



Edline, First Student, Standards-based report cards

New school year brings new programs

By Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo
 Superintendent of Schools

The school year is well underway, and the transition from “summer routines” to “back-to-school routines” is going very smoothly. Over the summer, many students participated in summer programs which we offered at several school locations. In addition, we held a ceremony on August 13th for those seniors from Dean Tech and Holyoke High who achieved the credits for graduation through attending summer school. We congratulate these students for achieving their graduation goal.

Each school held its Open House this fall to provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to meet the teachers and visit their child’s classrooms. It was encouraging to see that these were well attended, as it is so important not only to the children, but also to their parents/guardians to have this involvement.

The School Department has launched a web-based program, Edline, a new communication tool for teachers in the district. Although this “pilot program” is being introduced to teachers on a voluntary basis, it comes highly recommended. Edline enables both students and parents to access the student’s specific school information (assignments, etc.) and performance (grades, etc.) on an on-going basis via the Internet. Although still in the early stages, this new program has been well received. Information about Edline was available at various Open House events and will soon be available on the HPS website, www.hps.holyoke.ma.us

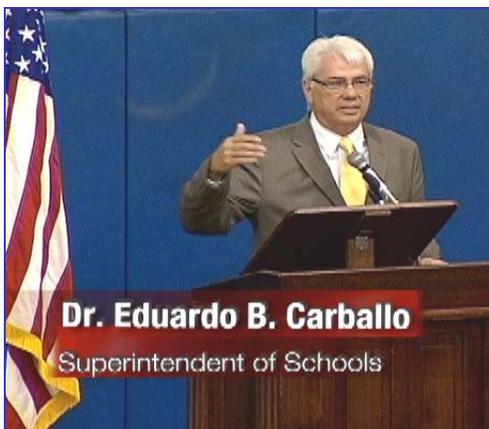
HPS is also introducing Standards-based Report Cards for Grades K-3 this school year. Information about the benefits of this type of report

card may also be found on the website. It is anticipated that this will be introduced to Grades 4 & 5 during the 2010-2011 school year.

Holyoke High was accredited in 2007, and Dean Technical High School will be participating in the accreditation process this year during the week of November 16. While we are on the subject of high schools, the remodeling work at Holyoke High is proceeding according to schedule. As many of you know, the \$15 million remodeling begun last spring will continue until the fall of 2010. In addition to a new heating and air conditioning system, renovations will include new windows and doors, some updating of science classrooms, a completely refurbished auditorium, updating of bathrooms, and also classroom ventilation systems.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome *First Student*, the new transportation company for the district. *First Student* has gotten off to a terrific start, and we have received many nice comments regarding its customer service orientation. The professionalism and prompt responses to our student needs is appreciated.

Of course at this time of the year, with the H1N1 flu season upon us, we are no different from any other school district across the nation in making sure that we are prepared for any contingencies. Through our Student Services Department and our nurses, we continually monitor staff and student absence rates because of flu-like symptoms. Infor-



Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo speaking to the Holyoke Public Schools staff on Convocation Day.

mation regarding the flu and what is being done in the district can be found on our web site and TV 12 Channel. We want parents to know that we are taking every precaution and will continue to communicate with them regarding their children’s health.

As you may know, I will be retiring next June after a 38-year career. The School Committee is well into the process of searching for a new Superintendent of Schools. As of this writing, the Committee is in the final stages of selecting the next School Superintendent, and, by the end of November, that announcement will be made. We will bring you more information in the next issue of *Connections*.

Congratulations to our *Connections* Newsletter editor, Kelly Doktor, and to all of those who contribute to this publication, as the HPS’ Newsletter once again received the APEX Award for Printed Publication Excellence.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all those who are new to the Holyoke Public Schools, and I wish everyone a successful year.



Inside this issue:

- Remembering Kyier Douchette 2
- Peck is a FSCS school 3
- What’s new on the web 3
- In our community 4
- McMahon & Donahue Schools 5
- Holyoke Sports 6
- Talking Points 7
- Read for the Record 8
- Spanish Highlights 9-11
- Title I Events 12



Mission Statement

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

Holyoke School Committee

Mayor Michael Sullivan
 William Collamore
 Yvonne Garcia
 Barry Conway
 Mary Plant
 Margaret Boulais
 Gladys Lebron-Martinez
 Howard Greaney
 Dennis Birks
 Michael Moriarty

Edited by - Kelly Doktor - kdoktor@hps.holyoke.ma.us

Special Thanks to: Cris Brown, Mike Hines, Aaron Patterson, Jeannie Stone, and Judy Taylor

Editor Emeritus: Laura DuPont

Contributing to this issue:

Pauline Carriere
 Josiah Friedberg
 Jackie Glasheen
 Karen Guillette
 Helen Gibson
 Ellen Jackson
 Renee LaRue
 Joanne Marcotte

Aaron Morris
 Christine Murphy
 Cheryl Parzich
 Sarah Platanitis
 Hillary Russell
 Miranda Smith
 Jody Spitz

Aimee Henderson, Editor of *The Sun*, is also seeking stories to feature in the community publication. You may email her at ahenderson@turley.com. Many stories from this edition have been forwarded to her already.

