Happy New Year To You All!

It does not seem possible, but we are halfway through the school year! As we enter into the year 2010, it is hardly possible for me to imagine that this is my eighth year as Superintendent of Schools and that I will be retiring in June of this year. It doesn’t seem so long ago that I was teaching 7th grade in a junior high school. But, while it might not seem so to me, 38 years have passed, and I cannot think of a better way to have spent my career than in schools helping children learn.

Since our last issue, we have seen some changes in the leadership of the community. I take this opportunity to welcome our new mayor and chairperson of the School Committee, Elaine Pluta. We also welcome on board new School Committee members, Cesar Lopez and Devin Sheehan. You will get to read about them on page 4 of this newsletter as we have conducted full interviews. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to former mayor, Michael Sullivan, and former School Committee member Mollie Plant for their years of service to the city schools. I extend heartfelt condolences to the family of former School Committee member, Barry Conway, on his passing. As we mark the halfway point, I continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm of our teachers and the hard work of our students, and the remarkable transformations that our schools are undertaking to create welcoming places in our city classrooms. There is much to be proud of, and in the pages that follow, you will encounter some examples of what is transpiring. On December 14, 2009, Holyoke High School had a visit from the 2006 Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Craig Mello. This was a great opportunity for faculty and over 40 students in science classes at Holyoke High to meet and speak with Dr. Mello to discuss the importance of his discovery in the field of Molecular Science Medicine. The session was very informative and the students asked very impressive questions.

This year’s Three Kings Day celebration was held on January 8th with a ceremony at Holyoke High School. Once again this year, our congratulations go to the Three Kings Day Committee, the ELL Program Staff, the Division of Curriculum and Testing, the Dean ROTC Program Volunteers, community volunteers, and Holyoke Public Schools staff and students. Deserving children from the Holyoke Public Schools received toys at the event, which also included a delightful program and delicious food enjoyed by approximately 850 parents and students. This is the sixth year that the Holyoke Public Schools has observed the Three Kings Day.

With the possibility of an H1N1 (Swine Flu) Epidemic, we began the month of November with concern over the health of our students and staff, and with the help of the City’s Health Department, we launched a series of flu clinics at our schools. By the Christmas break, we had completed all the H1N1 clinics and vaccinated over 1,000 students. I want to thank the Board of Health, under the leadership of Daniel Bresnahan, and also our Nursing Supervisors, Patricia Alford and Lois Keefe, for the exemplary coordination and administration of free vaccinations for all.

This fall and early winter, the Holyoke Public Schools also undertook a search for a new Superintendent, and our School Committee, with the assistance of the Massachusetts School Committee Association, completed a successful search to find a Superintendent to take over the helm of the Holyoke Schools upon my retirement in June. My congratulations go to a well-deserving David Dupont, current Holyoke High School Principal, who was selected as the next Superintendent of Schools.

Saturday School began January 30th and will run through May 29th with sites at Holyoke High, Peck, Morgan, Kelly, Donahue, Sullivan, and Alford and Lois Keefe, for the exemplary coordination and administration of free vaccinations for all.

Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo talks with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Craig Mello.

Connections
A Community Working Together
Our Web site: www.hps.holyoke.ma.us

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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.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:
- Gustavo Acosta
- Mike Hines
- Cesar Lopez
- Mitch Moskal
- Cheryl Parzich
- Aaron Patterson
- Devin Sheehan
- Jeannie Stone
- Judy Taylor

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**Reading Rocks at Peck School!**

Reading definitely rocks at Peck K-8 School where students were joined last month by Springfield Armor basketball players, TJ Cummings and Maurice Maxwell, to celebrate our reading success. The event served as a kick-off for the new school wide focus on reading comprehension.

First grade students from JoAnn Ginley’s and Julie Diaz’s classes, who read at or above the third grade level, impressed the auditorium packed with students, teachers, and parents as they shared poems about reading. First graders wowed the audience with poems such as that by Jill Marie Warner, “Independent Strategies,” and fluently reading:

“I can chop up the words into smaller parts,  
Like -on or -ing or -ly,  
Or find smaller words in compound words  
Like raincoat and bumblebee.”

Springfield Armor basketball players Cummings and Maxwell shared words of wisdom with the learners. Cummings spoke highly of the value of his education at UCLA prior to joining the Springfield Armor. A love of accounting was shared by UMASS Amherst alum, Maurice Maxwell, as he explained his love for math and reading. Both players highlighted the important role reading has played in their success from university education to proficiency on the court. Cummings also shared his love of author Shel Silverstein.

The stage became overwhelmingly crowded as numerous students received awards for gains in reading. One hundred randomly selected students received a new book as a giveaway from our school library.

The elementary assembly was led in a cheerful reading comprehension song written and performed by the entire third grade class.

