



**The Educator Payoff**

# Fringe benefits of the job

By David Dupont

Superintendent of Schools

If you have been in the education business for a while then you must know how it feels to run into former students who recognize you (thank goodness) and are happy to see you. However, you might not recognize them and you feel embarrassed as you try to imagine what this person looked like so many years ago, hoping that recognition comes to you. Whatever happens in the end, recognition or not, it usually is a nice encounter; it is one of the fringe benefits of being an educator. Very soon we will be celebrating Holyoke Public Schools Week, and although the highlight of that week is the annual Rising Stars pro-

gram, honoring selected students from the various schools for their scholarship, leadership and citizenship, there is plenty more to celebrate. Considering the multiple



*Sullivan student Chris Santos completes an earthquake experiment while classmate Kevin Jourdain, Jr. records the observations.*

successes in athletics at the high schools this year, along with our 25 Books Campaign, student art work at Heritage Park, the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards, schools involved with NASA, community service projects, the popular Madrigal Choir, music shows, plays, band competitions, garden clubs, cultural festivities, and on and on

and on, we have much to be proud of in the Holyoke Public Schools, and that is another fringe benefit of the job. Although our famous parade is Holyoke's annual showcase for what makes our city shine, our

community also has the right to be proud of our kids and staff members on a very frequent basis as evidenced by their continual achievements throughout the year. The job may be challenging, frustrating and tiring, but these types of payoffs help make it a great job whether now or in the future when you run into those former students.

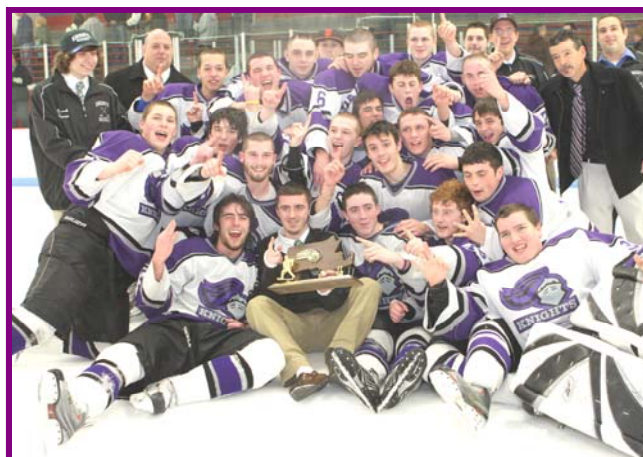


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Congratulations to the Holyoke High School Ice Hockey team for finishing the season with an overall record of 18-1-1 and for winning the Wright Division Title for the third consecutive season. The Knights Hockey team received the #1 seed in the MIAA Division 3A Tournament. In the play-offs, the Knights beat Chicopee Comp 4-2 in the Western Massachusetts Quarterfinals; St. Mary's 7-1 in the Semi-Finals; and Agawam 3-2 in the championship game. The Knights faced Groton-Dunstable Regional High School in the State Division 3A Finals and won 3-0 for the second State Championship in school history. The team is a cooperative effort with players from Dean Tech, South Hadley and Granby high schools. The team has four Western Mass Championships, 1978, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

## Western Mass and State Champions!



*The Holyoke High School Championship Hockey Team*



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### Mission Statement

The mission of the Holyoke Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities for all students to reach their full potential in a safe, secure, healthy learning environment while valuing diversity and promoting responsible citizenship.

### Holyoke School Committee

Mayor Elaine Pluta  
William Collamore  
Yvonne Garcia  
Margaret Boulais  
Gladys Lebron-Martinez  
Howard Greaney  
Dennis Birks  
Michael Moriarty  
Cesar Lopez  
Devin Sheehan

## The Stallions cheering for Mustangs!

The NCAA Division II School Outreach Committee was proud to partner with the Holyoke Public School system again this year, with Sullivan Elementary School Stallions being the chosen recipient. The second grade students and faculty at Sullivan adopted the South Central Regional winner, the Midwestern State University Mustangs from Wichita Falls, Texas. The three second-grade classes went to the Division II Elite Eight game on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield to cheer on the Mustangs as they played Bellarmine University from Kentucky. Students wore the maroon and gold colors of the Mustangs, painted signs, made pom-poms and pennant flags. For many students, seeing the Mass Mutual Center for the first time was special until... the game started! Students and staff cheered and chanted "Defense" each time Bellarmine had the ball. During half-time, the cheerleaders from MSU came up to the stands to meet the children.

The closely-fought game eventually saw Bellarmine win, and Bellarmine ultimately win the Division II Elite Eight Championship. Student Geomar Colon said, "I have so many emotions! I had so much fun seeing my first indoor basketball game." Jennylean Rivera reflected by saying, "It's okay the Mustangs lost, because I saw they played so hard."

A special invitation was extended to four students – Elijah Bermudez, Liam Lavelle, Teniyah Morales and Taryn Ryan – who participated in a skills and drills

session at the Basketball Hall of Fame on March 25. Various players from the Division II teams, along with American International College basketball coach, Art Luptowski, led the session.

The students completed several lessons across the curriculum prior to the game, such as calculating the distance and driving time from Holyoke to Wichita Falls, Texas (1,747 miles in 27 hours) and using those numbers to reinforce place value. To go along with the Pebbles, Sand and Silt unit, students learned about the Enchanted Dome rock, the tallest natural dome formation in the United States.



Sullivan School students cheering for their adopted Division II team, the Midwestern State University Mustangs.

Students also counted the number of buildings on the MSU campus and followed "directions" on the campus map to travel to the campus basketball arena. Nonfiction books about the game of basketball and fiction books like [Allie's Basketball Dream](#), were read and followed up with story maps. Pre-game and post-game writing was also done while students read the bios of the players and coaches.

"What a thrill for these Division II student-athletes to arrive in Springfield and see they already have a strong fan base. The painted faces, T-shirts and pom-poms all create a wonderful environment for all," said Paul Beturne, co-chairman of the School Outreach Program.

Dr. Howard Farrell, MSU Vice-President of Student Affairs, said, "We thank the staff and children for the support of Midwestern." MSU Athletic Director Charlie Carr said, "The team felt so welcomed and they loved looking up in the stands to see a whole section just for them so far away from home."



# Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards



**Andrea Hickson**  
Kelly School



**Mark Todd**  
Holyoke High



**Clotilde Ortiz**  
McMahon School



**Ellen Moriarty**  
Morgan School

The Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation has re-named its annual Grinspoon Awards to the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards. The HGCF launched the program in 2002 to honor outstanding teachers in the Pioneer Valley and to underscore the critical role that teachers pay in preparing the youth for the future. The HGCF undertook this program as a way to support and encourage exceptional professionals with the desire to encourage those teachers to remain in the teaching field.



**Zoraida Rivera**  
Metcalf Pre-School



**Lucille Mercier - Dean Tech**  
with Principal Linda Rex and  
Superintendent David Dupont



**Jo-Ann Ginley**  
Peck School

## What's New on the Web

By Judy Taylor

### District Homepage

<http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us>

### NEW

- The homepage contains new links to Supplemental Education Service information for parents/guardians; and Holyoke Public Schools Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award recipients' biographies and photos.
- Visit the **Programs Menu** for updated pages, including the Adult Learning page, and Literacy Campaign page which contain reading resource links for parents/guardians.

### Peck Full Service Community School New Website

<http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/peck/index>

- Visit Peck's Full Service Community School Website to garner information regarding academics, news/events, programs, services, community partners, and forms. Users can also navigate to Peck through the "Schools" menu of the HPS website.

### Holyoke High School

<http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/hhs/index.html>

Click on the **Guidance/Career Center** link to view weekly announcements, updated scholarship information, college representative visits, testing information, and transcript request forms.

- The HHS Guidance Department has a new program to help students prepare for higher education and their future careers. Click the "Your Plan For College" link to access this tool that will help students prepare for tests such as the SAT, MCAS, and Accuplacer. The site also compares colleges, uses assessment tools, and helps students create their academic resume needed for senior year. Parents/students will need to contact their guidance counselor for log-in information.

# Center for Excellence

## A “worldly” staff at CFE

**Scott Clark** returned as a substitute teacher at the CFE after spending nine months teaching English to students in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he was on a Fulbright Scholarship. He has been sharing his Argentine experiences in the CFE classrooms. Clark is a graduate of Wheaton College with a double major in English and Spanish.

**Abbie Sudmier**, a recently hired paraprofessional for a K-2 classroom, is a graduate of Iowa State University. Previously, she taught ESL to children and adults in Yinchuan, Ningxia, Peoples Republic of China for seven months. Her students ranged in age from 5 years to adult. Clark is introducing the students to the use of chopsticks and will be sharing her China experience with other CFE classrooms.

## Other CFE happenings...

Students in grades 6-8 wrote persuasive essays on their favorite restaurant in Holyoke. If they persuaded their teacher that it was the best restaurant to eat in, they got a lunch from their favorite place provided by their teacher. Students wrote about Taco Bell, McDonalds, Mama's Pizza and Subway. All students who participated had to persuade the reader by discussing topics such as food taste, price, location and selection options. The class is in the process of writing letters to the businesses to accompany their essays so they can share the positive feedback.

####

When it comes to fund raising, look no further than teachers Kiely Rigali and Andy Leveton. Between their two classes, they have raised nearly \$500. Rigali holds a regular sale of hotdogs, popcorn, and bottled water, while Leveton bakes carrot cake or pumpkin bread. With the fund raising, there are lessons to be learned. Rigali's students are asked to learn how to price food for sale in order to make a profit while still setting prices attractive enough to compete successfully with the school's cafeteria and our staff's own refrigerator. Second, as in all things baking, the students have to expand recipes, organize ingredients, and weigh products in order to ensure quality control, and then bake to perfection.

####

Students from Holyoke High School and the ELL classes at the CFE, recently attended a private performance by some of the performers from the Cirque du Soleil at the University of Massachusetts.

## Nonfiction comes alive

Carolyn Monteiro's ELL students at the **Center for Excellence** have a new addition to their class... an African Fat-Tailed Gecko! For the past several weeks, students have been learning about their new pet, and getting to know each other better. Students are using the Holyoke Public Library reference room as well as the World Wide Web to research this docile, friendly reptile to learn more about its natural habitat and to understand how best to care for it in captivity. One of the most interesting findings has been discovering the vast amount of information that is available, and trying to verify the information. Biologists, hobbyists, pet food companies, and pet stores are all among the authors of the informational texts the students have found. Students have done their own observations and are keeping feeding logs (one day he ate 10 crickets in a single meal!), measuring his growth, and documenting behaviors and shedding. Students are learning about how nutritious food, a comfortable habitat, temperature and humidity play a role in the health of this type of animal, and the other pets we love. The class plans to create a reference notebook, complete with a comprehensive care sheet and background information on this interesting pet. This will be kept in the classroom for visitors to browse and read. Students are also working on a class blog, hoping to start discussions with other lizard hobbyists around the world.



Two CFE students hold the gecko!!

## Culinary class concludes

The CFE middle school students in grades 6-8 are participating in the Vocational Opportunities In Community Enterprises



Brian Santos and Ivan Ramos taking part in the VOICES Program to learn culinary skills.

prises (VOICES) Program. Recently, the seventh graders went to JP's Restaurant, took a tour, learned about the different job opportunities in a restaurant, and had a pizza lunch. This field trip was a culminating event for two weeks of culinary-related classes. The sixth-graders and eighth-graders will also have a similar field trip experience prior to the end of the school year.

## Schools collaborate with Enchanted Circle Theater



## Bringing history to life by acting

A new Ancient Egyptian History residency in Andrea Hickson's seventh-grade classroom at Kelly School, in working col-



*Re-enacting an Egyptian pyramid*

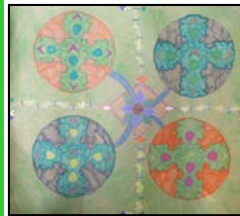
laboration with Enchanted Circle Theater (ECT) teaching artist Melissa Penley, was recently completed. Students researched and wrote monologues from the perspective of an individual of the time, such as Hatshepsut, a female Pharaoh, or Imhotep, the famous scribe who designed the very first pyramid. By participating in theater activities, creating characters and performing their original monologues, students learned communication and presentation skills and gained experiential practice while integrating the complex, rich history of one of humanity's first civilizations.

The kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students at Donahue School were exposed to the arts with the help of the Enchanted Circle Theater. All classes dramatized a favorite Eric Carle story. Over several weeks, students were taught theater techniques in dance, music, visual and literary arts.

