

## **2022 Annual Administrator's Report Mattapoissett Public Schools**

Kevin Tavares, Principal, Old Hammondtown School

Linda Ashley, Principal, Center School

### **Student Enrollment**

The opening of the Mattapoissett Schools for the 2021-2022 school year went very smoothly for students and staff. Enrollment at Center School in Project Grow and Grades K-3 was 231 students. Enrollment at Old Hammondtown School in Grades 4-6 was 187 students.

On August 31, 2021, the school year began for all students in grades one through six. Kindergarten students participated in screening and orientation sessions with the Kindergarten teachers during the first week of school. The first full day for Kindergarten students was on September 7th.

Open Houses for parents and guardians were held in September at Center School and Old Hammondtown using a staggered schedule. Old Hammondtown: Wednesday, September 8, 2021/Center School: Thursday, September 9, 2021. We were delighted to welcome all of our parents and guardians to our schools as we celebrated the beginning of a new school year!

### **Facilities**

A new telephone system installation was completed at Old Hammondtown and Center Schools in January and February.

### **Personnel**

- Monday, March 24, 2022, Superintendent Michael S. Nelson announced that Old Hammondtown School and Center School Principal Rose Bowman would retire at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year. Principal Bowman began her career as a second-grade teacher with the New Bedford Public Schools in 1971. In 1986, she became a preschool teacher at The Music Room in Mattapoissett. She joined the Mattapoissett School District in 1990, serving as a kindergarten teacher from 1990-1993 and a kindergarten and reading recovery teacher from 1993-1998. She was then principal of Old Hammondtown School from 1998-2008 and principal of Center School from 2008-2014. She has led both elementary schools since 2014. Principal Bowman officially retired on June 30, 2022.
- Superintendent Michael S. Nelson announced that Kevin Tavares, current associate principal of Old Hammondtown School/Center School, was appointed as the new principal of Old Hammondtown School. Mr. Tavares assumed the position on July 1, following the retirement of Principal Rose Bowman. He served as the associate principal of the Old Hammondtown and Center schools since July 2014. Mr. Tavares began as a classroom teacher at Old Hammondtown School in 1994, teaching in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades and as a science lab instructor between 1994-2014.
- Tuesday, June 7, 2022 Superintendent Michael S. Nelson announced that Dr. Linda Ashley would join the Center School community as the new principal. She assumed her role on July 1st following the retirement of Principal Rose Bowman. Dr. Ashley became

the full-time principal of Center School as part of the principalship restructuring of the Center and Old Hammondtown schools.

- Dr. Ashley came to our school community from the Franklin Public Schools, where she worked for almost ten years as an elementary school Principal and as the Pre-K-12 Curriculum Director for English Language Arts and History/Social Studies. She also served as an elementary Principal within the Milford Public Schools and Norton Public Schools. She began her career in education as an elementary classroom teacher in New Jersey. Dr. Ashley has significant experience in elementary teaching and administration and is committed to providing an engaging and supportive learning environment for our youngest students, as well as fostering positive partnerships with staff and families to help students grow and succeed.
- Mr. Brent Alger was selected as the OHS instrumental music teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. The school community is delighted to welcome him to the OHS family.

### **Parent/Guardian Conferences**

Parent/Guardian Conferences in October and March and utilized a ZOOM meeting format or a telephone conference. Parents choose the method that was best for them.

### **Professional Development:**

Teachers and administrators participated in the following professional development opportunities this year:

- All teachers participated in a full-day district professional development day on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Sessions were held on Zoom, and teachers participated from their respective buildings. The focus of the professional development sessions included: Opening session with Loretta LaRoche, IXL training, and AIMS Web training. Grade-level meetings were held in the afternoon at each building.
- On March 9, 2022, all staff participated in professional development focused on cultural proficiency. Members of the cultural proficiency committee met monthly with members of the other districts' committees under the direction of Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell and Mr. Craig Davidson to plan the professional development presentations. Teachers participated in a virtual presentation with Kelby Zairer from Rubicon Atlas to review current units with a lens of cultural reference and update content and skills in the units to support culturally relevant learning for diverse learners.

### **Kindergarten**

- The Mattapoisett School System provides a tuition-free full-day Kindergarten program for all Mattapoisett students. Students must be five (5) years old by August 31 in order to enter the Kindergarten program for that school year.
- The incoming Kindergarten Informational meeting took place in February. The kindergarten teachers shared with the parents what a typical day in Kindergarten was like. Parents and guardians also learned about the registration process for students entering kindergarten in the next school year.

### **Title I Information**

- Mrs. Linda Aruri (Math) and Mrs. Margaret DeMello (ELA) work with students at Old Hammondtown School to provide support in Math and English/Language Arts.
- A parent information breakfast focused on Title I Reading/ELA and Math support services for students in grades four through six, took place on Friday, November 9, 2021 at Old Hammondtown School. Mrs. Margaret DeMello and Mrs. Linda Aruri facilitated this parent information meeting. Mrs. Diane Lizotte, Reading Specialist at Old Hammondtown School, was also in attendance and provided information to the parents focused on reading strategies for elementary students. Parent questions were answered, and additional reference information was shared with parents that they could use with their children at home.

