

Fall 2006

Superintendent's Newsletter



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www.bedford.k12.ma.us

It is always a privilege for me to pen the first newsletter of the school year. As we begin the 2006-2007 school year, it is exciting to see the long anticipated Bedford High School Addition-Renovation Project finally underway. Following Annual Town Meeting's approval of \$48,135,330 for the project on March 27, 2006, and Town voters' approval of a debt exclusion on April 8, it was my expectation that the project would be well underway by the end of April. Unfortunately, after the Bedford School Committee voted its intent to award the project to the lowest responsible bidder for the general contract, the second lowest bidder filed a court challenge to the lowest bid. This action delayed the start of the project until an Appellate Court ruling in favor of the Town of Bedford in late June. On June 30 town officials joined the Bedford School Committee for the groundbreaking, signaling the official start of the project.

The next significant financial milestone for the high school project will occur on July 1, 2007 when we have the opportunity to present our request for state funding to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The facility rating Bedford High School received as a result of a new state-wide initiative to audit all of the school facilities in Massachusetts should prove very favorable to Bedford. Bedford High School was one of 63 (out of more than 1,800) school buildings in Massachusetts to receive a rating of 4, the lowest rating suggesting that the building is in need of substantial renovation/replacement. It is expected that this rating will prove important when the Bedford School Committee presents its request for state funding to the MSBA next July at the onset of the new application process.

In addition to the excitement generated by the start of the high school project, the summer has been characterized by new beginnings as we have experienced a significant changing of the guard on the administrative team. At the annual Administrative Retreat, the change in the face of leadership for the Bedford Public Schools was palpable as we welcomed a new assistant superintendent to central office, two new principals to Davis School and the John Glenn Middle School, and two new assistant principals to Bedford High School. Profiles of the newest members of the team can be found later in this newsletter. The annual July retreat enabled us to begin the orientation process for the newest members of the team as veteran members reviewed key policies and procedures, provided a glimpse into the culture of the Bedford Public Schools, and developed the key system goals for the upcoming academic year. At the conclusion of the retreat, administrators received a text selected to inspire and support our work. This year the selected text, *Sustainable Leadership*, by Andy Hargreaves and Dean Fink is appropriate as we orient the newest members of the leadership team to Bedford. As we do so, it is with the expectation that our new leaders will build on the strong foundation established by their predecessors. The text suggests that leaders must always place students and student learning at the epicenter of decision-making. In Bedford, this is the guiding force for our work and the guiding tenet for our Strategic Plan.

Fall 2006

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Looking toward 2006-2007, key system goals include:

- Implementation of the five year Strategic Plan;
- Initiation of a comprehensive review of Graduation Requirements at Bedford High School;
- Continued focus on a system-wide response to address The Achievement Gap so that all students reach proficiency;
- Ongoing work with state representatives to ensure a more equitable distribution of the state's Chapter 70 funding so that the per pupil allotment continues to increase for the Bedford Public Schools; and
- Continued partnership with the Bedford Finance Committee to maintain the 4% target increase in the budget.

In addition, we will continue efforts to enhance *communication* with the community through the ever-expanding Bedford Public Schools webpage (<http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us>). On our webpage, look for the special section that features frequent updates on the Bedford High School Addition/Renovation Project.

As we look forward to another school year in Bedford, we begin so knowing that we are privileged to work with your children. With the start of what promises to be a great school year, I extend a special thanks to Bedford residents for your unwavering support of the Bedford High School Project. Know that for those of us who care deeply about your schools, Bedford continues to represent the "ideal" in terms of a community's commitment to children. On behalf of the Bedford faculty and staff and the Bedford School Committee, I thank you for making this a great place to work and learn.

Maureen LaCroix, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Highlights

Curriculum revision is very much like the famed paint job on the Golden Gate Bridge – it is a process that is constantly being renewed. This September will be no exception as the Bedford Public Schools open with a full agenda of curriculum updates. These changes are driven by many factors including state mandates, the growth of new research on student learning and the evolving economies of the town, the state and the world. I had a chance to see the Golden Gate Bridge up close earlier this summer while on vacation with my family, and I can report that it does indeed gleam in the Pacific sunshine. In much the same way, our schools' curricula shines in the light of our community expectations. With strong support from the citizens of Bedford, our school programs and excellent teachers continue to serve our children very well. (See accompanying School Report Card on p. 13 for a partial list of our student achievements.) To keep the "golden shine" on Bedford's school curriculum, a number of curriculum updates are planned for this coming year.

