

NEWSLETTER

February 2014

SY2013-2014

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Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School
52 Lake Parkway
Webster, MA 01570



Principal
Steven Knowlton

Assistant Principal
John Daniel

Assistant Principal
Helen Rowlings

Academic Dean
Rebecca Czernicki

Athletic Director
Anthony Paranto

From the Principal's Desk: Mr. Steven C. Knowlton

BHS Recognized

The 2013-2014 school year has been a very busy but exciting and productive one. This past fall, BHS was recognized as a member of the Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll. Only thirty-three (33) schools in the entire state were recognized as members of this prestigious group. AP Honor Roll schools such as BHS were recognized for the expansion, growth, and achievements of their AP Programs. This includes expanding the number of AP course offerings, increasing the number of students enrolled in the programs, and by the number of qualifying scores on our students' AP tests the previous spring. Congratulations are in order to our AP coordinators, Dr. Andrew Kelley and Ms. Rebecca Czernicki, all of our AP teachers, and of course, our AP students.

BHS was also recognized in a Boston Globe article by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for our high school students' growth percentile on the state MCAS assessment tests. BHS students were recognized as being one of the fifteen highest achieving schools on MCAS assessments the previous spring.

Student Attendance

Administration and staff continue to work diligently to address student attendance concerns. Last year's implementation of our student attendance policy coupled with the formation of an attendance committee at the high school has begun to pay significant dividends. Our attendance policy and the focused efforts of our attendance committee targeting our most "at risk" students with the support of our guidance department, has created a steady and significant improvement in our average daily attendance. Average daily attendance data for the past three years indicates the significant improvements over the past two years.

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|------|-------|
| 2011 | 91.1% |
| 2012 | 93.7% |
| 2013 | 94% |

Congratulations to our staff, our students, and their families for recognizing the importance of regular school attendance and for supporting our efforts in achieving this improvement.

Drop-out Rates

On January 27th Governor Patrick released the state's annual drop-out rates. The state's annual drop-out rate declined to 2.2% in the 2012-2013 school year, the fifth consecutive year below 3% and the lowest overall rate in more than three decades. At BHS where the drop-out rate has historically been more than twice the state average, significant decline in the drop-out rate was noted there as well. The BHS drop-out rate for the 2012-2013 school year was 4.7%, almost a full 2% decline from the 6.6% rate in 2011-2012. Although we recognize that we still have significant room for improvement, this data represents encouraging news with respect to our efforts and programs aimed at supporting our most "at-risk" and struggling students. Our staff continues to work very hard, providing both academic and social/emotional support to our students, as well as educating them as to the importance and value of completing their high school education and earning a diploma.

John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. The scholarship covers tuition only; fees and room and

board are not included. **The scholarship must be used within six years of a student's high school graduation.**

In order to be eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, Massachusetts public high school students in the **class of 2015 or earlier** must

- have scores of *Advanced* and *Proficient* on grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (at least one score must be *Advanced*) **AND**
- have combined scores on MCAS ELA and Mathematics tests that place them in the top 25 percent of students in the graduating class in their district.

Beginning with the class of 2016, in order to be eligible for the scholarship, students must

- score at the *Advanced* performance level on one of the three high school state assessment tests in ELA, Mathematics, or STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, or Technology/Engineering); **AND**
- score at the *Proficient* level or higher on the remaining two high school state assessment tests; **AND**
- have combined scores from the three tests that place them in the top 25 percent of students in the graduating class in their district.

Scholarship eligibility is based on each student's **first attempt** at taking the spring grade 10 MCAS tests in ELA and Mathematics (and for students in the class of 2016 and beyond, first attempt at taking one of the four STE tests). In order to receive the scholarship, a student must be enrolled in a Massachusetts public high school in his or her senior year. Students who qualify for the scholarship will receive award letters and further information in the fall of their senior year.

Students in charter schools and students who participate in school choice or METCO are eligible for the scholarship if they meet the eligibility requirements for either the school they attend or the district in which they reside.