Kelly School**Tragedy brings school and community together**

Often, in times of tragedy, we become the strongest versions of ourselves – a way to get through the difficult time. Unfortunately, Kelly School has recently faced tragedy with the loss of one of its first grade students. Kyier Douchette was an energetic first grader at Kelly School. The news of his loss shook the whole Kelly School community. Upon arrival at school on the Monday morning after the tragic accident, it became clear that his loss was far reaching within the whole community. Everyone seemed to have a connection to the student. Luckily, Kelly School was able to come together as a community to continue with the regular school day, help those in need while comforting each other. As calls of concern and assistance poured in from neighboring schools, the Kelly School community expanded beyond its own walls. Many teachers wanted to do something to remember their lost student, as well as help provide closure to Kyier's classmates and family. Eileen Farrington and Joanna Dodd quickly stepped in to spearhead what would become the "Memory Garden" at Kelly School. Located at the main entrance to the school, every student would get the opportunity to plant a bulb in the section designated for their grade level. Donations were gathered from businesses throughout the community, as well as surrounding communities. In the end, over 800 bulbs were donated. Kyier's first grade classmates were the first to plant their bulbs. As they did, they spent the time remembering their good friend. Over the course of the next two weeks, the rest of the school planted their bulbs. In the spring, over 600 blooms are expected to decorate the front entrance to Kelly School. One thing is very clear, in this time of tragedy, the Kelly School community



Kyier Douchette

did pull together, along with the help of their neighboring friends, and did become the strongest version of itself.

Peck School Launch of Full Service Community Initiative

By Megan Harding
FSCS Program Manager



L to R: Peck Principal Paul Hyry-Dermith; Mari Santiago, parent representative on the FSCS Central Coordinating Committee; and Megan Harding, FSCS Program Manager

Thanks to the collaborative vision and commitment of parents, faculty and community partners, Peck has become a Full Service Community School (FSCS). A full service community school is characterized by comprehensive and strategic partnerships developed between the school, families, and community entities to meet the stated needs and aspirations of students and families. The purpose of the initiative is to facilitate academic success for all Peck students.

In cooperation with Principal Paul Hyry-Dermith, Julie Rapoport of The Community Consulting Initiative led the Peck community – including parents, faculty and community partners -- through a year of planning and development during 2008-2009. Seven priority areas emerged:

- *Parent engagement and education
- * Academic support and enrichment
- * Opportunities for tutoring/mentoring and college/career awareness
- * Basic needs
- * Behavior management
- * Sports
- *Arts

The highest priority and guiding value of the FSCS is to expand access and opportunities for family engagement at Peck. As a result, families will play an increasingly significant role in the coordination and governance of the FSCS initiative.

Mari Santiago, parent representative on the FSCS Central Coordinating Committee, has been involved in the initiative since the planning stages and is enthusiastic about its potential. "I see [this program] involving teachers and parents more. I see this [program] helping students to succeed through high school and college," she

said.

The initiative will soon be hiring a Family Access and Engagement Coordinator to deepen the work of structuring and supporting opportunities for family participation and leadership. In addition, the FSCS model includes an active Case Management Program, where families can get referred for services and support. Our community partners continue to offer programs, services and guidance. These partners include youth development programs, local colleges, community health/mental health centers, social service and arts providers, adult education and anti-poverty organizations. It is through the coordinated collaboration among families, faculty and community partners that the full service community school program at Peck will continue to evolve. We thank everyone who has contributed to this good work and we look forward to measuring the impact on achievement for all of our students.

Megan Harding was hired in September to manage the FSCS initiative.



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

What's New on the Web

By Judy Taylor

District Homepage

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

- Swine flu information
- Standards Based Report Card information
- 2010 budget
- Title I Events
- After school programs

Technology

- Staff in need of technology assistance, please follow the newly posted directions for accessing the HPS Help Desk.

Center for Excellence

[http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/center for excellence.htm](http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/center%20for%20excellence.htm)

- Click the *About Us* link to learn more about programs, activities and enrichment

Curriculum

- Updated curriculum maps
- District and school report cards 2008-2009

Early Childhood

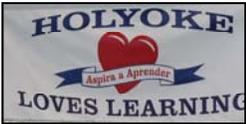
- Kindergarten brochure
- Learning Resources

Holyoke High School

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

- Guidance Center/Career link provides weekly announcements, college visits, testing info, career options, scholarships, and college acceptances.
- Holyoke High School's student store link contains info regarding location, hours and product listing.

Nuestras Raices Education Fair



On a perfect fall day, many of Holyoke's educators were on hand to provide information about the public schools, adult and family education, careers, as well as health and social services.



Photos by Kelly Doktor

Pathways to Family Success

GED class openings

The Pathways to Family Success program has openings in its (pre) GED preparation class. If you are a Holyoke parent who wants to study for the GED test and are looking for an evening class, this family literacy program may be the fit for you. On Tuesday and Thursdays, from 4-7 p.m. at the MSPCC Parent Center, parents can bring their children and have a family dinner and study for their GED. If you are interested (or know someone to refer to the program) please call Marisol Fontanez at 538-5770 or Jody Spitz at 534-2026.