## “Trip, Trap, Trip, Trap”



Nicole Fisher's kindergarten class at **E.N. White School** re-enacted the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Partnering with the Enchanted Circle Theater, Fisher's class developed a deeper understanding of literature while acting out the story. The children enhanced their oral language skills as they "trip, trap, trip, trapped" their way over a bridge constructed of children (Yes! The children pretended to be the bridge!). Art teacher Sheila Lamour worked with the children to create life-size scenery. The classroom was filled with parents and family members and, despite the full audience, the children didn't show any signs of stage fright as they showed off their new-found performing skills!



## Math through Visual Arts

Last spring, **Morgan School** eighth-grade math teacher, Lorie Banks, and Enchanted Circle Theater associate artist Vitek Kruta enlivened middle school math through an innovative arts integration collaboration entitled Visual Math: Symmetry and Rotation in Victorian Stencil Design. Funded through Holyoke Public Schools Title V Innovative programming, this collaboration gave students the opportunity to learn about the core concepts of rotation, symmetry, ratio, proportion and scale as they created original wall stencils. The duo will pair up again this year to pilot three new eighth-grade, standards-based Visual Arts and Math integration units for use throughout the district. They will focus on 2-Dimensional Geometry, Stretching and Shrinking Shapes to Scale, and Design as it relates to Ratio, Proportion and Percent. "This has been a wonderful opportunity to expose the students to history, art and math. It was a great learning experience for me and my students," said Banks.

## Integrating arts to learn Earth Science

Every year the sixth grades in Holyoke study the science of our Earth. How was it formed? How is it changing? How do we find out about Earth's history? It's part of the standards-based science instruction expected of all classes. This year a new program in sixth-grade science classes at the **Donahue School** was designed to integrate hands-on science and the performing arts in teaching standards-based science concepts. The program was funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as one of their STARS Residency grants. Teaching together in

this program were Donahue science teacher Caleb Snow; Brando, a teaching artist from the Enchanted Circle Theater; and Ted Watt, a science educator from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst. They have worked together in the past and are familiar with how the two very different disciplines can work together to help students learn. Acting gets students up out of their seats and out onto the floor doing new and unexpected things and this raises their motivation level and readies them for learning. Students prepare oral reports to present science information to their peers and role-playing speeches and practicing voice production and posture helps them better project what they have to say out to their audience. Skills like observation and noticing what is around us in the world help students in both acting and science. Cooperative games offer skills at small group learning that transfer to group science experiments. During this program students modeled drifting continents out of graham crackers and chocolate frosting, played plate tectonic TV quiz games, classified local rocks by their appearance, age and manner of formation, and wrote and rehearsed original performances of major geologic events. These activities were designed to involve students of varied learning styles in the study of Earth Science. On the final day of the program in each classroom student groups presented their performances of geologic events and terminology. Students spoke, used instruments and other sound effects, moved across the classroom stage, and presented information to show their grasp of some complex geology concepts and definitions.



*Students participate in a science vocabulary building activity.*

# Dean Tech



## Students refurbish rescue boat for HFD

Local resident David Rex was able to secure a used "rescue boat" from the U.S. Coast Guard for the Holyoke Fire Department (HFD). The boat was in need of some repairs and Rex made a connection to the Dean School Auto Body Shop through his mom, Linda Rex, Dean Tech Principal.

Working with Bob Celi and Richard Foy, auto body repair teachers at Dean, Rex made arrangements to begin the refurbishment of the vessel and put it into

working order for the HFD. Due to the heavy amount of weathering and excessive exposure to salt water, the repairs would require a number of specialized techniques in order to successfully prepare the boat.

The painting required the use of specialized acid washes to prepare the surfaces to be painted. This attention to detail would ensure that the paint would provide the maximum in coverage and appearance, as well as protection from the elements. Additionally, a crack in the hull of the boat needed to be welded so that it was water-tight and "seaworthy."

Welding of this nature is not as easy as it may sound. There needs to be a great deal of specialized technique and experience. This task fell to the Metal Fabrication shop at Dean. Under the direction of teacher Luis Colon and his son Xaviel Colon, as well as Esain Ramos and Joel Roman, students in the metal fabrication shop, the welding was done in a professional manner meeting the needed specifications which would ensure the boat would pass any safety requirements set by the Coast Guard.

After the welding was completed and the painting was done, the boat was polished up and the Dean School "Hawk" logo was applied by the Graphic Arts Department. The boat was delivered to the fire department and "christened" by Mayor Elaine Pluta.

The last step before "launch" will be to add the communication equipment and specialized lighting.

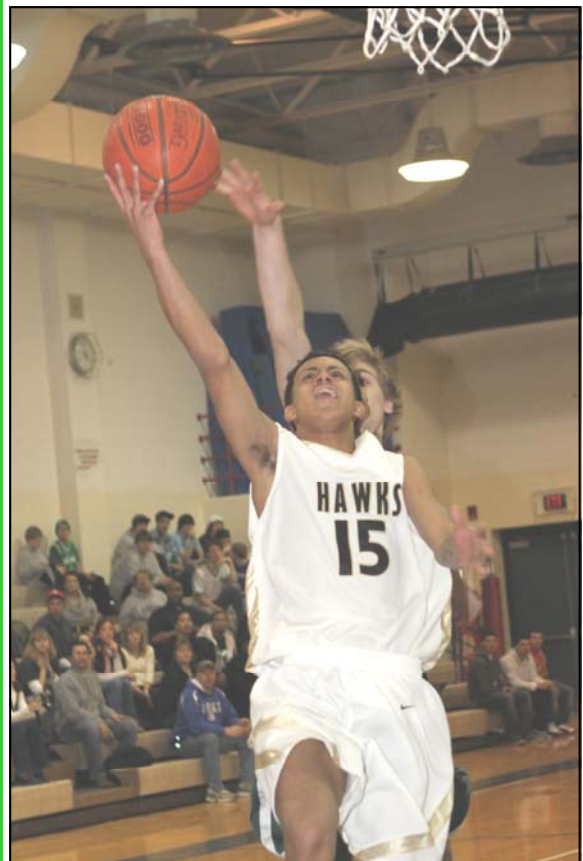
Students from the Auto Body Shop - Pablo Gonzalez, Angel Ramos, Oscar Torres and Carlos Morales were responsible for the repainting and polishing up of the vessel. Through the efforts of former Fire Chief William Kane with the Massachusetts Fire Control District #10, Department of Conservation and Recreation, the boat was donated to the HFD. Captain Paul Gubala acted as the liaison between Dean Tech and Fire Chief William Moran in the procurement of funds and materials provided for Dean Tech students to complete the job. Other notables were the Department of Public Works who removed the gas tanks prior to the metal fabrication students welding the crack in the boat; and Bob Simpson Signs and Dean Tech Graphic Arts, who painted the designs on the vessel.



