Using “Standards” to Grade Tom Brady

Even fans that support teams other than the Patriots agree that Tom Brady is an excellent quarterback. He has been a starting player in this position almost every year since joining the team in 2000. Brady has won five AFC Championship games and has led his team to the Super Bowl five times, winning this prestigious title three times. He has been named the Super Bowl MVP on two occasions. He leads the NFL for the most touchdown passes in a single season and is rated as the third best passer in the league’s history. Although the recent AFC Championship game against the Baltimore Ravens did not end the way New England Patriots’ fans had dreamed, I believe most fans would still give Tom Brady an “A” for the performance he has demonstrated since joining the team. My concern is what does the grade of an “A” really mean? What does it tell us about Tom Brady’s true areas of strengths and weaknesses as a quarterback?

I have the same concern when considering grades our middle school students receive on their report cards. What does an “A” really say about what a student knows, understands, and is able to do? A well designed standards-based report card should provide information to help answer such questions. The role of a professional quarterback can be divided into many categories, but for the sake of this discussion, allow me to report information on only four of these categories or “standards.”

Accuracy: Accuracy refers to the ability of the quarterback to complete the passes thrown in a game or a season. Tom Brady’s career statistics indicate that he has completed 63.7% of the close to 6,000 passes he has thrown. This is a very high percentage for any quarterback playing in the NFL.

*Grade: Meets the Standard*

Interceptions: When a defensive player catches a pass attempt by the offense, this is called an interception. The lower interception percentage a quarterback has, the higher his score would be in this category or standard. Tom Brady has a 2.1% interception rate over his entire career. Compared to all other quarterbacks, this is an outstanding rating.

*Grade: Exceeds the Standard*

Avoiding Pressure: When an offensive line has difficulty holding back defensive players, quarterbacks are under a lot of pressure. Quarterbacks that have good mobility are able to step out of the pocket and avoid being tackled. Tom Brady is not known for his ability to run with the ball. When compared to some other leading quarterbacks having played at least a similar number of games, Brady is sacked considerably more often. His career statistics show a less than spectacular performance for this standard.

*Grade: Progressing toward the Standard*
**Reading a Defense:** Brady’s ability to look at the opposing team’s defensive line up and make the necessary adjustments to his offense is superior and may be the most important reason the Patriot’s have been so successful since 2000.

*Grade: Exceeds the Standard*

Even the greatest NFL quarterbacks can improve their game. If players were graded by just a single letter, coaches, and even the players themselves, would not have enough information to know exactly what aspects of their game need improvement. This is also the case when speaking about middle school students. When report cards offer a single letter grade for an entire trimester of work, students and parents are not supplied with enough information to effect substantial change. In contrast, when students are graded on multiple standards that are clearly defined, they and their parents have a much better idea of what specific areas need improvement. In other words, a standards-based grading system provides more focused details about an individual’s areas of strength and weakness.

Middle School teachers across our district are in the midst of developing a standards-based grading system which will be implemented next fall. The work is both difficult and exciting but, in the end, teachers, students, and parents will be better informed.

I would like to remind families that the Comprehensive Reporting Committee (CRC) is the steering committee comprised of administrators, teachers, and parents for the development of these new report cards. This committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM in the media center at Nashoba Regional High School and is always looking for new members. The next meeting will be held February 12, 2013.

**Spelling Bee**

Our annual Spelling Bee will be held on February 13th with a snow date of February 25th. Our superintendent, Michael Wood, has agreed to be the pronouncer for this exciting competition again this year. The winner of the school level bee will advance to the regional event in March and compete against school champions from many districts in the area. The regional champion will win an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the National Spelling Bee. Students from Luther Burbank Middle School have won the regional competition twice in the past and have come very close to winning on other occasions. I am confident that we will do as well again this year.

The Spelling Bee is open to all students in grades six through eight. Due to the high number of students expected to participate in the competition, it may be necessary to hold a preliminary round during the day to reduce participants to a more manageable number for the evening competition. Students can prepare for the upcoming bee by visiting [http://www.myspellit.com/index.html](http://www.myspellit.com/index.html) or [http://www.spellingbee.com/](http://www.spellingbee.com/) for online study information and assistance. *Spell It! Tricks and Tips for Spelling Bee Success* is another useful source for students to use in preparation for the competition. This helpful guide can be found here: [Spell_It](http://www.myspellit.com/index.html) and may also be found on our school’s website.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Perkins
Project 351 celebrates the power of young people as a force for positive change in their communities and our Commonwealth. Through service, leadership development, enrichment, and friendship with a statewide community of peers, Ambassadors build skills and confidence, explore issues, embrace leadership, and motivate a lifetime of service. Luther Burbank was proud to nominate Samantha Sarafin to represent our school and the community of Lancaster. She shares her experience below:

The only way I can think of to describe my day with Project 351 is perfect. It was such a perfect day. I woke up that morning unsure of what I was doing, questioning who I was going to meet, whose lives I was going to impact, and definitely being over-excited. I still felt the same way on the bus ride, where I met a bunch of eighth graders who live nearby. I was almost exploding with excitement by the time we arrived at the State House where people in bright red jackets were cheering us in, we took a tour, and we settled into a long hallway lined with other eighth graders. It was a beautiful sight-351 eighth graders, coming together to make the difference. Governor Patrick walked in soon after, giving a speech and answering many questions. He was very inspiring, in my opinion. Breaking off into groups, we were sent to different service sites across Boston. My group was sent to Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter nearby. There, we made packages filled with items like toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, and trail mix that would be handed out to homeless people on the streets. Also, we baked apple pies for the occupants of the shelter and made birthday cards. Hopefully, on their birthday, every person at the shelter will get a birthday card and feel special. Everyone worked so hard, and we ended up making over 640 birthday cards, a little over 200 packages, and 35 pies. We came together as a team, though we were all so different in our personalities, and we definitely made a difference. When we took a tour of the Pine Street Inn, I felt so grateful for the life I have now. On the men's side, the beds are about two feet away from each other, and there was a huge room full of them! It made me sad to think that during the winter, all of them were filled. Almost two hundred beds! It makes me so happy to think that I made a difference in their lives, and I hope that soon they will all find homes.

I was so sad to leave the Pine Street Inn, because though we were working, we were having so much fun! We came back to the State House and spoke to the governor once again, who traveled to all the service sites and helped along with us. We shared are results and marveled at the differences we made. When we ate dinner and got on the buses to leave, I was so much more sad. It was the best day ever. Through the whole day, I had made so many friends, and honestly, by the end of the day, I felt like I had known them my whole life! As 351 students, we became leaders and made our mark. Other groups went to places like Cradles to Crayons, Henegan Elementary School, and a food bank. I could write a novel about the whole day, it was so great. I am so unbelievably grateful to all the teachers who made this opportunity possible for me; I will never be able to thank you enough. It was such a great opportunity, I made so many new friends, and I learned so much. I hope that I will be able to make more of a difference now that I know what I can do. I hope that others in my school will want to help me make a difference, or make a difference on their own, because it may be work, but the feeling after you do something good is indescribable. This experience has changed my view on so many things. I already miss Project 351! Thank you again for this opportunity, it was perfect.
Hints from the Guidance Office

Working in a Group

From slide shows to skits, group projects are often a big part of middle school. Doing assignments with classmates can teach your tween about teamwork and prepare him to work with colleagues when he grows up. Share these tips.

**Build on ideas.** The best ideas are often those that people come up with together. Explain to your child that when his group is choosing a topic or format for a project, it’s good to suggest as many ideas as possible. One person might take part of a classmate’s idea and tweak it or add to it. For instance, they can’t interview world leaders, but they may be able to talk to a local historian who is an expert on their subject.

**Use talents.** Group members should consider each other’s strengths and interests when dividing up the work. Your middle schooler can ask them to discuss what they’re good at and what they like to do. For instance, a student newspaper reporter could interview someone, while a child who loves art might create graphics for a slide show.

**Stay “professional.”** Tweens tend to have drama in their social lives. Group meetings will be more productive – and the project will probably turn out better – if they avoid discussing outside conflicts. If a work-related problem crops up (say, one member isn’t pulling his weight), they can address it professionally by using a sentence that starts with “I.” Example: “I feel like some people are doing more than others. Let’s review our jobs.”

Adapted from “Middle Years.”
For more information, please feel free to contact the guidance office at 978-368-3309. Judy Karlin
MATH MATTERS

We continue to focus on operations with rational numbers. Students are developing systematic ways to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals. Students will also be learning how to use percents to compute sale prices, taxes, and tips.

Estimation is also being stressed throughout this unit. As part of the 21st century workforce, your child will be depending on technology to calculate. Therefore it is essential that they know how to estimate in order to verify the validity of calculations.

You can help your child with his or her work in this unit by asking them to estimate what the tax will be on a purchase or what a tip should be when dining out.

Topics in Social Studies

Research is critical to the study of history and the ancient civilizations. We just finished a mini-project on the Egyptian kings or pharaohs who reigned over ancient Egypt, and are now working on another mini-project on the gods and goddesses. Every year when we approach research, we review the terminology they will be encountering. The librarian, Mrs. Erle and I reinforce the critical terms: plagiarism, work cited, bibliography, and reliable sources. They used on-line citation maker in Noodle Tools, and also learned how to determine exactly what a reliable source is.

Ask your child what is the most critical skill to leave 6th grade with and what part of any book is the most important resource? I expect every student to be “Resourceful” upon moving on into middle school and beyond. They already have the ability to answer many of their own questions by using the skills they have learned.

If you want to spark some conversation with your child about ancient Egypt, simply ask them about the gory details of mummification.

