

“There are but two roads that lead to an important goal and to the doing of great things: strength and perseverance. Strength is the lot of but a few privileged men; but austere perseverance, harsh and continuous, may be employed by the smallest of us and rarely fails of its purpose, for its silent posser grows irresistibly greater with time...”

Johann von Goethe



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The Principal's Flyer

Hi All;

And so we have just about reached the end of the 2009-10 school year.

We only have a few more days of final exams to administer then we'll be headed off for the summer on Thursday this week. Remember, students will only have to attend school on Thursday if they need to take make-up exams missed during the traditional exam period(s). There will be no buses for students on Thursday, so everyone will have to make their own arrangements for transportation. Please make sure you let the student's vice-principal know if you will be administering a final exam on Thursday due to a student's absence from the traditional exam period.

I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all students **to consider enrolling in a summer school class this summer**. There are a number of original credit courses offered, and taking advantage of the summer vacation to get ahead gives all students an enormous advantage during the school year. This is especially true of students who want to enroll in band for all four years of high school, or those who want to concentrate in other elective areas during their four years at FHS. More and more students are "running out" of available class periods during the traditional September-to-June school year, and taking a summer course frees up the regular school year time for other options. There are only seven options (periods A-G) that students can elect during the regular year, but taking a summer school class frees up one of those blocks during the following year and this may be used for an additional elective or other pursuit. Please check out the summer school course offerings via the link on our FHS website or contact English teacher John Geoghegan for more information.

It has been a long haul, and I am not at all certain that we will have all the answers to our staffing and budget concerns for the 2010-11 school year by that time. It looks like there will be another week or so of negotiating before we will have any clarity.

As you are probably aware, \$430,000 still needs to be cut from the FY2011 budget. In addition to this figure, there are still many unresolved personnel switches due to "bumping" (positions cut from those workers with more seniority having rights to positions occupied by people with less seniority). Sorting out this bumping process will not happen before we leave for the summer, primarily with our secretaries and aide positions. While this is being sorted out, there are on-going negotiations with other unions to discuss options similar to the teachers' union's generous approval for a two-day furlough. There are unions for secretaries (Unit S), teaching assistants/aides (Unit T), and also the FAA (administrators, directors, vice-principals, etc). If these additional negotiations reach agreements of some kind, then the \$430,000 mentioned above becomes somewhat smaller. In turn, this may reduce the number of positions cut.

Unfortunately, however, these negotiations take time and we will likely not have these discussions settled prior to the last day of school on Thursday. We also do not yet know our final departmental expense budget amounts, since those will also be dependent upon those issues mentioned above. The bottom line is that we have to be somewhat tolerant of the obvious ambiguity this situation creates, and we'll likely have to adapt to whatever clarity eventually emerges. It has been a challenging year on the budget front. For me as principal, learning a new process again with our third superintendent in the last four years has been an additional obstacle that has caused me to adapt. We've never had so many unsettled issues this late in the year, but the circumstances of the economy have forced things to be this way. Nothing will be easy, but I am happy we did not lose any more staffing than appears to be the case currently.

Also still left hanging out there right now for next year are **when the two "furlough days" will happen**. I believe (but don't quote me on this...) the two "furlough days" agreed to between the FTA (Unit A teachers' union) and the school committee are going to be days without school on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 (election day) and Friday, January 14, 2011 (the day before ML King weekend). These days were originally scheduled on the calendar as full-day professional development days. Now I think plan is for them to be days off for both students AND teachers, thus the two "furlough days". Again, don't quote me on this, as I have not seen a revised 2010-11 calendar yet. When I do, it will come your way.

As we look ahead toward the 2010-11 school year, we will have a number of issues to tackle. High on the list is the transition to a completely **new student information system (X-2)** that will require some adaptations. The system will combine the present "GradeQuick" and "Administrator's Plus" systems we currently use at the high school. It will also roll in the information we currently store district-wide in a home grown system we call "SIS". This has been used for perhaps 15 years to enroll and track students at the K-8 level. In addition, the information stored on IEP's and in medical records will eventually also be lumped in. Guidance counselors, secretaries, and vice-principals are currently being trained on the system, and I will be releasing information for teachers on how to do the basics as soon as I am able. This will take a little while to work the bugs out, but hopefully we'll be up and running without too much trouble.

I will also be spending time this summer attending a number of conferences and seminars on how the recently approved **anti-bullying statues** will impact public schools. We will have to modify our student handbook and create district-wide language in order to comply, and we will then have to determine how we will train all of our staff from bus drivers to district leaders. This will be no small task!

Lastly, **I'm looking forward to some down time**, as I know all of you are too. I look forward to catching up on some reading, and particularly the information I recently read about high school and college academies springing up across the country. The Welches are also eagerly anticipating a long-planned summer trip to Disney World. My five-year old Amber often gets the short end of the stick on many family experiences, but this time she's going to get all the marbles!

Rest up, have some fun, stay healthy (no sun burns!), and be ready to start all over beginning on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 when all the kids return!

See you again then.

Remember to scroll down for the weekly calendar!

Statistic Of The Week

The percentage of students nationwide earning a high school diploma four years after entering high school :

2007 - 68.8%

2006 - 69.2%

Data from "Diplomas Count, 2010" published by Education Week. Data released last week.

"The percent of students earning a standard diploma in four years shifted from 69.2 percent in 2006 to 68.8 percent in 2007, according to an analysis of the most recent data in "Diplomas Count 2010." It was the second consecutive year of decline, says the report, which was released Thursday by Education Week and the Editorial Projects in Education (EPE) Research Center, a nonprofit in Bethesda, Md.

That translates to 11,000 fewer graduates in 2007 than in 2006. At its peak in 1969, the national graduation rate was 77 percent.

By 2011-12, the US Department of Education will be holding states accountable for progress in four-year graduation rates."

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, 6/14/10 EXAM DAY 2

No Homeroom

C-Period Exam 7:30 – 9:00 AM

D-Period Exam 9:15 – 10:45 AM

Buses depart at 10:55 AM

Girls Lacrosse in MIAA Eastern Final

Vs. Westwood at Babson College @5:00 PM

Tuesday, 6/15/10 EXAM DAY 3

No Homeroom

E-Period Exam 7:30 – 9:00 AM

F-Period Exam 9:15 – 10:45 AM

Buses depart at 10:55 AM

Wednesday, 6/16/10 EXAM DAY 4

No Homeroom

G-Period Exam 7:30 – 9:00 AM

Buses depart at 9:15 AM

Make Up Exams, 9:15 – 10:45 AM

Thursday, 6/17/10 MAKE UP EXAMS

Only students needing to take make-up exams need to attend on this day.

Students must secure their own transportation to and from school.

NO Next Week!

Summer School Starts on June 28; Ends July 28

Summer Building hours = 7:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Building closed for fire alarm testing

August 2 – 6 and August 9 – 13

Call before driving in during those weeks to

Ascertain availability