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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

Springfield Armor basketball players TJ Cummings (L) and Maurice Maxwell help Peck School celebrate reading.
First, I would like to publicly thank the Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir and the Dean Tech R.O.T.C. program for making the Swearing-In Ceremony for Elected Officials on January 4th so special. It was a wonderful day for the City of Holyoke and its history. Everyone who serves the public brings unique and distinct abilities to the office. Their efforts given to the challenges of leadership in a city or town will be measured by its residents as they reflect on their quality of life. It is my intention to make sure that your tax dollars are spent wisely and that the services provided are delivered effectively and efficiently. I will capitalize on the positives and work hard to make the changes necessary that will take the City in new and different directions. I will build on our accomplishments and continue to move forward. If progress is to be ours, it’s going to take all of us working together to make sure it happens. I look forward to working with the City Council, the School Committee, our local legislative delegation, our representatives in Washington, and with all of our citizens to make Holyoke the best it can be. Since November’s election, I have already begun the process of analyzing every aspect of our city’s government to identify what we are doing right and equally as important to identify areas where I know we can do better. My administration will focus aggressively on new business development, while ensuring that existing businesses receive everything they need to prosper and grow. I will work closely with the City’s Office of Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, and other business entities to make sure that Holyoke is considered by every company looking to expand their operations or locate here. There are many exciting possibilities and I will promote them on the City’s behalf. Our downtown has been struggling for far too long. I will seek new ideas, new energies and new investment to bring our once flourishing downtown to life. I believe my passion for the Canal Walk and the proposed Green High Performance Computer Center will help to jumpstart its revitalization. I will work diligently with our new Treasurer to bring fiscal stability to our City’s finances and I will examine all our city departments, programs, and services to look for improvements with up-to-date technology so that we can position ourselves to thrive in these times of economic uncertainty and be prepared to take advantage of the economic upturn that I believe is on the horizon.

Having spent many years on the City Council, I know firsthand how dedicated every Councilor is and how hard they work towards the betterment of our great City. I am looking forward to working with the City Council to protect, defend and improve the quality of life here in Holyoke. The problems facing our school system did not develop overnight... and solving those problems won’t happen overnight either, but by working together with our new Superintendent, the School Committee, and School Department personnel, we will improve our education system and inject new energy into our schools. An educated workforce is also a great recruiting tool and making sure we are always improving our public education system is imperative to our success. We must and will continue to do more to prepare our youngsters for the future.

Holyoke City Hall
Representing Ward 4

Meet School Committee Member ~ Cesar Lopez

By Kelly Doktor
Editor

“First and foremost, my goal is to be a voice for the families and children of Holyoke,” said Cesar Lopez, the new school committee representative for Ward 4. Lopez, a financial management analyst at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, knows what goes into balancing a budget. “I plan on becoming informed so I can make the right decisions on our budget.” He also plans on listening to the principals, teachers, staff and custodians to get a feel for what may be needed to improve the school environment and operations.

“I want to help teachers acquire and obtain all the tools and supplies that are needed to teach our children to the fullest. One of the ways I plan on hearing the voices within our schools is to join staff during their lunch time and take notes on concerns, where deficiencies in the budget may be,” said Lopez who plans on touring all the schools in the district.

Lopez graduated from George Washington High School in New York City and was in the Marine Corps for 21 years. He also had been a paraprofessional at the Holyoke Alternative Program and was a substitute history and social studies teacher at the Holyoke Magnet Middle School. Lopez has three children in the Holyoke Public School system.

Lopez has been assigned to the following subcommittees: Operations, Buildings and Negotiations.

School Committee Meeting Dates

Monday, March 1, 2010  Monday, March 15, 2010  Monday, April 5, 2010

All meetings are held in the Fifield Room at Dean Technical, 7 p.m.

Representing Ward 5

Meet School Committee Member ~ Devin Sheehan

By Kelly Doktor
Editor

For Devin Sheehan, being elected to the Holyoke School Committee representing Ward 5 is like coming full circle. A 2001 graduate of Holyoke High School, he was a student representative to the School Committee, elected by his peers, while in high school.

“I am entering city service at a difficult time with budgetary constraints, but it is also a great opportunity because of the future of education reform,” said Sheehan, who is the youngest member on the committee.

Sheehan plans on taking a “deep look” at the budget and will make sure the spending is “wise and done in the correct way.” Sheehan is excited to give back to his city and is eager to collaboratively work with the Holyoke City Council.

“One issue I want to examine is our transient population. Not only does it affect our schools, it affects the city. Working on a comprehensive plan to help keep the residents here will help the economics of our city,” said Sheehan.

With McMahon, Dean, Metcalf and Donahue schools within his Ward 5 district, he plans on visiting those schools first and then making his way to the remaining schools within the next couple of months.

Sheehan graduated from Franklin Pierce University with a graduate degree in Political Science which included his thesis on education policy. He served on the university’s student government.

Sheehan will serve on the following subcommittees for the School Committee: Finance, Operations and the Therapist Negotiation Team.
The students of Dean Technical High School know it’s better to give than to receive which is why the student body recently participated in three events that gave back to those of Holyoke in need.

The third fund-raiser was the second American Red Cross Blood Drive coordinated by Kevin Willard’s journalism classes as well as students from health services. The number of blood drive participants exceeded the goal. Another blood drive will be held in the spring and many seniors will receive scholarships that are being donated by Bob’s Discount Furniture for completing the required second blood drive for the year.