## Student of the Year

Winnarath Son, a senior at Dean Technical High School in the Electrical Shop, has been named the Vocational Student of the Year. For this accomplishment, Son received a plaque and attended a dinner in his honor in Worcester on April 14. After he graduates from Dean, he plans on attending Springfield Technical Community College to become a licensed electrician.

## Holyoke's highest scorer!!



Josue Figueroa (pictured above), a senior guard on the Dean Tech Golden Hawks basketball team, is the all-time leading scorer in the City of Holyoke with 1,605 points during his high school career.

**Tune into HPS Channel 12 for school news and information**



# McMahon School

## Signatures move at 17,500 miles per hour in space

The launch of Space Shuttle Discovery in February was not only a historic moment in our nation's space program (it marks NASA's third-to-last Space Shuttle launch and the last mission ever for Discovery), it was also a historic moment for students and staff at Lt. Elmer J. McMahon School as their personal signatures were carried up to the International Space Station on the mission.

The project is part of the *Student Signatures in Space (S3)* program, jointly sponsored by NASA and Lockheed Martin. Designed to stimulate young people's interest in space and technical studies, S3 gives K-12 students the opportunity to send their digitized signatures into space and feel a personal involvement with the crew and the mission. Students at McMahon were among over 500,000 students from around the world to sign giant posters in celebration of Space Day. The signatures were all scanned onto a disc, and the disc was manifested as part of Discovery's cargo.

Discovery docked with the International Space Station (ISS) so the signatures orbited the Earth with the Space Station at 17,500 miles per hour, completing an entire Earth orbit approximately every 90 minutes.

Noreen Ewick, McMahon sixth-grade science teacher, spearheaded the project, "It is a wonderful opportunity to generate interest in space exploration and the STEM subjects. Working with NASA to support and inspire the next generation of explorers is an awesome responsibility. Who knows... some of my students may be tomorrow's scientists, engineers and future astronauts."

Discovery, now retired, will have carried 180 people, including the first female Shuttle pilot who later became Commander (Eileen Collins), the first African American spacewalker (Bernard Harris), and the first sitting member of Congress to fly in space (Jake Garn).

Upon conclusion of the mission, the poster that McMahon students signed will be returned to the school for permanent display, along with an official NASA flight certification verifying that the signatures flew in space along with a photo of the STS-133 astronaut crew that flew the signatures.

NASA and Lockheed Martin have been conducting the Student Signatures in Space program since Space Day was created by Lockheed Martin in 1997. To date, over six million students have participated in the Student Signatures in Space program.



McMahon first grader Davis O'Connell signs the Signatures in Space poster.

## Helping Dakin's animals



McMahon seventh-graders L to R: Ana Diaz, Destiny Champagne, Destiny Torres, and Dominique Evans fund raising for Dakin Animal Shelter.

McMahon seventh-graders, Destiny Champagne, Dominique Evans, Ana Diaz, and Destiny Torres are sponsoring a school-wide fundraiser to raise money and to collect food, toys, and blankets for the dogs and cats at the Dakin Animal Shelter in Springfield. The four students have been involved on their own in helping donate food to the shelter. "Animals are as important as children - they are members of a family," said Champagne. They have presented information to the K-5 students on the plight of animal abuse and the role shelters play in helping animals find new homes. In addition, they monitor the collection and delivery of the food and supplies to the shelter. "Animal abuse is as serious as bullying," stated Evans. "Animals deserve just as much care and love as we do. Hundreds of animals die every day and we want to help protect them," added Diaz. The fund raiser, which continues until the end of the school year, will also help these students fulfill their community service hours for the National Junior Honor Society.

## The "H" Awards

The "H" Awards Program is in its fourth month and continues to be inspiring and successful. As featured in the winter edition of *Connections*, the "H" awards are monthly commendations for students in K-12 in the Holyoke Public Schools who



Sullivan School "H" Winners photo courtesy of Turley Publications

strive to improve their skills in academics and/or behavior. "Just a little affirmation can turn around a child's life," said Andrew Melendez, the "H" president. Melendez attended Holyoke Public Schools before graduating from Elms College. He believes this award program is one way to support each student's ability to succeed with support and hard work. The Holyoke Family Literacy Coalition, a collaboration of many agencies and programs that provide services for Holyoke residents, is sponsoring this initiative. If you are interested in supporting these awards by funding public awareness opportunities such as T-shirts, buttons, and billboards, please contact either Melendez at (Andrew.L.Melendez@gmail.com) or Jody Spitz at 552-2913.

# Kindergarten Registration

## Open Now!!

*Applicants must be five years old on or before September 1, 2011.*

**Registration by appointment at the Student Assignment Office**

**1st floor ~ 57 Suffolk Street Phone: 534-2007**

**Monday ~ Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

*Registration hours from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*



## Future community helpers

The kindergarten students at the **Peck Full Service Community School (PFSCS)** have been learning about careers that serve their community through a unit about "Community Helpers." During the unit, the students have hosted professionals from Peck School and the City of Holyoke. Amy Sturmer, kindergarten teacher explained, "We are hoping to inspire the students to have dreams and also to educate them about the community helpers around them." Students produced writing responses centered on the question of what they want to be when they grow up. Guests included Dr. Katie and Ms. Lori from Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society who arrived with a rescue dog and rat, and Officer Sustache from the Holyoke Police Department. Student Amaya Rodriguez said, "I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up so I can help animals." Firefighters Maria and George from the Holyoke Fire Department arrived with a fire truck that the students were allowed to tour. Student Isaac Felix added, "I want to be a firefighter when I grow up so I can wear the special mask to save people who are in a fire." Guests who visited during this unit were Fiona Creed, Peck Librarian; Rick Moynihan, Peck Custodian; Dr. Anne Nugent, pediatrician from Holyoke Health Center; Peck School Nurse Sue Chandler; a dentist from Cool Smiles; Principal Paul Hyry-Dermith, and Assistant Principal Patti Jennings. "We were very fortunate to be able to call on our community partners to come in to the kindergarten class and share the specific ways that they support our community. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to not only gain exposure to various professions, but to get to know some of our community partners in a more personal way," explained Megan Harding, PFSCS Program Manager.



