



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee

January 23, 2018 School Committee Meeting

In Case You Missed It: Acts of Kindness at Oak Street Elementary School

The Milford Daily News recently showcased a project of kindness at Oak Street. Students wrote letters of kindness to MA state legislators. More information about this fifth grade project can be read in the news article linked below:

<http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/20180118/franklin-students-send-kindness-letters-to-state-house>

Civil Rights Training for all Faculty and Staff

The district held a training around civil rights and prevention of discrimination and harassment for all faculty and staff on January 10, 2018. This presentation was facilitated by Peter Light, Assistant Superintendent, and Lisa Trainor, Director of Human Resources, and delivered by attorney Paige Tobin. This important presentation highlighted the responsibilities of our staff. Importantly, the presentation made a comparison and drew distinctions between bullying and harassment, which can sometimes cause confusion. While we complete mandated trainings on these topics every year, this was done more intensively through faculty meeting time and served as a good reminder to all of us of the important ways we foster inclusive and safe environments for all of our students.

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Mid-Winter Meeting

On Thursday, January 25, 2018 I will be attending the MASS Mid-winter conference in Marlborough, Massachusetts with Dr. Edwards and Mr. Light. The focus will be on Computer Science and Computational Thinking, which is our professional organizations priority initiative for inclusion in all schools and for all children. The schedule for the day includes a keynote by Dr. Laurie Leshin, the President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, who will provide an overview

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice”
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of the changing education, business, and industry landscape providing context for why K-12 education needs to provide a better foundation for teaching computer science and digital literacy. A panel of business leaders and educators will follow; we will then have lunch with Acting Commissioner Jeff Wulfson.

Franklin High School Parent Conferences

Due to the snow day, the parent conferences at FHS have been rescheduled to Thursday January 25, 2018. It will be a half day of school for students. The original schedule of conferences is being honored, unless other arrangements have been made between teachers and families.

Professional Days/Half-Day for Students on January 26, 2018 and February 5, 2018

This is a reminder that all students across the district will have a half-day on Friday, January 26, 2018 and Monday, February 5, 2018 for faculty educator evaluation and professional development. I'd like to emphasize that February 5 is a Monday, which is not commonly where half-days fall.

As far as professional development plans educators will be experiencing the following professional learning on February 5:

- At FHS, continuing to explore Dr. Thomas Guskey's work on effective grading practice and research based beliefs about assessments.
- At the three middle schools, faculty will experience workshops with the A World of Difference trainers as part of the World of Difference peer leader initiative, which addresses topics such as bias, identity, bullying, and engaging students and staff in promoting positive and inclusive school environments.
- At Parmenter and Davis Thayer, all staff will participate in professional development around Social-emotional learning (SEL) practices with professionals from Lesley University.
- Jefferson, Keller, Oak, ECDC, Kennedy will continue with professional learning related to school-based initiatives tied to school goals including school culture, writing across the curriculum, SEL, leveled reading, and reading across content areas.

