

Fall 2007

Superintendent's Newsletter



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www.bedford.k12.ma.us

What a pleasure it is to send the first newsletter of the school year announcing that the Bedford High School Addition/Renovation Project is on time, within budget, and exceeding our dreams for how this project would transform the learning environment for our high school students. As we begin the 2007-2008 school year, we are delighted to open the addition at the rear of the building, space that includes state of the art science labs, new general classrooms and a spectacular multi-purpose room. The start of the school year also marks the re-opening of renovated E and D North wings, which are home to general education, special education, ROTC, collaborative and nursery school classrooms. In addition, we are pleased to be able to open the modern kitchen servery, provide new access with the glass corridor connecting the gymnasium and the new addition, and take advantage of the additional space provided by the new courtyard which has been designed to serve as both an outdoor classroom and a gathering place for lunch.

As we occupy the new and renovated space, we are also finalizing the details of the proposal we will submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) requesting state funding for this project. We remain hopeful that the Bedford High School Addition/Renovation Project will receive early consideration for funding since it is one of 63 (out of more than 1800) school buildings in Massachusetts to receive a rating of 4, the lowest rating for buildings in need of substantial renovation/replacement. It is expected that this rating will prove important when the Bedford School Committee has the opportunity to present its request for state funding to the MSBA.

The summer months also provide the time and space that enable the administrative team to regroup, evaluate progress and establish system goals for the new school year. Intense planning for the new year always begins with a two-day administrative retreat generously hosted by Middlesex Community College. At the conclusion of the retreat, administrators receive readings meant to inspire their work for the upcoming school year. This summer's offerings included Jonathan Kozol's Ordinary Resurrections, Glenn Singleton's Courageous Conversations About Race, and Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin's Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace. These books reflect key themes that permeate the values and work of Bedford's leadership team. Kozol's book captures the refreshing innocence of childhood and the hope that it represents in even the most challenging circumstances. Singleton's text urges us to continue our quest to ensure educational equity in our schools while simultaneously challenging us to acknowledge the central role that race plays in terms of students' access to both the opportunity and support needed to succeed and perform at high levels. With the recent Supreme Court decision on race and the concerns this decision has posed for the METCO Program, the most successful desegregation program in the nation, this book is a reminder that we have not yet achieved the promise of the 1954 Brown vs. the Board of Education decision and that we have much work to do. And, the final reading selection presents the odyssey of a climber, Greg Mortenson, who was nursed back to health in a Pakistan village after he was injured and lost following a failed attempt to climb K2. Mortenson's personal journey challenges us to view our commitment to global connections through the lens of a child. In this text, Mortenson poignantly describes how a three-week recuperation period in a remote Pakistan village changed the

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course of his life. The kindness of strangers and the compelling needs of the children in an isolated village lead to a promise to the village elders that he would return with the resources needed to build them a school. In keeping the promise, he eventually founded a charitable institute that provides impoverished children in Pakistan and Afghanistan with an education.

And so, it is with a renewed energy and sharp focus on children that the administrative team looks forward to the start of the school year

As we look towards 2007-2008, key system goals include:

- Completion of the application process to acquire maximum and timely state funding for the Bedford High School Addition/Renovation Project from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA);
- Planning for the K-12 Program Review in Mathematics with a visiting team evaluation scheduled for February 2008;
- Initiation of the New England Association of Schools (NEASC) two year self-study process at Bedford High School, a process that begins the work leading to the NEASC Visiting Team evaluation of the high school program and facility in 2009;
- Creation of a plan to engage the Bedford community in a discussion of school security in an effort to develop a system-wide security plan that reflects the appropriate use of new technologies in our schools;
- Continued focus on a system wide effort to increase rigor for all students so that all students reach proficiency; and
- Implementation of the Alternative High School Program (R.I.S.E.).

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, you will find a special section that features frequent updates on the Bedford High School Addition/Renovation Project.

