

Superintendent's Email Update **January 23, 2012**

Below please find my second Superintendent's Update. The Superintendent's Update is intended as a way to reach out to members of our community with current information, particularly highlights of student achievements in curriculum and athletics. Previous "Superintendent's Email Updates" are posted on my section of our school website for your reference. There are many positive initiatives in the Scituate Public Schools to share with you this week.

One item to consider this week is an application for a 2012 Chinese Guest Teacher, a program that is organized through a grant coordinated by the College Board and Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters. Scituate Public Schools is committed to Global Education and offering a rich foreign language program. While we do not currently offer Chinese in our language program, the College Board grant is a unique model that has been utilized in other South Shore towns. Please see the last section of this Email Update for additional details. The grant would allow us to bring a Chinese teacher to Scituate to begin a very small scale Chinese program. The grant includes several steps, the most important of which is the identification of a family in Scituate that might be interested in hosting a Chinese teacher for a year.

I would like to encourage interested families to contact Patricia Jacquart, the Foreign Language Department Chair, or me with inquiries about this program. I recognize that there are costs associated with hosting an exchange teacher, so our initial conversations will also look at what additional grants we may pursue to reduce some of the initial costs for families that are willing to host. Beginning a small-scale Chinese program will of course involve some cost to the district, and this is something we will explore as part of the budget process. The number of school districts offering Chinese in Massachusetts has increased significantly in recent years. While we may not be in a position to offer Chinese this fall, we are continuing to explore options and we want to include you in these initial discussions.

On Saturday I presented an overview of the district's vision and budget for FY13. The document is posted on the district website at this address: [FY13 Budget and District Wide Vision Statement](#) The next meeting of the School Committee will take place tonight at 7PM, and at this meeting we will continue our consideration of the budget for the year ahead.

Congratulations to our winter sports teams who are working very hard. The record as of this afternoon is as follows:

- Girls Basketball is still undefeated...their record thus far is 8-0-0.
- Boys Basketball is 5-0-4.. they are on a 4 game win streak.
- The boys and girls swim teams are both 2-3 overall.
- Track boys are 2-0-3.
- Track Girls are 3-0-2.
- Girls Hockey had an awesome tournament in MV over the weekend, winning both of their games... their record stands at 6 wins and 4 losses.
- Boys Hockey ended the weekend with a loss to NQ but came back and beat Concord Carlisle on Monday MLK Day. Their overall record is 8-2-1.

Thank you and have a great week.

–Jim Kelleher, Interim Superintendent

On the Calendar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

PreK – High School - Early Release Day - No PM Kindergarten

REMINDER: Elementary ELA MCAS are scheduled for March. Check with your school for details.

School Committee Announcements:

The next scheduled School Committee meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2012, 7:00 pm in the High School Library. The School Committee will present their FY13 Budget at this meeting.

SHS Kudos

Students Attend Biotechnology Conference

On January 11th, our Honors Biology students had the opportunity to visit Bridgewater State College for a Biotechnology conference. The conference, *Biotech Futures: A Career Exploration Event for BioTeach Students* is funded through MassBioEd and gives students the opportunity to listen to speakers from various backgrounds talk about the experience in the biotech industry.

Forensic Debate Team

The SHS Forensic Debate Team hosted a divisional meet of the South Eastern Massachusetts Debate League in which over 200 students from across South Eastern Massachusetts participated. Varsity SHS teams winning debates were Joe Siekiewicz and Thomas Brennan as well as John Ohrenberger and Ariel Dickerman. The Varsity team of Zach Brazao and Chris Robotham remained undefeated after scoring two more victories.

American Legion Oratorical Contest

On Tuesday, December 20th, the Scituate Post of the American Legion sponsored an *oratory contest* for students at Scituate High School. Students wrote, memorized, and delivered eight to ten-minute speeches on the duties of citizens to the government. The students delivered their speeches in front of a panel of judges made up of Legion members and teachers from the History and English departments at SHS. The Scituate Post awarded \$1,850 in scholarships to Scituate High School students. Congratulations to the following winners from Scituate High School: Zachary Brazao, Christopher Robotham, Elizabeth Whitehouse, and Melissa Harris. The winners now will move on to the district level competition.

Music and Art

Last Friday, January 6th, 152 artworks were digitally submitted for judging in this year's Boston Globe Scholastic Art contest. The SHS Art department submitted 9 digital portfolios, (8 image each including a personal statement from the honors art program), and 20 pieces from each art teacher. We wait anxiously for the notification of winners which should be emailed before the end of January. The Art department has also scheduled a "Select High School Art Show" at the Scituate Art Association in March to celebrate the work of our students.

