidance Department and administration are coordinating this pilot program. The second initiative is a program implemented through the English and Language Arts Department to require and improve student writing across the curriculum.
- The High School has welcomed 23 new staff members this fall, due to retirements and transfers. All departments have benefited from the new hires.

- *October 17th*
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- *October 29th*
Homecoming
- *November 7th*
PTO Meeting: Jeff Q Bostic, M.D., Ed.D. – Raising and Surviving Adolescents

Dedham Middle School

- The construction of the new middle school continues to proceed toward an April occupancy. Walls in the 8th grade wing are now complete.
- The significant reorganization of the 8th grade schedule is designed to better meet the needs of the students. Eighth grade students are housed at the high school but are instructed by 8th grade teachers and follow a middle school, not high school, schedule. Two reading teachers were added to the 8th grade to refine reading skills in all content areas.
- In grades six through eight, 23 new staff members were welcomed this fall. Students and teachers immediately appeared acclimated and engaged in the process of teaching and learning.

- *October 26th*
Halloween Dance (parent volunteers welcome)
- *Ongoing*
PTO is collecting Box Tops for Education

Avery Elementary School

- The Avery 5th graders are working hard to raise money for their spring class trip. As part of this, the students are running a raffle. Prizes are: 1st Prize: hand hooked "Dedham Village" rug by Anne Robb, 2nd Prize: 2 Red Sox tickets for the 2006 season (Grandstand seats), 3rd Prize: Dedham Middle School wooden replica. Tickets are \$ 1 each or 6 for \$5. To purchase tickets, please call Terri Heisler at (781)320-0477. The drawing will be held on December 16, just in time for the holidays.

- *October 15th*
PTO Playground Cleanup
- *October 21st*
Spooktacular
- *October 22*
Bottle and Can Drive
- *October 26th*
Bubblemania Assembly

Curran Early Childhood Education Center

- Preschool registration for the 2006-2007 school year begins November 1. Parents of children who are 4 years old by September 1, 2006 can pick up forms at locations around town. Applications must be postmarked by November 14th to be in the lottery. An information night on October 25 at 7 p.m. will help prospective parents learn more about the curriculum, program set up and lottery process.
- Kindergarten registration will be held the week of November 7 through November 10 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Center. To be eligible, children must be 5 years old by September 1, 2006 and residents of Dedham. Please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of residency with you.
- There are preschool and kindergarten scholarships available for families who meet state guidelines.

October 11th
Storyteller Andrea Lovett performs for students
October 25th
Preschool information night
November 22nd
MathStart with Stuart Murphy runs all day

Greenlodge Elementary School

- The 2005 school year started out smoothly at Greenlodge! We introduced students to Lodge, a lime-green, fluffy dog. In the first week, students brought in other green stuffed animals to help him make friends. Through Lodge, we will learn about diversity. Lodge will learn to play with different animals of all colors and hopefully find out that, "It is easy being green!"
- The Greenlodge School is participating in a project called Inquiry-Based Learning through Recording Earthquakes in the Classroom: Inviting Students into the World of Science Research. This project is in collaboration with Boston College and the Weston Observatory. A seismometer has been installed in the school and students will learn about using technology in science and education.

October 19th
First grade spaghetti supper served by second grade families
October 21st
Sharing assembly
October 27th
Social Mall and Cafe/Bazaar

Oakdale Elementary School

- The Oakdale School warmly welcomes new principal Ms. Holli Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong began her teaching career in Walpole in 1990. In 2002, she became assistant principal at Fisher Elementary School in Walpole. The Oakdale School community is excited about a new beginning and the new school year.
- New school initiatives include a student job program. Students in grade 4 and 5 apply for jobs within the school, like Media Assistant, Main Office Helper, and Environmental Action Committee. A fifth grade Student Council has been formed. The council meets with Ms. Armstrong to discuss community service opportunities, spirit days, and fifth grade concerns. Oakdale School has also initiated a school-wide incentive program to recognize individual student excellence.

October 11th
PTO Meeting
October 14th
Reading Assembly
October 14th
3rd Annual Oakdale Cocktail Party
October 22nd
Fun at BJ's Kickoff

Riverdale Elementary School

- Riverdale is pleased to welcome two new additions to our staff along with two new interns! Mrs. Abbie Fox is Riverdale's new fourth grade teacher. Filling the position of interim principal is Mr. Bob Heaton, former principal of the Avery School. Mr. Heaton graciously returned from retirement to assist our school while the search takes place for our new permanent principal. Also, we are happy to announce that Ms. Heather Kirby will be teaching all 1 - 5 grade music instruction. Ms. Kirby will be hosting a student teacher from Boston University. We are sure that they will offer a fun-filled year for all students. Mrs. Elaine Sheehy, our Adjustment Counselor is being assisted by an intern counselor from Simmons College.

Ongoing
Grandma's Coffee Cake Fundraiser
October 27th
Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest
October 29th
The Hay Ride at town-wide Unity Day

Dedham Youth Sports

Dedham Youth Basketball ("DYB")-- Registration for DYB will take place Monday October 17, 2005 at the Endicott Estate from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. Discounted registration fee is \$50 per child & maximum of \$110 per family if form and payment is received on or before 10/28/05. For registration form & more information, go to dedhamyouthbasketball.org.

St. Mary's CYO Basketball-- Teams are being formed for boys & girls in grades 5-12. Anyone interested in playing competitive basketball is invited to register. Cost is \$135 per player. Registration forms are available at the Parish Center and can be returned there as well. Checks may be made payable to St. Mary's CYO Basketball. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required. For more info, call Bob Hickey at 617-620-7995 and leave a message.

Community Events and Announcements

Dedham Education Foundation-- DEF hosts its annual Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, October 20 at the American Legion on Eastern Avenue. This year's honorees include: Marge Bohan (DHS), Carol Dixon (Riverdale), June Doe and Cindy Kelly (DMS), Tricia Girouard (Community volunteer) and Paul Sullivan (ECEC). Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased from Jeanne Boudrow at 781-329-6909. Also, DEF is accepting applications for the annual grants program until October 31. The foundation will award a total of \$18,000 to deserving applicants for educational and enrichment programs conducted in Dedham Public Schools or programs which will enhance achievement in schools. For more information, contact Gemma Martin at 781-329-6207.

Dedham High School Alumni Association-- The association hosts a "fun" raiser, a get-together to raise money for the high school on Nov. 4th. There will be refreshments, music by Suzanne Lockwood of Suzie Cue Productions and dancing. Tickets are \$15 per person at the door. Reserve a table by calling Janet (Caccia) O'Connell at 508-668-2267 or Jeanne (Trovato) Kozak at 781-461-5978.