With the start of what promises to be another exciting school year, I extend a special thanks to Bedford residents for your patience during high school construction and your unwavering support of our schools. On behalf of the Bedford faculty and staff and the Bedford School Committee, I thank you for making this a great place for children to grow and learn and for adults to engage in our nation's most important work.

Maureen LaCroix, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Update

The 2007-2008 school year marks the continuation of numerous curriculum initiatives in the Bedford Public Schools. These efforts are guided by the strategic goals set by the Bedford School Committee. With the increasing globalization of the workplace, it has become clear that, unlike any other in history, our children's future is linked to the world beyond Bedford, and indeed, beyond the United States. The Bedford Public Schools are responding to these challenges in a variety of ways, beginning with the opening of a new addition at the high school which includes a modern science facility. The challenges posed by global competition are also being addressed in some of Bedford's curriculum revisions underway this year, including, for example, the introduction of a world literature elective and technology-engineering programs at our high school. What follows is a brief update on some of our curriculum revisions.

Mathematics continues to be a focal point for our curriculum work, K-12, as we enter the second year of Bedford's Program Review process. True to the values of the Bedford Public Schools, this is an inclusive process aimed to promote improvement through a process of internal assessment. The mathematics curriculum *self-study* was the focus of last year's work, a process that was guided by an extensive data collection initiative that included surveys of teachers, students and parents regarding Bedford's current practices in mathematics. Additional data came from state and local assessments, allowing us to study student achievement over time. This collection of data is currently being analyzed and prepared by our Mathematics Curriculum Team. The documentation prepared as part of this self-study will guide the next phases of the curriculum review process. The next phase includes an external validation process which will be overseen by a visiting team of curriculum leaders next February, and an action-planning phase aimed at responding to the identified needs. Other math work for the coming year includes the implementation of the *Bridges in Mathematics* curriculum at Grade 1 at Davis School, a program which was successfully piloted last year, and the completion of Course Guides for all BHS mathematics courses.

In English Language Arts, Bedford High School is introducing courses in Global Voices (world literature) and Writer's Workshop in the coming school year. Summer curriculum work supported the development of these courses along with the development of department-wide curriculum guides and writing rubrics. At JGMS, Davis, and Lane, reading instruction continues to be an area of focus. JGMS sixth grade reading teachers were engaged in summer curriculum study for several days in July. Summer curriculum work also focused on the development of a school year program in *reading fluency* for the Lane School, led by the Lane reading teachers. At Davis, Language Arts work has focused on the development of new units of study and the articulation of language skills to be used for planned refinement of the current Davis School report card.

In recent years, curriculum revisions in Science have provided new instructional materials at the secondary level. Other revisions have provided additional emphasis on technology and engineering, at all grade levels. These changes are taking place in the context of a very exciting development—September's opening of Bedford High School's new Science classroom. Summer curriculum work in support of Bedford's Social Studies program has also taken place across the grade levels. At the elementary schools, the area of focus has been the development of common units of study, including a unit in biography, and the development of open response questions, designed to aid in teaching the writing process. Secondary curriculum work continues to be guided by the development of "essential" questions, aimed at guiding the teaching of critical thinking skills and unifying course content around key concepts. The eighth grade world history curriculum, for example, is being revised to link current issues in the regions of the world with the major events in world history that have shaped these regions.

Foreign language curriculum is beginning its first year of the Curriculum Program Review process. Similar to the process outlined above in the mathematics curriculum section, the coming year will be focused on a self-study in this curriculum area.

In addition to the self-study in foreign language, a community-school group will convene this fall to study Bedford's current language offerings and to determine if any additional languages should be added to our program.

Residents with questions about curriculum are encouraged to contact either my office or individual principals.

