



## The new year brings several DOE visits

By

Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo  
Superintendent of Schools

Happy New Year to all of our readers! It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the 2006-2007 school year.

Special thanks to the entire Holyoke Public Schools' staff, parent volunteers and PTOs for their contributions on several clothing, mitten and hat drives that took place throughout the district. Their spirit of giving made it a warmer holiday season for many of Holyoke's neediest children. I also want to thank the staff of the English Immersion Program, the Bilingual Parent Advisory Council and the Holyoke High School staff that collaborated in creating an excellent Three Kings Day celebration. More than 600 students and parents participated in the activity. Now in its third year, this celebration has grown in popularity. My thanks to Toys for Tots for their donations as well. Also, our thanks to Westover Air Force Base and the new owners of the Holiday Inn for their contributions which made this one of the best holiday seasons for the Holyoke Public Schools.

We have been notified by several state agencies that we are going to be visited and our programs will be reviewed during the week of February 12 as a part of a Coordinated Program Review conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Education. The review continues March 26 through 28 and finishes up June 4 through 8. This is a huge undertaking, but we are well prepared for this review and have some key

personnel spearheading our response to this examination. This review covers selected requirements in Special Education, Civil Rights of Administration and other general education requirements and English Learner Education. Some reviews cover requirements in vocational education. The size of the school district and number of programs to be reviewed determines the number of DOE staff members on the team, but it could be comprised of two to eight members. Programs and documents will be reviewed and interviews conducted with myself, administrators, teachers, other staff and some parents. Upon completion of the review, we will receive a written report of specific findings. We then have ten days to review for factual accuracy. After our response, a final report will be posted on the DOE Web site at [www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports](http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports). This report will not be available for several months after the team finishes in June.

The district has hired Dave Pare of Holyoke as the new Director of Student Services and Special Education. He brings a vast amount of experience and is well prepared for this position and has spent a number of years at every level of Special Education. He formerly oversaw a 400 pupil special education school in Spring-



Dr. Eduardo Carballo reads January's Book of the Month, *A Bad Case of the Stripes*, to the entire third grade at Sullivan School.

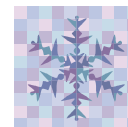
field. I also want to extend my congratulations to the two newly appointed Assistant Principals, Paula Fitzgerald at E. N. White and Hector Santos at Kelly School. I wish them well on their new assignments and we are lucky to have such committed educators as they accept more responsibility on

behalf of our children.

The 25 Book Campaign and Book of the Month are off to a good start. Standards-based instruction is becoming more embedded in our schools. Our new English Language Arts and Math coaches are busy helping teachers throughout the district. Our expansion of the TOP program to three elementary schools has provided services to over 150 students already this year. We are well on our way to seeing additional improvements to our district this year.

I hope you are enjoying our very own Channel 12 television station. I am proud of the diversity of the programs and the opportunity it gives us to train some high school students. We try to air programs of interest to all age levels for HPS students, but for the community at large. In December, the media center at Holyoke High School was dedicated to its former principal, Edward J. Shevlin.

Let's continue our work together to prepare our students for their future.



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**Mission Statement**

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

Edited by

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**Messages from Massachusetts:****Kelly students show their support to troops**

The seventh and eighth grade students in Gretchen Baush-Armstead's English class at Kelly School started a school-wide letter writing campaign called Messages from Massachusetts. The students are creating cards and letters to show their support to the men and women of the United States Armed Services who are currently serving overseas. The project has a personal importance for Armstead— her husband Christopher is serving in Afghanistan at least until June.

The students and their teacher had a surprise, unannounced visit in June from Christopher who walked into classroom 106. Christopher was her childhood sweetheart, and now she stood speechless...and then Christopher went down on one knee in front of a growing audience and proposed to Gretchen. After announcing, "Yes," those gathered broke out into cheers, hugs, and tears. Student Edgar Acevado said, "It was so romantic and beautiful. I cried."

In the letter writing campaign many students have volunteered to stay after school, forego recess and work on projects at home. In return for their efforts, the students have received letters, emails and gifts from several soldiers. The Fighting Four, a unit of soldiers currently stationed in Afghanistan, sent an American flag that was flown over their base in honor of those participating in the project.

To date, Kelly students have sent 10 care packages and hundreds of cards and letters to American service men and women. Currently, the students are working on Valentine cards and welcome home posters for those returning to Ft. Drum in the coming months. Messages from Massachusetts utilizes the Web site



Kendra Costa, teacher Gretchen Armstead, and Lourdes Ramirez share a laugh while working on letters for soldiers overseas.

[www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com) to locate the names and addresses of military members who wish to receive letters and care packages.



Pablo Gonzalez works on his letter in Armstead's class.

