



# *Mashpee*

## *A Connected Community*

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



Dear Mashpee Community,

Every day is precious. Together we can fill the remaining ten 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. As of today, we have completed 64% of the school year 17-18. 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.

*"Don't miss out on something that could be great just because it could also be difficult."* Chad Hymas

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, our leadership team met with our school resource officer to finalize plans for two emergency drills. One of our goals was to have the drills take place at the same time at each of our schools and at a time when a team of police officers would be present at each school to provide support and feedback on our practices. Sadly, just after our plans were finalized another school tragedy occurred in Florida, reinforcing the reality that these drills are a necessary part of today's public-school education. The first drill took place last Monday. Each school's drill was similar but tailored to the ages of the students at the school. All of our staff members have been trained in the ALICE emergency response model: A- Alert; L-Lockdown; I-Inform; C-Counter (if necessary); E-Evacuate. The ALICE response is not meant to be sequential, meaning an educator and our students may make a decision based on the specific information of the situation. For Monday's drill, evacuation was not part of the drill. The ALICE model provides our educators with strategies and tools to be proactive decision-makers in emergency situations—allowing us to take back control from a potential intruder, and, in turn, saving lives. During the drill and in follow-up discussions with our students, we continued to emphasize to them that they are safe in school, and, that by working together and listening to their teacher, we can achieve positive outcomes. On an ongoing basis, our leadership team continues to work with our emergency responders to evaluate current security at each of our school buildings, to review practices and procedures in place, and to plan for improvements in all areas—some of which require funding.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Youth Council is holding a "Taste of Mashpee" event at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Building, 483 Great Neck Road South tomorrow, Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. We hope to see you there.

***Monthly Emergency Preparedness Tip (March): Ask a friend or relative who lives outside of your area to be the contact person in case your family is separated. Give family and network members the contact person's phone number and email. This may be the best way to reconnect with loved ones if local phone service is down.***

### **Community Connections**

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the MMHS Kiwanis Key Club officers, Brianna Cheatham, Rumen Dzhulev, Sophia Snider, and RaiJean McFarlane, together with Club Advisor Deb Troyanos, presented the projects they've completed so far this year to the Mashpee Kiwanis Club. These students are leading activities that are making our world a better place. One of the most impactful activities of the year has been spending time with the residents of Bridges, an assisted-living facility within walking distance to MMHS. MMHS senior Grace Shinn also presented her senior project to the Mashpee Kiwanians. "Taylor's Message" is an alcohol awareness program that Grace plans to bring to her peers and their parents prior to this year's prom.

Our community is invited to join us as we celebrate "Music in our Schools" month with a district-wide celebration concert at Mashpee Middle-High School on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Instrumentalists and

vocalists from all Mashpee schools will share their talents. This is one of many outstanding annual events in the Mashpee Public Schools.

Our community is also invited to the Mashpee Blue Falcon Theatre Company's production of "The Little Mermaid" at Mashpee Middle-High School on Friday, March 23 (7:00 PM), Saturday, March 24 (1:00 PM and 7:00 PM), and Sunday, March 25 (2:00 PM). The ensemble cast includes students from our elementary schools, our middle-high school, and staff members.

Congratulations to the Coombs School Men's and Women's basketball teams (staff and parents) who both won their games against the Quashnet School teams—taking home the trophy for the second year in a row. Thank you to the PTOs from both schools for organizing this free, fun family event. Thank you to our MMHS cheerleaders, our KCC cheering squad, and the Quashnet School jazz band for adding to the spirit of this event.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, fifth graders at the Quashnet School were provided with a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Wampanoag culture from their Native American MPS peers. We are very grateful for our talented Native American students and for their generosity in sharing their culture with us. Thank you to David Weeden and Marlene Perry for planning this "Wampanoag Day." Thank you also to the Quashnet School PTO and to the Mashpee Cultural Council for supporting this outstanding event.