For updated school news and notices, visit



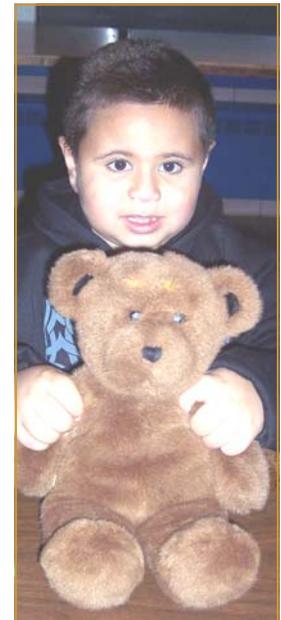
Community Channel 12

E.N. White, McMahon, & Sullivan Schools Title I Family Night Teddy Bear Parade

Families worked side-by-side with their children creating literacy, math and art activities related to bears. Children and their bears participated in musical activities and marched in a parade within the respective buildings.



Sullivan student Danaisha Perez and her dad work together on a project.



McMahon Students: Above, Maria Rivera; at right, Jayde Rivera and below, Katelyn Wascholl and Yarielyn Reyes.



McMahon School

For some 6th and 7th graders at McMahon, giving back to the school community has become a part of everyday life. Twenty middle school students are participating in a daily **Community Service** elective, during which they assist other students, teachers and the custodial staff to support the life of the school. Jobs include working with students in the Autism Supported Inclusion Program, peer tutoring with 1st – 3rd graders, helping the custodians to manage the physical building and working on school community projects assigned by the administration. Hilary Russell, McMahon School principal, described the Community Service program as a means of encouraging students to become more engaged in the McMahon community and increasing their sense of ownership of school. It also gives those who may be nominated for the National Junior Honor Society an opportunity to fulfill the community service requirement. "I help the little kids learn to read," says 6th grader Ana Diaz. "I really like it."

Hot off the presses, it's the **Cheetah Chitchat**, McMahon's new school newspaper! A group of twelve 6th and 7th graders are writing, editing, interviewing, researching and producing articles on topics ranging from the history of Halloween to ideas for new activities at this year's Field Day. Miranda Smith, McMahon's librarian, is offering the *Cheetah Chitchat* as a daily elective. "I encourage the kids to write about topics that excite them," she says. "I want them to be engaged in the writing process and to really care about the final product." *Springfield Republican* reporter Elizabeth Roman



visited the *Cheetah Chitchat* crew to answer questions about writing for a city newspaper. She described the challenges and rewards of being a professional reporter, shared interview tips, and helped the student-reporters to figure out what makes a great story. "Creating a newspaper is new for all of us, and the kids are growing as writers and reporters every day" says Smith.

McMahon School kicked off its **25 Books Campaign** with hundreds of laughs. Comedian and magician Steve Charney and his ventriloquist dummy, Harry, performed for smiling students at two packed assemblies. Charney used humor and visual illusions to engage students while stressing the importance of reading to every part of their lives. At one point, he even managed to convince Harry that books can be more exciting than video games! Kathleen Alderman, the English Language Arts Coach at McMahon organized the event and said, "It was wonderful to see the kids having such a great time and he even signed our school-wide Reading Contract, pledging to read 25 books this year." The 25 Books Campaign asks students to read at least 25 books during the school year, with the understanding that increased reading ensures that students will develop the momentum they need to become lifelong readers.



Donahue School

Meet Travis Minnick, Donahue's new 7th and 8th grade science teacher:

Previous Experience:

This is my first year teaching. I graduated in 2009 from UMASS's natural resource studies and the STEP program.

Thoughts on Teaching in Holyoke:

I think Holyoke has a dynamic and exciting culture with a family atmosphere. It's an enjoyable challenge to teach in a school environment that you don't learn about from reading textbooks. I live in Holyoke, and teaching the people I share my family and space with, reminds me how worthwhile and important my work is.

Favorite Lesson:

My favorite lesson deals with "joints in the skeletal system," because we get to actually explore how our bodies move. It makes so much sense to our students when they can visualize and experience a concept at the same time using my full-size skeleton, Mr. Bones.



With the economy still lagging, there is an expectation of a huge shortfall of food and donations at local shelters across the nation and here in Holyoke. **Margaret's Pantry** is an organization that works to feed those struggling to feed themselves and their families. Margaret's Pantry contacted the Maurice A. Donahue chapter of the National Junior Honor Society with a request to help collect food donations. Our students have already designed flyers, decorated and distributed food collection boxes, and sent letters home to parents. If you are not a Donahue School community member but are visiting the building, you may drop off a donation. If you are interested in starting a collection at your school and would like help getting started, please contact Josiah Friedberg, NJHS advisor at Donahue School.

Meet Aixa Melindez, parent volunteer

What made you decide to volunteer?

My daughter has gone here for the past five years and I was excited to have an opportunity to give back to the school.

Do you like working in the library?

It's great because I get to see all the different grades come through the library. I expected to work with one class and instead I see the whole school.

Would you recommend volunteering to other parents?

Absolutely. It's an excellent way to spend your time. It's really interesting to get to know the teachers and other people that you meet at parent teacher conferences and school events. Often they are so much different than they appear on the surface.