Sixth Grade Scientists

The students are continuing their study of Earth. They are well versed the Theory of Plate Tectonics and can describe the movement of the continents and force that causes the movement. They will be tested on their knowledge of earthquakes on Friday, Feb 8. Ask your child about the Quizlet website- see BMS web pages resources. There are several games they can play to help them learn and use the science terms for each chapter. Students should be in the habit of completing their INB with accuracy. All illustrations should be titled, labeled and colored. Volcanoes, next.

Events in ELA

Students are enjoying reading about the many adventures of Jeffrey Lionel Magee (aka Maniac). Maniac Magee is written by Jerry Spinelli and is about an orphan who is searching for a home. Ask your child about the different places Jeffrey visits in his search for a loving family. This wonderful novel is chock full of figurative language, such a similes, metaphors and personification. We will be studying Spinelli’s artistic use of language as a model for our own writing.

Students are also preparing portfolios to send home to review their hard work with their families.

Friendly Reminders!

- If your child is going to be out sick, please leave requests for HW on the sick line first thing in the morning. If your child has a homework buddy, the buddy is responsible for requesting and gathering materials. Please be sure to check the web site.
- Your child is responsible for arranging to make us missed classes/work with each teacher, which most likely will involve staying after school at least one day.
- Please be sure your child comes to school with the adequate supplies, such as pencils, for their day.
- Please remind your child that agendas must be brought to school, and to class, every day. Parents should be checking and signing agendas as needed.
- Please be sure your child is dressed for the weather!
Science – Mrs. Sorrows

In science we are beginning a big unit on plants. We will use some plants and flowers in class to examine parts and understand differences in classification; please let me know if your child has any special needs or you have concerns about this. This unit contains a significant amount of vocabulary and will require increased effort to master, so please encourage your child to review their Word Wall Words every day and read over their notes. We continue to work on teaching new study habits to help them learn concepts and vocabulary in stages. My homework webpage now contains information about what we do in class as well as the homework assignments – check it out! Students also know how to access and use Quizlet to practice terms and concepts.

Math – Ms. Macharia

The students just completed learning the concepts in the new common core standards that relate to expressions and equations. They are now reviewing concepts that they learned in 6th grade on Ratios so that they can learn how to apply use proportional reasoning to find and explain proportional relationships from words, graphs, and equations.

Thank you for the support and help you provide at home.

Please note that my email address has changed and the new address is: jmacharia@nrsd.net

Social Studies – Mr. Dillon

February is shaping-up as a busy month in grade seven social studies. The boys and girls recently put the final touches on an ambitious “Big Maps” project, creating a large format thematic map of the “Old World.” Over the next couple weeks, students will be introduced to the cultures of Europe as we take an up-close look at the diversity that is contemporary Europe. In doing so, we’ll investigate both western and eastern Europe as well as Russia. In addition, we have tentative plans for students to stage a puppet show which will involve the usual elements of such an undertaking, including the writing of an original script and the creation of scenery and props, all concerning one aspect of the cultures of Europe.

ELA – Mrs. Goldstein

It seems as if time is just flying by! The students finished Whirligig by Paul Fleischman and are currently working on their take-home finals. The novel was well received and led to lots of interesting classroom discussions. In conjunction with our work in ELA on this novel, Mrs. Hutton did a unit in Health on the dangers of drinking and driving. Students completed wonderful projects that focused on safety and making good choices as students move toward becoming more and more independent.

During the short month of February, we will focus on a genre of writing new to seventh grade this year: the Persuasive Essay. The state of Massachusetts is currently moving from state frameworks to national common core standards. This move brings changes to curricula being taught in ELA at all grade levels. One of these changes impacts writing. While the state frameworks called for a focus on Expository writing, the common core focuses on Expository as well as Persuasive and Narrative writing. Common core standards call for all three genres to be introduced at the Elementary level and carried through High School. Each year, the requirements to meet the standards for each genre become more sophisticated. It will be exciting to introduce this new genre to my students.

Looking ahead to March, we will be reviewing Open Response and test taking strategies as we prepare for MCAS. The Long Composition will be given on March 19th followed by two sessions of language and reading. More information about test dates will follow.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support and wish you good health as winter winds down.
Young Writers Connect

Twenty hands flew up in response when Mrs. Goldstein asked if anyone would like to volunteer as a writing mentor. On Monday January 28th, ten generous and talented seventh grade students travelled to MRE to write with fourth and fifth grade partners in MRE's Young Writers' Group, an enrichment club that meets weekly.

The seventh graders met to plan their mentoring strategies before the workshop began. Idea development and revision were their main tasks; however, they were ready to encounter each younger writer at any point in the writing process. The one-on-one partnerships yielded great results! Seventh grade feedback includes the following comments: "We got along really well, our personalities are alike, and that helped us work well together." "It was so easy to work together. When I offered a suggestion, my partner responded with so many ideas."

