Spring has sprung for Holyoke Public Schools

By Eduardo B. Carballo
Superintendent of Schools

Let me tell you about what is coming up over the next few weeks and what has been going on.

First, I hope that many of you were able to experience Holyoke High School’s production of Anything Goes. The students and staff worked very hard to stage an outstanding show and gave excellent performances.

We also had the opportunity to select some outstanding teachers for the Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award. Seven of our teachers were notified on March 12th that they were recipients for this year. They are Debra Sherburne, E.N. White School; Eileen Farrington, Kelly School; Patricia Redfern, Donahue School, Christopher van Leeuwen, Sullivan School; Michael McKenna, Holyoke High School; Lyle Clark, Dean Technical High School; and Evelyn Melendez, Lynch Middle School. Congratulations to all of them!

As you know beginning this month the State Assessment System, MCAS, is launched. We look forward to our students doing very well again and are asking you to continue to help them. We believe our students are ready and they have been working very hard. It is important for them to get support at home, plenty of rest and sleep and to start out the day with a good breakfast. If you would like to know more ways in which you can help your child during the testing period, please contact the principal and your child’s teacher.

Celebrate Holyoke Public Schools week is April 28 through May 2. Our Rising Stars recognition will take place May 1 with the Merry-Go-Round Reception and Banquet. Each year we recognize students in grades six through twelve who have been selected on the basis of scholarship, leadership and citizenship. You will read more about this in the newspaper next month as the Republican newspaper usually has an insert all about the Rising Stars. As many of you know by now, the outlook for next year’s school funding is of great concern to the community. Our budget forecasting predicts we will fall shy of the amount of dollars needed to continue the current level of services for all of our students. It seems we are always weathering some type of storm. I ask families and friends of the school district to stay strong during these difficult times and, whenever possible, join our efforts to communicate to state officials and politicians the need to support our community.

During the month of February, our School Committee took the unprecedented step, in an effort to save as many teachers as possible, to close three schools and to reopen one housing the Readiness Team. After many weeks and months of working with some outstanding people from across the Commonwealth to put together our visions of what education could be here in the State of Massachusetts, I’m somewhat saddened at the prospect that these plans will have to wait longer as the state looks towards finding more than $1.5 billion to balance the budget. I’m encouraged by our legislative support to at least increase Chapter 70 funding and I hope in future years some of our proposed programs can come to pass.

I hope you all enjoy the Spring weather that is to come.
A look at the early years at Lynch Middle School

Looking through the school archives and reminiscing over the school's dedication booklet, it's quite clear the school building located at 1575 Northampton Street has stood the test of time as an important part of public school history and the history of Holyoke. John J. Lynch Junior High School was dedicated on February 6, 1953 with a series of public events and tours to showcase the “modern” junior high school. The school was named after John J. Lynch; a principal in the Holyoke Public Schools from 1894-1941. The front page of the dedication booklet honors Mr. Lynch as a man “whose name and distinguished achievements will be perpetuated in the minds and hearts of young boys and girls who seek learning within the walls of this school.”

The educational model the school was following at this time was a junior high school model. Some of the classes offered were Household Arts or Industrial Arts, Hygiene and Assembly or Activity. The school activities included: Student Council, School Publications & Guides, Band, Honor Society, Choir, Safety Patrol, Athletics, Assemblies, Drama, Clubs, Dancing, Baton, Swimming and School Dances.

An entire page of the dedication book is devoted to “The Junior High School Idea”. Mr. Lynch may have introduced the idea of a college preparatory curriculum as early as 1903 in the West Street School and soon interest grew in the notion of housing grades 6-9 in a different building to accommodate the changing needs of students in this age group.

Carol Murphy, current math coach at Lynch, and former 6th grade student in 1953 remembers the building this way “Everything was pristine, shiny and perfect. We had to make sure our chairs were 1 inch from the table when we pushed them in so we wouldn’t nick the tables in the library”!

As the current students and staff of Lynch Middle School prepare to close this building after 55 years of educating Holyoke's youth, we invite former staff and students to join us in special events. More details will be available soon.
School consolidation will benefit students

By Michael Sullivan
Mayor of Holyoke

It has truly been a difficult time for the Holyoke Public Schools and especially for many of the members of the School Committee. Making the recent decision to close three schools was heart wrenching. We heard both reasonable and responsible arguments about the value of retaining all facilities. When the 2008 autumn school bell rings on the first day of school, John J. Lynch will only be haunted by memories of former students. The internal clamor of feet and the excitement of the first day of class will be replaced by external discussion about what to do with the property. H.B. Lawrence School, which will begin to host the administration, would have been witness to the sound of giggling children mixed with the noise of the downtown landscape. We will be dismayed at the absence of these sounds being robbed from the city center.

