

“If a child is reading aloud to you and comes to a word she doesn’t understand, don’t immediately ask her to sound it out. Instead, say, “What word makes sense here?” Then the child has to think about how that word fits in with what she’s been reading...”

Masha Kabakow Rudman, University of Massachusetts Educator



The Principal's Flyer

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Hi All;

Hello February! Even though the bitter cold from this past weekend is still fresh in our minds, I'm sure many of you noticed how late the sun seems to be setting. Now there is plenty of daylight right past 5:00 PM, and Mrs. Avery correctly identified the crocus already beginning to sprout out front next to the flagpole! To be fair, those crocuses are conspicuously close to a powerful spotlight that is most definitely providing some additional warmth, but the fact remains that they are indeed sprouting and above ground.

Last week's **distribution of term two report cards** means that half the year is currently in the books. In addition to new rosters for teachers of half-year courses, this past week was a time to take stock of where we are in the year with regard to curriculum, and begin to start planning for the next five months. This week will be having our annual mid-year assemblies with each grade, and given the number of students listed on the ineligibility list I suspect everyone in each grade will be given a pretty stern lecture about the importance of hard work and perseverance in the face of less than optimal performance. Please reference the ineligibility numbers posted as the statistic of the week for evidence of some slippage in term 2. Now is the time for students to re-dedicate themselves to their studies over the second half of the year, and I hope we can all send a concerted message on that front this week. Please check the calendar at the end of the flyer for the days and times for these assemblies, and attend with your classes if the majority of students are in that grade.

As mentioned last week, the **2010-11 Program of Studies will be distributed in homeroom today**. In addition to this booklet, each student will be issued a course selection form to plan for next year's courses. I will be asking all teachers to devote some class time this week to discuss appropriate course selections for next year. You will find that this year's course selection form asks for each student to seek a recommendation from the appropriate subject area teacher this year in order to get advice about what to take for next year. Teachers are asked to initial the form with their recommendation, though ultimately the student can sign up for the subject and level of their choice provided all prerequisites are met. I know department heads will likely be recruiting teachers for this Thursday's Curriculum Night at FHS, and I appreciate your help in advance as we begin planning for next year's arrival of the Class of 2014.

February also marks the time when many seniors will begin thinking about applying for **local scholarships**. Late last week scholarship packets were placed in the main office mailboxes of all senior homeroom teachers. Please hand these packets out in homeroom on Monday, February 1st. The information will also be posted on our website, and additional packets will be placed in the Grade 12 Office, Guidance Office, and the College and Career Center. Although the cover page of the packets seems self-explanatory, please remind your homeroom students of the following:

- Local scholarships are of two types: Those that use the FHS generic application (which our FHS Scholarship Committee awards), and those that have their own applications, deadlines, and process. The generic application is attached to the scholarship packet; it is the last page of the packet. For the scholarships that use our generic application, students must hand in their completed applications to the College and Career Center by **March 5, 2010**.
- Applications for scholarships that do not use our generic application can be picked up at the College and Career Center. These scholarships have their own individual deadlines.

An e-mail will soon be sent to staff, inviting them to serve on the **Scholarship Committee** to determine recipients of scholarships. Scholarship recipients will be notified and invited to the Awards Ceremony in May. Many thanks to guidance counselor and college scholarship coordinator Linda MacDowell for all her work on this challenging endeavor. Please let her know if you have further questions. Thanks in advance for all your help.

Well-deserved congratulations are in order for FHS' own Department Head of Health&PE **Sue Ames**. Sue will be receiving the "**Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award**" in a formal ceremony this Friday, February 5 at Faneuil Hall in Boston. This program has been in place for a number of years and recognizes the contributions by women who have devoted their time and energy to guide and nurture female athletes, and have had a profound impact in these areas. Sue's positive attitude, strong convictions, and willingness to work hard on behalf of all students are models for those who will follow in her footsteps. Anyone who has interacted with Sue knows she is a special person and inspiration to many. Congratulations to Sue and thanks to Stacey Freda and Gary Doherty for nominating her for this prestigious award.

