



Superintendent's Corner

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Interim Superintendent

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What a beautiful day to end our week and enter the school vacation period. It seems we have turned the corner from winter and are moving full force into spring!

Grant Opportunities

There are two grant opportunities I have been exploring this week.

The first grant is being awarded through the Department of Justice. It is a grant entitled Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. If received, it will help the schools explore best practices in working collaboratively with local law enforcement and community service agencies to proactively support students and minimize student involvement with the legal system. We are reviewing this grant in collaboration with Pettengill House, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center and the Amesbury Police Department. We have been having many conversations with these various agencies regarding how to provide a therapeutic system of care for families in Amesbury. This grant will help further this work and will help extend supports beyond the schools. I continue to appreciate the support and involvement of all of our community service agencies in our school system.

The second grant is being awarded through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It is a two year mentoring matching grant with a goal of increasing the number of high-quality mentoring programs as a strategy to assist in closing the persistent achievement gap among Massachusetts youth. I believe this program could be an excellent complement to our Early College High School program, by connecting students in the program with mentors from NECC. I am currently discussing this potential with representatives from NECC.

In our schools...

Sunday afternoon, my wife and I had the opportunity to watch *Shrek, the Musical*, presented by the high school drama club. This musical was entertaining and was such a professional theatrical presentation. My wife and I were completely impressed with the quality of acting and singing, as well as the detailed sets and costumes. On Thursday, the cast shared their talents with students from Cashman and AES. If you have not seen this performance yet, it really is a 'must-see' for all ages! This weekend, the two final performances will be on Friday and Saturday nights at 7:00 pm. I highly encourage families to check it out!



While on the topic of performances, the Cashman chorus had a concert on Thursday evening and then had an encore performance on Friday morning for the students in the school. I want to congratulate the students for an incredible performance and thank Mrs. Kimball for helping to prepare the students. She is certainly getting them prepared to participate in performing arts programs at the middle and high school.

Today, a group of educators from Texas spent the day at Amesbury Middle School. The visitors had heard about our participation in TLA (Teaching Learning Alliance) during a workshop presented by Principal Mike Curry. They were so impressed with what they had heard from Mr. Curry that a dozen of educators flew up to Massachusetts to see the program in action. TLA is a balanced literacy approach that gets our students to think critically, communicate both in writing and orally, and investigate concepts across the content areas. We are fortunate to be able to work closely with TLA and have classrooms that have been designated as model classrooms for the program.

Be well, have a great weekend and enjoy the time off next week with your families!

Gary