Smith College employees have volunteered more than 50 hours at Peck School’s library to assist with reorganizing the collection and updating book and shelf labeling to make the library more user-friendly. They plan on volunteering another 50 hours this school year.
The Maurice A. Donahue School was recently visited by Mike Adams, an educator from the Boston Museum of Science. The topic of the presentation was Animal Adaptations and he brought some of his friends, including Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, a Sinaloan Milk Snake, and a rat. Each of these animals were displayed for students while their characteristics were discussed.

The Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches (shown on right) are ancient animals, evolved to “hiss” as air escapes from their exoskeletons when they flatten their bodies. The Sinaloan Milk Snake is non-venomous, but has evolved to mimic the coral snake’s coloration, making would-be predators believe they are poisonous. Students gasped as the snake managed to wriggle underneath the presenter’s wrist watch and climbed up his arm. The rat showed students how it could grasp items with its ambidextrous paws as it climbed and ate Cheerios. Its tail was also examined as an adaptation to help with balance.

Following the discussion of creatures, students were invited to examine the skulls that lined the gymnasium. Provided with recording sheets, students looked at teeth types, eye placement and other characteristics to classify the animal. Helen Gibson, HPS Science Academic Coordinator, and Donahue’s science teacher Caleb Snow helped coordinate the event. The Boston Museum of Science programs are at no cost to the Holyoke Public Schools thanks to a scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Fund.

E.N. White
Hazan Paper Company visit

Fifth grade students at E.N. White School had an informative hands-on experience at Hazen Paper Company, one of the original paper companies in Holyoke that has operated since 1925. The activities highlighted the importance of water and wood in producing paper. A tour of the facility enabled the students to gain an understanding of the paper-making process, including the opportunity to make paper. Students not only returned to school with their samples of paper, but with new ideas about the importance of natural resources that are used to produce the paper that is provided for all the schools.

The William R. Peck School fifth-graders were treated to a presentation on Animal Adaptations from Boston Museum of Science Traveling Program educator George Pechmann. He brought a snake, a salamander, and a screech owl to the school to demonstrate some of the important physical and behavioral adaptations that help animals to survive. Students also examined the skulls of several dead animals to gather clues about how they lived and what types of food they ate. Using their observations, they then classified the animals as herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores.

Above, Pechmann shows a Sinaloan Milk Snake.

At left, (L to R): Peck students Geraldo Betancourt, Jr.; Orlando Gutierrez Gonzalez and Giovanni Ortiz work together to identify their skull.

Massachusetts Cultural Council Programs

By Ted Watt

“Wow, look he likes cheese the best!” “No, ours is eating crackers!” “Our mouse isn’t eating anything right now.” “I wonder which of these foods she likes the best?” These are some of the comments and questions one might hear in a number of the 5th grade science classes this year. Educators from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst and the Enchanted Circle Theater in Holyoke are working together to help students learn about scientific inquiry by combining both the sciences and the arts.

Students will practice their skills at specifying the steps in a scientific experiment by first giving directions on how to put on a sweater vest. They will also practice the skills of working together in scientific teams through a theater game in which they role play who is going to take out the trash. Another assignment had students take their field notes from observing birds and plants outside the classroom and combine them into an original poem and they read their poem aloud to accompany a report of the results of their scientific experiment. The creativity of the scientific process is reinforced through artistic creativity aimed at developing parallel skills.

The six-day residency was held at Sullivan, White and Kelly schools last year and is being held at McMahon, Morgan, Peck, and Donahue Schools this year. Each residency ends with student groups reporting their scientific findings about food preference in mice. Their reports include their original poetry together with scientific charts of methods, data and conclusions. The group reports include both visual and performance arts. The project is funded through the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Creative Schools Program.
As part of a continuing series of profiles of new teachers at the Maurice A. Donahue School, librarian Josiah Friedberg caught up with Tracy Russell, the new 7th grade ELA teacher.

How many years have you taught?
This is my 7th year. I taught for 6 years in Westfield before I took some time off to raise my children.

What is your astrological sign?
Gemini

How do you like working at Donahue?
I really enjoy working at Donahue. The school is made up of a wonderfully diverse staff who has been very supportive and helpful in my transition to the school. The students are great as well. They are full of energy and have many great ideas.

What drives you to teach?
I love the challenge of teaching. It is the most incredible feeling to see the light of understanding come into a student’s eyes. I hope in some way my presence in their lives, even for a short amount of time, will make a difference.

What is your favorite part of the day?
The morning is my favorite part of the day. Everyone is fresh and ready to learn.

Do you have a favorite lesson?
I enjoy talking with students about the books they are reading. It is amazing how much you can learn about students when you see their book choices.

What is your favorite animal?
My favorite animal is my Yorkshire Terrier, Trevor. He is small, cute and cuddly.

What is your favorite hobby?
I know this is cliché for an ELA teacher, but I love to read. When I find a book I really like I can’t stop reading it until it is finished.