Vince McKay, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent

KEY SYSTEM GOALS 2007-2008

- **Complete the application process to acquire maximum and timely state funding for the Bedford High School Addition/Renovation Project from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA);**
- **Initiate the New England Association of Schools (NEASC) two year self-study process at Bedford High School, a process that begins the work leading to the NEASC Visiting Team evaluation of the high school program and facility in 2009;**
- **Create a plan to engage the Bedford community in a discussion of school security in an effort to develop a system-wide security plan that reflects the appropriate use of new technologies in our schools;**
- **Implement the Alternative High School Program (R.I.S.E.); and**
- **Continue the work of the Strategic Communications Task Force, a broad-based effort to secure appropriate funding to support the Hanscom population.**

Bedford Joins Pathways to China Program

In the spring of 2007 the Bedford Public Schools accepted an invitation to join the Pathways to China Program, a Burlington based program designed to immerse teachers and students in global studies. This initiative enables Bedford teachers and students to join their counterparts from Burlington, Malden, Winchester, Lynn, Beaver Country Day School, Watertown, Weston, and Concord-Carlisle. As part of our commitment, two Bedford High School teachers, Jake Sullivan (Social Studies) and Michael Griffin (Science) have volunteered to teach 20 hour summer seminars focused on the politics and environmental challenges facing China today. The classes are designed to combine face to face and online instruction mixing students from the member school districts. With the participation of the two Bedford teachers, 20 Bedford students have been able to participate in the course work. Students who complete the course work will then be eligible to travel to China in the spring of 2008.

At this time I need to extend a heartfelt thanks to Katie Spinos, Superintendent of Schools in Burlington, for creating this program. As we mourn her untimely death, those of us privileged to work with and learn from Katie cherish the legacy this visionary educator left behind.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



*Please join the celebration for the
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
For the
Science Wing
At
Bedford High School
On
Thursday, August 30, 2007
At
7:30 A.M.*

Personnel Changes

New Faces

Cantu, Kelley — Science Teacher — MS
Carlucci, Cory — Social Studies Teacher — HS
Caron, Anne — Elementary Teacher — DS
Daley, Shawn — Alternative Sped Program — HS
Della Valle, Michelle — Alternative Sped Program — MS
Gisone, Celia — Special Education Teacher — HS
Hartwell, Amy — Special Education Teacher — LS
Herbert, Joel — English Teacher — HS
Hill-Pespisa, Cheryl — Special Education Teacher — MS
Huntley, Lauren — Psychologist — DS/LS
Laurencio, Cintia — Foreign Language Teacher — HS
Marion, Courtney — Elementary Teacher — LS
Martel, Ashley — Physical Education — MS
McGrath, Brendan — Elementary Teacher — LS
Messenger, Patricia — English Teacher — HS
Mosier, Jane — Special Education Teacher — LS
Nagle, James — Social Studies Teacher — MS
O'Keefe, Lauren — Reading Teacher — HS
Partyka, Diana — Elementary Teacher — LS
Piccolo, Jennifer — Psychologist — MS/HS
Royds, Jeremy — Librarian — DS
Sargent, Sarah — Science Teacher — HS
Sullivan, Jaclyn — Elementary Teacher — DS
Wetzel, Rebecca — Reading Teacher — DS
Wieder, Kenneth — Chemistry Teacher — HS
Wiley, Laurie — Physical Education Teacher — LS

To Be Announced

(.6) Spanish Teacher — HS

New Assignment

Nicole d'Entremont — English Teacher — MS
Angela Venezia — Physical Education — DS
Kim Comiero — Mathematics Teacher — HS

Retirees

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

Beverly Barton — Assistant Principal/Physical Education Teacher — DS
Ralph Bennett — Elementary Teacher — LS
Barbara Davis — Psychologist — System
Marjorie Eickel — English Teacher — MS
Ilsa Gottlieb — Assistant Principal/Physical Education Teacher — LS
Paul Stevens — Science Teacher — HS

New Administrators

Sarah Orlov
Assistant Director
Special Education



Sarah has a BA from Tufts in Elementary Education, a Master's Degree from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. in Hearing Impaired, and has completed the licensure program at Boston University in Special Education Administration. She has a variety of teaching experiences, most recently in the EDCO-Manville program for students with Asperger's at Brookline High School. Prior to that she worked in Newton at the Burr Elementary School as an Inclusion Facilitator. Sarah also trained as an ABA therapist and has held other special education teaching positions prior to settling in the Boston area in 2002.