In mathematics, exciting changes are being introduced to the primary grades with a pilot project of the *Bridges in Mathematics* curriculum. This year, all eight Davis Kindergarten classes will be using the *Bridges* curriculum along with two of the school's first and second grade classrooms. A number of Massachusetts school districts have reported excellent results with *Bridges* and its engagement of young learners in high level math work; for this reason, our teachers are very excited about its introduction. A full description of the curriculum, including its research base and some examples of problems and student work can be found at the University of Oregon-based Math Learning Center at www.mathlearningcenter.org/. I will be working with Sarah Dorer, teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for Elementary Math, to closely monitor the program throughout the school year. The findings will be reported to the Bedford School Committee later this school year along with recommendations for any further adoption of *Bridges*.

The Social Studies curriculum framework was the last of the four major curriculum areas to be revised by the State Department of Education. Most school districts, including Bedford, have taken a cautious approach to making any major adjustments to their social studies curriculum sequence out of concern that the state curriculum framework will change. However, with the Massachusetts Board of Education's recent commitment to an MCAS test in U.S. History (to be finalized in October) the current frameworks appear set. For this reason, we feel comfortable moving forward with our planned curriculum revisions, most of which impact the Middle School and High School. These revisions have been in the works for several years here in Bedford and have included adjustments to the sequence of World History and U.S. History courses. These changes are being made in anticipation of the History MCAS exam as a graduation requirement for the class of 2012, this year's seventh graders.

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The Bedford Public Schools are continuing to implement an exciting professional development initiative designed to promote the use of technology to improve student learning. Our new district-wide Program Director in Instructional Technology, Donna Clements, will be leading this effort. The K-12 program is modeled on a successful technology initiative, Project MEET. (Please see <http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/tech/meet.html> for more information). The initial grant allowed for a team of six teachers to study successful models for integrating technology into the curriculum, to receive specialized training on using selected software and equipment and to develop a series of technology-enriched lessons for use in their daily instructional programs. Although grant funding expired several years ago, Bedford has continued to support the MEET initiative by forming four new technology innovation teams each year, one at each school, based on the MEET model. As we enter our fifth year of district-wide implementation, the program continues to thrive; more than eighty teachers will be affiliated with MEET in 2006-07. This high level of teacher involvement will result in many technology-enabled student learning experiences for our students at all grade levels.

A complete description of curriculum initiatives for the new school year will be included in the Superintendent's Annual Goals that will be presented to the School Committee in September. Upon approval, the goals will be published on our district web page (www.bedford.k12.ma.us). Be sure to bookmark and check the web site often during the year to obtain curriculum updates, news bulletins, storm-related school closing announcements, and other useful information relevant to all of our schools.

I want to thank everyone for a warm welcome to the Bedford community. Although it has only been six weeks since I started my new position as Assistant Superintendent, I already feel right at home. What I have discovered is a team of smart and dedicated educators who care deeply about their students. I am very excited about my work here in Bedford, a town that supports its schools in so many ways. I look forward to working with teachers, parents and other community members in the months and years ahead as we strive to make an excellent school system even better. See you around the schools!

Vince McKay, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent

Assessment News

The state Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) continues to expand its system of testing of our students, known collectively as MCAS, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. As many parents already know, these assessments were expanded over the past school

KEY SYSTEM GOALS 2006-2007

Leadership in a Changing Environment

- Welcome and integrate new members of the Administrative Team into the Bedford Public Schools
- Begin system-wide implementation of the five-year Strategic Plan.
- Begin a comprehensive review of Graduation Requirements at Bedford High School.

Curriculum and Assessment

- Establish longitudinal analysis of student achievement data
- Continue implementation of "Turning Points" at the Middle School with a focus on the creation of benchmarks and common assessments.
- Implement DIBELS Reading Assessment K-6.

Student Support Services

- Continue to develop a system wide response to address The Achievement Gap.
- Expand the Elementary School Senior Citizens' Tutor Program to include support for grades K-5 in both Reading and Mathematics.
- Continue to improve MCAS scores creating additional supports to enable more students to score into the advanced and proficient categories
- Implement Service Learning and a revamped Senior Project at Bedford High School.
- Develop guidelines to assist in the determination of levels of services, termination of services, types of services available and scheduling of services for Special Education students consistent with the new federal guidelines
- Implement "Lane Golden Rules" as part of comprehensive anti-bullying initiative.

Financial Support

- Work with Town Officials to implement a comprehensive strategy to acquire additional financial support for the Hanscom students
- Continue to work with state representatives on a more equitable distribution of the state's Chapter 70 funding to ensure that the per pupil allotment continues to increase for the Bedford Public Schools
- Continue to work with the Bedford Finance Committee to maintain a 4% increase in the budget

Bedford High School Construction

- Work with Bedford High School Building Committee to manage the construction project.
- Prepare application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for July 1, 2007 submission requesting state funding for the Bedford High School Building Project

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year so that now every student between grades 3 and 8, and then again in grade 10, is tested each spring. In addition to these math and English assessments, the DOE is rolling out new MCAS tests in Science and History that will impact our high school students in the coming years. The Massachusetts Board of Education is scheduled to vote this October on new graduation requirements that will impact the class of 2010 (Science) and 2012 (History). Once the new regulations are approved, students will need to pass these exams (in addition to the math and English exams which are already required) to receive a diploma.