We are very excited to announce that we have finalized a partnership with the Mashpee Commons. Through their generosity, we have been provided with a large retail space that will serve as an outreach location for the Mashpee Public Schools (12 Central Square). Our Mashpee Commons satellite location will be called **#WeAreMashpee**. Through this valued partnership with the Mashpee Commons, the Mashpee Public Schools will be able to showcase our outstanding programs and opportunities, highlight the accomplishments of our students and staff, and offer school-related/school-created items for sale to Mashpee residents and visitors. We anticipate student performances, interactive exhibits, virtual tours, and opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting. This location will provide us with an off-campus outreach opportunity, providing easy access for our connected community to learn more about our schools. This partnership is a collaborative effort promoting "Why it's great to be in Mashpee."

Congratulations to the following Coombs School and Quashnet School students whose art is on display in the "Through Young Eyes Exhibit" at the Cape Cod Museum of Art located in Dennis. Coombs art teacher, Kim Palmer, was allowed to select up to three artists to represent the Coombs School. This year's artists are: Kindergarten student Owen Davis, and second grade students Alexa Topalska and Dierdre Tokla. Quashnet School art teacher Lauren Richards selected sixth grader Hannah Rogers and third graders Lucienne Gauquier and Sienna Ahern-Harding to represent the Quashnet School. Each student demonstrated excellent use of the Elements and Principles of Design, skills and craftsmanship in completing their projects. The exhibit runs from February 15<sup>th</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Tomorrow night everyone is invited to support a wonderful community event: Our MMHS hockey team will play a game against the Mashpee Police Department at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center (7:30 PM – 9:30 PM)

**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 four members of the Class of 2018 who participated in National Signing Day on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Tara Palermo signed to play lacrosse for St. Leo University; Zach Landry signed to play baseball for Franklin & Pierce University; John McNamara signed to play football for Merrimack College, and Ben Bohnenberger signed to play football for Colgate University. We are very proud of these hard-working students.

We are also very proud of senior Rachel Barrows and the MMHS Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) for launching the #MashpeeHasYourBack campaign. This campaign is about creating a community that is diverse, inclusive, accepting, welcoming, and safe for every single individual. Any member of our community who

would like to learn more about the project and display a poster in your workplace is encouraged to contact the MMHS main office. We'll get you connected to Rachel.

Congratulations to MMHS senior Anthony Gonsalves on being named the South Shore League Tobin Division Boys Basketball Player of the year. If you have had the pleasure of watching Anthony play in a game, you know he is a person who works very hard, who always gives more than 100%, and who puts team before self.

Congratulations to our basketball cheerleaders for placing second in last weekend's division competition. With their second-place finish, they have qualified for the state competition which is this Sunday at Whitman-Hanson High School.

MMHS Principal Balestracci, School Resource Officer Brett Calhoun, and I met with a team of MMHS students who are planning an #Enough student assembly for March 14<sup>th</sup>. This event is scheduled for 10:00 AM on the 14<sup>th</sup> and will last 17 minutes to honor the 17 lives lost at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and to express their collective voice that more funding is needed to improve school safety and to treat individuals with mental health challenges. Because the student planners want this experience to be a positive, productive, and impactful gathering and based on the safety recommendation of the Mashpee Police Department, the decision was made by the planners to hold the event in the MMHS auditorium. This venue will also provide the technology needed for student speeches and will support their showing a PowerPoint presentation that they are creating. Posters are also being created. Students are encouraged to wear their Mashpee blue and white on March 14<sup>th</sup> to show unity. All participants will receive an orange ribbon pin created by the planners. After the event, students will be given the opportunity to sign two petitions—one requesting additional funding for school safety and the other requesting additional funding to address mental health challenge among our youth. These petitions will then be provided to both our state and federal legislators. Additional Mashpee police officers will be on our campus in support of this event. Any student who does not wish to participate in the event will be given another option during the assembly. We are very proud of MMHS students Stella Bold and Peyton Dauley for their leadership of this event and for all the planning and thought they have put into making it a meaningful and safe experience for all participants.

Join us next Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM for this year's National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony. Congratulations to the following MMHS juniors and seniors: Ian Ahearn, Michael Barrows, Adrianna Briggs-Mitrokostas, Brianna Cheatham, Brooke Costs, Peyton Costa, Sophia Costa, Jamie Daley, Worthington Dennis, Gianna DePaolo, Jessica Dillis, Mackenzie Dutra, Rumen Dzhulev, Bryce Eaton, Cache Foster, Emily Franks, Michael Fraser, Maia Fudala, Chloe Gallagher, Mikayla Gallagher, Kristin Kondracki, Alison Landry, Aiva Lehmann, Kyle Lemelin, Charles McKeran, John McNamara, Carolina Morgado, Jessica Nachilo, Emma Nunes, Isaac Perry, Kevin Pultz, Ethan Robbins, Mitchell Teixeira-Campbell, Joshua Vinitsky, Haley Welch, Nakalia Williams, and Rebecca Wilson.