Holyoke Sports

True Sportsmanship...

By Ashley Pond '12

Holyoke High School's athletic teams have more going for them than just what happens on the field. The athletes and teams are participating in many community service activities this fall. This season, the HHS football team is remembering those in need with the Helmets for Hunger program. At each home game they are collecting nonperishable food items for Kate's Kitchen. The team is also "passing the helmet" to their fans by selling mini-helmets for \$15 to help raise money for this cause. "We are big on community service," Coach Las-towski said. "I'm excited about it, the kids have bought right into it." Fans can donate a canned good during home games at the giant helmet collection stand.

The HHS field hockey team has raised almost \$1,000 for Autism research. Stephanie Hills, junior varsity field hockey coach teaches children who have autism. The team's goal is to continue to raise money to help change the future for all those who struggle with autism disorders.

Volleyball Showcase of Champions



Holyoke High School teamed up with the Volleyball Hall of Fame and Spalding to host the Third Annual Spalding Showcase of Champions High School Girls' Volleyball Invitational. Twenty-four of the best high school volleyball teams competed in the two day event which was held at the Bartley Center at Holyoke Community College, a state of the art volleyball facility. Teams from four states participated in this year's event including state and sectional champions from Massachusetts, Maine, New York, and New Hampshire. The Holyoke High School Girls Volleyball Team had a great showing at the tournament making it to the silver bracket semifinals.



Holyoke High School Boys Soccer Team

HHS soccer gives back to youth

The 2009 Holyoke High School Boys Soccer team, under the direction of new Head Coach John Amaral and Assistants Peter Leclerc, Bob Oliveira, Justin Oliveira, and Julius Pertillar have made giving back to the youth a part of their mission this year. The captains and coaches reached out to the Holyoke Youth Soccer Association to see how they could involve the youth in the program. This fall, the soccer team conducted a free clinic for 60 youth soccer players. They taught the youth players ball control skills, including juggling, trapping, and dribbling and they also did drills to work on the tactical elements of the game of soccer. Mort Rivera, President of the HYSA, said, "The partnership between the team and our organization this year has been great. We loved the clinic and having the chance to be part of the pre-game ceremonies at home games is special and we are looking forward to doing more in the future." Aaron Patterson, Director of Athletics for the Holyoke Public Schools, thinks the partnership is equally beneficial for the high school players. "We are always looking for opportunities for our athletes to develop their leadership skills and act as role models."

Massachusetts high school volleyball teams support fellow athlete

The Holyoke High School Girls' Volleyball team teamed up with OvarianCancerAwareness.org to bring exposure and awareness to ovarian cancer which 15,500 women die from annually. This season, both the Holyoke High School and Westfield High School Girls' Volleyball Teams wore teal Ovarian Cancer Awareness sweatbands to bring awareness to this disease. The slogan for the day was "Today we are ALL on the same TEAM! Let's fight ovarian cancer together" The team handed out literature to fans who attend the game highlighting the risk factors associated with ovarian cancer. They also collected donations at the game with all proceeds being donated to OvarianCancerAwareness.org. This effort was in conjunction with the Lexington High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team because their former captain (Class of 2008) is currently losing her battle to ovarian cancer, they dedicated the game as an Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day for all high school volleyball teams in Massachusetts.



Boys Cross Country Team Shines in North Carolina

By Katelynn Dochod '11

The Holyoke High Cross Country Boys' Team received the opportunity of a lifetime when they were invited to participate this fall's Great American Cross Country Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina.

A proud Coach Dave Reinhart commented, "The trip was important for the boys because it allowed them to see and compete at a higher level of competition. The trip was a 110% success." HHS Athletic Director Aaron Patterson said, "Not only did the trip open up new possibilities for the cross country team but opened up possibilities for all teams," "It shows what can be done when people set their minds to bigger things." The boys who attended included Captain Kevin Morton '10, Nick Ryan '10, Tyrone O'Banner '11, Cody Hodgins '12 and Rhys Duquette '13. Sophomores Tyler Brunelle and Hugh Lavelle, were selected based on race times. Coaches Reinhart and MacKenzie Gray also attended. "The boys represented Holyoke in a respectful way," said Reinhart. Out of the 135 total runners: Cody 24th (17:24), Rhys 80th (18:35), Tyrone 89th (18:49), Nick 109th (19:19), Tyler 111th (19:26), Kevin 116th (19:45), Hugh 130th (21:43). To raise travel money, the team held two car washes, worked as busboys at the Elks Lodge, and accepted donations from the community.



Holyoke High School...

By Belky Rodriguez - Otero

In the world of journalism, being chosen to attend the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia is an honor. This summer that honor was bestowed upon Holyoke High English/Journalism teacher **Sarah Platanitis**. She was one of 35 journalism educators chosen from across the United States to attend the institute. There, the American Society of Newspaper Editors gave the educators an insight into the future of journalism and the opportunities to network with many other journalism professionals. Being an RJI fellow has its perks. Platanitis spoke on the topic of Media Literacy at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Cambridge, MA in October. When asked how she felt about the invitation, Platanitis said, "I was surprised, nervous and excited all at once. I still feel like it hasn't quite hit me yet." HHS Principal David Dupont said, "Hearing the news was fantastic, it's great that it happened to her and Holyoke High School."

