



**The Lancer**  
 Newsletter of the  
 Superintendent's Office of  
 the Norton Public Schools

**January 2018**

EXCHANGE STUDENTS FROM CHINA SPEND 2 WEEKS AT HAY AND NMS #NPSPRIDE

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# School District's Budget

by Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools

The budget season is once again upon us as we start developing the Fiscal 2018-2019 school budget for consideration by the Town. This year the political and emotional issue of a Proposition 2 ½ Override is NOT even on the radar. No matter what, the school department will have to deal with what is provided. So, what does this mean?

The answer is simple- We have no idea until the Governor releases his recommendations and the Town Manager announces townwide revenue. All of this to be announced in the near future.

Budget priorities will focus on the classroom including class size,

instructional resources, instructional technology, program needs including computer science, and lastly supports for students including adjustment counselor and learning specialists.

I will keep positive until we find out what the finances look like. Until then I ask that you consider being more involved by attending School Committee meetings, Finance Committee meetings and other such meetings that my office publishes. At the end of the day YOU vote as a Town Meeting member, IF you attend.

*We will keep you posted on a regular basis. Follow me on Twitter for District news. [@NortonSchools](https://twitter.com/NortonSchools)*

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# Business Office

by Lincoln Lynch, School Business Manager

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## Budget

Budget season is in full swing here in the business office as work is being done to put forth a proposed budget for next school year (FY19). One on one meetings happened the week of January 8-12 as principals and administrators submitted requests to Dr. Baeta and myself. All requests are now being compiled into one large document that encompasses all salaries and expenses that we believe are needed to educate all students and operate the District efficiently. The first budget presentation to School Committee is scheduled for January 22nd. At the presentation, a detailed overview of the FY19 budget proposal will be given and principals will have an opportunity to discuss their building requests. Administrators will be present to support principals' requests and discuss their own requests. Following the presentation at the School Committee on the 22nd, revisions will be made prior to another budget meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd. At the conclusion of this meeting, a budget for FY19 school year will be finalized and set to bring to School Committee on February 5th. A vote by the School Committee will set in stone our final budget request. The final request will be submitted to Norton's Town Manager, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in an extremely detailed budget book. The budget book provides a wealth of information with complete transparency in mind. Information regarding revenues and expenses of grants, revolving accounts (including School Choice) and operating funds is all provided in the budget book. This book provides a line by line explanation of every dollar that comes through my office.

## Buses

Please be on the lookout for next school year's (FY19) bus registration information. Deadlines for registration and payment have not been set yet but expect the dates to be earlier than ever.

# Buildings and Grounds

by Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities

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The Facilities department has been battling severe cold temperatures starting with the end of December into the beginning of January. We saw temperatures in New England below freezing for 13 straight days and we not only were trying to keep over a half million square feet comfortable but we were trying to keep everything safe from freezing. It's always a challenge!

We have had two snow storms to deal with so far this January. The January 4<sup>th</sup> storm dropped over 17 inches of snow here in Norton. Thank you to our grounds crew who put in over 14 hours that day to keep the school roads open. I would also like to thank the DPW for their assistance in helping us clear our larger parking lots. With our equipment, we never could have moved that amount of snow without their help.

With flu season hitting our area hard this year, I would like to assure you that our team here at NPS has been working hard to keep our buildings clean and safe. Our crews have been cleaning and disinfecting our buildings all day, every day. Our cleaning crews take enormous pride in their work and do an incredible job.

Happy New Year!



# Office of Teaching and Learning

By Jennifer O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

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## Kindergarten Registration

We are pleased to announce that Kindergarten registration for next year is open. Children who will be five years old on or before August 31, 2018, are eligible to enter Kindergarten in the fall of 2018. All students who are entering Kindergarten must register, including those already enrolled in our Little Lancers Preschool program. Registration packets are available to print on our Kindergarten Registration page or may be picked up at the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School, L.G. Nourse Elementary School, or the Superintendent's Office.

Please return completed registrations to the Superintendent's Office, 64 West Main Street. Registrations will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm, and all materials are due by March 9, 2018.

Parents and guardians are invited to join us for a Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, March 8th, 2018, at your child's school from 6:00 to 7:00pm. The building principals will be available to answer your questions about our kindergarten program and offer you a tour of the school.

## Spring 2018 MCAS Dates

Grade 3 ELA: April 25th & 26th  
Grade 3 Math: May 16th & 17th

Grade 4 ELA: April 4th & 5th  
Grade 4 Math: May 15th & 16th

Grade 5 ELA: April 24th & 25th  
Grade 5 Math: May 9th & 10th  
Grade 5 Science: May 22nd & 23rd

Grade 6 ELA: April 11th & 12th  
Grade 6 Math: May 2nd & 3rd

Grade 7 ELA: April 9th & 10th  
Grade 7 Math: April 30th & May 1st

Grade 8 ELA: April 2nd & 3rd  
Grade 8 Math: May 7th & 8th  
Grade 8 Science: May 14th

Grade 10 ELA: March 27th-29th  
Grade 10 Math: May 23rd & 24th  
High School Science: June 6th & 7th

## Professional Development

In January, we kicked off a number of professional learning opportunities being led by our knowledgeable staff. Topics include the Digital Classroom, Guided Reading and Writing in Relation to the Literacy Continuum, Number Talks, and Teacher Leadership. The staff led workshops showcase the professional expertise within our district and offer no cost, diverse professional development to our staff.

