

2009

**Annual Administrator's Report
Of the Mattapoissett Public Schools**

Submitted Jointly By

Rosemary T. Bowman, Center School Principal
and Matthew D'Andrea, Old Hammondtown School Principal

Student Enrollment & Facilities:

The 2010-2011 school year in Mattapoissett opened with 283 students registered at Center School (PreK-grade 3) and 234 students registered at Old Hammondtown School (grades 4-6) for a total school population of 517 students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6.

We continue to appreciate the support and financial commitment that the citizens of Mattapoissett have made to their public schools. The staffs at both schools continue to be committed to providing the highest quality of instructional programs and level of services possible for our students.

For the past five years at Center School, we have had the pleasure of sharing this beautiful facility with the Council On Aging and the Town Nurse. The Council on Aging and the Town Nurse now occupy the four-classroom 1898 wing of Center School, which had previously been occupied by the Mattapoissett Public Library while the renovation project to the existing library was completed. The enlarged space has given the Council on Aging the opportunity to offer more programs to their members each month. The 1898 wing of Center School is a beautiful place for our senior citizens to share activities, special moments and celebrate life's joys together.

Personnel:

There were a number of personnel changes that occurred in the Mattapoissett Public Schools during 2009. The Mattapoissett Public Schools wished a fond farewell to several staff members. Mrs. Ruby Maestas resigned as the School Adjustment Counselor and Mrs. Holly Ashley resigned as a classroom teacher at Old Hammondtown School in June, 2009. Mrs. Maestas moved on to Carver Elementary School to serve as Associate Principal after 10 years of service. Mrs. Holly Ashley accepted the position of Reading Specialist at Rochester Memorial School after teaching for seven years in Mattapoissett. On behalf of the staff and students, we would like to extend to them our sincere thanks for their years of dedicated service and their many contributions to the students and staff of Center School and Old Hammondtown School. They will all be missed!

The Old Hammondtown School community also welcomed several staff members this year. Mr. Kyle Letendre began his tenure as a grade four teacher

at Old Hammondtown School. Mr. Letendre is a graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School and Bridgewater State College, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Mrs. Laura Courage was chosen to join the staff as the School Adjustment Counselor. Mrs. Courage received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Westfield State College, and holds the dual degree of Masters of Education and Mental Health Counseling from Bridgewater State College. Finally, Ms. Hope Perkins moved from para-professional to Special Education teacher. Ms. Perkins holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from UMass Dartmouth and a Masters of Education from American International College. We welcome these dedicated professionals to the Old Hammondtown School staff!

In September, 2009, Center School welcomed Mrs. Erin Custadio as the morning Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Custadio is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Writing and Communication. Mrs. Custadio received a Master of Science degree in Child Development and Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College. Mrs. Custadio taught Kindergarten at the Assawompset Elementary School in Lakeville for four years prior to her arrival at Center School. Ms. Courtney Oleson, who previously taught the morning Kindergarten class, is now a full time grade one teacher at Center School. Mrs. Sherri Panek and Ms. Rebecca Amoroso, paraprofessionals in the Mattapoisett School System, transferred from Center School to Old Hammondtown School in September, 2009. Mrs. Amy Miller, a paraprofessional at Center School during the 2008-2009 school year, is now a paraprofessional at the Sippican School in Marion.

The Mattapoisett School System bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Diane Perry in December, 2009. Mrs. Perry has been an Art teacher in Mattapoisett for twenty-five years, teaching children in grades Kindergarten through grade six at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. Mrs. Perry has truly guided our children in the love and appreciation of art in their lives. Throughout the years she has provided support to the Music department in the creation of scenery and creative costuming for children to wear for holiday performances. Mrs. Perry has shared the students' art work with parents during Art and Music Night at Center School and Art Shows held in conjunction with Science Night at Old Hammondtown School. Mrs. Perry has recently facilitated a special fundraiser through "Original Artworks" where student art work was recreated on various items that could be purchased through the Original Artworks Company. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to the Town of Mattapoisett to augment the cost of the kiln installation at Old Hammondtown School. On behalf of the entire school community we want to thank Mrs. Perry for her dedicated years of service to the children of Mattapoisett. We wish her many years of happiness in her retirement!

Mrs. Greta Anderson, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts/ Dartmouth with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art Education, has been selected as the new Art teacher for Center School and Old Hammondtown School. Mrs. Anderson completed her student teaching at Center School and Old Hammondtown School in 2005. She is presently enrolled in a Master of Arts

degree program, focused on Art Education, at the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth. We welcome Mrs. Anderson 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 sixteenth 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 2009-2010 school year, Center School and Old Hammondtown School continue to have a Joint School Council and a Joint School Improvement Plan.

