

The Lancer

*Norton Public Schools
Central Office News*

Happy Spring!

Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools
@NortonSchools

Spring has finally arrived! With that comes the beginning of planning the end of the current school year and looking at the 2017-2018 school year. It feels as though the job is never done and I would suggest to you that this is very common within the field of education.

The month of April can be a bit of a swing month because we are dealing with budget proposals and scenarios. The proposal stage includes a 4-5 month period of development and review. The scenarios are based on available finances AND what the community believes are important to its future.

We have been, and continue to work on, addressing our priorities, mandates and overall needs of the school department. As we move into the final weeks of school, I can only say THANK YOU. Thank you for the support, the constructive criticism and the constant attention to making NPS better for ALL students.

Please consider keeping updated on school events by going to www.norton.k12.ma.us and forwarding questions, thoughts and ideas to Let's Talk, found on the District site.

Contents

Page 1	Superintendent of Schools
Page 2	Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Page 3	Business and Transportation
Page 3	Facilities and Grounds
Page 4	Pupil Personnel Services
Page 5	Instructional Technology



Visit our website for more information on district initiatives and individual school happenings.

www.norton.k12.ma.us

Jennifer O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
@NortonCIA

Curriculum

Spring is a busy time for the Office of Teaching & Learning as we begin planning for the upcoming school year. Teachers at all grade levels are engaged in evaluations of our curriculum, making revisions and exploring new resources. Our elementary staff have been busy in grade level teams reviewing our pilot year of the Readers Workshop model and planning for full implementation in grades K-5 this fall. Our ELA curriculum team will be busy over the next two months, creating specific curriculum maps and laying out all the necessary resources for this initiative. With School Choice funds, we have been able to purchase \$30,000 of materials for the Readers Workshop program, bringing engaging texts of all levels into our classrooms for students to enjoy. At the secondary level, our academic coordinators are leading the charge at Norton Middle School as we look for curriculum resources that align with our 1:1 chromebook initiative. Norton High School is currently in the process of examining their successful NEASC report and looking for ways to make improvements around curriculum in assessment as we move forward in our next cycle.

Professional Learning

Our professional learning committee is in the process of planning our district wide professional development day, which will take place on August 30th, 2017. This is a great opportunity for us to introduce staff to new curriculum and teaching expectations before students return for a new school year. The committee is also planning summer and after-school professional learning opportunities for staff.



Kindergarten Screening

Screening for our incoming Kindergarten students will take place on Friday, June 2nd and Monday, June 5th at the J. C. Solmonese School. Information for families, including forms and the time to report to JCS will be mailed in May.

Our current Kindergarten students will have no school on Friday, June 2nd so that our staff is available to work with our incoming students.

Business and Transportation

Lincoln Lynch IV, School Business Manager

The “budget season” is approaching the final part of the process with the upcoming ballot vote on April 25th. If a majority of the voters at the ballot on the 25th vote “yes,” another vote will be conducted at the Town Meeting to officially approve the requested amount. If either the ballot or Town Meeting vote results in a “no,” the Town and School will operate within the Town Manager’s FY18 budget which was presented last month to the Board of Selectmen. The School Department’s total budget request for the FY18 school year is \$28,186,662 or a \$2,074,376 increase to the FY17 budget of \$26,112,286. The budget process has been a long one with many, many hours worked by a number of people. It takes the collective effort of principals, department heads and administrators to create a budget that allows for both staff and students to thrive. I believe once again we, as a District, have accomplished that and the community of Norton can be assured that the budget requested serves all students. Thank you to all those involved.

On a different note, as the school year comes to an end, the business office is tasked with making sure school lunch debts are collected. Our Food Service Department allows students who do not have the funds on a particular day to charge a lunch with the agreement that the amount owed will be paid at a later date. I know this is not a favorite topic for anyone but with tight school budgets, lunch debts add to the problem. Funds not collected must, by law, be covered by the operating budget which can reach up into the thousands of dollars. Please check the status of your child’s school lunch account either through MySchoolBucks or by contacting the Food Service Department at 508-285-0150.