**Holyoke School Committee**

Mayor Michael Sullivan  
 Michael Moriarty  
 Mary Signet  
 Yvonne Garcia  
 Barry Conway  
 Mollie Plant  
 William A. Collamore  
 Margaret Boulais  
 Gladys Lebron-Martinez  
 Jonathan Allyn



## HPS staff commitment shines through

By  
Michael Sullivan  
Mayor of Holyoke

The process of learning is often interrupted by life circumstances. Those interruptions may take the form of housing challenges, family issues, employment difficulties or a combination of these or a myriad of other conditions. Often the schools are called upon to be the safety net. Counselors, teachers, para-professionals, and staff are all depended upon to be a string in that safety net. Each responds with incredible strength and sensitivity. I would like to thank the employees of the Holyoke Public Schools that provide mittens for cold hands, jackets to guard against the elements and sometimes a rock solid shoulder to cry on. Never forget the impact that your caring will have on a young person's life. The City of Holyoke, as I say so



Mayor Michael Sullivan at the recent Shevlin Media Center Dedication

often, is the most socially responsible community that you will find anywhere. Your efforts along with others make it so. The children that other communities turn their backs on, you embrace. I have been looking at the issue of migratory patterns of students, now being called mobile students. As you can see from your

experiences, "nomadic" would be a more accurate term. We all know of anecdotal stories of children in 20 or more foster care settings in one year, children that have attended 11 Massachusetts school systems in 8 academic years, and countless other stories that give you a hollow feeling in the pit of your stomach. Yet, you persevere. I would like to thank you for your commitment to those that have passed through your care and ask you to keep being that rock.

I will keep advocating and creating discourse that will present the great City of Holyoke in the true light that it should be cast. Remember, everyday you are making it better in so many ways for those with only a small voice. You do this because you are the best teachers, principals, janitors, and administrators. You are the best because you are good and responsible people and I thank you for that commitment.

### Upcoming Title I Parent Involvement School Events

**\*\*Please check Channel 12 for dates and times.**

#### February Activities

Kelly School - Math Night

Morgan, Lawrence and E.N. White Schools - Bingo for Books

Mater Dolorosa - Dr. Seuss Night

Donahue School—Poetry "SLAM"

#### March Activities

Morgan, Lawrence, McMahon, Kelly and Donahue Schools -

Dr. Seuss Night

E.N. White School -

Pirate's Cove Night

Morgan School - Bingo for Books

Sullivan School -

Reading Café

#### April Activities

Morgan and Kelly Schools - Dinosaur Night

Lawrence, Sullivan, and Morgan Schools - Bingo for Books

Donahue School -

Reading Café

McMahon School -

Family Game Night

## Sharing and giving makes for warm hands and hearts



Staff, and their family and friends, from all six floors of the Holyoke School Department at 57 Suffolk Street, held a hat, scarf and mitten drive in December. Through generous donations, 553 items were collected, well above the original goal of 350. The winter accessories, both hand-knit and bought, were placed on displays on each floor before giving each elementary school two boxes and one for the Metcalf Pre-School.

The Holyoke High School Cheerleaders joined with cheerleaders from Chicopee Comprehensive High School and Gold Medal All-Stars in Agawam to collect toys this past holiday season. The squad held a toy collection drive at the Thanksgiving Day football game. Other donations came from family and classmates. Holyoke Cheerleaders Sahira Vazquez, Idaliz Alicea, Caitlin Orzchowski, Sara Ferguson and Holyoke High School football captain Edwin Sustache distributed over 200 toys to the children at Shriners Hospital in Springfield. The girls performed cheers and sang Christmas Carols for patients.

The Dean Technical High School Air Force Jr.

ROTC conducted a toy drive to benefit the Children's Study Home. Over 75 toys were collected this year. Steve McCafferty, Study Home director says, "We at the Children's Home are blessed and thankful to have supporters in the community like the Jr. ROTC."

# School Briefs

## Dean Technical High School

Over the last three months, Dean Tech's Air Force Jr. ROTC has fulfilled a number of community service projects. In November, cadets organized a canned food drive to support Margaret's Pantry on Roberto Clemente Dr. The students collected over 12 cases of food and delivered it in time for Thanksgiving. In December, 22 JROTC students assisted the Holyoke Police Dept. and the Council on Aging bringing the seniors to Bright Nights. Following the tour, the senior citizens converged into Dean Tech's gymnasium for coffee, dessert, and laughter...Which included a visit by Bill Cosby! Police Chief Anthony Scott said, "The JROTC played a significant part in making the evening an enormous success." Since the beginning of the school year, the cadets at Dean have donated over 600 hours of service to the community. Ret. Major Bill Kieda says, "We're planning an on-going volunteer project with Holyoke Hospital. You will continue to see a greater visibility of the cadets as the year continues."

## Lawrence School

The H.B. Lawrence School celebrated Puerto Rico Discovery Day with a staff and student buffet luncheon with traditional foods. Magaly Rivera, a paraprofessional, organized the event which included art displays of Puerto Rican culture. Classes invited parents in for presentations of poetry and plays. The culinary arts students from Dean prepared tostones, fried plantains, for the student luncheon. Pictured above is Christian Rosado, who was one of many students to assist in hosting the staff luncheon.



Olga Cecilio (left) with the help of Metcalf Principal Betty Larivee fit preschoolers with free bicycle helmets.

## Metcalf Pre-School

As a part of the Second Step Safety Program for the pre-school students at the Metcalf School, Olga Cecilio from the Westfield Carson Center for Traumatic Brain Injury Services presented the school with bike helmets. She also performed training with the staff and students on the importance of using helmets when riding tricycles or bikes. Funding and donations for this program came from the Massachusetts Head Injury Program. The Carson Center accepts applications on an annual basis for this helmet program. They have obtained the newest styles and sizes in helmets so a variety of children can safely share the same helmet during the school day.