Holyoke High School student **Patrick O'Neill** has been honored as a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students placed among the top five percent of 1.5 million students who entered the competition.

Talking Points

Kelly School...

Andrea Hickson, a Social Studies teacher at Kelly School, was recently inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame at Elms College. While attending the Elms, Andrea was a three sport athlete, excelling in all of them. To this day, Andrea still ranks in the top five in many softball categories at the college. Andrea was surrounded by her friends and loved ones during her special evening.

Susan Kaplan, the co-founder of Links to Libraries, recently visited Kelly School bringing over 200 brand new books for the school's library sponsored by the CPA firm Myers Brothers Kalicka. **David Kalicka**, who attended Holyoke Public Schools, along with his wife **Jan Kalicka**, a guidance counselor at Sullivan School, accompanied Kaplan in making the donation. Links to Libraries is a nonprofit organization founded in May 2008 that strives to provide elementary school libraries with new and gently used books to enhance the literacy development of their students. For more information visit www.linkstolibraries.org.

Peck School...

Peck School has formed a partnership with Smith College Museum of Art which incorporates the Visual Thinking Strategies Program. Fifth-grade students in art teacher **Darcy Dumont's** classes will discuss art masterpieces one week a month with the goal of expressing themselves more fully about what they observe. They will also travel to the museum twice to observe and discuss original paintings.



Peck's **middle school students** are once again working with mentors/tutors from the University of Massachusetts, Holyoke Community College, and Mount Holyoke College through the Full Service Community School initiative, Student Bridges Program, and the Commonwealth Corps Program.

Students in **Justin Cotton's** and **Brittany Gaetano's** middle school classes are on a "beastly quest" for perfection on the Math MCAS. Students track progress toward their goals by using posted Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) breakdowns.

School Store Opens by Emily Brady '10

The brand new school store at HHS has revolutionized the idea of school stores. Thanks to the master carpentry of **Mark Todd** and the excellent sales skills of the **As Schools Match Wits team**, the store is eye-catching and efficient. The store has done away with the same old pencil-and-eraser idea and brought in exciting new items like Knights bobbleheads, backpacks, calculators, and even watches! The store is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings beginning at 7:45 a.m.. On Tuesdays it will be in the cafeteria lobby for all three lunches.

Science News...

By Helen Gibson

HPS Science Academic Coordinator

hgibson@hps.holyoke.ma.us



Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading

This program is for grades 2-4 and is a research-based, field-tested curriculum that integrates inquiry science with content rich literacy instruction. The program is funded in part by the National Science Foundation and is being developed as a collaboration of a curriculum development team at the University of California/Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science and Berkeley's Graduate School of Education. *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* addresses the urgent need for materials that help students develop the inquiry skills needed to make sense of the physical world while building fundamental literacy skills.

Earth Systems Science II

This school year, nine Holyoke middle school teachers are participating in a grant funded professional development opportunity called "Earth Systems Science II: Energy in the Natural and Human Systems." The program is designed to enhance teachers' knowledge of current issues related to the Earth, physical and life science through traditional and inquiry-based instruction. This is the 2nd year of a three-year grant funded by Title II-B: Massachusetts Mathematics and Science Partnership Program. The program is a collaboration among the Holyoke Public Schools, Westfield State College, Gateway Regional and Easthampton Public School districts.

National Read for the Record

The Very Hungry...STUDENTS!

On October 8th, Sullivan School started off their peer-mentoring program with 304 students contributing to breaking a 2009 World Record! Sullivan's 6th-8th graders and RISE classrooms were paired up with students in either Kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade. The partners read the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, this year's chosen book for the national campaign **Read for the Record**. Read for the Record is an annual event



Sullivan's Calvin Frye and Anthony Rodriguez-Rentas

where the hope is that every student in the United States is reading the same book on the same day creating a national record. This year over 1 million people participated. Sullivan's 8th graders will continue the peer-mentoring Reading Buddies program with 1st grade by meeting once a week in the library.

Four hundred fifty-seven students, HUNGRY for books, also joined forces to "Read for the Record" on Thursday, October 8th at E.N. White School. All the students present that day participated to help create a new world record for the most students to read the same book on the same day. Reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book was part of the kick-off for E. N. White's 25 Book Campaign for this year. Jumpstart is a leading nonprofit organization that promotes reading and reading readiness through an extensive national volunteer program to provide individualized tutoring and mentoring for students. Learn more at www.readfortherecord.org.

E.N. White's literary magazine

At the beginning of October, seventh-grade English Language Arts teacher, Astrid Lindstrom, began meeting with the student staff of a new literary magazine at E.N. White. The staff is comprised of eighth graders Joey Maspo, Xavier Morales, and Samantha Poutre; seventh graders Grace Hamel, Maura McAndrew, and Amelia Vega; and sixth graders Ardazan Dennis and Jonathan Dochod. Each of these students decided to join the literary magazine staff after Lindstrom spoke in their ELA classes about the opportunity to publish a magazine of student poetry, short stories, memoirs, and artwork.