I can only hope and pray that everyone knows that it was a difficult decision. To distill that decision down to its simplest form, it was “faculty versus facility”. When it is possible, although not inviting, to reduce your costs by operating fewer schools, are you obligated for the best interest of the students to make that tough decision? I say yes, empathetically!

There were many discussions about this option versus other options, but now we should put that behind us and focus on making this plan work best for the students. There will be snags and challenges as we proceed, yet through cooperation, we will maximize our benefits for education sake and for the benefit of our students.

I thank everyone for all their input and patience and I look forward to the day when education is properly funded. With your advocacy that day may come sooner than later. I also ask that everyone understands the changes were necessary and done for the right reasons; to preserve our best tool, faculty and staff.

Extreme Makeover: The Ultimate Backpack

How would you design your dream backpack? How many pockets would it have? What colors and designs would there be on it? What materials would it be made of? Fifth graders have been answering these questions and many others in 4-day workshops held this winter and spring across the district. The Enchanted Circle Theater and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment are joining forces again to support the district’s fifth grade curriculum. This year the focus is on the Engineering Design process. This program is supported by funding from the Creative Schools program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. By combining theater arts activities with the carefully prescribed steps of the Engineering Design process students are tapping their creative energies and learning to harness it for constructive purposes! Carefully chosen theater activities focus on building the skills needed to succeed in the group design challenge. Creative brainstorming, time management, group cooperation, and oral presentation skills are emphasized. These fun, participatory activities build student motivation and interest in the whole process! Students gain an in-depth understanding of the steps in the process and apply that understanding to a group design challenge – their ULTIMATE BACKPACK. Their designs are required to address specific design criteria, such as capacity, security, comfort, and style. On the final day of the workshop student groups present their finished designs to their classmates, explaining how they have met the specific design criteria. Groups choose brand names and slogans for their products and present these along with their designs. The Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Framework documents the required science content and skills to be taught at each grade level. Understanding the engineering design process and designing something to meet a specific need or solve a problem is a significant focus of the Framework. Student grasp of this process and how it can be applied to various problems is an increasingly important aspect of the science MCAS tests.
NEW OPEN!

Applicants must be five years old on or before September 1, 2008

Kindergarten applications available at all elementary schools and at the Student Assignment Center: 1st Floor - 57 Suffolk Street. Tel: 534-2007. Hours of Registration: 8-3 M-F

**Register early and your child may be eligible to attend the free KinderKamp program this summer!!

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HPS Summer School

July 7 - August 7

Student signups begin in May. Applications will be available in all schools.

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Get Ready for Kindergarten!!

Free Summer Program

For 4 & 5 year olds entering Kindergarten in Fall 2008

July-August; Monday-Thurs., 9-1

Families must register at:
Student Assignment Center: 1st Floor - 57 Suffolk Street. Tel: 534-2055.

**Breakfast and lunch provided; transportation provided if necessary.
Title I Activities ~

Events start at 6:30 p.m.

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Boredom Busters Summer Packet

Holyoke Public School students in grades K-2 are welcome to request a Boredom Busters Summer Packet which contains grade appropriate worksheets in reading, language arts and math. Request forms will go home with students at the end of April. The packets will be sent home with students during the last week of school.

If you do not receive a form and would like to participate, call Pauline Carriere, Title I Parent Coordinator at 540-2434.
The Dangerous Dolphins, Donahue’s basketball team, recently played the team at Kelly School and lost 61-47. The Dolphins made up for the loss with a 42-38 with the team at Peck in early March.

Computer teachers Mrs. McCloud and Mrs. Distefano are working with classroom teachers and students on creating PowerPoint Presentations. Students are learning how to design PowerPoint including graphics and sound.

The eighth grade is working on PowerPoints about mean, median and mode. Seventh graders are designing theirs on ancient Rome. The sixth graders are creating a science PowerPoint on glaciers.

Math students in the eighth grade completed an extensive project on the stock market. Each student chose stock in a company and followed its progress for one month. They learned how to read the stock market, determine the increasing or decreasing value of the stock and graphed those results weekly using a variety of graphs. Student Eugenio Delarosa said, “I learned how stocks gain or lose money.” Alexis Newsome added, “Electronics companies had the most growth compared to food and gas companies.” Finally, Michael Poreda said, “This will help in real life knowing what to buy in the stock market.”

