



## Superintendent's Corner

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Superintendent

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### Excellence in Education Awards

On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to attend the Excellence in Education award ceremony sponsored by the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. Each year, the bank recognizes juniors from across the area for their accomplishments, both in the classroom and beyond. This year's recipients were Thomasina Glenn, Lily Peirce, Isabella Sollazzo, and William Sydlowski. During the ceremony, the students listened to a powerful speech by Dylan Rizzo. Dylan, currently in his early 20's, was involved in a tragic car accident at the age of 19. After spending weeks in a coma, Dylan was left unable to speak, walk and read. He worked hard and never gave up and has regained those skills. He continues to learn and grow. His remarks were truly inspirational. To learn more about Dylan Rizzo and his story, please visit: <http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/06/dylan-rizzo-coma.html>



Congratulations to our award recipients.

### Amesbury Sports



I have a goal this year to attend at least one game for each sports team. Earlier this week, I was able to catch some of the varsity girls' soccer match against Rockport and the freshman boys' football game against versus North Reading. I was impressed by the students' effort and the ways in which both teams worked as a cohesive unit. The girls won their match 3-1, while the freshman boys gave it their best, but were unable to pull out a win. This afternoon, I got a chance to watch the junior varsity girls' soccer match against North Reading. The girls put forth a valiant effort, but came up just a little short with a final score of 0-1. Tonight, I will be attending the varsity football game against Lynnfield. I encourage all families to come out and cheer on our athletes!

### Ice Cream Social



Also tonight, I will be helping to scoop ice cream at the elementary PTO Ice Cream Social, being held at Cashman School from 6-8 pm. This is a fun event and a great way for families to learn more about the PTO and about getting involved in your child's school. Please join us and be sure to say hi!

### **District-Wide Curriculum Work**

Our teachers have been engaged in a curriculum development project where we are re-examining our curriculum to ensure rigor and high expectations, while at the same time embedding social emotional learning across the content areas. This week, English and math teachers each spent a day discussing curriculum. This is a major undertaking for the district, as it has been a number of years since the curriculum has been examined district-wide and where teachers from grades pre-kindergarten through grade twelve are meeting together to discuss expectations for our students across the continuum. It is a great exercise for setting learning standards when one identifies our expectations for our students as they graduate, and then back up that skill all the way to identifying what it looks like in a kindergarten classroom. This work will ensure that there is consistency in curriculum and expectations both within a grade-level (across schools at the elementary level) and across grade-levels.

The focus of the work this week was to identify transfer goals in each content area. To learn more about transfer goals and their importance in the curriculum development process, check out

<http://jaymctighe.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Long-term-Transfer-Goals.pdf>

Be well and have a great weekend! If you are looking for something to do on Saturday, check out the American Music and Harvest Festival from 10-7 at Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury. When purchasing tickets, be sure to mention AEFI (Amesbury Education Foundation Inc) and a portion of those sales will go to support AEFI and all it does for the Amesbury Public Schools.

Gary