## High School Connections

The Community Service Workshop (CSW) of the CONNECTIONS Program at Holyoke High School provided students with an opportunity to connect to the community and enjoy the benefits of working to improve the lives of the people around them. After school program instructors Andrea Howarth, guidance counselor at Holyoke High School, and Kiely Rigali, a teacher at Dean Technical High School, met twice a week with an average of fifteen students. So far this year students have coordinated an afternoon of bingo and an ice cream and holiday ornament decorating party at the Holyoke Soldiers Home and they plan to make additional visits. CSW students also participated in two events as part of "Peace Week" in Holyoke. They organized a "Mix It Up Day" at both Holyoke High and Dean

Tech in which students sign up to eat lunch with a randomly assigned student rather than their usual companions. The event was very successful in encouraging students to cross social barriers and get to know students who they might otherwise not have been likely to meet. The CSW also joined forces with the Holyoke High Peer Mediation Club to create a banner signed by students celebrating peace. Upcoming events include participating in a team for the "Relay for Life" with the American Cancer Society, volunteering at the Holyoke Public Library, and speaking on a panel for after school program middle school students about the difficulties of transitioning from middle to high school.

## HALO Center

At the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Education, the Board approved an increase in funding to Community Adult Learning Centers, ABE for Incarcerated Adults and Primary Instruction with Volunteers programs. The source for the increase is state funding from both the Adult Basic Education Line Item and the Economic Stimulus Bill. The funding will be used to increase and expand services in order to reduce waiting lists.



The increased funding is great news for Holyoke Adult Learners! The HALO Center is offering a new ABE/Pre-GED level class (GLE 4 – 7) in the mornings at 57 Suffolk Street. Other partners in the Juntos Collaborative (of which the Holyoke Public Schools serves as lead agency) are also expanding services as a result of this increase. The HCC Adult Learning Center @ CareerPoint will offer GED classes in the evening, the CARE Center will offer ABE-level classes in the mornings for pregnant and parenting teens. The Community Education Project and Holyoke Works are adding ESOL classes. CEP is expanding ESOL services at the intermediate level, and Holyoke Works will offer a class for beginners in the evening.

The second graders at Morgan School had the opportunity to meet their pen pals from the Conway Grammar School during a shared trip to Smith College. The trip, paid for by the college, included visits to the botanical gardens, art museum and a campus tour. This is the third year the two schools have collaborated in the pen pal exchange. Ashley Lopez (above right) meets with her pen pal from Conway.



## Morgan School News

Twenty-five lucky art students from grades 3-6 from Morgan School were chosen to visit the Worcester Museum of Art to see work from Puerto Rican artists. Pictured below with one of the featured works of art are (L to R): Shakira Torres, Natisha Lopez, and Neyshamarie Rodriguez.



Brandon Butcher, WSHM 3 meteorologist visited Morgan's fifth grade science class. He showed slides of extreme weather, answered weather questions, videotaped the students and posted the video on the WSHM 3 website. With Butcher are (L to R): Kendralea Santiago, Domishka Anaya, Waleska Ortiz and Angely Miranda. The Springfield Symphony Orchestra recently came to the school's first grade with an instrument petting zoo where students could get a close look at a variety of musical instruments.



Mrs. Mulcahy's art students went to the Worcester Art Museum in December.

Twenty-five students from grades 5-8 attended the Puerto Rico exhibit and Masters of the Island exhibit. Paintings from 1780-1952 by Jose Campeche Y Jordan, Francisco Oller y Cestero, Manuel E. Jordan, Ramon Atilas y Perez as well as



Donahue student Ratani Mor connects with a piece of art in Worcester.

many others were featured. Museum docents explained the historical background of each piece. Students finished their trip by having lunch on the museum steps.

## Donahue School News

The music department, led by vocal music teacher Ray Crooks, conducted two separate performances of an Elvis Presley Tribute Concert. Students in all grades participated in the culmination of a school-wide unit of study on the music and history of Elvis Presley.



Dr. Passalacqua brought his music students in third and fourth grade to Mount St. Vincent's prior to Christmas vacation to perform a repertoire of holiday selection for residents.



Reycha Isaac, Ashlie Roche, and Mikeisha Osoria paint a mural for the 25 Book Campaign. Students will sign their name on the wall after they have read 10, 15, 20, and 25 books.

The athletic teams from Holyoke High School and Dean Technical High School are off to a fast start this winter season with basketball leading the way. The Holyoke High School Varsity Boys' Basketball team is playing impressively so far this season with a record of 8-1 and ranked #1 in the *Republican Newspaper's* Division I Fab 5. The boys' from Dean Technical are also lighting it up on the hardwood with a 5-3 record. They are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the Division III Fab 5. The Holyoke High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team is pressing and fast breaking their way to an impressive 6-3 record. The girls' team has won their last three games and they are

## Sports Update

ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the Western Massachusetts Division I Fab 5.

The Dean Technical Wrestling program has done extremely well with a record of 8-1 and they are ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the *Republican Newspaper's* Fab 5. The boys track team is putting up some record times on their way to a 2-1 record and a 5<sup>th</sup> place Fab 5 ranking. While the other teams have not cracked into the rankings, they are improving, playing hard, competing, and representing the City of

Holyoke with class. Rounding out the teams competing this winter for Dean Technical High School is Girls' Basketball and for Holyoke High School are Ice Hockey, Swimming, and Girls' Indoor Track. We hope you come out and support the athletes from Dean Technical and Holyoke High School as they compete for league titles and Western Massachusetts Championships! For any information on sports schedules or for ticket and game information you can log onto [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) or you can call the athletic office at (413) 493-1683.





### Music-Related Story Books

Abiyoyo - by Pete Seeger

Music Over Manhattan -  
By Mark Karlins

The Music Teacher from the  
Black Lagoon - by Mike Thaler

Willie Was Different -  
By Norman Rockwell

Zin! Zin! Zin! - by Lloyd Moss

## Band members being heard one state at a time

This year, Sullivan School band students have the opportunity to perform for not only Holyoke and other local audiences, but for musicians around the country. Sullivan School Band Director Steve Damon calls his venture "Interstate Ears."

