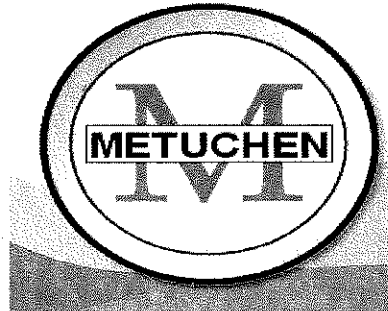


METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL
September/October 2011



TO: All Parents/Guardians

From: Bruce J. Peragallo
The Office of the Principal

Congratulations to Mrs. Terri Pollifrone-Sinatra!!!!

Mrs. Terri Pollifrone-Sinatra, Superintendent of Schools, was honored this summer as the Middlesex County Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Richard Bozza, Director of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, notified Mrs. Pollifrone-Sinatra that she has been named **Superintendent of the Year for the Central Region of New Jersey**. The Central Region is made up of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties. Congratulations, Mrs. Sinatra! We are very proud of you.

Cellular Phones and Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones during school hours is strictly prohibited in any context unless specifically authorized by the administration. The ringing or vibrating of cell phones as well as the picture-taking and text-messaging capabilities are disruptive to the learning process and may result in harassment and cheating. To ensure an appropriate academic environment, staff members will confiscate cell phones when they are seen or heard (including the vibrate setting). As always, parents may contact their children via the main office and the MHS administration will assist any student in contacting a parent in an emergency.

Confiscated phones will be held for three full school days, or if preferred, the phone will be handed over to a parent sooner. Repeat offenders may be subject to disciplinary action. A student refusing to hand over a phone to a staff member will face more severe consequences for the insubordination. The same policy will apply to other electronic devices, such as iPods.

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Smoking on School Grounds – An Appeal to Adults

Board of Education policy prohibits smoking in the building and on school grounds. All students are aware of this policy and the vast majority cooperate fully. Those few students who do not are punished consistently. As in past years, we are appealing to the adult community to help us keep the newly renovated MHS a totally smoke-free environment. Parents and other adults who attend school-sponsored events are asked not to smoke on the MHS playing (athletic) fields or outside the building during such activities as sports contests or practices, concerts, plays, awards nights, Board of Education meetings, or other functions. To help remind the public, no smoking signs have been posted outside the main entrance. Please cooperate with us in this joint effort.

Season Passes for Athletic Events

The Athletic Department is offering separate season passes for the fall (football) and winter (basketball and wrestling). The cost of each pass is Fall Season (Football) -\$25 and Winter Season (Basketball and Wrestling) - \$25 and it includes a guest. Interested parties can contact Athletic Director, John Cathcart at 732-321-8755 or the Main Office at 732-321-8744.

PTO Newsletter – Happy 2011 – 2012 School Year

Please find attached the Welcome Back PTO Newsletter. It is filled with important information and dates. This newsletter has also been posted to the high school website under the PTO tab.

PTO Brownie Barrel/Metuchen Country Fair – Saturday, October 1

The High School PTO will again sponsor its “Brownie Barrel” at the Metuchen Country Fair on Saturday, October 1. The PTO is respectfully requesting that each family bake a batch of brownies or make a donation. Brownies should be individually wrapped (health regulation) and brought to the **Main Office by Wednesday, September 28 (or brought to the booth the day of the fair)**. Please see attached flyer for additional information.

Mailings For School Year 2011-2012

For the 2011-2012 school year, there will be two ways that you can receive mailings from the high school.

- All mailings will be posted to the high school website. A Honeywell Alert message will be sent out informing everyone when the high school website is updated with the current mailing.
- We will also be sending mailings electronically via email through the Honeywell Alert System. If you prefer to receive mailings via email, please visit the Honeywell Alert website URL: <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>. In the Alert Setup tab, please set up an email account and make certain that your email spam filter is set to receive email from Honeywell.com. When a Honeywell Alert Message is sent, you can then opt to receive a phone call alerting you that the newsletter has been posted on the website as well as receiving an attachment of the newsletter.

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Please remember that since we will be utilizing both the Genesis Parent Module and the Honeywell Alert System to communicate with parents, it is imperative that you update both systems with new telephone numbers, email address, etc. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Guidance

Welcome to Elizabeth DeMott and Brian Whiting!

We would like to welcome Elizabeth DeMott and Brian Whiting to the Guidance Department at the high school. Mrs. DeMott is the new Guidance Counselor and Mr. Whiting will be the long-term substitute for Mrs. Hanbridge, who will be on maternity leave later this year. Please find attached letters of introduction from both Mrs. DeMott and Mr. Whiting.

