

“The less I know about a subject, the more confidence I have, and the more new light I can throw upon it...”

Mark Twain



The Principal's Flyer

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Hi All;

A gorgeous late fall weekend ushers us into the start of term 2 at FHS. I know all of our teachers will be busy readying for the submission of term 1 grades, and the blank slate for students begins anew today. I'm still recovering from blisters received via an aggressive few days of raking leaves, but the clear skies and warm sunshine were a welcome balance. I'm hoping for a few more of these!

As I mentioned in last week's faculty meeting, there does not appear to be an acceptable resolution to the need for **late buses this fall**. The transportation department does not have enough vehicles to supply FHS with late buses until after the elementary school runs are completed, and this would mean an arrival time of 4:00 PM at earliest. I am not willing to accept late buses later than 3:00 PM, due to the supervision problems we have when kids spend more than an hour waiting for buses to arrive. I also tried to see if we could contract with private companies for this service, but the \$225/bus/day fee would be far more than we could ever swallow. FPS buses would also cost a pretty penny, with rates somewhere between \$50 & \$60 per bus per day. While in the past the cost for late buses was covered from the transportation department budget, recent cuts have made this cost prohibitive. If you recall, the approximate cost for this service last year amounted to about \$1200 - \$1500 per week. This amounted to well over \$40,000 per year.

As a compromise, on Flyer News I have been promoting the transportation service offered by the **MetroWest Regional Transit Authority buses**. These buses run in two loops ("clockwise" and "counter-clockwise") that run right past FHS on Concord Street each day. There is a designated spot at the bottom of A-Street where anyone can board, and it costs a mere \$1.00 per student.

On Tuesday last week, I decided to ride the bus myself to make sure I understood how it worked and where it traveled. I found that the route services a very wide area of the town, and would be extremely convenient for a large percentage of our students. The buses seat 20 persons and have standing room for another 6-8. It was on time, comfortable, and had pleasant music playing also (at least I thought it was pleasant...80's dance tunes...). I will be providing a map of the routes, pickup times, and directions on the windows of the main office so that everyone will know how to access this service. There are buses passing that point from 2:45 – 6:00 PM about every 40 minutes. I am hoping that this becomes a quality option to serve kids who truly need a way home after accessing extra help at FHS. You can also access the route information via the Internet at: <http://www.mwrta.com/> This site even lets you track down the precise location of the bus you intend to ride via GPS.

As I mentioned above, the security of the building after school is a valid concern. While there is ample supervision during the school day provided by teachers in the hallways outside their classrooms during passing time (I appreciate teachers' continued attention to this), there is very little supervision after 2:00 PM. We will be working hard to separate the gym area from the main building after 2:30 PM, and all students must be with a teacher or have a pass from a teacher if in the building's hallways after that time. If students are

waiting for a ride, then they must wait in the main lobby or outside the building. As always, students are welcome to use the library for appropriate research or quiet study every afternoon until 3:30 PM.

As some of you are aware, Mrs. Avery has been diligently pursuing this possible revenue stream for FHS called **Stop and Shop's A+ Bonus Bucks Program**, which runs now through March 25, 2010. To help us, all you have to do is log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register your card online OR call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone. After you register your card, each shopping trip to Stop and Shop using your card earns cash for Framingham High School. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. We need your support! Please be sure to register your card to benefit **Framingham High School using ID# 05815 and encourage your friends and relatives to do the same!** It's Super Simple!

Many of you will likely notice that the **FHS flag is at half staff today**. It will remain this way in response to President Obama's order to pay respects to those killed and injured at the recent incident at Fort Hood. The flag will return to full staff on Veteran's Day.

Two weeks ago the end of project audit for the FHS construction project was successfully completed. As a result, the Massachusetts School Building Assistance Bureau will be presenting the Town of Framingham with a check for \$54 Million. This is the amount that the state paid for the project, representing 90% of the total cost of construction. This check presentation will occur this **Friday, November 13 at 10:30 AM in the FHS auditorium**. State Treasurer Tim Cahill will present the check during a brief ceremony at that time. If you are free during B-period, please swing by to watch the political/publicity wheels turn!

On Tuesday, November 10th (Day 4- E period) The International Club will be hosting Mix It Up Day in the cafeteria during all four lunch blocks. This will be the second event of the school wide Multicultural celebrations for the year. Mix It Up Day is a nationwide activity sponsored by Teaching Tolerance and the goal is to encourage students to sit with, learn about and meet new people. The International Club will be identifying a few tables in the cafeteria with colored tablecloths and balloons in order to allow students who choose to participate to know where to sit. It would be very helpful if teachers would encourage their students to participate and help us to spread the word about what the day signifies. We would also like to invite any staff, teacher or administrator to join us in the cafeteria or to spend their lunch time visiting another department to get to know some new people as well. Thanks to International Club advisors Mark Spillane and Caroline Whalen for organizing this event!