Very simply put, Damon audiotapes students during their lessons and takes the tapes to music education conferences, concerts, audition sites, or wherever there may be a bunch of musicians. Other musicians listen to the students and provide constructive criticism on the same tape.

Damon says the musicians most commonly advise that, "Ninety five percent of instrument problems come from not blowing enough air." At the next lesson, following the music review,

students listen to their tapes and try to do what the commentator suggested.

Between October and December, comments were received from musicians from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Texas, Delaware, Tennessee, New York and Maryland. The children are thrilled to hear, "Hi Calvin. This is Dr. Jay Hildebrand. I am the Jazz Band Director at the University of Delaware. You are doing ...". Damon admits that he is usually more excited than the students.

In March, Damon is scheduled to present two workshops at a music education conference



Isaiah Alvarado, James Curtin and Calvin Frye are recorded while playing the trumpet as a part of "Interstate Ears."

that attracts music educators from around the country and Europe. Damon's lofty goal is to get feedback for his students from musicians in all 50 states. Hoping to get a European ear, the venture could turn international!

Jessica Dennis, Title I Liaison at E.N. White School started a donation campaign to help the families of the December 7 fire that devastated a 27-unit apartment building on the corner of Dwight and Pine Streets. Of the 81 people left homeless, 13 children from seven families attend E.N. White.



With the donations, families received necessities like toothbrushes, soap, blankets, dishes, and clothing. Students at White participated by having a raffle and selling popsicles at lunch. Special thanks to:

- Kmart
- Lincoln St. Stop & Shop
- DOTS
- Toys for Tots
- E.N. White PTO

## E.N. White showcases talented musicians and dancers

On Friday, December 15, musicians at E. N. White School presented a gala holiday concert entitled "Thank Our Lucky Stars". The concert, which was performed three times during that day, featured over 200 students who are performers for the Tiger "Cubbie" Chorale, Tiger "Twinkler" Strings, Tiger Chorus, and Tiger String Ensemble. In addition to performing in these groups, of which many of the students both sing and play an instrument, several students were featured using their exceptional talents to exhibit Celtic step dancing during one of the songs. The step dancers were Madysen Lawrence, Andrea Makowski, and Amelia Vega. The program finished with third grade student Emma Price singing *White Christmas*.

Several staff members arranged a raffle fundraiser to help raise money for the December 7 fire victims here in Holyoke. The concert was a great vehicle to get the word out about how folks could make donations for this very important cause (see sidebar).

The reason for three performances in one day is that there isn't enough space to accommodate the numbers involved. Concerts at E. N. White have become so popular over the last few years, that even the audience has had to be invited at assigned times so that everyone could see and hear the programs. In any event, all of the E. N. White School staff is to be congratulated for helping to make the event work smoothly. Robert Dickson, Choral Director came on

board last year and has lived up the experience for our students with his choral vocal and keyboard talents, as well as his professional production skills from when he was a television producer at NBC. Andrew Verrocchi, who has taught choral and band groups in Holyoke for a number of years, launched E. N. White School's new string program and has focused on its growth which presently includes about 60 violinists, many of whom participate in an early morning program forty-five minutes before their school day begins. Closing out the holiday season on December 20, 24 violin students representing E. N. White School played at Holyoke High School's *Instrumental Music Department Holiday Concert*.

# Talking Points

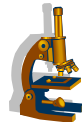


Sullivan School custodian Malcolm Fowler On December 4, 2006, over 100 people attended a memorial service at Blessed Sacrament to remember **Malcolm Fowler**, beloved custodian at Sullivan School who died in November. Retired Sullivan Principal Bill Benedict, and teachers Tom Fisher and Kris Kirton provided eulogies and readings at the service. Music teachers Steve Damon and Jose Gonzalez, along with his son Ahmed, played beautiful instrumentals. Malcolm was more than a custodian, he volunteered his own time soliciting donations to improve the school grounds from rose

bushes to perennial plants.

Editor's Note: Malcolm was always giving to the students of the school as well. He was a guest reader in my classroom reading *The Custodian from the Black Lagoon*. He also had a large collection of gems and stones which he shared with the class during my unit of Rocks and Minerals.

Congratulations to **28 Peck students** who had perfect attendance for the first quarter. The students were rewarded with seeing the movie *Love Mike 2* at the Tower Theatres in South Hadley. GEARING UP provided transportation and snacks.



Kudos to another **27 Peck Students** who recently participated in the 21st annual "Day in the Lab" in the Cole Science Center at Hampshire College. The students were allowed to select hands-on science and math activities from dissecting sheep hearts and lungs, forensic anthropology, microbiology, genetics, astronomy, chemistry and/or mathematics. The event was sponsored by Hampshire College and the U.S. Department of Energy.

**Belky Rodriguez-Otero, Wilmer Rivera, Lizandreonette Nadal-Pacheco and Zachary Pratt** were recently featured in *The Republican* newspaper for their exceptional efforts in a Romeo and Juliet Writer's Project led by Holyoke High School English teacher Erin Smith.

**Josvette Colon** was the award winner from Dean Tech for the *Prudential Spirit of Community Award* in December. She has been a volunteer at El Arco Iris for seven years and is currently a peer leader. Her volunteering includes tutoring, karate and dance instructor. Runners-up for the award were **Cristina Ramos and Melyssa Delgado**.