Our community is also invited to attend this year's National Honor Society induction ceremony on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM. Congratulations to the following MMHS students who have met all the requirements for membership: Cole Lorig, Caitlin Boyd, Anna O'Neill, Emily Kelleher, Teresa Hachey, Julia Medeiros, Sonia Hellwig, Peyton Dauley, Aldona Casey, Kelley Skantz, Mary Hachey, Megan Pons, Diana Geoffrion, Zoe Farren, Maddelyn Souza, Ivey Sickorez, Ella Morry, Tia Ladd, Alexis Wenzel, and Kristin Kondracki.

### **Quashnet School (QS)**

The Quashnet School held its annual STEAM night on March 1<sup>st</sup>. This impressive event provided families with a multitude of creative hands-on learning challenges facilitated by amazingly dedicated Quashnet student-centered educators as well as by community partners. Such a well-attended and enjoyable event!

Congratulations to the following Quashnet students who participated in last Saturday's All-State Treble Chorus in Boston: Charlie Jenkins, Alyssa Whalen, Harlee Rohrer, Leighton McGrory, Maria Vilas Boas, Mackezie O'Sullivan, Talia DiMaggio, and Eve Mayen. Thank you to Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Hill for supporting our students in this experience. These students represented the Quashnet School so beautifully.

The Quashnet School's Kiwanis K-Kids are sponsoring a penny drive for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society again this year. Collections will run from through March 21<sup>st</sup>. Last year the Quashnet School raised close to \$4,000 for the cause. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has set the school's goal at \$2,018 for this



year, which we are certain will be met and far exceeded. If the school raises over \$650, the homeroom that raises the most will be treated to an Olive Garden Luncheon! To our Mashpee community, if you have any loose change you can spare for a great cause, you may drop it off at the Quashnet School's main office.

The Quashnet's Annual Talent Show will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium at MMHS. This is another wonderful event showcasing our many talented students.

### **Coombs School (KCC)**

We celebrate second grader Colton Baker who used time during his February vacation to apply what he has learned from STEM teacher Katie Martin. To protect his animal friends and our environment, Colton picked up trash on South Cape Beach.

Students and staff at the Coombs School celebrated Dr. Seuss during the week following February vacation. Dr. Seuss and his work were evident in many activities across all content areas.

Kindergarten registration is currently underway at the Coombs School. Children currently enrolled in our pre-school program do not need to register for kindergarten. Children **MUST** be 5 years old by August 31, 2018 and be cleared by the health office prior to the start of kindergarten. They must have their 5-year-old immunizations, current physical, lead and vision screening submitted **BEFORE** the start of school in September, 2018. Parents/Guardians may submit updated physicals and immunizations as soon as they are completed to the health office. If you are unsure about what health information your current preschool student will need, please call Nurse Stacey at 508-539-1526.

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**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>



A. KCC 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Colton Baker is helping keep South Cape Beach clean

B. McKay Auger is enjoying Quashnet's STEAM night

C. Rachel Barrows--#MashpeeHasYourBack campaign





- A: Brianna Cheatham, Rumen Dzhulev, Sophia Snider, and RaiJean McFarlane—Key Club Officers  
 B. Preschooler Atticus Jankowski shows his Dr. Seuss spirit.  
 C. Quashnet student Hannah Rogers shows her artwork on display at the Cape Cod Museum of Art.  
 D. Coombs student Owen Davis shows his artwork on display at the Cape Cod Museum of Art.  
 E. Both the men's and ladies' Coombs School parents and staff basketball teams defeated Quashnet.  
 F. MMHS student Caesar Hendricks teaches Quashnet School fifth graders about his Wampanoag culture.  
 G. MMHS seniors Tara Palermo, Zach Landry, John McNamara, and Ben Bohnenberger—Nat'l Signing Day  
 H. MMHS basketball cheerleaders have qualified for the state-level competition.