Congratulations to the students who were accepted to the annual Massachusetts Music Educators Association Southeastern Junior District Music Festival (Grade 9-12): Ani Koziel, Samantha Gottlich, Jillian Palubicki, Joseph Downing, Theodore Ragge, Emma LaBreck, Scott Reinhardt and Ian Strobino.

District Athletics

Girls Ice Hockey

This past weekend, the Lady Sailors hockey team won the *2012 Nan Rheault Invitational Girls Ice Hockey Annual Tournament!* The girls earned the tournament championship after battling for a 2-1 victory over Martha's Vineyard and then a 2-0 shutout win over Wilmington. The team capped off the weekend with a regular season win over Marshfield on Monday. The team record this season is 6 – 4. In the past three seasons the team has only won three games total. The girls should be commended for their hard work and commitment as well as their loyalty and drive since the team's inception. Those characteristics and their effort have created the team that they are today.

Cheers!

Our Cheering team has been invited to cheer in the 33rd Shriner Football Classic game. This is an honor and privilege for the team as only six teams a year participate in this event. The game will be in June at Gillette

Stadium. Congratulations to our team!

An update from Cushing School

Cushing School continues its efforts to become a healthy school community. One step in meeting this goal is parents and staff working together to move us along this path. As a result of this partnership: Cushing School is home for almost a year now to a wonderful salad bar! More and more we see our students choosing to purchase a salad as their lunch choice. Offerings in our salad bar include (but are not limited to) lettuce, tomato, cucumber, olives, carrots, cheeses, chicken, tuna fish, ham, macaroni salad, onions, various vegetables, croutons, pita bread, fruits, etc. Mrs. Janet O'Connor, Cushing School Cafeteria Manager, works closely with Mrs. Regan Lobo, Mrs. Nikki Depina, Mrs. Mary Kelly and Mrs. Jennifer Adams to promote prepare items for our salad bar and promote this option as a healthy lunch choice with our students!

Parent Members of our Healthy School Council are also stepping forward to help us implement a Docent Nutrition Program this Spring at the Kindergarten level and then hopefully beyond next year.

An update from Hatherly School

Our PTO's Lunch Around the World Committee transported our students to South America on Thursday. The students entered a colorful cafeteria with blue, yellow and red table cloths and small Venezuelan flags adorning the tables and a large flag hanging on the stage curtain. You could have heard a pin drop as Mrs. Terie Seymour told them about the country of her birth with vivid images of the Venezuelan country, food, culture, dress, music and language displayed in our Lunch Around the World Power Point presentation. Students were quizzed at the end of the show and many won prizes for correct answers. All students had the much anticipated opportunity to try a food from the featured country... the plantain chips "platanitos" were a definite hit! Mrs. Melissa Boynton is chairing this committee again this year and had a great group of helpers, but she can always use more. We also would love any family to help feature a native country or even one they have traveled to! The US Flag Manufacturing, Inc. Store in Cohasset Village was kind enough to loan us the large Venezuelan flag that was on display

An update from Jenkins School

The Jenkins Green Team, in conjunction with the School Council, is working to make Jenkins a "greener environment." In order to promote a sustainable community, many exciting things are happening at Jenkins. Soon students will be able to purchase reusable water bottles and lunch bags from the Jenkins School Store, which is operated by the Jenkins PTO. Using these items will help reduce waste in the cafeteria. All students are recycling yogurt containers, water bottles, spoons, and forks during lunch and snack time. During Friday morning announcements, a third grade student recites the "green tip of the week." This weekly tip suggests different ways to help the environment. The Jenkins biweekly newsletter contains a corner named, *It is easy to be green*, which communicates information about how to help the environment.

An update from Wampatuck School

Our "Wampatuck Word Wizards" have embarked on a new vocabulary adventure! Each week, every class will explore the themes of *art*, *music*, *physical activity*, and *character* by brainstorming words to adorn "leaves" on classroom "trees." The final week of the initiative is our "Wild Card" week, during which classroom teachers will choose an interesting word that aligns with their curriculum. It is exciting to see the growing vocabulary of all of our students!

You are welcome to come by Wampatuck School and see the forest of trees and leaves reflecting our burgeoning vocabulary!

An update from Gates Intermediate School

Gates Robotics - This week most teams are finishing up their base robot chassis and have installed 2 motors, 4 gears and mounted the 3 wheels. One group of ladies from Day 2 has the pad ready to install the robot's "brain." A group in Friday's B block got their robot's brain or microprocessor mounted. D block day 2 had a team that got their robot mobile using the remote! Most groups should have their robot functional late next week.