Retired Holyoke High School Principal Edward J. Shevlin with his wife Shirley at the recent Media Center Dedication.

In December, family, friends and former colleagues of retired Holyoke High School Principal Edward J. Shevlin gathered at Holyoke High School for a ceremony to dedicate the district's television studio and media center in his name. This honor was bestowed on Shevlin in recognition of his 35 years of dedicated service at HHS as a science teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal and principal. HPS Channel 12 broadcasts information about the school district along with original programming for Comcast cable subscribers.



Celebrating Laura Dupont's retirement are co-workers Michael Hines, Dupont, Judy Taylor and Elaine Lathrop.

*The Log Cabin* was where friends and family celebrated Laura Dupont's retirement from the Holyoke Public School system. Most recently, she was the District Communications/Media Administrator who started the Channel 12 studio, managed programming and created the district's three time Apex Award Winning *Connections Newsletter*. Her career at HPS included 22 years as a teacher, then a guidance counselor and librarian. The evening held many surprises including an iMovie showing clips of Laura throughout her teaching career.

## Lynch students create community wall from November Book of Month

Students and staff at Lynch Middle School celebrated the November Book of the Month theme of community in ways far beyond just reading the book *Talking Walls*, by Margie Burns Knight.

Mediation counselor Cathie Guiheen arranged for a variety of guest readers from the community to share the book with Lynch students. "I chose the guest readers because they represent the diversity of the greater Holyoke community", Guiheen said. Readers included Officers Mel Romero and Jane Deshais from the Holyoke Police Department, Joan Holloway, the Lynch and Lawrence literacy coach; Mayor Michael Sullivan, and broadcaster Dave Madsen from Channel 40 news. Other readers from the school community were Guiheen,

Michael Brick; math robotics instructor, Jan Kalicka and Kate Martel; guidance counselors, Ellen Sullivan; vice-principal, and Paul Hyry, principal.

*Talking Walls* is a nonfiction picture book that focuses on how different cultures around the world use walls in their communities. Each reader focused on pages in the book that meant a lot to them, or were emblems of historic moments in history. Some of the favorites were the Berlin Wall, the Great Wall of China and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D. C. Jan Kalicka shared photographs of her visits to some of the walls, and the mayor led a lively discussion on some of the colorful and meaningful walls in and around Holyoke.

After reading the book, students and guest readers each received a paper "brick" from librarian Nancy Stenberg. The bricks were decorated to reflect personalities, hobbies, interests, family members, jobs, favorite quotes, friends, pets, etc. The finished projects were laminated together to form panels for a community wall that now graces the main entrance of the school. It is great to see visitors, parents, students and staff members linger a bit in the hallway and appreciate the bricks.



A portion of the community wall at Lynch Middle School where parents, visitors, students and staff can see students' personal interests.



## Appeals board makes appeal for new members

### The Purpose

Under the School Attendance Zone Plan for Student Assignment, there is a special request process for parents who wish to transfer their children to a Non-Attendance Zone School. An Appeals Board has been established to address special cases of extreme and/or extraordinary circumstances that may warrant a particular student attending a school outside their Attendance Zone.

### Who Are We?

The Appeals Board is composed of a panel of parents representing each of the elementary and middle schools in the District. The panel functions under the facilitation of an appointed HPS administrator: Debbie Menard, Director of the Student Assignment Office.

Ideally, there are two parent representatives from each of the nine schools: a regular

member and an alternate member. Whenever the regular member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, the alternate is called upon to attend. Attendance at all meetings by both parent representatives is encouraged. However, each school carries just one vote. Membership on the Appeals Board is staggered one to two years, to ensure that there will always be veteran members as well as new members on the Board.

### The Appeals Process

Written appeals may be submitted by parents/guardians throughout the school year and summer for review by the Appeals Board. There is a set schedule of Appeals meetings coinciding with the end of each report card term. Parents need to be aware of the cut-off dates for submitting an appeal. The cut-off and meeting dates are posted at the Student Assignment Office and in every

school. Parents with internet access can find these dates on the HPS website. The Appeals Board is responsible for making the final decision to approve or deny an appeal.

### Becoming a Member of the Appeals Board

In June 2007, there will be openings on the Appeals Board. School principals will be appointing new parent representatives. It is our hope that some interested and concerned parents will step up and volunteer to serve.

If you are a parent of a student currently attending any of our Holyoke Public Schools (Elementary or Middle School), and are interested in volunteering your time to represent your child's school on the Appeals Board, please contact your child's teacher, school principal or Debbie Menard at 534-2055.

### Upcoming

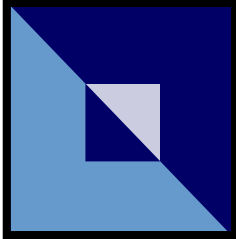
#### Appeals Board Meeting Dates

All Meetings held in the Conference Room at Holyoke High School

6-8 PM

- April 10, 2007
- June 13, 2007
- Aug. 15, 2007
- Sept. 6, 2007





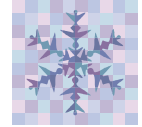
# Estos son los puntos mas sobresalientes del Boletín

Holyoke Public Schools

Volume 5, Issue 2

Invierno 2007

## Con el año Nuevo trae visitas del Departamento de Educación



Por  
Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo  
Superintendente de Escuelas

Feliz Año a todos nuestros lectores. Es difícil creer que estamos a mitad del año escolar 2006-2007.

