An Open Letter to the Holyoke School Community

Together, we can all make the difference

By David Dupont
Superintendent of Schools

The bottom line in all of what we do in our school system is how well we do it in our classrooms. This is how we are judged, and this is where the future of every child we serve is affected. How awesome it is to think of the influence teachers have on all of their students. Therefore, it should be the primary goal of every school employee, every elected official, every parent, and the community as a whole, to support our classrooms. If our mission is focused correctly and supported appropriately, we could go a long way in giving our kids a legitimate shot at economic survival and productive and participatory citizenship in this very competitive 21st Century world. Through professional development, school, district, parent and community involvement; multiple and varied interventions; effective instruction and leadership; and healthy, safe and secure learning environments, we can help provide the necessary support for our teachers in fulfilling our mission goals and objectives. The big challenge, though, is believing that we can achieve this. We have to convert into explanations those many obstacles that we find in our way that we have a tendency to use as excuses for poor student performance and behavior-explanations that are all very real, but have to be dealt with or worked around to the best of our abilities. A common belief that we can make it work in our schools, that we will accept nothing but the best from our students, that failure is not an option, not only depends on the personal dedication and drive of each of our teachers, but also on what the rest of the school community can do to support them. This includes the obvious fact that all school district employees are responsible and important in this venture because of their distinctive contributions in this very worthy effort to leave no child behind. Parents and community leaders in government, business, and support services complete this circle of support and should understand and appreciate their duty to Holyoke’s future. A true team effort is required by all of its members in order to ensure that teaching and learning are faithfully and effectively served.

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Teams celebrate Homecoming with “Molly”

The Holyoke High School fall sports teams celebrated its first homecoming weekend on September 17th and 18th with the focus on raising awareness and money for ovarian cancer. The teams partnered with a program called Team Molly. Team Molly is an educational effort, which bears the name of a brave young woman and all-star athlete, Molly Eisenberg of Lexington, Massachusetts. In 2009, at just 19 years old, Molly lost her battle with ovarian cancer. Team Molly encourages high school students to educate their peers and family, reminding them to take care of themselves through exercise, doctor visits, a healthy lifestyle and awareness. All high school athletic teams in Massachusetts were invited to join Team Molly in an effort to break the silence on ovarian cancer. The Holyoke High School athletic teams, in an action packed weekend of sports, wore teal t-shirts, sweatbands, and shoelaces to bring awareness to ovarian cancer. Teal is the nationally recognized color for awareness and support of Ovarian Cancer...

Players wear teal wristbands

Sullivan School student Joshua Gonzalez weighs a pumpkin with one of the school’s new SPARKs ~ a self-contained science learning system.
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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Grand Opening!!

Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center

In September, the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center (PAFEC) had its Grand Opening, along with the new Holyoke Transportation Center with new bus terminal and ticket/waiting room at 206 Maple Street. The PAFEC is the new home of the Holyoke Adult Learning Opportunity (HALO) Center, plus HCC classes and several other Juntos Collaborative programs such as The Community Education Project and New England Farm Workers Council. The newly renovated fire station across from Veteran’s Park is now the home for transportation services on the first floor, Head Start classes on the second floor, and adult education classes on the third and fourth floors. Now adults and families can take the bus to the Maple Street facility, get child-care for their young children through Head Start and take adult education classes throughout the day and evening. This new learning facility has state-of-the-art computers and other advanced technologies.

Sullivan School Family Literacy

There will be a new family literacy program at Sullivan School, where parents can come to learn English and children will receive homework help and other enrichment programming. The program, scheduled three days a week from 3-6 p.m., will include dinner. This program will support the education of both parents and children from the Sullivan School community. Additionally, one day each week, parents will come from 2-3 p.m. and attend a child’s class to participate in the learning activities alongside their child. This program is a commitment of 10 hours a week. If you are the parent of a Sullivan School student, please contact Aida Gomez at Sullivan School at 534-2060 or Marisol Fontanez at the Community Education Project at 538-5770.
On a beautiful fall morning in October, Sullivan School students participated in the 25 Book Campaign Kick-off Rally on the basketball court. Mayor Elaine Pluta spoke to all of the students about the importance of reading. Principal John Breish announced the school goal is to read 15,000 books during the 2010-2011 school year. As the students get closer to the goal, they will be allowed to choose a reward that all of the participants can enjoy. Students may include the books they read at home as a part of their 25 books.