The MCAS addresses the mandates of the Federal *No Child Left Behind* law that requires annual testing. This type of assessment is often referred to as *assessment of learning*. That is, the testing is designed to assess what students have learned and to report these findings to the public. In Bedford, we are proud of our student performance on MCAS, which shows high levels of learning. But our use of assessments runs much deeper than what the MCAS can show. Our focus is on the use of *assessment for learning*. In this way, assessments are used by Bedford teachers to adjust their instruction for individual students. MCAS results are but one piece of data that is used for this purpose; at every grade level, different types of assessments are used by teachers to inform their instruction. One of our goals for this year is to provide teachers with improved access to this array of assessment data. This is a key element of our vision, seen in the Strategic Plan, on the use of data to inform instruction and to provide teachers with a comprehensive picture of student learning.

BHS PROJECT MILESTONES

Below is a listing of the work schedule for the BHS Project:

- New Ffront parking and foundations for A wing addition (8/21/06)
- Modular Classrooms (8/21/06 open for faculty on 8/28/06)
- B wing (winter break 2006)
- E wing & D wing North (September 2007)
- Science Addition (September 2007)
- A wing & front addition (September 2008)
- C wing, D wing South and Auditorium (winter break 2008)



Leaders of Learning must:

- ***Be passionate advocates for and defenders of deep and broad learning*** for all students with the public and among fellow professionals, against political and bureaucratic obsessions with prescribed basics, target-driven achievement, and school performance rankings.
- ***Commit to improving the old basics of literacy and math but not focusing on them to the exclusion of everything else, while also embracing the new basics*** of creativity; communication in written, oral, and visual modes; engagement with new technologies; understanding and being able to work with social and cultural differences; and being aware of as well as committed to environmental sustainability.
- ***Put learning before testing*** so that rising test scores reflect real improvements in authentic and productive learning, instead of narrowing the learning to get quick gains in testing.
- ***Make learning the paramount priority*** in all leadership activity, so that in decisions about behavior, the budget, or the bus schedule, the first question is always "How will this help and not damage student learning?"
- ***Become omnipresent witnesses to learning*** by being visible in classrooms and by monitoring (but not micro-managing) teachers' curriculum plans and responses to student work.
- ***Engage students in discussions and decisions about their own learning***, recognizing that students are often highly knowledgeable and articulate about how they learn best.

Hargreaves, Andy
Fink, Dean
2006

Personnel Changes

New Faces

Atkins, Meredith—Special Education Teacher—LS
 Boynton, Kara — Speech/Language Pathologist—MS/DS
 Cantillon, Maryellen — Sped Team Chairperson — MS
 Colgan, Elizabeth — Science Teacher — MS
 Crowell, Yvette — Guidance Counselor — HS
 D'Allesandro, Angela — English Teacher — HS
 DelGobbo, Jane —Special Education Teacher — LS
 Donato, Julie — Special Education Teacher — MS
 Fillingame, Jennifer— Mathematics Teacher — MS
 Hart, Jessica — Kindergarten Teacher — DS
 Hernandez, Alfredo — Foreign Language Teacher — LS
 Linkin, Wendy — Music Teacher — MS
 Malio, David — Special Education Teacher — MS
 Marjomaa, Mar — Spanish Teacher—HS
 Mavropoulos, Yannis — Special Education Teacher — HS
 Mayo, Stacey — Mathematics Teacher — HS/MS
 Melanson, James — Industrial Arts Teacher — MS
 Rose, Matthew — Science Teacher — HS
 Stadlander, Beth — Elementary Teacher — LS
 Tanahashi-Works, Wendy — Foreign Language Teacher — MS

Tracy Rider Music Program Director

Tracy comes to Bedford from Alhambra, CA where she served as the Choral & Instrumental Music Director. Prior to that, she served as the Choral & Orchestra Director in Fullerton, CA and as the Choral and Musical Theatre Director in Alvin, TX. Tracey received her BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Houston; and her Master's Degree in Music/Voice from the University of Texas.

