

*“Imagination was given to us to compensate for what we are not; a sense of humor was provided to console us for what we are...”*

**Mack McGinnis**



# The Principal's Flyer

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Hi All;

Don't you just love the weather this time of year? The sky always seems clear and deep blue in the mornings, and this weekend was absolutely glorious. I took advantage of the conditions as the family rode our bikes along the Charles River all the way down to the Museum of Science. I visited a new area across from the Museum called "North Point Park". I can only assume this beautiful area was funded by the Big Dig project. There are wonderful playgrounds with fountains and sprinklers for kids to play in, and there are gorgeous gardens along the water with flowers of every type imaginable. The walking paths and grassy stretches were not at all crowded, and the granite benches and walls were perfect for watching the boats go in and out under the North Station railroad bridge. We capped it off with a sneak peak at the new Black Holes exhibit at the Museum. What more could you ask for? I highly recommend this excursion if you haven't done it already, and remember that there is free admission to the Museum with your MTA card!

By now most of you are likely quite aware of the stir created by **President Obama's Speech to the nation's schoolchildren scheduled for today.** If you have not yet seen the exact remarks he will deliver, feel free to click here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/MediaResources/PreparedSchoolRemarks/>. The White House likely released these results before the speech to counter accusations of indoctrination or politics in the message, and having read the speech myself I see little to fuel those accusations. Superintendent Hiersche and I discussed the airing of the speech and we will not be showing it live unless individual teachers who feel it is appropriate to their curriculum choose to show it in their classrooms. If you do plan on showing portions of the speech, please honor student requests to not view it to so as to avoid any difficulty. We will be recording the message so that teachers may choose to show it in the future if they wish, and we may show it with captions in the cafeteria during lunch if the technology allows for it.

We have lots of issues to juggle at this time of year, and the pressures of this time in the school year make it difficult to weave this speech in to the curriculum. In addition, giving the speech live at 12:00 PM when most east coast students are at lunch makes for an additional wrinkle that is hard to correct. However, a pep talk for the nation's children encouraging them to work hard and stay in school to keep their futures bright seems like a positive thing to do. Regardless of where you sit on the political spectrum, the attention this address has gathered shines an additional spotlight on education and I'm happy to see that. There will likely be plenty of sound bites on the news for you to see, and the debate will continue for a few days before being pushed off the headlines by other agenda items, most likely health care and the economy.

Late last spring the local public television affiliate WGBH wrote to all high schools in eastern Massachusetts to invite them to participate in an academic challenge on TV. We at FHS eagerly applied, then I promptly forgot about it and figured there were so many schools applying we would never be selected. Well, last week we got word that **FHS was chosen as one of the few schools selected to be among the first to participate!** I don't have too many details at this point, but I am excited that we will have this opportunity, and look forward to preparing for competition!

If you plan on attending a lot of Flyer athletic events this year, you should consider purchasing an annual **“Flyer Athletics” pass**. This pass will get you into any FHS home athletic event that charges admission during the entire 2009-10 school year. The annual card may be purchased through the Athletic Department for \$20 (first adult), and \$15 (students or second adult in family). That’s a true bargain when you consider the cost of individual games. Be aware, however, that these passes will not work for any MIAA playoff games, as the MIAA controls the gate at these events, or on the Thanksgiving Day football game at Natick this year. These will also be available at the first home football game and at Open House Night on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to contact Cathy Miles at [Cathymiles@comcast.net](mailto:Cathymiles@comcast.net) if you have any questions or need more information. Thanks for your enthusiastic support in advance.

Many of you are aware that our Director of Technology Adam Seldow is in the process of investigating the advantages and disadvantages of **on-line grade book software**. To better inform this expanding practice, he will be conducting research with FHS teachers who wish to participate. This research will better inform our future possible investment in and implementation of this technology. If you are interested in participating with some of your classes, you are encouraged to stop by and get your questions answered in the FHS library today, **Tuesday September 8 any time between 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM**. Adam tells me that there is still some space available for a few more teachers, and if you are excited (or nervous) about this technology, he would like to speak to you.

Remember that the sophomores, juniors, and seniors will all have **grade-based assemblies this week** to set the appropriate tone for each of them early in the year. Check the calendar at the end of this message to make sure you know when they will be held. Please attend and assist if the majority of the students in your class are of the grade attending. Thanks for your help in this.

Last week was three days, this week is four days, and next week will be our first five-day week. I appreciate the opportunity to gradually ramp up in intensity, and look forward to the days ahead!

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

# **Statistic Of Week**

**Number of FHS Freshmen currently participating  
in Fall Sports at FHS:**

**180**

# 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, 9/7/09 NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

Boys Varsity Soccer scrimmage vs. CM @3:30 PM

### Tuesday, 9/8/09 Day 4 - ACDEF

Boys Frosh Soccer vs. NNHS @3:45 PM

### Wednesday, 9/9/09 Day 5 - BDCGF

Sophomore Class Assembly @8:15 AM in Aud

Boys Varsity & JV Soccer vs. NNHS @3:45 PM

Girls Frosh Field Hockey vs. NNHS @3:45 PM

### Thursday, 9/10/09 Day 6 - DABEG

Junior Class Assembly @8:15 AM in Auditorium

Principals Meeting @10:00 AM

Girls Frosh Soccer vs. Wellesley @3:45 PM

Girls Volleyball vs. Wellesley; JV @ 4, Varsity @5

Boys Varsity Golf vs. Weymouth @4:00 PM

### Friday, 9/11/09 Day 7 - CBGFE

Senior Class Assembly @9:20 AM in Auditorium

Girls Varsity Swimming vs. Dedham time TBA

Girls Varsity & JV Soccer vs. Wellesley @3:45 PM

Girls Field Hockey vs. Wellesley; Var @3:45; JV @5

Boys Varsity Football vs. Walpole @7:00 PM

## Next Week:

### Monday, 9/14/09 Day 1 - ABCDE

New Teachers Meeting in E-202 @2:30 PM

Varsity Field Hockey vs. D-S @3:30 PM

### Tuesday, 9/15/09 Day 2 - CADGF

Boys Frosh Soccer vs. Weymouth @3:45 PM

### Wednesday, 9/16/09 Day 3 - BAEFG

AM Collaboration Day

Teachers in collaboration time 7:15 – 8:05 AM

HR doors open at 8:10 AM

HR Starts @8:15 AM

Deadline to add/drop Semester 1 courses

Boys Var & JV Soccer vs. Weymouth @3:45 PM

Boys Golf vs. Natick @4:00 PM

### Thursday, 9/17/09 Day 4 - ACDEF

Mike at NISL all day

FHS OPEN HOUSE 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Boys Frosh Soccer vs. Natick @3:45 PM

Frosh Field Hockey vs. Natick @3:45 PM

### Friday, 9/18/09 Day 5 - BDCGF

Boys Varsity & JV Soccer vs. Natick @3:45 PM

Frosh Football vs. Newton North @4:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah begins at nightfall