In order to claim the Adams Scholarship, the student must

- be a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts for at least one year prior to entering college as a freshman;
- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
- be a graduate of a Massachusetts public high school;
- be accepted at a Massachusetts public college or university;
- complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- submit the Adams Scholarship award letter to the financial aid office; and
- enroll as a full-time student.

To continue receiving the Adams Scholarship, a student must

- be enrolled full-time at a public higher education institution;
- maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 on all college work; and
- annually complete the FAFSA.

Eligible students who first enrolled in a private college or public university in another state may activate their Adams Scholarship upon transfer to a Massachusetts public college or university, provided they have previously maintained a cumulative 3.0 GPA.

For additional information, call 781-338-3625 or send an email to mcas@doe.mass.edu.

BHS Showcase Night

On January 16th, Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School held its second annual BHS Showcase Night. The event was well attended by staff, students, and parents. Families had the opportunity to tour the school and visit booths and displays set up throughout the building. Displays of student work, videos, curriculum, and projects were available for guests to view. Teachers, administrators, coaches, club and activities advisors were on hand to discuss the various programs and answer questions. Students who are club, team, or activities participants were also available to share their thoughts and experiences with guests. Bartlett graduates presently enrolled in college were also on hand to discuss the quality of their high school experiences at BHS and how these experiences prepared them for college. National Honor Society students were also available to serve as tour guides and to answer questions as well. Feedback from parents and the community was very positive.

I extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to all of our students, staff, faculty, administration that volunteered their time and effort to make the evening enjoyable and successful.

MCAS Testing

MCAS Testing begins again this spring starting the month of March.

March 18, 19, 21 Grades 7, 8, &10 ELA

Please be reminded that these assessment tests are extremely important for our junior high school students with respect to future placement in high school courses and preparation for the grade 10 MCAS assessments. Passing the grade 10 MCAS assessment is a requirement for earning a high school diploma. Parents, please encourage your children to get a good night sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and to be in school on time to take the MCAS.

PPT Program

A seminar to prevent teen pregnancy will be presented to students in grades 8 and 9 by the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program, a program of Y.O.U. Inc. at school in April. The program includes teen parent speakers sharing their stories of hardships and challenges of being a teen parent. Program staff will also be sharing information relevant to the struggle of being young parents and the importance of completing their education.

Steven C. Knowlton
Principal

Guidance News

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend FAFSA Day on Sunday, January 26th. Sixty-four people showed up to view the FAFSA presentation and to work on, or complete, their FAFSA forms. Financial Aid experts volunteered their time to work with students and their families and help address concerns about a process that can, at times, seem very overwhelming. This event was a follow-up to our Financial Aid Night that was held in October.

Required Community Service for Seniors –

A minimum of ten (10) hours of community service is a requirement for graduation. If a student is unsuccessful in completing this community service requirement they will not be eligible for a Bartlett High School diploma and cannot participate in any senior activity or the graduation exercise. This ‘community service’ must be fulfilled by April 4, 2014 for the Class of 2014. For current opportunities available and/or an official form contact the guidance office.

SCHOOL GRADING

3rd Quarter: January 21-April 4

Grades close for Progress Reports on Friday, February 28

Grades close for Report Cards on Friday, April 4

4th Quarter: April 7-June 16

Grades close for Progress Reports on Friday, May 16

Grades close for Report Cards on Monday, June 16

Medical Careers Club News and Important Dates

Blood Drive!

The Medical Careers Club continues to host blood drives with the American Red Cross. Our next blood drive will be open to the public. It will be Wednesday, February 12th from 8am-1:00pm in the Bartlett Auditorium. If you would like to donate blood please call Mrs. Pepin at 508-943-8552 x 26 for an appointment. We not only are helping to save lives by donating blood, but each pint of blood helps our senior students. We participate in Bob’s High School Heroes Program which is a scholarship program competing against all Massachusetts High Schools. Last year we won two \$500.00 scholarships and we would like to do the same or better this year. You can track our progress on Bob’s High School Heroes website. Please come and help support our school as well as save a life.

