

Mansfield High School E-newsletter- November 17, 2017

1 message

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Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 6:56 PM

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Mansfield High School e-Newsletter

Nov. 17, 2017

From the Principal's Desk...

Hi All,

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter I want to provide you with a strong understanding of the reasoning behind the use of school-wide rubrics in the classroom. Today, I'll give you a quick overview of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) organization, the accreditation cycle, and our charge.

The NEASC organization offers accreditation to our school, and their seal of approval factors heavily into the college admissions process. NEASC is the oldest existing accreditation organization in the United States, founded in 1885 (www.neasc.org); similar organizations exist for each region of the country.

NEASC expects all public, secondary member schools in New England to meet their defined standards for excellence which are based in up-to-date education research and which are constantly reviewed by the organization and member schools. Accreditation is issued via an on-going cycle of peer review and self-reflection every 10 years, and is a lengthy and extensive process. Receiving NEASC accreditation (to quote from the NEASC homepage directly), "attests to a school's high quality and integrity" (www.neasc.org).

Enter the rubrics....

As part of our last NEASC accreditation review, MHS was charged with implementing a process for measuring out student growth on our school-wide learning expectations through the use of school-wide analytic rubrics (these rubrics break down and provide detailed descriptions of all aspects of each learning expectation). Since that time we have made great strides both in refining our rubrics, coming to a shared understanding of their meaning across departments, and in identifying assessments for use with the rubrics. Specifically, we have revised our rubrics at least three times over the last five years, we have pulled together teams of teachers to review the rubrics and ensure that they work for multiple departments, we have devoted professional development time to identifying assessments for use with the rubrics, and we have piloted the revised rubrics in select classrooms across departments. Now, we need to begin using them fully.



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**This Week**

Nov. 17- Fall Play- *Peter and the Star Catcher* - at 7PM

Nov. 18- Fall Play- *Peter and the Star Catcher* - at 1PM and 7PM

Nov. 22- 1/2 day for students

Nov. 23-24- Thanksgiving Break- no school!

Key Dates

Nov. 29- 1/2 day; Parent Conferences

This March, our 5-year report to NEASC is due. In this report we must demonstrate strong progress on measuring student growth on our school-wide learning expectations. It will be very important for NEASC to see that we are committed to the rubric process and that we are actually measuring and reporting out student growth in an authentic way. I feel confident that we will be able to deliver!

In the next installment, I'll discuss the educational value of using rubrics and measuring out student-growth in greater detail. I hope that you'll stick with me!

Thanks for reading!

Sincerely,
Mary Watkins

Report Cards

Students received Q1 Report Cards during home room today! Please sign up for parent conferences as needed.

[Link to MHS Calendar](#)



For The daily school announcements- visit the [MHS main page website](#)



[Link to all MHS Sports Schedules/Games](#)

Quick Links...

[MHS Website](#)
[MPS Website](#)
[The Hornet Buzz](#)
[MHS Yearbook Website](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conference sign-up forms have been distributed to students. Please ask your child for the form and sign up for conferences! Conferences will take place on November 29 in the afternoon from 12-2:30PM and again in the evening from 6:30-8:30PM. Please see the [attached letter](#) which was mailed home for more information. We hope to see you there!

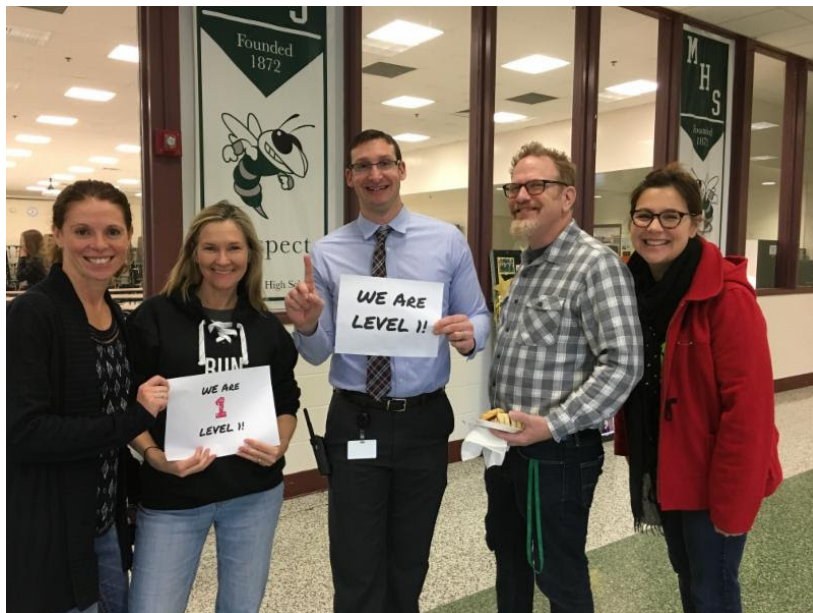
Level 1 Day

A couple of weeks ago, the MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education designated Mansfield High School as a Level 1 school. This distinction is given to schools that have met the state's criteria for performance on the MCAS ELA, MATH and BIOLOGY assessments.

Today we took some time to celebrate our success!







This is something we should all be very proud of. This achievement would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the staff, students and families of the MHS community.

Congratulations to all! And, a special "thank you!" to Mr. Tichacek for organizing!

Performing Arts Department Presents....