*Dr. Anne Nugent shows students Amaya Rodriguez and Miranda Rivera how to listen to a heartbeat.*



## Reading habits grow

The **Kelly School** kindergarten students are developing a sense of community within the school through Reading Buddies. The students meet weekly with their second-grade Reading Buddies, who mentor and model good classroom reading habits. The children also meet occasionally with their eighth-grade Math Buddies to practice math concepts. Kelly School principal, Chad Mazza, (above) has read to the children as part of the school's Community Reading Partnership. We have had Firefighter Maria has spent the morning with the children to discuss her job, equipment, and fire safety. Other community members have been invited to read and discuss their roles in the community. The school's goal is to encourage the students to feel a sense of community and realize the many opportunities that are available to them in the future.

# Attention

## For Parents/Guardians of Current 6th- Graders:

In order for a student to enter 7<sup>th</sup>-grade in September 2011, documentation of the following requirements will need to be submitted to the school nurse.



1. **PHYSICAL EXAM**  
(COPY OF EXAM OR APPOINTMENT DATE)
2. **TWO DOSES OF MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA VACCINE (MMR)**
3. **THREE DOSES OF HEPATITIS B VACCINE**
4. **ONE DOSE OF TETANUS (Tdap) BOOSTER VACCINE**  
(UNLESS LAST TETANUS BOOSTER WAS WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS)
5. **TWO DOSES OF VARICELLA VACCINE**  
(OR PHYSICIAN DOCUMENTED CASE)

Any student not providing proof of the listed requirements to the school nurse will be excluded from entering/attending 7<sup>th</sup>-grade in September 2011, until requirements are met.

# E.N. White

## Clothes for those in need

The value of helping others is a lesson the staff at E.N. White School is trying to instill in its students. The student council, with the help of the Tiger Pride Community Organization President, Tammy Lawrence, decided to partner with the *Bags 2 School Organization*, to organize a Global Clothing Drive to help those in need around the world. The students set a goal to collect 100 bags of clothing. With help and support from the whole school community, the Student Council successfully reached their goal with 1200 pounds of clothing collected for the Global community.



## Kinder Field Trip

The kindergarten students at E.N. White recently enjoyed a creative, positive, hands-on learning experience at the Holyoke Children's Museum. Many kindergarten students had never visited the Children's Museum before and all of them had a smile on from ear-to-ear throughout the entire afternoon. The students had varied, fun opportunities from pretending to be in an emergency ambulance, making thunder during dramatic play in the theater, drawing pictures of themselves in the art room or using their senses by slowly crawling through the "dark," windy tunnel.



Geshua Otero and Ashley Brito attend to an "emergency" at the Children's Museum.



## Reading to Succeed!

Six Flags and Discovery Learning want to inspire children to engage in recreational reading. All kindergarten through sixth-grade students at E.N. White read for fun for at least six hours during February vacation. Whether a student chose to read the newspaper or magazine, re-read a favorite book or even had a parent or sibling read them a bedtime story, as long as it was fun, it could be logged as recreational reading hours. Forty students returned their six hour reading logs. Not only have these children begun to develop a lifetime love of reading, they will be rewarded in May with a day pass for Six Flags Theme Park.

# Connections

Communications



## The Five Colleges

### Helping to make a difference

By Shayla Hazard,  
UMASS student



College tutors Shayla Hazard and Jen Bergus work with E.N. White students Wilnelly Figueroa and Adrianna Colon.

The CONNECTIONS After-School Program is making strides at forming strong college partnerships. This school year, CONNECTIONS is taking advantage of the surrounding Five Colleges and has over 120 college students who come to Holyoke to tutor/mentor after-school at least once per week. The goals of the new internship program are to build strong relationships between tutors and youth as well as stimulate interest in the youth's academic achievement.

The college students provide Holyoke's elementary students with personalized attention from a caring adult, one-on-one tutoring help in Math and ELA, and opportunities for sharing educational pursuits. As a result of the college intern program, CONNECTIONS Director Jorge Castellano believes that the program's youngsters have higher educational aspirations, a greater desire to do well in school and higher self-esteem.

College students have appreciated the opportunity to work in the after-school program, which complements their college classroom experiences. Sasha Correa, an Education major at Holyoke Community College, said, "Hearing stories of the children's hardships is very eye-opening and surprising. I know these are impressionable years for them and it motivates me to do more."

Peck Middle School currently has over 35 college volunteers organized by Rebecca Engell and Yadira Santiago, two Community-Based Learning Fellows at Mount Holyoke College's Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts, overseen by Alan Bloomgarden. Morgan Elementary School has a partnership with both Hampshire College and Holyoke Community College. Hampshire College supports more than 15 college students by providing transportation from Amherst to Holyoke every week. Kelly Elementary School partners with the UMass Community Service Learning Department which provides over 50 students with the opportunity to tutor as part of a service requirement for a multicultural education class taught by Nat Turner. Castellano added, "The tutors enhance the program by contributing fresh ideas of ways to make the program even better and have also formed meaningful, supportive relationships with the youth of Holyoke. "

## Learning to resolve conflicts through videos

By Jen Bergus

UMASS student



Shania Rivera and Raulisha Agramonte act out a conflict skit.

This spring, the Connections After-School Program continues its work with Quabbin Mediation's "Students Standing Up for Students Club." Quabbin Mediation aims to train students to become active bystanders by learning ways to respond when they witness bullying. For the past year, Ezzell Floranina has been running this club through each of the program's eight-week sessions at Kelly School and at Morgan Elementary.

Currently, there are 20 students participating in Quabbin Mediation, (from grades four through six). The club's main goal is to teach students to stand up for the "target" of a bullying situation. Floranina, the club's facilitator, believes that any conflict can be resolved through peaceful communication. Raulisha Agramonte, a student participant said, "You learn how to respect others. If you see a problem or see fighting, try to help to see if you can solve it. If you see someone left out, try to make them feel good."

In order to effectively learn this skill, Floranina encourages students to participate in role-playing. Students create videos of themselves standing up against bullies, called "harm-doers" in this training. In these videos, there is a target (victim), bystanders, and the harm-doers (bullies). It is understood that a person is not always a "victim" or a "bully" but rather that it is more important to realize that circumstances can cause a person to "do harm" to others. She supports the students in creating their own skits together by having them imagine solutions for the conflicts. Students also direct their own skits, constructing background designs, using music, hip-hop and composing rap/spoken word to send the message of ways to resolve these situations. By creating these videos, Floranina hopes students will learn to implement these strategies in their own lives, becoming leaders as they demonstrate for other students ways to be active, as bystander when witnessing a bullying situation.