The Medical Careers Club is also planning on attending the 7th Annual Health Care Expo April 29th at the College of the Holy Cross. Here our members will be able to explore health care careers, meet clinical and businesses professionals and talk to colleges and universities. Another field trip we hope to attend is the Underage Drinking Prevention Conference held at Anna Maria College.

STEM

What is STEM Education? Students investigating real-world problems, using and designing tools, and communicating results with mathematical relationships and data trends. 7th Grade STEM Students recently held a feedback session in the library during class and Showcase Night to communicate the progress of their inventions and problem- solving. A Gore Road traffic problem, scented tree ornaments, locker organization and house mold were among the projects students presented in January. In addition to the engineering units explored in STEM Class, all students in grade 7 are asked identify and solve a problem using the 8 steps of the Engineering Design Process by inventing a tool or a system. Students survey, do background research, develop

sketches, build a prototype and execute testing on their prototype before presenting their findings to a mixed audience of parents, teachers, engineers, manufacturers, business owners and public safety personnel. Their goal? Students must complete the process by redesigning according to feedback! In the upcoming STEM Fair scheduled for April 15th, 6:30-8:30 PM, which will now extend to science experiments and engineering projects, 7th grade engineering students will present their final designs using feedback from professionals to improve their original prototypes. A Gore Road traffic problem, a WPS flag, and a locker organizer are among those expected to be finalized by April. Stay tuned...

Trip to France, April, 2015

It is never too early to plan for a great trip. In April of 2015, Mrs. Morandi will be taking students overseas to France. The following students are permitted to go on the trip: any high school student enrolled in French 2, 3, or 4; any junior or senior enrolled in a French class; any junior or senior not enrolled in a French class but who has taken at least two years of the language. All students must be in good academic **and** discipline standing. The particulars of the trip are still being determined at this time, but the plan is to leave the Thursday or Friday before April vacation and to return before it ends. The excursions that are being considered cost between \$2,500.00 and \$2,900.00, and that includes airfare, hotel, two meals per day, and entrance into attractions. Mrs. Morandi hopes to have the trip chosen and approved by the School Committee by the end of February or March to give students ample time to pay for the trip (monthly payment plans are available). Stay tuned!

Diversity Club News

Diversity Tribe is going strong! We now have club T-shirts, and recently sponsored “movie night” on January 24th. It was well attended, but we would like to see more kids and parents taking advantage of this fun evening. Look for the next movie night in February and join us! Admission is \$1 OR a canned good for the food bank. Remember: ***“It only takes ONE. Can YOU be that one?”***

Second Annual Indian Classic

The Bartlett Varsity Baseball team will be hosting their Second Annual Indian Classic on Thursday April 24th. The team is very pleased to announce the three participants for this year are Dedham High School, Ashland High School and North Andover High School. The first round match ups will be Bartlett vs Dedham at 1 pm at Upper Athletic and Ashland vs North Andover at 1 pm at BHS. The losers will meet at 4 pm at Upper Athletic with the winners playing at 7 pm at Upper Athletic. All day admission is \$5 dollars for adults and \$3 dollars for students. We look forward to seeing you all there for a great day of baseball.

Bartlett Winter Athletics

The Bartlett winter athletic teams are entertaining very successful seasons.

The Boys' Track team has been very competitive throughout the season and has secured the Southern Worcester County West Championship. Congratulations to the boys' program!

The Girls' Track team also outthusted the competition, finishing tied for first place in their division.

The Girls' Winter Cheering, with a very young squad, again has proved their metal coming off a first place finish at the Shepherd Hill Invitational, SWCL Fall Championship, as well as Regional Champions. The girls are working diligently towards their defense for their upcoming winter tournaments.

The Girls' Basketball program may not be showing their success in the win column, but each and every day their improvement will pay dividends for the future. The true highlight has been the Junior Varsity team in their strides as they currently are riding a six game winning streak.