With hats or hands on hearts, the 500 students at Edward N. White pledged in front of Holyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta to “do their best” to read 25 books this year for a total of 12,500 books for the school. Mayor Pluta kindly accepted an invitation to address students at the fall 25 Book Campaign Kickoff Rally dubbed Hats Off to Reading. She shared the importance of reading in her job and emphasized the need for comprehension while reading. Making a surprise appearance was the E. N. White mascot, a tiger whom many students refer to as “Ian.” The tiger pranced in, much to the amusement of all, and then led a parade of primary grade students back to their classrooms. Students and staff alike enjoyed wearing a wide variety of hats all day at school. Even Mayor Pluta joined in by sporting her wide-brimmed white straw hat decorated with flowers. Among the many other hats spotted were a trapper’s fur cap, a witch hat, a Dr. Seuss “cat-in-the-hat” hat, paper soldier hats, a baker’s hat, a Santa’s elf toke, and numerous ball caps.

First graders Danaisha Perez and Tempest Vermette share their favorite books at the rally.
Connections

**Safe School Ambassadors Program**

**Holyoke Public Schools says, “NO!” to bullying**

The national anti-bullying program, Safe School Ambassadors, began its second year at Peck School this fall. The Safe School Ambassador program believes that students are very influential with their peers in establishing the emotional climate and shaping behavior norms on a school campus. Over 30 new ambassadors were selected and trained from the middle school. They join the 30 students who are already active ambassadors and making a difference in the school. Seventh-grader David Alvarez, a new ambassador stated, “It was great to learn ways to stop bullying. I feel I can stop messing around and really change myself and our school.”

Peck’s Master Ambassadors hosted a Gallery Walk for all middle school students during which they explained and demonstrated ways that all students can prevent bullying and make a difference in the school culture. Pictured at left are Jose Cordova and Kevin Thompson presenting their Safe Ambassador display during the Gallery Walk.

**Anonymous Ambassadors**

By Erin Corrigan

Every day in the United States, 160,000 students choose not to go to school because they are afraid of what their peers might do to them. In an effort to help suppress these fears, Holyoke High School has chosen to participate in the nationwide Safe School Ambassadors Program. This researched-based program strives to provide student ambassadors with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent violence and bullying in the schools. At HHS there are about 35-40 of these anonymous students, each chosen because of their leadership and ability to influence others. One of these anonymous students explains that as an ambassador, he is obligated to prevent fights and keep peace within the school. “We're supposed to encourage our peers to stop bullying,” he says. By being accepting of others, the ambassadors influence their friends to do the same. Their friends in turn influence more students, creating a ripple-effect, which will eventually allow for peace in the school. Holyoke High's Safe School Ambassadors meet once or twice a month to discuss solutions to bullying and develop new strategies to stop violence. Two other schools in Holyoke, Dean Vocational Technical High School and Peck Middle School, are also participants in the Ambassador Program.

*Source: www.community-matters.org*

**Joe the Biker’s personal message**

Joe the Biker (a.k.a. Joe Wojcik) shared his own first-hand bullying experience with the students in grades 3-8 at McMahon School. Starting in fourth grade, Joe endured many years of psychological and physical abuse from some of his peers including being given the nickname, “Yubbie.” Now years later he helps support and teach children how to handle bullying and how to support others being bullied through the “Yubbie Foundation.” Joe’s multi-sensory approach to understanding what bullying is and how both the victim and the bystander can help to create a safe, bully-free zone at school and in the community, made a huge impact on the students. During the presentations, students appreciated his honest and sensitive treatment of the issues students can face from their peers. The students and staff at McMahon School will continue to discuss this important and sensitive topic throughout the year.

Joe the Biker also spent some time at Sullivan School to talk to the students about bullying. He shared some strategies that children can use to stay safe and free from bullying. The students participated by singing and chanting. They especially enjoyed watching some of their own teachers act out a familiar scene of childhood bullying. Joe the Biker gave everyone at Sullivan School a chance to think about how we treat and take care of each other. Like Joe, Sullivan School has a zero tolerance policy on bullying.

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Sullivan School strengthens its community bond

Staff members from Sullivan School enjoyed a gorgeous fall day to promote the school and family literacy programs at the 17th Annual Harvest Festival and the 8th Annual Education Fair at Nuestras Raices.

The school display featured artwork by Sullivan School students, cultural artifacts and literature to help show families ways to assist their children in reading, writing and math at home. Sullivan School’s commitment to Hispanic families is expanding with its new family literacy program (see story on page 2). Staff members participating in the Nuestras Raices event were: Principal John Breish; teachers, Janice Fritsch, Duver Gomez-Vega, and DiMarie Cartagena; and paraprofessionals Sonia Rodriguez and Lisa Rosario.