"Peter and the Starcatcher"

November 17th and 18th



The Mansfield High School Performing Arts Department is thrilled to present the Tony Award winning play *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elice, based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

Performances will take place in the Mansfield High School Auditorium on Friday, November 17th at 7 pm and Saturday, November 18th at 1 pm and 7 pm.

This magical play (with music) is the prequel to the century old story of J.M. Barrie's legendary Peter Pan. A wildly theatrical adaptation of Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's bestselling novel, the play was conceived for the stage by director Roger Rees and Alex Timbers and written by Rick Elice, with music by Wayne Barker.

From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and an unlikely hero, Peter and the Starcatcher playfully explores the depths of greed and despair, and the bonds of friendship, duty, and love. A young orphan and his mates are shipped off from Victorian England to a distant island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They know nothing of the mysterious trunk in the captain's cabin, which contains a precious otherworldly cargo. At sea, the boys are discovered by a young girl named Molly, a starcatcher in training who realized that the trunk's precious cargo is Starstuff, a celestial substance so powerful that it must never fall into the wrong hands.

Mansfield High School's production of Peter and the Starcatcher features twenty one student actors and actresses who play over one hundred characters.

General admission tickets will be available for purchase at the door- \$8 children under 10, \$10 students, \$15 adults. Doors will open thirty minutes before curtain.

This is a wonderful show for the whole family, and we hope to see you there!

Guidance Department

Seniors! The 60th Annual MA AFL-CIO Scholarship Awards Program for students with a union affiliation is underway! For students who are interested in preparing and taking the Labor History Exam to be



eligible for a variety of scholarships, information is now available via this website: www.massafcio.org/scholarship-program

Students may download the application from NAVIANCE and the study guide may be downloaded from the website listed above. Applications are due to guidance NO LATER than 2pm on Friday, December 15th.

The exam will take place on Wednesday, February 7th at 7:30AM in the Guidance Office. The exam will consist of 30 multiple choice questions and 1 essay. This is the only date to take the exam.

MHS Quiz Show Team

Did you know that the Canadian province of Ontario is north of Lake Erie? Or that Boris Yeltsin became the first democratically elected leader of Russia in 1991? Or that the reciprocal of the cosine function is the secant function?

[The Mansfield High School Quiz Show Team](#) knew these answers and many more! Congratulations to the Hornets for finishing among the top 16 schools in Massachusetts at the qualifying round of the High School Quiz Show held at WGBH studios in Brighton on November 5. This means the Mansfield team has advanced to the televised round of the tournament, which will be filmed at WGBH studios in January and aired in the spring!

Congrats and Good Luck to the Mansfield High School Quiz Show Team, including Mayank Rao, Nikhil Dommaraju, Rebecca Sarkisian, Mary Monticello, Cyrus Bernstein and Nick DeLucia!!

Health and Wellness

[Cyber-safety Presentation](#)

[Attached](#) is a flyer from the Children's Advocacy Group which is sponsored by the Bristol County DA. It is for a presentation on Cyber Safety to be held on November 20th from 6 to 7 on Main St in Norton. The speaker is Stephanie Joyal of the Children's Advocacy Group and the intended audience is teen/tweens along with parent & caregivers.

Business and Technology Department

[STEM Summit for Girls](#)

For the 4th year in a row, Mansfield High School will be sending a team of 10 female students to the Girls Statewide STEM Summit! Students will participate in full day of hands-on workshops exploring all areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. The event takes place on April 8th (Sunday) at Regis College in Weston, MA. If interested, please submit an application by December 1st to Mrs. Prester in 113. Applications may be printed out from this newsletter, or may be picked up with Mrs. Prester in 113. Print the application [here](#)!

[Entrepreneurship](#)

The Entrepreneurship students are hard at work on their new business! This semester, they are incorporating upcycled materials into some of their products. What does this mean? If you have any of the following items to donate, please send them to Mrs. Prester's room (113). The Entrepreneurship students will turn your items into treasure!

- t-shirts of all sizes
- sweaters of all sizes
- old/broken keyboards (we're just using the keys)
- fabric leftover from projects
- clean baby food jars
- unwanted picture frames
- old spoons

Support the Class of 2018 and Senior Year Activities!

The class of 2018 is hosting a Greeting Card Fundraiser with Give Back Greetings. The program is run online and allows you to order personalized greeting cards (with photos) for holidays, thank you notes, announcements, invitations and more! Additionally, Give Back Greetings is currently running a promotion just for MHS! Use code MHS to save 45% on your order before December 5, 2017.

The Class of 2018 will receive 10% from all sales made through the website. Any money raised will support this year's senior activities and class gift. Give Back Greetings is also running a contest call The Chromebook Challenge where the school with the most sales could win 25 HP Chromebook Laptops or a number of smaller cash prizes!

To create and order your personalized greeting card, use the following link:

<http://MansfieldHighClassof18.givebackgreetings.com/>

Thank you all for your help and support of our newest fundraiser!

Support National Honor Society!

There will be a fundraiser event at Bertucci's at Mansfield Corssing on November 29th, a half day. If you order anytime from 11:30-9:30 and present a flyer or mention the fundraiser, a portion of the sale will benefit the Mansfield High School National Honor Society.

Mansfield High School, [250 East Street](#), Mansfield, [MA 02048](#)

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