MRE writers' feedback also signals a great experience: "I liked the hyphenated modifier, that's one thing I never knew." "I loved the seventh grade partner plan - it was very helpful. ... gave me a ton of hints and suggestions that I didn't know about." "I think we should do it again because it helped me get ideas and be a better writer."

The other half of Mrs. Goldstein's volunteers will make a mentoring visit in the near future. This could be the start of a wonderful writing partnership between the schools!

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Did your child forget his/her science or social studies book at school?

Most of their science and social studies texts can be accessed online at the following site: www.pearنسuccessnet.com! Our username is Burbank2012 and the password is Lancers2012. A quick link to this site can be found on our homepage under Parents and Students, Library, General Reference. The online texts have links to videos and other great activities!

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Does your child need to study vocabulary terms?

We have uploaded most vocabulary words for all social studies and science classes at www.quizlet.com. You can access this great tool by visiting www.quizlet.com and entering lutherburbank in the search box (not the login). You can also get a direct link to our page by going to the school homepage, and then go to Parents and Students, Library, General Reference. It is all the way at the bottom. At the page, you will see the classes on the left that we have vocabulary terms entered for. They even have a free app that you can download to your smart device so they can “quiz on the go”!
Spanish – Mrs. Sullivan

Students are working diligently in class learning vocabulary and grammar rules in order to prepare for the mid-term/ placement test that will be given on February 13th and 14th. This test, along with the current grade in Spanish for the year, as well as factors such as: effort, understanding concepts, and completion of assignments all help to determine what level of foreign language they will qualify for at the high school next year. Please encourage your child to review all the vocabulary, notes and grammar rules in order to best prepare for this very important test. We have been reviewing in class.

On a lighter side, we will begin work on a couple of in-class projects. We will be creating a ‘mini book’ of ‘expressions with the verb tener’. This project is a fun way for students to illustrate some of the different ways to use this important verb. I am also looking into ‘Digital Storytelling’ and hope to have the students using technology to create animations with their own voices speaking in Spanish in order to talk about their family (real or imaginary). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the upcoming test or projects.

Science – Mrs. Courtois

Another month – time is flying here in the eighth grade! We are still working in the Chemistry unit – we have just finished the Periodic Table. Trying to remember the name of the element and match it to the appropriate Chemical symbol is a real challenge. We have been doing a great deal with the elements – there are over 100 of them! We researched a “mystery” element that was assigned to us and studied everything we could about it and then designed a Super Hero using all that information! They were beautiful! The artistic ability of these students is amazing. Their creativity involved taking the element’s properties and turning them into the super hero’s powers.

Next step: to learn about how these elements react with one another! That should be fun! We are then going to try a new website and design a comic strip with these same super heroes. I cannot wait to see what they come up with!

Math – Mrs. McBrearty

Midterms are coming! Midterms are coming!
We are approaching the time in which all students will be assessed on what they have learned up through February. The tests will occur on February 12th and 14th. We will be doing some review in class but students need to be studying at home as well.

In pre-algebra we have entered the world of linear functions! It is a new language for them but we are working our way through. Students are graphing linear functions, determining intercepts, and slopes.

In algebra, we are finishing up our look at the three forms of linear equations. We will then be looking at systems of equations.

I wish everyone luck on the midterm and hope you all have an enjoyable vacation.

ELA – Mrs. Bakun

After all the illnesses of December and early January, the eighth grade population, both student and adult, is finally up to high percentages in daily attendance. This bodes well for the long stretch of second trimester.

During the next months we will be doing more MCAS practice for the tests in late March and early April. We will be studying George Orwell’s classic and world changing novel ANIMAL FARM after researching the history of the transition in Russia from a monarchy to a communistic form of government.

Students will also be reading a historical fiction novel and will do some research and expository writing on the time period or event of their novel.
With a focus on the different forms of writing, we will be working on reviewing narrative writing as well.

The students have just completed their persuasive literary essay on the changes in Scrooge from the beginning to the end of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. These essays WILL take me more than twenty hours to assess, so please be patient with the posting of grades.

Social Studies – Mr. Grady

Students have completed their study of the Spanish American War, the growth of the US as a world power, the Great War (WWI), and are now studying the “Roaring 20’s”. They are also underway with their research on the decade project. The first research check-in date is March 1st.

I have loaded many links on my Social Studies page to help students in researching their Pop Culture decade assignment. I will also upload all the ICON sheets for each decade once they have been assigned. If students lose their packets containing what is involved in this part of the Pop Culture Project, they can access the packet here. I also uploaded each of the decade group assignments and I will upload the ICON assignments once the students have chosen their ICON. Feel free to browse through and see all the faces of the 20th century being represented.

From the BMS home page, click STAFF DIRECTORY, then CLASSROOMS, then GRADE 8, and then click on SOCIAL STUDIES.

WASHINGTON DC NEWS!

Final payments are due February 11th. Every student will receive a payment sheet indicating all payments and fundraising credits to date and any balance that may be due, if any. Many students participating in fundraising have paid for most or all of their cost of the trip. Congratulations!