One Book Holyoke unites and promotes the love of reading

By Nicholas Allende and Ashley Pond

The Big Read and One Book Holyoke have collaborated for the fifth annual book reading. The community came together as a whole for eight weeks to read Tim O’Brien's The Things They Carried. This piece of historical fiction speaks to O’Brien’s experiences in the Vietnam War. Community events revolving around the book began October 14th with the opening reception, and concluded on November 18th. The opening reception was a hit, featuring Holyoke High School's musical talents, guest speakers, and stories from Vietnam veterans. For more information on all upcoming One Book Holyoke events please visit www.onebookholyoke.org. Holyoke High’s student newspaper, The Herald, has helped spread the word; staff members have made posters and created a bulletin board to promote One Book Holyoke. This program has been successful in bringing the community together and strengthening students’ interests in literature. Thanks to the generosity of Superintendent David Dupont, every student at Holyoke High has received a copy of the book. Over the next eight weeks, English classes at HHS will be reading and discussing O’Brien’s novel. Special thanks to Marie Mew, Lori Vaillancourt, Kate Stead, Allyn Gieryk, Ellen Stein, Darlene Henshaw, William Greaney, and all others involved in supporting The Big Read- One Book Holyoke.

Pink and Denim Day for Breast Cancer at Sullivan School raises $1220

On Friday, October 29th, students and staff wore pink and denim to support Breast Cancer Awareness. Staff donated $5 each to wear the colors and as this was a school wide activity, families also donated money. Money was also raised from the sale of pink fleece scarves made by staff member Karen Robidoux.
...and September is ovarian cancer awareness month. The Holyoke High School teams also invited their opponents to join them in the fight against ovarian cancer. The slogan for the weekend was “Today we are ALL on the same TEAM! Let’s fight ovarian cancer together”. Literature was distributed to fans who attend the games highlighting the risk factors associated with ovarian cancer. Donations were collected at each of the games. Over the course of the weekend over $500.00 was raised with all proceeds being donated to the Team Molly program. Although ovarian cancer is less common in young women, it does happen. One of the campaign’s goals is to educate both young women and their mothers and grandmothers, who are more at risk. By learning about symptoms at an early age, young women can protect themselves and the women in their families until there is a successful screening program.

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Ovarian Cancer Facts

Each year, more than 13,800 women die from ovarian cancer – a disease with symptoms that can be misdiagnosed. Many women don’t seek help until the disease has begun to spread, but if detected at its earliest stage, research has proven that the five-year survival rate for women with ovarian cancer is over 90%. Symptoms of ovarian cancer can be vague and subtle. Symptoms do exist and may include: bloating, trouble eating or feeling full quickly, pelvic or abdominal pain, feeling the need to urinate urgently or often. Other symptoms of ovarian cancer include: fatigue, upset stomach or heartburn, back pain, and constipation or menstrual changes. Women who experience these symptoms for more than two weeks should see their gynecologist. All women are at risk; however, women are considered more of a risk for ovarian cancer if they have: a family history of breast, ovarian, or colon cancer on either the maternal or paternal side of their family; problems with fertility; have never been pregnant; or have an ovarian cyst after menopause. Women who have reproductive cancers in their family history should ask their physician about genetic testing. A pap test does not detect ovarian cancer.
In an effort to develop leadership in student-athletes and to fight underage drinking and illegal drug use, the Student Athlete Leadership Team (S.A.L.T) was formed last spring. The Holyoke Public School Athletic Director, Aaron Patterson, was concerned with the amount of drinking and drug use from student fans at sporting events and he was in search of a positive way to tackle this problem. Patterson explains, “Underage drinking and illegal drug use is a problem in many school districts and it is a complex issue. I believe the strongest way to curb this problem is through what I call ‘Positive Peer Pressure’. We need to highlight the students in our school who, on a daily basis, choose to live drug and alcohol free. We need to put these students on a pedestal and use them as models for others in the school to look up to.” In high school, many students are hosting parties and who are engaging in underage drinking and illegal drug use to get attention and notoriety among their peers. Because of this, it is believed, among high school students, that majorities of students drink or do illegal drugs. The reality is that only a small minority of students actually partake in these activities. “We need to do a better job highlighting the fact that only a small minority of students actually drink and do drugs. We need to show that there are many ‘cool kids’ who are clean and who live above the influence.” The Student Athlete Leadership Team is a grass roots effort to highlight athletes who live drug and alcohol free and to empower those students to plan events that are drug and alcohol free. All student-athletes in the high schools have been invited to join this team and the team is active and strong! The team has been meeting on a regular basis, planning positive events for the schools. Last year, twelve members of the team went to a training program at the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association headquarters called “You Lead”. The “You Lead” training program gives young people tools on how to lead others away from drugs and alcohol. It also helps them learn how to plan events that are drug and alcohol free. Last spring the Student Athlete Leadership Team planned an 8th grade athletic orientation for incoming fall athletes. Former Red Sox star, Bernie Carbo was the featured speaker at the event. He spoke of his time playing professional baseball and his lifetime battle with drug and alcohol addiction. The Student Athlete Leadership Team has planned other events including Homecoming, the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit, and a Springfield Falcons Night Out.