Making the Most of High School: A Presentation for 9th and 10th Grade Parents – October 6, 2011

On Thursday, October 6th the Metuchen High School Guidance Department will host an informational evening for 9th and 10th graders and their families. Mrs. Grauer, Mrs. Hanbridge, and Mrs. DeMott will highlight and explain several topics relevant to high school success as well as post-secondary planning, including

- Building the foundation for the college process
- Selecting an appropriately challenging curriculum
- The benefits of extracurricular involvement
- The testing timeline, (HSPA, SAT, ACT, AP)
- Taking advantage of online resources

The program will begin at 7 pm in the high school auditorium.

PSAT/NMSQT & SAT-I/SAT-II Information

Please check the Guidance Website for **important information detailing PSAT/NMSQT and/or SAT-I/SAT-II information for students in grades 10-12.**

Grade 9 Progress Reports and Interim Notices – Thursday, October 6

This year, please note that Progress Reports/Interim Notices for students in Grade 9 and Interim Notices only for Grades 10-12 will be accessible through the Genesis Parent Module. The ninth grade report informs you of the current academic status of your child as of the first 4½ weeks of school. If you have any questions concerning the Progress Report or Interim Notices, contact your child's guidance counselor.

College Fairs

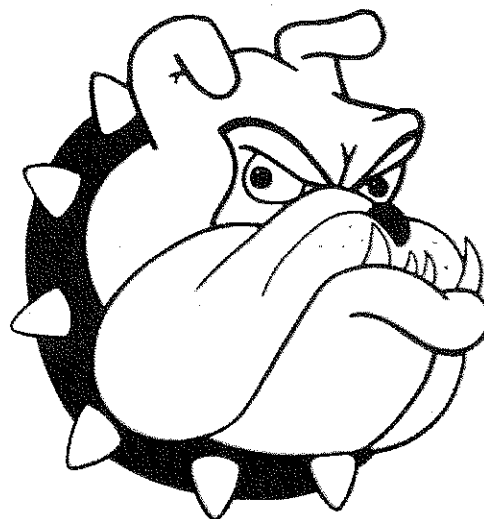
JP Stevens High School will host its Fall College Fair on Thursday, October 13th from 6:30 till 8:30pm in the JP Stevens cafeteria and auditorium. All students and families are welcome to attend and speak with representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities from the northeast and other parts of the country. Please see our website for a complete listing of schools participating in the College Fair.

Reminder 1 – “Meet the Teachers’ Night” will be held Thursday evening, September 15. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. The program will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. At 7:20 p.m., student schedules will be distributed in alpha homerooms, and at 7:28 p.m., an abbreviated schedule of classes will be followed until 9:09 p.m. Please note there will be a Senior Parent Meeting in the high school auditorium directly after the Meet The Teacher Program.

Reminder 2 – There will be no school on Thursday and Friday, September 29 and 30 due to Rosh Hashanah. (Please note the dates were incorrect on the earlier bulletin – sorry for any inconvenience!)

Reminder 3 - PTO meetings will be held on the **second** Monday of every month. The first meeting will be held on Monday, September 12. Their next meeting is on Monday, November 7. The meeting will take place in the Library/Media Center and start at 7:30 p.m.

**Happy 2011-2012
School Year!!**



The Metuchen Parent Teacher Organization welcomes back MHS students and families as well as new students to the MHS community. The PTO works with the administration to provide services and items that are not included in the school budget. In conjunction with the PT Council, we provide school gifts as well as scholarships and activities.

We hope you will join the PTO and join us for our informative meetings. The enrollment form is enclosed. Our meetings are scheduled for Sept 12th, Nov 7th, January 9th, March 5th and May 7th. All meetings are held in the MHS library and begin at 7:30pm - We hope to see you then!

In addition to PTO meetings, we have a few events we could use your help with :

*On October 1st, as part of the Metuchen Country Fair, the MHS PTO hosts a Brownie Barrell. If you are interested in helping, please contact Heidi Ledone @ heidi1060@optonline.net We are in need of brownie bakers, booth workers or financial contributions.

*During a week in April, we have our Annual Dine Downtown Metuchen fundraiser. Our local restaurants have graciously agreed to donate a portion of sales checks to our school. Please consider enjoying a night out or 2 to help benefit the PTO (and your student).

*In May, we host the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon provided by family food donations. Watch for a flyer around that time.

Mark your calendars for our first MHS PTO meeting on Sept 12th @7:30pm in the MHS Library.

