

“I find that it is not the circumstances in which we are placed, but the spirit in which we face them, that constitutes our comfort...”

Elizabeth T. King



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The Principal's Flyer

Hi All;

Welcome to November! We've already had our first few snowflakes, and I suspect we'll get more this month. November also features our first look at grades for the year, and the start of the holiday season. Here's hoping we can squeeze out a few more fall-like days before the true bitter cold of winter overwhelms us. I especially dislike the dramatic change from daylight savings, as the 5:00 PM nightfall just feels so unfair.

The media has put an enormous spotlight on the **H1N1 virus** this school year. Recent school closings in Grafton and Boston have compounded the anxiety, but here at FHS we have been keeping close track of the absence rate and have not noticed any uptick yet. We have had a handful of kids reporting that their absences were the result of flu-like symptoms, but we have not seen a significant number. It is important to continue advising kids to wash their hands frequently and I would also like to advise both students and faculty to stay home if they have flu symptoms including a fever.

In Massachusetts and across the country, the H1N1 vaccine has been very hard to come by. The recent flu vaccine clinic at FHS did not distribute any H1N1 vaccine, and the traditional flu vaccine they did have was gone quickly. The November 7 Framingham Department of Public Health clinic has been cancelled, and the next one is not happening until Nov. 21. So for the time being we will just watch and wait, and try to minimize the impact of any contagion we see. We will always use a school closing as an absolute last result, and hopefully we won't get to that point as the winter grinds on.

Framingham High School is seeking members of the community who would be willing to serve in an advisory capacity for a few of our career programs at the high school. If you work in a business or industry related to the following and could meet twice a year with high school staff, please let us know: Graphic Communications (Digital Photography, Desktop Publishing, Computer Graphics, Web Design), Drafting, Fashion Design, Culinary (Foods), Computer Systems, and/or Engineering. If you are able to help out with this need, please send an email to dbouvier@framingham.k12.ma.us.

The FHS Drama Company's spring production of *Bocon* has been featured in the Fall 2009 volume of Teaching Theater magazine. The play and its theme of a boy coming from Central America to the United States and losing his voice in the process is the cover story for the magazine, which is a nationally distributed publication dedicated to educational theater professionals. The five-page article details the impetus behind choosing this production and the impact this type of theater can have on participants and the larger school and community. It is a fitting tribute to the program here at FHS. Congratulations to the entire FHS Drama Company on this well deserved recognition.

The Metrowest Hospital in Framingham in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America is offering a program called the **Health Careers Explorers Post**. This is open to any high school student who is interested in the health professions. The program runs the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7- 8:30 PM. Next

Tuesday, November 3rd, is that last session a student can join for the year. The cost for the program is \$11.00 for the year. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with professionals from many health-related careers as well as have many hands-on activities. If anyone has any further questions, go see Ms. Curtis in the College and Career Center. A link to the program can be found here:
<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x42388425/High-school-students-learn-ins-and-outs-of-a-hospital>

The Mazie Mentoring Foundation is holding its annual recycling event in the FHS parking lot on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00 AM through 3:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to recycle your unused TV's computer monitors, VCR and DVD/CD players, and other electronic devices. They contract with an environmentally safe recycling company to salvage whatever can be salvaged and then dispose of the rest in an appropriate way. Your tax-deductible contribution will benefit the John Andrew Mazie Foundation which provides mentors and support to students at FHS. The Mazie Foundation is partnering with The Rodman Ride and benefits from a 15% contribution from them and checks should be made out to Mazie Foundation for the Ride.

The FHS Art Department will have many of their works on display at the main branch of the Framingham Public Library during the month of November. All faculty, staff, and parents are invited to an opening reception on Wednesday, November 4 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM in the Costin Room of the library. Please stop by and take a look at the amazing talent of some of our artists!

I was recently made aware of an upcoming **event open to the public at Framingham State College.** On Monday, November 2 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM, former professional baseball player Doug Glanville (Philadelphia Phillies) speaks on "Doing it Afraid," how a healthy amount of fear can lead to great results. The event will be held in the Dwight Performing Arts Center. This event is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Athletics, Residence Life and Housing, Black Student Union, Student Union Activities Board, and Career Services and Employer Relations

This week marks the last week of the term, and remember that we have moved the deadline for inputting grades up to 8:00 AM on Tuesday, November 10. This will allow us to fix any problems with the process on that day, since we are not in school on Wednesday, November 11 due to Veteran's Day. Remember we also have a mandatory faculty meeting today after school at 2:15 PM in the auditorium. We will be asking all faculty to sign in as I will be discussing some obligatory language around civil rights and other topics. Thank you for your help in advance.