Martha Mulcahy was awarded a grant from the Emerging America - Teaching American History. The program supports the creation of a local web-based project. She also received a field trip grant from Target. The grant will be used to tour the city of Holyoke to visit Heritage State Park and Wistariahurst Museum. Students will photograph the architecture of historic Holyoke and learn how the industrialization of the city attracted immigrants to settle here.
Dean Technical High School has been awarded the 2007 Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association’s Sportsmanship Honor Roll. The award recognizes schools that did not have any coaches or student-athletes disqualified from a contest for an entire academic year. Dean Tech received a school banner to be hung in the gym.

100 students from Peck Middle School attended a UMass women’s basketball game at the Mullins Center in Amherst. Students were awarded the trip by meeting or exceeding targeted growth on the Math or Reading MAP test. The UMass women scored a victory over Fordham University. GEAR UP provided the buses for the trip and is involved in preparing students for college by providing awareness, workshops, and information sessions on the importance of getting a college education.

McHugh Alternative Program

Several students from the McHugh Alternative Program have been volunteering their time as a community service project at the Wistariahurst Museum under the guidance of McHugh administrator John Cavanaugh. The students have been helping with the cleaning and organizing of items at the museum. They have been assisting in getting things ready for the Chinese Teahouse, a special presentation at Wistariahurst in the month of April.

Sujaiely Cruz says, “I like what we are doing and I know that volunteering is a positive way for me to be a part of the community.” Both Gilbert Ramos and Zorimar Heredia enjoy “the old furniture and the life-sized portraits of the Skinner family.” Now that other students are interested in participating, a second group is being formed.

Lawrence Elementary School and Enlace de Familias team up to engage parents in training opportunities. Parents have been attending twice-weekly training sessions that have been taught in English and Spanish. The Managing and Parenting Program is a 13-week curriculum designed to support parents learning about themselves, their relationships, strengths and available resources and skills they need to effectively parent their children. The program emphasizes the experience of the parent as a person, as opposed to the parent in a disciplinary role with their children.

Several third and fourth graders sang the National Anthem at the March 19th Springfield Falcons Game.

K-6 students that read for 6 hours total between October and February will receive one complimentary one-day admission ticket to Six Flags New England.

Louise Cavanaugh’s second grade class collected 170 cans of food in 100 days. The food was donated to the Providence Ministries for the Needy. The children received a letter of thanks and support from Development Director Dorrie Durand.

Peck Middle School

Nine 8th grade students from the National Junior Honor Society read to kindergarten students at Morgan School, Peck’s sister school.

The NJHS also organized a food drive to benefit Kate’s Kitchen and collected 12 cartons of food. This was a part of the “SouperBowl” sponsored by the New England Patriot’s Charitable Fund.

Channel 3 Meteorologist Brandon Butcher came back for a second year to read to several classes. He also shared his knowledge of weather and spoke about what it is like being a weatherman.

Honda Finance, a business partner with Peck, continues to visit once a month to meet with students for conversation and dessert. The last visit of the year will have Peck students go to a local Honda dealership for a tour and barbeque.

The Family Dinner and Career Fair will be April 16th sponsored by Honda Finance with representatives from MCDI and other adult education centers. Students who have read 18 books for the 25 Book Campaign will be the guests of honor.

Peck News

McHugh Alternative Program

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Lawrence School & parent connection

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Dean Cosmetology

The Cosmetology Department at the William J. Dean Technical High School recently held a fundraiser to assist cosmetology students in attending a spring beauty show in May. The students raffled off a Spa basket and a $75 gift certificate to Lynn Wiles & Co. One lucky winner, Jose Vega, was named Client of the Year. Vega is now entitled to receive one free service per month for an entire year. The students raised $1300 for the field trip.
Seven teachers received the Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Teaching on Wednesday, March 12, 2008. Nominated by building principals, Grinspoon Award criteria are: professionalism, great attendance, collaborations, performs above and beyond, links community to the classroom, respected by peers and demonstrates enthusiasm. The teachers will be honored with other Grinspoon winners from around Western Massachusetts on May 8th at the Log Cabin.
Sullivan School fourth grade ELA teachers, Eileen Driscoll and Joyce Lefebvre, organized the school’s MCAS Club. The 25 fourth graders met afterschool in three different clubs to receive extra preparation in test-taking strategies. Club members were introduced to a wide variety of genres that often times appear on the MCAS English Language Arts exam. Members worked collaboratively to analyze MCAS selections and questions to further enhance their strategies.

Mayor Michael Sullivan (L) presents Marge and Dave D’Addario with the Jeanne C. Roberts Civic Pride Award for their efforts in the planning of the reconfiguration of the Sullivan School parking lot, making the drop-off and pick-up of students flow smoother. They also were instrumental in getting a grant for the school’s Playscape for the enjoyment of the kids in the school and community.