Towle, Janine — Science Teacher — HS

Trant, Nadia — Speech/Language Pathologist — LS

To Be Announced

Guidance Counselor — MS

New Assignment

Jennifer Wayne-Bartlett — Reading Teacher — DS

Retirees

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

Margaret Barrington — Art Teacher — MS

Christine Bosak — Business Education Teacher — HS

Ethel Furst — Principal — DS

Barry Low — Program Director Music Department

Nancy McCarthy — Foreign Language Teacher — MS

Michael Rinaldi — Instructional Technology Specialist — MS

Barbara Barnett Interim Foreign Language Program Director

Barbara has been a member of the Bedford faculty serving as a Spanish Teacher since 2003. Prior to her teaching experience in Bedford, Barbara served as a Foreign Language Teacher in Florida for 6 years of experience. She received her BA in Spanish and Political Science from the University of North Florida; and is currently in the last year of her Master's Degree Program at the Universidad De Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain.

New Administrators

Vincent McKay
Assistant Superintendent



Vince McKay comes to Bedford from the position of Director of Instructional Services in the Freetown-Lakeville School District. He received his B.S. in Biology from University of Massachusetts; a M. A. in Teaching from Tufts University; and his Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration from Boston College. He has worked for the Burlington Public Schools as an Associate Principal and for the Brookline Public Schools as a Science Teacher. We are delighted that he is joining our team and look forward to the energy and vision he will bring to Bedford.

P. Jayne Rotsko
Principal, Middle School



Jayne comes to Bedford from the position of Principal in Newburyport. She received her B.A. in American Studies from Merrimack College; and her M.Ed. in Integrated Studies from Cambridge College. Prior to holding that position, she served as the grade 5-6 Principal of the Kelley Elementary School in Newburyport, the Director of Middle School Curriculum in Melrose, and as both a Department Head and Team Leader in Ipswich. In addition to her administrative experience, she has had significant experience as a teacher in Ipswich working in the areas of Social Studies and English as well as Title 1.

Jennifer Brown
Principal, Davis School



Jenny comes to Bedford from Skokie, Illinois where she served as the Assistant Principal of the Middleton Elementary School. Jenny received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame; her Teacher's License in Elementary Education from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN; and her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Wisconsin. In addition to her administrative work, Jenny has worked as a Grade 3 Teacher in Dousman, Wisconsin.

Kevin Tracey
Assistant Principal, BHS



Kevin comes to Bedford from North Andover High School where he served as a Social Studies teacher. Kevin earned his CAES in Educational Leadership from the Lynch School at Boston College; his M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction/History, also from BC; and a BA in History from Providence College. Prior to his 6 years teaching at North Andover, he did his student teaching in Dorchester, MA and Dublin, Ireland.

Kristen Vogel
Assistant Principal, BHS



Kristen most recently served as the Assistant Principal at Swampscott High School. Prior to her Assistant Principal duties at Swampscott High School, she served as the Social Studies Curriculum Director. She has also worked as a History Teacher at Governor Drummer Academy. Kristen received her BA in History from St. Lawrence University and her MAT in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College.

Donna Clements
Program Director, Instructional Technology



Donna comes to Bedford from the Wattertown Public Schools where she served as the K-12 Technology Instruction Specialist. Donna has a wealth of experience as an Elementary Teacher and a Technology and Mathematics Coordinator in Frankfurt, Germany; Milan, Italy, and Beverly, MA. Donna received her BA in Early Childhood Education from the University of Massachusetts, and her M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Salem State College.

Calendar of Events 2006-2007 School Year

September 2006

5	Opening Day of School — Grades K-12		
5,6,7,8,11,12	Kindergarten & Grade 1 Orientation	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
5	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
13	First Full Day for Kindergarten & Grade 1	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
14	Back to School Night—Grade 3 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
16	Bedford Day		
20	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
21	Back to School Night	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	7-8:30 PM
21	Senior College Planning Night	Bedford High School	7-9 PM
26	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
27	Back to School Night	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	7-8:30 PM
28	Back to School Night—Grade 4 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM

October

4	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
5	Back to School Night	Bedford High School	6:30-9:00 PM
9	COLUMBUS DAY—NO SCHOOL		
10	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
12	Back to School Night—Grade 5 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
13-15	Madrigal Weekend	Lincoln, NH	
18	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
18	POMS Fall Sampler	Bedford High School	6:30 PM
19	Open House	John Glenn Middle School	7-9:00 PM
19	Financial Aid Night/College Fair	Bedford High School	7-8:30 PM
24	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

November

1	WORKSHOP DAY — PARENT CONFER- ENCES — EARLY DISMISSAL		
10	VETERANS' DAY — NO SCHOOL		
14	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
15	Bedford Unplugged/Take Time For Families	All Schools	No Evening Ac- tivities

Calendar of Events 2006-2007 School Year

November (Cont)

16	JGMS Vocal Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
17	Tournament of Plays	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
22	THANKSGIVING RECESS—EARLY DISMISSAL		
23-24	THANKSGIVING RECESS—NO SCHOOL		
28	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