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of Week

Drop Out Rates For The 30 Largest Districts In Massachusetts

(all yearly numbers in percentages)

Data from <http://www.doemass.org/infoservices/reports/dropout/0708/appendixA.xls>

	District Name	2000 -01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total Dropout Count	High School Enrollment
1	Boston	8.5	7.0	7.7	8.3	7.7	9.9	8.9	7.6	1,396	18,414
2	Worcester	6.3	5.5	5.1	5.8	5.5	4.2	6.0	4.7	327	6,958
3	Springfield	8.0	7.0	8.4	8.1	12.4	8.3	10.9	9.7	674	6,952
4	Brockton	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.0	6.4	7.0	5.7	5.2	227	4,358
5	Lynn	3.9	3.9	5.5	5.9	6.0	5.3	5.4	5.8	245	4,244
6	Newton	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	30	3,651
7	Lowell	9.8	4.4	0.0	4.5	7.5	5.6	4.4	2.4	85	3,573
8	Lawrence	12.5	14.7	10.3	11.2	14.5	10.3	14.8	12.9	419	3,252
9	New Bedford	7.0	6.9	9.3	9.7	10.4	7.4	8.3	8.2	261	3,185
10	Quincy	3.9	4.9	4.8	4.4	2.0	2.8	3.5	3.4	98	2,916
11	Fall River	6.9	7.9	10.6	10.2	11.9	11.4	9.8	12.5	333	2,660
12	Chicopee	5.9	4.8	7.9	6.9	7.3	6.0	6.0	6.2	163	2,625
13	Plymouth	4.1	3.5	3.5	4.3	3.3	3.1	2.3	2.6	66	2,566
14	Westfield	3.5	3.7	4.6	4.7	2.9	4.6	5.3	3.2	67	2,118
15	Weymouth	3.0	3.4	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.8	3.7	2.6	55	2,117
16	Framingham	1.9	1.2	3.7	0.7	1.1	2.6	2.2	2.7	57	2,109
17	Greater New Bedford	3.9	3.3	5.3	2.6	3.0	2.5	3.3	0.9	18	2,022
18	Haverhill	4.6	3.4	6.3	6.3	4.8	5.7	7.5	7.4	150	2,016
19	Pittsfield	8.9	7.3	8.6	8.0	7.3	5.6	4.6	4.6	93	2,012
20	Methuen	2.0	1.8	2.4	5.0	4.3	3.5	6.0	3.0	60	2,004
21	Lexington	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.4	7	1,995
22	Holyoke	8.6	7.6	10.2	11.0	9.7	11.6	11.3	11.6	228	1,972
23	Acton-Boxborough	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	7	1,958
24	Greater Lowell Voc Tec	0.2	0.8	2.0	1.1	0.8	0.2	2.1	1.4	27	1,944
25	Wachusett	1.0	2.1	1.5	2.3	1.5	0.5	1.9	1.2	23	1,941
26	Taunton	3.7	3.3	7.2	6.3	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.3	82	1,909
27	Peabody	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.2	4.3	82	1,893
28	Leominster	3.8	2.5	3.6	4.7	3.7	2.3	3.3	2.5	46	1,848
29	Attleboro	7.7	4.6	3.2	4.7	5.3	5.5	4.4	5.1	93	1,813
30	Brookline	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.7	13	1,808

Calendar Of Events

Listed are all school-wide calendar and home athletic events.

Remember to Check the FHS Web Site at: www.framingham.k12.ma.us/fhs/
For All Other Athletic Event Days & Times Visit: www.framinghamflyers.com

This Week:

Monday, 11/2/09 Day 5 - BDCGF

PTBO Meeting @7:00 PM in H-100

Tuesday, 11/3/09 Day 6 - DABEG

Faculty Meeting @2:15 PM

Wednesday, 11/4/09 - Day 7 - CBGFE

MCAS ELA Re-Tests

Thursday, 11/5/09 Day 1 - ABCDE

MCAS ELA Re-Tests in library classroom

Principal's Meeting @10:00 AM @Hemenway

School Council Meeting @7:00 PM in Library

Friday, 11/6/09 Day 2 - CADGF

End of Term 1

MCAS ELA Re-Tests in library classroom

Barnes & Noble Drama Company fundraising event

Frosh Football vs. Milton @3:45 PM

Saturday, 11/7/09

SAT's at FHS

Next Week:

Monday, 11/9/09 Day 3 - BDCGF

MCAS Math Re-Tests

Tuesday, 11/10/09 Day 4 - DABEG

Report Card Grade Input Deadline = 8:00 AM

Verifications on e-mail by 10:00 AM

MCAS Math Re-Tests

Wednesday, 11/11/09 NO SCHOOL

Veteran's Day

Thursday, 11/12/09 Day 5 - BDCGF

Deadline for inputting grade changes = 8:00 AM

Report Cards printed and in boxes by 2:00 PM

Friday, 11/13/09 Day 6 - DABEG

Report Cards distributed in HR

Grades sent via e-mail before 4:00 PM

FHS Drama Co. Presents *Seussical* @7:30 PM

Saturday, 11/14/09

MAZIE Recycling Event at FHS Lot from 9-3:00

FHS Drama Co. Presents *Seussical* @2:00 PM