Amy Dubilo (far right) hands Sullivan School Percussion teacher Jose Gonzalez and Band Director Steven Damon checks totaling $750 that she received as a result of a community service project for her bat mitzvah. Dubilo is the goddaughter of Lynne Skypeck (left), recently retired guidance counselor at Sullivan. Skypeck gave Dubilo the idea of doing something for the school’s music program. Not only did Dubilo raise money, but also received instruments from people who no longer played. She herself donated the clarinet she once played, but now takes piano lessons. The monetary donations will be used for the repair of instruments and to purchase much needed guitar strings, woodwind reeds and drum sticks.

While wearing bunny ears, the fifth grade READ 180 class read aloud Beatrix Potter’s The Tale of Peter Rabbit in the library to the first grade students. After, READ 180 teacher Linda Zwirko read The Tale of Benjamin Bunny and led all students in a discussion about the books. First graders received coloring papers, bookmarks and pencils as gifts from the READ 180 class.
Open Letter to the Editor outlining the positive at Dean Tech

By Miguel Perez

Dear Editor:

Hi my name is Miguel Perez. I’m currently attending school at William J. Dean Technical High school. I’m 17 years old and I’m a sophomore. I am really disappointed that recent events have brought down the morale at Dean Tech. I understand we were in the media and news because of the recent issues we’ve had, but this doesn’t mean we don’t have great things happening at Dean Tech. For example, we have the Junior ROTC which is great. It helps us with leadership skills, as well as, community service. We come up with ideas for school dances, after school activities and community service to keep teens entertained and off the streets. We also have the Teen Clinic that offers health and mental health services to students and other opportunities. There is also the SCORE program that has eight trained peer mediators where students can drop in and talk. Also, Dean Tech had a “Family Arts Night” on April 18th to show the talent and unity of Dean Tech students and their families. There are shops that give back to the community, too. It’s just too bad that Dean Tech gets put down because of a few negative events. Remember, we are a school of over 750 teens. These few problems should not define who we are.

There are students at Dean Tech doing a lot of good stuff in the community in other programs, too. Yailin Cartagena, Anthony Colon, and I are all on the Holyoke Youth Commission. We do projects that help Holyoke and give a voice to other youth. We work on underage drinking prevention projects, we held a forum for youth to talk to the City Council and the School Committee, and we have even represented Holyoke state-wide. We met Governor Deval Patrick when we went to Dorchester to help plan a state-wide youth council. Lastly, Anthony Colon, myself, and three other Youth Commissioners are going to Tucson, Arizona to represent Holyoke and learn about food and fitness with the Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council and we are bringing back what we learn to Holyoke.

In closing, there are a lot of positive things going on at Dean Technical High School and in Holyoke in general. More focus should be on those things, not always the negative. How do you think the parents of Dean Tech students feel about all this negative talk about their children’s school?

Sincerely,

Miguel Perez
William J. Dean Technical High School student
Holyoke Youth Commissioner

E.N.White Writer’s Workshop featured in the Springfield Republican

Sometimes, we just need the right topic to find joy in writing. A selection of autobiographical pieces written by seventh graders at E. N. White School demonstrates the array of expression students can achieve when writing about something personal and familiar. In March, student authors in Astrid Lindstrom’s classes were featured in the Springfield Republican’s “Newspaper in Education” series which features teachers and their students’ efforts to improve as writers. The teachers are all fellows in the Western Massachusetts Writing Project at UMass. Lindstrom designed a unit of autobiographical writing which works well, even with reluctant writers. Students write four pieces. First, they illustrate a favorite place, and then write a description of it. Second, they work in pairs interviewing one another about an influential person in each student’s life, and then write a sketch of their partner’s important person. Next, students write a list of memories and ask a partner which sounds most interesting. Finally, students write about learning a lesson from a mistake they’ve made. Using peer and teacher feedback, students rewrite their favorite piece of the unit, and then read it to the class. The seventh grade students featured in the Republican include Austin J. Theriault, Natasha Pirela, Lissette Rojas, Omara L. Hall, Alexis S. Vazquez, Timmothy J. Ortiz, Natalie M. Rivera, Sarah Theroux, and Zane E. Patrie. To read their pieces and to see photos of the student authors, go online to: http://blog.masslive.com/nie/2008/03/walking_tall_a_unit_of_autobio.html
The fourth and final eight week session of the CONNECTIONS After School Programs at Kelly, Sullivan, Donahue and Holyoke High Schools will continue through May 29th. There may still be spaces in the programs at all four sites so pick up a registration for your child at any of these four schools or call the Director, Eileen Cavanaugh, at 534-2168.