LuAnn Foley
Assistant Principal
Lt. Job Lane School



We are pleased to announce the appointment of LuAnn Foley as the Assistant Principal at Lane School. LuAnn has been with the Bedford Public Schools since 1988 serving as a Special Education Teacher and has 7 years experience as the Special Education Team Chairperson at the Lane School. She most recently completed a certification course for licensure as an Assistant Principal/Principal through the Commonwealth Leadership Academy.

Diane Pritchett
Program Director
Music Department

Diane comes to Bedford from New Delhi, India where she was teaching music and coordinating the music program at the American School. Diane has spent her life living around the world, teaching music in a wide range of countries. Diane earned her BA in International Relations and her Master's Degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University. She has earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Boston University and a second Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Tracy Davis Sands
Interim Assistant Principal
JGMS

Tracy comes to Bedford from Jacksonville, N.C. where she served as the Assistant Principal at the White Oaks High School. She has additional administrative experience with the Region One Educational Services Center in Edinburg, TX as a Senior Educational Specialist. Tracy has 6 years of teaching experience as a Grade 8 Language Arts, Reading, and Social Studies Teacher. She has served as a leadership team member and department chair/team leader.

Mary Lou Sallee
Program Administrator
English Department



Mary Lou Sallee earned her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Boston College and her Master's Degree in Secondary English Education from Simmons College. Her most recent experience is as an English Teacher at Weston High School. Mary Lou has additional experience as an English Teacher and Department Chairperson at the Newton Country Day School.

Andrea Salipante
Assistant Principal
Lt. Eleazer Davis School



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Andrea Salipante as the Assistant Principal at Davis School. Andrea has been with the Bedford Public Schools since 1997 serving as a Reading Teacher. She most recently completed a certification course for licensure as an Assistant Principal/Principal through the Commonwealth Leadership Academy.

Calendar of Events 2007-2008 School Year

September 2007

4	Opening Day of School — Grades K-12		
4,5,6,7,10,11	Kindergarten & Grade 1 Orientation	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
11	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
12	First Full Day for Kindergarten & Grade 1	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	
15	Bedford Day		
17	Senior College Planning Night	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
18	Back to School Night—Grade 3 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7 PM
19	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
19	Back to School Night—Grade 4 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7 PM
20	Back to School Night	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	7-8:30 PM
25	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
26	Back to School Night—Grade 5 (Parents only)	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7 PM
27	Back to School Night	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	7-8:30 PM

October

3	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
4	Open House	John Glenn Middle School	6:30-8:30 PM
8	COLUMBUS DAY—NO SCHOOL		
9	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
11	Back to School Night	Bedford High School	6:30-9:00 PM
16	Financial Aid Night	Bedford High School	6-7 PM
16	College Fair	Bedford High School	7-8:30 PM
17	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
18	POMS Fall Sampler	John Glenn Middle School	6:00 PM
20	Band Show	Offsite TBA	6:00 PM
23	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

November

7	WORKSHOP DAY — PARENT CONFER- ENCES — EARLY DISMISSAL		
8	JGMS Vocal Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
12	VETERANS' DAY — NO SCHOOL		
13	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

Calendar of Events 2007-2008 School Year

November (Cont)

14	Bedford Unplugged/Take Time for Families	All Schools	No Evening Activities
21	THANKSGIVING RECESS—EARLY DISMISSAL		
22-23	THANKSGIVING RECESS—NO SCHOOL		
27	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
30	Tournament of Plays	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM

December

4	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
5	WORKSHOP DAY—PARENT CONFERENCES—EARLY DISMISSAL		
5	Parent Conference Night—BHS	Bedford High School	4-8:00 PM
11	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
12	BHS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
13	BHS Vocal Groups Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
20	JGMS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
24-1/1	VACATION—NO SCHOOL		

January 2008

2	Schools Reopen		
8	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
8	Open House—Grade 3	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7 PM
9	Wind Ensemble Recitals	Bedford High School	6:30 PM
10	Open House—Grade 4	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7 PM
14	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
16	Open House—Grade 5	Lt. Job Lane School	6-7 PM
17	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
18	WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL		
21	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO SCHOOL		
22	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
24	Winter Concert—Band/Chorus/Orchestra — Lane School	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
25	BHS Multi-Cultural Festival		
TBA	Junior/Senior Semi-Formal	TBA	7-11:00 PM

Calendar of Events 2007-2008 School Year

February

6	WORKSHOP DAY — EARLY DISMISSAL		
6-9	BHS Musical	John Glenn Middle School	
7 & 13	Celebrations of Learning	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	6:30-8:30 PM
11	Grade 8 Parents Night	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
12	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
18-22	WINTER VACATION		
26	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM

March

5	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
5	Parent Conferences	Lt. Eleazer Davis School	12:50-3:20 PM
6	JGMS Vocal Showcase Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
11	School Committee Meeting	Roxbury Community College	7:00 PM
13	College Planning for Juniors	Bedford High School	7:00 PM
14	WORKSHOP DAY—NO SCHOOL		
21	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
24	Annual Town Meeting	John Glenn Middle School	

April

4-5	Madrigal Dinner	JGMS Cafeteria	6:15 PM
8	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
9	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
10-12	JGMS Musical	John Glenn Middle School	
21-25	SPRING VACATION		
29	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
30	WORKSHOP DAY — EARLY DISMISSAL		

Calendar of Events 2007-2008 School Year

May

2-4	K-12 Art Show	John Glenn Middle School	TBA
7	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
8	BHS Vocal Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
9	BHS Dance Showcase	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
13	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
15	5th Grade Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
19	Academic Awards Night/Hall of Fame Induction	Bedford High School	7-9:00 PM
21	BHS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
22	JGMS Recognition Night	John Glenn Middle School	
26	MEMORIAL DAY—NO SCHOOL		
27	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
27-30	JGMS Washington, D.C. Trip		
28	CSF Awards Reception	St. Michael's Parish Center	7:00 PM
TBA	Junior Prom	TBA	TBA
29	Lane Band/Orchestra/Choral Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM

June

3	JGMS Vocal Showcase	John Glenn Middle School	7:30 PM
3	Senior Prom	TBA	7-11:30 PM
4	WORKSHOP DAY—EARLY DISMISSAL		
4	JGMS Band/Orchestra Concert	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
5	Graduation	Bedford High School	6:15 PM
10	School Committee Meeting	JGMS Multi-Purpose Room	7:30 PM
12	8th Grade Moving On Ceremony	John Glenn Middle School	7:00 PM
16	Tentative Last Day of School		
17	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.

School closing information can also be found at www.thebostonchannel.com.

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 hap-

pened 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 Viladenis

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.

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.

The Bedford METCO Program has been a part of the rich history in Bedford for over 30 years. This desegregation 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.



SAT MEAN SCORES CLASS OF 2005

Reading	554
Writing	570
Mathematics	551

SAT II TEST SCORES CLASS OF 2006

<u>Test</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>
Literature	665
U.S. History	586
Mathematics Level IC	643
Mathematics Level IIC	703
Physics	684
Spanish	627
Chemistry	641
Biology	627

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST SCORES—CLASS OF 2006

52 students took 82 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>
49	5
29	4
16	3
5	2
1	1

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

In the Class of 2007 there were 4 Semifinalists and 17 Commended students.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Year	2006	2005	2004	2003
Four Year College	84%	78%	79%	78%
Two year College	9%	6%	5%	11%
Total	93%	84%	84%	89%

