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Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

I begin this letter acknowledging with sadness the passing of State Senator Ken Donnelly and Bishop staff member Greg Wright. Senator Donnelly was well known in our community. He appreciated the importance of education in the lives of young people and always lent his support to school funding. When possible, he attended school functions and consistently made himself available when our students and teachers visited the State House. In fact, his presence at the State House when Principal Stephanie Zerchykov and several Brackett teachers received the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commendation for high achievement was one of his last official acts with us. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Wright was the beloved custodian at Bishop Elementary School for the last seven years. Altogether, he worked as a custodian in the Arlington Public Schools for 20 years. He was a good friend to staff and was known for his warmth, jovial good humor, willingness to always be helpful and his stories. He will be greatly missed in the Bishop community.

We are living through unsettling times, and it is important for all of us to reflect on our values and responsibilities. This is why I was compelled to distribute a statement regarding immigrant and refugee students in the Arlington Public Schools. We are a diverse community and welcome all immigrants. We recognize, however, that many may be feeling vulnerable. Please be assured that we honor and support the state and national laws, as well as our district's policies. The following comes from the letter I distributed:

In Arlington, district Policy JF-E-1, 4, states "Each student, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or limited English-speaking ability, shall have equal rights of access to courses of study and other opportunities available through the Arlington Public Schools, along with appropriate bilingual instruction and programs or other curriculum offerings of a supportive nature such as appropriate remedial programs." Policy GCF, 1, affirms "There will be no discrimination in the hiring process due to age, sex, creed, race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or place of residence."

Please understand that Arlington Public Schools does not:

- Ask students or their families about immigration status
- Share personally identifiable information
- Share immigration status, if we are aware of it, with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services or Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

I hope that anyone in our community with questions or concerns will consider contacting the following organizations:

- Arlington Human Rights Commission, <http://www.arlingtonhumanrights.org/>, 781-316-3250
- National Immigration Law Center, <https://www.nilc.org>
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, <https://www.miracoalition.org/>
- National Lawyers Guild: Know Your Rights, <http://www.nlg.org/know-your-rights/>
- Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (PAIR), <http://pairproject.org/>

In closing, I want to let everyone know that the [Arlington High School Spring College Fair](#) will be held in the TOZ gym at AHS on May 4, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Over 100 colleges from across the country will be taking part. Often the representatives who attend the Fair are the same ones who make admissions decisions for our geographic area. This is an excellent time to ask questions and meet college staff and alumni face-to-face. You may not know that most area high schools do not hold college fairs, and I commend the AHS Guidance Department for providing this opportunity for our students.

Best regards,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Headline View

Department News

"Re-imagining Education" Brings Attendees "Inside the Classroom" to Explore Innovations

Participants attending the *Re-Imagining Education: Curriculum Innovations in the APS* forum this month engaged with teachers in small groups to explore the ways our schools are addressing 21st century education. [Learn more>](#)

New Student Online Registration is Now Open

Families can now register children entering Arlington schools for the 2017-2018 school year online by going to the [School Registration webpage](#). [Read more>](#)

Remember to Register for Arlington Community Education's Seven-Week SummerFun! Program

With over 100 classes to choose from, including special field trip options for middle school students, [SummerFun! 2017](#) offers something that will appeal to every student entering grades 1-9. Register [online](#) now. [Learn more>](#)

Professional Development

Ottoson Educators Attend Harvard Conference on Social Emotional Learning

Seven educators joined Interim Principal Eileen Woods at the Harvard Conference on Social Emotional Learning in the School Community to explore competencies, resources and strategies for success in this important area. [Read more>](#)

Grants

Gibbs Planning Grant Supports Re-thinking the Grade Six Educational Environment

I want to thank the [Arlington Education Foundation](#) for awarding us a \$30,000 [School Improvement Grant](#) that supports our efforts to create a new school model that includes social emotional learning, project-based learning and building a strong community. [Learn more>](#)

Awards & Distinctions

Ottoson National History Team Dominates State Competition, Sending Five Projects to Nationals

After sending nine projects to the Junior State competition, the poised and creative Ottoson [National History Day](#) team had five projects chosen to advance to National competition in Maryland this June--more than any other school in Massachusetts. [Learn more>](#)

"Daydreamers" by ONN Recognized at A-Town Teen Film Festival

The Ottoson News Network team received creative recognition for [Daydreamers](#), the story of a young teacher faced with a classroom of daydreaming students, at the [A-Town Teen Film Festival](#) this month. [Read more>](#)

AHS Drone Takes First Place at Redesign Competition

Congratulations to the four AHS CADD students members who captured first place in the [Extreme Redesign 3D People's Choice Challenge](#) competition held at WPI this month. [Learn more>](#)

AHS Certamen Competitors Take First Place at MASCL Tournament

They were competing against students who had taken more Latin, but the four sophomores on the AHS Intermediate team still captured first place at the [Massachusetts Senior Classical League](#) Tournament this month. [Read more>](#)

Annual K-12 Town Hall Art Exhibit Coming in May

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss the exhibit of over 200 student artworks that runs from May 4 through May 25. [Learn more>](#)

Visual Arts Teachers Attend, Present at NAEA Convention

One teacher shared her knowledge with a national audience when she and four of her colleagues attended the [National Art Education Association](#) (NAEA) Convention in New York this month. [Learn more>](#)

Aided by Sustainability Coordinator, Arlington Schools Step-up Composting and Recycling

Food waste collection, compostable lunch trays, textile recycling and support of individual school Green Teams are among the activities undertaken and bolstered by Rachel Oliveri, the School Sustainability Coordinator, this winter. [Read more>](#)

Academics & Enrichment

Ottoson Mathematics Program Provides Experiences that Meet Different Needs

Mathematics Director Matthew Coleman met with community members this month to explain the current mathematics program offered at OMS and the options available to sixth grade students as they transition to middle school. [Read more>](#)

Storyteller Makes Japanese Culture Come Alive for Bishop Second Grade Students

This month, Bishop welcomed storyteller [Motoko](#) to share folktales and work with second grade students to understand sumo wrestling, giving the young people a first-hand appreciation of Japanese culture. [Learn more>](#)

Author Visit Helps Dallin Fourth Grade Class Celebrate "Read Across America"

Students enjoyed asking local author [Victoria Coe](#) how she writes from a dog's point of view when she visited with Dallin students this month. [Read more>](#)

Hands-on Workshops Illustrate Mathematical Concepts during Bishop Origamidō Visits

