

2016 Annual Administrator's Report Of the Mattapoissett Public Schools

Submitted By
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Student Enrollment & Facilities:

The opening of the Mattapoissett Schools for the 2015-2016 school year went very smoothly for students and the staff. Enrollment at Center School, including Project GROW was 252 students. The total enrollment at Old Hammondtown School was 229 students. There were eleven (11) new students enrolled during the summer months at Center School and eleven (11) new students enrolled in the summer at Old Hammondtown. Eight (8) students withdrew from Center School over the summer and four (4) from Old Hammondtown. We welcomed fifty-three (53) students into our Kindergarten class. In June seventy-two (72) grade three students left Center School to join the Old Hammondtown School community and seventy-eight (78) grade six students left Old Hammondtown School to join the Old Rochester Regional Junior High School community.

Personnel:

Several new staff members were welcomed to the Mattapoissett School District as the new school year began. Miriam Eble is a special education teacher at Old Hammondtown School. Miriam formally taught at the Beverly School for the Deaf and in the New Bedford School System. Bethanie Grant is the School Adjustment Counselor at Old Hammondtown School. Bethanie, a former student at Old Hammondtown School, worked in the New Bedford School System before joining the Mattapoissett School Community. Jenna Tavares, a recent graduate of Bridgewater State University, is teaching grade four at Old Hammondtown School replacing a teacher who has been granted a one-year leave of absence. Alexa Cabral joined the staff at Center School as a grade three teacher replacing Judy Proctor who retired at the end of the school year. Alexa previously taught grade three in the Mashpee School District. Michele Barry joined the grade two teaching team after completing a one-year teaching position in grade two. Karen Farrell has joined the Center School staff as a paraprofessional filling the position made available when Michele Barry acquired the permanent teaching position. Jocelyn Hotte was chosen to fill the one-year substitute position. Jocelyn works with students in grades Kindergarten through grade six. Sarah Gates joined the Mattapoissett School District in March 2015. Sarah is the School Psychologist working three days per week at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. We are delighted to welcome all of these new staff members to the Mattapoissett School District!

On June 20, 2016 the school community bid farewell to two exceptional staff members at Old Hammondtown School. Kris Brammer retired after serving the students in Mattapoissett as a classroom teacher for twenty-seven years. Lynda Duggan retired after thirty-two years facilitating the Old Hammondtown School library. These dedicated professionals truly made an impact on hundreds of students during their years of service. We wish Kris Brammer and Lynda Duggan every happiness as their retirement journey commences. We are very grateful for their decades of service to our school community.

School Council:

As a result of the passing of the Education Reform Act of 1993, each school's School Council is now in its twentieth year of operation. The role of the School Council, as defined by law, is to

assist the Principal in identifying the educational needs of the students, review the annual budget of the school, and develop an annual school improvement plan. For the 2015-16 school year, Center School and Old Hammondtown School continues to have a Joint School Council and a Joint School Improvement Plan.

The 2015-2016 members of the Joint School Council of Center School-Old Hammondtown School are:

Courtney Aarsheim	Grade One Teacher	Center School
Greta Anderson	Art Teacher	Center and Old Hammondtown
Rosemary Bowman	Principal	Center and Old Hammondtown
Annette Brickley	Parent	Old Hammondtown School
Alexa Cabral	Grade Three Teacher	Center School
Amy Casi	Grade Five Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Wendy Copps	Parent	Center and Old Hammondtown
Karen Farrell	Parent	Center and Old Hammondtown
Amy Hartley-Matteson	Parent	Center and Old Hammondtown
Joanna Ingham	Parent	Center and Old Hammondtown
Greta Anderson	Art Teacher	Center School and Old Hammondtown
Audrey Riley	Kindergarten Teacher	Center School
Sara Jacobsen	Grade Six Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Carolyn Pawlishen	Grade Four Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Renee Pothier	Parent	Old Hammondtown School
Amy Renna	Grade Two Teacher	Center School
Kevin Tavares	Associate Principal	Center and Old Hammondtown

Professional Development

Teachers and administrators in the school district have worked with the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Elise Frangos, on the following professional development opportunities:

- Ross Greene, noted psychologist in the field of social and emotional learning, met with all staff members in the Old Rochester Regional School District on September 4, 2015. This full professional development day focused on strategies to support students throughout their school day. Ross Greene is the author of the book *Lost at School*.
- On October 7, 2015 all staff participated in professional development opportunities in the district. The main focus for Kindergarten through grade five teachers was Math. Kindergarten teachers worked with Mr. Kevin Tavares focusing on the implementation and pacing of the Kindergarten Math curriculum. The grade one, two and three teachers worked with a consultant from Looney Math Consultants. The grade four and grade five

teachers worked with their grade level partners from Rochester Memorial School. The grade six teachers worked on vertical teams with the grade seven and eight teachers. The grade six professional development day was focused on the specific content areas that they teach.

- Students at each grade level at Center School and Old Hammondtown School are engaged in academic work utilizing Chrome Books. Associate Principal Kevin Tavares and technologist Bill Simmons have done an extraordinary job setting up and providing educational resources to the teachers in order to facilitate the implementation of Chrome Books at the elementary level.
- On January 15, 2016 all grade level teachers participated in professional development sessions focused on Math. All grade levels, Kindergarten through grade six, are using the *GO MATH!* Program in the presentation of math standards at each grade level.
- On Wednesday, February 10, the staff at Center School and Old Hammondtown School participated in professional development opportunities during a two hour collaboration block. Grade six teachers met at ORRJHS and collaborated on curriculum vertical teams; grade four and grade five teachers worked with Sue Wheeler on Chromebooks; grade one, two and three teachers worked on learning centers focused on Math. This PD session was facilitated by grade two teachers Kate Lesniaski and Michele Barry; Kindergarten teachers worked on preparing standards based math materials as presented by the consultant at the January 15 professional development day.

Student Assessments

PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers)

- Students in grades 3, 4 5 and 6 participated the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment in English/Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. Students in grades 3-6 participated in this computer assessment, which was given after approximately 90% of the instruction had been delivered. All PARCC assessments are taken online at each grade level (grades three through six).
- The Massachusetts Department of Education recognized Old Hammondtown School and Center School for achieving **LEVEL ONE** status on the **PARCC Assessment**.
- Individual student reports from the Spring 2015 PARCC assessment were mailed to parents of students who are presently in grades four, five and six on December 9, 2015. Each parent received individual student performance information in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System)

In the spring of 2016 grade five students took the Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS assessment. Grade five students participated in this MCAS assessment using a pencil and paper document. Science and Technology/Engineering is the only MCAS assessment given to the elementary students (grade five only).

GALILEO

Students in grades three through six at Center School and Old Hammondtown School participated in the Galileo Assessment System (Online) in English/Language Arts and Mathematics (pre and post assessments). All grade five (5) students at Old Hammondtown School also participated in the Galileo *Science* assessment.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Accreditation

The Kindergarten program in the Mattapoissett Public Schools has received accreditation status by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This prestigious award recognizes the highest level of standards met in a Kindergarten program.

Kindergarten Program

The Mattapoisett School System provides a tuition free full day Kindergarten program for all Mattapoisett students. Students must be five (5) years old by August 31 in order to enter the Kindergarten program for that school year.

Kindergarten Orientation Meetings

The incoming Kindergarten Parent Informational meeting took place on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria at Center School. The Kindergarten teachers presented an overview of the Kindergarten day and the nurse spoke to the parents about the necessary health information that must be submitted to the school office prior to the Kindergarten registration, for the 2016-2017 took place on Wednesday, February 3 from 3:00 – 5:30 pm and on Thursday, February 4 from 8:45 – 11:00 am. Registration took place in the cafeteria at Center School.

Meet and Greet – Kindergarten Students

The Kindergarten students “Meet and Greet” took place on May 16 and May 17, 2016. Parents were given a choice of date and a choice of time for the “Meet and Greet” session. On these days the students worked with the Kindergarten teachers in groups of 8-10 children for approximately forty-five minutes. Students played in small groups, and worked with staff members individually completing tasks demonstrating their understanding of math and literacy concepts.

All of the Kindergarten students were invited to visit the Kindergarten classrooms with their parents on May 18, 2016 from 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm. This is an opportunity for students and their parents to see what the Kindergarten classrooms look like. This visualization will support their transition when school begins in September.