Having been the advisor to several high school literary magazines, Lindstrom wanted to offer the same creative outlet to middle school students. So much of school writing is expository, rather than creative. She hopes a literary magazine will help create a better balance in student writing.

At the second staff meeting, students selected Joey Maspo and Grace Hamel as co-editors of the new magazine, which students decided to name *Interlude*. They hope, with the help of ELA teachers Alicia Pettengill, Lindstrom, and Lynda D'Amours as well as art teacher, Sheila Lamours, to receive many writing and art submissions from middle school students to consider for publication. They plan to distribute *Interlude* to E.N. White middle school staff, students, and families in June.

CONNECTIONS after school program site coordinators

The CONNECTIONS after school program is running at seven of Holyoke's schools. The program offers many exciting opportunities for academic and social growth like: homework help, outdoor/nature activities, sports/fitness, dance, culinary arts and sewing. For more information at any of the schools listed, contact the site coordinator Monday-Thursday from 3-6 p.m.

****Morgan School - Anne Lastowski at 534-2083**

****Peck School - Marian McGee at 534-2040**

****EN White School - Jonathan Roche or Margaret Vershon at 534-2083**

****Donahue School - Tom Wyse at 534-2069**

****Kelly School - Jamilla Jones at 534-2078**

****Sullivan School - Myriam Skolnick or Deb Maisonave at 534-2060**

****Holyoke High - Floyd Cammock at 536-3045.**

Estos son los puntos mas sobresalientes del Boletín

Holyoke Public Schools

Volume 8, Issue 1

Otono 2009

El Nuevo año escolar trae programas nuevos



Por Eduardo B. Carballo
Superintendente de Escuelas

El año escolar está marchando bien, y la transición "de las rutinas de verano" "a rutinas escolares" van suavemente. A lo largo del verano, muchos estudiantes participaron en programas de verano que ofrecimos en varios lugares escolares. Además, llevamos a cabo una ceremonia el 13 de agosto para aquellos estudiantes de 12 grado de la Escuela Dean Técnica y de la Escuela Superior de Holyoke – HHS quienes lograron los créditos de graduación atendiendo el curso de verano. Felicitamos a estos estudiantes por lograr su objetivo de graduación.

Las escuelas tuvieron Casa Abierta en septiembre/octubre para proporcionar una oportunidad a los padres/guardas para conocer a los maestros y visitar los salones de clase de su niño/a. Fue alentador ver que éstos fueron bien asistidos, ya que es tan importante no sólo para los niños, sino también para sus padres/guardas para tener esta participación.

El Departamento Escolar ha lanzado un programa a base de web, Edline, una herramienta nueva de comunicación para maestros en el Distrito. Aunque este "programa piloto" esté siendo introducido a los maestros en una base voluntaria, esto viene muy bien recomendado. Edline permite tanto a los estudiantes como a los padres tener acceso a la información escolar específica del estudiante (asignaciones, etc.) e interpretación (grados, etc.) en una base en curso vía el Internet. Aunque todavía siguen en etapas tempranas, este nuevo programa ha sido bien recibido. La información sobre Edline estaba disponible en varios acontecimientos Escolares de Casa Abierta y estará disponible pronto en el sitio Web de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke - HPS, www.hps.holyoke.ma.us

Las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke - HPS también están introduciendo Libretas de Calificaciones Estándares para Grados kinder a 3 este año escolar. La información acerca de los beneficios de este tipo de informe también puede ser encontrado en el sitio Web. Se espera que esto será introducido en Grados 4 y 5 durante el año es-

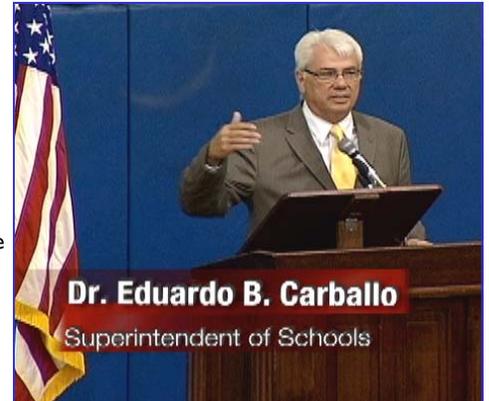
colar 2010-2011.

La Escuela Superior de Holyoke – HHS fue acreditada en el 2007, y la Escuela Secundaria Dean Técnica participará en el proceso de acreditación este año durante la semana del 16 de noviembre. Mientras estamos en el sujeto de escuelas secundarias, el trabajo de remodelación en la Escuela Superior de Holyoke procede según la programación. Ya que muchos de ustedes saben, la remodelación de 15 millones de dólares comenzó la primavera pasada seguirá hasta el otoño de 2010. Además de un sistema nuevo de aire acondicionado y calefacción, las renovaciones incluirán ventanas y puertas nuevas, alguna actualización de salones de ciencia, un auditorio completamente restaurado, actualización de cuartos de baño, y también sistemas de ventilación de salones de clase.