Student medical forms signed by a physician must be returned BY FEBRUARY 11th as well. Even if students do not take any medications, a doctor’s signature on the form is required by state law.

Refund checks will be issued to all students who have earned money above and beyond the cost of the trip in May.
Part of the Jr. Life Skills Program involves community-based instruction. Specific student objectives are worked on in the community, providing “real-life” experiences, as well as skill generalization. We frequent Shaw’s supermarket for grocery store training, and also provide training in local department stores. In addition, students work on skills that include appropriate behavior, manners, ordering, and money skills, in assorted fast food and/or sit-down restaurants. Parking lot safety, being safe in the community and safe transport in the school van are also addressed. In addition, we teach leisure and recreation skills. A recent student favorite is bowling at Harvard Lanes.

Our Best Buddies activity for February will be held this Tuesday, February 5\textsuperscript{th}, at 2:15 in Mrs. Lonardo’s classroom. Students will be participating in a valentine exchange. All participants should have received notices in their student mailboxes.

If you have questions, please email Mrs. Lonardo at clonardo@nrsd.net.
**Specialists**

**Health – Mrs. Hutton**

6th grade: Did you know that children in sixth grade should be eating three cups of vegetables every day? Students in health class are currently learning about nutrition and didn’t know that either. As we analyze our diets students will discover ways in which they can improve personal eating habits while choosing nutrient dense foods and yes, eating the foods they love!

7th grade: Did you know that February is national heart disease awareness month and that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States? Students in seventh grade are currently learning about the cardiovascular system and discovering that there are lifelong habits they can establish now which will minimize their risk of suffering from heart disease in the future. Healthy eating and exercise is key!

8th Grade: Did you know that the recommended amount of sleep for an eighth grader is between 9 and 12 hours each and every night? Did you know that most of our eighth graders are sleep deprived? As we continue to look at stress and things associated with it students learned about sleep and its importance to growth, learning, and development. Students practiced a progressive muscle relaxation technique in an effort to develop strategies to help them obtain those 9-12 hours.

**Tech Ed – Mrs. Sama**

Sixth graders have concluded their unit on Custom Manufacturing and Mass Production. I have just given a test in the form of an open-response question and the results were very positive. We have now started with Corporate Structure (yes that is a Tech Ed standard) and we are working on Research and Development. Students, working in teams, will research and construct a prototype for an athletic shoe.

Seventh graders are making scale models of gliders out of balsa wood. They have calculated all the measurements for their vehicle and they are now ready to make templates, and trace them onto the balsa wood. At the beginning of every rotation, students are given a one-question quiz called, “Brainpop.” I have found that this type of assessment is the best way for them to learn all the subsystems of transportation.

Eighth graders just completed an open-response test on parts of a structure. They are now building beam, arch and suspension bridges out of cork, wood and string. Each bridge is tested and students record the observations in their Tech Ed notebooks. All observations will be used in a lab report.

Many thanks to the parents and students who have donated supplies to the Tech Ed program. They are really appreciated.

**Music – Mr. Gilbert**

The auditions for The Central District Band and Chorus Festival will be held on February 2nd. Those students participating should arrive at the Gibbons Middle School, in Westborough, by 9:20AM.

Spring Concert is all set for Wednesday, April 25th. It will be held in the Rowlandson Auditorium at 7:00PM. Students are asked to arrive at 6:45PM with their instruments and music. Concert dress will be black and white as we’ve done in years past.

**Phys Ed – Mr. Gormley**

All grades have been working through multiple challenges, learning to diagnose the task and coming up with strategies to accomplish the desired goal. Next up will be their favorite Mission Impossible followed by attempting to conquer the Rock Wall.

When students return after February vacation the classes will be working on the Volleyball unit. Please remind your child they must have sneakers for gym in order to participate and receive credit.

**Art – Mrs. O’Malley**

Sixth graders finished a very involved painting lesson and have started the vision contest.

Seventh graders have finished their drawing for the vision contest. Their next project is a pastel drawing. They will be introduced to the techniques of this medium.

Eighth graders finished their drawings for the vision contest. They are starting a multi-color scratch art project.
A Look in the Library!
by Cindy Erle

There is so much happening in the library since the last newsletter!

Grade 6 Social Studies are continuing to come in to learn about Non-Fiction reading strategies. The ELA classes have finished working on Folk Literature, and will be choosing new Literature Circle books soon. Mrs. Slattery, Ms. Chalke, and I are very encouraged by the enthusiasm the students have about these Literature Circles. Reading and talking about books is one of the best ways to promote reading, and I have seen increased circulation because of this. Grade 7 ELA classes have come into the library to choose their new independent reading books in the Science Fiction/Fantasy genre. Grade 8 ELA classes came into the library to finish up their writing projects. Soon the 8th grade students will be choosing and reading Historical Fiction books, researching the time/event in history, then pairing the fiction book up with non-fiction books on the topics available in our collection. The Science classes in Grade 8 came into the library to find out about Engineering and the Periodic Table. We played an Element Game then each student had to figure out their ‘mystery element’ to research and create an ‘Element Super Hero/Villain. The Jr. Life Skills classes have been learning about the election process and the role of the President. They finished by doing a research project and creating a ‘President Trading Card’. In addition, a small group of 6th grade students are coming into the library once a week to learn about figurative language and poetry, and a small group of 7th and 8th grade students are coming in to strengthen their non-fiction reading comprehension skills.