### **Mattapoisett PTA School Programs and Events**

- In October, third-grade students participated in the 2021-2022 New Bedford Symphony Orchestra's Learning in Concert program, *Gravity in Space and Sound*. Terry Wolkowicz and two other members of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra met with the grade 3 students and shared a presentation focused on the concept of gravity through astronomy, physics, and music.
- In November, the Mattapoisett PTA planned a special free event for our students and their families. Virtual Bingo Night took place using the ZOOM format.
- In January, artist Bren Bataclan returned to Center School to meet with all students in Kindergarten through grade 3 in grade-level sessions. Mr. Bataclan visited Center School in 2020 and used ideas from the grade three students to create a mural of fantastic sea creatures on the wall in the cafeteria.
- In February, a New Bedford Symphony Orchestra representative visited each grade three classroom for a follow-up presentation on gravity in space and sound. Students experimented with the NBSO gravity well to observe the effects of curving spacetime on the motion of moving objects. In addition, the students composed their own harmonic cycles that imitate a chosen planet's speed and gravitational forces.
- Scholastic Book Fairs, sponsored by the Mattapoisett PTA, were scheduled at Old Hammondtown School and Center School, in the fall and in the spring. The funding from the book fairs at each school was donated to the Center School and Old Hammondtown libraries to purchase additional student books at each school.
- In June, artist Bren Bataclan visited Old Hammondtown School to meet with all students in grades 4, 5, and 6.
- Third graders visited Camp Massasoit at the YMCA for a year-end celebration.

### **Student Activities**

- The National Honor Society at Old Rochester Regional High School facilitated a children's book collection project at the elementary schools from October - December. The donated books were provided to children who do not have access to books at home, children in hospitals for a prolonged period of time, or placed in little free libraries in the area. The project was very successful at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. We applaud the leadership demonstrated by the members of the National Honor Society.

- Every student in grades Kindergarten through grade 6 participated in the Hour of Code during the month of December. The project in each school was facilitated by the Technology teacher, Ms. Lisa Lourenco.
- In March, the Old Hammondtown School Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Willow Dowling, performed at the annual Friends of Old Rochester Music (FORM) Choral Concert. The Old Hammondtown School Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Brent Alger, performed at the annual Friends of Old Rochester Music (FORM) instrumental music concert. Each concert was held in the Old Rochester Regional High School Gym. The Chorus and Concert Band did an exemplary job at the FORM music celebration. We are very proud of our students and the leadership of their teachers.
- Old Hammondtown School participated in March Book Madness. Following the basketball model, students read a brochure previewing the sixteen books and use a bracket to predict the winner. Next, teachers read the sixteen picture books to their classes, in groups of two, and students voted for their favorite book in the pair using Google Forms. Students enjoyed comparing books and narrowing down winners to the semi-finals, and finals. Thank you to our teachers for creating excitement around reading and using diverse literature and picture books for social-emotional learning, while teaching the literacy curriculum standards.
- Selectman Jodi Bauer, representing the Mattapoisett Tree Committee, announced that two grade 5 students, Paige Mailloux and Willow Ruel, were the winners of the Arbor Day poster contest. Congratulations to these students. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the Art teacher, Greta Anderson, for coordinating this poster contest at Old Hammondtown School.
- Paige Mailloux, a grade 5 student at Old Hammondtown School, won the third-place award in the state-wide Arbor Day Poster Contest. The award ceremony was held in Newburyport. This is the first time that an entry from Mattapoisett has won this honor in the state-wide contest.
- In June, the Senior students from Old Rochester Regional High School visited Center School and Old Hammondtown School. Seeing the students wearing their graduation gowns and the incredible smiles on their faces was genuinely heartwarming. The elementary students cheered for the Seniors in honor of their Graduation from ORRHS.
- Field Day returned to Center School and Old Hammondtown School thanks to physical education teacher Mr. Chad Cabeceiras. Mr. C. planned and implemented a great field day experience for the students at Center School and Old Hammondtown School at the end of June. A big thank you to student volunteers from Old Rochester Regional High School who provided support for the students at each station.
- The Instrumental Music and Choral Concert at Old Hammondtown School was held in June. Family members were invited to attend this special performance. Thank you to Mr. Brent Alger, director of the Old Hammondtown Concert Band, and Mrs. Willow Dowling, director of the Old Hammondtown Chorus. The performance by the students was outstanding!
- Grade three students celebrated the end of their years at Center School with a performance titled: *"How Does Your Garden Grow?"*. Parents and family members were invited to attend this celebration, directed by Mrs. Willow Dowling.
- Our grade six students participated in several end-of-the-year activities to mark the end of their time in the Mattapoisett School District. These activities included:
  - A field trip to Cuttyhunk to study local ecosystems, erosion, and aquaculture in correlation with the science curriculum. This field trip, in large part, is possible due to the generosity of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.
  - Visit Center School to read to the younger students.

- Walk to the Town Beach.
- Harbor Cruise ship to explore Cape Cod Canal. The students boarded the VIKING ship at Onset Pier. A DJ onboard provided musical entertainment.
- The Grade Six Awards Ceremony took place at Old Hammondtown School on the last day of school. Families of grade six students were in the audience celebrating the success of their children.

