



Mashpee

A Connected Community

December 2019 Update

Superintendent Patricia DeBoer

It's GREAT to be in MASHPEE for you, for me, for us.



Dear Mashpee Community,

There are many reasons to be proud of the Mashpee Public Schools. We are a small, student-centered school system that thinks BIG. Our innovative partnerships, programs, and learning experiences, together with a culture that values relationships, set us apart from other districts. We live by a “whatever-it-takes” mindset. This year, we are asking all members of our connected community to go that one degree further and experience achievements that we may have never thought were possible *#212TheExtraDegree*.

Congratulations to MMHS senior Peter Gonzalez who is Mashpee’s recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents’ Certificate of Academic Excellence for school year 19-20. Peter is currently ranked second out of 112 seniors with a weighted GPA of 103.85 and unweighted at 97.7. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the treasurer of Mashpee’s Mu Alpha Theta Math National Honor Society. Peter is an active member of HOSA—Health Occupations Students of America. He has a future goal of becoming a cardiologist. Peter has applied early action to Harvard and UMass Amherst and applied regular decision to Brown University, the College of the Holy Cross, University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Northeastern University. Peter is a member of the MMHS varsity baseball team.

The Blue Falcon Theater Company did a wonderful job with their fall production of *Discovering Amelia*. Congratulations to the cast and crew, as well as to Director Mrs. Celeste Reynolds.

MMHS senior and Key Club member Julie Cambra needs our help. Julie has chosen Thirst Project for her senior project and has the goal of raising \$12,000 to construct a well to help address the water crisis for several African villages. 43% of African children don't have access to clean water, 1.6 million kids will die every year due to waterborne illnesses. As of right now the Thirst Project has created 13,018 wells and helped over 413,427 people get access to clean drinking water in 13 different countries. If you would like to learn more, please visit <http://www.thirstproject.org/>. Julie is hoping that her Mashpee Community will choose to donate to this project. Donation checks can be made payable to Mashpee Middle-High School with reference to Thirst Project in the memo. As little as \$25 can help give clean water to one person in Africa for life. All donations go directly into the construction of a well. Julie thanks you for your support.

Congratulations to the following MMHS seniors who are recipients of a John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: Deshawn Adler, Caitlyn Boyd, Dillon Cakebread, Aldona Casey, Christopher Cliff, Nicholas Daley, Peyton Dauley, Liam Donovan, Diana Geoffrion, Peter Gonzalez, Mary Hachey, Teresa Hachey, Nathan Howard, Emily Kelleher, Kaylee McCarthy, Benjamin Nadzeika, Benjamin Olson, Anna O’Neill, Nicholas Perrone, Dasia Peters, Stephen Robinson-Wahl, Isabelle Scott, Parker Shea, Kelley Skantz, Ross Smith, Kevin Webb, and Eduarda Zanoni. The Adams scholarship is merit-based. To qualify a student must score in the Advanced category on one of three high school state assessment tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, or STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering), score in the Proficient or Advanced category on the remaining two high school state assessment tests, and have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.

Congratulations to the following MMHS student-athletes for being recognized as South Shore League All-Stars for the fall sports season: Paige Lundberg (Field Hockey), Gabriela Santos (Cheerleading), Dylan Barger (Boys Soccer), Samantha Kersey and Kaylah Hall (Girls Soccer), Colin Spencer, Kyle Puchol, and Jack Spencer (Golf), and Nolan Lyons, Devon Hughes, Jack Vinitsky, Matt Bowen, and Jared Barr (Football). We so enjoyed watching these players and their teammates play. Dylan Barger and Samantha Kersey were also both selected as Eastern Massachusetts All-Stars. Colin Spencer was selected as a Boston Herald All-Scholastic for the second year in a row.

The Quashnet School 6th Grade Student Council recently had the opportunity to attend a Peer Leadership Training at Bridgewater State University presented by the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC). The purpose of the conference was to identify key factors of bullying and cyber bullying and to build awareness of how students have the power to prevent such actions from occurring. Members were broken into focus groups to identify issues they wanted to address. They researched and created programs they would like to implement to educate their peers on the importance of treating others with respect. Work on their programs will continue during their Student Council meetings throughout the school year. Following the conference, the students toured the Bridgewater State University campus. The members of the Student Council represented the Quashnet School and the Town of Mashpee with professionalism and pride. They look forward to sharing their experiences and educating their peers with the skills and knowledge gained during this engaging and worthwhile conference.