Facilities and Grounds

Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities

The buildings and grounds department is happy to see Spring arrive. The season brings green grass and warmer temperatures. It is also the start of our Spring sports season, so the grounds department will be extremely busy taking care of our 199.77 acres as well as preparing our fields for our sports teams to play on.

During the four day April vacation break, there was time to open the windows and air out our school buildings. The inside crews worked hard taking care of all of the common area flooring by buffing and waxing them after the harsh Winter salt destroyed most of the finish.

This is always a great time of year. The sun is out, the heat is off, the windows are open, the smell of freshly cut grass is in the air and Summer vacation is getting closer.

Pupil Personnel Services

Jeanne Sullivan, M.Ed. Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Follow us on Twitter! @NPSPPS

Pupil Personnel Office Changes

After 10 years, Janice Powers, Administrative Assistant in the PPS Office, retired on Friday, April 7th. We thank Janice for her dedication and hard work. We wish her well as she takes time to travel and spend time with family. Welcome to Tina Yanchuk who will be joining us as an Administrative Assistant beginning on May 1st.

Special Olympics

The Attleboro Area Games will be held at Attleboro High School on May 18th with a rain date of May 19th. This year's theme is "Under the Sea." Parents of athletes should keep an eye out for an informational letter coming home soon.

SEPAC

There will be a SEPAC Coffee Hour on Wednesday, April 26th from 9:00AM-10:30AM in the Pupil Personnel Office at the H.A. Yelle School. From the HAY parking lot, the PPS Office is located at door #5 at the end of the buses. Director of Pupil Personnel, Jeanne Sullivan, will be available to answer your questions and discuss specialized programming in the District.



Lancers United for Community Knowledge-L.U.C.K Event

Please join us on May 24, 2017 for a presentation on Suicide Awareness and Prevention by Ann Marie Matulis, Director of Bristol County Regional Coalition for Suicide Prevention. Look for the flyer and registration coming soon.

I hope you all had a wonderful vacation week! Happy Spring!



Technology Department

Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology
@kwinsper

It's Time for Technology Spring Cleaning!

Most of us who use technology every day take for granted that our devices will turn on and work when we need them. This is a good time of year to clean computers, tablets, phones, and other tech so each is working to its potential. Below are some tips to refresh your tech.

- Back up your data to a portable or external hard drive or to a cloud service before starting any type of spring cleaning.
- Delete old or unwanted files on your computer.
- Use condensed air to blast out the dirt and crumbs from your keyboard.
- Wipe screens with a soft microfiber cloth. Don't use regular household cleaning products on your laptop or smartphone screen.
- Delete old or unused apps on your smartphone. If you haven't used an app in a month, it's probably safe to delete it.
- Organize your inbox by sorting and deleting emails. Unsubscribe from unwanted email lists.
- Clean out your contact list on your cell phone.
- Download photos from your cell phone to your computer or store them in the cloud.
- Fully charge the battery on your device and then let it completely run down before charging again. This will help keep your battery working properly.
- Change your passwords. Make them tricky by using a combination of upper and lower case letters, symbols, and numbers. Use a phrase instead of just one word. *Example: n0rT0Nr0ck5!*
- Don't forget to empty your trash bin!
- Sell, donate, or recycle old technology equipment but remember to reset to factory settings first.

Here are some websites to visit for additional tips and information:

Popular Science: The complete guide to spring cleaning your computer

<http://www.popsci.com/spring-cleaning-your-computer>

Clean and organize your devices from CNET

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-clean-and-organize-your-electronics-devices/>

14 Easy Spring Cleaning Tips for Your Computer (written for teachers but good advice for anyone)

<http://www.teachhub.com/14-easy-spring-cleaning-tips-your-computer>