What is the meaning of life?
‘Live well, laugh often, and love much’….not my own words, but I agree with it wholeheartedly. I think we are put on this earth to be kind to each other and be good role models for those that come after us.
The CONNECTIONS Program is beginning the new year with a new director! Jorge (George) L. Castellano brings over 25 years of management experience to this position. Most recently, he worked with the Springfield Public Schools in the design, delivery, and integration of career development education into all academic areas, and was responsible for overseeing career development activities and business internships for students in the Springfield Public Schools. Castellano is very passionate about youth development and excited about this opportunity to help to sustain and enhance the CONNECTIONS Program. His contact information is as follows:

jcastellano@hps.holyoke.ma.us  413-534-2168 (phone)  534-2169 (fax)  313-7710 (cell)

CONNECTIONS began its third eight week session on February 1st. There are lots of fun and enriching activities to choose from at each of our seven sites…and, of course, there is homework help from certified public school teachers. Many of the programs have waiting lists so it is important to call right away. Registration forms are available on the Holyoke Public Schools web site under “Programs” or you can call any of the following schools after 3 pm, Monday through Thursday: Peck, Morgan, E.N.White, Donahue, Sullivan, Kelly and Holyoke High School.

ATTENTION PARENTS/CAREGIVERS: The CONNECTIONS Program needs your help! This year is the final year of funding for the middle school level CONNECTIONS Programs at Donahue and Sullivan and we will be competing with other school districts statewide for funds to continue programming.

For updated school news, visit Community Channel 12

CFE Winners for G&E Contest

Ray Gooley from the Holyoke Gas & Electric Department presented the winners of the poster contest on electricity awareness their certificates. As an added bonus, Principal Terri Pudlo and Assistant Principal Larry Duprey received Red Sox sweatshirts.

Additionally, Gooley brought a Red Sox banner which highlighted the Red Sox winning their 2004 World Series Championship.

Front row: L to R: Alexander Colon Gr. 5, Michael Arocho Gr. 4, Nathaniel Ramos Kindergarten, and Jacob Concepcion Gr. 1. Back row: L to R: Ray Gooley, Principal Pudlo, Assistant Principal Duprey.
Pig Out! Oink, Oink!

Wow! She did it! Yes, E.N. White Principal Ellen Jackson kissed the pig, and the students have each committed to read 25 books for this year’s book campaign. Daisy Minor, a full-blooded potbelly pig, along with Daisy’s “father,” Farmer Minor, entertained the E. N. White students during the kickoff for the 25 Books Campaign. Farmer Minor regaled the audience with humorous stories of Daisy’s daily life and Daisy’s adventures in visiting schools nationwide to promote reading. Prior to the event, Principal Jackson promised the students if they all signed contracts promising to read 25 books this year, then she would kiss Daisy the Pig when she visited the school.

Well, the students kept their promise and so did Principal Jackson! The crowd went wild when she laid a big kiss right on Daisy’s snout! (at right) Not to be left out, many of the teachers and students also lined up to give Daisy a smooch. Daisy seemed content being the center of attention, took it all in stride, and was happy to help promote our 2009-2010 Pig Out on Reading program.

Helping hands for Ecuador

Changing the world is not a one-person task. But every helping hand can make a difference, and together, these hands can transform the world. To the people of San Miguel, Ecuador, Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School is that helping hand. Myriam Skolnick’s sixth-grade students were chosen to be O-Ambassadors. The O-Ambassadors Program began when Oprah Winfrey and Free The Children Foundation joined forces to create a school-based program to encourage young people to become active global citizens.

The Sullivan School O-Ambassadors raised funds in various ways, including a car wash (above) and running a school store (below). All the money gathered was sent to the Feed the Children Foundation. Participating students were also given credit for volunteering. Skolnick recently received a community report indicating that, through the donated money, Feed the Children has been able to help San Miguel’s community to pipe clean water and to provide sanitation efforts. Clean water, a basic right in our community, is often not available in many parts of the world. Empowering Sullivan School students has shown them that they can make a difference in other children’s lives. The children of San Miguel will directly benefit from their efforts. With their commitment to change, our Holyoke students are in turn able to empower the people of San Miguel, one step at a time. Skolnick is originally from Ecuador.

Writings: life imitates art

It is said that we all have a story to tell. Students in the sixth-grade at Morgan School needed to write a personal narrative memoir to culminate the narrative genre study in their ELA readers/writers workshop. The students read Seedfolks, by Paul Fleischman, a collection of short fictional first-person narratives told by immigrant characters who are members of an urban community. As the story unfolds, this collection of characters turn a trash-filled vacant lot into a community garden. The text was used as a model, allowing students to analyze the author’s craft and use of fictional characters who tell their story through personal narratives. The class spent an afternoon at the Nuestras Raíces Farm, learning firsthand about community gardens and their positive impact on the community that they support. Nuestras Raíces, located on Main Street in Holyoke, is one part of Nuestras Raíces Farm, a grass-roots organization that promotes economic, human and community development in Holyoke through projects relating to food, agriculture, and the environment. The students spent the afternoon building background knowledge and gathering seed ideas, preparing to write their autobiographical narratives, telling the story about their day at the farm.

Julia Rivera, one of the group’s tour guides, shared the full story of Nuestras Raíces, and how the farm began. She explained what a community garden really is and how it helps a community preserve its culture. Questions she asked the students to think about and discuss were: What is culture, and why is it important? What are some specific aspects of Puerto Rican culture? What is important to you about your culture?

Back in the classroom, students worked on a variety of math, science, ELA and social studies topics, including mapping skills and the five themes of geography in relation to the trip to the Nuestras Raíces Farm to complete the narrative stories.