Colleges Accepting a Member of BHS Class of 2007

Adams State Coll.	Eastern Nazarene	Mass., Univ. - Lowell	Salem State College
Adelphi University	Eastern Univ.	Massasoit C.C.	Santa Clara Univ.
Akron, Univ. of	Edinboro Univ.	Merrimack College	School Museum Art
Alaska, Univ. of	Emerson College	Messiah College	Seattle Pacific Univ.
American Univ.	Emory University	Miami, University	Skidmore College
Anna Maria Coll.	Endicott College	Michigan, Univ.	Smith College
Arizona State U.	Fairfield Univ.	Middlebury College	South Carolina, Univ.
Art Inst. of Boston	Fitchburg State	Middlesex C.C.	Southern Maine, Univ.
Assumption Coll.	Florida State Framingham State	M.I.T.	Southern N.H. Univ.
Bard College	Franklin & Marshall	Montserrat Col. Art	Southern Virginia Univ.
Bates College	Franklin Pierce Col.	Mount Holyoke	Springfield College
Becker College	George Washington	Mt Ida College	SUNY – Albany
Bentley College	Georgetown Univ.	Muhlenberg Coll.	SUNY – Purchase
Bethany College	Georgia Inst. of Tech	Murray State Univ.	Suffolk University
Bethel University	Gettysburg College	New Eng. College	Susquehanna Univ.
Boston College	Gordon College	New Eng. Inst Art	Swarthmore College
Boston University	Gustavus Adolphus	New England, Univ.	Syracuse University
Bowdoin College	Hartford, Univ. of	New Hampshire, U.	Taylor University
Bowling Green St.	Harvard College	New York Univ.	Temple University
Brandeis University	Harvey Mudd Coll	Newberry College	Tenn., University
Bridgewater State	Hofstra University	Nichols College	Toledo, University of
British Col. Univ.	Houghton College	North Carolina State	Toronto, University
Brown University	Husson College	North Carolina, Green	Tufts University
Bryant University	Ithaca College	North Park Univ.	Union College
Bryn Mawr Col.	James Madison	Northeastern Univ.	U.S. Air Force Acad.
Bucknell Univ.	Johns Hopkins U.	Northwestern Univ.	Vermont, University
Calhoun Comm.	Johnson & Wales	Notre Dame, Univ.	Villanova University
Calvin College	Keene State College	Olin, Franklin Coll.	Virginia, University
Carnegie Mellon	Kutztown Univ.	Oregon, Univ. of	Virginia Wesleyan U
Case Western	Lafayette College	Penn State Univ.	Washington Univ.
Champlain College	Lehigh University	Philadelphia Univ.	Wesleyan University
Chapman Univ.	LeTourneau Univ.	Pittsburgh, Univ.	Western Carolina U.
Chestnut Hill U.	Lewis & Clark Coll.	Pomona College	Western New England
Clark University	Longwood Univ.	Princeton Univ.	Westfield State College
Colby College	Loyola College MD	Providence College	Westmont College
Colby-Sawyer	Loyola Marymount	Puget Sound, Univ.	Wheaton College (MA)
Colorado College	Lynchburg College	Purdue University	Wheaton College (IL)
Colorado State U.	Maine, Univ-Orono	Quinnipiac Univ.	Wheelock College
Columbia Univ.	Mary Washington, U	Rensselaer Polytech.	Williams College
Concord Univ.	Maryland Inst of Art	Rhode Island College	Winthrop University
Connecticut Col.	Maryland, Univ. of	Rhode Island, Univ.	Worcester Polytech Inst.
Connecticut, U.	Mass. Bay C.C.	Rice University	Worcester State College
Daniel Webster	Mass. College of Art	Rochester, Univ.	
Daytona Beach	Mass. College Lib Art	Roger Williams Univ.	
Delaware, Univ.	Mass. Maritime Acad.	Sacred Heart Univ.	
Eastern CT State	Mass., Univ.-Amherst	Saint Anselm College	
Eastern Maine	Mass., Univ.-Dartmouth	Saint Michael's College	

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 is 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.



