

Bedford Public Schools

Superintendent's Newsletter



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It is a privilege for me to compile the first newsletter of the 2004-2005 school year and in so doing congratulate the Town of Bedford on its 275th Birthday. The start of a school year is always exciting as our students and faculty return and begin to add text to the “clean slate” that awaits each of them upon their return to the classroom. As we begin this year, I want to commend our town leaders for the extraordinary efforts they invested individually and collectively to support a budget that has enabled us to sustain the high quality programming that is a hallmark of the Bedford Public Schools. The collaborative efforts of the Bedford School Committee and town leaders have been and will continue to be instrumental in the development of budgets that are able to support the important work we do.

That work, you should know, begins in earnest each summer as the administrative team begins the preparation for the new school year with a two-day retreat graciously hosted again this summer by Middlesex Community College. The retreat is designed to build team commitment, review new policies and procedures, and prioritize the key system goals for the upcoming academic year. At the conclusion of the retreat, administrators receive a text selected to inspire and support our work. This year we have selected the text *Family Matters* by Robert Evans, a well-known local clinical and organizational psychologist who has worked extensively with administrators, teachers and school committees in schools throughout the nation. In the introduction to the text the publisher describes this as a “provocative book” that “takes a sharp look at the enormous changes occurring among children and parents and the dilemma these changes pose for schools.” Not one to mince words, Rob Evans offers controversial insights and concrete suggestions designed to highlight what he sees as the challenges that face families and schools in our fast paced society.

As we look forward to the start of the 2004-2005 school year, the addition/renovation project for the high school continues to pose our most significant challenge. Funding from the Capital Budget has been instrumental in allowing us to make progress in terms of some of the facility deficits cited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the accreditation agency for Massachusetts high schools; however, Bedford High School will continue on “warning” status with the NEASC until such a time as all the facility needs are addressed. As you know, the moratorium for the state funded School Building Assistance Program (SBA) forced us to delay the presentation of the high school Schematic Design to the Annual Town Meeting in March, 2004. The next step for the project will now include a presentation to Special Town Meeting this fall. In preparation for STM the Schematic Design Committee has prepared a project that is divided into two phases. Phase 1 is designed to address the NEASC issues relative to the Science Labs independent of SBA funding. Phase 2 is designed to complete the renovation of the entire building with the assistance of SBA funding. With the recent lifting of the SBA moratorium, the Bedford School Committee is evaluating the best financial strategy for this project. More detailed information will be available to you this fall when the Schematic Design Committee hosts a series of community forums on this topic. In addition to significant facilities work, the summer also represents a busy hiring season for the schools. We will welcome 30 new teachers and three new administrators. Dr. Henry DeRusha

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Fall 2004

Special points of interest:

- Key System Goals
- Report Card for the Bedford Public Schools
- Calendar for Workshops and Parent Conferences
- MCAS Calendar

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will replace Vicki Simms as our Assistant Superintendent, and Donnette Owens will assume the position of METCO Director replacing David Adams who has moved to Virginia Beach. In January, 2005 Mary Koert will replace Barbara Koren who is retiring from her position as Director of Special Education. In addition, we welcome Maureen Sullivan, a long standing member of the English Department, to her new role as acting Program Administrator for English, and Lois MacGregor to the position of Program Administrator for Special Education at Bedford High School.

Key system goals for 2004-2005 include: Completion of a five year *Strategic Plan* for the system; presentation of the *Schematic Design for Bedford High School* to a Special Town Meeting in the fall; and a continuing system-wide focus on *Closing the Achievement Gap*. In addition, we will continue efforts to improve *communication* with the community through the ever-expanding webpage and greater use of electronic communication with our families.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Bedford Public Schools, I want to thank the residents of this special town for your support for the schools and our efforts to serve your children.

Maureen LaCroix, Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Highlights

As the Bedford Schools embark on a new school year, the district will continue to build on many significant curriculum and professional development successes that took place last year. During the 2003-2004 school year, program administrators and curriculum leaders worked with faculty to establish many noteworthy curriculum enhancements.

Because of mandated changes in the new social studies state frameworks, grade four teachers instituted a new curriculum and are using a new textbook called *Our Country's Regions*. The new curriculum focuses on North American geographic regions including Mexico, the United States and Canada, and it addresses the cultures, geography, economics, climate and history of the different regions. Other significant textbook changes that took place involved grade nine science and grade six mathematics. In grade nine, a new program called *Physics First* was implemented in response to requirements of the Massachusetts Frameworks, which now places physics as the first stepping-stone in high school science, switching from the traditional biology-chemistry-physics sequence. By teach-

ing physics to students in grade nine, and then chemistry and biology in later years, teachers seek to help students understand more deeply the concepts and connections across the sciences. In mathematics, the School Committee approved a change for sixth grade students from the *Everyday Math* program to the *Connected Math Program*. The new program is a standards-based program that is part of the same textbook series in use in grades seven and eight for the past four years.