The Holyoke High School Cross Country Team placed 7th out of 33 teams at the Manhattan Invitational Race (above). The team also competed in the Ted Dutkiewicz Memorial Race and placed first out of the 12 teams who participated. At press time, the team was undefeated and ranked in the top 5 cross country teams in Western Massachusetts.
On July 19, 2010 Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick signed into law a protocol that high school interscholastic athletic programs have to follow related to concussions.

The law requires schools to do the following:

1. The law requires all schools subject to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) rules must make sure that student-athletes and their parents, coaches, athletic directors, school nurses and physicians and others learn about the consequences of head injuries and concussions through training programs and written materials.

2. The law requires schools to collect head injury history prior to each season for each student-athlete. A parent/guardian and the student-athlete must sign the head injury history form. These forms must be forwarded to the coach prior to participation in that sport season.

3. Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional as defined by the Center for Disease Control.

4. The law also prohibits coaches, athletic trainers and others from encouraging or permitting a student athlete from using sports equipment as a weapon or engaging in sports techniques that unreasonably endanger the health and safety of him/herself or other players.

Schools are given until 2011 to comply with this law, but the Holyoke Public Schools is blazing the way to compliance on the new concussion law. Here is a summary of what has taken place in the Holyoke Public Schools thus far.

1. All concussion information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has been posted on the Holyoke Public School website on the athletics page.

   http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/athletics.htm

2. A training program was provided for all fall student athletes and coaches with written information and a video presentation from the CDC.

3. Concussion history forms have been collected from all of the fall student-athletes at Holyoke High School and Dean Technical High School.

4. Fall athletes in contact sports have completed the Impact Test to achieve baseline information related to cognitive function.

5. The fall coaches, nurses, athletic trainers, athletic director, band director and school physician have taken an online training program from either the Center for Disease Control or the National Federation of State High School Associations.

6. A written policy regarding concussions has been drafted and will be voted on by the School Committee so it can be implemented in the district.

7. Handouts have been distributed to all fall athletes and their parents/guardians highlighting concussion symptoms, what to do if you suspect you have a concussion, and how to prevent concussions.
This fall, staff from McMahon School continued its tradition of participating in the annual Walk Now for Autism Walk at Stanley Park in Westfield. The McMahon Team raised $1689 for autism research and resources. Among the McMahon Team members were Joe Hudson, Julie Levesque, Sarah Greaney, Louise Cavagnah, Debbie Cruz, Tina Hebert, Jennifer Hartbarger, Stephanie Hills, and Mary DiCarlo.

The Leaf Project with Jennifer Hartbarger’s 2nd grade class began after returning from recess one day with beautiful fall leaves in their hands, asking how and why they changed colors. Based on this student inquiry, Hartbarger and her students created a leaf collection, made leaf books in which they identified and described the different leaves that they had found, learned about photosynthesis, wrote acrostic poems about autumn, and posted a fall word wall for writing lessons. “It really came from them, from their curiosity” said Hartbarger of the Leaf Project.

The fifth grade students at Morgan School received a visit from Dr. Robert Abrams as part of Holyoke Public School’s smoking prevention program. Dr. Abrams’ presentation included information about the dangers of cigarette smoke and provided strategies for children to say “NO” to smoking! “Smokey Sue” is a life-like demonstration of what happens to the human body when it is exposed to cigarette smoke. Students get to see the horrifying effect of cigarette smoke on the lungs as Sue gasps for breath. After the presentation, all of the fifth graders at Morgan pledged to “SAY NO TO SMOKING”.

The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy announced the Alliance awarded $1.1 million to reduce teen pregnancies by 10% in Holyoke and Springfield. The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy (Alliance) is one of only 8 organizations across the country awarded the $1.1 million grant to support its Youth First initiative in Holyoke and Springfield. This grant is an initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control to test effectiveness of community-wide approaches. The goal of Youth First is to reduce teen pregnancies by 10% over five years. At 83 births per 1000 teen girls aged 15-19, the regions birth rate is more than four times the statewide rate and twice the national rate.

