

“The optimist sees the rose and not the thorns. The pessimist stares at the thorns, oblivious of the rose...”

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The Principal's Flyer

Hi All;

Now that was a much nicer weekend. I got walloped by some kind of flu bug on Sunday, and couldn't shake it in time for school on Monday. I'm hoping to get some rest and be ready to go on Tuesday.

Last week I received a bit more information regarding the **FY11 budget**, and Superintendent Steve Hiersche informed me that he will be holding informational sessions for faculty and staff this week to explain the major issues driving upcoming budget decisions. On **Tuesday, March 9 at 2:45 PM at FHS in room H-100**, and on Wednesday, March 10 at 4:15 PM at Brophy Elementary School, Dr. Hiersche will discuss what to expect regarding next year's budget. It is important that FHS shows our interest and concern for this issue, and if you are able to be there it would be very good to attend.

There was a lot of attention paid last week to the **state's release of the latest high school dropout statistics**, and the interest was spiked by the slight reduction in the state's overall dropout rate. The state's overall dropout rate dropped just below three percent (2.9%), and there were more dramatic drops in the dropout rate for various other subgroups. This information comes on the heels of some significant attention paid to this issue by the Board of Education in Massachusetts. In August 2008, Governor Patrick established the Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission to investigate dropout prevention strategies and make recommendations to the Commonwealth. Their extensive report can be found here: [http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoemodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Eeoe&b=terminalcontent&f=Dropout Commission Report Text&csid=Eeoe](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoemodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Eeoe&b=terminalcontent&f=Dropout_Commission_Report_Text&csid=Eeoe) This past fall, the commission announced a bold initiative to cut the dropout rate in half over the next five years. This uses a 3.4% dropout rate as the starting point, and points to a 1.7% rate as a goal. A secondary goal was to have 90% of all high school graduates prepared for post-secondary education before 2020.

Some of the recommendations of the commission included expanding alternative high schools, creating "dropout coaches" to attempt and re-engage dropouts, and perhaps the most controversial was the recommendation to raise the mandatory minimum allowable dropout age from 16 to 18 years old. There are currently 19 states (and the District of Columbia) that have an 18-year old requirement, while 23 states have a 16 year-old requirement. The connection between this mandatory age and the dropout rate is decidedly mixed, and the recommendation to increase the age has not made its way through the state legislature just yet. Framingham's dropout rate for 2008-09 was 2.7% representing 57 students who dropped out of school during that school year. There are certainly lots of reasons it is better to graduate from high school than not, but funding for resources to enhance these percentages is hard to come by in the current economic climate.

One of the investments the Framingham Public Schools has made to combat the possibility of students dropping out is the Thayer Campus Alternative School located on Lawrence Street in Framingham. Director Ann Lamb runs the Thayer Campus and has been the head of that school for over twenty years. There are usually between 75 and 100 students enrolled over the course of each year. The Thayer Campus is a dropout

prevention program that incorporates a slightly shorter school day with a school-to-work component and small class sizes to target instruction for all students. Almost 30 students at Thayer are originally from Keefe Tech. Many of the students at Thayer have struggled with school for years and most are considered juniors or seniors by traditional measures of credits and years in school. The faculty and staff at Thayer make excellent connections with kids and re-engage many students who normally would not graduate.

Congratulations are in order to **FHS senior Nick Flannery**. Late Saturday night Nick became the first ever New England wrestling champion from FHS, winning the 130-pound class at the New England Championships held in New Haven, Connecticut. John Coukos also finished a very respectable fifth in New England. These are great honors and if you see them today, make sure you give them a pat on the back. The team finished in ninth place overall. They have worked very hard and deserve the accolades!

Come listen to candidates for Selectmen! Townwide PTO has invited all of the candidates for Selectmen to speak at the Townwide PTO meeting on **Monday, March 22nd at 7 pm at Framingham High School**. This is the only contested race for the next election. It is important for parents to learn about the candidates as Selectmen are very influential in the tone and priority given to the schools and budgets. Please come with questions or to listen.

The **Salute to Framingham** is next week! 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 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. 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.

Progress reports will be distributed on Friday this week. Please make sure you adhere to the deadlines listed in the calendar at the end of this flyer. This check point may be a shot in the arm to those students who need it as we turn the corner toward the second half of term three.

