

*“The best things and the best people rise out of their separateness and differences.  
I’m against a homogenized society because I want the cream to rise...”*

**Robert Frost**



# The Principal's Flyer

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Hi All;

Welcome to March and the hope that lion-like weather over the past week will soon give way to sunny skies and milder temperatures. Already the sun is staying up until almost 6:00 PM, and the Red Sox first pre-season game is this Wednesday! Spring will be here soon...

Our **Code Yellow Internal drill on Friday** produced some valuable information about how we will approach these events in the future. The sweep made by the police around the building indicated there were some areas that needed clarification. Internal drills are intended to shield staff and students from a potential intruder, and the main point is to be out of sight and silent in a darkened room. The goal is to minimize any attraction to your classroom and your students so that no attention is drawn to your presence. For this reason, when an internal code yellow is announced, teachers should immediately cease teaching, turn off lights, close shades, lock the classroom door, and move students to an area of the room where they cannot be seen from the outside. It is also important to make sure students are as quiet as can be managed in the classroom environment. Ideally, placing your flipbook with the green sheet showing under your door (provided all your kids are accounted for in the room) is appropriate also. Not all of these hints were given last week in the refresher.

After the drill we discussed areas of potential improvement with the police. There are some situations that cannot be anticipated and practiced, but it is important to understand that when police swarm the building during an actual emergency they will not recognize anyone who works here. Thus, any person they see in the hallways (adult or student) will be considered a potential threat. Therefore, it is critical to have all students and staff invisible so that they are not mistaken as bad guys and their motions and actions potentially misinterpreted. In the drill on Friday, the police were checking to see if doors were locked and students were out of sight. This would not happen in an actual emergency, as they would be urgently searching for the bad guy(s). We also discussed with the police what the appropriate frequency of drills should be. While we don't want to be unpracticed, we also don't want the assumption to always be that these are "only a drill" and potentially induce complacency. Expect that there will be more, and always react as though it is the real thing.

This **Tuesday night March 2** will be the next school committee meeting to discuss the district's planned **re-organization of feeder patterns and student assignment for elementary schools**. This meeting will take place at the Desmaris Room of the King Building on Water Street beginning at 7:30 PM.

I was also called to the superintendent's office on Friday to discuss staffing needs in advance of the evolution for the **FY11 budget** process. While there still is nothing concrete, there is certainly little optimism in terms of staffing. There remains a sizeable gap in resources between what we are slated to receive from the town, and what we need to maintain our current structure. This will force more discussions of revamping to reduce costs, and this need was the genesis for this last conversation. I will also be attending a budget discussion

with all other principals today from 9-11:00 AM. Once I get some concrete information from the superintendent or school committee I will forward it to everyone.

The **Salute to Framingham** is only a few weeks away! On Thursday, March 18th, at 6pm at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel, Salute to Framingham will be honoring Richard Chesmore, Arthur DelPrete, and George Hulme as recipients this year. In addition to these three honorees, the Salute program will recognize eleven teachers and staff who make each day “special” in Framingham Public Schools. We will also acknowledge twenty-seven graduating FHS students who positively impact the school community. Go to [www.salute-to-framingham.com](http://www.salute-to-framingham.com) to see this year’s complete list of “You Are Special”s and student honorees. You can support the Salute to Framingham dinner by purchasing a ticket to attend the event. Ticket information and details on this year’s honorees are available at [www.salute-to-framingham.com](http://www.salute-to-framingham.com). Proceeds from the Salute to Framingham benefit the Framingham High School Foundation. The Salute is the largest single annual fundraiser for Framingham High School. All proceeds from the event are used to benefit FHS students by supporting activities, the arts, and athletics at the school.

On Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM (from now until April vacation) Iris Godes, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management at Quinsigamond Community College will be in the College and Career Center to **help students and families file their FAFSAs** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). She will also translate financial aid award letters and help families make informed financial decisions about their child's college plans. If you'd like to sign up and take advantage of this service please contact Iris ([igodes@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:igodes@qcc.mass.edu)) or Benjamin Tarshis in the CACC ([btarshis@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:btarshis@framingham.k12.ma.us) or 508-620-4963 x1830). Also, Bay State College will be in the College and Career Center conducting on the spot admissions on March 3 from 9-1. Any students who are interested in taking part of this event can sign in the College and Career Center. They should fill out an application for Bay State. Students should ask Mr. Tarshis or Ms. DeResendes to print out a transcript.

Over the course of the spring, updates to a list of available scholarships for FHS seniors may be accessed by visiting the school website or by clicking here:

<http://www.framingham.k12.ma.us/fhs/Scholarships%202010%20-%202nd%20Update.pdf>

These scholarship updates are also delivered to students’ homerooms and may be viewed in the College/Career Center or through the guidance department.

Every summer **Linda Curtis, Career Specialist in our College/Career Center**, places about 50 students in internships. Ms. Curtis is currently looking for Framingham High School parents who might be interested in hosting a high school intern where they work. Many companies will not take high school students; however, it certainly helps if there is a parent in the organization to support the idea of having high school interns. She would be happy to talk with you about your particular situation, and hopes to have a strong response from many parents to this request. Early discussions with your children about career directions coupled with internship opportunities for high school students significantly help students start making more informed decisions about what career direction they may wish to pursue. Please contact Ms. Curtis at 508-620-4963 x if your business can offer assistance with a student internship this summer.

This will be a busy week with MCAS re-testing and a first ever bout of on-line MEPA (Massachusetts English Proficiency Exam) testing at FHS. Please make sure you review the flurry of e-mail regarding this testing for possible room shuffling and/or proctoring obligations. These may impact you greatly or not at all. Just know that some kids will have a considerable pressure on them this week. We are testing 148 kids for the on-line MEPA test and probably less than 50 for the MCAS, but it seems like thousands.

**Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!**

# Statistic Of The Week

**Number of people who work at FHS each day:**

**292**

**(not counting student teachers)**

Some categories of work and the number of people in those roles are shown below:

Teachers	151
Cafeteria	22
Aides/Assistants	14
Secretaries	12
DH's	12
Custodians	11
Counselors	8

# 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/](http://www.framingham.k12.ma.us/fhs/)  
For All Other Athletic Event Days & Times Visit: [www.framinghamflyers.com](http://www.framinghamflyers.com)

## This Week:

### Monday, 3/1/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

MCAS ELA Long Composition Re-Test  
RFL Parent Meeting @6:00 PM  
PTBO meeting @7:00 PM in H-100

### Tuesday, 3/2/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

MCAS ELA Re-Test session 1&2  
School Committee Presentation regarding  
District Re-Organization @7:00 PM @King Bldg

### Wednesday, 3/3/10 Day 2 - CADGF

MCAS ELA Re-Test session 3

### Thursday, 3/4/10 Day 3 - BAEFG

MCAS Math Re-Test session 1  
Principals' Meeting @10:00 AM  
Music In Our Schools Concert @6:00 PM  
School Council Meeting @7:00 PM

### Friday, 3/5/10 Day 4 - ACDEF

MCAS Math Re-Test session 2

### Saturday, 3/6/10

Senior Parents Night Out @Elks Club, 7:00 PM

## Next Week:

### Monday, 3/8/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

### Tuesday, 3/9/10 Day 6 - DABEG

Dept. Heads meeting @1:00 PM

### Wednesday, 3/10/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

AM Collaboration 7:15 – 8:10 AM  
HR Starts @8:10; doors close @8:15 AM  
Winter Sports Varsity Letter Night @6:30 PM

### Thursday, 3/11/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

Hypnotist Night @7:00 PM

### Friday, 3/12/10 Day 2 - CADGF

Drama Festival Benefit Performance @7:00 PM

### Saturday, 3/13/10

Drama Festival Semi-Final Round