



Mashpee

A Connected Community

March 2020 Update

Superintendent Patricia DeBoer

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



Dear Mashpee Community,

It is with great sadness that we share with you that our Mashpee family has lost one of our youngest members. Bryson Hendricks, a preschooler at the Coombs School, passed away peacefully last Saturday night due to medical complications. Bryson was a bright light in the lives of all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed. Bryson's sister, Aquilla Hendricks is a student at the Quashnet School, and his brother, MaDarrius Burgo, attends the Mashpee Middle-High School. We will all miss Bryson very much and will spend difficult moments grieving his loss. Please keep Bryson and his family in your thoughts and prayers. A GoFundMe page has been established to help offset expenses related to Bryson's illness and passing.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/aa3vk9-teambryson>

Our students and staff would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Mashpee historian and educator Frank Lord. Frank passed away on February 7th at the age of 87. For many years, Frank worked closely with our third graders educating them about Mashpee. His influence and impact are forever a part of us. We are so grateful to have had this amazing man be part of our MPS family. He will be greatly missed.

This month's #212TheExtraDegree district theme is PERSEVERANCE. How often do you demonstrate perseverance?

On March 3, approximately 240 members of our MPS staff participated in an emergency preparedness drill at MMHS. We are now all better prepared to respond to a threatening intruder. This drill was expertly planned by Mashpee Detective Brett Calhoun and was supported by members of the Mashpee Police Department, the Mashpee Fire Department, the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office, the Dennis Police Department, the Chatham Fire Department, the Falmouth Fire Department, and the Cotuit Fire Department. The level of expertise and skill demonstrated by participating first responders, combined with the collaboration observed among responder teams, created confidence in each MPS employee that in a true emergency situation we will be well supported. We are so grateful to work in Mashpee—A connected community.

The coronavirus (which causes the disease officially named COVID-19) has been declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization, which brings feelings of uncertainty, fear, and worry to many of us and our families. While it is important that we remain alert to evolving information about the virus and the public health response, we also need to manage our reactions to the developing news. Tips for managing anxiety related to the unfolding news: (1) Rely on trusted sources of information like our state department of public health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for updates; (2) Do not fall for false information online. It is very easy for inaccurate or even dangerous information to be shared rapidly on social media; (3) Remember that local and national public health agencies have done a good job with managing previous viral outbreaks; (4) Follow guidelines for avoiding the spread of any virus, such as hand washing, sneezing or coughing into an elbow, and staying home from work or school if you are not feeling well; and (5) Prioritize usual strategies for managing anxiety. Use relaxation techniques, mindfulness, and exercise.

The Mashpee Public Schools are closely monitoring the COVID-19 influenza pandemic outbreak. The safety and well-being of our students and staff are priorities for us. We are staying informed through daily communications from the CDC and DPH. We are also in close communication with our school physician, Dr. Greg Parkinson, and the Board of Health. Our custodians are vigilant about cleaning classrooms, common areas, and frequently touched items such as door knobs, light switches, railings, and water dispensers. Moving forward, we will make any necessary adjustments to our practices and protocols based on the threat level in Massachusetts and the recommendations of the CPC and DPH.

We are now accepting applications for our SY 20 – 21 School Choice Program. The first application window is open until March 31st. Please share with your friends who live outside of Mashpee all the reasons

why they should choose MASHPEE. For more information and to obtain a school choice application, please visit our website or call our office at 508-539-1500.

Congratulations to MMHS 11th grader Zachary Taylor for achieving the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America—Eagle Scout! This is quite an accomplishment—a goal achieved only through dedication, hard work, PERSEVERANCE, and high moral character. Zach is an exemplary member of our Mashpee community.

We are pleased to share with you another reason why it's great to be in Mashpee: The Mashpee Public Schools has been awarded a second Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant in the amount of **\$202,175**. These funds will be used to create a health services clinic space at Mashpee Middle-High School. The grant will outfit a lab space within the school's technology center with the necessary equipment so students can be certified in health and medical assisting careers, including Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), Home Health Aides, and Medical Assistants. The equipment will also create opportunities for us to offer adult training programs in the evening. Our community partners for this project include the Community Health Center of Cape Cod, Comfort Keepers (home health care providers), Cape Cod Healthcare, Mashpee Fire and Rescue, Laurentide, and the MassHire Cape and Islands Workforce Board. It's great to be in Mashpee!