- This year we have improved our Homework Help and MCAS Prep services. Each site has a lead teacher who shares test scores, report cards and other student data with HPS certified teachers who provide their academic support to our participants in an effort to meet individual student needs. High School and college tutors have also been instrumental in helping students with their school work.

- CONNECTIONS Program staff and district academic coordinators are currently developing a summer program at the middle school and high school level that will focus on the theme of ‘Going Green’. More information about the summer program will be available in April.

The CONNECTIONS Program is fortunate to have a number of wonderful community based partnerships that help to make the program an enriching experience for Holyoke students. In addition to our expanding partnerships with area colleges that are providing tutors for our program, the following organizations have been with us from the beginning of the program six years ago:

**Holyoke Community College’s Skills, Training, and Enrichment Program (STEP)** is offered at both Sullivan and Donahue CONNECTIONS Programs. They provide participants with comprehensive academic and youth development programming. STEP also brings $85,000 in additional resources, providing 39 weeks of after-school academic and personal support services, and 12 days of summer academic enrichment activities to seventh and eighth graders in CONNECTIONS.

The Holyoke Boys & Girls Club has been a valued partner of The CONNECTIONS Program for the past seven years, providing a popular club that gets participants moving, playing ball and learning new skills. They have also written grants that help support the CONNECTIONS Program.

The Greater Holyoke YMCA has been a major partner with the CONNECTIONS Program, providing FitMath clubs at the middle school level that embed math into fitness activities. They also provide a well attended fitness club for students in the CONNECTIONS Program at Holyoke High.

Doris Ransford of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce has been arranging for business members to come to the CONNECTIONS Program and share stories about their careers to inspire and motivate participants about their future possibilities.

**School Sprouts, Inc.** is providing gardening clubs at all three middle school programs and teaching participants about growing and eating healthy foods.

**Next Level Adventures** is providing the very popular outdoor adventure clubs at each of the middle school programs. Participants have gone snow shoeing, cross country skiing and will soon be doing mountain biking and other spring activities.

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**HPS Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant**

Since the early 1980’s, the Holyoke Public School District has been the recipient of the Federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities grant. The purpose of this grant is to support programs that prevent violence and around schools, prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and involve parents and community organizations to help foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student achievement. This year the grant is focusing on implementing programs to address violence and substance abuse prevention issues across the District. These new programs and related trainings include:

**Al’s Pals:** A program for all kindergartens with the goal of helping to promote positive choice making in young children. This program has been implemented in all kindergartens.

**Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders:** This curriculum is designed for use with youths in grades six to nine and aims to prevent or reduce violence by altering patterns of thought and actions that will help to avoid violent situations. This is in the planning stages and will be implemented at designated schools in 2008.

**Class Action Program:** This program will be used at Holyoke High and Dean to address the data around alcohol and drug prevention. Currently implementation of this program is in the planning process and will be “rolled out” in the 2008-2009 school year.

**Second Step Program and Parent Component:** This program teaches children to change attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence. This program has been implemented at Kelly, Morgan, Lawrence, Lynch, and Peck schools. A parent component will be implemented to increase awareness and communications around these issues.

**Strengthening Families Program:** This program will seek to improve parental involvement to families of students from Donahue and Sullivan schools.

**Think Time Program:** This program will be purchased for each elementary, K-8, and middle school and will be used as a reflective piece for children who have been placed in the In-house room.

This extensive district initiative ties into the data collected and if implemented properly will serve to reduce episodes of violence and substance abuse in our schools.
Pi Day at E.N. White may merit entry into Guinness World Book

Sixth graders at E.N. White School celebrated March 14th in a special way. March 14 or 3.14 is Pi Day. For many of us, Pi is a number that we were told to use to calculate the circumference and area of a circle, but for students at E.N. White, it is a never-ending number that was discovered by Archimedes that represents a relationship between the diameter and circumference. The students were treated to a day-long celebration of Pi organized by math teacher Lori Mathurin.

At right, winners of the individual special events are: Anferine Morales, Issac Duval, Crystal Vazquez, Pedro DeJesus, Keanu Conde, Michael McAndrew and Victoria Sabater. Below left are Kiana Clemente and Yamarie Gutierrez showing the Pi Day door decorations. Below right, is an aerial view of the school with the Pi symbol in the courtyard. The photo has been submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records to be considered as the largest made Pi with a view from the sky.