Quabbin Mediation is a club where students will learn communication skills for a lifetime by learning that a peaceful resolution is the best solution to any problem. In this club, students become leaders and role models for their peers. The success of this club can be seen throughout the school community, by its students standing up against bullying and demonstrating that it is "strong" to act with moral courage and kindness.

# Morgan School

## Extended Day Intervention Programs

As part of Morgan School's efforts to change its Level 4 status, academic and enrichment programs were initiated at the beginning of February. Before school classes begin, teachers gather their students from the cafeteria at 7:30 a.m. Subjects of the intervention programs include reading and math, and are designed to help improve academic achievement. After-school programs consist of one-hour programs ranging from Writing Clubs, Book Clubs, MCAS Open Response Focus, Current Event Clubs and movie critique groups. Over 150 students participate in the programs.

The Student Council continues to have a positive influence on the **Morgan School Spirit Fridays** with the creation and sale of Morgan T-shirts, designed by the students with the logo "Yes, we can" in English, and "Si, se puede" in Spanish, on the back. Spirit Fridays have created a sense of community as both students and teachers dressed in 1960s and 1970s style. Future Spirit Fridays include rock star, crazy hat, and favorite team days.

The **Cat in the Hat** surprised students in grades K-2 at a Title I evening event in March. Students played board games with the Cat in the Hat, including tic-tac-toe. In addition to eating snacks, students made masks and won prizes. Vice-Principal Aliza Pluta along with Pauline Carriere, Migdalia Rameriz, Lisa Rosario and Louise Cavanaugh kept the secret that the Cat in the Hat was actually eighth-grade Student Council member Jazmine Herrera.

This spring, parents and students were invited to Morgan School to kick off the beginning of MCAS season. Fixings for **Ice Cream Sundae Social** were contributed by teachers and coaches. Parents received information about the need for students to get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast, and work hard during the testing period. Members of the School Council helped serve refreshments to the estimated 150 guests. Members of the Morgan School Chorus, created by counselor Emily Temple, provided entertainment as a grand finale to the evening.



An **Ice Cream Sundae Party** was held for students who mastered the most topics through the Aleks program for the month of February. A total of 31 students from Grades 3 - 8 enjoyed a social break as they made their own sundaes in the cafeteria. The event was organized by Math Coach Stephanie Roszko.

Over 30 Morgan students performed in the **Holyoke Strings** presentation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, marching as a part of the award-winning Holyoke Strings Float. Led by Adrienne Wade, Jennifer Geineau and Morgan's George Baker, students showed community spirit with shiny green wigs, green hair, shamrock glasses and face painting.

## Making architecture and math connections

At Morgan School, Lorie Banks' eighth-grade math class worked on a very successful architecture project. Reflecting on the project, Banks said, "I am very pleased with the amount and variety of math and conversations the project has yielded. The students were engaged in standards-based activities where they measured side lengths and angles, computed with decimals, used scale factors to create similar figures, identified differing forms of symmetry in a design and how symmetry is used to create a design. Students also discussed how Vitruvius, the artist who created symmetrical design, used rotation and translation symmetry to create the design. Conversation ensued about whether or not the design had reflection symmetry and broke the picture down to its basic design elements identifying the equilateral triangles, semicircles, squares and rectangles. Once the kids looked at the design within the framework of these basic geometric shapes they were able to recreate it with amazing accuracy.



A student design

## Fairy Tales come to life



Kennedy Menendez (right, standing) was the Master of Ceremonies, introducing each event.

As part of their study of fairy tales, Militza Semidei's first-grade class at Morgan School recently held a Fairy Tale Celebration. Students had the opportunity to share fairy tales they wrote with their families and staff at Morgan School. Along with sharing their own fairy tales, other activities included creating a backdrop for their version of the play, "Little Red Riding Hood."

They made crowns and magic wands, large cutouts of a prince and princess, and planted beanstalks from "Jack and the Beanstalk." Students also sang a song and recited a Cinderella chant, demonstrating their understanding of the fairy tale unit. Individual folders containing student stories, with star-shaped wands placed on top, gave the audience a chance to view students' work. Parents and staff were invited to attend the celebration and enjoy a fairy tale cake and refreshments.

**Staff who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Road Race: Aliza Pluta, Bill Drohan, Maura Taupier, Janice Sokop, Jim Sharpe, Yvonne Hilyard and, for her 20<sup>th</sup> year, Ann Lastowski.**

# Donahue School

## Celebrating Reading!

The Maurice A. Donahue School recently held its 25 Book Celebration with the Mardi Gras theme very evident as the students and teachers arrived at school in bright costumes and masks. Guest readers from the community read to inspire the students. Some of the readers included Mayor Elaine Pluta, State Representative Michael Kane, State Senator Michael Knapik, Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott, and HPS Superintendent David Dupont. Other events also dazzled students such as Magic Al the Magician.

The Donahue School would also like to thank Mark Todd, the Holyoke High School music director, and HHS Principal Diane Bauer for providing the school's bell choir and chorus. The signing wall to log student achievement was painted by sixth-grade ELA teacher Iwona Langlois, and featured many fictional characters, from Harry Potter to Frankenstein. Student names adorned the hallway, and from all the smiles, it was obvious the kids greatly enjoyed the recognition. The day culminated in a school-wide parade, featuring costumes, floats and instrument playing by students. The students remain dedicated to promoting literacy, fun and achievement.



TV 22 meteorologist Ashley Baylor as a guest reader.



Magic Al the Magician entertained the students with humor.

## Video boosts MCAS scores

The Maurice A. Donahue School held an ice cream social to help get the entire learning community ready for the recent ELA MCAS testing. Featured at the event was last year's "MCAS Beat It" video, created by the staff and students. Many of the students who participated in the music video experienced a sharp increase in their scores. One student in particular raised his MCAS score by 28 points. The ice cream social premiered a video that followed up on the students who showed significant gains. In the video, students discuss the strategies that helped them better their scores, and relate their experiences of starring in the "MCAS Beat It" production. This video is an excellent tool for prepping students throughout the district.