### **Community Outreach**

In February, five members of the Tri-Town Against Racism Committee created an extraordinary bulletin board in each school focused on the history of America and the extraordinary leadership of Black Americans in American history.

### **Memorial Day Celebration**

In collaboration with the Town of Mattapoissett Veterans' Office, the Memorial Day celebration was held on Monday, May 30, 2022. The Memorial Day ceremony was celebrated in the gym at Center School. Members of the Old Hammondtown School Chorus and Band performed as part of the Memorial Day Ceremony. At the conclusion of the indoor ceremony, the Old Hammondtown Band and various community groups marched to the Mattapoissett wharf to honor Veterans who were lost at sea.

### **Flag Day Celebration**

Flag Day was celebrated at Center School on June 14. Students from Center School and Old Hammondtown School participated in the celebration of Flag Day. The Old Hammondtown Concert Band performed the *Star Spangled Banner* and *A Grand Ole Flag*. Students from Center School shared poetry and songs under the direction of Mrs. Willow Dowling. The celebration took place around the outside flagpole located at the Church Street entrance of Center School. This special day was dedicated to Mrs. Rosemary Bowman, retiring Center and OHS Principal.

### **Student Transition Opportunities**

#### **Kindergarten**

In May, incoming Kindergarten students participated in the School Readiness Screening at Center School. These sessions are opportunities for the children to meet in small groups for forty-five minutes with the Kindergarten teachers. The children have an opportunity to play together and complete individual activities with the teachers.

#### **Grade 3 to Grade 4**

In June, our third-grade students prepared for the beginning of their new adventure at Old Hammondtown School. Third graders visited Old Hammondtown School and enjoyed a picnic lunch with the grade 4 students, a tour of the building, and special visits to each grade 4 classroom.

#### **Grade 6 to Grade 7**

Six-grade students visited Old Rochester Regional Junior High School in June. Students toured the building and had lunch in the cafeteria before returning to Old Hammondtown School.

### **School Council**

As a result of the passing of the Education Reform Act of 1993, each school's School Council is now in its twenty-first year of operation. The role of the School Council, as defined by law, is to assist the Principal in identifying the educational needs of the students, review the annual budget of the school, and develop an annual school improvement plan. For the 2021-2022 school year, Center School and Old Hammondtown School continued to have a Joint School Council and a Joint School Improvement Plan.

The 2021-2022 members of the Joint School Council of Center School-Old Hammondtown School included classroom teachers, specialists, and parents.

Rosemary Bowman, Principal Center and Old Hammondtown

Amy Casi, Grade 5 Teacher, Old Hammondtown School

Christy Julian, Kindergarten Teacher, Center School

Kim Nashold, Parent, Center School

Kyle Letendre, Grade 6 Math Teacher, Old Hammondtown School

Megan Hall, Parent, Center/Old Hammondtown School

Joann Porter, Parent, Center/Oldhammondtown School

### **Appreciation and Thanks:**

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mrs. Rosemary Bowman for her outstanding leadership and commitment to the students, staff, and families of Mattapoissett during her tenure as the Principal of Center School and Old Hammondtown Schools. Mrs. Bowman was dedicated to the Mattapoissett School district for 32 years. We wish her much health and happiness in her retirement.

As always, we would like to thank all our stakeholders. We could not have made it this far into the school year without their unwavering support. It is greatly appreciated by all, and we look forward to our continued partnership throughout each school year.

A big thank you goes out to Captain Jason King and fellow officers of the Mattapoissett Police Department and Chief Andrew Murray and fellow firefighters of the Mattapoissett Fire Department for all of the support that they have provided to our schools throughout the year.

The Mattapoissett Land Trust supports our students at Center School and Old Hammondtown throughout the year. Their support gives students an opportunity to enhance their learning, especially in the science curriculum.

We would also like to thank the Mattapoissett PTA for their support of both elementary schools. Their successful fundraising efforts provide enrichment opportunities for our students throughout the school year through the generous donation of our families and community members. The PTA also celebrates our dedicated and hard-working staff and teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and throughout the year.

Lisa Lourenco, the technology teacher at Center School and Old Hammondtown School, received the Worcester Polytechnic Institute/NE FIRST STEM Week grant for Center School and Old Hammondtown School. The mission of the grant was “to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.” Ms. Lourenco would like to thank Superintendent Nelson and Associate Principal Tavares for bringing this grant to her attention.

The grant included \$6000 of robotic equipment, four professional development days at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, curriculum guides, and the necessary software/apps. The materials received include:

- Center School:
  - 6 - LEGO Education SPIKE Essential Sets
  - 7 - LEGO Education 45817 cargo connect explore set
- Old Hammondtown School:
  - 6 - LEGO Education SPIKE prime Set
  - 6 – LEGO Education SPIKE Prime Expansion Set
  - 2 – FIRST LEGO League FLL Cargo Connect Challenge Set Mat and Mission Models

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Tavares, Principal, Old Hammondtown School

Linda Ashley, Principal, Center School