Congratulations to the Quashnet School Chorus. Their very creative "Carousel of Kindness" entry in last week's Mashpee Christmas Parade won "Best in Parade." Thank you to Botello Lumber for supporting this project. Thank you also to Quashnet staff members Jane Emery, Terri Richards, Cheryl MacIntire, Kris Hill, and Alaina Boyd, and to our parents for creating and supporting this wonderful opportunity for our students. The Quashnet School singers did an outstanding job!

November marked the Coombs School's third year participating in Jumpstart: Read for the Record. This annual and national event brings together millions of adults and children from around the world to read the same book on the same day in order to raise awareness about the critical importance of early literacy. This year's book selection was *Thank You, Omu!* All classroom teachers received a copy of the book to read to their students and to add to their classroom library. Specialists Kim Palmer and Meg Smith, together with CFCE coordinator Bethany Gay, put together an interactive experience that extended beyond the book by creating a greenscreen reading of the book with narration coming from volunteer staff members. The Falcon Place, our Coombs School makerspace, was set up so students could complete an activity to further connect with the book. Since the story was illustrated using a collage format, students created their own artwork using the same medium. This was a great event for all of our students and staff—an opportunity to collectively celebrate the joy of reading in collaboration with our valued partnership with the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Network which focuses on providing child development services and resources to families with young children.

With the holiday season upon us, please know that our schools, in partnership with our very generous Mashpee community, are working hard to ensure that all of our families and children are supported. Last Friday night, the Coombs School held its annual Giving Tree family event. This was a very well-attended evening that not only provided a fun family experience, but also added to the collection of gifts that will be distributed to our families in need. Thank you to the Coombs School PTO for sponsoring this event and to nurse Stacey Schakel for all her efforts collecting, organizing, and distributing donations. Thank you to MMHS students and Project 351 members Skyla Rimple and Katrina Mayen for organizing a fundraising spin-class event at B-Spoke which raised \$1,050 to support the Quashnet Cares Food Supplement Program. Cape Kid Meals supports Quashnet and KCC students with food and snacks over the weekend and over school vacation weeks. We are pleased to participate in this Cape-wide program. The cost per child to participate in this program is \$150 per year. We have received monetary donations from several local organizations, clubs, and individuals so there is no charge for the students who participate. If you would like more information on Cape Kid Meals, either to support a child or to have your child participate in this program, please contact Principal MaryKate O'Brien or Jane Emery at 508-539-1550, ext. 4100.

As of today, we have completed 68 days or 37.8% of school year 19-20. On a daily basis we strive to ensure that academic engaged time is maximized for each student and that each student is able to demonstrate growth. In my visits to classrooms, I am impressed with the instructional strategies and learning opportunities provided to all students and designed to improve outcomes. The success and well-being of every student in our district are always at the forefront of our daily work and every decision we make. We need our wonderful students to be present every day in order for our well-planned instruction, standards-based curriculum, and supportive learning environments to positively impact their academic and social/emotional growth. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. If your child has been absent 7 or more days so far this school year, he/she is considered to be chronically absent.

We will continue to work closely with each family to improve attendance with the shared goal of every student being present as many days as possible for the remaining 112 days of school year 19-20. For more information about the impact of student absenteeism on learning, please visit <https://www.attendanceworks.org>.

We look forward to expanding opportunities to build and nurture a connected community that is filled with strong partnerships and productive relationships designed to improve the educational outcomes for every Mashpee student while also enriching the lives of all involved.

We are grateful for the opportunity we have been given to serve the families of Mashpee. Through our use of a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework, every student has access to instruction, curriculum, and an environment that ensures achievement of his/her academic and social/emotional projected growth. Thank you for trusting us with your children.

As Rita Pierson says, every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and who insists that they become the best that they can possibly be. The children of Mashpee are embraced by a CONNECTED COMMUNITY that is filled with champions—and for that we are very grateful!

PLEASE STOP IN AND VISIT US AT #WeAreMashpee, OUR OUTREACH SITE LOCATED AT 11 GREENE STREET AT THE MASHPEE COMMONS.

STAY CONNECTED TO US

Mashpee Public Schools' website: <http://www.mpspk12.org>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PDeBoerMPS> or <https://twitter.com/MashpeeSchools> (Follow #Mashpee)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MashpeePublicSchools/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mashpeepublicschools/>

MMHS Athletic Schedules: <http://miaa.net/schools/public/MashMa>



MMHS senior Peter Gonzalez
with his brother, Thomas, and parents, Ana and Pedro



Katrina Mayen and Skyla Rimple



2019 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients



Quashnet School Chorus—“Best in Parade” Award



MMHS South Shore League Fall All-Stars (not pictured: Kyle Puchol)



MPD Officer Katie Hennessey with Coombs PreK student Ty Martunas



Michele Burd with her sons Ryan and Cameron enjoying the Giving Tree event at the Coombs School