Students in Ann Winberg’s kindergarten class worked very hard to create these life-size cutouts of themselves! Each student decorated his or her own clothes and a real picture of their face was attached. Their families were able to get involved too! Each student completed a "Star of the Day" paper at home which was attached to their "look-a-like". It was a fun way for the students to get to know one another and everyone has enjoyed seeing them in the hallway! Students pictured L to R: Maxwell Lacus, Jordis Tautalatasi, Arilyn Colon and Jandiel Miranda.

Proudly, Aiden O’Brien and Adalisha Gonzalez show their leaf reports.
Furry friends positive influence for children

At left, Nellie gives her best smile at CFE; while Rosie the Rat (at left) is very content in someone’s hand!

Lori Swanson from the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society has been visiting the Center for Excellence Latency Program every week as a way to promote animal care, spaying and neutering pets, as well as supporting students’ understanding of animals in need. Students get to problem solve animal issues from our community. The students not only learn; they get to interact with animals waiting for adoption, such as Rosie the Rat and Nellie the Dog. The visits have been set up by Latency Counselor, Alison L’Heureux. The kids look forward to their weekly visits and are becoming proactive in the care and concern for pets in our community!

Fire Safety Tips

This fall, all the K-2 students at the Center for Excellence received a great lesson on smoke detectors and what to do when the alarms go off in their homes and in school. Students also learned how dangerous matches and lighters are, to never touch them, and how to stay safe if they are ever involved in a fire. Holyoke Firefighter Maria Pelcher also dressed in full firefighter gear in order to show students what a firefighter looks like during a fire so that they would not be afraid, and would know what to expect. The students were then treated to a fire truck in the parking lot where they could climb, explore and ask questions about the apparatus. They ended the day wearing their shiny red fire hats and very large, ear to ear grins!

“X” marks the spot!

The Kelly School sixth-grade social studies students in Andrea Hickson’s class created Pirate Treasure Maps. Although, it may sound like an activity for younger students, it has proven to be a great way to reinforce the various parts of a map. Students were given an opportunity to get their creative juice flowing, while also displaying the key components of a map like the title, key, legend, compass rose, scale, symbols, and latitude and longitude lines. When student Kristal Rivera was asked about the project she responded, “The pirate maps helped us learn about parts of a map while still having fun.” Hickson has done this activity for many years and the project continues to impress and inspire.
Peck School

- The Peck Full Service Community School held a Full Partnership Meeting in October when over 40 parents/guardians, community partners and faculty members spent the morning thinking about how to reinforce our school-wide focus on reading comprehension.

- Also in October, the Peck Full Service Community School held its first Volunteer Orientation for 30 college student and community volunteers who will be working in Peck's classrooms. The event was organized by Peck’s Classroom Instructional Partnerships workgroup.

- Peck has released its Process Evaluation on the first year of implementation as a Full Service Community School, which is available at Peck’s newly redesigned website: http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/peck.htm

- Peck’s school library had its grand re-opening at the school’s open house. Over 100 families visited the library and each student visiting received a free book!

Dean Technical

Dean Technical High School had its annual Open House in early October. There were over 250 students, parents, and family members in attendance. There were many activities going on throughout the school and guests could participate in interactive demonstrations taking place in some of the shops. Guests enjoyed refreshments served by the Culinary Arts Program, had their faces painted and were treated to manicures by the Cosmetology Program, in addition to purchasing school shirts made by the Graphic Arts Program. In the library, anyone could sign up for a Holyoke Public Library card. The students in the journalism class distributed copies of the first edition of the school newspaper, Hawk Talk. Finally, guests enjoyed viewing a video about the school that showcased the talents and skills of the students at Dean.

Student leader named

Luis A. Perez, Jr., recently represented Massachusetts at the National Young Leaders State Conference for the New England Region in Boston. He was nominated by Morgan School teacher Christopher Fontaine who recognized Perez as an "outstanding individual achieving academic excellence and strong leadership potential." Perez is 14 years old and has a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome which made the nomination and selection to the NYLSC even more special. In Perez’s personal nomination letter, he stated it would “be a great honor for me to represent my community and be able to be a role model for other young kids my age. I want others to know that they can accomplish anything if you work hard. Being autistic has not stopped me in anyway from working my hardest.” Looking to the future, Perez plans to go to college to become an engineer to build either cargo or military ships.

Guest Reader...

Sullivan School received a book donation from Link to Libraries which is an organization that supports local libraries through grants and donations. To celebrate this donation, we welcomed Peter Rosskothen (at left) as our guest reader. Rosskothen, co-owner of the Log Cabin, read the story Three Scoops and a Fig by Sara Laux Akin. He shared this story with a group of fourth graders. After he read the story, he talked to the children about running a restaurant.