Retail store teaches life skills

The Gingerbread House, a small gift shop staffed by students from Lynn Potter’s functional class, was set up inside Kelly School where students could purchase small trinkets for their family members for the holidays for $1.00 or less. Staff members donated gently-used items to be sold in the store decorated like a real boutique. Students were asked to apply for jobs, went through an interview process with Principal Chad Mazza, and then were “hired.” The students were in charge of the running of the store, the register, as well as providing customer service. The students also gift-wrapped items. Phil Christofori, art teacher and one of the teachers instrumental in the success of The Gingerbread House, summed it up best, “With the Gingerbread House, everyone at Kelly School benefits. The students get an opportunity to purchase gifts for loved ones, the school makes a little money, and the students who run the store gain beneficial life skills experience.”
Fall Athletes ~ All-Western Mass. and All-League Honors

All-Academic Team:
Patrick O’Neil – Holyoke High School Golf - 4.49 GPA and 2,210 SAT (780 Writing)

All-Academic Nominees:
David Morin – Holyoke High School Golf – 4.27 GPA
Bronwyn Callahan – Holyoke High School Girls Soccer – 4.04 GPA
Hannah Harazmus – Holyoke High School Girls Soccer – 3.97 GPA
Kaila Tallman – Holyoke High School Girls Soccer – 3.85 GPA
Kayla Prout – Holyoke High School Girls Soccer – 3.80 GPA
Kyle Duquette – Holyoke High School Boys Soccer – 3.81 GPA
Genesis Estrada – Holyoke High School Volleyball – 3.96 GPA
Amarilees Bolorin – Holyoke High School Volleyball – 3.66 GPA

Dean Technical High School Football:
Mike Rojas – All-League

Dean Technical High School Girls Volleyball:
Franshesca Feliciano – All-League

Holyoke High School Cross Country:
Cody Hodgins - First Team All-Western Massachusetts and All-League
Rhys Duquette - Second Team All-Western Massachusetts and All-League

Holyoke High School Field Hockey:
Abbey McAndrews - Second Team All-Western Massachusetts and All-League

Holyoke High School Golf:
Ben Mann - First Team All-Western Massachusetts and All-League

Holyoke High Football:
Dominique Padilla - First Team All-Western Massachusetts Offense and All-League
Jono Robert - First Team All-Western Massachusetts Offense and All-League
Corey Smith - First Team All-Western Massachusetts Defense and All-League
Carlos Semidey - Second Team All-Western Massachusetts Defense and All-League
Jarrod Allen - Second Team All-Western Massachusetts Offense

Holyoke High School Boys Soccer:
Patrick Cronin – First Team All-Western Massachusetts and All-League
Collin Bailly - Second Team All-Western Massachusetts
Joe Dent – All-League
John Larrow – All-League

Holyoke High School Girls Soccer:
Kayla Prout – All-League
Lindsay Monaco – All-League

Holyoke High School Girls Volleyball:
Amarilees Bolorin - Second Team All-Western Massachusetts and All-League

Holyoke High Individual Awards

HHS Girls Soccer Goalkeeper
Kayla Prout~
ABC Channel 40 Athlete of the Week

HHS Golf~ Ben Mann
Qualified for Western Mass. Golf Championship and Athlete of the Week for the Holyoke Sun

HHS Cross Country ~ Cody Hodgins
Qualified for the State Championship Athlete of the Week for Holyoke Sun
The Holyoke High School Football Team Won the Western Massachusetts Official’s Association Sportsmanship Award.

The Holyoke High School Boys Soccer Team Qualified for the MIAA Tournament for the First Time in Three Years.

The Holyoke High School Boys Cross Country Team Set the School Record at the PVIAC Championships and at the Western Massachusetts Championships Finishing in 7th Place at Both Events.

Dean Basketball News

Dean Technical High School hosts its first-ever Thanksgiving Day football game versus Easthampton High School at the Roberts Sports Complex.

Dean Basketball News

Both the girls and boys basketball teams at Dean are off to their most successful start in the last decade as both teams led their respective leagues by a 9-2 boys record and a 5-2 girls record at press time. Students from both teams have been nominated for the Holyoke Sun’s Athlete of the Week. When asked about the future of the teams in the post-season anticipation, Coach Dutsar and Coach McGrath believed that with “some team play and improvement in core skills, the sky is the limit for both teams.”

Visit the Holyoke High School Sports Web Site at: http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/athletics.htm
E. N. White students had a great opportunity to connect their growing knowledge of ancient civilizations from their history classes with a personal view of some of the authentic artifacts from the Ancient World. Sheila Lamour, art teacher from E.N. White School, accompanied 25 of her seventh and eighth grade students to Mt. Holyoke College's Art Museum to see its special Ancient Civilization displays. On their tour the students saw jewelry, statues and other ancient objects from Egypt like sculptures, pottery and statuettes from Greece and ancient coins from Rome.

Violinists at E.N. White serenade voters

The Special Election for the Massachusetts United States Senator proved to be more than just a day of civic duty. At E.N. White School, members of the String Program, accompanied by instructor Andy Verrocchi, serenaded the long line of voters as they entered the building to vote. The event was arranged by the parent organization and included a bake sale as a fund-raiser for the HPS String Program. Funds will be used to repair instruments, to offer expanded violin programs and for the purchase of new violins.

