



THE BEACON

MT. GREYLOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-MARCH 23, 2006

“The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it”.

-Moliere

Mt. Greylock PTO Meeting Monday, February 13, 2006

~Minutes~

PRESENT: Beth Phelps, Carole Castanguay, Debora Cole-Duffy, Tim Payne, Paula Machado, Anne Hogleland, Nancy Nylen, Lisa Hiley, Drew Gibson, Bill Travis, Ed Sederbaum, Thelma Margulies-Major, Sally Sussman, Liz Shiner and Alison Kolesar. Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The services auction was a great success both financially and as a community event. Many thanks to all who helped, especially Anne Karabinos, Beth Phelps, Lisa Hiley, Betsy Johnson, Beth Goodman, Wendy Martin and Paula Machado. Next year we will have the event in late fall so as not to conflict with After Prom and to enable the buying of services for holiday gifts.

-Beth Nesbitt's quilt has raised over \$800.

-The communications subcommittee will now go ahead with next steps for the new website software and will report back in March.

-Kathleen Flynn-Kasuba has been given space at both the Lanesboro town library and the Lanesboro elementary school library to display news about Mt Greylock.

-Carole Castanguay reported on her visit to the Lanesboro elementary school PTO meeting. Various people there (while reporting on positive interactions with Mt Greylock) also expressed a reluctance to attend Mt Greylock PTO meetings.

It was decided to invite the parents of all 6th grade students to a special PTO meeting in May or June (at about the same time their kids would be visiting) in which there would be tours of the building and an opportunity for parents to be introduced to what the PTO already does and could do in the future. Invitations would be extended to parents of children attending all feeder elementary schools.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

At the instigation of Bob Petricca, Dick Halverstam met with the Co-Presidents to show them examples of school related merchandise. There was a discussion of how such things could be sold. There was also discussion about

the issue of overlap with sports team fundraising and the purposes of selling clothing and other merchandise, including promoting school spirit, providing items for students (and family members) who don't currently have access to them through sports and other activities, and expanding the types of merchandise offered. Students might even be invited to design a logo as part of an art class.

The ideal might be a school store but Massachusetts limits the items that may be sold in a school store, and although there have been student-run ventures in the past they have not continued. Mt Anthony has a very successful school store that is run and staffed as part of a business class. Individuals interested in pursuing opportunities for expanding the sale of merchandise were invited to explore this further.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Second Step program will soon be implemented in the middle school. So far 36 staff members have been trained including all the core academic staff and all support staff for 7th and 8th grade. The curriculum uses scenarios shown on video, discussion and role-playing to develop empathy, teach problem solving skills and anger management. The curriculum is used at Williamstown elementary and will soon be used at Lanesboro elementary so that students and teachers will have a common language of understanding and response. At some point there will be opportunity for parents to learn more.

Bill Travis has also been working with staff members on an emergency response management plan. On January 31 he attended a session for local principals and superintendents sponsored by both the District Attorney's office and the Attorney General's office on an anti-harassment policy.

Debora Cole-Duffy reported that the Berkshire County Guidance Association and the DA's office are co-sponsoring an event on March 15 at BCC in which Elizabeth Kandel Englander will speak on "Reducing Children's Aggression and Bullying in Schools" and Sergeant Steve Delnegro will speak on "Crimes in Cyberspace". She also reported how proud she was of a group of Mt Greylock students who recently spoke at a meeting of Unity, the student group organized by the Berkshire Community Coalition.

**COMMUNITIES MOBILIZING
FOR CHANGE ON ALCOHOL**

Ed Sederbaum talked about the disconnect between how many adults say teens should not drink alcohol (79%) and the number of high-schoolers who think adults seriously disapprove of their using alcohol (44%). He stressed that the issue needs to be talked about again and again and the environment changed to reduce access. He passed out copies of the Safe Homes pledge (which was also in the packet mailed out by the school in the summer). Parents who sign pledge that they will not allow teen parties in their home when they are not present and that they will not allow the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by teens in their home.

NEW BUSINESS

- Steve Delnegro gave a presentation on cyber bullying at the school at the PTO meeting.
- Sue Mead offered to give a talk with slides about her experience adventure driving across remote regions.

MCAS Dates

Students will be testing from 7:45 am to 10:42 am and most students find this to be an ample amount of time. However, MCAS tests are untimed tests so arrangements are in place to allow students as much time as they need to complete the test. Parents, please try to avoid making appointments on testing days. Getting a good night's sleep and eating a protein rich breakfast are good strategies for successful test taking.

- Monday, March 27**-ELA Language and Literature grades 7 & 8, 2 sections
- Tuesday, March 28**-ELA Language and Literature grades 7 & 8, 1 section
Composition grade 10,2 sections
- Wednesday, March 29**-Composition grade 7, A & B,
ELA Language and Literature grade 10, 2 sections
- Thursday, March 30**-ELA Language and Literature grade 10, 2 sections
- Wednesday, April 5**-MCAS make-up test

DON'T DELAY!

March 24th, TOMORROW, is the deadline to sign up for Where'd You Learn That?! classes! Students, get your registration forms and checks in to your advisors by the end of the day on Friday and you might just be one of the first to experience "Indoor Rock Climbing", "The Horrendous Rule of 3", or "Great Galloping Games!" WYLT classes will run for three weeks in April. Classes cost \$20, but scholarships are available. Classes also have limited enrollment, so get your registration in right away. Join the fun!

For more information contact:

Barbara Robertson 458-5676 or Barbara.G. Robertson @ Verizon.net

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Tune in to WilliNet

Here are the latest upcoming Mt. Greylock events to air on WilliNet, Williamstown's Community TV, Channel 17: Judge Judith Locke speaks to Mt. Greylock Middle School students on "The Rights and Responsibilities of Young People". Her talk was recorded January 9 and will air **Wednesday, March 29 at 3:00 pm**. This speech was aired frequently during January and February.

WilliNet airs Mt. Greylock Regional High School's Middle School Winter Concert of January 18 and the High School Winter Concert of January 26. Both concerts present the Chorus, Orchestra and Band.

The Middle School Winter Concert broadcast schedule on Channel 17 in Williamstown: **Sundays, March 26 & April 2 at 7-8:00 pm; Wednesdays, March 29 & April 4 at 11 am; Saturdays, April 1 & April 8 at 12:30 pm & 7 pm and Monday, April 3 at 4:45 pm.**

The High School Winter Concert broadcast schedule: **Sundays, March 9 & April 16 at 7-8:15 pm; Mondays, April 10 & April 17, at 4:45 pm; Wednesdays, April 12 & April 19 at 10:45 am and Saturdays, April 15 & April 22 at 12:30 pm & 7:00 pm.**



Please send items for the next issue of *THE BEACON* by **noon, Tuesday, March 28** to:
**Larsolaris@yahoo.com / 458-8015 or
Lizcostley@adelphia.net / 458-5894**