The Boys' Basketball teams have represented the program admirably throughout the season. The number of participants in the boys program is remarkable; Junior High: 20 players, Freshmen: 10 players, Junior Varsity: 13 players, and Varsity: 12 players. The Junior High boys won the annual Bob Paranto Holiday Tournament this past December. The Freshmen team finished with a 9-1 record. The Junior Varsity team is currently 10-3. The Varsity team is also 10-3 and looking forward to post season play in the 75th Clark Tournament, as well as the Division 3 District Tournament.

Tryouts for the spring athletic teams will start Monday, March 17th.

All girls and boys in grades 7-12 interested in participating in the spring should pay attention to sign ups on announcements as well as postings throughout the school.

Spring sports available are:

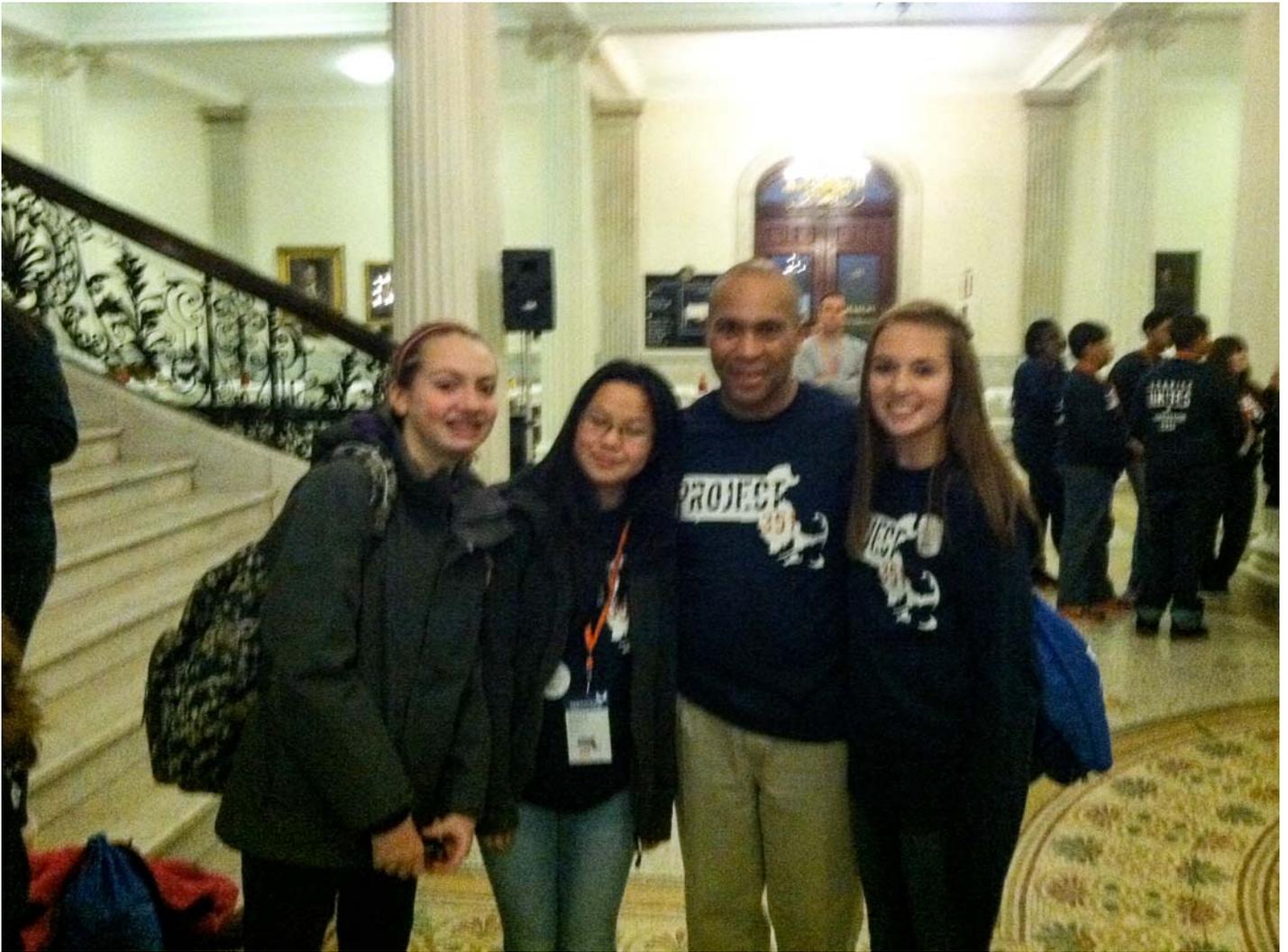
- Girls' Varsity and Junior Varsity Softball
- Boys' Varsity and Junior Varsity Baseball
- Girls' Track and Field
- Boys' Track and Field
- Girls' Tennis
- Boys' Tennis