December

1-2	Madrigal Dinner	John Glenn Middle School	6:15 PM
6	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
6	Parent Conference Night—BHS	Bedford High School	4-8:00 PM
12	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
13	BHS Band/Orchestra Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
14	JGMS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
21	BHS Vocal Groups Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
25-1/1	VACATION—NO SCHOOL		

January 2007

2	Schools Reopen		
9	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
10	Wind Ensemble Recitals	Bedford High School	6:30 PM
12	WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL		
15	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO SCHOOL		
18	Open House—Grade 3	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
23	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
24	Winter Concert — Lane School	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
25	Open House—Grade 4	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
29	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
TBA	Junior/Senior Semi-Formal	TBA	7-11:00 PM

February

1	Open House—Grade 5	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7:15 PM
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Calendar of Events 2006-2007 School Year

February (Cont)

7	WORKSHOP DAY — EARLY DISMISSAL		
12	Grade 8 Parents Night	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
13	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
19-23	WINTER VACATION		
27	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

March

7	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFER- ENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
13	School Committee Meeting	Roxbury Community College	7:00 PM
14-17	High School Musical	Bedford High School	
15 & 22	Celebrations of Learning	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	6:30-8:30 PM
16	WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL		
21	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFER- ENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
26	Annual Town Meeting	Bedford High School	
22-24	Middle School Musical	JGMS Auditorium	
28	Band Vertical Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
29	Strings Vertical Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM

April

6	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
10	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
16-20	SPRING VACATION		
24	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
25	WORKSHOP DAY — EARLY DISMISSAL		

Calendar of Events 2006-2007 School Year

May

2	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
4-6	K-12 Art Show	John Glenn Middle School	TBA
8	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
16	Vocal Concert—High School	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
17	5th Grade Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
21	Academic Awards Night/Hall of Fame Induction	Bedford High School	7-9:00 PM
22	POMS Awards Night	Bedford High School	TBA
22	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
22-25	JGMS Washington, D.C. Trip		
23	BHS Band/Orchestra Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
24	Lane Band/Orchestra/Choral Concert	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
28	MEMORIAL DAY—NO SCHOOL		
30	CSF Awards Reception	St. Michael's Parish Center	7:00 PM
31	JGMS Recognition Night	John Glenn Middle School	
TBA	Bedford High School Dance Showcase	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
TBA	Junior Prom	TBA	TBA

June

5	JGMS Vocal Showcase	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
5	Senior Prom	TBA	7-11:30 PM
6	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
6	JGMS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
7	Graduation	Bedford High School	6:15 PM
12	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
14	8th Grade Moving On Ceremony	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
15	Tentative Last Day of School		
19	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.

RADIO AND TV ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radio stations cooperating with the schools in making no-school announce-

ments 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, Homeless Liaison, and Title II, Section 504

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, Vincent McKay, 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, Vincent McKay, at 781-275-7588 or to Section 504 Coordinators:

Lt. Eleazer Davis School
Jenny Brown
781-275-6804

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

John Glenn Middle School
Jayne Rotsko
781-275-3201

Bedford High School
Jonathan Sills
781-275-1700

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

Homeless Liaison and Title II Coordinator

The Assistant Superintendent, Vincent McKay, serves as the Homeless Liaison and the Title II Coordinator. He can be reached at 781-275-7588.

Special Education

Bedford's Special Education Department works cooperatively with general education teachers and school administrators to assure that students with identified special needs have the resources necessary to access their learning, as directed by their Individual Educational Plan (IEP). At each level, Bedford staff continually strives to differentiate instructional strategies and address the diverse needs of children in the general education classroom. If academic difficulties persist in the general education classroom, it may be appropriate to refer the student to the Evaluation Team.

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.

METCO Program

The METCO Program has a lot of exciting new endeavors planned for this upcoming academic year. With METCO, Inc. celebrating its 40th Anniversary, we have a year filled with celebrations and history that we will share with the Bedford Community.

The Bedford METCO Program has been a part of the rich history in Bedford for over 30 years. This program has graduated many students who say that this experience (METCO) has changed their lives. The students who attend this program are from communities in the Greater Boston area and come to Bedford for their education. Funded through a grant from the Department of Education, METCO strives to bring communities, families and people from all walks of life together to support equal education.

The hope is that the community will draw even closer to the METCO Program through community-building events or through learning opportunities that will be rolled out this year. With these new initiatives, there are plenty of ways to get involved (*Please visit the website which will be updated in October for the Bedford METCO Program Calendar*).

Some of the new initiatives include the Host Family Program, the Bedford METCO Parent Advisory Board, the College Committee, the Friends of the METCO Program, the Bedford METCO Mentorship Program and a host of others. For more information about ways to get involved, volunteer or to provide support, please contact Donnette McManus at 781-275-1700, ext. 3246 or via e-mail at Donnette_McManus@bedford.k12.ma.us.

I hope to see you (or meet you) all soon!

