



Mashpee

A Connected Community

February Update
Superintendent Patricia DeBoer
It's GREAT to be in MASHPEE!



Dear Mashpee Community,

Every day is precious. Together we can fill the remaining 11 months of 2018 with amazing moments! As a reminder, the very BEST students attend the Mashpee Public Schools. I ask that you embrace them and celebrate what makes each one special. Today is DAY 100 of school year 17-18, and 55.6% of the school year is already behind us. We strive to ensure that academic engaged time is maximized for each student and that each student demonstrates growth. 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.

Today marks the final day of National School Counselors Week. We would not be able to meet the needs of our students and their families without our highly skilled and amazing counselors. This week and every week we are grateful to Lindsay Kett, our district-wide Director of Guidance, Dan Patenaude, Deanne Almeida, Patricia Farrell, Julianne McCuish, Greta McCue, Meg Morrison, Sean Withington, Jamie Needre, and Phoebe Lambert.

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.
(Chad Hymas)

Community Connections

Please join us at the third annual Coombs Staff/Parents vs. Quashnet Staff/Parents PTO-sponsored basketball game which takes place tonight, February 9, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Quashnet School gymnasium. This not-to-be-missed "friendly" competition is filled with high-fives, laughter, and community spirit. Each school has won the trophy once, so tonight's game will be the tie-breaker.

On February 14th from 8:00 AM - 10:45 AM, Mashpee Middle-High School will be hosting a Career Fair for students in grades 9 - 12 in the gym. This will be an opportunity for students to connect with professionals in fields such as health science, law, public safety, corrections, security, technology, business, and many others. We are still looking for community members to share their knowledge and experience at this event. If you are interested in speaking to students about your profession, please contact Lindsay Kett at lkett@mpspk12.org.

We are grateful to Kathleen Wilbur, Program Manager of the Southeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership at Seven Hills in New Bedford, for providing a very informative presentation to a group of Mashpee educators on the topic of vaping. We are hopeful to provide a similar learning opportunity for our parents.

The Quashnet School held an energy carnival on January 25th. This hands-on learning event for students was coordinated by MMHS teacher Amanda Hough in partnership with the Cape Light Compact. The MMHS "student-teachers" engaged our younger scientists in an array of energy-related activities.

The annual Water Festival for fifth graders at the Quashnet School took place today. We are grateful for our partnership with Americorps for providing this hands-on, station-based fun learning event to our students.

Students at both the Quashnet School and at the Coombs School recently participated in field trips to the Cotuit Center for the Arts. These field trips provided outstanding learning experiences for our students. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful organization and resource so close by to enrich our students' learning.

Thank you to Southport Falcon Lisa Spring for making and donating beautiful fleece scarves for Quashnet School students and their siblings. Thank you also to Evelyn Kuphal (Mrs. MacIntire's mother) and grandparent Lorri Finton for knitting hats and scarves for our students and their siblings. Beyond the warmth that these items provide is the warmth felt by the kindness and generosity of these individuals.

Reminder: A Bay State Textiles White Collection Box has been placed at the Mashpee Middle-High

School and also at the Coombs School. These boxes provide an easy opportunity for our families and community members to discard unwanted clothing (including shoes), purses, household linens, stuffed animals, etc. The items donated are picked up on a weekly basis. Based on the weight of the textiles collected, a rebate is paid to the Mashpee Public Schools. This is an easy way for our connected community to eliminate unwanted textiles from their homes and at the same time support our students and our programming.

Middle-High School (MMHS)

Congratulations to the following MMHS students who participated in the All-Cape Music Festival last Saturday at Barnstable High School: Shane Barros, Alexia Brandt, AJ Cambra, Elise Carroll, Maggie Connolly, Jaedyn Eurenus, Aidan Goddu, Myranda Goveia, Anna Josselyn, Alison Landry, Natalia Rimple, Remi Shea, and Clara Signs. We are very proud of these talented students and are also grateful for our two MMHS music teachers Liesl Keller and Andy Troyanos for consistently going above and beyond for our students.