Bedford School Committee

Anne Bickford, Chairperson
Noreen O'Gara, Vice-Chairperson
Edward Pierce, Secretary

Abbie Seibert, Member
Brad Hafer, 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



Workshops and Parent Conferences

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE ORIENTATION

September 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 Kindergarten and First Grade Orientation

FULL-DAY TEACHER WORKSHOPS

January 18 (Friday) (Snow Day January 22); March 14 (Friday)

WORKSHOP DAYS—EARLY DISMISSAL-PARENT CONFERENCES

September 19	January 17	May 7
October 3, 17	February 6	June 4
November 7	March 5, 21	
December 5	April 9, 30	

PARENT CONFERENCES: (times vary)

- Davis School 11-7; 12-5; 3-5
- Lane School 11-7; 12-5
- JGMS 11-7; 12-5
- BHS 12-5



Local Initiatives that Enhance School Programs

Bedford High School Parents Association (BHSPA)

The Bedford High School Parents Association is an all volunteer organization dedicated to supporting families in the high school with three main missions—providing information and events to support families and students; fostering a strong family-school partnership; and increasing communication. The BHSPA writes a weekly family-to-family newsletter and also forwards the morning announcements to parents through a private e-mail system. The BHSPA website provides electronic copies of several publications. The BHSPA also provides hard copy communications, including the *Parent to Parent Guide*, the annual Student Telephone Directory, and the sports map guide. Our volunteers also run roundtables with Principal Sills. Meetings and roundtables will be held on the first Thursday of each month starting at 7:00 PM at various locations, with membership meetings immediately following at 8:00 PM. Every year, we plan events around both parent education and teacher appreciation. Our focus for 2007-2008 will be to revive the Host Family program to provide increased mentoring to Hanscom and METCO families especially. Support will also be main-

tained through the continuation of long-established BHSPA events, as well as representation on student-centered town boards including: Violence Prevent Coalition, Community Partnership, Bedford Business Education Alliance, the All Night Graduation Party, the Bedford Athletic Association, and Patrons of Music Students. The contacts for the BHSPA 2007-08 school year are: President Julia Whiteneck, and Co-Vice Presidents Dana Fine and Dianne Grattan.

Visit the BHSPA website at www.bedfordhighpa.org

Bedford Elementary Schools Together (BEST)

BEST PTO was formed by the Davis and Lane Schools' parents organizations to support these schools and their programs. This year's BEST contributions were varied and many. With a budget of about \$50,000, BEST was able to provide both schools with enrichment programs, family events, Good Cheer, Hospitality, school improvements, teacher grants and a variety of other school programs. Additional funds raised

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with a carnival and circus fundraiser last spring allowed BEST to honor retiring Assistant Principals Ilsa Gottlieb and Beverley Barton with new Project Adventure equipment at Lane and playground equipment at Davis. BEST was also able to assist the district with the purchase of twenty new computers for Lane and Davis schools with funds raised over the last several years. The contact person this year is Marge Heckman.

Middle School Parent Association (MSPA)

The Middle School Parent Association (MSPA) 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 MSPA funded the

annual JGMS Science Fair; scholarships for the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.; the 8th grade Moving On ceremony and dance. The MSPA 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 Denise Waldron.

Bedford Public Schools Gift Accounts

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

Residents interested in contributing to special gift accounts for the schools can do so by contacting David Coelho, Director of Finance (781-275-7708).

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, fresh 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 alternatives, 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.

As part of the Bedford High School Renovation Project, the school's cafeteria and kitchen has also undergone a complete face-lift and is scheduled to reopen this September. The cafeteria renovation includes a new kitchen with updated cooking equipment, walk-in size refrigerator and freezer and a new and expanded serving area. The food concept in the serving area will mirror a food court restaurant with five food stations. The food court will allow students, faculty and staff to graze in a comfortable environment with all their favorite food selections and a new salad bar option. The salad bar is an exciting new food option, which will be very popular for all those who visit the cafeteria on a daily basis.