Report Card for the Bedford Public Schools

In May, as part of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) reporting requirements, Bedford released its 4th 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 2005:

Size of Class	173
Percentage Continuing Education	84%
Four Year Colleges	78%
Two Year Colleges	6%

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Over the last three years, Bedford High School has averaged three (3) Semifinalists and ten (10) Letters of Commendation each year.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST SCORES—CLASS OF 2005

53 students took 86 AP exams in 13 subjects. Scores 3-5 qualify the student to be considered for advanced placement in college

<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Score</u>
37	5
26	4
22	3
15	2
0	1

SAT MEAN SCORES CLASS OF 2005

Verbal	563
Mathematics	566

SAT II TEST SCORES CLASS OF 2004

<u>Test</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>
Writing	635
Literature	639
U.S. History	620
Mathematics Level IC	619
Mathematics Level IIC	708
Physics	628
French	706
Spanish	612
Chemistry	596

Profile of the Bedford Public Schools Professional Staff

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES

Bachelor's	10%
Bachelor's +30	7%
Bachelor's +50/Master's	59%
Master's +30	5%
Master's +50	4%
Master's +70/DMA/PHD	15%

AGE DISTRIBUTION

20-30	13%
30-40	32%
40-50	18%
50+	37%

Colleges Accepting a Member of BHS Class of 2006

Acadia University
Alabama State Univ.
Albright College
American Int'l College
American University
Arizona State Univ.
Arizona, Univ. of
Assumption College
Auburn University
Babson College
Bard College
Bates College
Becker College
Beloit College
Bentley College
Bloomfield College
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bridgeport, University of
Bridgewater State
Bridgton Academy
Brown University
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College
Calif., Univ.– Berkeley
Calif., Univ.– Davis
Carleton College
Catholic University
Cazenovia College
Central Conn., State
Central Florida, Univ.
Champlain College
Chestnut Hill College
Clark University
Clemson University
Colby-Sawyer College
College of St. Rose
College of Wooster
Colorado College
CO Mountain College
CO, Univ. Boulder
CO, Univ. CO Springs
Conn. College
Conn., University of
Cornell University
Curry College
Dean College
Delaware, Univ. of
Denison University
Denver, University of
Dickinson College
Drew University
Eastern Conn. State
Eastern University
Eckerd College
Elmira College
Elon University
Emerson College

Emmanuel College
Emory University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fisher College
Fitchburg State
FL A & M University
FL State University
FL, Univ. of
Fordham University
Framingham State
Furman University
Georgetown Univ.
Georgia Military Acad.
Georgia State
Georgia Tech
Georgia, Univ. of
Goucher College
Gould Academy
Green Mt. College
Grinnell College
Hampshire College
Hartford, Univ. of
Hartwick College
Harvard
Hebron Academy
Hobart & Wm Smith
Hofstra University
Hollins University
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
James Madison Univ.
Johnson & Wales Univ.
Keene State
Kents School
Lafayette College
Lasell College
Lehigh University
Lenoir-Rhyne College
Lesley University
Louisiana State Univ.
Louisiana, Univ. Lafayette
Loyola College
Lynchburg College
Maine, Univ. – Farm.
Maine, Univ. – Fort Kent
Maine, Univ. – Orono
Manhattan College
Marist College
Mary Baldwin College
Mary Washington, Univ.
Maryland, University of
Marymount Manhattan
Massasoit Comm. Coll.
Mass. College of Art
Mass. Coll. of Lib. Arts
Mass. College of Pharm.
Mass., Univ. – Amherst
Mass., Univ. – Boston

Mass., Univ. – Dartmouth
Mass., Univ. – Lowell
McDaniel College
McGill University
Memphis, University of
Merrimack College
Mesa State College
Middlebury College
Middlesex Comm. Coll.
Missouri, U. –Kans. City
Mitchell College
Montserrat College of Art
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Ida College
Muhlenberg College
Nazareth College
NEOUCOM
Nevada, Univ. Las Vegas
New College of Florida
New England College
New England Inst. Of Art
New England, Univ. of
New Hampshire, Univ. of
New Haven, Univ. of
New Orleans, Univ. of
New York University
Newbury College
Norfolk State University
North Carol., Univ. Wilm.
Northeastern Univ.
Northern Colorado, Univ.
Norwich University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan Univ.
Otterbein College
Pace University
Pennsylvania, Univ. of
Plymouth State Univ.
Pomona College
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen's University
Quinnipiac University
Regis College
Rensselaer Polytech Inst.
Rhode Island College
Rhode Island, University
Rivier College
Rochester Inst. Of Tech.
Rochester, University of
Roger Williams Univ.
Sacred Heart University
St. Andrews Presbyterian
St. Francis Xavier Univ.
St. John's University
St. Joseph's College
St. Joseph's University
St. Lawrence University

