

To: Parents & Students

From: Ruthann Goguen

Date: October 12, 2017

Re: News and Updates

Happy Thursday!

News & Updates:

1. Webster has been selected with only two other districts in the state to participate in the first year of the Massachusetts Farm to School Initiative. This yearlong mentoring program is to help districts who want to expand Farm to table programming. *Thank you to Food Service Director, Ellen Nysen* for pushing this great initiative! The following team will attend the upcoming 2-day workshop: Ginger Coleman, Rebecca Czernicki, Christine Esposito, Julie O'Connor.

2. Congratulations to the BHS Band Director Peter Twiraga who has arranged for **“The President’s Own” Marine Band** to work with our band students at the high school on October 19th. During this time the band students will be involved in a workshop put on by the US Marine Band in the BHS Auditorium. “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band’s mission is to perform for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress, the Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. **THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS!!!!** *Thank you Mr. Twiraga!*

3. Please join us in welcoming the following new staff:

- PAE grade 2 Teacher– Pamela Minarik
- BHS Special Education – Jamie Grimes

4. BHS has a new afterschool program called**FOCUS YOU**iversity

-The aim of this program is to provide small group instruction to students who are at risk of failing and who could benefit from the individualized attention we can offer. This is funded through Title 1.

5. New Title 1 Extended Day Programming at WMS! These new enrichment opportunities will be on Wednesdays. The **Walking Classroom** is designed for students to listen and learn while exercising! And **Wacky Reading Wednesdays** is designed to for students to explore hands on activities, for example, Blog Posts, Book tastings and Top Ten lists! For more information please contact Mrs. Cormier for the Walking Classroom and Mrs. Vierck for Wacky Reading Wednesdays.

6. Webster Middle School will be participating in a Turnaround Site Visit conducted by American Institutes for Research.

- Classroom observations will occur 10/19
- Teacher survey will go out 10/17
- Follow up phone conference will occur with the Principal on 10/16

7. We have become an official site for the Property Tax Work off program in Webster

I am in the process working with the Webster Senior Center and have come up with the following list that seniors could volunteer for: lunch monitors, reading with students, working in the school libraries. All volunteers will be Cori checked. Please send any of your ideas on ways to develop this partnership to my office. I believe our students and the seniors can benefit tremendously from this partnership.

8. I will be participating on the local Opiate Task Force. Please reach out to me if you need support in this area.

9. The public release of MCAS is October 18th and the district will receive the Parent /Guardian reports October 24th. These reports will be sent out to parents and each school will be putting together a presentation to share results and creating action plans to address areas of need. More information will be forthcoming from your building principals.

10. A new section relating to MCAS Parent Information has been added to our district website. It's above the District Report card on the left!

11. Please come to the **Annual Town** meeting next Monday, October 16th at 7:00 PM at Bartlett High School Auditorium. Our school district has two important warrant articles:

(1) To see if the Town will vote to a sum of \$25,593.72 for the purpose of purchasing a John Deere 3033R Compact Utility Tractor with a mover and snow blower, with the funding to come from Free Cash; or take any other action thereto.

(2) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow from any available funds in the Treasury a sum or \$132,852 for the purpose of renovating, constructing improvement, remodeling, reconstructing, making extraordinary repairs to the Bartlett High school for use as School administration Offices, including but not limited to costs for planning, design, construction, furnishing and equipping, as well as all other costs incidental or related thereto; or take any other action thereto.

Kind Regards,
Mrs. Ruthann Goguen