“Ask the Principal” - Principal Peregallo will be taking questions (major & minor) from attendees

Dawn Valovcin- President

Susan Greenfeder- Vice President, Membership

Lisa Freed, Treasurer

Barbara McManus- Vice President, Fundraising

Mary Chalker, Secretary

Kathi Pearsall- Vice President, Cultural Arts

Geri Verlaque & Michelle Beley-Bianco, PT Council

METUCHEN COUNTRY FAIR
METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL P.T.O.

BROWNIE BARREL

Saturday, October 1, 2011

(Rain dates: 10/8, 10/15)

Each year MHS PTO runs the very popular "Brownie Barrel" booth located at the corner of New and Main Streets. The funds raised at this booth are used for senior awards.

We hope that you will help by baking/buying a batch of brownies, your favorite recipe, of course! Brownies must be individually wrapped in plastic to comply with Board of Health regulations. If you make a special kind of brownie, please label your batch. Also, if possible, please make your brownies with nuts, as these are the big sellers – however, they **MUST** be labeled "NUTS" for allergy reasons.

Because the school will be closed on Thursday and Friday (29th & 30th), please be sure to drop off your brownies on Wednesday, September 28th at Metuchen High School before 3:00pm (We have refrigeration available to keep them fresh) or at the booth the morning of the fair. *If you are not able to bake, please consider a donation to MHS PTO Scholarship Fund.* All donations should be placed in an envelope and labeled "PTO Brownie Barrel" and sent to the high school.

Workers are needed to staff the booth on the day of the fair!! If you can spare an hour, please call Heidi Ledone at 732-841-0920 or email heidi1060@optonline.net. Thank you for your consideration!

METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL – Guidance Department

400 Grove Avenue Metuchen, NJ 08840 (732) 321-8750 Fax (732) 767-9315

TRACI GRAUER

Guidance Counselor

LEIGH HANBRIDGE

Guidance Counselor

ELIZABETH DEMOTT

Guidance Counselor

September 12, 2011

Dear Parents and Students of Metuchen High School:

My name is Mrs. DeMott and I will be your new Guidance Counselor. I am thrilled to be working in such a dynamic school district. Thank you for your warm welcome. Meeting some students, parents, and staff, just during the first week of school, completely confirmed my thoughts that it will be a great first year working with you all. I look forward to meeting everyone else, and would like to provide you with some information on my background.

Upon graduation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, I pursued a career in pharmaceuticals and eventually became Vice President of a medical education firm in New York City. After having two sons, I returned to school to obtain a Masters in Education. I specifically chose to be a school guidance counselor because I am very passionate about mentoring kids, and helping them achieve their own path to success. As an educator, I'm committed to expanding students' horizons and motivating them to excel, using creative thinking. My goal is to teach students the skills they need to help themselves with their own educational, social, and personal planning.

Having been a counselor for several years now, I have comprehensive experience counseling on all types of issues and student concerns. I've worked with many students on college testing and the whole admissions process. I assure you that I will work my hardest, and use all available resources, to meet your diverse needs. I encourage you to come meet me in the guidance office, and also feel free to contact me any time at 732-321-8738 or edemott@metboe.k12.nj.us.

Sincerely,

Liz DeMott

METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL – Guidance Department

400 Grove Avenue Metuchen, NJ 08840 (732) 321-8750 Fax (732) 767-9315

TRACI GRAUER

Guidance Counselor

LEIGH HANBRIDGE

Guidance Counselor

ELIZABETH DEMOTT

Guidance Counselor

Dear Parents of Metuchen High School students,

My name is Brian Whiting and I am truly honored to be writing to you today to introduce myself as a part of the Metuchen High School Guidance Department. I will be working alongside Mrs. Leigh Hanbridge for the next several weeks, and will then be taking over during her maternity leave. It has been a pleasure meeting many of the amazing students, families and staff members of Metuchen High School thus far. I am excited to get to know and work closely with you and your child to achieve all of their educational goals.

I wanted to give you a bit of background on myself in this introduction and to hopefully assure you that your students are in capable hands as we move forward into the coming year. I am originally from Arizona and have been working there as a school counselor for the last seven years. I am a graduate of The University of Arizona for both my B.A. in Psychology and my M.Ed. in Counseling and Guidance. I have worked at all three levels of school counseling with most of my time at the high school level. I am confident that my many years of experience as a high school guidance counselor will provide a knowledgeable and supportive framework for you and your families here in Metuchen.

I appreciate this opportunity to work with such a promising young group of students and I encourage you to contact me with any questions in the future.

Sincerely,



Brian Lee Whiting, M.Ed.
Metuchen High School Counselor
732-321-8750
bwhiting@metboe.k12.nj.us