Three Kings Day Celebration

The cold weather on the night of January 8, 2010, did not prevent the huge crowds of Holyoke families from attending the sixth annual Three Kings Day celebration. The Holyoke Public School district sponsors this annual event as a way to bring the community together around a positive Puerto Rican cultural tradition. The program opened with a color guard by ROTC students which included the singing of the United States and Puerto Rican National Anthems. The heart of the program was the festive dinner with traditional Puerto Rican music playing in the background. A slideshow displayed pictures of Puerto Rico and its cities, towns and multi-cultural events. After dinner, the children received gifts and cookies while interacting with The Three Kings. The evening was made possible by dozens of HPS staff, teachers, students and community members.

Pre-GED Classes

The Pathways to Family Success family literacy program is always recruiting adult students for the pre-GED class. This program is for parents who live in Holyoke. The program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. at the MSPCC Parent Center at 230 Maple Street. Family dinners and activities are included. If you have any questions, please call either Marisol at 538-5770 or Jody at 534-2026.
Nuevos cambios excitantes para iniciar la década

Por Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo
Superintendente de Escuelas

Pareciera imposible pero estamos a la mitad del año escolar. Cuando empezamos el año 2010, para mi era casi imposible imaginarme que este es mi octavo año como Superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke y que me estará retirando en junio de este año. No parece que fue hace mucho tiempo que estuve enseñando en el séptimo grado en una escuela intermedia. Sin embargo, aunque para mi no parezca mucho tiempo, ya han pasado 38 años y no ha habido nada mejor que el haber invertido años de mi carrera en las escuelas ayudando a nuestros niños en su aprender.

Desde nuestra última publicación hemos visto cambios en el liderazgo de nuestra comunidad. Quiero tomar esta oportunidad de darle una bienvenida a Elaine Pluta como la nueva Alcaldesa de la Ciudad de Holyoke y como Presidenta del Comité Escolar. Estoy seguro de que queremos desearle el mejor de los éxitos en estos tiempos difíciles. Extendemos también nuestra bienvenida al Comité Escolar a los Señores Cesar López y David Sheehan. Ustedes tendrán la oportunidad de conocer más sobre ellos en esta publicación ya que tuvimos extensas entrevistas con ellos. Me gustaría además tomar esta oportunidad para expresar mi sincero aprecio al anterior alcalde, el Señor Michael Sullivan y a la Señora Mollie Plant por sus años de servicio a las escuelas de la ciudad, y extender mis profundas condolencias a la familia del anterior miembro del Comité, el Señor Barry Conway, que paso a otra vida.

Al llegar a la mitad de este año, continué con admiración por el entusiasmo de nuestro personal docente y el arduo trabajo de nuestros estudiantes, y por la impresionante transformación que está sucediendo en nuestras escuelas para crear un lugar acogedor en los salones de clase de la ciudad. Hay mucho de que sentirse orgullosos, y en las páginas siguientes se enterarán sobre lo que hago relucir. El 14 de diciembre del 2009, la Escuela Superior de Holyoke recibió el galardonado Premio Nobel del 2006, el Señor Craig Mello que deleitó al profesorado y a unos 40 estudiantes de ciencias con una conversación sobre la importancia de sus descubrimientos en el campo de la Ciencia Molecular Médica. La sesión fue informativa y los estudiantes hicieron preguntas impresionantes.

La Sexta Celebración de los Tres Reyes Magos se llevó a cabo el pasado 8 de enero en la Escuela Superior de Holyoke. De nuevo, nuestro reconocimiento al Comité Organizador, al personal del programa ELL, de la División de Currículo y Evaluaciones, a los voluntarios del R.O.T.C., de la comunidad, al personal de la Escuela Superior y a nuestros estudiantes. Niños y niñas de nuestras escuelas recibieron juguetes en el evento, que además incluyó un programa y comida deliciosas.

Empezamos el mes de noviembre con la preocupación sobre los riesgos de salud para nuestros estudiantes y personal presentaba la posibilidad de la epidemia H1N1. Con la ayuda del Departamento Municipal de Salud, lanzamos una serie de clínicas en las escuelas de la ciudad. Para el receso de navidad habíamos vacunado a cerca de mil niños. Quiero agradecer a la Junta de Salud bajo la dirección del Señor Daniel Breshehan, y a nuestras Supervisoras de Enfermería, las Señoras Patricia Alford y Lois Keefe por su ejemplar coordinación y administración de las vacunas para todos. Durante el otoño e invierno, las Escuelas Públicas llevaron a cabo la búsqueda del nuevo Superintendente de Escuelas, y nuestro Comité Escolar, con la asistencia de la Asociación de Comités Escolares, eligieron al Señor David Dupont, nuestro Director de la Escuela Superior como la persona que me sucederá a partir de mi retiro este junio. Mis felicitaciones al merecedor Señor David Dupont. Las Escuelas Sabatinas empezaron el 30 de enero y continuarán hasta el 29 de mayo, con clases en la Escuela Superior, y las escuelas Peck, Morgan, Kelly, Donahue, Sullivan y E.N. White. Si quieren más información sobre este programa, por favor visten nuestro sitio en la Internet: www.hps.holyoke.ma.us o contacten a la Oficina de Currículo y Evaluaciones al (413) 534-2000, extensión 211. Nuestros Equipos de Liderazgo Escolar están evaluando las necesidades de cada uno de los estudiantes en sus respectivas escuelas con planes detallados para darles otra oportunidad de preparación para las pruebas del MCAS en la primavera. Estamos determinados a mantener nuestro enfoque en la importancia del aprendizaje, y les invito a todos a poner nuestro mejor empeño.

Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo conversaciones con el
Premio Nobel Dr. Craig Mello.

Superintendent... from page 1

and White Schools. If you would like more information about this program, please visit our website or contact the Office of Curriculum and Testing at 534-2000 extension 211. Our Schools Leadership Teams are engaged in assessing every single student’s needs at the building level with clear focused plans to provide them another opportunity to perform well on the upcoming MCAS exams this spring. We are committed to staying focused on the important task of learning, and I urge all of us to do our best.
En representación de Distrito 4

Conoce Escuela Miembro del Comité ~ César López

"En primer lugar, mi meta es ser una voz para las familias y los niños de Holyoke," dijo César López, nuevo representante del comité de la escuela para Distrito 4. López, analista de la gestión financiera en Westover Air Reserve Base en Chicopee, sabe lo que pasa en el equilibrio del presupuesto. "Tengo la intención de ser informado para poder tomar las decisiones correctas en nuestro presupuesto." Él también planea escuchar a los directores, profesores, personal y de los custodios para tener una idea de lo que pueda ser necesaria para mejorar el entorno escolar y las operaciones ". Quiero ayudar a los profesores adquiran y obtener todas las herramientas y suministros que se necesitan para enseñar a nuestros hijos al máximo. Una de las

maneras pienso al escuchar las voces dentro de nuestras escuelas es unirse a su personal durante la hora del almuerzo y tome nota de las preocupaciones, donde las deficiencias en el presupuesto puede ser ", dijo López, quien planea viajar a todas las escuelas del distrito. López se graduó de la George Washington High School en Nueva York y fue en el Cuerpo de Marina durante 21 años. También había sido un asistente de maestro en HAP y fue una historia de sustitución y maestra de estudios sociales en el Holyoke Medio Magnet School. López tiene tres hijos en el sistema público de Holyoke School. López ha sido asignado a los siguientes subcomités: de Operaciones de Edificios, y las negociaciones.


En representación de Distrito 5

Conoce la Escuela Miembro del Comité ~ Devin Sheehan

Para Devin Sheehan, de ser elegido para el Comité Escolar de Holyoke representan Distrito 5 es como volver a un círculo completo. A 2001 graduado de Holyoke High School, fue representante estudiantil ante el Comité Escolar elegido por sus pares, mientras que en la escuela secundaria. "Estoy entrando en servicio de la ciudad en un momento difícil con las restricciones presupuestarias, pero también es una gran oportunidad porque de el futuro de la reforma de la educación ", dijo Sheehan, quien es el miembro más joven en la comisión. Sheehan sobre planes de tomar" una mirada profunda en el presupuesto y se asegurará que el gasto es" sabía y en el camino correcto. "Sheehan está emocionado a devolver a su ciudad y está ansioso de trabajar en colaboración con el Consejo de la Ciudad de Holyoke. "Una cuestión que quiero exminar es nuestra población flotante. No sólo afecta a nuestras escuelas, que afecta a la ciudad. Trabajando en un plan integral para ayudar a mantener a los residentes aquí ayudará a la economía de nuestra ciudad ", dijo Sheehan. Con McMahon, Dean, Metcalf y escuelas Donahue dentro de su Distrito 5 del distrito, que planea visitar las escuelas de primero y luego toma el camino a las demás escuelas en el próximo par de meses. Sheehan se graduó de la Universidad Franklin Pierce, con un posgrado en Ciencias Políticas que incluyó a su tesis sobre la política de la educación. Sirvió en los estudiantes de la universidad de Go

bierno. Sheehan servirá en los siguientes subcomités para el Comité Escolar: finanzas, operaciones y el equipo de negociación del terapeuta.
Primera mujer alcalde de Holyoke