In addition to changes in the mathematics pro-

gram at the middle school, mathematics was a subject area under full review in all of the elementary grades. The Math Vertical Team, under the leadership of the elementary curriculum coordinator, met on early release days throughout the year to develop grade level assessment tools that will be implemented this year to help create an improved understanding of individual student performance in mathematics for all students in grades one through five. In the primary grades, teachers and many teaching assistants of grades kindergarten through two participated in a ten hour workshop, "Developing a System of Tens," that was held at the Davis School over the span of several early release days. The content workshop series helped teachers to gain a better understanding of how young students conceptualize numeration theory.

For several years the Bedford district has focused staff development training on the topic of differentiated instruction to assist teachers in addressing the differentiated learning needs of all students learning at all ability levels. Our work in promoting the practice of differentiating instruction is continuing throughout the district. Through an af-

KEY SYSTEM GOALS 2004-2005

- Completion of a 5-year *Strategic Plan* for the system.
- Presentation of the *Schematic Design for Bedford High School* to Special Town Meeting in the fall
- Continuation of system-wide focus on *Closing the Achievement Gap*

filiation with an organization called "Teachers 21," a thirty-six hour course was offered to teachers of grades kindergarten through twelve. Twenty-five teachers signed on last year, bringing the total number of Bedford teachers who have participated to fifty individuals during the past two years. At the Lane School, teachers developed a guided reading program using literature circles to address a range of reading abilities that exist within individual classrooms. At the middle school level a new Gifted and Talented/Differentiated Instruction position was initiated. Among other responsibilities, the new position served as a resource for middle grade teachers who sought to incorporate differentiated curriculum and instruction into classroom practice on a daily basis. At the high school level, English teachers joined other English teachers from towns throughout the state to attend a Boston University content institute hosted by the Bedford Public Schools utilizing best practices of differentiated instruction through drama, fiction and poetry.

Significant progress in implementing Vision 2011 was achieved last year. Vision 2011 is a local initiative approved by the School Committee in the spring of 2003 that established ways the district will use technology to enhance teaching, learning, communication and administrative functioning in the future. A complete description of the initiative is found on the district's web page. Implementation efforts last year centered on using technology to promote improved student learning. Vision 2011 calls for students to actively use technology to do three things: to acquire information not available through traditional sources, to build and assimilate knowledge, and to communicate their understanding. Study teams (called MEET teams) consisting of six teachers were formed in each of the four schools and intensive technology training was provided to all participants. Curriculum units were modified to better incorporate the use of technology and student centered projects were developed. During the past two years more than fifty classroom

teachers have participated in the intensive technology professional development program, and four new teams will be formed for the upcoming school year.

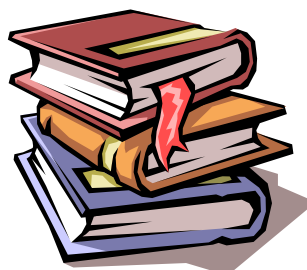
Another noteworthy curriculum accomplishment that took place last year included an expansion of the WETT initiative at the Davis School. The WETT project centers attention on Cattail Corner, an onsite wetlands ecosystem, to integrate science, math and language arts activities in a real world setting. In the spring Davis School received an "Excellence in Environmental Education" award for accomplishments in environmental education. Several teachers and students attended a special ceremony at the State House in Boston to receive the award. Throughout the year students in grades kindergarten through two submitted written works for publication in the school's newsletter, *Cattail Quarterly*.

The curriculum accomplishments of the past year will provide a foundation for continued district-wide curriculum improvements planned for the new school year. A complete outline of curriculum initiatives for the new school year will be included in the Superintendent's Goals and will be posted on the district web page in early September. For these, and for other important school announcements and reports, please be sure to check our web page often (www.bedford.k12.ma.us).

Remembering the Wisdom of Mr. Rogers

"The very best reason parents are so special...is because we are the holders of a priceless gift, a gift we received from countless generations we never knew, a gift that only we now possess and only we can give to our children. That unique gift, of course, is the gift of ourselves. Whatever we can do to give that gift, and to help others receive it, is worth the challenge of all our human endeavor."