Me gustaría tomar esta oportunidad de dar la bienvenida a la nueva compañía de transporte para el Distrito *Primer Estudiante*, La Compañía *Primer Estudiante* ha tenido un principio fabuloso, y hemos recibido muchos comentarios agradables en cuanto a su orientación de servicio al cliente. Su profesionalismo y respuestas incitadoras a las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes son apreciados.

Por supuesto en este tiempo del año, con la temporada de la gripe H1N1 sobre nosotros, no somos diferentes de cualquier otro distrito escolar a través de la nación en asegurarnos que estamos preparados para cualquier contingencia. Por nuestro Departamento de Servicios de Estudiante y nuestras enfermeras, continuamente supervisamos las ausencias de personal y de estudiantes debido a síntomas parecidos a una gripe. Información en cuanto a la gripe y lo que está siendo hecho en el Distrito puede ser encontrada en nuestro Sitio Web y Canal de TV. Queremos que los padres sepan que estamos tomando cada precaución y nos seguiremos comunicando con ellos en cuanto a la salud de sus niños.

Como usted puede saber, me retiraré el próximo junio después de una carrera de 38 años. El Comité Escolar está en el proceso de busca para un Superintendente nuevo de Escuelas. Desde que se ha escrito esto, el Comité está en las etapas finales de seleccionar al siguiente Superin-



Dr. Carballo hablando durante el Día de Convocación.

tendente Escolar, y, para el final de noviembre, se hará ese anuncio. Le daremos más información en la próxima edición de *Uniones*.

Felicitaciones a nuestra redactora del *Boletín de noticias Uniones*, Kelly Doktor, y a todos aquellos que contribuyen a esta publicación, como el Boletín de noticias de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke de nuevo recibieron el Premio de API-CE para la Excelencia de Publicación Impresa.

Quiero tomar esta oportunidad de dar la bienvenida a todos aquellos que son nuevos a las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke, y deseo a cada uno un año exitoso.



La Escuela Peck

Lanza un Servicio Inicativo de toda la Comunidad Escolar

Por Megan Harding

Directora del Proyecto de FSCS

Gracias a la visión de colaboración y el compromiso de padres, facultad y compañeros de la comunidad, la Escuela Peck se ha hecho una Comunidad de Servicio Completo (FSCS). Una escuela de comunidad de servicio completo es caracterizada por sociedades completas y estratégicas desarrolladas entre la escuela, familias, y entidades de la comunidad para encontrar las necesidades indicadas y aspiraciones de estudiantes y familias. El objetivo de la iniciativa es facilitar el éxito académico para todos los estudiantes de la escuela Peck.

En la cooperación con el Principal Paul Hyry-Dermith, Julie Rapoport de la Comunidad de la Iniciativa Consultora condujo la comunidad de la escuela Peck – incluso padres, facultad y compañeros de la comunidad - durante un año de planificación y desarrollo durante 2008-2009. Surgieron siete áreas de prioridad:

- * Compromiso de padres y educación
- * Apoyo académico y enriquecimiento
- * Oportunidades de tutoría/mentor y conciencia de colegio/carrera
- * Necesidades básicas
- * Dirección de comportamiento
- * Deportes
- *Arte

La prioridad más alta y valor dirigido del FSCS es ampliar acceso y oportunidades del compromiso de familia en la escuela Peck. Como consiguiente, las familias desempeñarán un papel cada vez más significativo en la coordinación y la forma de gobierno de la iniciativa FSCS.

Mari Santiago, representante paternal del Comité de Coordinación Central FSCS, ha estado involucrada en la iniciativa desde las etapas de planificación y es entusiástica sobre su potencial. "Veo [este programa] involucrando más a los maestros y padres. Veo este [programa] en ayudar a estudiantes a tener éxito en la escuela secundaria y en el colegio," dijo ella. La iniciativa pronto empleará a un Coordinador de Compromiso y Acceso de Familia para profundizar el trabajo de estructuración y apoyar oportunidades de participación de familia y mando. Además, el modelo de FSCS incluye un Programa de Dirección de Caso activo, donde las familias pueden ser



Principales Paul Hyry-Dermith, Mari Santiago y Megan Harding

enviadas para servicios y apoyo.

Nuestros compañeros de comunidad seguirán ofreciendo programas, servicios y consejería. Estos compañeros incluyen programas de desarrollo juveniles, colegios locales, centros de salud/salud mental de la comunidad, servicio social y proveedores de artes, educación de adultos y organizaciones de antipobreza. Es a través de la colaboración coordinada entre familias, facultad y compañeros de la comunidad que el programa de la comunidad escolar de servicio completo en la escuela Peck seguirá desarrollando. Agradecemos a cada uno que ha contribuido a este buen trabajo y deseamos medir el impacto en el logro para todos nuestros estudiantes.

Megan Harding fue empleada en septiembre para manejar la iniciativa FSCS.