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

Rosemary Bowman	Principal	Center School
Stella Brogioli	Parent	Center School
Penny Carlstrom	Community Representative	
Carolyn Canastra	Grade Four Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Erin Custadio	Kindergarten Teacher	Center School
Matthew D'Andrea	Principal	Old Hammondtown School
Kim Field	Parent	Old Hammondtown School
Kathy Goulart	Parent	Old Hammondtown School
Amy Hartley-Matteson	Parent	Center School
Laurie Kassabian	Parent	Center School
Tammy Kelley	Grade One Teacher	Center School
Kyle Letendre	Grade Four Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Roxanne Pinto	Parent	Center School
Renee Pothier	Parent	Center/Old Hammondtown
Kristen Sunde	Grade Five Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Kevin Tavares	Grade Five Teacher	Old Hammondtown School
Maria Tomon	Grade Two Teacher	Center School
Jeannine Tranfaglia	Grade Three Teacher	Center School
Kimberlee Wiley	Kindergarten Teacher	Center School

(Teachers representing Kindergarten, Grade Four and Grade Five attend on alternate months)

The Joint Center School-Old Hammondtown School Council's 2009-2010 School Improvement Plan Goals are the Old Rochester Regional School District's Strategic Goals:

1. By June 2013, the delivery of instruction in ALL the Tri-Town schools will be restructured where necessary so that ALL students will be actively engaged in their learning.

2. By June 2013, ALL students in ALL the Tri-Town schools will have opportunities via activities and expanded curricular offerings to develop increased global awareness.
3. By June 2013, ALL the Tri-Town schools and their communities will provide the resources necessary to ensure currency of technological equipment and student experiences.
4. By June 2013, ALL Tri-Town schools will have activities and curricula in place so that ALL students have the opportunity to develop responsible social skills and citizenship.
5. Communication - Increase parent awareness of school related activities.

MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System)

As a result of the 1993 Education Reform Act, state mandated tests are now given to all third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth graders each year. The assessments for the students at Center and Old Hammondtown Schools in March/April/May of 2009 were: Grade Three – Reading and Mathematics; Grade Four - English/Language Arts (which included a long composition/writing prompt) and Mathematics; Grade Five - English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering; and Grade Six – English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

At Center School, Mrs. Eileen Brooks, our Consulting Teacher of Reading, in conjunction with the Third Grade Teachers, developed an MCAS Prep Program for third graders. The focus of this program stressed good reading strategies before, during and after reading a passage. Through modeling, using prior released Grade 3 MCAS Reading Test passages, the students were guided through the process of how to apply these reading strategies.

In September 2009, each school received individual student and building MCAS scores. The results from this testing have been reviewed by the administration and staff from each school and the testing results have been sent to parents. A 2009 Testing Report of the MCAS score results was presented to the Mattapoisett School Committee on October 5, 2009 and to the Joint Union-District School Committee on November 19, 2009. The testing report included a three-year overview of the results of the MCAS Tests.

Academic Support classes will be offered before and after school at Old Hammondtown School to students in grades four, five and six. These small classes are focused on questions in Mathematics and English/Language Arts depending upon the need of the student. Students will be chosen to participate in these classes based on the scores from the 2009 MCAS assessment. These

classes will meet from January through March 2010 and are funded as part of the school budget.

Environmental Projects

On Thursday, March 5 at Center School the Joint School Council hosted a presentation focused on ways to sustain resources in our everyday environment. Ms. Bonne DeSouza coordinated this event with the Mattapoisett Sustainability Club. Mrs. Renee Pothier worked with students from the Old Rochester Regional High School's "Sustainability Club" presenting a special program for students .