The first annual induction ceremony of the newly formed chapter of the Ted O'Rourke chapter of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society will be held Monday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mashpee High School auditorium. The inductees in Grade 12 are: Sydney Costa, Meghan Howard, Celia Krefter, Shane LaCroix, Robert Nasuti, and Joshua Vinitsky. Grade 11 inductees are: Cassandra Baker, Ethan Barr, Madison Eagan, Caroline Henley, David McKelvey, Sarah McNamara, Nicholas Storey, and Noah Tellez. The purpose of Mu Alpha Theta is to stimulate a deeper interest in mathematics and promote scholarship in mathematics. Candidates must have and maintain a cumulative unweighted average of 85% in their math classes. As part of their membership duties, students will participate in peer tutoring for all levels of Mathematics. This will be available on an individual basis, as well as through the tutoring workshop which will be held on Thursdays after school for students in Math 7 up through Algebra II. Our chapter is the Ted O'Rourke chapter of Mu Alpha Theta. Ted was the first mathematics curriculum Chair for Mashpee High School when the school opened its doors in 1996. Ted was instrumental in forming the Mathematics Department and its curriculum. He was a mentor to many students and faculty members alike. Ted was always coming up with different ways to promote the love of mathematics whether through project-based learning, puzzles or the famous NIM contest. We felt it appropriate to honor his contributions to Mashpee by naming our chapter after him. MMHS senior Meghan Howard is starting the Ted O'Rourke Chapter as her senior project.

Each month the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators organization (MassCUE) highlights the work of an educator who is a member of MassCUE. Congratulations to Michael Looney, our Director of Career and Technical Education, for being selected for this recognition for February. Mr. Looney orchestrates innovative practices in Mashpee, as well as at the state level. His mix of business and vocational high school experience have equipped him well to foster and lead STEM education. Mr. Looney is a proponent of project-based learning both in and outside of school. He also believes in the importance of connecting with students as people, as well as, building strong connections with community partners. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Looney as a member of our MPS team.

Congratulations to the following MMHS teachers who have achieved Google Level 1 certified educator status: Stephanie Soares, Kristen Deschamps, Danielle Burton, Brianna Drake, Melanie Desley, and Brian Kehrl. We celebrate these life-long learners who spent their own time gaining additional skills and knowledge to improve their practice and to be able to provide support to their colleagues.

We are excited to have met all requirements so that our Falcon Café is now licensed by the Board of Health to serve food to anyone. We are currently exploring ways to expand opportunities for our students to apply their culinary knowledge and skills in our restaurant setting.

Quashnet School

On two January evenings, the Quashnet School gymnasium was filled with student-musicians whose beautiful voices and melodious instruments provided another reason why "it's great to be in Mashpee." Thank you to music teachers Kris Hill and Alaina Boyd for teaching and guiding our young student performers. The audience of family, friends, and staff members greatly enjoyed both performances. Music education in our schools is so very important to us and to our Mashpee community.

Did you know that in 2010 the Quashnet School K-Kids initiated an anti-bullying bill that was signed into law by Governor Duval Patrick? Well, that was the start of No Name-Calling Day in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which is designated for the fourth Wednesday in January. The Quashnet School students and staff celebrated KINDNESS WEEK from January 22 - 26. The K-Kids decorated the halls, organized a food drive, and planned wonderful activities. K-Kids is a division of the Kiwanis Club whose mission is to make our world a better place by helping children and their communities. Encouraging civic awareness and participation can never start too soon. Choosing to be kind every single day will make our world a better place.