*Tony Paranto
Athletic Director*



Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant

In 2013 Bartlett was selected to receive a Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. The grant proposal, written by History teacher Lara DeRose, was to create a classroom mini-theater. Recently, the \$3,000 donation was used to purchase recording and editing equipment, microphones and even curtains to shape our presentation space. This grant will provide our students with the opportunity to present their work and practice communicating effectively with a microphone in front of the camera. In addition, students now have the tools to edit their presentations into finished productions. Thank you Lowe's, this grant will give Bartlett students the opportunity to develop presentation skills and video editing expertise.



Project 351

Congratulations to Megan Marrier on her nomination as this year's Project 351 Ambassador!

Megan represented the Webster School District at a one day event that took place on January 18th at the State House with Governor Deval Patrick. Megan and other Ambassadors from across the Commonwealth spent the day volunteering at various non-profit organizations throughout Boston.

Project 351 celebrates the power of young people by recognizing their commitment to community service, leadership development, skill building and establishing positive community connections. Megan's commitment to others, compassion and leadership qualities have lent to her success as Webster's Project 351 Ambassador!

Thank you Megan!



DRIVER EDUCATION

SPRING 2014 Class begins:

Tuesday, MARCH 11, 2014
6:00 – 8:00pm in Room C-132

Class Dates: March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27
April 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10

All classes are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 pm for 5 weeks.

Mandatory PARENT MEETING:
Monday, March 31st 6-8pm

Cost of the program is \$490.00, which includes: 30 hours of classroom instruction, 12 hours behind-the-wheel driving instruction, 6 hours in-car observation and mandatory 2 hour Parent Meeting.

Sign-up Sheets will be available at the main desk beginning Monday, February 10, 2013 or you can call the Adult Education office at 508-949-8282 for additional information or see Mr. DeVito in Room A-148 before or after school.

GIFT CERTIFICATES for all occasions are available by calling the Adult Education Office at 508-949-8282

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 12th Blood Drive, BHS Auditorium, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
17th-21st No School, Winter Vacation Week
28th Winter Ball, BHS Cafeteria, 6:00-10:00 pm

March

- 1st Advance Placement Saturday Session, Science
3rd-11th MCAS Retakes; Math and ELA
5th ½ day, students dismissed at 11:00 am
5th Pass Program Family Night; BHS Cafeteria, 5:00-7:00 pm
13th “Steve Wronker’s Funny Business”; BHS Auditorium 7:00 pm
18th MCAS; ELA Long Composition, Grades 7 & 10
19th MCAS; ELA, Sessions 1 & 2, Grades 7, 8, & 10
20th 3-on-3 Basketball Sports Night
21st MCAS; ELA, Session 3, Grades 7, 8, & 10
28th, 29th Show Choir Festival

April

- 2nd ½ day, students dismissed at 11:00 am
15th Blood Drive, BHS Auditorium, 7:30-1:00 pm
15th STEM Fair 6:30-8:30 pm
18th No School; Good Friday
21st-25th No School, Spring Vacation Week