At left, in the Career Center, Pat Kman sells Dean Tech shirts. In the Cosmetology Shop, instructors Karen Chouinard and Lisa Lavelle greeted guests.
Title I ~ Family Nights

Events start at 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER
Mon., Dec.6 - Morgan ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Wed., Dec. 8 - White ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Tues., Dec. 14 - Kelly ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Wed., Dec. 15 - McMahon ~ Bingo for Books (all)

JANUARY
Tues., Jan. 4 - Morgan ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Tues., Jan. 11 - Kelly ~ Dinosaur Night (gr. K – 5)
Wed., Jan. 12 - White ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Thurs., Jan. 13 - McMahon ~ Family Game Night (all)
Wed., Jan. 19 - Sullivan ~ Reading Café (Gr. K-3)
Thurs., Jan. 20 - Morgan ~ Family Game Night (all)
Mon., Jan. 24 - Donahue ~ Family Game Night (all)
Wed., Jan. 26 - CFE ~ Family Game Night (all grades)

FEBRUARY
Mon., Feb. 7 - Donahue ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Tues., Feb. 8 - McMahon ~ Dinosaur (gr. K – 5)
Wed., Feb. 9 - Morgan ~ Bingo for Books (all)
Tues., Feb. 15 - Kelly ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Wed., Feb. 16 - White ~ Bingo for Books (all grades)
Feb. 17 Sullivan Bingo for Books (all grades)

Boston Museum of Science
Animal Adaptations to visit all fifth grades

The Boston Museum of Science Travelling Animal Adaptations program is scheduled to visit each fifth grade classroom in all of Holyoke’s schools in the month of December. These sessions are hands-on, inquiry-based learning while interacting with various animals. The program is free and is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum. The program has been arranged by Dr. Helen Gibson, HPS Director of Science, Health, PE and Technology.

Interlude continues at E.N.White

For the second year, E. N. White middle school students will be publishing Interlude, a literary magazine including student poems, memoirs, and art work. The staff is headed by eighth graders Grace Hamel (editor in chief) and Maura McAndrew (writing editor) and seventh grader Ashley Westry (art editor). Other staff members include sixth grader Matthew Bevan, seventh graders Nicole Aldeco, Ardazan Dennis, Doris Rivera, and Elba Rodriguez, and eighth graders Nickolas Alger and Madyson Lawrence. Interlude’s advisor is seventh-grade English Language Arts teacher, Astrid Lindstrom. Since Hamel, McAndrew, and Dennis are experienced staff members from last year, the group has gotten off to a smooth start. They are already planning a contest for the best writing and art contributions. All prize money will be offered from the donations that were given to the Interlude staff last year for the magazines distributed at the spring concert. Interlude’s staff members will submit some of their own writing and drawings and will encourage their classmates to do the same. As the staff receives submissions, they will decide which entries are the best. Then they will prepare the selected entries for publication, determine their order in the magazine, and finally print and bind the booklets. The literary magazine will be distributed by the end of the current school year.
Una Carta Abierta a la Comunidad de la Escuela Holyoke

Juntos, todos podemos hacer la diferencia

Por David Dupont
Superintendente de Escuelas

El punto fundamental en todo lo que hacemos en nuestro sistema escolar es como bien lo hacemos en nuestros salones de clases. Así es como somos juzgados, y es donde el futuro de cada niño que servimos es afectado. Como impresionante es pensar en la influencia que los maestros tienen en sus estudiantes - todos sus estudiantes. Por lo tanto, este debería ser el objetivo primario de cada empleado escolar, cada funcionario elegido, cada padre, y la comunidad en conjunto, apoyar nuestros salones de clase. Si nuestra misión está correctamente enfocada y apoyada apropiadamente, podríamos seguir un camino largo en darle a nuestros niños una supervivencia legítima y económica y una ciudadanía productiva y participante en este mundo competitivo del siglo veintiuno. A través de desarrollo profesional y participación escolar, distrito, padres y la comunidad en conjunto, intervenciones múltiples y variadas, instrucción eficaz y liderazgo, y ambientes de aprendizaje sano y seguro, podemos ayudar a proporcionar el apoyo necesario a nuestros maestros en la realización de nuestra misión de metas y objetivos. El gran reto, sin embargo, está en creer que podemos lograr esto. Tenemos que convertir en explicaciones tantos obstáculos que encontramos en nuestro camino que tenemos una tendencia de usar como excusas por el mal funcionamiento y comportamiento del estudiante - explicaciones que son todas muy verdaderas, pero tienen que ser tratadas o trabajadas lo mejor de nuestras capacidades. Una creencia común que podemos hacerlo trabajar en nuestras escuelas, que aceptaremos solamente el mejor de nuestros estudiantes, ese fracaso no es una opción, no sólo depende de la dedicación personal y de cada uno de nuestros maestros, sino también en lo que el resto de la comunidad escolar puede hacer para apoyarlos. Esto incluye el hecho que todos los empleados del distrito escolar son responsables e importantes en esta aventura debido a sus contribuciones distintivas en este esfuerzo muy digno para no dejar a ningún niño atrás. Los padres y los líderes de comunidad en gobierno, negocio, y servicios de apoyo completan este círculo de apoyo deberían entender y apreciar su deber al futuro de Holyoke. Se requiere un esfuerzo de equipo verdadero de sus miembros - todos ellos - a fin de asegurar que la enseñanza y el aprendizaje son servidos fielmente y con eficacia. Los mejores deseos para un año escolar productivo, exitoso y agradable.