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:

Bedford High School:

- Moved student office into temporary office
- Installed temporary air conditioners in the space for the principal and vice principals' offices.
- Re-located lockers from team room to boys locker room due to construction issues
- Installed new Air Conditioning unit for server room
- Repaired and replaced existing drain lines, which were not included in the renovation project
- Replaced exhaust fan in new science wing as part of renovation project
- Installed Air Conditioning units in CASE classrooms as part of renovation project

John Glenn Middle School:

- Completed electrical modifications in multitude of classrooms for the smart-boards
- Installed lights in the filing room in the Facilities Department
- Installed sinks in Room B115 to accommodate new science classroom
- Ordered new cubicle for Special Educational Office, which includes electrical and phone wiring installation.
- Completed several work orders relating to safety issues, which were discovered during the safety inspection by the Facilities Director, Facilities Operations Manager and the Building Inspector

Lt. Job Lane School:

- Repaired the main freezer unit
- Completed several work orders relating to safety issues, which were discovered during the safety inspection by the Facilities Director, Facilities Operations Manager and the Building Inspector

Lt. Eleazer Davis School:

- Relocated storage shelves from one closet to another. Modified storage room to a special education room
- Painted classroom as a time study for future work
- Bid out the painting of hallways and selected rooms and flooring to be completed this summer
- Repaired freezer door to allow access to freezer
- Repaired mixing valves, check valves and expansion tank to correct hot water back-flowing into cold.
- Completed several work orders relating to safety issues, which were discovered during the safety inspection by the Facilities Director, Facilities Operations Manager and the Building Inspector

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
- HVAC Control review and Energy cost savings implementation



MCAS Calendar for 2007-2008

TEST	ADMINISTRATION DATE	WHO PARTICIPATES
<u>November 2007 Retest</u>		
Mathematics	November 14-15	Grades 10-12 as appropriate
ELA Composition	November 6	Grades 10-12 as appropriate
ELA Comprehension	November 7-8	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
<u>March 2008 Retest</u>		
Mathematics	March 3-4	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
ELA Composition	March 5	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
ELA Reading Comprehension	March 6-7	Grades 10-12, as appropriate
<u>Spring 2008</u>		
Reading	March 24-April 4	Grade 3
ELA Composition	March 25	Grades 4, 7, 10
ELA Reading Comprehension	March 24-April 4	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
ELA Reading Comprehension	March 26	Grade 10
ELA Reading Comprehension	March 27	Grade 10
ELA Composition Make-up	April 2	Grades 4, 7, 10, as appropriate
<u>MCAS Alt. Assessment</u>		
MCAS Alt. Assessment	April 18	Grade 12, Students w/Significant Disabilities
MCAS Alt. Assessment	May 9	Grades 3-8, 10, Students w/Significant Disabilities
<u>May 2008</u>		
Mathematics	May 12-28	Grades 3-8
Science & Tech./Eng.	May 13-28	Grades 5, 8
History & Social Science	May 14-28	Grades 5, 7
<u>May 2008 Test & Pilot Test</u>		
Mathematics	May 21	Grade 10
Mathematics	May 22	Grade 10
US History	May 23-28	Grades 10-11
<u>June 2008</u>		
Science	June 3-4	Grades 9-10
<u>English Language Learners</u>		
MELA-O	October 1-31	Grades K-12, New LEP Students
MEPA-R/W	October 22-31	Grades 3-12, New LEP Students

BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
97 McMahon Road
Bedford, MA 01730

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

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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Residential Customer for Bedford

Bedford, MA 01730

Telephone Numbers

If you wish to contact:	Call:	Davis School Principal - Jennifer 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 Viladenis	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