Students in three grades learned how origami can be used to demonstrate mathematical concepts as Michael LaFosse of the [Origamidō Studio](#) led the students in folding projects and discussions of angles, fractions, factors and volume. [Learn more>](#)

Students in Grades 1-5 Try Coding during Hardy's Hour of Code Observance

About 40 volunteers came together to help Hardy students try their hand at coding as the school observed [Hour of Code](#), a one hour introduction to computer science that helps all ages learn the basics of this fundamental, 21st century skill. [Read more>](#)

Thompson International Festival Celebrates the School's Global Character

International Week culminated in a wonderful four-hour festival that celebrated the diversity of the Thompson community with fashion, a Bazaar of Countries, arts and crafts, entertainment and food. [Learn more>](#)

Civic Engagement and Positive Change Propels OMS Generation Citizen Participants

Led by a "Democracy Coach" from Tufts University, this year's [Generation Citizen](#) students have chosen

to tackle a local traffic safety issue as they learn what it means to be active and engaged citizens. Learn more>

Local Writer Describes Her Journey from Copy Editor to Published Author in Ottoson Visit

Young adult fantasy book writer [Lori Goldstein](#) described what it takes to become a published author during her presentation to eighth grade students at OMS this month. Read more>

Italian Trio Visits Arlington High School and Performs Abbreviated "La Traviata"

It was "magical" when the Italian trio *I Classici* visited AHS and gave their audience a taste of Giuseppe Verdi's famous opera. Learn more>

Creative Highlights

ONN Continues Cooking Show Filming, Captures All-Town Band & Orchestra Concerts

You will want to look at the second episode of Ottoson News Network's monthly French cooking show, [Chocolate Yule Log](#), as well as the three All-Town Concerts filmed by the team this month. Learn more>

All-Town Band and String Concerts Reflect Strong Program, Love of Music

Over 700 instrumental students took their audiences on a musical journey spanning folk tunes, movie themes, rock medleys, marches, jazz, concertos, symphonies and an overture during the three All-Town Concerts that displayed the amazing progression from beginner to accomplished performer. Read more>

Visual Arts Exhibits Showcase Work of All Students

All nine schools exhibited their students' artworks this spring, giving the community the opportunity to see the wonderful creativity of our young people. Learn more>

Musical Journeys Illustrate Elementary Curriculum at Spring Concerts

Some students drummed to African rhythms, some played recorder along with synthesized sounds, and others showed the audience how music evolved in the United States during the wonderful spring concerts that illustrated skills and the integration of music with other disciplines. Read more>

Athletic Highlights

Exciting Tournament Performances and Community Support Close Winter Season

Members of the APS and Arlington community provided great support to boys hockey, girls hockey and boys basketball during their tournament performances, and runner Ryan Oosting finished his season as the fastest sophomore in the U.S. in the 2-mile event. Read more>

Continue to read the March 2017 Newsletter

Department News

Re-imagining Education Brings Attendees "Inside the Classroom" to Explore Innovations

This month, Arlington Public Schools joined the Vision 2020 Education Task Group, Arlington Education Foundation and the Arlington School Committee to present another open discussion around the educational vision we want for our children. *Re-Imagining Education: Curriculum Innovations in the APS* provided attendees with the opportunity to explore the ways all of our schools are addressing 21st century requirements.

Arlington Town Hall was arranged "classroom style", with teachers staffing tables around the room. Participants chose three areas of interest from a list of 20 topics, obtained a ticket for one of three available time slots, and returned to take a seat and hear from the teachers responsible. This arrangement provided an excellent setting for small, substantive discussions, offering time to understand the topic and ask questions.

The topics were wide-ranging. For example, those interested in the elementary level could choose to hear about how Responsive Classroom is used, how literacy is taught in Grade 5, or learn about Tools of the Mind, among others. Topics covered at the middle school level included the use of authentic materials to motivate language learners, 21st century computer science and the use of cutting-edge technology to engage students. At the high school level, participants could choose to learn how citizenship and civics are being integrated into the classroom, how a standards based grading system is being piloted, and how co-teaching supports special education.

This format allowed parents and community members to get "inside the door" of the classroom and engage with teachers about how education is happening in Arlington. Conversations allowed for a deep understanding of the thought processes behind classroom activities and goals for learning. I am grateful to the community organizations who supported this exchange, and for the interested community members and teachers who took the time to speak in depth about how education is changing in Arlington.

New Student Online Registration is Now Open

It seems hard to believe, but the time to register new students for the 2017-2018 school year has come. This year we are again offering online registration for all schools and all grades. A child born on or before August 31, 2012 is eligible to enroll in school. Everything you need to know can be found on the [School Registration webpage](#). An excellent video describes the process, but if you have any questions, please contact Registration at Registration@arlington.k12.ma.us.

Remember to Register for Arlington Community Education's Seven-Week SummerFun! Program

I want to remind you that registration for SummerFun! 2017 is now open. The program runs from July 5-August 16 for students entering grades 1-9, and there are half-day, full-day and after-care options that make it possible to create the schedule that works best for your family.

There are over 100 classes to choose from, and I urge you to review the [SummerFun! Catalog](#) or the [SummerFun! Weeks-at-a-Glance](#). The Arlington Community Education team has put together a dynamic and varied set of options that will engage and excite students of all interests. Register [online](#) now.

Professional Development

Ottoson Educators Attend Harvard Conference on Social Emotional Learning

Over the last few years, I have often written about the ways Arlington Public Schools is addressing the issue of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). We know that only teaching academic skills is insufficient. Successful learning, and success in later life, depends upon the development of social and emotional learning competencies such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship management and responsible decision-making. We must be able to recognize those students who arrive at school unable to access their curriculums to the fullest because they lack self-regulation or are experiencing anxiety or stress.

Seven OMS educators recently accompanied Interim Principal Eileen Woods to the Harvard Conference on Social Emotional Learning in the School Community. They explored five competencies and discussed resources and current strategies for SEL success. The group came away with a direction to develop a model that supports the OMS community and our district-wide goals on social emotional learning. You will be learning more about the SEL planning being done in our schools in coming issues of my newsletter. I am glad that these educators had the opportunity to take time to explore this issue by attending the Conference.

