

“The niftiest turn of phrase, the most elegant flight of rhetorical fancy, isn’t worth a hill of beans next to a clear though clearly expressed...”

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Volume 5

April 5 – 9, 2010

Number 30

The Principal's Flyer

Hi All;

Ahh... the uplifting influence of early spring sunshine on the human spirit. What a boost this gives to the long-suffering New Englanders drenched from recent rains. I was stupid enough to go watch my son's baseball tryouts on Saturday (a 3-hour ordeal if you are unlucky enough to have a last name near the end of the alphabet), and I received an odd sunburn due to the angle of rays on my ultra-white skin. I typically find a nice shady tree to sit under, but it didn't dawn on me until after I arrived that none of the trees had any leaves on them yet, so shade was non-existent. I did my best to hide behind the slender shadow of a light pole, but that was a poor substitute. I continue to be a walking advertisement for the perils of not using sunscreen.

How many of you have been watching the PBS series *High School Quiz Show*? The show airs on Monday nights at 7:30 PM on the local public television station (WGBH – Channel 2). It started two weeks ago and runs for a total of ten weeks. FHS competes on May 17th, and the early results seem to suggest a very positive performance by the students from our high school. Tonight it's Oakmont vs. Revere and if you're interested in more about schedules or results you can click here: <http://www.wgbh.org/quizshow/> Make sure you follow along!

There will be a **school committee meeting this Tuesday, April 6th @7:30 PM** at the King Administration Building to continue deliberations on the FY11 budget. I have not learned any pertinent new information about how the persistent gap between our needs and our available funding will be closed, but I know there was a meeting between the school committee and the town's finance committee last week to outline some of the major issues standing in the way. Please stay informed about these deliberations and remember to vote in the town's annual election this Tuesday also. Polls open at 7:00 AM and remain open until 8:00 PM.

Last Monday, March 29th, the U.S. Department of Education announced the state winners for the projected **\$4.35 Billion in Race To The Top funding**, and only two of the 15 states (and the District of Columbia) who were selected as finalists were awarded funds. Tennessee (\$500 Million) and Delaware (\$100 Million) were the big winners in this first phase, and reviewers cited the strong support from all key areas of education in those states, including elected officials, teachers unions, and business leaders. These two winners were selected from the original 40 applicants for these funds. In the event you are interested, you can see all applicants actual proposals and their actual comments from the reviewers on the federal department of education's website here: <http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/03/03292010.html> I'm not expecting too many of you to spend a lot of your own time reviewing these, but to those who are interested in the increasing influence of the federal government on elementary and secondary education, these provide a spectacular window into the process. I, for one, am strongly in favor of national standards for public education, and the absence of these standards prevents us from having a level playing field when attempting to reform public education nationwide. Incidentally, this also allows the College Board a HUGE opportunity to market their services via a nationwide SAT and AP exam system so our vast post-secondary education market can compare "apples to apples" with exiting seniors. This provides a big cash cow for that

organization, and they benefit immensely from the inconsistency in our current system that makes public education the purview of states rather than the federal government. But I digress...

There were many different aspects to this federal funding, and most states raced to get their applications in earlier this year. Massachusetts scored high in most categories, but got tripped up in the area of tying student performance to teacher and principal evaluations, and on limits to the number and funding of charter schools. In fact, these areas were so weak that Massachusetts ranked 13th out of the 16 finalists' applications. The incentive system here is to open up the lines of innovation and try new techniques for improving student achievement. The next round of applications are due from states on June 1, 2010, and there is still \$3.4 Billion available during the next round. There are carrots dangling out there for these stimulus funds, but the degree of reform needed will require some advanced negotiating to leverage some additional agreements from the state teachers' unions and legislators on charter schools, teacher performance, and turning around underperforming schools. Clearly this will require considerable leadership if this is to be a priority of the state's Department of Education.

Another story garnering top headlines across the state and nation this past week was the **indictment of nine students from South Hadley High School** after the tragic death of 15-year old Phoebe Prince earlier this year. The impact of bullying has been identified as the key factor in Phoebe's suicide, and this has prompted finger pointing at students, parents, teachers, and administrators in that town. The hindsight on this has allowed a tremendous amount of speculation and blaming, but we know that bullying goes on in virtually every school in the country. But it is the obligation of adults to intervene and stop these incidents. When I say adults I mean parents, teachers, and any others who come across such behaviors. The explosion of Internet social networking sites makes this work far more challenging than simply keeping an eye out for what happens in the classroom, lunchroom, or corridors.

The reality is that today's bullying scene is fueled by text messages, wall postings, and taunts hurled anonymously via the Internet from computer screens in parents' homes and from cell phones carried by virtually all teens. FHS recently held a faculty discussion and training around how to interrupt the bullying in the form of anti-gay harassment in schools and those techniques can be applied to bullying in general, but schools alone will not be able to eliminate bullying altogether. FHS, like all schools, periodically sees instances of harassment and in many instances this takes the form of a parent coming into the school armed with pages of printouts of taunts and threats from on-line instant messaging and stored cell phone text messages. In quite a few instances these fly in both directions, and we try to sort out the aggressors from the victims while involving our school resource officers right away. We are only as good as the information we get, and I always say that we sometimes make bad decisions when we get bad or incomplete information. The bottom line is that we all need to work together to address bullying behaviors and that starts with kids informing a trusted adult when they see this happening, and the adults responding with a strong message to interrupt the behavior. Other sound practices include limiting kids' time on computers and keeping computers in areas of the home where adults routinely pass by with screens pointed toward a common area. Computers in bedrooms are a recipe for problems, and unlimited text messaging opens the door for lots of issues. Please be aware of what your kids are doing and be informed.

