

Newsletter ~ March 1, 2019



Dear Parents and Guardians,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY:

"Momo's Challenge" is a violent and twisted game that is infiltrating our children's online games, such as YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp, Peppa pig and Fortnite. "Momo's Challenge" suddenly appears on the game your child is playing and the game's mascot, a scary faced, big-eyed girl will suddenly appear encouraging children/young adults to engage in self-harming behaviors. There are also unsettling images with this sick game that pop up that are not appropriate.

As you are all most likely aware of this unsettling online activity from recent news stories, I am writing today **to stress the importance of talking with your children about online safety and reinforce the importance of ongoing monitoring of what your child(ren) are doing online.** While the benefits of online learning and activities are broad, we all need to remember that the Internet is vast, and hackers and predators exist.

Unfortunately, I was informed some of our elementary school students have shared they have seen the "Momo's Challenge" while playing their games and they were scared. An open discussion about this dangerous challenge will help you assess whether or not they have fallen victim to seeing these violent images and verbal cues to engage in self-harm.

I have attached some resources for talking to your children about this sick game and online safety. The key here is open communication with our children and repeatedly monitoring what they are doing online.

<https://educateempowerkids.org/5461-2/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/momo-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/internet-safety.html>

<https://internetsafety101.org/parentsguidetosocialmedia>

<https://www.common sense media.org/privacy-and-internet-safety>

Dates to Remember

- ♣ March 1st ~ 6:30pm
Boys Basketball game - Hudson
- ♣ March 1st ~ 6:00pm - 8:00pm
3rd Annual Bartlett Empty Bowls
- ♣ March 4-7th ~ District Office
District Comprehensive Review
- ♣ March 8th ~ 7:00
Murder Mystery @ Point Breeze
- ♣ March 14th ~ 6:00pm
Clay Soper's story Film @ BHS
- ♣ March 29th ~ 1:30pm
First grade will be performing
their spring concert "Round and
Round the Seasons Go"



Community Wide Event

Learn More About the Party Culture our children are growing up in and come to the showing of Clay Soper's story, "If they had Known." This documentary is powerful and a "must see" for all parents and adolescents. We are working with the District Attorney Joseph Early's office to present this film. We will have resource tables, and a panel discussion after viewing this movie on March 14th @ 6:00 p.m. in the BHS Auditorium. **I strongly encourage ALL Parents/ Guardians and their young adults to attend this important event.** You will leave with new knowledge about what our children are facing in today's world. Kathryn and Noah from our Marketing Class are working on promoting the event!



Other News:

Our Boys Varsity beat St. Bernard's on Tuesday, 75-71! They will travel to Hudson, #1 seed in a quarter final game of the District E Division 3 State Tournament this Friday night at 6:30 p.m.



Bartlett Drama Presents ~

"Murder at the Banquet" @ Point Breeze Restaurant, Webster, MA

See Colleen Nasis for tickets - Deadline for tickets is March 4th

\$25.00 Adults
\$20.00 Students
\$10.00 Kiddos





The 3rd Annual Bartlett Empty Bowls

The BHS Art Department's Empty Bowls Night is tonight! This is an incredible night for our families and community members to come together for a GREAT cause. Our students worked hard on creating beautiful bowls for us to enjoy our meals in and all the funds raised this year will go to the Webster-Dudley Food Share! Bring your friends and family to this wonderful tradition!



The Bartlett Art Department

presents...

The 3rd Annual Bartlett Empty Bowls

Friday, March 1st, 2019 6-8PM

So please join us for this magical evening of goodwill, good food and great art and help end hunger in our community!





The BHS Diversity Tribe set up finger painting for students to display their images of Hope and Collaboration this week.

I enjoyed this activity...Can you guess which one is mine?

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A VERY special thank you to Kate Steinberg, Outreach Manager of Curaleaf in Webster for their recent donation of \$13,967.50 to our district! I have been working with Kate on ways this organization can assist our district with educating our students about the dangers of drugs, drinking, and smoking. The funds donated will be used to purchase Fly Sense for Bartlett High School. Fly Sense is a device that is triggered by the change in **air and sound** quality. I have attached a link for more information on Fly Sense and how it works. As You know we have had an increase with students vaping in school and we are trying to educate and stop this problem.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2x0mChTVcI>



FY20 Budget News

- * The FY20 proposed budget of \$21,850,404 was approved by our School Committee this week.
- * Our budget is an ongoing process and we will continue to collaborate with our Town and wait to see what the Governor's final budget is.
- * The budget was built collaboratively with the District Administrative Team and Staff and we had the following budget goals:
 - ◆ To continue to prioritize Safety and Student Learning Needs.
 - ◆ To continue to improve Student Programming in a fiscally responsible manner.
 - ◆ To continue to provide staff with ongoing and meaningful professional development aligned to Turnaround Practices, and Intentional Instructional Practices to close our gaps.
 - ◆ To continue to take a systems-wide approach with determining needs, establishing budget priorities, and putting action plans in place.
- * The FY20 Budget includes:

Park Avenue Elementary

- ◆ 1.0 Adjustment Counselor
- ◆ 1.0 Grade 3 Teachers
- ◆ 0.5 Custodian
- ◆ Reduction 1.0 Special Education Teacher

Webster Middle School

- ◆ 1.0 Dean of Students (Budget neutral)
- ◆ 1.0 Adjustment Counselor (making a contracted .6 adjustment counselor position a fulltime LEA position - will move 2.5 paras to contracted service to offset- end result is an increase of a .4 to the LEA budget)
- ◆ 0.5 Custodian
- ◆ Reduction 1.0 Paraprofessional (currently vacant)

Bartlett High School

- * SRO stationed at BHS except for emergencies and educational programs in other schools

District

- ◆ 0.5 to Administrative Assistant position
- ◆ 0.8 ELL Coordinator

Curriculum & Instruction

- * Increased District Curriculum Renewal Line \$75K to \$109K
 - ◆ Mathematics Program: CPM for BHS
 - ◆ I-Ready Assessment
 - ◆ Funds for ELA Grades 6-12
 - ◆ STEMscopes Grades 3-8
 - ◆ Funds for continued support from Looney Math
- * Increased Building Textbook Lines
 - ◆ Mathematics consumables
 - ◆ Reading consumables

Other areas

- * Increased funds for Mentors (Year 1 and Year 2)
- * 10K additional funding for Substitute Teachers
- * 9K funding for Music Supplies
- * 5K additional for Uniforms – to include Cheerleaders
- * 15.5K Additional for Extracurricular Activities





Thank you to Senator Ryan Fattman and Representative Joseph McKenna for joining us at the most recent School Committee meeting to discuss the budget process at the state level.



District Comprehensive Review

Next week, March 4th through March 7th, we will have 6 experienced educational consultants from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education visiting our district to conduct a thorough **District Comprehensive Review**. The goal for this review is to develop reports that will support us in strengthening our cycle of continuous improvement. The district review team will be interviewing students, staff, administrators, parents, school council members, school committee members and town officials. They will also hold focus group discussions for teachers and be observing classroom instruction. We have been preparing for this visit since the Fall of 2018 and the review team will have the opportunity to review hundreds of district and school documents. We are looking forward to this visit and sharing the results.

In Webster...Kindness Matters!

Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Superintendent