We will all be scrambling a little bit today and tomorrow as we gear up for the **MCAS Biology Re-Test**. This is the first year that all Class of 2010 seniors in Massachusetts must successfully pass a Science test in order to graduate. Time is of the essence for students who have yet to pass, and the problem is that the state only offers the re-test in Biology. FHS has about 35 students who will be taking the test this week, and a number of them have never taken the test before since they are new to Massachusetts. This puts them at a tremendous disadvantage, but the bar has been set and everyone must get over that bar to receive a diploma. The overwhelming majority of students have passed either the Biology, Chemistry, or Technology/Engineering test after their sophomore year, but we continue to work with students who have not yet achieved this standard. Frank Rothwell has been working overtime trying to get this done, and I appreciate his efforts and the efforts of everyone who will be proctoring today and tomorrow.

Remember that we have a **full faculty meeting this Tuesday, February 2 beginning at 2:15 PM** in the auditorium. Matt Torti and Ernie Moreau from our Buildings and Grounds department will be here to discuss some important issues regarding the ongoing use and upkeep of our building. In addition, Technology Director Adam Seldow will be here to discuss recent upgrades and improvements to our technology access at FHS and he will likely also comment on some of the issues that arose as a result of our visit from MTA attorney Ira Fader last week. Please be there on time at 2:15 PM and we will hopefully end right at 3:00 PM. Let me know directly if you have any unyielding issue that prevents your attendance.

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of The Week

**Students Who Are Academically Ineligible Based On Term 2
Grades Issued on Friday, Jan. 29:**

	<u>Term 1</u>	<u>Term 2</u>
Grade 9 :	54	71
Grade 10 :	84	77
Grade 11 :	44	63
Grade 12 :	45	60
Total:	227	271

**(Ineligible students have an overall cumulative average of
lower than 70% based on term grades)**

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, 2/1/10 Day 6 - DABEG

MCAS Bio Re-Test
2010-11 Program of Studies distributed in homeroom
New Teachers Meeting in E-202 @2:30 PM
Boys JV Hockey vs. Braintree @4:15 PM
RFL Board Meeting @6:00 PM
Boys Varsity Hockey vs. St. John's @6:50 PM
PTBO Meeting in H-100 @7:00 PM

Tuesday, 2/2/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

MCAS Bio Re-Test
Freshman Class Assembly @8:30 AM
Faculty Meeting @2:15 in auditorium
Girls Basketball vs. Needham
 Frosh @4:15, JV @5:15, Varsity @6:45 PM

Wednesday, 2/3/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

World Language Honor Society Induction, 8:00 AM
Sophomore Class Assembly @8:30 AM
Girls Varsity Hockey vs. Needham @4:00 PM

Thursday, 2/4/10 Day 2 - CADGF

Junior Class Assembly @8:30 AM
Principals' Meeting @FHS Library @10:00 AM
FHS Curriculum Orientation Night @7:00 PM

Friday, 2/5/10 Day 3 - BAEFG

Senior Class Assembly @9:30 AM
Boys Basketball vs. Walpole
 Frosh @4:15, JV @5:15, Varsity @6:45 PM

Saturday, 2/6/10

Boys Varsity Hockey vs. Walpole @7:30 PM

Next Week:

Monday, 2/8/10 Day 4 - ACDEF

Girls Softball sign-ups in Room E-210 @2:05 PM
Girls Varsity Hockey vs. Newton Country Day 4PM
RFL Parent Meeting @6:00 PM

Tuesday, 2/9/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

Department Heads meeting @1:00 PM
Girls Basketball vs. Braintree
 Frosh @3:45, JV @5:15, Varsity @6:45 PM

Wednesday, 2/10/10 Day 6 - DABEG

AM Collaboration 7:15 – 8:05 AM
HR doors open at 8:10 AM
HR Starts at 8:15 AM
Girls Tennis sign-ups in room E-100 @2:15 PM
Girls Varsity Hockey vs. Braintree @4:00 PM

Thursday, 2/11/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

Boys JV Hockey vs. Walpole @3:45 PM
Boys JV Basketball vs. Brookline @4:45 PM
Girls JV Hockey vs. Newton North @4:45 PM
Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Brookline @5:15 PM
Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Brookline @6:45 PM
School Council Meeting @7:00 PM in Library

Friday, 2/12/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

February Vacation begins at 1:55 PM!
F cubed student concert @7:00 PM in auditorium

Saturday, 2/13/10

Girls Varsity Hockey vs. Brookline @5:00 PM
Boys Varsity Hockey vs. Brookline @7:00 PM