Fred Rogers



Personnel Changes

New Faces

Suzanne Alberich—Reading Teacher, JGMS
Sema Arakelian—Grade 2 Teacher, Davis
Stacey Bartolomeo—Special Education Teacher, JGMS
Libby Beinert—Physical Education Teacher, JGMS
Gina Cobin—Spanish Teacher, BHS
Nicole d'Entremont—.5 Reading Teacher, BHS
Tom Flaherty-Dawson—Kindergarten Teacher, Davis
Lisa Flannery—French Teacher, BHS
Wendy Gilman—Special Education Teacher, BHS
Douglas Gray—Special Education Chairperson, JGMS
Linda Gustafson—.8 Special Education Teacher, BHS
Melissa Hamilton—Science Teacher, BHS
Rebecca Incledon—Long Term Music Teacher, BHS
Samantha Kane—Library Media Specialist, Davis
Rachel Keegan—Library Media Specialist, Lane
Meghan Kelleher—English Teacher, BHS
Kristie Kimball-Dorey—Grade 1 Teacher, Davis
Brienne Martinson—.4 Grade 6 Teacher, JGMS
Vincent McGrath—Long Term Mathematics Teacher, JGMS
Andrew Moore—English Teacher, BHS
Lauren Murray—Grade 6 Science Teacher, JGMS
Dan Niven—English Teacher, BHS
Christine O'Reilly—Mathematics Teacher, BHS
Joshua Steffen—.7 PE/Health Teacher, JGMS
Kimberly Sylva—Grade 2 Teacher, Davis
Kristen Tocci—English Teacher, BHS
Vanessa Underwood—Mathematics Teacher, JGMS
Donald Valentine—Social Studies Teacher, BHS
Laurie Willey—Physical Education Teacher, Davis

To Be Announced

.6 Industrial Arts Teacher, JGMS

Mathematics Teacher, JGMS

.5 Inclusion Specialist, Lane

.5 Special Education Teacher, BHS

.2 Mathematics Teacher, BHS

New Assignments

Nicole Barrila—Grade 4 Teacher, Lane School

Marilyn Bemis—English Teacher, JGMS

Holly Carroll—Special Education Teacher, JGMS

Brendan Desilets—Grade 6 Teacher, JGMS

Allison Hammer—Social Studies Teacher, JGMS

Peter Jacob-Dolan—English Teacher, JGMS

Beth Kirn—(.5) Grade 3 Teacher, Lane School

Lois MacGregor—Program Administrator Special Education Department

Maureen Sullivan—Interim Program Administrator English Department

Carrie Taylor—Venture, JGMS; Family and Consumer Science, BHS

Retirees

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of these teachers best wishes in their future endeavors as they retire:

Gary Hunt—Mathematics Teacher, BHS

Barbara Jones—Physical Education Teacher, JGMS

Carol Kelly—Library Media Specialist, Lane School

Marcia Marlow—Grade 6 Teacher, JGMS

John Reynolds—Social Studies Teacher, BHS

Judy Reynolds—Mathematics Teacher, JGMS

Marjorie Rull—Spanish Teacher, BHS

Vicki Simms—Assistant Superintendent

Bob Wakeham—Social Studies Teacher, JGMS

New Faces in Central Office

Henry DeRusha
Assistant Superintendent



Dr. Henry DeRusha has recently been appointed Assistant Superintendent. Most recently Dr. DeRusha served as Bedford's Director of Research and Technology. Prior to coming to Bedford, Dr. DeRusha served as the K-8 Instructional Technology Specialist for the Brookline Schools. In addition, he spent twenty-four years in school leadership as a Superintendent of Schools in Sudbury, MA, an Elementary Principal in Newton, MA, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator and Instructional Technology Specialist.

Dr. DeRusha received his B.S. in Education from State College, North Adams, MA, his Master in Education from Boston University, and his Doctor of Education Degree from Boston College.

Donnette Owens
METCO Director



Donnette Owens has recently been appointed to the position of METCO Director.

Donnette earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Emmanuel College in 1995 in English Communication with a minor in Speech and Theater.

Her professional experience includes work with the Steppingstone Foundation, the Fields Corner Main Streets Initiative, the Boston Medical Center, American Red Cross, City Bank, and the B.E.L.L. Foundation.

Mary Koert
Director of Special Education



In January, 2005, Mary Koert will assume the position of Director of Special Education. Mary has most recently served as the Director of Special Education for the Dexter Community Schools, in Dexter, MI. She has also served as the Director of Special Education for the Region V School, Washtenaw County in Chelsea, MI. Mary has over nineteen years experience as a Special Education teacher.

Mary received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences with Elementary/Special Education from Grand Valley State College, Allendale, MI, her Master of Arts Degree in Special Education/Learning Disabled from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI.



