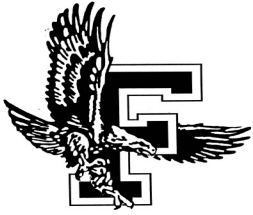


“When something does not insist on being noticed, when we aren’t grabbed by the collar or struck on the skull by a presence or an event, we take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude...”

Cynthia Ozick



Volume 5

May 24 - 28, 2010

Number 36

The Principal's Flyer

Hi All;

Hard to believe that we are in the last week of May already! It was a whirlwind of senior events almost every night last week, and that will continue this week too. Our last day for seniors is Thursday with their annual “senior check out”, so if you have any last minute things lingering make sure you get to the seniors this week, or they’ll be into the sunset. This is your last chance to get their attention before graduation!

The **FY11 school department budget** did not come up for consideration last Thursday evening at town meeting. I attended at Nevin’s Hall on Thursday last week and got an interesting education in the costs of health insurance for town employees, but the school department budget did not see any daylight. The meeting adjourned shortly after 10:30 PM and it is certain that the school budget will be considered on either Tuesday or Wednesday this week. The vote for two furlough days by the teachers’ association will likely save somewhere in the neighborhood of \$600,000 and I understand there are additional discussions with other unions for similar agreements. However, this will still leave the school department with a budget that is approximately \$800,000 or so above the most recent recommendation from the town’s CFO. There may be some last minute negotiating on this, so the debate at town meeting will likely be quite impactful. You are always welcome and encouraged to attend these proceedings, and your presence sends a strong message about the schools. I will update you when I have more information.

I received a message from our buildings and grounds department that the **Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA)** will be sending a representative here on Wednesday (May 226) this week to inspect FHS. This agency is in charge of “ranking” every single school building in the state in order to classify those structures in their relative need for renovation funds. I am pretty sure we will not be anywhere near qualifying for any funding since we were just renovated, but our neighbors in Wayland and Natick have recently approved plans to move forward with new schools based on their placement by this agency. If you see me walking around with some unknown characters and popping into places, you’ll know why.

How many of you caught the article in last Thursday’s Boston Globe regarding **the state’s current consideration to potentially move away from MCAS testing in English and Math in favor of a national exam?** Debate over whether Massachusetts should abandon its MCAS tests and state standards for national standards has long been contentious. The national standards, an effort first spearheaded by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, aims to remedy an inequity in the US education system: Some states have set higher standards than other states. Two months ago, Massachusetts education officials, who have been helping to develop the standards, expressed reservations about the rigor of some of the national standards when drafts were released, vowing not to adopt them if they didn’t measure up to Massachusetts. That stance could have cost Massachusetts \$250 million in federal funding in the Obama administration’s Race to the Top competition, which provides grants to overhaul schools. The state lost out during the first round of funding this spring, and a review panel raised doubts about Massachusetts’s

commitment to adopting national standards. The state is preparing an application for a second round of funding next month. I for one am in favor of national standards, but I also understand why the state would be hesitant to endorse this discussion if the standards were lower than what we currently expect. I suspect that is exactly what would happen, because the adoption of Massachusetts-level standards for much of the rest of the country would result in huge numbers of failures in other states. Stay tuned on this one. The article also spoke about the move toward on-line testing. This would be an enormous problem for us if our experiment with on-line MEPA testing was any indication. Ugh.

I have been notified that the students of **FHS-TV have earned a High School EMMY Award for 2010** from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for the category of "Live Broadcast", for their broadcast of the Flyers vs. Walpole Basketball Game broadcast this past winter on cable and streamed live on the Internet, as well as two Honorable Mention Awards for script writing. The National Academy actually has four EMMY programs including the Network EMMY Awards, the Daytime EMMY Awards, Sports EMMYs, and this high school program. There are seven categories offered in the high school competition, ranging from Technical Achievement to Long Form Production. This is FHS-TV's 14th EMMY Award in the 10 years of the competition. I am very proud of the 12 kids who worked together to win this year's award, as it was a large group project that involved pre-game and post game analysis, the live game, instant replay and more buttons and whistles. Congratulations to everyone at FHS TV!

As mentioned last week, the **fire in a trash can after school last Thursday** in the girls bathroom in first floor F-hall was being aggressively investigated by both the detectives from the police and a representative from the first department last Friday. I was not able to touch base with anyone regarding any conclusions, but I hope to hear some information about it today. If you hear anything from students, please make sure you get that information to any vice-principal or me directly today. In many of these instances, teachers overhearing kids talking about it are our best sources of information. Thanks in advance.