Gracias a todo el personal de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke, a los padres, voluntarios y al personal del PTO'S – (Organización de Maestros y Padres) por sus contribuciones de ropa, guantes y gorros que se llevaron a cabo en todo el distrito. Su espíritu de dar hizo que la temporada de vacaciones fuera mas caliente para muchos de los niños más necesitados de Holyoke. También quiero agradecer al personal del Programa de Inmersión inglés, el Consejo Consultivo Bilingüe de Padres y al personal de la Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke – Holyoke High School, que cooperó en tener una celebración de Día de Reyes excelente. Más de seiscientos estudiantes y padres participaron en la actividad. Ahora en su tercer año, esta celebración ha crecido en popularidad. Mis gracias también a Toys for Tots por sus donaciones. También, nuestro agradecimiento a la Base de la Fuerza Aérea de Westover y a los nuevos dueños de Holiday Inn por sus contribuciones que hicieron ésta una de las mejores temporadas de vacaciones para las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke.

Hemos sido notificados por varias agencias Estatales que vamos a ser visitados y nuestros programas examinados. Del 12 al 16 de febrero comenzamos una Revisión de Programa Coordinada conducida por el Departamento de Educación de Massachusetts. Esto continua del 26 al 28 de marzo y termina del 4 al 8 de junio. Esta es una tarea enorme, pero estamos muy preparados para esta revisión y tenemos a algún personal clave que encabeza nuestra respuesta a este examen.

Sólo para su información, esta revisión cubre exigencias seleccionadas en la Educación Especial, los Derechos Civiles de la Administración y otras exigencias de educación ge-

nerales y Educación de Aprendizaje Inglés. Algunas revisiones cubren exigencias en la educación Profesional. El tamaño del distrito escolar y el número de programas para ser examinados determina el número de empleados del Departamento de Educación, miembros del equipo, pero podría ser de dos a ocho miembros. Los programas y los documentos serán examinados y las entrevistas se llevarán a cabo con mi persona, administradores, maestros, otro personal y algunos padres. Cuando todo esto esté completado, recibiremos un informe escrito de conclusiones específicas. Entonces tenemos diez días para examinar la exactitud actual. Después de nuestra respuesta, se fijará un informe final en el sitio Web del Departamento de Educación en [www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports](http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports). Este informe no estará disponible por varios meses después de que el equipo termine en junio.

El distrito ha cogido a un nuevo Director de Servicios al Estudiante y Educación Especial. David Pare es de Holyoke y tenemos el gusto de trabajar con él. Él tiene una cantidad enorme de experiencia y está muy bien preparado para esta posición y ha estado varios años en cada nivel de Educación Especial. Él antes supervisó una escuela de Educación Especial de cuatrocientos alumnos en Springfield. También quiero extender mis felicitaciones a los dos Asistentes Principales recientemente designados, Paula Fitzgerald en la Escuela E. N. White y Hector Santos en la Escuela Kelly. Les deseo lo mejor en sus nuevas asignaciones y tenemos suerte de tener a tales educadores comprometidos ya que ellos aceptan más responsabilidad de parte de nuestros niños.

La Campaña de Libro 25 y el Libro del Mes



Dr. Eduardo Carballo le el libro del mes de enero a los estudiantes de tercer grado en la Escuela Sullivan.

están en un buen principio. La instrucción es mas encajada en nuestras escuelas. Nuestros nuevos entrenadores en Artes de Lenguaje Inglés y Matemáticas están ocupados ayudando a los maestros en todas partes del distrito. Nuestra expansión del programa TOP a tres escuelas primarias ha proporcionado servicios a más de cien-

to cincuenta estudiantes ya este año. Estamos en buen camino en ver mejoras adicionales a nuestro distrito este año.

Espero que ustedes estén disfrutando de nuestra propia estación de televisión en el Canal 12. Estoy orgulloso de la diversidad de los programas y la oportunidad que esto nos da para entrenar a algunos estudiantes de escuela secundaria. Tratamos de poner al aire programas de interés a todos los niveles de edad, y no sólo para estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke, pero para toda la comunidad.

Vamos a seguir trabajando juntos para preparar a nuestros estudiantes para su futuro.



## La Escuela Lynch crea pared de comunidad

Los estudiantes y el personal de la Escuela Secundaria Lynch celebró el Tema - Libro del Mes de Noviembre de la comunidad de modo más allá de leer el libro *Talking Walls*, por Margie Burns Knight.

La consejera de mediación Cathie Guiheen organizó una variedad de lectores invitados de la comunidad en compartir el libro con los estudiantes de la Escuela Lynch. "Elegí a los lectores invitados porque ellos representan la diversidad de la comunidad de Holyoke", dijo Guiheen. Los lectores incluidos fueron los Oficiales Mel Romero y Jane Deshais del Departamento de Policía de Holyoke, Joan Holloway, entrenadora de alfabetismo de la Escuela Lynch y Lawrence, el Alcalde Michael Sullivan, y locutor Dave Madsen, noticiero del Canal 40. Otros lectores de la comunidad escolar fueron Cathie Guiheen, Michael Brick; instructor de robótica de matemáticas, Jan Kalicka y Kate Martel; consejeros, Ellen Sullivan; vice principal, y Paul Hyry, principal.