School Resource Officer

During the 2003-2004 school year, the schools officially welcomed Officer Kristen Dineen aboard as a School Resource Officer (SRO). Police Chief Jim Hicks had secured a federal grant for the addition of an SRO position designed to support families and to serve as a bridge between the police and school department. Officer Dineen's primary assignments will be at the middle and high schools; however, she will be available for special events at both Lane and Davis.

Calendar of Events 2004-2005 School Year

| <u>August 2004</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| 31 | Opening Day of School, Grades K-12 | | |
| 31 | Kindergarten & Grade 1 Orientation | Lt. Eleazer Davis School | |
| <u>September 2004</u> | | | |
| 1,2,7,8,9 | Kindergarten & Grade 1 Orientation | Lt. Eleazer Davis School | |
| 3-6 | LABOR DAY WEEKEND—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 7 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 10 | First Full Day for Kindergarten & Grade 1 | Lt. Eleazer Davis School | |
| 10-12 | Madrigal Weekend | Lincoln, NH | |
| 14 | Back to School Night | Lt. Eleazer Davis School | 7-8:30 PM |
| 15 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 16 | Senior College Planning Night | Bedford High School | 7-9 PM |
| 18 | Bedford Day | | |
| 21 | Back to School Night | Lt. Eleazer Davis School | 7-8:30 PM |
| 23 | Back to School Night—Grade 3 (Parents only) | Lt. Job Lane School | 6-7:15 PM |
| 28 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 30 | Back to School Night—Grade 4 (Parents only) | Lt. Job Lane School | 6-7:15 PM |
| <u>October</u> | | | |
| 5 | Back to School Night | Bedford High School | 6-9:00 PM |
| 6 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 7 | Back to School Night—Grade 5 (Parents only) | Lt. Job Lane School | 6-7:15 PM |
| 8 | FULL DAY WORKSHOP—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 11 | COLUMBUS DAY—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 12 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 13 | Take Time for Families | All Schools | |
| 14 | Open House—John Glenn Middle School | John Glenn Middle School | 7-9:15 PM |
| 20 | POMS Meeting/Concert | Bedford High School | 6:30 PM |
| 21 | College Fair/Financial Aid Night | Bedford High School | 7-8:30 PM |
| 26 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |

Calendar of Events

2004-2005 School Year

November

| | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------|---------|
| 3 | WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES— EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 9 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 11 | VETERANS' DAY—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 17 | WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES— EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 18 | JGMS Vocal Concert | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 19 | Tournament of Plays | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 23 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 24 | THANKSGIVING RECESS—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 25-26 | THANKSGIVING RECESS—NO SCHOOL | | |

December

| | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES— EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 1 | Parent Conference Night—BHS | Bedford High School | 4-8:00 PM |
| 3-4 | Madrigal Dinner | John Glenn Middle School | 6:00 PM |
| 14 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 15 | BHS Band/Orchestra Concert | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 16 | JGMS Band/Orchestra Concert | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 21 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 22 | BHS Vocal Groups Concert | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 24-31 | VACATION—NO SCHOOL | | |

January 2004

| | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|---------|
| 3 | Schools Reopen | | |
| 4 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 11 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 12 | Wind Ensemble Recitals | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 14 | WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 17 | MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 18 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |

Calendar of Events 2004-2005 School Year

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 25 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 26 | Winter Concert—Lane School | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 27 | Open House Grade 3 | Lt. Job Lane School | 6-7:15 PM |
| 28 | Junior/Senior Semi-Formal | TBA | 7-11:30 PM |

February

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 3 | Open House Grade 4 | Lt. Job Lane School | 6-7:15 PM |
| 8 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 10 | Vocal Showcase—Middle School | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 15 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 17 | Open House Grade 5 | Lt. Job Lane School | 6-7:15 PM |
| 17 | Grade 8 Parents Night | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 21-25 | WINTER VACATION | | |

March

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES— EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 8 | School Committee Meeting | Roxbury Community College | 7:00 PM |
| 10 & 17 | Celebrations of Learning | Lt. Eleazer Davis School | 6:30-8:30 PM |
| 16-19 | High School Musical | Bedford High School | |
| 21 | WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 22 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 25 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 28 | Annual Town Meeting | Bedford High School | |
| 31 | Middle School Musical | JGMS Auditorium | |

April

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 1-2 | Middle School Musical | John Glenn Middle School | |
| 5 | Band Vertical Concert | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 6 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 7 | Strings Vertical Concert | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 12 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |

Calendar of Events 2004-2005 School Year

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------|
| 18-22 | SPRING VACATION | | |
| 26 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 27 | Wind Ensemble Recitals | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| <u>May</u> | | | |
| 4 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 6-8 | K-12 Art Show | John Glenn Middle School | TBA |
| 10 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 12 | POMS Awards Night | Bedford High School | TBA |
| 16 | Bedford High School Dance Showcase | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 18 | Vocal Concert—High School | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 19 | 5th Grade Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 20 | Junior Prom | TBA | TBA |
| 23 | Academic Awards Night | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 24 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |
| 24-27 | JGMS Washington, D.C. Trip | | |
| 25 | CSF Awards Reception | St. Michael's Parish Center | 7:00 PM |
| 26 | BHS Band/Orchestra Concert | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 30 | MEMORIAL DAY—NO SCHOOL | | |
| 31 | Vocal Showcase—Middle School | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 31 | Senior Prom | TBA | TBA |
| <u>June</u> | | | |
| 1 | Lane Band/Orchestra/Choral Concert | Bedford High School | 7:00 PM |
| 1 | WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL | | |
| 2 | Graduation | Bedford High School | 6:15 PM |
| 8 | JGMS Band/Orchestra Spring Concert | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 9 | JGMS Recognition Night | John Glenn Middle School | 7:30 PM |
| 14 | 8th Grade Moving On Ceremony | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 14 | School Committee Meeting | John Glenn Middle School | 7:00 PM |
| 15 | Tentative Last Day of School | | |
| 28 | School Committee Meeting | JGMS Multi-Purpose Room | 7:30 PM |

NOTE: Only events that have been scheduled to date appear. If you wish further information about events not listed, please call the school involved.

Emergency School Closing

POLICY

The Bedford Public Schools will close only in emergency situations when weather or highway conditions make travel to the schools hazardous or when power or heating failures occur. Parents



are urged to exercise their personal judgment concerning the wisdom of sending their children to school on stormy days when schools are

in session. Schools are closed in staggered order: High School, Middle School, Lane School, and Davis School.

LOCAL SIGNALS

The Bedford Fire Department will sound the fire horn signal 2-2-2 at 6:45 a.m. which signifies that the High School and

Middle School are closed for the day. The same signal will be sounded at 7:15 a.m. when the elementary schools, Grades K-5, are canceled for the day.

RADIO AND TV ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radio stations cooperating with the schools in making no-school announcements include the following:

AM Stations: WBZ-103; WBUR; WRKO-680. FM Stations: WMJX-106.7; WBUR-90.9, WBZ Channel 4; WCVB-TV Channel 5; WHDH-TV Channel 7; WFXT-Fox 25.

Occasionally, the telephone lines become so jammed with calls from school officials to radio stations, that this fact makes it advisable to try more than one of the stations listed above.

Please do not call the Police or Fire Departments and jam their telephone lines as they should be kept open for emergencies.

EARLY RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Occasionally a severe, unexpected storm may necessitate a decision to close schools early. This has not happened very often in the past, but can cause anxiety for families without a plan for this possibility. Students whose parents work or are not usually at home during the day should have an alternate home in the neighborhood to go to until their parents return. Decisions to close early in these situations are made on short notice, and there is not time to locate and inform parents. For that reason, students should be sure of their alternate homes before the storm season arrives.

Please be sure to maintain current emergency contact information with your building principal.

Information regarding school closing can also be found on the district webpage: www.bedford.k12.ma.us

Policy Notification on Statement Regarding Title IX, Chapter 622

It is the policy of the Bedford Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, color, national origin, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1978, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Title IX Coordinator for the Bedford Public Schools is the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Henry DeRusha, 275-7588. Inquiries may also be directed to the Department of Education; or to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Bos-

ton. Inquiries regarding compliance with regard to Section 504 may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, Henry DeRusha, at 781-275-7588 or to Section 504 Coordinators:

Lt. Eleazer Davis School
Ethel Furst
781-275-6804

Lt. Job Lane School
Thomas Nolan
781-275-7606

John Glenn Middle School
Thomas Campbell
781-275-3201

Bedford High School
Jonathan Sills
781-275-1700

Harassment complaints should be reported to the Building Principal or the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent.



Special Education

Bedford's Special Education Department works cooperatively with regular education teachers and school administrators to maximize the learning potential of all students with special needs. Each of our schools continually strives to expand its ability to meet the diverse needs of children in the regular classroom. When academic difficulties continue to persist after pre-referral strategies have been tried, a request for a Team Evaluation may be appropriate.

The Evaluation Team, which includes the classroom teacher, specialists and parents, conducts assessments relevant to the student's specific area(s) of difficulty. This process is guided by the mandates of the Massachusetts Department of Education as well as the dictates of the Federal Law (I.D.E.A.). The Team's responsibility is to determine whether the student is eligible for Special Education services and identify what services and/or classroom modifications will support the student's success in school.