Centro de Educación Picknelly de Adultos y Familia – Gran Apertura!!

El 27 de septiembre, el Centro de Educación Picknelly de Adultos y Familia (PAFEC) tuvo su Gran Apertura, junto con el nuevo Centro de Transporte de Holyoke con el nuevo terminal de autobús y sala de espera/boletos.

El PAFEC es el nuevo hogar de Oportunidad de Aprendizaje para Adultos de Holyoke, Centro (HALO), más clases de HCC y varios programas de Colaboración Juntos como el Proyecto de Educación de Comunidad y New England Farm Workers. La estación de bomberos recién renovada al frente del Parque de los Veteranos es ahora el hogar para servicios de transporte en el primer piso, clases de Head Start en el segundo piso y clases de educación de adultos en el tercer y cuarto piso.

Ahora los adultos y las familias pueden tomar el autobús en la calle Maple # 206, tener cuidado para niños a través de Head Start y tomar clases de educación para adultos a lo largo del día y en las tardes. Estamos muy excitados y orgullosos de esta nueva instalación de aprendizaje, que tiene computadoras de tecnología avanzada y otras tecnologías avanzadas. ¡Por favor venga a visitar y ver que clases son ofrecidas aquí!
Embajadores Escolares de Seguridad de la Comunidad de la Escuela Peck de Servicio Completo

El programa de anti-intimidación nacional, Embajadores Escolares de Seguridad, comenzó su segundo año en la Escuela Peck este mes. El programa de Embajador Escolar de Seguridad cree que los estudiantes son muy influyentes con sus compañeros y en establecer el clima emocional y formación de normas de comportamiento contra un campo escolar. Más de treinta s embajadores nuevos fueron seleccionados y entrenados de la escuela secundaria. Ellos se afilian a los treinta estudiantes que son embajadores ya activos y hacen una diferencia en nuestra escuela. David Álvarez, grado 7, un nuevo embajador dijo, “fue muy bueno aprender modos de dejar de intimidar. Siento que yo puedo dejar de meterme y realmente puedo cambiar y cambiar nuestra escuela.” El viernes, 8 de octubre los Embajadores de la Escuela Peck llevaron a cabo un Paseo de Galería para todos los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria. Los embajadores explicaron y demostraron maneras que todos los estudiantes pueden prevenir la actividad de intimidación y hacer una diferencia en nuestra cultura escolar.

Joe el Motociclista Dirige a Estudiantes de la Escuelas McMahon y Sullivan en “Estrategias Anti-intimidación”

El lunes, 4 de octubre Joe el Motociclista pasó algún tiempo en la Escuela Sullivan para hablarles a los estudiantes sobre la intimidación. Él compartió algunos instrumentos que los niños pueden usar para estar seguros y libres de la intimidación. Los estudiantes participaron en el canto y cantando. Ellos sobre todo disfrutaron mirando a algunos de sus propios maestros representando una escena familiar de la intimidación en la infancia. Tener a Joe el Motociclista en nuestra escuela nos dio a todos una posibilidad para pensar en cómo tratamos y cuidamos el uno del otro. Como Joe, la Escuela Sullivan tiene una política de cero tolerancias contra la intimidación. Es importante para cada estudiante sentirse seguro en la escuela.
Equipo de Liderazgo de Atleta- Estudiante
Una Nueva Iniciativa para el Departamento Atlético de Holyoke