Grants

Gibbs Planning Grant Supports Re-thinking the Grade 6 Educational Environment

As you are aware, the Gibbs School will be re-opening as a grade 6 school in fall 2018. This presents the district with a unique opportunity to re-think the education provided to these students and ensure successful transitions between their neighborhood elementary schools and Ottoson Middle School (OMS) and between OMS and Arlington High School. I am delighted to report that the [Arlington Education Foundation](#) (AEF) has awarded us a \$30,000 School Improvement Grant to create a plan for the Gibbs educational environment. There are three primary areas of focus: building school community, curriculum and building operations.

As described in the [profile](#) on the AEF website, "The grant will fund outside professional development for social-emotional support and project-based learning, as well as teacher stipends for the essential planning time needed to ensure successful implementation of the new school model." I want to thank the Arlington Education Foundation for supporting this important work. This is another example of how AEF is willing and able to collaborate with the district on key strategic initiatives that lead to continuous educational improvement for our children. Opening a new school is a tremendous undertaking, and we are fortunate to have AEF as a partner as we move forward.

Awards & Distinctions

Ottoson National History Team Dominates State Competition, Sending Five Projects to Nationals

For the second consecutive year, Ottoson's [National History Day](#) (NHD) team is sending more Junior Division projects from State to National competition than any other school in Massachusetts. This year we had twenty students compete in the Junior District competition, entering 13 projects. Nine of these projects went on to compete at the State level, and five have been chosen to advance to the National competition at the University of Maryland in June. Two projects also received Honorable Mention. These are amazing results, and I congratulate everyone who took part.

Preparing for NHD competition involves months of work. This year's project theme was *Taking a Stand in History*. History and Social Sciences teachers Jason Levy and Tom Bushell, the NHD Advisors, encouraged the students to not only choose a topic that fit the theme, but one that also ignited their interests. Through the process, the students learn how to write a thesis, narrow down their topic to connect it to the theme, and conduct research according to standard guidelines.

After spending substantial time researching, the students choose a project category that best demonstrates their strengths. Students competing in the Website and Research Paper categories must complete their work two weeks before the competition so that judges can review them. Those competing in the Exhibit category set up their exhibits the day of the competition, and these are viewed by the public after the judging. The public also gets to see the documentaries and performances. Entries in the Documentary category are 10-minutes in length, and the team members are responsible for all the filming and editing. Competitors in Performance write their own script, memorize their lines and bring their own props to set up. They have ten minutes to complete their performance. All projects include a Process Paper, which shows how students conducted their research and how their project and thesis relates to the theme. Students also must complete an Annotated Bibliography, which is separated into Primary and Secondary Sources. Each group defends their project and thesis in front of a panel of 2-3 judges for 10 minutes. The judges focus their questions on how the project relates to the theme and the type of sources they used.

The results of the Junior District Competition are below, and all projects awarded First, Second or Third Place were eligible to compete in the State competition .

Placement	Student(s)	Category	Project Title
First Place	Grace Walters	Individual Documentary	The Massachusetts Seven: Goodridge v. The Department of Public Health
	Henri Schuette	Individual Paper	Lech Walesa: The Stand that Ended Communism in Poland

	Chiara Smith	Individual website	Ai WeiWei: Politicizing Art for the People
	Allie DeFrancisco & Helen Bonardi	Group Exhibit	Fred Rogers: It's Always a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood
	Sagar Rastogi & Connor Rempe	Group Website	Don't Tinker with my Free Speech: Tinker v. Des Moines and Student Rights
Second Place	Serena Bernstein	Individual Documentary	The Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement: Attempting to Save the Culture of Thousands
	Nathan Pokress	Individual Performance	Seuss, Social Justice and Saving the World Through Children
	Rebecca Kalik and Annika Lof	Group Exhibit	26.2 Miles and Still Strong: One Woman's Run for Equality
	Genevieve Baldwin & Eleanor Freed	Group Website	Death: How ACT UP New York Changed the Public View of the AIDS Crisis
Third Place	Louisa Baldwin	Individual Performance	Alan Turing: The Brains to Britain's Brawn
Honorable Mention	Lauren Bain & Aly Rodger	Group Exhibit	Mary Lyon: An Uncommon Woman Defending Common Educational Rights for Women

Twenty-four schools competed in the State competition and there were up to 12 projects in each category. Unfortunately, one of our eligible projects had to drop out when the competition was postponed due to weather, but nine competed and five earned either First or Second Place and are moving on to Nationals.

- First Place winners include Grace Walters, Nathan Pokress and the team of Genevieve Baldwin and Eleanor Freed
- Second Place winners include Louisa Baldwin and the team of Sagar Rastogi and Connor Rempe

Honorable Mention went to Serena Bernstein and the team of Allie DeFrancisco and Helen Bonardi. Ottoson is the only school in Massachusetts to be sending more than two projects on to Nationals.

Mr. Levy and Mr. Bushell report that our students take tremendous risks in their topic and creative choices. They demonstrate great poise during the interview portion of the competition. They exceed their peers with the technological skills involved in the creation, organization and presentation of the digital projects. The documentaries in particular are amazing to watch. Many people commented on how impressed they were at the number of OMS projects that advanced to the State and then on to the National level.

Both teachers believe that the skills involved in this competition, especially those that address 21st century learning objectives, will definitely prepare students for success in high school and beyond. In addition, the NHD group has really developed a team spirit in the way the members support and encourage each other, and a wonderful learning community has been created. Kudos to all the students, and I want to thank Mr. Levy and Mr. Bushell for their leadership. Good luck in Maryland!

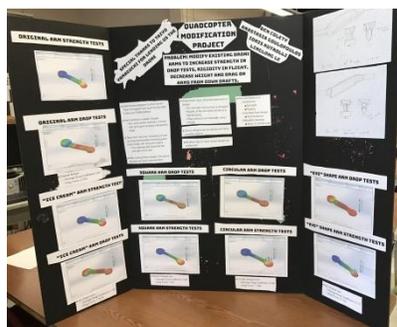
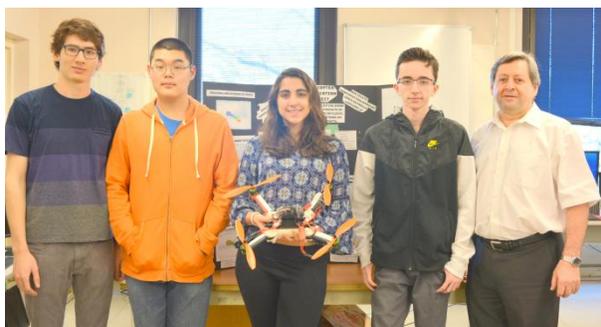


"Daydreamers" by ONN Recognized at A-Town Teen Film Festival

Congratulations to the Ottoson News Network team on receiving recognition at the [A-Town Teen Film Festival](#) this month. [Daydreamers](#), the story of a young teacher faced with a classroom where all the students are daydreaming, was recognized for creativity. To make the movie, each of the 21 ONN members wrote a short synopsis of their part, acted it out and producer Daniel Gorbunov patched it all together. Twelve-year-old Daniel was the youngest producer taking part in the competition. The judges had this to say:

This video is a LOT of fun to watch, because there's so much variety, and so many different creative ideas, but they're all held together because of the teamwork that comes through so strongly. The humor and inventiveness get a big boost from the clever use of special effects at various points.