The Evaluation Team develops an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for those students who meet the Massachusetts Department of Education eligibility criteria. Based upon the Team's recommendations, the Bedford Special Education Department provides services in identified areas of deficit, which can include learning disabilities, speech and language, fine and gross motor control, daily functional living skills and social/emotional adjustment. In keeping with Bedford's long established policy on inclusion, services are provided within the context of the regular classroom whenever possible. There is a small percentage of identified special needs students who require specialized instruction in a separate setting. For these students with low incidence disorders, the Evaluation Team may recommend placement in a private 766 school or in a Collaborative program.

Report Card for the Bedford Public Schools

In May, as part of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) reporting requirements, Bedford released its second annual report card. The report in its entirety can be found on our webpage (www.bedford.k12.ma.us). For this newsletter, we have included a section from the high school report which addresses student achievement as measured by the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I & II) and Advanced Placement Exams. The following charts will give you a sense of typical results for Bedford High School students.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

CLASS OF 2003:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Size of Class | 150 |
| Percentage Continuing Education | 89% |
| Four Year Colleges | 78% |
| Two Year Colleges | 11% |

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Over the last three years, Bedford High School has averaged four (4) Semifinalists and eight (8) Letters of Commendation each year.

SAT II TEST SCORES

CLASS OF 2003

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Mean Score</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Writing | 637 |
| Literature | 656 |
| U.S. History | 641 |
| Mathematics Level IC | 612 |
| Mathematics Level IIC | 716 |
| Physics | 718 |
| French | 630 |
| Spanish | 599 |
| Chemistry | 651 |

SAT MEAN SCORES CLASS OF 2003

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Verbal | 561 |
| Mathematics | 562 |

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST SCORES—CLASS OF 2003

47 students took 61 AP exams in 12 subjects. Scores 3-5 qualify the student to be considered for advanced placement in college

| <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Score</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 43 | 5 |
| 16 | 4 |
| 25 | 3 |
| 7 | 2 |
| 10 | 1 |

Health Services

Health Services are provided by the Board of Health Nurses assigned to each school as follows:

Nancy Thorsen, RN; High School
275-1700 ext. #141

Carol Eaton, RN; Middle School
275-3165

Kathy Donati, RN; Lane School
275-7606

Tracy Cotton, RN; Davis School
275-6804 ext. #3

Kathy Webster, RN; part-time at all schools

School nurses welcome health inquiries and discussions regarding any health issue or concern.

School Physician services are provided via Dr. Toby Nathan's office with Mary Levenstein, PNP as primary contact.

Physical Examination Reports:

There are two types of physical examination reports required in school.

The first type of examination report is the

comprehensive physical exam. Documentation of comprehensive physical exams must be provided to the school nurse for each student upon entrance to kindergarten, and again during the 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades. Apart from being a state mandate, school nurses need a copy of comprehensive physical exam reports in order to remain up-to-date with students' health history records, i.e. new diagnoses or immunizations.

The second type of examination report is the *sports physical exam*. Documentation of sports physical exams must be current and dated within a year of participation. This is a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) requirement and it is strictly enforced. Last fall, the MIAA extended the validity of the physical examination from 12 months to 13 months. We would like to use this extra month as a grace period. Please forward all sports physicals to the school nurse. Sports physical exams are a specialty exam involving specific issues including, as an example, "*range of motion*".

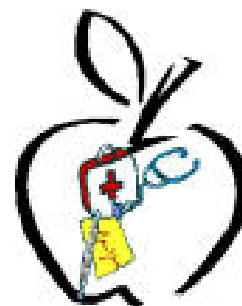
We encourage students and student athletes to have their private physician perform the required examinations. The best time to have an examination is at the end of the school year or during summer

(between June 15th and August 15th to be valid for the entire school year).

A sports physical exam form can be obtained by asking the school nurse. Parents of 6th and 9th grade students can take note that the form as supplied by the school nurse, when completed and returned to the school nurse, can satisfy both requirements for that year.

Health Insurance Information:

If you do not have health insurance or need financial assistance for health care services there are two publicly funded programs (MassHealth and Children's Medical Security Plan). To obtain additional information please call MassHealth at 1-888-665-9993.



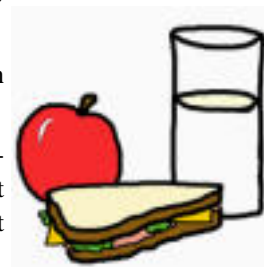
School Lunch Program

The cost of lunch is \$1.50 for elementary students, \$1.75 for middle school students, and \$2.00 for high school students. All meals include entrée, fruit and/or vegetable, juice, milk and a bread item. In addition, a la carte milk is sold daily at all schools at a cost of \$.40 per carton.