*Talking Walls* es un libro ilustrado de no ficción que se concentra en como las culturas diferentes alrededor del mundo usan paredes en sus comunidades. Cada lector se concentró en páginas en el libro que significó mucho para ellos, o fueron emblemas de

momentos históricos en la historia. Algunos de los favoritos eran el Muro de Berlín, la Gran Muralla China y la Pared de Monumento conmemorativo de Veteranos de Vietnam en Washington D. C. Jan Kalicka compartió fotografías de sus visitas de algunas paredes, y el alcalde condujo una discusión animada de algunas paredes vistosas y significativas en y alrededor de Holyoke.

Después de leer el libro, los estudiantes y lectores invitados recibieron "un ladrillo" de papel de la bibliotecaria Nancy Stenberg. Los ladrillos fueron decorados para reflejar per-



La pared de la comunidad en la Escuela Lynch

sonalidades, aficiones, intereses, miembros de familia, trabajo, citas favoritas, amigos, animales domésticos, etc. Los proyectos terminados fueron laminados juntos para formar paneles para una pared de la comunidad que ahora adorna la entrada principal de la escuela. Es maravilloso ver a los invitados, padres, estudiantes y empleados caminar por los corredores y ver que aprecian los ladrillos.

## HHS y la Escuela Dean

### Noticias de deportes de invierno de la Escuela Superior de Holyoke

Los equipos atléticos de Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke - HHS y la Escuela Secundaria Dean Técnica empiezan esta estación de invierno con el balon-



cesto. El equipo de Baloncesto de los Chicos de la Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke juega al baloncesto de equipo impresionante hasta ahora en esta temporada con un récord de 8-1 y fue #1 en la División del Periódico Republicano I Fab 5. Los Chicos de la Escuela Dean Técnica también tienen un récord de 5-3. Ellos están clasificados en la quinta División III Fab 5. El Equipo de Baloncesto de las Chicas de la Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke - HHS tienen un récord impre-

sionante de 6-3. El equipo de las chicas ha ganado sus tres últimos juegos seguidos y ellas están clasificadas entre la quinta División de Massachusetts I Fab 5. El baloncesto no es el único deporte obteniendo los títulos u Honores Fab 5.

El programa de Lucha libre de la Escuela Dean Técnica está sumamente bien con un récord de 8-1 y ellos están clasificados entre los Terceros en el Periódico Republicano Fab 5. El equipo de pista (track) de los chicos tiene un récord de 2-1 y están clasificados entre el 5to. lugar o Fab 5. Mientras los otros equipos no se han rajado en las clasificaciones, ellos mejoran, jugando con fuerza, competición, y representación de la Ciudad de Holyoke con clase. Redondeando los equipos que compiten este invierno para la Escuela Secundaria Dean Técnica es el

Baloncesto de las Chicas y para la Escuela Secundaria de Holyoke - HHS es Hockey sobre Hielo, Natación, y Pista Interior de las Chicas. ¡Esperamos que salga y apoye a los atletas de la Escuela Secundaria Dean Técnica y la Escuela Superior de Holyoke cuando ellos compiten por títulos de liga y Campeonatos de Massachusetts! Para cualquier información en horarios de deportes o para boleto e información puede informarse en [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) o usted puede llamar la oficina atlética al (413)-493-1683.



## El compromiso de personal de las Escuelas Publicas de Holyoke brilla

Por  
Michael Sullivan  
Alcalde de Holyoke

El proceso de aprendizaje es a menudo interrumpido por circunstancias de la vida. Aquellas interrupciones pueden tomar la forma de alojar retos, problemas de familia, dificultades de empleo o una combinación de éstos o una miríada de otras condiciones. Es a menudo que las escuelas son visitadas para ser la red de protección. Los consejeros, maestros, para profesionales y el personal están todos sobre una cuerda de protección. Cada uno responde con fuerza increíble y sensibilidad. Me gustaría agradecer a los empleados de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke que proporcionan guantes para manos frías, chaquetas para protegerse contra los elementos y a veces un hombro para llorar.



Alcalde Michael Sullivan

Nunca olvide el impacto que su preocupación tendrá en la vida de personas jóvenes.

La Ciudad de Holyoke, cuando digo tan a menudo, es la comunidad más socialmente responsable que usted encontrará en cualquier parte. Sus esfuerzos junto con otros lo hacen así. Los niños a los cuales otras comunidades le dan la espalda, usted abraza. He estado mirando los problemas de patrones migratorios de estudiantes, ahora llamado estudiantes móviles. Como usted puede ver de sus experiencias, "nómadas" sería un térmi-

no más exacto. Sabemos de historias anecdóticas de niños en 20 o más de cuidados adoptivos en un año, niños que han asistido a 11 sistemas de escuela de Massachusetts en 8 años académicos, y otras historias innumerables que dan un sentimiento en el estómago. Aún usted persevera. Me gustaría agradecerle por su compromiso a aquellos que han pasado por su cuidado y le piden seguir siendo aquel hombre.

Seguiré abogando y creando discurso que presentará la gran Ciudad de Holyoke en la luz verdadera que debería ser. Recuerde, diariamente usted lo hace mejor de varios modos para aquellos con sólo una pequeña voz. Usted hace esto porque ustedes son los mejores maestros, principales, porteros, y administradores. Usted es el mejor porque usted es gente buena y responsable.

## La Junta de Apelaciones hace peticiones a nuevos miembros

### Objetivo

Bajo el Plan de la Zona de Asistencia Escolar para la Asignación de Estudiantes, hay un proceso de petición especial para padres que desean transferir a sus niños a una Escuela que no sea su Zona Escolar.