In support of the District's focus on social emotional learning, this week marks the launch of a book study led by Dr. Baeta. Over 50 staff members representing all five schools and central office will read *Lost at School* by Ross W. Greene, Ph.D. Participants will respond to the weekly discussion questions on Google Classroom, join Twitter chats with colleagues, and collaborate with their building based teams to share key takeaways for our student population.

Finally, all staff will collaborate on Friday, January 26th during the early release day. The primary focus at all grade levels will be on curriculum review and revision. Additionally, our elementary school based coaches will continue training in PBIS, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. Teacher Technology Leaders from all buildings will participate in training for Podcasters as well as Virtual & Augmented Reality. Other topics being explored during the early release day include Positivity, ADHD, and Family Supports.

# Student Services

by Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

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## Family Success Partnerships

The Pupil Personnel Services Department is pleased to announce that we have joined with the READS Collaborative Family Success Partnership. The Family Success Partnership program provides a Family Support Counselor who will work with families to set goals and locate and access community based supports. We currently have the capacity to work with up to 5 families. Families will be identified by the school counselors.



## Program Development: Professional Learning

We are in the process of developing a language based program for students at Norton High School. This program will be a continuation of programming that exists at Norton Middle School. This year High School Staff have been engaged in professional learning with

Adam Hickey of Landmark School. Adam has been working with staff on the topic of language



based learning disabilities and best practices for supporting students in small groups and in inclusive classrooms. As part of our program development staff have visited language based programs in other districts and will be visiting the programs at Norton Middle School.

## From the School Nurses

As you have heard in the news, flu season is upon us. Please be sure to remind your children to wash their hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and to not share water bottles. If you suspect that your child has the flu or is not feeling well, please keep them home to rest and recover. Any questions, please contact the nurse in your child's school.

NHS - Mrs. Doreen Browne - 508-285-0160

NMS - Mrs. Patricia George - 508-285-0140

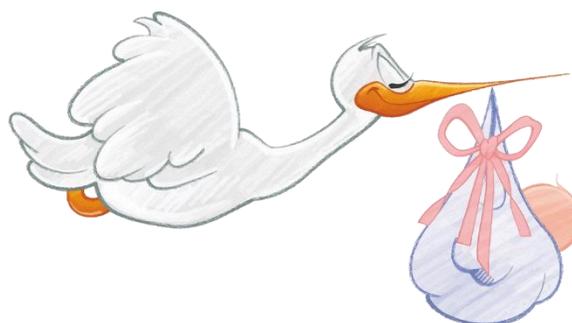
HAY - Ms. Jeanine DeMelo - 508-285-1040

JCS - Ms. Margaret Brazeau Miller - 508-285-0120

LGN - Ms. Courtney Pacheco - 508-285-0110

## Best Wishes!

Congratulations to Mrs. Laura Zanowski, Assistant Director of Special Education, who began her maternity leave on January 18th. We are waiting anxiously to hear the baby news!!



We have contracted with Ms. Lorna Ibbitson to provide coverage for our out-of-district team meetings in Ms. Zanowski's absence. If you have a question about an upcoming meeting or concerns about your child's placement, please contact Mrs. Sullivan in the PPS Office at 508-285-0193 or [jsullivan@norton.k12.ma.us](mailto:jsullivan@norton.k12.ma.us)

## Technology Department

by Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology

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### Grant Funding for Technology Projects

When teachers are looking to pilot a new technology tool or expand upon a successful initiative to support their content area, they may make a request to their building Principal or myself so we are able to include tech items in the budget process. Staff members often develop creative lessons using technology well after the budget has been approved meaning there aren't discretionary funds available to support an innovative idea. Norton staff members are fortunate to have two local avenues to pursue extra funds:

[Norton Media Center](#) and [Norton N.E.E.D.](#) Each year, Norton Media Center has two rounds of [community grants](#) that fund technology projects. Grant awards were announced recently and the schools received new digital keyboards and 3D printers among other projects. Norton N.E.E.D. supports NPS staff annually through their grant process. Although not technology specific grants, [N.E.E.D. has funded](#) many creative uses of technology by staff members. N.E.E.D. will be announcing grant recipients in the coming weeks.

We are especially grateful to both organizations for their continued support of the Norton Public Schools.

### Chromebook Expansion

Yelle Elementary students returned from the December break to find carts of chromebooks in each of their classrooms. The devices were immediately put to use by the students and teachers. The new devices will continue to remain in the classrooms and not travel home with the students.



Please consider taking the Speak Up Project for Digital Learning survey which will remain open until February 2, 2018. This survey allows you to share your thoughts on using technology to support future ready schools.

Visit <https://speakup.tomorrow.org/LookupBuilding.aspx> and choose parents or community from the drop down list. Next, type in Norton's Zip Code, click next and you'll then be able to choose your child's school. The survey is mostly multiple choice questions and shouldn't take more than 20 minutes to complete. Responses are 100% confidential. We appreciate your time and participation!

## RESCHEDULED--L.U.C.K. Community Event: Keeping Kids Safe in our Technology Driven World

Join us on **March 1<sup>st</sup>** from 6:00-7:30 PM at the NHS auditorium to welcome [Katie Greer](#), nationally recognized expert in internet and digital safety as she helps parents and guardians take proactive steps to keep kids safe while using digital devices.

Please visit <https://goo.gl/yMxZ7z> to register today!