Our Movie/Book Club has been meeting after school on Fridays. Any student can join at any time. When we are reading/discussing a book the students can take the elementary school bus home at 3:05. However, when we are watching the movie, they will have to arrange for a ride home at 4:30. We have read many books so far this year, and one of our next books will be The Wizard of Oz, after which we will go to the movie theater to see the new Disney film “The Great and Powerful Oz”.

Game Club is still meeting on Mondays after school in the library. Any student is welcome. The group chooses which games we play. New games are always encouraged, in fact, one student has brought in the ancient game of GO; she will be teaching us that soon!

Craft Club meets on Wednesdays after school until 3:05. Again, it is open to anyone who would like to come. The students pick the crafts we do. We have done decoupage projects, Zentangle, and much more. This month we will be working on a weaving project for the PTO Auction. If anyone has any donations they would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at cerle@nrsd.net.

KEEP READING!
Information Night for Parents

Wednesday, February 27, 2013
6:30-8 pm
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School Auditorium
Lancaster, MA
Presented by
Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

Adrianna Coniglio

The Social Media Revolution - Facing Up to Facebook

Large numbers of teens and parents throughout Middlesex County are using Facebook. It, and other social networking sites, has truly revolutionized communication. This workshop takes a practical approach to Facebook, including a systematic guide to the ever-changing privacy settings.
Lancaster PTO News

Lancaster PTO Summer Theatre Camp

For students who have completed Grades 3 through 9

Dates: July 1 - July 25, 2013

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.lancasterpto.net

Early bird registration ends March 22

For further information, contact Rita DiStefano-French at lancasterptosummer@gmail.com

Nashoba PTSA News

Attention Parents of 8th graders: As you prepare to send your child to Nashoba Regional High School next year, there are opportunities to stay involved in your child's school experience. We thought we would take a moment to introduce you to one of the parent groups at the high school, the Nashoba PTSA. The Nashoba PTSA is a relatively easy way for busy parents to be of service to the NRHS community. Our purpose is to serve the Nashoba community through 2 primary activities along with offering two scholarship awards. The Nashoba PTSA activities take place a few times a year and each does not require an extended time commitment. We put together and sell the NRHS Phone Directory in the fall and sponsor the Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in late winter. Most importantly, proceeds from the directory sales allow us to offer Nashoba PTSA scholarships each year to two deserving graduating seniors that are "late bloomers."

The Nashoba PTSA is having its next meeting on April 1st at 7 PM in the NRHS Cafe. Please consider joining us for our next meeting and learning more about what we do. If you cannot attend, but would still like to be involved or contribute in some way, please contact Susan Reverdy at sreverdy5@gmail.com with questions.
The Flu: A Guide For Parents

FLU INFORMATION

What is the flu?
Influenza (the flu) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by influenza viruses. There are many different influenza viruses that are constantly changing. They cause illness, hospital stays and deaths in the United States each year.

The flu can be very dangerous for children. Each year about 20,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized from flu complications, like pneumonia.

How serious is the flu?
Flu illness can vary from mild to severe. While the flu can be serious even in people who are otherwise healthy, it can be especially dangerous for young children and children of any age who have certain long term health conditions, including asthma (even mild or controlled), neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders (such as diabetes), kidney, liver, and metabolic disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medication. Children with these conditions and children who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy can have more severe illness from the flu.

How does the flu spread?
Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

What are the symptoms of the flu?
Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?
People with the flu may be able to infect others by shedding virus from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can shed virus for longer, and might be still contagious past 5 to 7 days of being sick, especially if they still have symptoms.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD

How can I protect my child against the flu?
To protect against the flu, the first and most important thing you can do is to get a flu vaccine for yourself and your child.

- Vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- It’s especially important that young children and children with long term health conditions get vaccinated.
  (See list of conditions under “How Serious is the Flu?”)
- Caregivers of children with health conditions or of children younger than 6 months old should get vaccinated.
  (Babies younger than 6 months are too young to be vaccinated themselves.)
- Another way to protect babies is to vaccinate pregnant women because research shows that this gives some protection to the baby both while the woman is pregnant and for a few months after the baby is born.