If you have had the experience of visiting the B-wing at Mashpee Middle-High School recently, you've probably wondered, "What smells so good?" If you were in the hall during a class meeting of the eighth grade "Exploratory" course, it could be powder biscuits, carrot cake, or some leavened dough. Maybe, it is a high school culinary class making empanadas, spring rolls or perogies, learning about the differences and similarities of different cultures and cuisines. But, if it smells like you are walking past the kitchen door of one of Mashpee's finest restaurants, then you are in the building during a meeting of the ProStart class. Over twenty students are currently enrolled in this second-year culinary class which is part of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) department. Dressed in their matching chef's coats with each student's name embroidered on the sleeve, the ProStart class is most likely practicing a menu for our student-operated pop-up restaurant, the *Falcon Cafe*. Fully licensed by the town as a commercial dining establishment, our *Falcon Cafe* serves a new menu with each opening, a menu selected and developed by the ProStart students with an emphasis on exploring a new cuisine and serving the *Falcon Cafe* market--the staff of Mashpee Middle High School. Significantly different than a culinary program at a vocational technical school, our ProStart students are in class as an elective, meeting just one period a day. When ProStart students serve a *Falcon Cafe* menu, they arrive from their English, math, or history class, wash their hands, put on their coats, and then, less than six minutes after solving an equation, are often serving their first customer.

When they are not running a restaurant, the ProStart students are learning the business management side of the industry. This year, they have started two programs focused on serving new markets. The first, *Falcon Cafe @ Home* offers a "make at home" version of a recent *Falcon Cafe* menu. For example, if you enjoyed the Southwest Chicken with Root Vegetable Hash from the *Falcon Cafe*, ProStart students will pack all the ingredients for the recipe, allowing you to prepare the dish in your own kitchen for your family's enjoyment. Through the "@ Home" program we hope to generate enough revenue to support another program we're calling "*Falcon on the Fly*." The idea for this program came from a ProStart student who was travelling to competitions with her Varsity Cheerleading squad. Through this program, we provide a bag meal to any traveling Mashpee student athlete. Often returning from away competitions late in the evening, the "*Falcon on the Fly*" program provides Mashpee's student athletes with a nutritious meal, avoids a stop at a fast food restaurant, and reduces the team's time on the road.

This past Tuesday four members of our ProStart team competed against schools from across the Commonwealth at Gillette Stadium. In just sixty minutes, these student chefs executed a three-course meal from scratch! This event was attended by All-Star members of the New England Patriots and famous local TV personalities. The ProStart Invitational was an immensely challenging and exciting experience for our students. It's great to be in Mashpee because of our creative students and our outside-of-the-box thinking.

MMHS eighth grader Andrew Kelley, Mashpee's current Project 351 Ambassador, is our local leader for this year's "Cradles to Crayons" project. Cradles to Crayons was founded on the philosophy of sharing and recycling quality children's items for newborns through age 12. We invite you to look in closets, drawers and shelves at home for new and like-new clothing, shoes, books and toys that have been outgrown or replaced by a new favorite. Donations may be dropped off at the main office at MMHS.

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.

An example of PERSEVERANCE was demonstrated on February 29th by the Quashnet School Robotics Team. This determined group of fifth graders built VexIQ robots and represented their school in two regional competitions. This inaugural group was recognized for teamwork and sportsmanship. When faced with the adversity of a broken controller, they continued to try to fix and adjust to make it work. They never gave up. The team did an excellent job representing the Quashnet School and Mashpee. FYI: Next year we will be expanding the VEX team for Grades 5 & 6 students. It will be a year-long club.

The Quashnet School's annual Family STEAM Night was a great success! It was wonderful to see so many students and their families join in the learning fun. QS STEM teacher, Mrs. Whiddon, and her team of Quashnet staff volunteers did an amazing job of creating and facilitating engaging activities. The school was humming with excitement and engagement!

Second grade cub scouts at the Coombs School recently teamed up with STEM teacher Ms. Martin to run a collection drive for the MSPCA. Toys, treats, towels, blankets, and monetary donations were collected for shelter dogs. The students presented their project to the entire school and explained the importance of community service and working together to help those in need. The donation box overflowed on drop-off day, and parents and pack leader Latoya Green helped deliver the donations to the Centerville MSPCA. The scouts got a behind-the-scenes tour of how the MSPCA operates and how the donations would be used. The MSPCA was grateful for the donations. We so appreciate our staff and families who supported this service project!

Parent and Coombs School paraprofessional Rebecca Davis kindly brought her 6 baby chicks for a visit to our Coombs School STEM classroom. Students were engaged and learned from Ms. Martin how to act quietly and calmly in the presence of baby animals. They made scientific observations including: one black and white chick, aptly named "Oreo", was the most talkative; the chicks are practicing flying but can't fly yet because they don't have all their feathers; they huddle together for warmth and safety; they peck at the ground looking for food; and they need to sleep and rest a lot as they are doing a lot of growing. Second grader Avery Hartnet, who started volunteering in PK STEM, confidently assisted Ms. Martin in the handling of the chicks, being sure to hold them carefully with their wings down so they felt safe and secure. Many children were interested in hearing that chickens can make great family outdoor pets that also provide food in the form of fresh eggs each day!

