



# Upper School Newsletter

## News from the Asst. Headmaster

It is hard to believe that the halls are once again filled with the hustle and bustle of students finding their way around their new surroundings. I always enjoy this time of year as it is filled with the excitement of the upcoming year, both students and teachers.

Speaking of teachers, it is my firm belief that you will not find a more professional, dedicated, caring group of individuals anywhere. Their commitment to the success of each and every student is unsurpassed. If an issue arises throughout the year, I am confident that you will appreciate the quick teacher response and collaborative approach in working to find resolution.

In this issue you will find important information regarding dates for upcoming events, Team contact information, information on the upcoming dance and some "Final

Thoughts". In this particular section, I try to take a somewhat humorous approach to enlighten students and parents alike on some serious "real-life" issues. I am hoping, with a bit of humor, that I will be able to drive my point home in a more meaningful, thought-provoking way.

As the school year progresses, I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise.

Sincerely,

Bill Grubb

Asst. Headmaster, Upper School

Chenery Middle  
School

September 2009

### Special points of interest:

- Important Dates
- Team Liaison Information
- Dance
- Final Thoughts

## Important Dates

- September 10th: PTO Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Community Room
- September 17th: Upper School Back to School Night, 7 p.m.
- September 23rd: Upper School Pictures.
- October 1st, 5th, and 8th: 8th grade trips to Project Adventure.
- October 14th: Coffee with the Headmaster, 9 a.m., Community Room.
- October 23rd: Upper School dance, 7-9:30 p.m., Cafeteria.



Mark these dates on your calendar.

## Team Liaison/Guidance Counselor Information

Each team in the 7th and 8th grade has a teacher who also plays the role of team liaison. The team liaison wears many hats, one of them being the contact person for parents. This could be to alert the team of teachers of anything pertaining to your child or to set up a team meeting to meet with teachers. Sign up for parent conferences this year will be online. Information will be forthcoming. The team liaison can be reached via voicemail through the staff directory at (617) 993-5888 or via e-mail.

Team 7-1	Sue Gorman, sgorman@belmont.k12.ma.us
Team 7-2	Anne Marie Savage asavage@belmont.k12.ma.us
Team 7-3	Elizabeth Pruitt epruitt@belmont.k12.ma.us

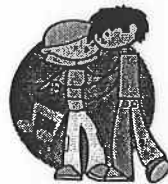
Team 8-1	Sue Zmijewski szmijewski@belmont.k12.ma.us
Team 8-2	Denise LaPolla dlapolla@belmont.k12.ma.us
Team 8-3	Adam Zilcoski azilcoski@belmont.k12.ma.us

In addition you can also contact the grade's guidance counselor with any concerns or questions.

Grade 7	Erin McElligott, emcelligott@belmont.k12.ma.us
Grade 8	Craig Paczkowski cpaczkowski@belmont.k12.ma.us

## Dance

While it is still a ways off, our first Upper School dance is scheduled for Friday October 23rd, from 7:00-9:30 in the cafeteria. Tickets are sold the week of the dance and require a parent signature and phone number where you can be reached in case of an emergency during the dance. The dances are guaranteed to be a good time as long as students are safe and respect the basic rules. We encourage parents to speak with your children about why we do not allow mosh-pits, slam dancing, or any other forms of dance that encourage contact between individuals. We should also remind parents that **students are not permitted to attend the dance unless they have attended a full day of school on that day.** PTO is looking for parent chaperones, especially dads. It is important to note that parents are not directly supervising students, but rather selling pizza and drinks and monitoring the hallways.



## Final Thoughts

As I grow older in my years, not that I am that old, I continue to question why things are the way they are. You may ask, where is he going with this? For instance, I don't understand why we have designated months or days to encourage us to focus on certain people or cultures in our society. One prime example is Black History Month. Why do we only designate 30 days to focus on black history? Actually it happens in February, so I guess we don't even celebrate the full 30 days. If it has to be this way officially, why couldn't the celebration have at least been scheduled in one of the months with 31 days? My thought is that we should celebrate African-American history, as

well as Hispanic, Asian, Middle-Eastern (the list goes on) all of the time since our society is comprised of this diverse population all year round. This racial and ethnic diversity does not appear for a 28-31 day window and then disappear. It makes no sense.

In addition, why do we only give some people one day of recognition? I would think Mother's Day and Father's Day should be every day. I could care less about the gift. I think moms and dads should be treated nicely every day, even if it is not advertised to do so. I also think it is important to remember the veterans more than just a day in November. Why only designate one day when my freedom is good for 365 days a year? Just my thoughts.