Both the high school and middle school offer many different a la carte items and menu alternatives, including a *super lunch*, which consists of double portions on any two menu items at a price of \$3.00 for high school students and \$2.75 for middle school students. Lane Elementary School also offers a *super lunch* for \$2.50.

Every household is eligible to apply for free or reduced price meals. Applications are sent home with each student during the first week of school. Reduced price meals at all levels are \$.40.

Cash is accepted at all locations except for the Davis School. Davis offers a pre-payment debit card system. The card will be used for lunches and a la carte milk. For more information concerning the debit card system, please call the School Lunch Office at 781-275-9129 or the main office at Davis School at 781-275-6804.



Workshops and Parent Conferences

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE ORIENTATION

8-31; 9-1, 2, 7, 8, 9 Kindergarten and First Grade Orientation

First day of Kindergarten and First Grade is Friday, September 10

FULL-DAY TEACHER WORKSHOPS

October 8 (Friday), January 14 (Friday), March 21 (Monday)

WORKSHOP DAYS—EARLY DISMISSAL-PARENT CONFERENCES

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------|
| September 15 | December 1 | April 6 |
| October 6 | February 2 | May 4 |
| November 3, 17 | March 2, 25 | June 1 |

PARENT CONFERENCES: (times vary)

- Davis School 11-3; 11-17; 3-2
- Lane School 11-17; 12-1
- JGMS 11-17; 12-1
- BHS 12-1



Local Initiatives that Enhance School Programs

Bedford High School Parents Association (BHSPA)

The Bedford High School Parents Association continued to work actively to foster a strong parent-school partnership to enhance the education and welfare of the students. It was a busy year, with much effort going toward keeping the lines of communication open between home and school. Daily announcements from the school office and weekly eNewsletters were disseminated electronically; monthly Roundtable discussions around designated topics were held with Principal Sills and other High School staff; Parent-to-Parent coffees were held in the beginning of the year to help orient new families, and the BHS Parents Guide and Student Directory were published and sold to interested families. BHSPA helped to sponsor the New Family Orientation events, sold new BHS tee-shirts and sweat shirts at Bedford Day (Come see us again in September!), liasoned with the Hanscom, LABBB, and METCO communities; participated in other town organizations and task forces; ran the annual College Night for Juniors and their parents; and donated to "The Yellow Dress" (sponsored by the Bedford Violence Coalition), the All Night Graduation Party, and other school sponsored

activities. The BHSPA also provided several meals and a small holiday gift to all the staff of the High School in appreciation for all that they do for the students.

The contacts for the BHSPA for the 2004-2005 school year will be Gail Black and Joan Payne.

Bedford Elementary Schools Together (BEST):

BEST was formed by the Davis and Lane Schools' parents organizations to support these schools and their programs. This year BEST's contributions were many and varied. They donated approximately \$50,000 to the schools to provide enrichment programs, sponsored events, Good Cheer, Hospitality, school improvements, teacher grants, and support for a variety of school programs. The contact person this year is Linda White.

Middle School Association (MSA):

The Middle School Association (MSA) is proud to support our teachers, administrators, students, families and schools in a num-

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

ber of ways through our parent volunteer committees such as Bedford Day, Boxtops, Enrichment, Good Cheer, Library, Newsletter, Student Directory and Teacher Appreciation. This year the MSA either funded or contributed to: the annual JGMS Science Fair; scholarships for the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.; a conference for JGMS peer leaders on bullying issues; the 8th grade Moving On ceremony and dance; and the memorial scholarship fund for Pvt. John Hart, JGMS alumnus tragically killed in Iraq. In addition, the MSA supported the highly successful effort to raise funds to help ensure adequate supplies of JGMS textbooks, particularly for new curriculum initiatives. The MSA also provides appreciation lunches and activities for teachers, welcoming gifts for new staff, camperships at Bedford Summer Adventure Camp, and help with the incoming 5th grade orientation evening and the 8th grade Academic Recognition evening. The contacts of the MSA are Ellen Mazel and Kathy Jarvis.

Art-Link

Art-Link is a volunteer organization whose mission is to give a strong voice to the need for visual arts in the Bedford Public Schools. We support the continuation of art as a core subject, while encouraging integration of the visual arts into the curriculum. Our main event each year is the Annual K-12 All Schools Art Show that features at least

one piece of artwork from every student who takes an art class in the Bedford Public School system. Occurring in early May; this free, three-day event celebrates the students' accomplishments and showcases for the public the art department's curriculum. Art-Link also funds grants to classroom teachers who use the visual arts as a way to enhance their curriculum. Past projects have included balsa wood bridges for teaching math at the high school level, fifth grade multi-cultural banner project, fourth grade bookmaking project, and contributions to the tile projects at the elementary schools. Art-Link is always open to new ideas and reviews grant proposals from teachers all year long. We contribute hands-on help as well as financial aid to innovative projects. Volunteers are always warmly welcomed! To get involved, or request more information, contact Mary Johannessen at 781-275-6765 or email at mary@mjdesignsmart.com.