Grades are due on Tuesday this week and report cards will be distributed in homeroom and mailed home on Friday. We are only two weeks away from a much-needed April break. After that it's seven weeks of classes before final exams, and the year should draw to a close with the last day of school on Thursday, June 17th. Hurray for no snow days!

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of The Week

Rankings of States That Applied For Race To The Top Funding

State	Rank	Final Score	For Finalists Only	
			Tier 1 Score	Change
Alabama	37	291.2		
Arizona	40	240.2		
Arkansas	17	394.4		
California	27	336.8		
Colorado	14	409.6	408.8	0.8
Connecticut	25	344.6		
Delaware	1	454.6	438.4	16.2
District Of Columbia	16	402.4	402.0	0.4
Florida	4	431.4	425.0	6.4
Georgia	3	433.6	434.4	-0.8
Hawaii	22	364.6		
Idaho	28	331.0		
Illinois	5	423.8	423.4	0.4
Indiana	23	355.6		
Iowa	24	346.0		
Kansas	29	329.6		
Kentucky	9	418.8	416.4	2.4
Louisiana	11	418.2	410.8	7.4
Massachusetts	13	411.4	403.8	7.6
Michigan	21	366.2		
Minnesota	20	375.0		
Missouri	33	301.4		
Nebraska	39	247.4		
New Hampshire	38	271.2		
New Jersey	18	387.0		
New Mexico	30	325.2		
New York	15	408.6	411.2	-2.6
North Carolina	12	414.0	407.0	7.0
Ohio	10	418.6	423.4	-4.8
Oklahoma	34	294.6		
Oregon	35	292.6		
Pennsylvania	7	420.0	412.2	7.8
Rhode Island	8	419.0	411.0	8.0
South Carolina	6	423.2	423.2	0
South Dakota	41	135.8		
Tennessee	2	444.2	443.4	0.8
Utah	19	379.4		
Virginia	31	324.8		
West Virginia	36	292.4		
Wisconsin	26	341.2		
Wyoming	32	318.6		

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, 4/5/10 Day 3 - BAEFG

New Teacher Meeting @2:00 PM
Varsity Baseball vs. Ashland HS @3:30 PM
Girls Frosh Softball vs. Newton North @3:45 PM
Boys Frosh Baseball vs. Newton North @3:45 PM
Girls Frosh Lacrosse vs. Newton North @4:00 PM
PTBO Meeting @7:00 PM
High School Quiz Show on WGBH @7:30 PM

Tuesday, 4/6/10 Day 4 - ACDEF

Grades due for Term 3 @2:00 PM
Framingham Votes Today! Selectmen & Sch. Cmt.
Verifications on e-mail by 4:00 PM
Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Newton North @4:00 PM
Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Newton North @4:00 PM
School Committee Mtg on Budget @7:30 PM

Wednesday, 4/7/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

Boys Tennis vs. Newton North @3:45 PM
Boys Frosh Lacrosse vs. Natick @4:00 PM
RFL Board of Directors Meeting @6:00 PM
Dresses For A Cure event @FHS 6:30 – 9:00 PM
T.E.C. College Fair @Westwood HS 7-9:00 PM

Thursday, 4/8/10 Day 6 – DABEG

Schindler's List showing for all 9th graders in Mod.
World Classes - 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM in auditorium
Deadline for grade changes @8:00 AM
Varsity & JV Baseball vs. Needham @3:45 PM
Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Wellesley @4:00 PM
Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Wellesley @5:30 PM
School Council Meeting @7:00 PM

Friday, 4/9/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

Term 3 Report Cards distributed in HR
Report cards e-mailed home by 4:00 PM
Girls Frosh Lacrosse vs. Weymouth @3:45 PM
Girls Tennis vs. Wellesley @3:45 PM
Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Norwood @4:00 PM
Boys JV Volleyball vs. Norwood @5:30 PM

Saturday, 4/10/10

Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Medford @10:00 AM

Next Week:

Monday, 4/12/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

Frosh Baseball vs. Natick @3:45 PM
Boys Tennis vs. Weymouth @4:00 PM
Boys Frosh Lacrosse vs. Walpole @4:00 PM

Tuesday, 4/13/10 Day 2 - CADGF

Drama Company NYC Field Trip
Girls Frosh Softball vs. Needham @3:45 PM
Boys Frosh Baseball vs. Needham @3:45 PM
Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Weymouth @4:00 PM
Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Weymouth @4:00 PM
Boys & Girls Track vs. Needham @4:00 PM

Wednesday, 4/14/10 Day 3 - BAEFG

AM Collaboration Day 7:15 – 8:05 AM
HR Doors Open @8:10 AM
HR Doors Close @8:15 AM
Varsity & JV Baseball vs. Newton North @3:45 PM
Girls Frosh Lacrosse vs. Needham @4:00 PM
Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Weymouth @4:00 PM
Boys Tennis vs. Natick @4:00 PM
Boys JV Volleyball vs. Weymouth @5:15 PM

Thursday, 4/15/10 Day 4 – ACDEF

Principal's Meeting @Stapleton School @3:00 PM
Boys JV Tennis vs. Needham @3:45 PM
Boys & Girls Track vs. Norwood @3:45 PM
Boys Varsity & JV Lacrosse vs. Natick @4:00 PM
Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Needham @4:00 PM

Friday, 4/16/10 Day 5 - CBGFE

Day of Silence today
April Vacation begins @2:00 PM!
Varsity & JV Softball vs. Wellesley @3:45 PM
Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Wellesley @4:00 PM
Boys JV Volleyball vs. Wellesley @5:15 PM

Saturday, 4/17/10