Promete "inyectar nueva energía" en las escuelas de Holyoke

Por Elaine Pluta

Alcalde de Holyoke

Primeramente quiero agradecer al Coro Madrigal de la Escuela Superior de Holyoke y al programa R.O.T.C. de la Escuela Técnica Superior Dean por haberle dado un tono especial a la Juramentación de Oficiales Electos el 4 de enero. Fue un precioso día para la Ciudad de Holyoke y su historia. Cada persona que sirve al público trae consigo habilidades únicas y distinguidas al puesto que ocupan. Los esfuerzos que ponen a los retos que presenta el hecho de liderar una ciudad o un pueblo serán medidos por sus residentes, cuando estos hacen una reflexión sobre la calidad de vida. Es mi intención asegurarme de que sus impuestos serán bien invertidos y que los servicios públicos se darán de una manera eficiente y efectiva. Voy a capitalizar los aspectos positivos y trabajar duro para hacer los cambios necesarios que lleven a nuestra ciudad en una dirección nueva y diferente. Voy a construir sobre los logros y continuar hacia delante. Si el progreso ha de ser nuestro, tendremos que trabajar todos juntos para asegurarnos de que así sea. Espero con entusiasmo trabajar con los miembros del Concilio Municipal, del Comité Escolar, de nuestra delegación legislativa, nuestros representantes en Washington D.C. y con toda la ciudadanía para hacer de Holyoke todo lo bueno que merecer ser. Desde las elecciones de noviembre, he empezado el proceso de analizar cada aspecto del gobierno de la ciudad para identificar lo que hacemos bien, y de igual manera identificar las áreas donde yo sé que podemos hacerlo mejor. Mi administración se enfocará agresivamente en el desarrollo de nuevos negocios mientras nos aseguramos de que los negocios existentes reciban lo necesario para prosperar y crecer. Voy a trabajar muy de cerca con la Oficina de Desarrollo Económico, la Cámara de Comercio, y otras entidades empresariales para asegurarnos de que Holyoke sea considerada por cada una de las compañías que buscan expandir sus operaciones o asentarse aquí. Existen varias posibilidades interesantes y voy a promoverlas en favor de la ciudad. El centro de la ciudad ha estado luchando por progresar por ya varios años. Yo voy a buscar nuevas ideas, nueva energía y nuevas inversiones para darle vida lo que una vez fue un vibrante centro cívico y comercial. Yo creo que mi pasión por el Paseo del Canal y el puesto Centro de Computación de Alto Rendimiento con Energía Verde nos ayudará a darle empuje a la revitalización. Trabajaré diligentemente con el nuevo Tesorero Municipal para darle estabilidad fiscal a las finanzas de nuestra ciudad, y voy a examinar todos los departamentos, programas y servicios que ofrecemos para buscar mejorlos con nueva tecnología, a manera de posicionarnos ventajosamente en estos tiempos de incertidumbre económica y estar preparados para tomar ventaja del cambio económico, que a mi parecer, está en el horizonte. Por haber servido durante muchos años como Concejal de la Ciudad conozco por experiencia la dedicación que cada uno de los concejales pone en su trabajo para el bienestar de la ciudad. Espero con entusiasmo trabajar con el Concilio para proteger, defender y mejorar la calidad de vida aquí en Holyoke. Los problemas que enfrenta nuestro sistema escolar público no surgieron de la noche a la mañana, y así mismo no van resolverse de la noche a la mañana, pero trabajando juntos con el nuevo Superintendente, con el Comité Escolar y el personal de las escuelas, vamos a mejorar nuestro sistema educativo y a inyectar nueva energía a nuestras escuelas. Una fuerza de trabajo educada es también una herramienta efectiva de reclutamiento, y el asegurarlos de que siempre estamos mejorando nuestro sistema educativo es imperativo para nuestro éxito. Nosotros debemos y vamos a continuar haciendo más para preparar a nuestros jóvenes para el futuro.
Título I - Noches de Familia
Title I - Family Nights

**February**
- Mon., Feb. 22 ~ Donahue ~ Bingo for Books
- Thurs., Feb. 25 ~ White ~ Bingo for Books

**March**
- Mon., March 1 ~ Metcalf ~ Dr. Seuss Night (4:30 p.m.)
- Tues., March 2 ~ Morgan ~ Dr. Seuss Night
- Wed., March 3 ~ McMahon ~ Dr. Seuss Night
- Thurs., March 11 ~ Donahue ~ Math Night
- Mon., March 15 ~ Kelly ~ Bingo for Books
- Wed., March 24 ~ White ~ Poetry Night
- Mon., March 29 ~ Donahue ~ Career Night

**April**
- Mon., April 5 ~ Donahue ~ Bingo for Books
- Tues., April 6 ~ Sullivan ~ Bingo for Books
- Thurs., April 8 ~ McMahon ~ Bingo for Books

Los acontecimientos comienzan a las 6:30 menos que se indique.
Events start at 6:30 unless noted.

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**Celebrando seis años**

**El Día de Reyes un éxito**

Una enorme multitud de familias Holyoke llegó a la cafetería de la escuela secundaria en una fría noche de enero para celebrar el 8 de Día de Reyes. El distrito de la Escuela Pública de Holyoke ha patrocinado el evento anual, como una manera de unir a la comunidad en torno a una tradición positiva y alegre de Puerto Rico culturales. El programa se inició con una guardia de color por los estudiantes del ROTC que incluye el canto de los nacionales de los Estados Unidos Himno y el himno de Puerto Rico. El corazón del programa fue la cena festiva de Puerto Rico con la música tradicional de Puerto Rico en el fondo. Una presentación de diapositivas en el lado muestra las fotos de Puerto Rico y sus ciudades y pueblos y muchos eventos culturales. Después de la cena, los niños recibieron regalos y las cookies y todo el mundo fue capaz de darle la mano a los Reyes Magos. La noche fue posible gracias a decenas de funcionarios de HPS, profesores y estudiantes ofrecen su tiempo para ayudar a las familias disfrutar de entretenimiento de la noche.

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As we would like to update our mailing list, please email us at kdoktor@hps.holyoke.ma.us if there is a name change/deletion, or if additional quantities of this newsletter are needed.