Salem State College
Salve Regina University
San Diego, University of
Scripps College
Seton Hall University
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
South Carolina State
Southern Maine, Univ.
Southern New Hampshire
Springfield College
Stanford University
SUNY – Binghamton
SUNY – Cobleskill
SUNY – Syracuse
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University
Sweet Briar College
Syracuse University
Tampa, University of
Texas A & M University
Texas Christian Univ.
Texas, University, Austin
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
USAF Academy
US Military Academy
Univ. Sciences in Phila.
Utah, University of
Ursinus College
Vassar College
Vermont, University of
Villanova University
Virginia Military Inst.
Virginia Union Univ.
Wagner College
Wake Forest College
Washington College
Washington & Jefferson
Waterloo, University of
Wentworth Inst. Of Tech.
Wesleyan University
West Chester Univ. Phila.
Western New England
Western Ontario, Univ. of
Westfield State Univ.
Wheaton College
Wheelock College
Wilfrid Laurier Univ.
Wingate University
Worcester Polytech Inst.
Worcester State College
Wright State University

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. #1113

Carol Eaton, RN; Middle School
275-3165

Kathy Donati, RN; Lane School
275-7623

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

Kathy Webster, RN; p/t 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*. Documen-

tation 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. The sports physical exams are valid for 13 months. 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.

A sports physical exam form can be obtained by asking the school nurse. Par-

ents 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 \$1.75 for elementary students, \$2.00 for middle school students, and \$2.25 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 \$.50 per carton.

Both the high school and middle school offer many different a la carte items and menu alternative, including lowfat and low calorie items. A *super lunch*, which consists of a second entrée can be purchased for \$3.25 for high school students, \$3.00 for middle school students and \$2.75 for Lane school students.

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

September 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 Kindergarten and First Grade Orientation

FULL-DAY TEACHER WORKSHOPS

January 12 (Friday) (Snow Day January 19); March 16 (Friday)

WORKSHOP DAYS—EARLY DISMISSAL-PARENT CONFERENCES

September 20	December 6	April 6, 25
October 4, 18	February 7	May 3
November 1	March 7, 21	June 6

PARENT CONFERENCES: (times vary)

- Davis School 11-1; 12-6; 3-7
- Lane School 11-1; 12-6
- JGMS 11-1; 12-6
- BHS 12-6



Local Initiatives that Enhance School Programs

Bedford High School Parents Association (BHSPA)

The Bedford High School Parents Association provides ongoing support to our high school community in accordance with the BHSPA by-laws' three main initiatives of support to the parents and students of BHS, fostering a strong parent-school partnership and facilitating communication. Communication is facilitated by the BHSPA daily e-mail announcements and a weekly e-newsletter. This effort keeps parents up-to-date with deadlines and opportunities for their children. The BHSPA website, www.bedfordhighpa.org, provides a great deal of useful information, including electronic copies of several BHSPA publications. Hard copy communications include the *Parent to Parent* Guide, the annual Student Directory and the sports map guide. Communication and support to parents are also achieved through monthly Roundtable meetings with topics predetermined and led by Principal Sills. Discussions will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the BHS Library for the 2006-2007 school year. Further initiatives for parental support through education in parenting issues include a new program for 2006-2007, a televised speaker series. This series

of speakers will be recorded in the Bedford Cable Access Television studios. The shows will include a studio audience made up of parents, BHS faculty and staff and will be aired on BCAT channels. Support to parents and the school is also maintained through the continuation of the long established BHSPA events, as well as representation on many town boards including: Violence Prevention Coalition, Community Partnership, METCO, Hanscom, LABBB, Bedford Center for the Arts, All Night Graduation and scouting program.

The contacts for the BHSPA 2006-2007 school year are: Co-Presidents Michele Land (michele.land@comcast.net 781-275-1801) and Linda Christen (christen.lj@gmail.com 781-275-5248).

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 en-

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

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 Ann Goolsby.

Middle School Association (MSA)

The Middle School Association (MSA) is proud to support our teachers, administrators, students, families and schools in a number 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 funded the annual JGMS Science Fair; scholarships for the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.; the 8th grade Moving On ceremony and dance. 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, welcoming gifts for new staff, help with the incoming 5th grade orientation evening and the 8th grade Academic Recognition evening. The contact for the MSA is Jeanne Paganetti or Ann Marie Bernardon.

Bedford Public Schools Gift Accounts

The Bedford School Committee has a formal mechanism to ease the process of "gifting" to the schools.

In the last school year parents have organized significant fundraising initiatives for the replacement of textbooks

and, through a special employee donation plan, for the purchase of new IBM computers. Residents interested in contributing to special gift accounts for the schools can do so by contacting David Coelho, Director of Finance (781-275-7708).