The Coombs School launched its first ever One School, One Book read *Fenway and Hattie*. Each family is reading the book at home, focusing on specific chapters each week. In school, students are listening to the story and participating in a variety of activities relating to the book including discussions, trivia, and makerspace projects. The Reading Carnival, which will take place on April 2, 2020, will focus on the book. The program will culminate with a two-day visit from the book's author, Victoria Coe. The program was kicked off on March 2, 2020, with Spirit Week and a *Rally at the Rail*. Softball and baseball players from MMHS participated in the event, acting as role models for Mashpee's youngest students. We are so grateful to the KCC PTO for purchasing the books and for funding the author's visit.

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, located at 11 Greene St., Mashpee Commons

STAY CONNECTED TO US

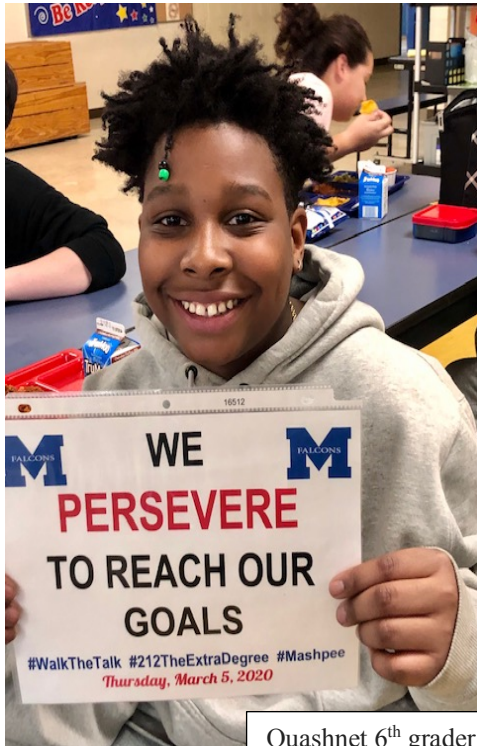
Mashpee Public Schools' website: <http://www.mpspk12.org>

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

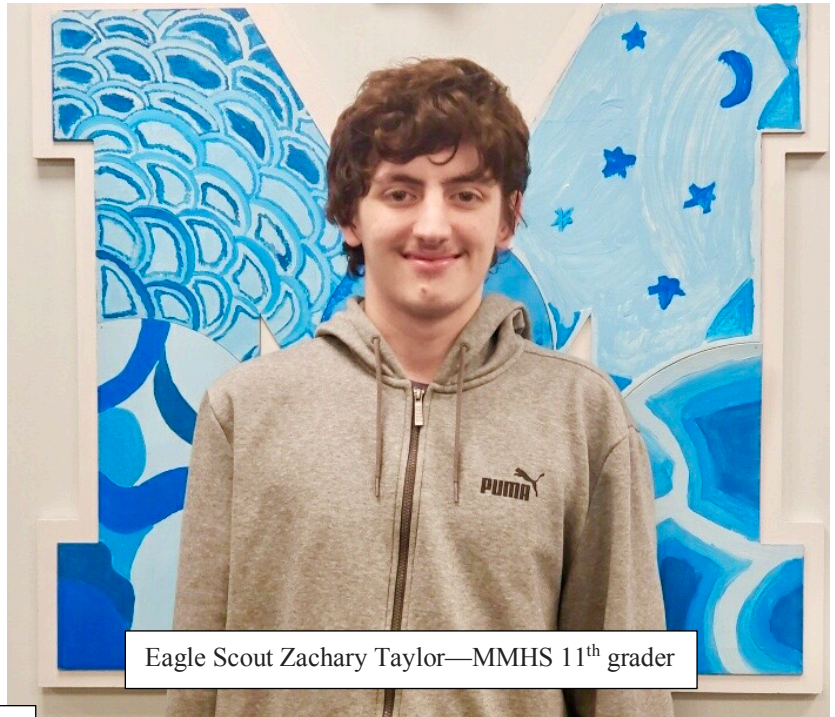
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MashpeePublicSchools/>

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

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



Quashnet 6th grader Kaiel Smith



Eagle Scout Zachary Taylor—MMHS 11th grader



Mashpee's Portrait of a Graduate



Quashnet fifth grader James Dean at STEAM Night

KCC students-boy scouts Chris Marino, Jameson Hughes, Tyler Demers, Noah Riker, and Jesse Klopfer are pictured here with Ms. Martin.



MMHS ProStart Students: Nate Reed, Samson Brooks, Dillon Cakebread, Liam Burton, William Baker, Jeremy Roberts, Hannah Shields, Abigail McGrory, and Adriana DeSimone. Also pictured: MMHS educator Chef Stoloski