On Silken Threads

The performance with Laura Pravitz and The Isadora Duncan International Institute Dancers will be on Saturday, May 3rd at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 4th at 2 p.m. There will be an accompanying gallery exhibit on “The Life and Times of Isadora Duncan.” A number of free tickets are being made available to Holyoke Public School children. Advance reservations recommended. Please call the museum at 322-5660 and specify if your child is a student in the Holyoke Public Schools. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council.
Ha llegado la Primavera a las Escuelas de Holyoke

Por Eduardo Carballo
Superintendente de Escuelas

Déjeme decirle sobre lo que viene durante las próximas semanas y lo que ha estado pasando. Primero espero que muchos de ustedes puedan experimentar la producción de la Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke - HHS de Algo Va.- Anything Goes Los estudiantes y el personal trabajaron muy fuerte para organizar un espectáculo excepcional y dieron interpretaciones excelentes. También tuvimos la oportunidad de seleccionar a algunos maestros excepcionales por la Excelencia de Harold Grinspoon en la Enseñanza del Premio. Siete de nuestros maestros fueron notificados el 12 de marzo que ellos eran recibientes para este año. Ellos son Debra Sherburne, Escuela E.N. White; Eileen Farrington, Escuela Kelly; Patricia Redfern, Escuela Donahue, Christopher van Leeuwen, Escuela Sullivan; Michael McKenna, Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke - HHS; Lyle Clark, Escuela Secundaria Dean Técnica; y Evelyn Melendez, Escuela Secundaria Lynch. ¡Felicitaciones a todos ellos!

Como usted sabe al principio este mes el Sistema de Evaluación Estatal, MCAS, es lanzado. Deseamos con mucha ilusión que nuestros estudiantes trabajen muy bien otra vez y les pedimos que sigan ayudándoles. Creemos que nuestros estudiantes están preparados y ellos han estado trabajando fuertemente. Es importante para ellos tener apoyo en su hogar, mucho descanso y dormir mucho y comenzar el día con un buen desayuno. Si desea saber más maneras de cómo pueden ayudar a su niño durante el periodo de pruebas, por favor póngase en contacto con el principal y el maestro de su niño.

Celebrar la semana de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke es el 28 de abril hasta el 2 de mayo. Nuestro reconocimiento de Estrellas Crecientes se llevará a cabo el 1er de mayo con la Recepción en Merry-Go-Round y el Banquete. Cada año reconocemos a estudiantes en grados seis a doce quienes han sido seleccionados en base de beca, liderazgo y ciudadanía. Usted leerá más sobre esto en el periódico el próximo mes cuando el periódico Republicano por lo general tiene un periódico pequeño sobre los Estudiantes Estrellas.

Como muchos de ustedes ya saben, la perspectiva para la financiación escolar del próximo año es de gran preocupación a la comunidad. Nuestro pronóstico de presupuesto predice que caeremos de la cantidad de dólares necesarios para continuar con el nivel de servicios para todos nuestros estudiantes. Parece que somos siempre la intemeraria de algún tipo de tormenta. Pido a familias y amigos del Distrito Escolar de permanecer fuertes durante estos tiempos difíciles y, cuando sea posible, únanse a nuestros esfuerzos para comunicar a los funcionarios Estatales y políticos la necesidad de apoyar nuestra comunidad.

Durante el mes de febrero, nuestro Comité Escolar tomó el paso sin precedentes, en un esfuerzo para salvar a varios maestros como sea posible, cerrar tres escuelas y volver a abrir un alojamiento para la oficina central y el Programa Alternativo. Queremos que usted entienda que ni el Comité Escolar ni yo quisimos hacer esto, pero dada la perspectiva económica del Estado, no nos dio ninguna opción. Tan pronto se cierre la escuela en junio comenzaremos la mudanza de las Escuelas Lawrence y Lynch para la Escuela Peck. Más tarde en el otoño, la oficina central comenzará a hacer preparaciones para la mudanza a la Escuela Lawrence. Se anticipa que esto tomará algún tiempo para preparar el edificio para recibir correctamente las oficinas administrativas.

Durante las próximas pocas semanas completa-ré mi trabajo como un miembro del Equipo de Preparación del Gobernador Deval Patrick. Después de muchas semanas y meses trabajando con algunas personas excepcionales de la Comunidad Británica de las Naciones para reunir nuestras visiones de lo que la educación podría estar aquí en el estado de Massachusetts, estoy algo entristecido en la perspectiva que estos proyectos tendrán que esperar más tiempo ya que el Estado desea encontrar más de 1.5 mil millones de dólares para balancear el presupuesto. Estoy animado por nuestro apoyo legislativo a por lo menos aumentar la financiación del Capítulo 70 y espero que en futuros años algunos de nuestros programas propuestos puedan llegar a pasar.

Evelyn Melendez de la Escuela Secundaria Lynch recibe el Premio de Grinspoon por la Excelencia en Enseñanza por el Superintendente Dr. Eduardo Carballo y el Principal Paul Hyry.