Robotics is a new program offered this year at Gates. Special thanks to interim superintendent Dr. Kelleher, Science department head Ms. Dakin and our principal Ms. Shannon and the Gates custodial staff. A special thanks to assistant principal Mr. Meehan who did a lot of the behind the scenes work to get the hardware ordered and expediting the many tasks required to pull off getting things in place for our students. Without all their help and efforts this program would not have made it off the ground this past fall. The students are having a ball while learning many valuable life skills, being introduced the new STEM concept and getting ready for the upcoming MCAS Science, Technology and Engineering 8th grade test this spring.

Careful when you visit Gates, there may be robots roaming the halls! If you are in the building stop by C108 to see what our students are constructing and all excited about.

You've all heard many great things about our Wrestling Club. Now it's your chance to witness them for yourself. Come see the Gates Wrestling Club take on Braintree in their only HOME meet of the season this Fri. in Gates' Gym. Doors will open at 6:15 and admission is FREE.

Congratulations to the Gates Wrestling Team on another great meet yesterday morning vs. Hanover, Easton & Plymouth South. Special recognition was earned by the following wrestlers for going undefeated for the day: Mike Dami, David Sheehan, Troy Hewitt, Ted McCarry

Open Mic Night is coming up on Wed., Jan. 25th @ 7:00PM in the Gates Caf. Admission is \$5 or an item of clothing for Cradles to Crayons.

2012 Chinese Guest Teacher & Trainee Program

Make Chinese learning come alive and strengthen your school's Chinese program! Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2012 - Looking to initiate or grow your Chinese language and culture program? Apply now to host a Chinese guest teacher or trainee for the 2012-13 school year! Made possible through a collaboration between the College Board and Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban), the program serves hundreds of K-12 schools and districts. Take this unique opportunity to bring a native Chinese speaker to your students and be part of an exciting international exchange!

Launch or Expand your Chinese Program: Host a Teacher--Now in its fifth year, the Chinese Guest Teacher Program is the largest national Chinese visiting teacher program in the U.S., and has brought nearly 600 experienced Chinese teachers to classrooms across the nation.

The program provides an experienced language teacher from China to work full-time in the host school or district for a period of one to three years. The guest teachers have at least three years of teaching experience and go through a rigorous selection and training process. Participating institutions are responsible for providing a partial salary to the guest teacher, which is subsidized by a stipend from Hanban.

Enrich your Cultural Activities: Host a Teacher Trainee--New in 2012! Established K-12 Chinese programs now have the opportunity to host a Chinese Guest Trainee. Guest trainees serve as classroom assistants in K-12 schools for one year, where they support authentic Chinese language and culture learning. Trainees have recently completed TCFL (Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language) post-graduate programs in China, and in their U.S. placements, they share their enthusiasm for Chinese language learning with the school community. Host institutions are responsible for providing guest trainees with a structured training plan, complimentary housing and transportation.

Apply by Feb. 1, 2012 at www.collegeboard.com/guestteacher.

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming School and Athletic Events (HOME Games only)

Please be sure to double check the following games at [Scituate High School Athletic Schedule Website](#)

Tuesday, January 24th

3:30 pm Girls Freshman Basketball vs. Silver Lake Regional High School
5:00 pm Girls Junior Varsity Basketball vs. Silver Lake Regional High School
6:30 pm Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Silver Lake Regional High School

Thursday, January 26th

3:30 pm Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Abington High School
4:00 pm Coed Varsity Swimming vs. Hanover High School (Call 781 545 8750 ext 344 for location)
5:00 pm Boys Junior Varsity Basketball vs. Abington High School

Friday, January 27th

3:30 pm Girls Freshman Basketball vs. N. Quincy High School
5:00 pm Girls Junior Varsity Basketball vs. N. Quincy High School
6:30 pm Girls Varsity Basketball vs. N. Quincy High School

Saturday, January 28th

5:00 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Silver Lake Regional at Hobomock
8:00 pm Girls Varsity Hockey vs. N. Quincy High School at Pilgrim
8:30 pm Boys Junior Varsity Hockey vs. Silver Lake Regional

Sunday, January 29th

10:30 am Boys Junior Varsity vs. N. Quincy High School at Hobomock
1:00 pm Join Scituate METCO Elementary Parents at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Email hlemmel@scit.org for details.
4:00 pm Scituate Teachers Got Music Performance, Scituate High School Auditorium
Performances by the talented Scituate musical staff. Tickets \$7.00

Monday, January 30th

7:00 pm Boys Varsity Wrestling vs. Middleboro High School

Tuesday, January 31st

3:30 pm Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Hanover High School
4:30 pm Coed Varsity Track vs. Rockland/Randolph
5:00 pm Boys Junior Varsity Basketball vs. Hanover High School
6:30 pm Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Hanover High School