La tragedia une la escuela de Kelly

A menudo, en tiempos de tragedia, hacemos las versiones más fuertes de nosotros – un modo de pasar el tiempo difícil. Lamentablemente, la Escuela Kelly recientemente ha afrontado la tragedia con la pérdida de uno de sus estudiantes de primer grado. Kyier Douchette era un estudiante enérgico de primer grado en la Escuela Kelly. Las noticias de su pérdida sacudieron toda la comunidad Escolar Kelly cuando las palabras se extendían rápidamente durante el fin de semana. A la llegada en la escuela el lunes por la mañana, se hizo claro que su pérdida era de mucho alcance dentro de la comunidad. Cada uno pareció tener una unión al accidente. Por suerte, la Escuela Kelly pudo unirse como una comunidad para seguir con el día escolar regular, ayudar aquellos que nos necesitaron, y consolar el uno al otro. Como llamadas de preocupación y ayuda de escuelas vecinas, la comunidad Escolar Kelly se amplió más allá de sus propias paredes. Muchos maestros quisieron hacer algo para recordar la pérdida de su estudiante, así como proveer ayuda a los compañeros de clase de Kyier y familia. Eileen Farrington y Joanna Dodd rápidamente empezaron a pensar en lo que se haría “el Jardín de Memoria” en la Escuela Kelly. Localizado por la entrada principal a la escuela, cada estudiante tendrá la oportunidad de plantar un bulbo en la sección designada para su nivel de grado. Las donaciones fueron recogidas de negocios en todas partes de la comunidad, así como comunidades circundantes. Al final, más de 800 bulbos fueron donados. Los compañeros de clase de primer grado de Kyier fueron los primeros en plantar sus bulbos. Cuando ellos hicieron esto, ellos dedicaron el tiempo recordando a su buen amigo. Sobre el curso de las próximas dos semanas, el resto de la escuela plantará sus bulbos. En la primavera, se espera que más de 600 flores decoren la entrada delantera de la Escuela Kelly. Se hablan de otras ideas para monumentos conmemorativos, pero los detalles no están claros en este momento. Lo que está claro, sin embargo, es que en este tiempo de



Kyier Douchette

tragedia, la comunidad Escolar Kelly han trabajado juntos, con la ayuda de sus amigos vecinos, y se hizo realmente la versión más fuerte.

Programas de



Los Caminos al programa de Éxito de Familia tienen aperturas en su (pre) clase de preparación de GED. ¡Si usted es un padre de Holyoke que quiere estudiar para la prueba del GED y buscan una clase nocturna, este programa de alfabetismo de familia podría ser para usted! Los martes y jueves, de 4:00-7:00PM en el Centro Paternal MSPCC, los padres pueden traer a sus niños y tener una comida de familia y estudiar para su GED. Si usted está interesado (o sabe de alguien para referir al programa) por favor llame a Marisol Fontanez al 538-5770 o Jody Spitz al 534-2026.

Otra manera es participando en actividades de **Un Libro de Holyoke** a lo largo de octubre y noviembre. Esta iniciativa invita a todos los residentes de Holyoke a leer el libro *una Lección antes de Morir*, por Ernest J. Gaines. Una serie de actividades de la comunidad relacionadas con el libro incluye:

Una exposición de arte en el Museo de Wistariahurst, del 7 de noviembre al 2 de diciembre

Título I - Noches de Familia

Title I - Family Nights

December

Wed., Dec. 9 ~White~ Bingo for Books
 Mon., Dec. 14 ~Morgan~ Pocket Math Night
 Mon., Dec. 21 ~Kelly~ Bingo for Books

January

Thurs., Jan. 7 ~Sullivan~ Reading Café (6:15 p.m.)
 & Enchanted Circle Presentation
 Mon., Jan. 11 ~Kelly~ Dinosaur Night
 Wed., Jan. 13 ~McMahon~ Family Game Night
 & Enchanted Circle Presentation
 Wed., Jan. 20 ~Morgan~ Clifford Night
 Thurs., Jan. 21 ~White~ Career Night
 Mon., Jan. 25 ~Donahue~ Family Game Night (6 p.m.)
 & Enchanted Circle Presentation

Los acontecimientos comienzan a las 6:30 menos que se indique.

Events start at 6:30 unless noted.

E.N White y Sullivan

Leer para el record

Cuatrocientos cincuenta y siete estudiantes, HAMBRIENTOS para libros, se afiliaron a fuerzas para "Leer para el Record" el jueves, 8 de octubre en La Escuela E. N. White y mas de 300 estudiantes en La Escuela Sullivan participaron para ayudar a Jumpstart, Inc. en crear un nuevo record mundial para la mayor parte de estudiantes leer el mismo libro durante el mismo día. Este año el



Estudiantes de Sullivan, Kiara Torres (L) y Yamaya Perez.

libro era la Oruga Muy Hambrienta (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*) por Eric Carle. La lectura del libro era parte del saque inicial para E. N. White La Campaña 25 para este año. ¡Hasta ahora, Jumpstart reporta que más de un millón de niños leen a la Oruga Muy Hambrienta (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*) ese día, excediendo el record del año pasado de 688,000. Y la cuenta todavía sigue. Jumpstart es una empresa no lucrativa principal que promueve la lectura y preparación de lectura por un programa nacional extenso voluntario para proveer tutoría y supervisión para estudiantes. Aprenda más en www.readfortherecord.org.



Connections

Holyoke Public Schools

Media Center

c/o Kelly Doktor

500 Beech Street

Holyoke, MA 01040