En un esfuerzo para desarrollar liderazgo en atleta-estudiante y luchar contra la bebida en menores de edad y uso de droga ilegal, el Equipo de Liderazgo Atleta de Estudiantes (S.A.L.T) fue formado la primavera pasada. El Director Atlético Escolar Público de Holyoke, Aaron Patterson, estuvo preocupado por la cantidad de bebida y uso de medicina de estudiantes fanáticos en acontecimientos deportivos y él estaba en busca de una manera positiva de abordar este problema. Patterson explica, “la bebida en los Menores de edad y el uso de droga ilegal son un problema en muchos distritos escolares y esto es un problema muy complejo. Creo que la manera más fuerte de contener este problema es por lo que llamo ‘Presión de Compañeros Positiva’. Debemos destacar a los estudiantes en nuestra escuela que, cada día, deciden vivir libres de la medicina y el alcohol. Debemos poner a estos estudiantes sobre un pedestal y usarlos como modelos para otros en la escuela.” En la escuela secundaria, muchas veces los estudiantes que llevan a cabo fiestas y que están bebiendo y usando drogas ilegales son menores de edad consiguen la atención y la mala fama entre sus compañeros. A causa de esto, se cree, entre los estudiantes de escuela secundaria, que las mayoría de estudiantes beben o usan drogas ilegales. A menudo los jóvenes creen que a fin de “de Estar En” ellos tienen que beber o usar drogas. La realidad consiste en que sólo una pequeña minoría de estudiantes realmente participa en estas actividades. “Tenemos que hacer un mejor trabajo destacando el hecho que sólo una pequeña minoría de estudiantes realmente bebe y usa drogas. Tenemos que mostrar que hay muchos ‘niños que son limpios y quienes viven encima de la influencia.’ El Equipo de Liderazgo Atleta de Estudiantes es un esfuerzo de bases para destacar a atletas que viven libres de la droga y el alcohol y autorizar a aquellos estudiantes a planear acontecimientos que son libres de la droga y el alcohol. ¡Todos los atletas-estudiante en las escuelas secundarias han sido invitados a afiliarse a este equipo y el equipo es activo y fuerte! El equipo ha estado reuniéndose regularmente para planear acontecimientos positivos para las escuelas. El año pasado, doce miembros del equipo fueron a un programa de entrenamiento en la oficina central de Asociación Atlética Interescolástica de Massachusetts llamada “Tu Diriges”. “Tu Diriges” es un programa de entrenamiento que le dan a los jóvenes en cómo llevar a otros fuera de la droga y alcohol. Esto también les ayuda a aprender a planear acontecimientos que son libres de la droga y el alcohol. La primavera pasada el Equipo de Liderazgo de Atleta de Estudiantes de 8avo. grado planearon una orientación atlética para atletas que entran en el otoño. La estrella antigua de las Medias Rojas (Red Sox), Bernie Carbo fue el altavoz presentado en el acontecimiento. Él habló de su tiempo jugando béisbol profesional y su batalla de toda la vida con adicción de alcohol y droga. El Equipo de Liderazgo Atleta de Estudiantes ha planeado muchos otros acontecimientos incluso el Regreso, la Cumbre de Deportividad MIAA, y una Noche con los Halcones (Falcons) en Springfield.
Programa de Embajadores de Seguridad Escolar

Por Erin Corrigan

Cada día en los Estados Unidos, ciento sesenta mil estudiantes deciden no ir a la escuela porque ellos tienen miedo de lo que sus compañeros podrían hacerles. En un esfuerzo para ayudarle a dominar estos miedos, la Escuela Superior de Holyoke – Holyoke High ha decidido participar en el Programa de Embajadores de Seguridad Escolar en toda la nación. Este programa de basado en investigación se esfuerza para proveer a los estudiantes embajadores del conocimiento y las habilidades necesarias para prevenir la violencia e intimidación en las escuelas. En la Escuela Holyoke High hay aproximadamente 35-40 de estos estudiantes anónimos, cada electo es debido a su liderazgo y capacidad de influir en otros. Uno de estos estudiantes anónimos explica que como un embajador, lo obligan a prevenir peleas y mantener la paz dentro de la escuela. 'Se supone que nosotros animamos a nuestros compañeros en dejar de intimidar,' dice él. Siendo aceptador de otros, los embajadores influyen en sus amigos para hacer lo mismo. Sus amigos por su parte influyen en más estudiantes, creando un efecto de murmullos, que tendrá finalmente permitirá la paz en la escuela. Los Embajadores de Seguridad Escolar Seguros de la Escuela Superior de Holyoke High se reunirán un par de veces al mes para hablar de soluciones y nuevas estrategias para prevenir la violencia e intimidación. Holyoke cree que con tantos representantes de Embajadores de Seguridad Escolar en la comunidad, la intimidación y violencia disminuirán.