It took over 20 hours of filming to create the 12-minute movie. The group has already been discussing how much they learned, and identifying the different things they need to improve upon when they enter the competition next year. The picture above shows the four ONN students who accompanied Advisor and OMS Librarian and Media Assistant Edith Moisand to the screening at the Regent Theater. I want to thank Ms. Moisand for the leadership she provides to this dedicated and enthusiastic group of filmmakers. Kudos to all!



AHS Drone Takes First Place at Redesign Competition

I am delighted to report that a group of AHS CADD students won first prize at the [Extreme Redesign 3D People's Choice Challenge](#) competition held at WPI on March 21. The challenge invited students "...to invent, innovate or improve something by re-engineering it to be printed in 3D." The competition, sponsored by [AET Labs](#), was open to all high schools in the New England region. CADD teacher Kambiz Vatan learned about the challenge after attending several Fab Lab/Maker Space seminars that AET offers as part of their career and technical education. Approximately 13 schools took part this year.

The team included Ionis Kutrolli, Anastasia Gouloupoulos and Linglong Le, all juniors and third-year CADD students, with leadership provided by senior and fourth-year CADD student Ben Colety. All are members of the STEAM Club that Mr. Vatan advises. The group started with a drone designed and created by a CADD class two years ago. The project concentrated on modifying the shape of the arms, the pieces that connect the motors to the fuselage of the drone. The group created arms that used different shapes as the base for the cross-section of each one and ran simulations in [SolidWorks](#) to determine the strength, rigidity, aerodynamic properties and weight of each design. By comparing the simulations, they were able to choose the ideal shape for the drone arms. The students worked in class and created the parts using the AHS 3D printers and their personal 3D printers.

The AHS entry was the only drone-based project. The mentors and teachers of the entrants served as the judges. They moved around the room, asked questions and then voted based upon what they learned. Each entry had to be an original CADD design that was 3D printed and typically solved a problem. Our group had a display to explain their design and used laptops to show the SolidWorks simulations.

The team's hard work really paid off, as their first prize win included a new 3D printer. I want to congratulate Ionis, Anastasia, Linglong and Ben on this achievement and thank Mr. Vatan for advising the group and the STEAM Club.



AHS Certamen Competitors Take First Place at MASCL Tournament

After a great start last year, the returning Certamen competitors were eager to begin studying and competing when they returned to AHS in the fall. The Certamen Club, led by Latin teacher Cassandra Mea, consists of students who are interested in taking part in competitions where they must quickly recall facts about classical civilizations and the peoples, languages and cultures. Each team member typically picks a specialty area, choosing from Mythology/Culture, History and Language.

Last year's novice team has moved up to the more difficult intermediate level, and one former intermediate player now competes at the advanced level. Intermediate competitors must answer questions on more complex grammar topics as well as more history questions. Our team, all sophomores, now competes against students who have been studying Latin for a longer time, adding to the difficulty. The Advanced team, comprised of three seniors and one junior, now must also study a variety of Latin literature in addition to the other topics.

I am delighted to report that the hard work paid off beautifully at the [Massachusetts Senior Classical League](#) (MASCL) Tournament at Boston University early this month. The MASCL is the college counterpart to the Massachusetts Junior Classical League. I am delighted to report that the Intermediate team of Isaiah Donovan, Brett Kahmann, Sam Goldstein and Maggie Horgan captured first place! Kira Solovay, one of our Advanced players, competed with the Advanced team from Lynn English and they placed fourth. I want to congratulate everyone on these wonderful achievements and I thank Ms. Mea for her leadership of the group.

Annual K-12 Town Hall Art Exhibit Coming in May

It isn't too soon to mark your calendars so you don't miss the annual K-12 Town Hall Arlington Public School Art Exhibit. The creative efforts of over 200 hundred of our students will be displayed on the second floor from May 4 through May 25. You are invited to the public reception to be held at Town Hall on May 25 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm where you can congratulate the young artists and their teachers. The exhibition will be open for public viewing during Town Hall hours: Monday-Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and Friday from 8:00 am to Noon. I hope you will be able to attend.

Visual Arts Teachers Attend, Present at NAEA Convention

I am pleased that Visual Arts teachers Melody Thomas, Stacie Greenland, David Moore, Samantha Kasle and Deborah Campagna were able to attend the [National Art Education Association](#) (NAEA) Convention in New York this month. It is always gratifying when one of our teachers is able to share her knowledge with a national audience, and it was wonderful to have Ms. Greenland chosen as a presenter. Her session addressed how elementary art students can use iPads to draw, paint and animate their own imagery.

Our attendees, who teach at Stratton, Thompson, Dallin, Hardy, Arlington High School, Bishop and Peirce, found the Convention very valuable. These annual meetings are the largest gathering of visual arts educators in the world. Referring to what it meant to take part along with her Arlington colleagues, Ms. Campagna states, "Attending the NAEA Conference gave us the rare chance to dig deeper and to take the time to have important and sustaining conversations." Ms. Kastle says, "I left the conference feeling re-energized and full of new ideas to share with my students and colleagues. My favorite session that I attended was a workshop about using the art curriculum as a way to prevent bullying in schools." These reflections emphasize how important it is for our teachers to take time for continued learning and sharing, and speak to the power of art to influence a school community.



Aided by Sustainability Coordinator, Arlington Schools Step-up Composting and Recycling

In November, I reported on the exciting work being done by Arlington's School Sustainability Coordinator Rachel Oliveri to support waste reduction and other green initiatives in our district. Ms. Oliveri has had a very busy winter, and I am excited about how our schools are embracing her efforts.

The first step toward waste reduction, performing lunchroom waste audits, has been completed at Bishop, Brackett, Dallin, Ottoson, Stratton and Thompson. Food waste collection and compostable trays have now been implemented at Bishop, Brackett and Thompson, with Dallin starting their program in May. The schools use 32-gallon totes from [Black Earth Compost](#). The company picks these up on Saturdays and delivers them to [Davidian Brothers Farm](#) in Northborough. They process the contents and use the compost in their orchards.

