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Superintendent of Schools

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Week ending 10/16/15

Happy fall! The school year is well underway and we've had lots to celebrate!

- Congratulations to our Commended Students recognized in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Mr. Ed Rozmiarek (HS Principal), Anna Hunt, Sara Cunningham, Kevin Strothman, and Meghan Harrington

- Congratulations to our educators who received Professional Licensure Status this year: Margarett Ardman (Science Middle School ), Debi Ardon (Literacy Specialist Hadley), Amy Camire (High School Biology), Karen Reback (Middle School Grade 5), Sharon Santry (Resource Room Clarke), Keelyn Welch (High School Library Media Specialist), Wesley Geraci (Grade 3 Stanley), Marianne Hartmann (Nurse Middle School), and Elizabeth Jones (Special Education Middle School).
- Congratulations to Middle School teachers Lindsay Hodgson and Karen Reback honored at the Essex National Heritage Commission Annual Fall Meeting as two of the 2015 Pioneer in Partnership Award Recipients. The Press Release states: **Swampscott Public Schools and Lynn Museum/Lynn Arts**: *in recognition of their leadership and promotion of Heritage Education. In a twist on an old adage, Swampscott Middle School teachers Lindsay Hodgson and Karen Reback worked with the Lynn Museum/Lynn Arts to implement a project entitled "Take a Walk in Someone Else's Shoes" - A Study of the Greater Lynn Shoe Industry from the 17th - 20th Century. Through its design and execution, this innovative project exemplifies the power of partnership in place-based education. In all, over 100 Swampscott fifth grade students learned about the region's shoe manufacturing history from pre-colonial to present day - a seminal trade deeply engrained in the cultural DNA of the heritage area.*



- We also celebrate and congratulate Natalie Paine the 2015 Educator of the Year! In case you missed it read her the full story at: [http://www.itemlive.com/news/swampscott-teacher-named-town-s-educator-of-the-year/article\\_2d03d11a-7483-11e5-aa30-e34036baa69e.html#.ViJyljRqfIg.facebook](http://www.itemlive.com/news/swampscott-teacher-named-town-s-educator-of-the-year/article_2d03d11a-7483-11e5-aa30-e34036baa69e.html#.ViJyljRqfIg.facebook)



- The Mental Health Task Force is up and running. Our first meeting was held on October 8th and our next meeting is coming up in a couple of weeks. We are currently focusing on the *At Risk* data of our students and both formal and informal structures we already have in place in SPS.
- Friday morning I attended the North Shore Superintendent's Round Table Legislative Breakfast. There were about 20-25 Superintendents in attendance. It was our opportunity to sit face to face with our legislators and speak with them about our concerns around state testing. It was not a conversation around PARCC vs MCAS but rather an opportunity for us to voice our concerns around questions about cost, technology, purpose, and the state taking more time to figure out what test is right for our students. The conversation was based on the attached Position Paper from M.A.S.S. See attached.
- I wanted to make you aware that we are supporting the organization *For the Love of Swampscott* and their Halloween Harvest Fest that is taking place on October 25th in the High School Outdoor Classroom space. This weekend we hired landscapers to provide a fall clean up and trimming in order to provide a family friendly space for our community.
- Evan Katz, Rose Cheever, Lois Longin and I met with two security companies last week. As we still have money left in a Capital Article for Safety and Security we continue to work on creating a safe work environment for students and staff. We are waiting to receive quotes and proposals to secure Central Offices, fix and/or replace video cameras in MS and HS, and investigate the feasibility for keycard systems for staff on the exterior doors of the schools. I will keep you updated on our progress.

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