Kindergarten Report Cards

Students in Kindergarten receive two progress reports and two report cards each year. The Kindergarten program is in year four of the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment Program. Kindergarten teachers report on Kindergarten children's progress using the *Teaching Strategies Gold Reports*. Report Cards are sent home to the parents of all Kindergarten students in January and at the end of the school year.

Students Activities

Math Olympiad

The Math Olympiad team, facilitated by Mrs. Linda Aruri, continues at Old Hammondtown School. The Math competition is a timed challenge focused on solving word problems. The challenge is completed at school and submitted to the Math Olympiad Committee. This math group meets every Tuesday from November through March.

Art

Greta Anderson, Art teacher at Center School and Old Hammondtown School, celebrates the creativity of each student with an Art Show each spring. Each student, in grades Kindergarten through grade six, has a drawing or project presented in this annual event. The Art Show took place on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

After-School Programs:

Several after-school programs were offered during the school year at Old Hammondtown School. A variety of sports and creative arts opportunities were offered in the fall and in the spring to students in grades three, four, five and six. These programs, supported financially with per course fees, were facilitated by staff members at Old Hammondtown School. This program, facilitated by Michael Bowman and Chad Cabeceiras, was very popular with students from Center School and Old Hammondtown School.

Grade Six Basketball Game

A special basketball game took place on Friday, March 18, 2016 at Old Rochester Regional High School. The grade 6 students demonstrated their basketball talents in this game against the Old Hammondtown School staff. The spirit and athletic ability of the staff members and students was evident throughout this exciting game!

Hour of Code

During the week of December 7, 2015 students in grades Kindergarten through grade six participated in the "Hour of Code" during their computer class with Ms. Lourenco. This specialized work introduces the students to the art and science components of programming in technology.

"BOK" Program

Mr. Chad Cabeceiras, Physical Education teacher, started the "Bok" program at Center School in March 2016. This exercise program for students took place from 7:30 – 8:15 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Center School. Parent volunteers supported students in this program sponsored by the Reebok Corporation.

Field Day Events

Field Day events were held on Friday, June 3, for students at Old Hammondtown School. Field Day for students in grades Kindergarten, grade one, grade two and grade three took place on Tuesday, June 7. The format of the field day at each school included multiple "Stations" each focused on a different activity. Staff members and volunteers were at each "Station" to guide and support the students. The Mattapoisett YMCA donated a piece of play equipment which was included as one of the Field Day "Stations". Representatives from the YMCA will be at each school on Field Day to support the students. Student volunteers from Old Rochester Regional High School facilitated sport stations at each of the schools during Field Day. Each grade level wore their special color t-shirt for this great event.

Musical Performances

- Schools were closed on November 11, in honor of Veterans' Day. A special program will be held at Old Hammondtown School at 11:00 am honoring all Veterans. The Old Hammondtown School Band and members of the Grade Four Chorus and the Old Hammondtown School Select Chorus provided the musical component of the program.
- The **Old Hammondtown School Holiday Performance** took place on Wednesday, December 9. The Old Hammondtown School Concert Band, Jazz Band, Grade Four Chorus and Select Chorus, under the direction of Willow Dowling and Emily LaFleur, entertained a capacity crowd.
- Center School's annual holiday performance, *"Twinkle and Shine"*, was presented on Tuesday, December 22 for families and members of the community at 9:30 am in the Center School gym. The students from Old Hammondtown School will attend an afternoon performance on Monday, December 21, 2015.

We extend our deepest thanks to all our families for your heartwarming support at each of our school's musical presentations. Your presence is an incredible confirmation of the family spirit at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. This performances was directed by Mrs. Willow Dowling at Center School and Mrs. Emily LaFleur at Old Hammondtown school.

On Wednesday April 29, 2015 the Instrumental Music Department at Old Hammondtown School presented a "Musical Cabaret" in the cafetorium at Old Hammondtown School. Coffee and desserts were available to purchase. Parents also put together special baskets, which were raffled off at the Cabaret. This special evening was a huge success!

The Old Hammondtown School Jazz Band participated in the Massachusetts Association for Jazz Education competition on May 7, 2015. The band performed selections for a panel of judges and participated in a clinic with an adjudicator where the strengths and weaknesses of the ensemble were shared with the group.