Se ha establecido una Junta de Apelaciones para dirigir casos especiales de circunstancias extremas y/o extraordinarias que pueden garantizar a un estudiante particular que asiste a una escuela fuera de su Zona de Asistencia.

### ¿Quién forma?

La Junta de Apelaciones es formada de un panel de padres que representan cada una de las escuelas secundarias y elementales en el Distrito. El panel funciona bajo la facilitación de un administrador de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke designado: Debbie Menard, Directora de la Oficina de Asignación de Estudiantes.

Idealmente, hay dos representantes de padres de cada una de las nueve escuelas: un miembro regular y un miembro suplente. Cuando el miembro regular no puede asistir a una reunión programada, se llama al suplente para que pueda asistir. Se anima la asistencia en toda la reunión por ambos representantes paternos. Sin embargo, cada escuela lleva sólo un voto. El ingreso a la Junta de Apelaciones es alternada

uno a dos años, para asegurar que siempre habrá miembros veteranos así como miembros nuevos en la Junta.

### El Proceso de Apelación

Las apelaciones escritas pueden ser sometidas por padres/encargados a lo largo del año escolar y el verano para ser revisado por la Junta de Apelaciones. Hay una lista de reuniones de Apelaciones que coinciden con el final de cada término de la libreta de calificaciones. Los padres necesitan estar conscientes de las fechas límites para presentar una apelación. El límite y las fechas que se encuentran en la Oficina de Asignación de Estudiantes y en cada escuela. Los padres con el acceso de Internet pueden encontrar estas fechas en el sitio Web de las Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke. La Junta de Apelaciones es responsable de tomar la decisión final de aprobar o negar una petición.

### Hacerse Miembro

En junio de 2007, habrá aperturas en la Junta de Apelaciones. Los principales de las escuelas designarán nuevos representantes paternos. Es nuestro deseo que algunos padres interesados y preocupados se ofrezcan para ayudar. Si usted es un padre de un estudiante que ac-

tualmente asiste a cualquiera de nuestras Escuelas Públicas de Holyoke (Escuela Secundaria o Elemental), y usted está interesado en ofrecer un poco de su tiempo para representar la escuela de su niño en la Junta de Apelaciones, le invitamos a ponerse en contacto con el maestro o maestra de su hijo/a, o con el principal escolar. Usted también puede llamar a Debbie Menard en la Oficina de Asignación de Estudiantes: Calle Suffolk #57 al 534-2055. ¡Necesitamos tener noticias de padres ahora!

### El Panel de Apelaciones Fechas de la Reuniones



**\*Todas las reuniones se llevarán a cabo en el salón de la HHS 6-8 PM\***

- Abril 10, 2007
- Junio 13, 2007
- Agosto 15, 2007
- Septiembre 6, 2007

## Los estudiantes de la escuela Kelly escriben a los soldados en Iraq

Los estudiantes de séptimo y octavo grado en la clase de inglés de Gretchen Baush-Armstead en la Escuela Kelly, comenzaron una campaña de correspondencia en toda la escuela llamada Mensajes de Massachusetts. Los estudiantes están creando cartas y tarjetas para mostrar su apoyo a los hombres y las mujeres de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos que actualmente están sirviendo en el extranjero.

El proyecto tiene una importancia personal para Armstead - su esposo Christopher está sirviendo en Afganistán al menos hasta junio.

Tanto ella como sus estudiantes tuvieron una gran sorpresa en junio, una visita no anunciada de Christopher que entró al salón de clase 106. Christopher era su amor desde la infancia y ella no sabía ni que decir... entonces Christopher se arrodilló en una rodilla delante de una audiencia muy grande y le propuso a Gretchen. Después de decir, "Sí", aquellos alrededor estallaron en aclamaciones, abrazos y llantos. El estudiante Edgar Acevedo dijo, "fue tan romántico y hermoso."

En la campaña de correspondencia varios estudiantes se han ofrecido para quedarse después de las horas escolares, dejar el re-

creo y aun han trabajado en proyectos en



Kendra Costa, teacher Gretchen Armstead and Lourdes Ramirez comparten una risa mientras escriben.

sus casas. A cambio de sus esfuerzos, los estudiantes han recibido cartas, correos electrónicos y regalos de varios soldados. La unidad de soldados que actualmente se encuentran en Afganistán enviaron una bandera americana que está ubicada sobre su base en honor a aquellos participando en el proyecto.

Hasta el presente, los estudiantes de la Escuela Kelly han enviado 10 paquetes y cientos de tarjetas y cartas a hombres y mujeres

en el servicio americano. Actualmente, los estudiantes están trabajando en tarjetas de Valentine y carteles de bienvenidos al hogar para aquellos que regresan en los próximos meses.

Los mensajes de Massachusetts utilizan el Sitio Web [www.ansoldier.com](http://www.ansoldier.com) para localizar los nombres y direcciones de miembros militares que desean recibir cartas.

### HALO Noticias

El Centro de Aprendizaje para Adultos de Holyoke (HALO Center) ofrece clases de nivel de Educación/Pre-GED básicas para adultos por las mañanas en la calle Suffolk #57. La Colaboración Juntos está ampliando los servicios a consecuencia de un aumento en la financiación de la Junta de Educación. El Centro de Aprendizaje Para Adultos de HCC en Career Point ofrecerá clases para el certificado de equivalencia de escuela secundaria (GED) en las tardes, El Centro CARE ofrecerá clases de Alfabetización ABE (Educación Básica para Adultos en las horas de la mañana para adolescentes que están embarazadas.



## Connections

Holyoke Public Schools

Media Center

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