Many of you will recall that our **Director of Technology Adam Seldow** announced last year that teachers and departments had one year to migrate their old websites located on the pages subdomain to our new website. We are fast approaching that one year deadline. Adam informs me that we are shutting down the server that hosts the pages.framingham.k12.ma.us websites this summer. You can create websites on the new content management system and our own FHS webmaster Sommer Jones can give you some guidance on this process. This is going to happen whether everyone is prepared for it or not, so what can for the time being is simply save the site's html and host it on a Google page or something free, and then link to it from our website in the interim. If nothing else, make sure you save the content somewhere so it doesn't disappear forever.

We can all use the Monday off next week, as Memorial Day comes our way. Make sure you're ready for the next few weeks as it can be a time of exceedingly high stress and we are always better off if we are well planned and consistent rather than frenzied and rushed. The MCAS Science exam next week will fill our plates, and this comes on top of graduation too. We'll need all our reserves to make it through!

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of The Week

Mobility Rates for FHS Students

(as recently published by the DESE)

This information attempts to take into consideration the number of students who move into or out of a particular school during the academic year. The “Percent Stability” represents the percentage of students that remained consistently in the school during the entire 2008-09 school year.

I have been interested in this statistic for years and I just noticed the presence of this data recently on the DESE website. It shows that almost 10% of students at FHS (overall) were not here for the whole year last year...

More on this information (and how we compare with other schools on this data) in the days ahead!

2009 Mobility Rates

Student Group	Churn/Intake Enroll	% Churn	% Intake	Stability Enroll	% Stability
Aggregate	2,289	13.5	9.1	2,180	90.8
Lim. English Prof.	173	39.3	27.2	148	71.0
Special Education	408	23.5	16.2	383	81.5
Low Income	735	18.4	13.5	685	87.6
Black or Afr. Amer.	206	21.8	17.5	186	86.6
Asian	120	5.8	3.3	119	95.0
Hispanic	409	25.9	16.9	374	81.0
Amer. Ind. or Alaska Nat.	6	16.7	0.0	6	83.3
White	1,541	9.7	6.4	1,488	93.6
Nat. Haw. or Pacif. Isl.	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	7	28.6	0.0	7	71.4

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, 5/24/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

Senior Final Exams during periods B & G
Varsity & JV Softball vs. Braintree @3:45 PM
Boys Tennis vs. Brookline @4:00 PM
Boys Varsity & JV Lacrosse vs. Brookline @4:00 PM

Tuesday, 5/25/10 Day 6 - DABEG

Senior Final Exams during periods D & E
Boys Frosh Lacrosse vs. Wellesley @4:00 PM
Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Andover @4:00 PM
POPS Concert in auditorium @6:00 PM
8th Grade Athletics Orientation in café @7:00 PM
Boys Volleyball MIAA Quarterfinals Playoff match
@ Wachusett @7PM

Wednesday, 5/26/10 Day 7 - CBGFE

Senior Final Exams during periods C & F
Girls Tennis vs. Wellesley @3:45 PM
Varsity & JV Baseball vs. Brookline @4:00 PM
Spring Sports Letter Night @6:00 PM
Athletics Awards Night @7:00 PM

Thursday, 5/27/10 Day 1 - ABCDE

Senior Grades due at 8:00 AM
Senior Check-out in Front Gym 9-11:00 AM
Girls Frosh Lacrosse vs. Weston @4:00 PM
Frosh Baseball vs. Brookline @4:00 PM
Frosh Softball vs. Brookline @4:00 PM
Fashion Show @7:00 PM in auditorium

Friday, 5/28/10 Day 2 - CADGF

Senior Prom at Fairmont Copley, 7-11:00 PM

Saturday, 5/29/10

Next Week:

Monday, 5/31/10 NO SCHOOL - MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, 6/1/10 Day 3 - BAEFG

Senior Cabaret & Theater Awards @6:00 PM

Wednesday, 6/2/10 Day 4 - ACDEF

MCAS Science Exams today
Senior Cruise - Leaves from Rowe's Wharf @2:45PM

Thursday, 6/3/10 Day 5 - BDCGF

Junior Book Awards, 7:45 AM in cafeteria
MCAS Science Exams today
Graduation Rehearsal @10:00 AM @Cushing Park
Senior Picnic after rehearsal

Friday, 6/4/10 Day 6 - DABEG

Spring College Fair in cafeteria 8:00 - 10:00 AM
Graduation Rehearsal Rain date @10:00 AM

Saturday, 6/5/10

SAT's at FHS

Sunday, 6/6/10

Graduation @Cushing Memorial Park @1:00 PM