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of The Week

Post-Secondary Plans of Graduating Seniors For the Class of 2009

Sorted by size of graduating class
Data From MA DESE Website

SCHOOL	4 Year Private College	4 Year Public College	2 Year Private College	2 Year Public College	Other Post Sec	Work	Military	Other	Unknown	Total Grads	Total To Post Sec
State Totals	29.9	26.7	1.4	21.7	2.5	8.3	1.9	1.1	6.3	65,897	82.2
1 Brockton - Brockton High	19	24.4	3.7	29.8	0.2	3.7	1	1.7	16.3	882	77.1
2 Lowell - Lowell High	15.2	29.3	0.5	38.5	2	5.9	3.6	0.9	4.2	665	85.5
3 Fall River - B M C Durfee High	7.3	18.6	4	38.1	0	27.2	4.2	0	0.6	522	68
4 Framingham - Framingham H S	42.6	21.1	0.2	20.3	2.3	6	1.7	1	4.7	516	86.5
5 New Bedford - New Bedford High	10.7	30.5	2.6	34.1	3	11.3	2.2	0.4	5.1	495	80.9
6 Lexington - Lexington High	60.1	26.1	0.6	3.2	1	0.8	0.2	2.2	5.7	494	91
7 Acton-Boxborough Reg High	57.4	33.7	0	5.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.8	1	486	97.3
8 Newton - Newton South High	66.5	24.8	0.2	3.2	0	0.2	0.2	1.5	3.4	468	94.7
9 Weymouth High School	20.8	27.6	1.7	18	3.2	6.2	3.4	0.6	18.4	467	71.3
10 Newton - Newton North High	54.9	20	1.1	7.3	0.7	3.7	0.4	5.5	6.4	455	84
11 Methuen - Methuen High	26.2	16.4	2	36.8	2.2	14.9	1.3	0.2	0	451	83.6
12 Wachusett Regional High	40.8	32.5	0	17.4	1.3	5.3	1.3	0	1.3	449	92
13 Brookline - Brookline High	61.5	23.7	0.2	3	1.6	1.4	0.2	3.7	4.6	431	90
14 Peabody Veterans Memorial High	17.9	39.4	3	27.7	2.1	5.6	2.3	0	1.9	429	90.1
15 Gr New Bedford Voc Tech	7.1	19.8	0	38.7	9.9	20	4.5	0	0	424	75.5
16 Gr Lowell Reg Voc Tech	1.4	12.1	0	41.6	3.8	20.7	2.6	14.3	3.6	421	58.9
17 Chelmsford - Chelmsford High	57.6	15.5	0.5	13.8	4.1	3.4	0.5	0.2	4.4	413	91.5
18 Haverhill - Haverhill High	14.8	27.9	1	35	4.1	9.5	3.2	1.9	2.7	412	82.8
19 Shrewsbury - Shrewsbury Sr High	40.9	34.8	0.5	13.1	0.2	2.4	1.2	1.7	5.1	411	89.5
20 Taunton - Taunton High	15.1	32.9	0.7	21.5	4.5	12.1	3	0	10.1	404	74.7
21 Lincoln-Sudbury Reg High	62.1	26.7	1.2	2.7	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.5	1.5	404	92.9
22 Andover - Andover High	49	39.1	0.2	7	2	1	0.2	1.5	0	402	97.3
23 Barnstable - Barnstable High	30.5	19.9	0.3	31	3.3	10.1	2.5	0.3	2.3	397	85
24 Everett - Everett High	16.7	20.1	3.1	26.5	4.9	1.8	4.6	0	22.4	389	71.3
25 Westford - Westford Academy	42.9	41.6	0.5	11.9	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.5	0	385	98.2

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, 3/8/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

MEPA on-line testing, 7:30 – 11:00 (at least)

Tuesday, 3/9/10 Day 6 - DABEG

Term 3 Progress Reports Comments due by 2:00 PM

Verifications out by 4:00 PM on e-mail

MEPA on-line testing, 7:30 – 11:00 (at least)

Dept. Heads meeting @1:00 PM

Supt Hiersche FY11 Budget Discussion @2:45 PM

In H-100

Wednesday, 3/10/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

AM Collaboration 7:15 – 8:10 AM

HR Starts @8:10; doors close @8:15 AM

MEPA on-line testing, 7:30 – 11:00 (at least)

Winter Sports Varsity Letter Night @6:30 PM

Thursday, 3/11/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

Deadline for Changes to Term 3 comments = 8:00AM

Hypnotist Night @7:00 PM

Friday, 3/12/10 Day 2 - CADGF

Term 3 Progress Reports distributed in HR

Sent home via e-mail by 4:00 PM

NHS Spring Blood Drive

Drama Festival Benefit Performance @7:00 PM

Saturday, 3/13/10

Drama Festival Semi-Final Round

SAT's at FHS

Next Week:

Monday, 3/15/10 Day 3 - BAIEFG

Spring Sports start today

FHS Scholarship Applications due today

RFL Parent Meeting @6:00 PM

Tuesday, 3/16/10 Day 4 - ACDEF

School Committee Mtg re:FY11 Budget @7:30 PM

Wednesday, 3/17/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

Thursday, 3/18/10 Day 6 – DABEG

Improbable Players assembly for sophomores

During D period (7:30 AM)

Principals Meeting @3:00 PM

Salute To Framingham @Sheraton @6:30 PM

Friday, 3/19/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

Saturday, 3/20/10