One of Ms. Oliveri's roles is to encourage and support school Green Teams. She worked with Arlington Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan to deliver information sessions so that all schools would understand what these entail. I am pleased to report that six elementary schools and Ottoson now have green teams/sustainability clubs up and running. These have been officially registered as [Green Teams](#) through the [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#). This registration provides access to educational resources and equipment. Several Bishop parents are hoping to get a club started in the fall. Ms. Oliveri facilitates an Arlington Green Teams Google group to share announcements about such topics as upcoming events and activity ideas. She also has initiated monthly meetings so the school leaders can come together and share information and ideas. This is especially helpful to the newer clubs.

Prior to Civics Day, held at Town Hall this month, our schools were asked to collect T-shirts for a T-Shirt Hackathon. Green Team students from Brackett, Dallin, Hardy and Thompson were on hand to help visitors of all ages transform the T-shirts into reusable bags. This project was followed by the Textile Recovery Challenge, an all-school competition designed to raise awareness of textile reuse and recycling. Each school collected used clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, stuffed animals and other textiles for a week, and the per-student weight for each one was calculated. I will share the winner of this challenge in my April newsletter. Ms. Oliveri worked with Ms. Milan on this project, and Arlington Department of Public Works supplied the collection bins.

Upcoming events include the participation of parents, teachers and students from the Green Teams in the Patriots Day parade, and a tour of the [GreenWorks](#) Recycling Facility during vacation week. The recycling collected in the schools and across town is taken to GreenWorks. I want to commend Ms. Oliveri for the progress she is making on increasing recycling and composting in our schools, and in getting our children and their families more involved in understanding and promoting green efforts.

Academics & Enrichment

Ottoson Mathematics Program Provides Experiences that Meet Different Needs

This month, almost 200 community members joined Mathematics Director Matthew Coleman to learn about the opportunities for current fifth grade students as they transition to Ottoson Middle School. I am pleased that we are able to offer middle school options to meet the varied needs of our students.

The majority of fifth grade students transition into Mathematics 6, and after this first year, move on to either honors level Mathematics 7A or standard Mathematics 7. Additionally, we offer Digital Media and Literacy and Computer Science to all sixth grade students. Currently 88% of the sixth grade class is enrolled. This course focuses on algorithmic thinking and design, and includes programming software such as [Scratch](#), HTML and LightBot.

The small group Mathematics Support class is designed to improve foundational skills and concepts required for developing mathematical fluency. This class is not required, but highly recommended for those young people who can use additional support preparing for upcoming assessments and assignments, and in developing communication skills within mathematics. Students meet with a teacher every other day, and are able to transition out of the program as they are ready.

There is also the opportunity for fifth grade students to determine if it is appropriate for them to bypass Mathematics 6 and enter Ottoson in Mathematics 7A. Students who believe that they can display evidence of mastery of the content as well as the reasoning of Mathematics 6 and wish to explore this pathway must take the Mathematics 6 Final Exam. Students who score 95% quantitatively and demonstrate reasoning that is consistent with the Mathematics 6 standards will be considered. The test results are combined with feedback from the fifth grade teacher and the results of a face-to-face meeting between the parents, the student and Mr. Coleman to discuss the positives and negatives involved in bypassing Mathematics 6. It is important that all ramifications involved in this decision are well understood before a final decision is reached.

We have offered the opportunity to take Mathematics 7A in the sixth grade for the last three years. The progression from here is to Algebra 1 in the seventh grade and geometry in eighth grade. This year, 21 sixth grade students are taking Mathematics 7A, 17 seventh grade students are taking Algebra 1 and 12 young people in the eighth grade are studying Geometry Honors.

For more information, you may review Mr. Coleman's [Transition to OMS Math Presentation](#), and view the [Massachusetts State Standards](#) to learn about the standards through all the grades. Anyone with specific questions about mathematics transition is invited to contact Mr. Coleman at mcoleman@artlington.k12.ma.us.

Storyteller Makes Japanese Culture Come Alive for Bishop Second Grade Students

Bringing Japanese culture to life for students is the goal of storyteller [Motoko](#), and her annual visits to the second grade at Bishop are highly anticipated. This month, her visit began with an assembly where she covered basic topics such as counting and Japanese polite formalities. Her storytelling includes mime and participatory songs, and she captivates her audience as she delivers folktales and imparts cultural lessons.

After the assembly, Motoko visited each classroom. Every year the teachers choose a topic from the array of workshops she offers. This year the topic was sumo wrestling. Motoko discussed the technique

involved and demonstrated how to construct a sumo wrestling mat out of a large pizza box and create a paper sumo wrestler. It quickly became clear that sumo involves a lot more than the students originally thought! In previous years, Mokoto has worked with individual classes on origami, Japanese writing and taught the young people about Oni, the ogre of Japanese folklore.

The second grade curriculum includes study of Japan, and being able to meet and work with someone who grew up in the country is very meaningful for the students and teachers. I want to thank everyone involved who makes Motoko's annual visits to Bishop possible.



Author Visit Helps Dallin Fourth Grade Class Celebrate "Read Across America"

Every year the [National Education Association](#) designates March 2 as [Read Across America Day](#). This day was chosen to honor the birthday of Dr. Seuss, and what better way to celebrate this than to have a local author come to share a story. This is exactly what took place in a Dallin fourth grade class this month. Librarian Rebecca Aaronson invited [Victoria Coe](#), a published Arlington resident, to read a book from her popular *Fenway and Hattie* series. Ms. Aaronson reports that these books are very popular with the students. Ms. Coe answered many questions from the class, often centered on how she is able to write from a dog's point of view. It is wonderful to be able to reach out to a children's author in our community, and I thank Ms. Aaronson for arranging this visit.

Hands-on Workshops Illustrate Mathematical Concepts during Bishop Origamidō Visits

Bishop students in three grades had the opportunity to explore mathematical concepts in a different way this month when Michael LaFosse of the [Origamidō Studio](#) visited their classrooms. In the third grade, Mr. LaFosse had everyone creating a two-dimensional paper-folding project that helped them explore and discuss 90- and 45-degree angles, fractions, factors and warm and cool colors. Creating triangular three-dimensional shapes presented more of a challenge in the fourth grade, and the discussion and questions about angles and geometrical shapes was more complex. Fifth grade students built upon folding concepts they knew to create multiple pieces for a three-dimensional cube puzzle. Here the discussion explored fractions, factors, geometry, and moved into volume.