Espero que todos ustedes disfruten del tiempo de Primavera que viene pronto.
Una Corta Historia de la Escuela Secundaria John J. Lynch

El edificio escolar localizado en la Calle 1575 Northampton ha resistido el paso del tiempo como una parte importante de la historia escolar pública y la historia de Holyoke. La Escuela John J. Lynch, Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria fue dedicado el 6 de febrero de 1953 con una serie de acontecimientos públicos y viajes al Instituto de enseñanza secundaria "moderno". La escuela fue nombrada por John J. Lynch, un principal en las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke de 1894-1941. La primera página del folleto de dedicación honra al Sr. Lynch como un hombre "cuyo nombre y los logros distinguidos serán perpetuados en las mentes y los corazones de los muchachos y muchachas jóvenes que buscan el aprendizaje dentro de las paredes de esta escuela."

El folleto de dedicación continúa destacando "rasgos especiales que usted querrá ver" de un viaje por la escuela. ¡Los primeros escritorios en la escuela fueron ofrecidos como "vista especial de salvar escritorios" con grandes cumbres de pedazos que podrían inclinarse o ponerse en "posiciones científicamente determinadas"! El vestíbulo (que llamamos la Rotonda) contenía una cabina de boleto, y el salón de ciencia y el salón de música fueron mencionados para sus asientos de brazo, en gradas en el salón de ciencia y en un auditorio en el salón de música. Es interesante notar en los planes que asegurarnos que nuestras sillas fueran 1 pulgada de la mesa cuándo las empujamos para no patear las mesas en la biblioteca!*

La consolidacion escolar beneficiara a estudiantes

Por Michael Sullivan
Alcalde de Holyoke

Este ha sido realmente un tiempo difícil para las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke y sobre todo para muchos de los miembros del Comité Escolar. Tomar la decisión reciente de cerrar tres escuelas fue muy duro. Escuchamos tantos argumentos razonables y responsables sobre el valor de retener todas las escuelas. Cuando la campana escolar suene en el otoño de 2008 durante el primer día de la escuela, John J. Lynch sólo será frecuentado por memorias de antiguos estudiantes.

El clamor interno de pies y el entusiasmo del primer día de la clase será sustituido por discusiones externas de que hacer con la propiedad de la Escuela H.B. Lawrence, que comenzará a recibir la administración, habrá sido el testigo del sonido de niños que se rien tontamente mezclados con el ruido del paisaje del centro de la ciudad. Estaremos consternados con la ausencia de estos sonidos robados del centro de la ciudad.

Yo sólo puedo esperar y rezar que cada uno sepa que esto fue una decisión difícil. Para destilar esa decisión en la forma más simple, fue la "facultad contra la escuela". ¿Cuándo sea posible, sin invitar, reducir los gastos haciendo funcionar menos escuelas, les obliga para el mejor interés de los estudiantes a tomar esa decisión resistente? ¡Digo sí, enfáticamente!

Había varias discusiones sobre esta opción contra otras opciones, pero ahora deberíamos poner esto detrás de nosotros y enfocarnos en que este plan de trabajo sea mejor para los estudiantes. Habrá retos cuando procedemos, aún con la cooperación, maximizaremos nuestras ventajas para el bien de la educación y beneficio de nuestros estudiantes.

Agradezco a cada uno por toda su paciencia y pienso con mucha ilusión en el día cuando la educación sea correctamente financiada.

Una página entera del libro de dedicación es dedicada "al Instituto de Enseñanza Idea". El Sr. Lynch pudo haber introducido la idea de un colegio plan de estudios preparatorio como en 1903 en la Escuela – Street School y pronto el interés creció en la noción de alojar grados 6-9 en un edificio diferente para acomodar las necesidades de estudiantes en esta categoría de edad.

Carol Murphy, el entrenador actual de matemáticas en la Escuela Lynch, y el antiguo estudiante de 6to grado en 1953 recuerda el edificio de esta manera "Todo era prístino, brillante y perfecto. ¡Tuvimos que asegurarnos que nuestras sillas fueran 1 pulgada de la mesa cuando las empujamos para no patear las mesas en la biblioteca!"
Carta Abierta al Redactor describiendo el aspecto positivo en la Escuela Dean Técnica

Estimado Editor:

Hola mi nombre es Miguel Perez. Actualmente asisto a la escuela William J. Dean Técnica. Tengo 17 años de edad y soy un estudiante de segundo año. Realmente estoy decepcionado que los acontecimientos recientes han rebajado la moral en la Escuela Dean Técnica. Entiendo que estábamos en las noticias debido a las cuestiones recientes que tuvimos, pero esto no significa que no tenemos grandes cosas que pasan en la Escuela Dean Técnica. Por ejemplo, tenemos ROTC menor que es maravilloso. Esto nos ayuda con las habilidades de mando como también servicio comunitario. Salimos con ideas para bailes después de horas escolares, actividades después de horas escolares y servicio comunitario para mantener a la adolescencia entretenida y fuera de la calle. También tenemos la Clínica de Adolescente que ofrece servicios de salud y servicios de salud mental a estudiantes y otras oportunidades. Hay también el programa SCORE que tiene ocho mediadores entrenados a los cuales los estudiantes pueden pasar y hablar. También, la Escuela Dean Técnica va a tener "una Noche de Artes de Familia" el 18 de abril para mostrar el talento y la unidad de estudiantes de la Escuela Dean Técnica y sus familias. Hay también tiendas que le dan a la comunidad. Es demasiado malo que la Escuela Dean Técnica sea rebajada debido a unos cuantos acontecimientos negativos. Recuerde, somos una escuela de más de 750 adolescentes. Estos pocos problemas no deberían definir en quién somos.

Hay estudiantes en la Escuela Dean Técnica haciendo muchas cosas buenas en la comunidad y en otros programas, también.

Yailin Cartagena, Anthony Colon, y yo estamos todos en la Comisión Juvenil de Holyoke. Hacemos proyectos que ayudan a Holyoke y pasamos la voz a otra juventud. Trabajamos en proyectos de prevención de bebida a menores de edad, tuvimos un foro para la juventud para hablar al Concilio de Holyoke y el Comité Escolar, y hemos representado a Holyoke por todo el estado. El retrato que usted ve es Anthony Colon (de la Escuela Dean Técnica), Jackie Torres (de Escuela Secundaria Peck) y el Gobernador Deval Patrick. Lo conocimos cuando fuimos a Dorchester para ayudar a planear un consejo por todo el estado juvenil. Finalmente, Anthony Colon, yo, y otros tres Comisarios Juveniles vamos a Tucson, Arizona a finales de este mes para representar a Holyoke y aprender sobre el alimento y la buena forma física con el Consejo de Política y vamos a traer lo que aprendemos a Holyoke.

Hay muchas cosas positivas que continúan en la Escuela Dean Técnica y en Holyoke en general y más enfoque en aquellas cosas, no siempre lo negativo. ¿Cómo cree que los padres de los estudiantes de la Escuela Dean Técnica sienten acerca de toda esta conversación negativa hacia la escuela de su hijo/a?

Miguel Perez
William J. Dean Technical High School student
Holyoke Youth Commissioner

Productos de Taller de Escritores Presentado en Prensa

A veces, sólo necesitamos el tema apropiado para encontrar la alegría de escribir. Una selección de pedazos autobiográficos escritos por estudiantes de séptimo grado en la Escuela E. N. White demuestra la expresión de los estudiantes lo que pueden lograr cuando están escribiendo sobre algo personal y familiar. El 5 de marzo, los autores de estudiante en las clases de la Sra. Astrid Lindstrom fueron presentados en "el Periódico Republicano de Springfield en la serie de la “Educación” que presenta a los maestros y los esfuerzos de sus estudiantes para mejorar como escritores. Los maestros son todos compañeros en el Proyecto de Escritura en la Universidad de Massachusetts. Los estudiantes de séptimo grado presentados en el Periódico Republicano incluyen a Austin J. The- riault, Natasha Pirela, Lissette Rojas, Omar L. Pasillo, Alexs S. Vazquez, Timmothy J. Ortiz, Natalie M. Rivera, Sarah Theroux, y Zane E. Patrie. Para leer y ver fotos de los estudiantes autores, vaya en línea a:
http://blog.masslive.com/nie/2008/03/walking_tall_a_unit_of_autobio.html
Matricula de Kindergarten
Escuelas Publicas de Holyoke
Eduardo B. Carballo, Superintendente

Comienza El 1º de Abril
Los niños tienen que cumplir los cinco años en o antes del 1º de septiembre del 2008
Los solicitudes están disponibles en las escuelas elementales y:
La Oficina de Asignación de Estudiantes
Localizada en
El Primer Piso - Calle Suffolk #57
Tel: 534-2007
Horas: 8:30 hasta 3; lunes a viernes

¡Preparacion para Kindergarten!
Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke
Programa de Verano
Para niños/as de 4 y 5 años de edad entrando a Kindergarten en el otoño 2008

Julio - agosto
Lunes a jueves; 9-1
Familias deben registrarse en:
La Oficina de Asignación de Estudiantes
Tel: 534-2055

***Daremos prioridad a estudiantes que no han tenido experiencia pre-escolar.****