In regards to the upcoming Quashnet School repair/renovation project, Principal O'Brien met with Mashpee Deputy Fire Chief Phelan last week to ensure safety evacuation plans will be in place during construction. This is a necessary step in the process as some fencing will be installed in select areas around our school. In the case of a fire drill or actual emergency we want to ensure the safety of all students and staff by knowing that the fencing does not impact any egress areas. Windows for Phase 1 of the project have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in time for the April vacation start time. The window and door frames will be a stainless-steel color, the exterior solid doors will be a deep blue, the solid panel doors that open into the interior courtyards will be silver. The main entrance doors of the Quashnet School, as well as of the Superintendent's office will be mostly glass with stainless-steel silver trim. Security measures have been taken in regards to construction workers who will be onsite during and after the school day.

We are very grateful to DPW Director Catherine Laurent and her team for scheduling the library to be painted over the February vacation. While this is not part of the repair/renovation project, it is a necessary step as we move forward with our plans to upgrade our 40-year old library space.

Coombs School (KCC)

The Coombs School is hosting its annual Math Night on February 13th. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to explore and participate in hands-on learning with their children. We are grateful to the many members of the KCC staff who volunteer their time to make this such an outstanding experience for our families.

Similar to the recycling program currently in place during lunches at the Quashnet School, Coombs School students are learning how to sort their lunch waste to be more environmentally friendly. We are hopeful that some of the veteran recyclers who attend the Quashnet School will join us during their recess blocks to guide our students in this lunchroom process. Thank you to STEM teacher Katie Martin for leading this project and to DPW Director Catherine Laurent and Food Services Director Gus Stickley for supporting our efforts.

Thank you to Quashnet School sixth graders from Ms. Baccaro's homeroom for their recent visit to the Coombs School to read with our first graders in Mrs. Jones' homeroom. Student-to-student partnerships are so important.

KCC Librarian Meg Smith provided a wonderful pajama story time event for our kindergarteners on the evening of January 11th. We appreciate how Meg consistently goes above and beyond to provide engaging experiences for our students and their families.

At KCC, educators are implementing a new model for providing "What I Need" (WIN) literacy services. In grades K-2, students are working in small groups with staff, using interventions that are precisely tailored to specific needs. These intervention groups meet each day for 45 minutes; and after 25 school days, the groups are adjusted based on the needs of the students. Interventions include readiness skills, ranging from visual tracking, visual memory, and core strength activities (ask your child to show you how to do an "egg" or "Superman" pose!) to students engaging in research activities. Students are having a great time moving to their WIN classrooms each day and are loving the fast-paced, engaging activities; 45 minutes goes by in the blink of an eye!

We are grateful for the opportunity we have been given to serve the families of Mashpee. We are continuing our district-wide implementation of a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) so that 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.

It's GREAT to be in Mashpee—A Connected Community.

Please explore these links to stay connected to us:

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PDeBoerMPS> or <https://twitter.com/MashpeeSchools>

Mashpee Public Schools' Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MashpeePublicSchools/>

Mashpee Public Schools' Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mashpeepublicschools/>

Coombs School Principal's Blog: <https://kccfalconeye.blogspot.com/>

Quashnet School Principal's Blog: <http://qsmashpee.blogspot.com>

MMHS Principal's Blog: <http://mmhsprincipal.blogspot.com/>

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

MMHS Online Newspaper—The Falconer: <https://www.thefalconer.net>



MassCUE Educator of the Month for February
Michael Looney—MPS Director of Career and
Technical Education

MMHS 11th grade
Technology and Engineering
student Autumn Jackson
created this beautiful clock.



Congratulations to MPS
team members Danielle
Burton, Brianna Drake,
Melanie Desley, Brian
Kehrl, Kristen Deschamps,
and Stephanie Soares for
becoming Google Level 1
Certified Educators. Your
hard work is appreciated.



Kindergarteners Sophia Crowley and Ginny
Richard explore slime in Mrs. Richmond's class.



4th graders Alexis Gallagher, Eva Bohun, and Natalie Campbell
send a powerful message with their #PositiveSignThursday sign.