# Peck School

## Looking to the future

Recently, Peck School eighth-graders had the opportunity to participate in a Career Day. The day was a chance for the students to meet with professionals from different and interesting careers. "We try to choose careers that our students have shown an interest in, and often times they get exposed to careers they haven't really considered," said Kate Martel, middle school Guidance Counselor and organizer of the event. She added, "Students talk to our participants about their backgrounds, college experiences and what it is like to work in their fields/career." Careers represented by professionals this year included: chef Ana Jarimillo; engineer Netty Nina; victim advocate Tony Simmons; state trooper Orlando Medina and healthcare provider Sanford Jeames. Student Ninoshka Romero said, "I liked the engineer because she explained different types of engineering and all the different jobs you can have as an engineer – like making sneakers!" Firefighter Jessica Castro, a Holyoke Public School graduate, has been a guest speaker in the past and is always popular with the kids. "The guest speakers were very interesting. I liked Ms. Castro, the firefighter, because she explained everything that they have to do – and what it was like being a female – and she said you always have to have a Plan B," said Yashira Baez. Martel added, "Many times we have former Peck and Holyoke Public School students participate in this event so they can really relate to our students."

## Peck Talking Points

- Ann Zito's fifth-grade math classes have been making (and eating!) snack mix recipes. Each week they were given a recipe that served four; they had to determine how much of each ingredient they would need to feed all of the students in the class. They were adding fractions or multiplying fractions with whole numbers and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers.
- Eighth-grade science teacher Tina Siniscalchi along with sixth-graders Maria Cruz and Nysha Sanchez, took part in the First Lego League competition at the University of Massachusetts sponsored by Girls Connect. The participants had to build robots from Legos and program them to complete challenges having to do with Nanotechnology. The Peck students, along with their teammates from Girls Inc., ended up tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place and won an award for showing the best team work.
- Congratulations to the March "H" students: Emanuel Correa, Christopher Cruz-Rodriguez, Diliana Valdez, Zack Valentin, Felix Coll, Manuel Perez, Tanisha Perez, Ethan Gonzalez and Tatiana Cordova.

# Estos son los puntos mas sobresalientes del Boletin

Holyoke Public Schools

Volume 9 Issue 3

Primavera 2011

## Los beneficios adicionales del Pago del Educador del trabajo



Por David Dupont  
Superintendente de Escuelas

Si usted ha estado en el negocio de la educación para un tiempo y luego hay que saber que se siente al correr en los antiguos alumnos que se reconocen (gracias a Dios) y están contentos de verte. Sin embargo, es posible que no los reconoce y se siente avergonzada al tratar de imaginar lo que esta persona parecía hace tantos años, con la esperanza de que el reconocimiento viene a ti. Pase lo que pase en la final, el reconocimiento o no, por lo general es un encuentro agradable, es uno de los beneficios adicionales de ser un educador. Muy pronto estaremos celebrando semana Holyoke las escuelas públicas, y aunque lo más destacado de la semana es el programa anual de estrellas en ascenso, en honor a los estudiantes seleccionados de las diferentes escuelas de la beca, el liderazgo y la ciudadanía, hay mucho más para celebrar. Teniendo en

cuenta los múltiples éxitos en el atletismo en las escuelas secundarias de este año, junto con nuestros 25 campañas de libros, obras de arte los estudiantes en el parque de la herencia, la excelencia valle pionero en la enseñanza de los premios, las escuelas que participan con la NASA, los proyectos de servicio comunitario, el coro madrigal popular, la música espectáculos, obras de teatro, concursos de bandas, clubes de jardinería, las fiestas culturales, y otra y otra vez, tenemos mucho de qué enorgullecerse en las escuelas públicas de Holyoke, y que es otro de los beneficios marginales del trabajo. Aunque nuestro famoso desfile es un escaparate anual de Holyoke para el que hace brillar nuestra ciudad, nuestra comunidad también tiene derecho a estar orgullosos de nuestros hijos y los miembros del personal de forma muy frecuente como lo



Los estudiantes observan el suelo con lentes de aumento y los resultados récord.

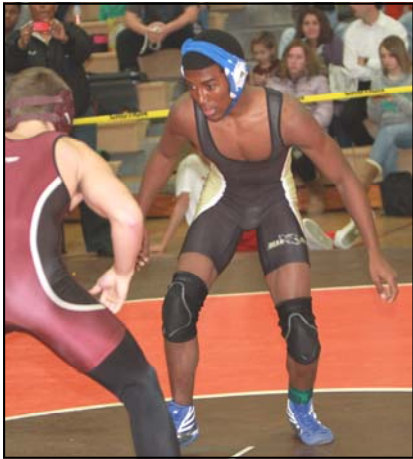
demuestran sus logros continua durante todo el año. Puede ser difícil, frustrante y agotador, pero este tipo de pagos ayudar a hacer un gran trabajo ya sea ahora o en el futuro, cuando te encuentras con los antiguos alumnos.

## CHARLAS: Comunidad y la Conversación



Escuela de la comunidad de Peck Full-Service ha iniciado una serie de nuevas iniciativas orientadas hacia la inclusión de socios de la comunidad dentro de nuestra comunidad de escuela, profesores y familias. Uno de los más exitosos ha sido una serie mensual de taller bilingüe dirigida por María Luisa Arroyo, la familia acceso a tiempo completo y coordinador de contratación. Según María Luisa, el objetivo de la Charla, que incluye las familias, maestros y miembros de la comunidad, es "apoyar el aprendizaje en casa". ¿Cómo difieren las Charlas de talleres regulares? María Luisa señaló que los participantes son "no habló en sino más bien parte de la conversación". Mari Santiago, un líder de los padres de Peck activo y participante en la serie de Charla, subraya este mismo punto: "lo que me gusta de las Charlas es que ha establecido que un lote de espalda y adelante conversaciones entre todos y que las familias apoyan mutuamente y estimular a involucrarse más en la educación de sus hijos". Actualmente, asistir las familias de 10-12. Las Charlas se celebran una vez al mes en la sala de recurso de Peck escuela familia o en la biblioteca de la escuela de Peck de 3: 15-4:30 PM. En el invierno de 2010, la sala de recurso de la familia fue pintada, amueblada y hizo lista a través de un esfuerzo de colaboración establecido por los padres, maestros y miembros de la comunidad. Además de tener libros, recursos comunitarios y Peck padres voluntarios trabajando en proyectos, la sala de recurso de la familia se ha convertido en el escenario para una serie muy atractiva de talleres mensuales que es informado directamente por cuestiones o preocupaciones generadas de padres Peck. En cada padres de reunión y otros miembros intercambiar sus conocimientos sobre el tema del mes y todo el mundo aprende de las experiencias de los demás. "Familias, vienen compartir su sabiduría y aprender de los demás" es un tema unificador de la Charla, explica María Luisa. Últimos temas han incluido aprender sobre la 1 de las 7 estrategias de un lector experto (texto a sí mismo) y comparar sus pasadas experiencias educativas con las que nuestros hijos tienen ahora. El mes pasado la Charla se centró en los juegos de matemáticas - familia fácil para hacer matemáticas orientado a juegos fueron exploradas y los participantes fueron capaces de crear sus propios juegos. Algunos otros ejemplos incluidas hacen su pizza que incorpora la medición y la cocción. El tema de charla de marzo es ayuda - me destaque! : Estrategias para estudiantes de Peck de apoyo para todas las pruebas. "Este tipo de mutuo aprendizaje y soporte ejemplifican el tipo de cultura escolar que estamos haciendo nuestro mejor esfuerzo para crear a Peck", afirmó el Principal Hyry-Dermith.

