

Boxborough School District

Blanchard News...

So that YOU may better know YOUR school district.

March 2, 2010

Dr. Curtis A. Bates, Superintendent/Curriculum Director

DID YOU KNOW THAT...Grade six parents/guardians are cordially invited to attend the following transition activities and programs designed to support families as their child transitions to grade seven:

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

R.J. Grey Junior High Library

Meet formally with Mary Emmons, Special Education Coordinator

Meet formally with Andrew Shen and Allison Warren Junior High Assistant Principals

Hear about Junior High Special Education Programs

Discuss Junior High Teaming and Special Education

Discuss Transition Issues

Questions and Answers

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 – 7:00 PM

6th Grade Parent's Night

High School Auditorium

All 6th grade parents/guardians meet with Junior High Administrators

All 6th grade parents/guardians meet with Junior High Department Leaders

Hear all about the Junior High School

Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30, 2010

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Junior High Library

All 6th grade parents/guardians meet informally with Junior High Administrators

6th grade parents/guardians meet informally with Special Education Staff

Visit regular education classrooms

Visit special education programs

Discuss Junior High Teaming

Discuss Transition Issues

Discuss Pupil Services Supports

CENSUS BUREAU...a memo from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Commissioner Chester Mitchell identifying March 1-5 as Census in the Schools week. Census questionnaires for 2010 will be sent to every household in the country in early March. This national effort directly impacts federal grant amounts for Massachusetts schools, as well as our congressional representation. The primary goal of the Census in the Schools initiative is to help students learn about the importance of the Census, so they can encourage their families to

complete and return the 2010 Census questionnaire. Resource materials have been made available to all Massachusetts teachers with the hope that teachers use the materials in educating students about the Census and its importance to Massachusetts residents.

RACE TO THE TOP (RTTT)...We have received notification that we are one of 257 districts to participate in Massachusetts' Race to the Top Initiatives. Statewide 257 districts and charter schools---more than two-thirds of the state--- ultimately committed to implementing the initiatives outlined in the state's application. Of that total, 147 were cities and towns, 58 were charter schools, 31 were regional school districts, and 20 were vocational-technical schools. In all, these local educational agencies represent 72% of K-12 students across the Commonwealth.

Each of these communities have committed to participating in efforts to:

- Develop and retain an effective, academically capable, diverse, and culturally competent educator workforce.
- Develop curricular and instructional resources that support educator effectiveness with all students.
- Concentrate great instruction and supports for educators, students, and families in our lowest performing schools.
- Increase our focus on college and career readiness for all students.

The U.S. Department of Education plans to invite finalists to Washington D.C. for in-person interviews in mid-March, and to announce the winning states in early April. Massachusetts is confident in the strength of our application and hopeful that the Commonwealth's schools will be selected. If Massachusetts is not successful in the first application round, we will reapply for the second round in June. Regardless of whether the state is funded, the DESE expect that the Race to the Top objectives will frame the education reform work going forward.

ASSESSING MATH CONCEPTS...the final professional development class for the Kathy Richardson's Assessing Math Concepts training will be held on March 5, 2010. We have collaborated with teachers from Acton in this training. Ms. Karen Tripoli, Elementary Mathematics Coordinator for the Lexington Public Schools, has facilitated the training.

EMERSON HOSPITAL YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY...will be taken by our sixth graders on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. Any parent/guardian who does not want their child to participate in the survey must notify Ms. Driscoll or Dr. Bates before March 10, 2010.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS:

March 4	Early Release	Curriculum review (reading, math and science)
March 18	Early Release	Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 19	Early Release	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 1	Early Release	Teacher Team Time
May 6	Early Release	Technology workshop EmPOWER writing workshop
June 3	Early Release	Teacher Team Time

2010 MCAS SCHEDULE...

March 23	Grade Four	Long Composition
March 25	Grade Six	ELA
March 26	Grade Six	ELA
March 29	Grade Four	ELA
March 31	Grade Four	ELA
April 5	Grade Three	ELA/Reading
April 6	Grade Three	ELA/Reading
April 7	Grade Four	Long Composition Make-up
	Grade Five	ELA
May 11	Grade Four	Math
May 12	Grade Four	Math
May 13	Grade Three	Math
May 14	Grade Three	Math
May 17	Grade Six	Math
May 18	Grade Six	Math
May 19	Grade Five	Math
May 20	Grade Five	Math
May 24	Grade Five	Science/Technology/Engineering
May 25	Grade Five	Science/Technology/Engineering

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

PASSING BUSES...this is a reminder that it is illegal to pass a school bus when the bus has its stop sign out and the red lights are flashing. This includes when buses are parked in our parking area while students are arriving at school and departing at the close of school. The safety of every child is a main priority. Please use the parking area at the Fire Station at dismissal time as you are not allowed to pass the buses in the main parking lot while the students are entering the buses. Thank you for your cooperation.

PARKING...parking is very limited at Blanchard School. We have found that staff members cannot find a parking space in the morning because parents/guardians are parking their cars in the main parking lot and walking their children into school. Please utilize the parking area across the street at the Fire Station if you are walking your child into the school in the morning or if you are picking up your child at the close of school. Thank you for your cooperation.