



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Community Members,

At this time of the year, it is important to reflect on and thank all of the people who have helped contribute to the success of our students. Thank you to all of our teachers, administrators and staff who daily demonstrate their commitment and devotion to the students in their care; to the many volunteers who support the schools with their time and contributions; to the Arlington Education Foundation for their grants that inspire innovation; to town personnel for their continuous support; and, to the Arlington community for their approval of an override in June.

I want to wish all of you a peaceful and joyful holiday season with your family and friends.

Best regards,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

Some Recent Highlights in the Arlington Public Schools:

New Learning Center at AHS Providing Tutoring

New at Arlington High School (AHS) this year, the Learning Center is available to provide in-school tutoring to all AHS students. The Center is staffed by a certified Math teacher three days a week and a certified English teacher two days a week. The Center is open from 9-3:30 daily. Over 50 students are currently assigned to study at the Learning Center during their study periods. Some of these students have requested to be assigned to the Center for their study periods. In addition, the Center is open to drop-ins and more than 20 students a week take advantage of this opportunity. National Honor Society students volunteer to tutor, as well as, community volunteers, many of whom are from High Rock Church. The student and adult volunteers offer tutoring in subjects beyond Math and English so that AHS students can find support in Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. The Center is never empty, and students report that they love the ability to get this support.

AHS Athletic Highlights

A great accomplishment for the cross country team this fall was that three students qualified for the state meet. Both the boys and girls soccer teams made the state tournament with the girls advancing to the Division 2 North Semi-Finals. The field hockey team missed qualifying for the state tournament by only one point. The football team had

wins over North Quincy, Winchester and Belmont. The football team should be recognized and thanked for the incredible amount of time they volunteered to repaint the locker room. An Arlington High School student placed 2nd in a state-wide essay contest sponsored by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and was a guest honoree at the Sportsmanship Summit held at Gillette Stadium.

Fall Sports Summary

- We had 357 students participate in athletics this past fall with Middlesex League All Stars in the following sports:
 - Football
 - Boys Soccer
 - Girls Soccer
 - Boys Cross Country
 - Girls Cross Country
 - Golf
 - Field Hockey
- Three cross country runners qualified for the state tournament.

Kudos... To AHS Performing Arts Department

You may enjoy reading a wonderful article (link below) on the AHS Jazz Band, directed by Tino D'Agostino, regarding its participation in the 2011 Berklee College International Jazz Festival (where they won 2nd place!!). The article was written by Arlington resident, Carla Deford, and can be found on page 44 of the magazine.

http://issuu.com/jazzed/docs/jazzed_november_2011_issuu/49?mode=a_p

Also, congratulations to the AHS Madrigal Singers for an exceptional performance at the November METCO Directors' Association Conference in early December. This wonderful ensemble, under the direction of Cheryl Christo, performed selections of music at the Sheraton Conference Center in Norwood. The Madrigal Singers did a terrific job and this performance was very much appreciated by the audience.

Congratulations to the Drama Department for fine performances in *The Christmas Carol*.

Book Club - Connecting Youth, Seniors, and an International Author

The high school's Intergenerational Book Club, advised by special education teacher Brian Sylvester, participated in a "global read" of the novel *Girl in Translation* sponsored by Primary Source on December 1. The book club brings students together with local citizens in partnership with the Council on Aging to share perspectives across multiple generations of readers. As part of the event, the group joined a live question and answer session with author Jean Kwok via a webcam from Holland. They learned about her real life inspirations for writing about immigration, adolescence, and identity. Arlington's membership in Primary Source, a non-profit organization that promotes history and humanities education by connecting educators with people and cultures throughout the world, is made possible by the Arlington Education Foundation.

Japan Homestay Exchange 2012

Arlington High School and Ottoson Middle School students are invited to participate in our summer 2012 homestay exchange with our sister city of Nagaokakyo, Japan. The trip will be held from July 5th-15th, 2012 and will be chaperoned and directed by Ottoson Middle School history teacher Chris Mahoney and K-12 Social Studies Director Kerry Dunne. The cost of the trip is \$2,100, which includes flights and all living expenses. Students will stay with families in the city of Nagaokakyu, which is a suburb of Kyoto, and will experience many unforgettable cultural exchanges as they have an opportunity to live a typical Japanese daily life and to visit some of Japan's most famous sites during their trip. Interested students and their families may contact Ms. Dunne at kdunne@arlington.k12.ma.us or Mr. Mahoney at cmahoney@arlington.k12.ma.us for more information.

Kindergarten Class Skyping Around the World!

In an effort to connect children to the global world in which they live using 21st century skills, Kindergarten students in Jo-Ellen Rowley's class at Stratton are using Skype to host virtual visits across the globe. Each child has the opportunity to invite someone connected to them into the classroom via video chat. Without physical or even time zone restrictions, these Kindergartners are able to make connections, read stories, and learn about different environments. So far, students have met a curriculum director at a foreign language school in Korea, a professor at Yale University, and a 5th grade student in China. The idea for this project was inspired by the Alan November Building Learning Communities Technology Conference that many Arlington teachers and administrators attended last summer in Boston.

Implementation of Technology Plan

Arlington Public Schools approved a Technology Plan last year that will guide investments in technology over the coming years. Based on the goals of the District's Technology Plan, priority is given to technology investments that meet the following criteria:

- Potential high impact on teaching and learning (i.e. the technology tools that support student-centered learning and affect the process of instruction and the delivery of curriculum)
- Equalization of hardware and resources across schools and departments
- Maximum impact on number of students and/or teachers
- Relevant professional development included in any acquisition plan

So far this school year, with a combination of district funds and a \$10,000 grant from the Arlington Education Foundation, the district has added 94 LCD projectors in K-12 classrooms. These LCD projectors create internet connected classrooms, allowing multi-media presentations in the classroom, including technology-infused student presentations. The projectors also allow teachers to make use of Arlington's new *Discovery Streaming* membership (purchased through the Teaching American History grant), which is a resource for video clips and images that enhance instruction. A projector provides clearer visual imaging to enhance the presentation of notes and information and the ability to integrate video and images into those notes. Additionally, projectors provide the opportunity to Skype with a webcam with the entire class participating.