Bedford Business Education Alliance (BBEA)

The BBEA is a 501(C)3 chartered organization which brings innovation, enrichment, pilot programs and advanced technology to Bedford schools. Individuals and corporate partners supported \$48,000 in grants in the 2003-2004 school year. Contact Director, Barbara Davis at 781-271-1400 or visit www.bbea.com. Innovation in public education needs you!

Facilities Department

While students and staff are on summer break, the Facilities Department is working feverishly to complete capital projects while simultaneously attending to preventative and routine maintenance and repairs.

At the High School, the majority of capital projects scheduled for completion include:

- Elevator cylinder replacement and upgrade
- Fire alarm upgrade phase I
- Phone and voice mail system upgrade
- Intercom system upgrade
- Door hardware repairs
- Locker room painting
- Library dehumidification

At John Glenn Middle School, the Facilities Department staff installed air conditioning equipment in the teachers' lounge and food service office as part of the renovation project.

Preventive maintenance activities scheduled for completion during summer break include:

- Boiler cleaning and inspection
- Univent cleaning and filter replacement
- Testing and inspecting air conditioning equipment
- Air handling unit inspection and filter replacement



The summer cleaning program was adjusted to accommodate the relocation of summer programs normally located at the high school to the Davis, Lane and middle schools. The biggest adjustment was made at the middle school to accommodate the Recreation Department's Day Camp.

MCAS Calendar for 2004-2005

| TEST | ADMINISTRATION DATE | WHO PARTICIPATES |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Re-test | November 15-19 | Grades 10-12 as appropriate |
| Re-test | February 28—March 4 | Grades 10-12 as appropriate |
| Reading | March 28—April 8 | Grade 3 |
| English/Language Arts | April 6 | Grades 4, 7, 10 |
| Reading (tryout) | March 28—April 8 | Grades 5, 6, 8 |
| English/Language Arts | May 16-27 | Grades 4, 7 |
| Mathematics | May 16-27 | Grades 4, 6, 8 |
| Mathematics (tryout) | May 16-27 | Grades 3, 5, 7 |
| Science/Tech | May 16-27 | Grades 5,8 |
| History/Social Studies (tryout) | May 16-27 | Grades 5, 7 |
| ELA and Literature | May 17-19 | Grade 10 |
| Mathematics | May 19-20 | Grade 10 |
| Science (tryout) | May 23-27 | Grade 10 |
| U.S. History (tryout) | May 23-27 | Grade 10 |
| English Language Learners | | |
| Reading/Writing | October 18-22 | Grades 3-12 |
| | March 28-April 8 | Grades 3-12 |
| Oral (MELA-O) | September 20-October 22 | Grades 3-12 |
| | February 28-April 8 | |

School Committee Meetings

The public is encouraged to attend meetings of the Bedford School Committee:

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: John Glenn Middle School
Multi-Purpose Room

Dates: Monthly—2nd and 4th Tuesdays



BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
97 McMahon Road
Bedford, MA 01730

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**NON-PROFIT
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U.S. POSTAGE**

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Permit No. 44

Residential Customer for Bedford

Bedford, MA 01730

Telephone Numbers

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--|------------------------------|
| If you wish to contact: | Call: | Director of Special Education - Barbara Koren | 781-275-5296 |
| Superintendent of Schools - Maureen LaCroix | 781-275-7588 | Director of Adult Education - Mary Hurley | 781-275-3437 781-275-8659 |
| Assistant Superintendent - Henry DeRusha | 781-275-7588 | Director of Facilities - Richard Jones | 781-275-5290 |
| Director of Finance - David Coelho | 781-275-7708 | After 4 p.m. the main switchboard of the High School is shut down. The following information will enable you to make contact with the appropriate staff member at that time: | |
| Davis School Principal - Ethel Furst | 781-275-6804 | High School Office | 781-275-1700 Ext. 115 |
| Lane School Principal - Thomas Nolan | 781-275-7606 | Director of Athletics | 781-275-1700 Ext. 131 |
| Middle School Principal - Thomas Campbell | 781-275-3201 | These numbers apply only to the High School. All other schools can be reached by calling their regular numbers. | |
| High School Principal - Jonathan Sills | 781-275-1700 | | |

We're on the web!
www.bedford.k12.ma.us