A new flu vaccine is made each year to protect against the three flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the next flu season. Flu vaccines are made using strict safety and production measures. Over the years, millions of flu vaccines have been given in the United States with a very good safety record.
Springtime, one of the most popular musicals ever, and Nashoba Drama, combine in a perfect match when *Hello, Dolly!* returns to the stage at Nashoba Regional High School on **March 22 & 23 at 7:30 p.m. and March 24 at 2 p.m.** The romantic webs woven by New York City’s Dolly Gallagher Levi, widow and matchmaker extraordinaire, will amaze and amuse you as she sets her sights on Mr. Horace Vandergelder, wealthy bachelor from small-time Yonkers. Comical complications ensue, involving a host of mismatched partners all headed for a rendezvous at the Harmonia Gardens. Will each person find the ideal match? Enjoy the characters, the scenery, the costumes and the songs of this timeless favorite presented by talented Nashoba students under the direction of Mr. Bill Grady.

The special set design for this program requires us to limit the number of seats for each show. If you would like to order tickets in advance, simply return the order form below with payment, or order tickets on-line via our web-site, [www.NashobaDrama.com](http://www.NashobaDrama.com). Be sure to indicate the performance date(s) and the number of adult and student/senior tickets on the order form. The performances are general seating, so come early to get a good seat. (Doors open one-half hour before show time.) Ticket ordered via this form can be returned to you via mail, if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope. All advanced ticket reservations received after Monday, March 18, will be held at the door.

Drop off or send completed form to: Nashoba Friends of Drama, P.O. Box 492, Bolton, MA 01740 in the mail; or drop off in the Drama mailbox located in the NRHS main office. Nashoba Regional High School (NRHS) is located on 12 Green Road, in Bolton, Massachusetts. If you have any questions, please call Lynn at 978-779-6225 or email NashobaTickets@gmail.com.

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**Ticket Order Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: _______________________</th>
<th>Phone: ___________________</th>
<th>Email: ___________________</th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Hello, Dolly!</strong> Show Dates</th>
<th># of Adults</th>
<th># Students/Seniors</th>
<th># of Total Tickets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 22 at 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 23 at 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 24 at 2pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Adult Tickets:................. ______ x $12 each = $_______
Total Student / Senior Tickets: ______ x $10 each = $_______
Total Dollar Amount of Order:.................................. $_______

Self-addressed stamped envelope enclosed: _____ - or - Pick up at door: _____
Checks made out to “Nashoba Friends of Drama”
Drop off or send completed form to: Nashoba Friends of Drama, P.O. Box 492, Bolton, MA 01740
More information and our on-line box office can be found at [www.NashobaDrama.com](http://www.NashobaDrama.com)

“Hello, Dolly!” is produced by arrangement with, and the music and dialogue material furnished by TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC., 560 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022

[Massachusetts Cultural Council logo]
The Nashoba Chess Club meets on Fridays at The Nashoba High School cafeteria, located at 12 Green Rd, Bolton MA.

Instructions for all levels start at 5:30 pm. Games will take place 6 –7:30 pm. Coaching is provided by Dr. Toth. Light refreshments and snacks are served (we ask that each player contribute $2 at the door to cover costs).

For experienced players, the club is also an opportunity for mentoring besides playing challenging chess games with peers.

Please visit our website for additional information:

http://www.nashobachess.org/

Whether you are an advanced player or just beginning, do not hesitate to join us! You will be surprised at how much fun it can be!

The full schedule for the season is:

January 25th
February 1st
February 8th
March 1st
March 22nd
April 5th
SUMMER FIELD HOCKEY
JEN BROWN’S STRIKERS SUMMER FIELD HOCKEY PROGRAM - 2013

2 sessions available
July 15-19
August 5-9

K-9th Grade Field Hockey Program
All levels welcome!

Days: Monday - Friday
Times: 9am - 1pm
Location: Pine Bluffs, Stow
Cost: $205.00

August 5-9
Middle & High School Pre-season Conditioning Session
Includes cross conditioning, stick work, footwork, pilates and scrimmaging.

Days: Monday - Thursday
Times: 5-7 pm
Location: Pine Bluffs, Stow
Cost: $105.00

Please call to register!
617-899-0530

Director - Jen Brown
617-899-0530
jennybro@comcast.net

PLEASE NOTE:
Players must supply own stick, mouth guard, goggles and shin guards. Bring Water Bottle!

Like us on facebook!

FROM A FAN FROM LANCASTER, MA
“This will be the third summer for our daughter will be going to Jen Brown Field Hockey Camps and after day one she was hooked. She entered into it a little reluctant and nervous having never played field hockey before and left with a love of the game, a big self confidence boost, and a bunch of new friends. She now begs to go both weeks of camp and plays field hockey almost all year round. It is a great camp for all ages and abilities!”

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Jen Brown’s
Strikers Field Hockey Program
Stow Recreation Department Program Registration Form

Director/Coach - Jen Brown
617-899-0530 or jennybro@comcast.net

Student’s Name ____________________________

Parent/Guardian (if under 18) ____________________________

Phone: (day) ____________________________

Phone: (cell) ____________________________

E-Mail ____________________________

Class Name: Strikers Field Hockey Program
Please circle which week.

