

Gates Intermediate School Newsletter

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January 20, 2012
Volume II, Issue 9

Charting the Course for Excellence
<http://www.scituate.k12.ma.us>

Principal's Corner



Gates Dates

- ◆ Jan. 20
Progress Reports
- ◆ Jan. 23
PTO Meeting
6:00PM
Media Center
- ◆ Jan. 25
Open Mic Night
7-8:30PM
Cafeteria
- ◆ Feb. 7
Early Release
12:00

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK January 23-27th

No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled "The Misfits" by popular author, James Howe. The book tells the story of four best friends trying to survive the seventh grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, and sexual orientation/gender expression. Motivated by the inequities they see around them, the "Gang of Five" (as they are known) creates a new political party during student council elections and run on a platform aimed at wiping out name-calling of all kinds. The No-Name Party in the end, wins the support of the school's principal for their cause and their idea for a "No Name-Calling Day" at school.

Motivated by this simple, yet powerful, idea, the No Name-Calling Week Coalition created by GLSEN and Simon & Schuster Children's publishing, consisting of over 40 national partner organizations, organized an actual No Name-Calling Week in schools across the nation. The project seeks to focus national attention on the problem of name-calling in schools, and to provide students and educators with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities. You can find more information at: www.nonamecallingweek.org.

Massachusetts has declared January 25 No Name-Calling Day. Governor Deval Patrick said, "In my role as Governor and as a father of two daughters, I firmly believe that every child should come to school knowing that they are safe and free from bullying," said Governor Patrick. "No Name Calling Day will remind us of the type of vigilance we should exhibit every day to ensure our students are free from the dangers and distractions of bullying."



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Charting the Course toward Excellence!

*“A friend is someone who
understands your past,
believes in your future, and
accepts you just the way
you are.*

-Unknown

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Career Cruising

The Gates Intermediate School Counseling Department is proud to announce the implementation of Career Cruising, an internet-based, career exploration and planning tool. The counselors, Amy Mahoney (grade 7) and Nancy Driscoll (grade 8), plan to introduce Career Cruising to the 7th and 8th graders during their studies.

Features of the program include:

- Interest and Skills Assessment – a world-renowned career assessment tool that helps students identify suitable career options based on their interests and skills.
- Career Profiles – thorough and current profiles on hundreds of occupations, including direct links between careers and related college programs.
- Multimedia Interviews – interviews with real people in each occupation, which add depth and realism to career profiles.
- Electronic Career Portfolio – students can develop their education and career plans directly on Career Cruising
- Resume Builder – integrated with the portfolio to help students format and print resumes quickly and easily.

To find out more about Career Cruising, login using the school’s access information:

- Login at www.careercruising.com
- Enter your school’s user name: scituatehs
- Enter your school’s password: cjcushing
- Click on “Start Career Cruising” to begin!

CAREER SPEAKER SERIES

The School Counseling Department will be starting the Career Speaker Series this spring. This is an opportunity for students to learn, directly from members of our community, about different careers. We are looking for anyone who might be interested in speaking to a group of about 20 students about their career. Please contact Amy Mahoney, amahoney@scit.org if you are interested in presenting and she will give you more details.



OPEN MIC NIGHT
Wednesday, January 25
7-8:30 PM – Cafeteria
Admission can be a donation of clothing for Cradles to Crayons or \$5

STUDENT GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Gates Student Government has recently started a donation drive to collect items for James Voelger, a Scituate soldier in the U.S. Army that has been deployed to Afghanistan for the next 10 months. The supplies will help James and members of his troop. The homeroom that brings in the most items by February 1st will receive an ice cream party. We are collecting: \$10 phone cards, wipes for washing, deodorant, tooth paste, Q-tips, soap, razors (disposable), shaving cream, chap stick, DVD's, gum, trail mix, playing cards, crossword puzzles, hand warmers, candy, toothbrushes, pens, and icy/hot patches.

The Gates Student Government is working on setting a date for early March for the Black and White Dance. We will make a donation to the Magical Moon Foundation based on the proceeds from the dance.

R.A.P NEWS

The next meeting for members is January 30, 2012 in the Gates Library from 2:30 -4. Topics for discussion and learning are Social Thinking and Expected Behaviors!

We look forward to another great get together of our Respectful, Awesome, People! Thanks for your commitment!

Ms. McNamara, Mrs. Driscoll, and Mrs. Branca



Quebec Trip for Grade Eight



There is still room for a few more students on the Quebec Trip on April 28-30! Grade 8 French students can check Edline for more details or see Madame for info packet or email her at ddufault@scit.org.



French National Contest



This is a national French test given to French students across the country in March. It takes place at school and is a 70 question multiple choice test. We are offering it to grade 8 students. There is a \$6 charge to take the test. If you are interested, bring the cash or check made to Town of Scituate to Mme Dufault by Monday the 23rd of January. There will be no signups after Monday.



The Gates Wrestling Club will have a home meet vs. Braintree Middle School Wrestling on Friday 1/27 from 6-8 PM in the Gates gymnasium. Admission is free. Come on out to watch a great sport & support our wrestlers in their only home meet of the season!!!"

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

Scituate Public Schools
Grades 7
January 18, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is to inform you that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's mandated height and weight screening will be starting next week and will continue through the next few months here at Gates. This data will be used to calculate your child's BMI (Body Mass Index).

The screening will be conducted by the school nurse and physical education instructors. The student's privacy will be respected at all times. Screens are utilized to ensure this privacy. The results of your child's height, weight, and calculated BMI are strictly confidential. These results will be kept restricted in your child's school health record and sent to you directly by mail.

At the end of the school year, Scituate's aggregate BMI data is reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). This data is completely anonymous and will have no individual identifying markers attached. The DPH uses this data to allocate resources and funding to districts for the purpose of improving wellness opportunities throughout the state.

We know that BMI is not the whole story but it can be used as an indicator of overall health. We also know that an athletic muscular build can result in a higher weight and BMI, even though the student does not have a significant amount of body fat. That is why we encourage you to share these results with your child's health care provider. Your doctor or nurse is the best person to evaluate your child's overall health.

Please be advised that you may request to opt out of the Body Mass Index screening. To do so, please send a note in with your student stating your request to have your student excused from this screening. Every effort will be made to sensitively support your request.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this screening.

Sincerely,

Kellie Murphy-Roche RN BSN NCSN

Famous Author Visits Gates

After reading about the challenges faced by a young Japanese girl and her family as they travelled back to their own country from Korea at the end of World War II, Gates' seventh grade students were able to actually meet and talk with the author. The PTO's generous sponsorship allowed us to invite Yoko Kawashima Watkins, the author of *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, to speak to our students on January 6. The students were captivated by Yoko's experiences and the advice that she shared about the importance of family in our lives. It was a great follow-up to our unit which integrated both English and Social Studies. Ask your seventh grader about what they learned from Yoko!