The FCS students in the Advanced Clothing class have started a Community Service Learning Project called "Warm up Framingham". The goal of the project is to provide warm knitted and/or crocheted blankets for area shelters. Students will be making 12" squares using donated yarn, needles and crochet hooks. The Advanced Clothing Students will be assembling the quilts. Mrs. Farias, FCS teacher, will provide instruction to any interested students that would like to learn to knit or crochet! Any donations of yarn, needles and hooks (any size) will be greatly appreciated! For more information, please contact Mrs. Farias at mfarias@framingham.k12.ma.us.

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, TV Broadcasting, 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.

On Thursday, November 12 from 7-9:00 PM in the Cameron Middle School auditorium, the Framingham F-SEPAC group will present *Sensory Integration: Ideas for Home and School*. Phyllis Samara of the Barrett Family Wellness Center will share her knowledge of SI, and discuss ideas for helping special kids both at home and at school. Phyllis has been in the business of Occupational Therapy for over 35 years

and is a graduate of Boston University. She is an SI Certified Therapist, specializing in treating children with varying disabilities. She is also a professor of Occupational Therapy at Quinsigamond Community College. This presentation is free & open to the public. It is geared toward parents, guardians, & education professionals who teach children with special needs. All TEACHERS attending may get PDPs (Professional Development Points). All ATTENDEES may receive a certificate of participation. Sign-up sheets will be available at the workshop. Please RSVP to info@f-sepac.org. For more information call 508.558.7220 or go to the web site www.F-SEPAC.org.

Remember that the deadline for inputting term 1 grades is Tuesday, 11-10 @8:00 AM. Thanks for your help with this!

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of Week

Daily Absence Rates at FHS since October 1, 2009

2009 Student Absences Log

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Gr 9</u>	<u>Gr 10</u>	<u>Gr 11</u>	<u>Gr 12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fri	11/6/2009	30	22	21	20	93
Thu	11/5/2009	34	23	21	35	113
Wed	11/4/2009	27	24	27	29	107
Tues	11/3/2009	30	18	23	28	99
Mon	11/2/2009	29	21	24	28	102
Fri	10/30/2009	37	24	19	20	100
Thu	10/29/2009	30	25	23	34	112
Wed	10/28/2009	32	25	22	26	105
Tues	10/27/2009	31	25	34	29	119
Mon	10/26/2009	26	30	31	21	108
Fri	10/23/2009	33	31	28	18	110
Thu	10/22/2009	28	31	17	55	131
Wed	10/21/2009	25	32	12	18	87
Tues	10/20/2009	23	25	19	19	86
Mon	10/19/2009	35	33	27	21	116
Fri	10/16/2009	29	27	14	22	92
Thu	10/15/2009	27	22	15	23	87
Wed	10/14/2009	26	29	13	42	110
Tues	10/13/2009	29	28	29	28	114
Fri	10/9/2009	27	23	16	30	96
Thu	10/8/2009	30	16	14	28	88
Tues	10/6/2009	28	16	13	16	73
Mon	10/5/2009	26	23	20	19	88
Fri	10/2/2009	25	27	17	17	86
Thu	10/1/2009	23	26	18	17	84

Averages: 28.80 25.04 20.68 25.72 100.24

This represents a daily average absence rate of 4.5%

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, 11/9/09 Day 3 - BAEFG

First Day of Term 2
MCAS Math Re-Tests
Boys Soccer (#3 seed) MIAA First Round
Tournament Home Game vs. Andover (#19 seed)
@2:00 PM

Tuesday, 11/10/09 Day 4 - ACDEF

Report Card Grade Input Deadline = 8:00 AM
Verifications on e-mail by 10:00 AM
MCAS Math Re-Tests
“Mix It Up” Day at all four lunches

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
F-SEPAC event at Cameron M.S. @7:00 PM

Friday, 11/13/09 Day 6 - DABEG

Report Cards distributed in HR
State SBAB Check Presentation in auditorium
@10:30 AM
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

Sunday, 11/15/09

Boys Varsity Football vs. Needham @FSC @1:00 PM

Next Week:

Monday, 11/16/09 Day 7 - CBGFE

District Re-Organization Meeting, 9AM – 12PM
JV Football vs. Needham @3:00 PM
New Teacher Meeting @2:15 PM in E-202
District Leadership Meeting, Desmaris Room @4PM
RFL Parent Meeting @6:00 PM
Mazie Recognition Night @6:00 PM in auditorium

Tuesday, 11/17/09 Day 1 - ABCDE

NEML Test #2 in cafeteria

Wednesday, 11/18/09 Day 2 - CADGF

AM Collaboration
HR Doors Open @8:10 AM
HR Doors Close @8:15 AM
Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in cafeteria
Fall Athletics Letter Night in Auditorium

Thursday, 11/19/09 Day 3 - BAEFG

RFL Luncheon @11:30 AM
Principal’s Meeting @McCarthy School @3 PM
DH Meeting @1:00 PM

Friday, 11/20/09 Day 4 - ACDEF

NHS Blood Drive in Auditorium Lobby
Homecoming Dance in gymnasium

Saturday, 11/21/09