Mr. LaFosse has been bringing his origami program to Bishop for many years, and it is a favorite event for both students and teachers. The hands-on aspect of his presentations really holds the students' attention, and they are excited to see how effectively origami can be used to demonstrate mathematical concepts. Third and fourth grade students leave the workshop with a completed project, and fifth grade students leave with multiple puzzle pieces and hints on how to fit them together into a cube. Mr. LaFosse sends extra paper to each classroom after the sessions, and there is always a colorful parade of folded creations steaming out the doors for many days after his visit.

Mr. LaFosse's programs are a wonderful way for students to visualize the mathematical concepts they are learning. I thank everyone who is involved in making his visits possible.

Students in Grades 1-5 Try Coding during Hardy's Hour of Code Observance

Four of our schools observed Hour of Code in December and this month it was Hardy's turn. [Hour of Code](#), organized and promoted by [code.org](#), is a one-hour introduction to computer science designed to give every student the opportunity to learn coding basics. At Hardy, approximately 40 parents got

involved over the course of three days to give students in grades 1-5 the opportunity try their hand at what has become a foundational skill for the 21st century.

A limited set of activities were chosen from the Hour of Code website, giving the volunteers an opportunity to work through them before they arrived. In the first grade, all students were asked to use the game-like, drop-and drag *Angry Birds*, as for many this was their first experience with coding. Hardy has been observing Hour of Code since 2015, so most of the older students had participated in previous years. They were able to choose from a set of activities.

Organizer Eva Bitteker reports that it was a delight to see the children's eyes light up as they completed each challenge. She was also pleased to see how the Hardy community came together to make the observance a full school event. This was a chance for individuals who don't normally take part in other PTO events to come forward, and she saw many new faces. The rolling schedule, two grades at different times on the first two days, and one grade on the last, worked well, as parents could spend time in more than one classroom on the day that worked best for them.

The easy tools provided by code.org makes it possible to kindle an interest in computer science among young people quickly and easily. Technology surrounds us, and a basic understanding of how it works is becoming increasingly important for the future success of our young people. I want to thank Ms. Bitteker and all of the parent volunteers who participated in this year's observance and helped our children understand that computer science is fun, creative and accessible at any age.



Thompson International Festival Celebrates the School's Global Character

This year, the biennial celebration of diversity in the Thompson community started with International Week. Daily conversations in the classrooms focused on diversity, community and tolerance. The students heard greetings in different languages and listened to music from around the world during announcements. Morning meetings incorporated discussion about culture, countries of ancestry or origin, respect and kindness. The Library had displays and book talks centered on these themes, and students were able to play games from other nations during gym.

Then on Saturday, March 18, everyone came together for the four-hour International Festival, featuring multiple activities that included fashion, the Bazaar of Countries, arts and crafts, entertainment and food. Seventy-six children, the largest number to date, got the day started by walking down the runway in traditional dress in the Kids Fashion Show. Seven outside groups shared traditional entertainment at different time during the day, including Serbian and Egyptian folk dancing, African drumming, Flamenco, Indian classical dance and a Japanese performance inspired by the Noh theater tradition.

The Bazaar of Countries consisted of 26 tables from six continents, including the countries of South Sudan, Morocco, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, El Salvador, Columbia, Ecuador, and Argentina, among others. Each table represented the country of origin or ancestry of the family serving as the host, and shared artifacts, books, foods and other cultural highlights. Children were encouraged to roam through the Bazaar with a Scavenger Hunt that required them to find eight

pineapples (the Thompson School symbol) hidden among the tables. These examples give you a taste of what the attendees experienced at some of the displays

- Japan, origami
- Italy, pasta demonstration
- Canada, trivia quiz
- India, spice quiz
- South Africa, art activity with African beads.

Arts and crafts activities ran throughout the day, and included the opportunity to make African Kalimbas (thumb pianos), Korean Ddakji game disks, Middle Eastern Hamsa amulets, Ojibwe dream catchers, Komboloi (Greek) worry beads and whirligigs. Thirty restaurants transformed the Thompson cafeteria into an international cafe with food from around the world, and parents brought desserts to share. Each grade sponsored a raffle basket that represented a continent that the lucky winners were able to take home. The organizers of the Festival report that the Antarctica basket is always a favorite.

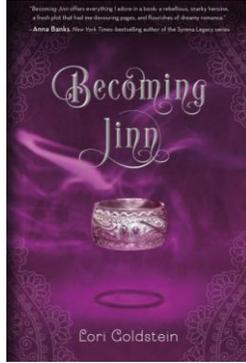
The International Festival, planned and executed by the Thompson PTO, is a beloved event, and primary organizers Nandana Mewada and Diana Trudell estimate that over 550 adults and children attended. A core committee of 12 organizers got started in January and two individuals oversaw each type of activity. This is an incredible undertaking, and I want to thank Ms. Mewada, Ms. Trudell and all the other volunteers for putting together such a wonderful celebration of the global character of the Thompson community. I also thank Principal Karen Donato and the Thompson teachers and staff for their work during International Week that did so much to set the stage for the Festival. Kudos to everyone!

Civic Engagement and Positive Change Propels OMS Generation Citizen Participants

What does it mean to be an active and engaged citizen of the United States? Ottoson students have the opportunity to get a first-hand understanding of this by participating in Generation Citizen, offered as a free after school activity. [Generation Citizen](#) is a nonprofit civics education program affiliated with area colleges and universities. The program provides a college student instructor who teaches a curriculum focused on civic advocacy, and works with the students to help them develop their chosen project. The goal is to cultivate a deeper understanding of the democratic process and create an empowering experience of leading change.

This year, several eighth grade alumni of the program and a group of motivated seventh grade students have come together to tackle the safety issues at Arlington's six-way Downing Square intersection. They will be spending the next few months researching traffic safety in general and reviewing improvements that the town has made in other locations. In previous years, Generation Citizen participants chose to work on projects that ranged from the identification of pollution in Spy Pond due to run-off from road salt and sand to an investigation of how to improve the healthy options of school lunches, among others.

History and Social Sciences teacher Eric Bakke serves as the on-site program administrator for the group, a role that he has played for several years. The project work is guided by a "Democracy Coach" from Tufts University, described by Mr. Bakke as "wonderful". When the work is done, representatives of the group will attend [Civics Day](#) at the State House on May 12 to share their findings and recommendations. Participating in Generation Citizen is a powerful introduction to civic engagement for our young people and I thank Mr. Bakke for his continued leadership of the group. I look forward to hearing the results of the project.