On April 14, 2009 the students at Center School held an environmental fair, "Celebrating Our Earth". Students in Project GROW, Kindergarten, Grade One, Grade Two and Grade Three shared information and projects focused on environmental respect for the world we live in. Students in Project GROW created special hats using recycled materials; students in Kindergarten focused on the theme of the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; students in grade one participated in a "Litter Clean Up" in the area around Center School; grade two students completed a unit on the Water Cycle and visited the city of New Bedford's Water Treatment Plant; students in grade three wrote stories and created posters focused on preserving the environment. Many families came to acknowledge and support all of the work that the students had completed for our Environmental Fair. Families had the opportunity to hear the Intergenerational Chorus sing songs about our environment at the beginning of our special evening. We are also indebted to the Mattapoisett Land Trust, the Mattapoisett Sustainability Club and Margie Baldwin from "How on Earth" market and restaurant in Mattapoisett for their support and participation in Center School's "Celebrating Our Earth" evening. Families had the opportunity to work with the following community members, who had set up educational work areas in the cafeteria at Center School. Members from the Mattapoisett Land Trust worked with students in the cafeteria planting seedlings of Maple Trees; Bonne DeSouza shared information from the Mattapoisett Sustainability Club including a Powerpoint presentation focused on energy conservation; Margie Baldwin from "How on Earth" in Mattapoisett shared information regarding local organic agriculture.

The Mattapoisett Parent Teachers Association (PTA) purchased three books for every classroom at Center School and Old Hammondtown School with the common theme of environmental awareness. The following books were read to the students in each classroom : The Lorax by Dr. Suess, Brother Eagle, Sister Sky by Susan Jeffers and The Wartville Wizard by Don Madden. We are indebted to the Mattapoisett PTA for their continued generous support.

We truly appreciate all of the efforts of our children, all of the classroom teachers, Mrs. Dowling and Mrs. Perry for their support in Art and Music, the Mattapoisett PTA for their financial support of this special celebration, all of the families who attended our environmental fair and our local community members who have joined our school community for this special celebration.

In March, the fifth grade at Old Hammondtown School presented Science Night. Students displayed their science projects for the students, parents, and community. Students shared individual research projects that followed the scientific method. Projects investigated a question, developed a hypothesis, completed research and experiments, collected data and came to a conclusion. Later in March, all of the students in the grade four classes participated in the "Zoo Night". The cafetorium was filled with the most creative animals! Exhibits displayed how student-created animals had adapted to their environment in order to survive. In June, grade six participated in a Geography Fair. Each student developed a presentation about an African country. Exhibits included food, games, and ceremonies from each culture. Parents and community members were invited to view all of the projects.

In May, Old Hammondtown School sponsored a T.V. turnoff week. Students were challenged to refrain from watching television for three to five days. Students kept a journal signed by parents that documented their participation. During the week, the school hosted a game night which included games, sports, and activities that did not require television or computers to participate. The night was a huge success.

In June Mr. Charles Ditata returned for the eighth year in a row to present his popular "Backyard Birding" program to all of our third graders.

Memorial Contribution

The family of the late Mr. John (Jack) Gannon has established a fund in memory of Mr. Gannon. Funds were donated to the Center School Gift Fund in lieu of flowers when Mr. Gannon passed away in April. To this date \$2320. has been donated to Center School in memory of Mr. Gannon. Consideration as been given to purchase additional play equipment (set of outside swings) for the students to honor Mr. Gannon whose wife, Terry Gannon, established and ran the "Toy Box" at the Mattapoisett Ropewalk for many years. We deeply appreciate all of the contributions that have been sent in memory of Mr. Gannon.

In Special Memory

On October 4, 2009 Bill Spark passed away following an eighteen month battle with leukemia. Bill taught for over thirty years in the Mattapoisett School System touching the lives of hundreds of students. Bill loved the children of Mattapoisett. The kindness and understanding that he extended to all students is truly his legacy. The school community was enriched by his presence and he will truly be missed by all who had the privilege to work with him.

Community Outreach Programs:

On June 5, 2009 the Third Graders were involved in putting on their Sixteenth Annual Senior Citizen Appreciation gathering. The theme for this year was the "Great 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 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.

Our Twenty-First Annual Holiday Family Fund, held in December of 2009, raised a total of \$1,012.00, a most generous response from students and their families. This school-wide community service project is a free-will offering from our staff members, students and families each year. The generosity of the Center School community truly made a difference during this holiday season!

We are confident that the students of Center School have gotten a great deal of satisfaction from giving something back to their community through their participation in a community service project, are learning to develop a sense of pride in their hometown, at that even at a young age, they can make a difference. We appreciate the support and cooperation from all of our students' parents for these community service projects.

In December, the staff and students at Old Hammondtown School participated in the Second Annual Staff vs. Student Charity Basketball Game. The event donated cash and over 400 non-perishable food items to the Saint Vincent de Paul charities. In addition, the Old Hammondtown School Student Council, under the direction of Miss Laura Mirabito, Mrs. Kris Brammer, and Mrs. Laura Courage, has been collecting food items for the local food pantry. Donations are made on a biweekly basis, and as of December 2009, over 1,000 food items have been donated.