The Instrumental and Choral Concert at Old Hammondtown School was held on Thursday, June 2 at 6:30 pm. Family members were invited to attend this special performance.

Mattapoisett PTA – School Programs

Over the years funding from the Mattapoissett PTA has provided valuable services and programs, which have enriched student experiences at each grade level. A very large part of the Mattapoissett PTA budget is devoted to the Arts and Humanities. The students have experienced many multicultural events and programs. Programs are linked to the specific curriculum being taught in each particular grade. Programs presented this year are:

- Scholastic Book Fairs, sponsored by the Mattapoissett PTA, were held at Old Hammondtown School and Center School. Mrs. Monica Whalley facilitated the Book Fair at Old Hammondtown School during the week of October 13, 2015. Mrs. Kerri Besancon, chairperson for the Book Fair at Center School, has scheduled the Book Fair during the week of November 2, 2015. The Mattapoissett PTA donates all of the funds raised through the Book Fairs to the libraries at each school
- Mother Goose visited the Kindergarten and Project GROW students telling lively stories and bringing nursery rhymes to life – all while supporting creative thinking, language development and emerging literacy skills.
- Grade four students participated in a Museum of Science Boston (“MOSB”) Traveling Program entitled “Geology: Rock Detectives”. The children worked together identifying various rocks and minerals using “hands-on” observations and experiments.
- Grade three students learned about the daily life of the Wampanoags in the 17th century participating in a program entitled “People of the East”.
- Grade five students at Old Hammondtown were treated to another MOSB traveling Program entitled Sounds of Science. The students rocked out to the science of vibration, sound and music!
- In March, storyteller Karen Chase returned to Center School to mesmerize the first graders with her stories from around the world. Grade two students also participated in a poetry workshop presented by Lyn Littlefield Hoopes. Her poems are inspired by nature and the students love her creativity!
- On Tuesday March 8, The New Bedford Ballet presented the “Snow Queen” for the Center School students. The performance was outstanding. The participants were junior and senior high students representing various schools in the New Bedford area. The Mattapoissett PTA and the Mattapoissett Cultural Grant supported this performance.
- On March 23 the grade three students will participated in a special program facilitated by the Boston Museum of Science titled: “Electromagnetism.” The Mattapoissett PTA funded this program.
- “Staff Appreciation Day”, sponsored by the Mattapoissett PTA, was celebrated in the schools on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The Mattapoissett PTA, with the support of our extraordinary parents, made this special day a reality.
- The grade three students enjoyed activities at the Mattapoissett YMCA on Thursday, June 16. The Mattapoissett PTA sponsored this event. Center School Yearbooks were shared in the afternoon with time to “sign” this special book filled with pictures of all of the students and staff at Center School.
- In June the Mattapoissett PTA sponsored a “Buy One-Get One” (BOGO) Scholastic Book fairs at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. Students received one free book for every book they purchased. A great way to start their summer break!

Community Outreach Community Service Project

The students at Center School and Old Hammondtown School worked on the annual PTA Senior Citizen Community Service Program. This special project, funded by the Mattapoissett PTA, has been shared with our senior citizens for the past eighteen (18) years. Special baskets were delivered to the homes of 145 Senior Citizens, The theme for 2016 was: “Celebrating May Day in Mattapoissett”. Students at each grade level created the projects for the Senior Citizen gift baskets. The project was facilitated by the board members of the Mattapoissett PTA under the direction of Lisa Wright.

Mattapoisett Land Trust

On April 7, 2016 the students in grade three attended a program at the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The Mattapoisett Land Trust paid all admission fees and the cost of the bus transportation. Ellyn Flynn, education coordinator for the Mattapoisett Land Trust, organized this field trip for our grade three students. Specific areas of study included:

- **“Watershed Walk:** At this station, the students became familiar with the structure of a watershed and the function of different surface types within it. The students were taught about the Buzzards Bay watershed by exploring the Richard C. Wheeler Bay Learning Center and performed percolation tests outside to compare how different surfaces in our watershed absorb (or don’t absorb) water.
- **Hi-Lo Hunt:** At this station, the students were outside using their senses and simple instruments to observe the local environment and discover various physical factors. They searched for extremes in temperature, moisture, and light in the Custom House Square Park.”
- At the New Bedford Whaling Museum the students focused on the study of whales. “Exhibits and participatory investigations will assist students in comparing and contrasting whales to humans. They also spent time in the skeleton learning station and had the opportunity to climb aboard the world’s largest ship model.”
- On Wednesday, June 1, the grade six students traveled to Cuttyhunk to visit the students at the Cuttyhunk School. Throughout the school year the students of the Cuttyhunk Elementary School have shared educational experiences with the grade six students through visits to OHS and through the use of technology. Ben Squire, grade six science teacher, has coordinated these visits and shared technology experiences. The principal of the Cuttyhunk Elementary School organized various activities and presentations for the students to participate in during this very special field trip. Residents of Cuttyhunk facilitated each of the presentations. The Mattapoisett Land Trust provided financial support for this field trip and several members joined the students on this incredible trip.

Mattapoisett Public Library

Mrs. Jeanne McCullough from the Mattapoisett Public Library met with all of the students at Old Hammondtown School in January to discuss the “Quahog Book Award Program” which was offered at the public library. This program encourages student reading in grades three through six. Students at each grade level can read from a list of 10 selected titles, and vote on their favorites. Four awards were given at each grade level at the conclusion of the program.

In June, Mrs. Linda Burke and Mrs. Jeanne McCullough, from the Mattapoisett Public Library, introduced the summer reading program to the students from Center School and Old Hammondtown School. A special summer “Reading Calendar” was sent home with all students. Summer reading efforts were recognized in the fall with a “Reading Wall of Fame” at each of the schools and special events held throughout the summer at the Mattapoisett Public Library.

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra

Terry Wolkowicz, education coordinator for the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, visited the grade three students at Center School to present the program, *Adaptation in Music*. “Adaptation in music is often referred to as thematic development or transformation, is described as a gradual, structural change of a musical idea throughout a piece of music. Using vivid examples of classical music performed live by NBSO musicians, the *Learning in Concert* program will trace the evolution of a musical idea as it is transformed and adapted throughout a piece of music. By changing the motion of a melody from steps to skips to leaps, from low to high, or gradually accelerating or slowing the rhythmic motion, composers can gradually transform the form, structure and motion of a musical idea as it unfolds throughout a piece of music.”

All of the grade three students were given the opportunity to attend a special concert by the NBSO at the Zeiterion Theatre in March, 2016. This extraordinary program has truly made a

lasting impression on our grade three students. We are grateful for Terry Wolkowicz's for her outstanding presentation of this program. This presentation was funded by the Mattapoissett PTA.

Flag Day Celebration

Flag Day was celebrated on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at Center School with all of the students from Center School and Old Hammondtown School in attendance. Members of the Florence Eastman American Legion were in attendance and presented the Flags at this special celebration, which will be held outside near the flagpole on Church Street. The Old Hammondtown Band played two patriotic songs and students shared poems and sang patriotic songs at this special Flag Day ceremony.

Senior Citizen Recognition

The Third Graders honored our Senior Citizens with an appreciation breakfast at the end of the school year. Parents of the grade three students donated all of the items that were served as part of this special breakfast. The theme for this year was, "Famous American Breakfast." Each student in grade three completed a research project on a Great American Hero. On the day of the Senior Citizen Breakfast students dressed up as the person they had studied and shared various facts that they had learned about this American Hero with the Senior Citizens that they were serving. The Grade Three Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Willow Dowling, sang patriotic songs to entertain the guests at the Great American Breakfast. The response from our guests was very gratifying and we received a number of thank you notes from Senior Citizens to our students. A huge "Thank-you" to all of the parents of our grade three students for their outpouring of generosity in donating all of the food for the Senior Citizen "Great American Breakfast".

Student Transition Opportunities

Grade Three To Grade Four

On June 8, 2016 the grade three students visited Old Hammondtown School. The students had lunch at Old Hammondtown School. In the afternoon they had the opportunity to visit all of the grade four classrooms and attend the Old Hammondtown School Drama Club production.

Grade Six To Grade Seven

Superintendent White and Principal Kevin Brogioli met with the parents of the grade six students on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 pm at Old Hammondtown School. Information regarding the Junior High School and student transition from grade six to grade seven was shared with the parents. All grade six students had the opportunity to tour and have lunch at Old Rochester Regional Junior High in the beginning of June.