Local Writer Describes Her Journey from Copy Editor to Published Author in Ottoson Visit

Young adult fantasy book writer [Lori Goldstein](#) was very clear when she spoke to all the eighth grade students at Ottoson this month: *Becoming a published writer is a long road that takes a lot of hard work!* During her visit, Ms. Goldstein shared her journey from copy editor in the publishing business to full-time writer, describing how she worked to get her first books just right, find an agent and then get chosen by a publisher. There was a lot of rejection and stress along the way, but the tremendous feeling she experienced when she held the first copies in her hands made it all worth it.

Ms. Goldstein was very generous in taking questions from her audience, and she spoke about her new projects that include realistic fiction. Ms. Goldstein lives just outside of Boston, and she is very active in promoting the work of local young adult writers. I am pleased that our students were able to meet and hear from her and I thank everyone involved in making her visit possible.



Italian Trio Visits Arlington High School and Performs Abbreviated "La Traviata"

We are fortunate to have the Italian Consulate and [Centro Attivita Scolastiche Italiane \(C.A.S.IT\)](#) supporting our Italian program, and they work closely with local high school to promote Italian language and culture. AHS Italian teacher Antonio Di Sanzo was delighted when their Educational Office contacted him about hosting a performance by *I Classici*, a trio on tour in the U.S. The group arrived on March 8 and delivered an abbreviated version of the opera *La Traviata* that was described as "magical". The audience included Italian students of all levels, students in our music program and faculty.

This was the first experience with opera for many of Mr. Di Sanzo's students and they told him how much they enjoyed the concert. I want to thank Mr. Di Sanzo for taking advantage of this amazing opportunity, and thank AHS Instrumental Director Sabato D'Agostino for helping to accommodate the visiting performers' needs.

Creative Highlights



ONN Continues Cooking Show Filming, Captures All-Town Band & Orchestra Concerts

The second episode of *Teens Cook: French Edition*, the Ottoson News Network's month cooking show, is now ready for viewing. [Chocolate Yule Log](#) features ONN members working with Francoise Matte and Cecile Penot-Dietrich of [French in the Kitchen](#) to create a special holiday treat. Six episodes have been filmed so far, with four still in editing. Pictures from the latest filming, making French pasta, are shown above.

The group was kept busy this month capturing three wonderful musical performances as well. Crew members filmed the [Seventeenth Annual Festival of Concert Bands](#), the [Afternoon All-Town String Concert](#) and the [Evening All Town String Concert](#), all held in the Wood Gym at Ottoson. You will find more information about these wonderful concerts in the following article. We are fortunate to have the members of ONN willing and able to record so many of the special events that happen in our schools and I thank them for their wonderful work.

All-Town Band and String Concerts Reflect Strong Program, Love of Music

Last month I wrote about the All-Town Choral Concerts, and this month I have the pleasure to report on the amazing concerts presented by our instrumentalists. Arlington Public Schools is fortunate to have a robust instrumental program, and it is wonderful to see all the students in the district come together to share their love of playing and demonstrate their growth over time. More than 700 students in grades 3-12 are taking part in the program this year.

The [Seventeenth Annual Festival of Concert Bands](#) featured almost 300 musicians spanning grades 4-12. The first three groups on the program were led by Instrumental Music teacher Paula Demetrio. It is fun to see the students in the All-Town Beginning Band perform after their first year of learning to play. Their selections ranged from folk songs to Mozart. The All-Town Grade 5 Band came next, and the progress made during the second year of study was evident in the two selections they presented. The Ottoson Middle School Concert Band, over 100 strong, ended their three-number set with *The Best of Queen*, a lively rock medley.

Next up was the AHS Concert Band under the direction of Instrumental Music Director Sabato D'Agostino. They performed two contemporary songs, *Ant Man Theme* and *Crazy in Love* that featured two vocalists. The evening ended swinging. The OMS Jazz Ensemble, led by Ms. Demetrio, got things moving and ended their set with a terrific rendition of Joe Zawinul's *Birdland*. They were followed by the AHS Jazz Band, directed by Mr. D'Agostino, who brought it home. Their three-song set included *Cave Canem*, a piece written, arranged and directed by AHS sophomore Julian Lewis Carpenter.

Three days later there were two concerts presented by over 400 string students. The Grade 3 Beginner String Ensemble started the [Afternoon All-Town String Concert](#) with classical and folk selections. They were followed by the Grade 4 All-Town Orchestra whose set took the audience from a tango into *Happy Blues*. The Grade 6 Orchestra began with a concerto by Telemann and then moved on to Lennon and

McCartney's *Eleanor Rigby*. The Elementary Chamber Orchestra came next, presenting a set that included Mozart, Mancini and folk tunes. These four groups were all directed by Instrumental Music teacher Jing-Huey Wei.

Three groups led by Mr. D'Agostino came next. The Ottoson Middle School Chamber Orchestra treated the audience to Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G Major* and the *Finale from Symphony No. 41* by Mozart. They were followed by the AHS Honors Orchestra, who delivered the first movement of Mozart's *Concerto No. 3 in G for Violin*. The OMS Chamber Orchestra joined the AHS Full Orchestra in their first number, *The Final Countdown*. The afternoon ended with the AHS Full Orchestra playing the magnificent *1812, Solemn Overture* by Tchaikovsky.

The [Evening All Town String Concert](#) included repeat performances by the Grade 3 Beginner String Orchestra, the AHS Honors Orchestra, and the AHS Full Orchestra. They were joined by the Grade 5 All-Town Orchestra whose four-number set ranged from Handel to Mancini to the wonderful movie music *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*. The OMS 7th and 8th Grade orchestra presented *Ashokan Farewell* by Ungar and *Finale from Symphony No. 5* by Beethoven. Both of these groups are led by Ms. Wei.

If you click on the links above, I think you will see how the joy of playing and performing was evident at each of these wonderful concerts. Numerous benefits come from learning to play a musical instrument. These span a wide gambit, touching all aspects of social and emotional development. Playing music increases the capacity of memory, refines time management and organizational skills, teaches perseverance, sharpens concentration, and boosts listening skills. Multiple studies have linked music education to improved academic performance. I am pleased that we are able to offer our children the opportunity to play music and share it with others. I want to thank Ms. Demetrio, Ms. Wei and Mr. D'Agostino for sharing their own love of music and performance with our students.