# Holyoke Sports



Dean Tech Wrestler **Raul Torres** (above), who attends Holyoke High School, is the first in school history to reach the New England Championships. Torres' accomplishments include Western Mass Champion, Division III State runner-up, All-State Top 4 finisher and first in school history to reach New England's **Gary Charlton** (below and behind) of Dean Tech – 189 lb. weight class, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Western Mass. which qualified Charlton for the state championship.



**Austin Keeler** (L) and **Taylor Cason** were named All-League Players



Photos by

[www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)



Junior **Molly Burns** participates in the Western Mass. Qualifiers and in the Medley and Free Relays. Burns also swam in the individual 100 meter butterfly in 1:08:18 and 500 meter free style in 6:00:87.



Five school records were broken this season in Boys Indoor Track including **Juwan Daniels-Dyer** (L) in the high jump, 6'3" in the state meet and **Matt White**, a member of the 4x400 relay team that finished in 3:42:33.



**Monique Heard** (at left) reached the 1000 point plateau on February 24<sup>th</sup> against Minnechaug Regional HS when she scored 30 points that game. Heard finished the season with 1,034 points. She had 495 total points this season and she was the season's leader in Western Mass in field goals and 3-pointers made, with 185 field goals and 55 three-pointers made. She was chosen as the Basketball Hall of Fame and MassLive.com Player of the Year and she receives that award on March 22 at the Basketball Hall of Fame. The Holyoke High School girls' basketball team finished the regular season 18-2 and had an overall record of 19-3 sharing the Valley Wheel League Champions (tied with West Springfield HS) for the second consecutive season. The Lady Knights lost 53-48 in the Western Mass Semi-Finals. At right, **Selena Yates** goes up for the score.



## Aprenda inglés con su niño

¡Inglés cataloga para padres! ¡Las actividades impresionantes para niños, como deberes ayudan, la horticultura, cocinando y actividades de computadora-basó! Estos son algunos de los beneficios de la Escuela de Sullivan programa familiar de capacidad de leer y escribir. ¡Y alistamos AHORA a las Escuelas de Sullivan!

Todos los martes, el miércoles y padres del jueves vienen a Sullivan de 3:00-6:00PM para mejorar sus habilidades inglesas, mientras sus niños hacen actividades divertidas de enriquecimiento. La tarde termina con una cena familiar. Todos los participantes pueden tomar parte en viajes de estudio familiares también.

Si es alguien que podría utilizar alguna ayuda con su inglés o conocer a otro padre de Sullivan que puede, contacta por favor Aida Gomez en 534-2060.

## Ampliado los programas de intervención días

Como parte de los esfuerzos de la escuela de Morgan para cambiar su estado de nivel 4, los programas académicos y de enriquecimiento se inició a principios de febrero. antes de comenzar las clases de la escuela, los maestros se reúnen los estudiantes de la cafetería a las 7:30 am los sujetos de los programas de intervención incluyen la lectura de las matemáticas, y están diseñados para ayudar a mejorar el rendimiento académico. Después de la escuela consisten en programas de una hora de duración que van desde los clubes de la escritura, los clubes de lectura, mcas enfoque de respuesta abierta, los clubes actuales de eventos y grupos película crítica.

## Titulo I - Noches de Familia

### Title I ~ Family Nights

Los acontecimientos comienzan a las 6:30

Events start at 6:30 p.m.

### MAY

Wednesday, May 4 ~ McMahon ~ Ocean Night (K-5)

Wednesday, May 11 ~ E.N. White ~ Bingo for Books (all)

Tuesday, May 17 ~ Kelly ~ Make & Take Games (K-5)

Monday, May 23 ~ Donahue ~ Bingo for Books (all)

### JUNE

Wednesday, June 1 ~ E.N. White ~ Bingo for Books (all)

Tuesday, June 7 ~ Kelly ~ Bingo for Books (all)

Wednesday, June 8 ~ McMahon ~ Bingo for Books (all)

Monday, June 13 ~ Morgan ~ Bingo for Books (all)

# Atención

## PADRES/GUARDIANES DE LOS ACTUALES ESTUDIANTES DE 6TO GRADO

En orden de que un estudiante entre a 7mo grado en septiembre del 2011, tiene que haber enviado a la enfermera de la escuela la documentacion de los siguientes requisitos:



1. **EXAMEN FISICO**  
(COPIA DEL EXAMEN O CITA)
2. **2 DOSIS DE LA VACUNA DEL SARAMPION, PAPERAS, RUBEOLA (MMR)**
3. **3 DOSIS DE LA VACUNA HEPATITIS B**
4. **LA VACUNA DEL TETANO (Tdap)**  
(ENTRE LOS ULTIMOS 5 ANOS)
5. **2 DOSIS DE LA VACUNA DE LA VARICELA**  
(O CASO DE VARICELA DOCUMENTADO)

Cualquier estudiante que no presente prueba a la enfermera de la escuela de los requisitos arriba mencionados sera excluido de entrar al 7mo grado en septiembre del 2011, hasta que estos requisitos no sean cumplidos.

# Matricula de Kindergarten

**Comienza El 4° de Abril 2011**

**Los niños tienen que cumplir los cinco años en o antes del 1° de septiembre del 2011.**



**¡Registraciones Solamente por cita!**

**La oficina de Asignacion de estudiantes**

**Lunes a Viernes ~ Horas 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**El Primer Piso ~ 57 Suffolk Street ~ Tel: 534-2007**

**Llame o visite para hacer una cita.**

**Horas de Registración 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**



## Connections

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