Bedford Business Education Alliance (BBEA)

The BBEA is a 501 (C) 3 chartered organization that supports innovation, enrichment and pilot programs in the Bedford Public Schools. Under its newly reorganized format, the BBEA ran many successful fundraisers during the 2005-2006 school year including a golf tournament, a wine tasting and the STAR Program. Through fund raising and the many partnerships with businesses and parents, the BBEA was able to award over \$9,000 in grants last spring.

During the 2006-2007 school year the BBEA will sponsor an auction on October 28, an event at Flatbreads on December 12 and a wine tasting on February 7. For additional information consult the BBEA website at www.bbea.com or contact Paula Stott at Bedford High School (781-275-1700).

SAVE THE DATE

**BBEA Auction
October 28, 2006
American Legion**

Bedford School Committee

Abbie Seibert, Chairperson
Michael Rosenberg, Vice-Chairperson
Anne Bickford, Secretary

Noreen O'Gara, Member
Edward Pierce, Member

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



PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE—September 5 & 26

Facilities Department

While students and staff are on summer break, the Facilities Department is working feverishly to complete routine preventive maintenance and cleaning as well as the following projects:

At the High School:

- Modular classroom building—part of the High School Addition and Renovation Project
- Renovation of B-Wing scheduled completion December 2006
- C Field relocation

At John Glenn Middle School:

- HVAC and Electrical modifications

At the Lt. Job Lane School:

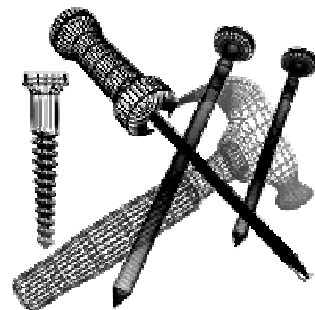
- No major projects scheduled

At the Lt. Eleazer Davis School:

- Glass block window repair

Preventive maintenance activities scheduled for completion during summer break include:

- Boiler cleaning and inspection
- Univent cleaning and filter replacement
- Air handling unit inspections and filter replacement
- Safety inspection and repairs
- Fire extinguisher inspection
- Detailed cleaning and floor refinishing



MCAS Calendar for 2006-2007

TEST	ADMINISTRATION DATE	WHO PARTICIPATES
<u>November 2006 Retest</u>		
Mathematics	November 13-14	Grades 10-12 as appropriate
ELA Composition	November 15	Grades 10-12 as appropriate
ELA Lang. & Literature	November 16-17	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
<u>March 2007 Retest</u>		
Mathematics	March 5-6	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
ELA Composition	March 7	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
ELA Lang. & Literature	March 8-9	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
<u>Spring 2007</u>		
Reading	March 26-April 12	Grade 3
ELA Lang. & Literature	March 26-April 12	Grades 4-8
ELA Composition	March 27	Grades 4, 10
ELA Composition	March 28	Grade 7
ELA Lang. & Literature	March 28-29	Grade 10
ELA Composition Make-up	April 2	Grades 4, 7, 10, as appropriate
<u>MCAS Alt. Assessment</u>		
MCAS Alt. Assessment	April 13	Grade 12, Students w/Significant Disabilities
MCAS Alt. Assessment	May 4	Grades 3-8, 10, Students w/Significant Disabilities
<u>May 2007</u>		
Mathematics	May 14-June 1	Grades 3-8
Science & Tech./Eng.	May 14-June 1	Grades 5, 8
History & Social Science (Tryout)	May 14-June 1	Grades 5, 7
Mathematics	May 22-23	Grade 10
Science	June 5-7	Grades 9, 10, as appropriate
U.S. History (Tryout)	May 24-June 1	Grade 10, 11, as appropriate
<u>English Language Learners</u>		
MELA-O	October 3-27	Grades K-12, New LEP Students
	February 27-March 24	Grades K-12
MEPA-R/W	October 24-27	Grades 3-12, New LEP Students

BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
97 McMahon Road
Bedford, MA 01730

******ECRWSS******

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

PID

Permit No. 44

Residential Customer for Bedford

Bedford, MA 01730

Telephone Numbers

If you wish to contact:	Call:	Davis School Principal - Jenny Brown	781-275-6804
Superintendent of Schools - Maureen LaCroix	781-275-7588	Lane School Principal - Thomas Nolan	781-275-7606
Assistant Superintendent - Vincent McKay	781-275-7588	Middle School Principal - Jayne Rotsko	781-275-3201
Director of Finance - David Coelho	781-275-7708	High School Principal - Jonathan Sills	781-275-1700
Director of Special Education - Mary Koert	781-275-5296	METCO Program Director - Donnette McManus	781-275-1700
Director of Facilities - Richard Jones	781-275-5290		

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