Visual Arts Exhibits Showcase Work of All Students

This spring we were treated to numerous student art shows that filled the hallways and exhibit spaces in all nine schools. Every art student in our system is able to exhibit at least one artwork in these popular annual events. Most of the elementary art shows coincide with the spring music concerts that are held in the mornings, enabling the parents, grandparents and friends of our young artists to both see and hear their creative efforts. In some cases, the Music and Visual Arts teachers collaborate around a curricular theme that is often connected to another world culture. Exhibitions at the Ottoson and Dallin are held in the evening, as is the reception for the Arlington High School Spring Art Exhibit that runs from the end of March through mid April. I hope that many of you were able to view the wonderful work done by our students and I thank all the Visual Arts teachers for their creative efforts throughout the school year. To see examples of work done by Ottoson students, please click on or copy this link <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB2WonaRuGMEzWnNvUXc1MGVzTEE?usp=sharing>.

Musical Journeys Illustrate Elementary Curriculum at Spring Concerts

This month we were treated to wonderful concerts presented at all the elementary schools. Our creative and dedicated music teachers create programs that illustrate the curriculum that has been used throughout the year to develop music skills and appreciation. I want to give you a few examples of what was included in the latest spring performances.

The concerts at Bishop and Hardy featured over 75 fifth grade students drumming traditional rhythms from Ghana and Brazil. Music teacher James Ham reports that it is always a little challenging to get that many students performing together on their instruments, but they always rise to the occasion. One of Mr. Ham's goals for his students is for them to really love music. The children learn many songs during the year, and he tries to include the ones they especially enjoy in the spring concerts.

Music teacher Valerie Becker also teaches at Bishop, and she thought it would be fun for the third grade students to learn to play something a little different on the recorder. She found an upbeat piece called

Recorderton, which is accompanied by synthesized sounds. This proved to be fun for both the students and the audience as the rhythms worked well together. These students also presented the song *One Earth, One Sky*, which speaks to the desire for peace on earth and having a common theme and goal for all people. Simple sign language was used during the refrain each time it appeared. Second grade students performed *Someone*, a piece by American composer Randall Thompson who is well known for his choral works. This is an example of how Ms. Becker, who has strong knowledge of choral literature, likes to go beyond the classroom books to choose special songs for the concerts.

The concerts at Stratton and Dallin highlighted the connections between learning in music and other subjects. This year the concert connected to units on Mexico, wind, Japan and U.S. geography. Examples of this include *Los Politos*, a traditional Mexican song, and *I am the Wind*, presented by the first grade, a Japanese folk song delivered by the second grade, and the fourth grade presentation of *Fifty Nifty United States* by Ray Charles. Rebecca Muranaka and Peter Malagodi lead the music program at Stratton and Dallin.

This year's theme for the concerts at Brackett and Peirce was *Roots of the American Beat: Origins of Popular Music*. Starting with the Kindergarten, the audience traveled through time and followed the evolution of music in the United States. During the year, the students reviewed books on art, music and history that illustrated the period each grade was studying. Music teacher Ms. Gina Esile-Silva worked closely with Visual Arts teachers Deborah Chisholm and Samantha Kasle on the theme, resulting in a concert that was closely integrated with the accompanying Visual Arts exhibit.

I want to thank all our elementary Music teachers for the work that results in such beautiful concerts. Kudos to Mr. Ham, Ms. Becker, Ms. Muranaka, Mr. Malagodi, Ms. Esile-Silva and Ms. Jenna Havelin who directs the program at Thompson and leads the Arlington Treble Chorus. It is a joy to see and hear what our children have learned during the year at our spring concerts.

Athletic Highlights



Exciting Tournament Performances and Strong Community Support Close Winter Season

March was an incredible month for our winter athletes. As I shared in my previous newsletter, the win on March 19 was the [first Super 8 title in AHS history](#), and the first hockey State Championship since 1971. This was a tremendous achievement for the team and Coach John Messuri, and all are to be commended. It was great to see the team featured by Mike Lynch of WCVB-TV in the *High 5* segment of his sports report in early April.

Two other teams went on to post-season play this winter. Girls hockey began their tournament season strong with a win over Peabody/Lynnfield, but fell to Woburn 0-1 in a well-played, hard-fought game. Boys basketball earned the #1 seed in Division 2 North for the first time in AHS history, and after winning two games, fell to Brighton in the Division 2 Semi-final game. They ended the season as the Middlesex League Champions.

Runner Ryan Oosting had an amazing finish to his winter season. After placing first in the Division 2, 2-mile race with a new personal record of 9:23:26, Ryan entered the News Englands as the third-best runner in Massachusetts. He set another personal record (9:17:19) there, coming out of that meet standing as seventh in the U.S., and the fastest sophomore. But Ryan was not done yet. He went on to Nationals where he set two new personal records, placing sixth in the U.S. in the 5K and his placement of 10th in the 2-mile left him still the fastest sophomore in the country.

Athletic Director Melissa Dlugolecki wants to recognize the tremendous community support that our teams experienced during the winter season. Various community and town groups, students, parents, teachers, school and district staff members and alumni came together to encourage and support the program. Our athletes experienced tremendous unity and pride, and she thanks everyone for the way they came together as a unified community to show their support. She also thanks the [Touchdown Club](#) whose generosity made it possible to supplement the supplies in the AHS Fitness Room.

Also during March, members of the Captains' Council traveled to Providence College to attend a Student Athlete Advisory Council meeting. They shared ideas, challenges and strategies related to the demands of being a student athlete, and discussed topics that included time-management, how to use social media productively and how to build unity and pride in a school community. Additionally, five members of the Council made history at the 42nd Annual [Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association](#) Conference in Hyannis. Their presentation on the impact that Captains' Council has on leadership development and school culture was the first one ever delivered by student athletes. Kudos to the presenters

Ms. Dlugolecki has announced that Incoming Freshmen Athletics Night is set for May 3 at 6:00 pm in Old Hall at AHS. This meeting is for all incoming freshmen interested in playing high school athletics and their parents or guardians. The registration process, timing of tryouts and pre-season practices and other pertinent information will be reviewed. Captains and coaches will be on hand to answer general questions about participation. The evening will conclude with individual meet and greets with coaches from each program.

I want to congratulate all our winter athletes and coaches. It was a very exciting season, marked by hard work and dedication. I look forward to reporting on the spring season that is now underway.