Summer Strikers Field Hockey Camp
2 Sessions
July 15-19 and August 5-9
Days: Monday - Friday
Times: 9am - 1pm
Location: Pine Bluff, Stow
Cost: $205.00 Both Sessions: $370.00

Middle School and High School Pre-Season Conditioning Session
August 5-8
Days: Monday - Thursday
Times: 5-7pm
Location: Pine Bluff, Stow
Cost: $105.00

Please make check payable to:
The Town of Stow
Mail to: Strikers Field Hockey P.O. Box 34
Stow, MA 01775

The Town of Stow does not provide insurance. Accordingly, parents are urged to ascertain that their own coverage’s are sufficient to underwrite the cost of medical care for any injuries, which their child might sustain as a result of participation in our programs. As the parent of the above named child, I agree to indemnify the Town of Stow, its employees and agents against any claims of bodily injury, death, or property damage which may arise in the course of the Recreation Department’s performance of the recreational activities described herein not caused by the Town’s negligence or that of its employees or agents. As parent or legal guardian of the above named child, I hereby give my consent for emergency medical care by a licensed Doctor of Medicine or Dentistry as may be warranted to preserve the well being of my child.

PARENT SIGNATURE: ____________________________
DATE: ____________________________

FROM A FAN FROM CONCORD, MA
"I first discovered Jen, 3 years ago, through an indoor winter league in Acton where she warmly welcomed my daughter to her town’s team (even though we live in a different town). Since then my daughter has happily participated in both Jen’s summer camp AND pre-season conditioning every summer and played with her indoor team in the winter. The coaching, friendships, and good sportsmanship lessons she’s received over the past years have greatly contributed to the athlete and person she is today. I would recommend Jen’s summer camp to any young person with an interest in field hockey.”
You are invited to join us for one or all of the following Bolton Conservation Trust activities:

**WALK • • • The new Bolton Center Trail at 2:00 p.m.**
Meet in the First Parish Church parking lot at 673 Main Street at 2:00 p.m.

**TALK • • • “Wildlife and Conservation in Our Area” 3:15 p.m.**
Ron McAdow, Executive Director of Sudbury Valley Trustees
Proceed to Davis Hall in the First Parish Church on Main Street for hot cocoa, coffee, tea and to warm up, followed by the talk and meeting.

**ANNUAL MEETING • • •** Enjoy a delicious dinner provided by J’s at the Winery and participate in the annual meeting.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Attendance is free! Kids are invited to this fun family event! Meet Tom Denney Nature Camp counselors.

**Wildlife and Conservation in Our Area:** Author, photographer, and conservationist Ron McAdow will deliver a slide-illustrated presentation featuring wildlife commonly found in our region. Using **motion-triggered cameras**, Ron captures native wildlife images not often observed in the wild. Motion-triggered images provide insight into nocturnal ramblings of wildlife throughout surrounding conservation lands. In addition to capturing exciting action-oriented wildlife photos, this technique provides a tool to better understand how wildlife adapts to man-made structures, moves about at night, and uses natural open space areas.

**About Ron McAdow:**
Ron has written canoe and walking guides that highlight natural and man-made history along the Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury Rivers, and the Charles River. He co-authored *Into the Mountains for the Appalachian Mountain Club* about New England’s most celebrated mountains. He has worked as a volunteer and staff member of Sudbury Valley Trustees for the past two decades, and has served as Executive Director since 2003. He chairs the board of the Bay Circuit Alliance. Ron lives in Lincoln with his wife, Betsy Stokey.

* Please let us know how many children and adults will be attending so we can plan for food:
  info@boltonconservationtrust.org or 978 429-3004
The Bolton Conservation Trust’s co-educational summer day camp is a unique camp experience that offers five one week sessions of fun and learning in the beautiful natural setting of Bolton's Bower Springs conservation area. The Tom Denney Nature Camp was founded in 1976 and is sponsored by the Trust. Our dedicated and enthusiastic staff supports Bolton’s commitment to environmental education and to kids. The goal of our camp is to create a safe, enjoyable outdoor learning experience that provides opportunities for children to learn about themselves and develop understanding, respect and responsibility for the environment while making new friends, taking on new challenges and most of all having fun!

**TDNC Program:**
Campers must be entering the 2nd through 8th grades for the 2013/2014 school year. The cost per session is $250. Activities include swimming, group games in the field and woods, Mystery Animal, Predator and Prey, The Amazing Race, arts & crafts, songs, tracking, scavenger hunt, hiking, exploring, campfires, building a shelter & more.

**TDNC ECO ADVENTURES Older Campers Program:**
This program is for campers who are entering middle school (grades 6-8). Campers this age may choose this program or the TDNC program. Activities include kayaking with Still River Outfitters, rock climbing at Central Rock Climbing Gym with harnesses & ropes, an overnight with campfire dinner & s’mores then sleeping in the big tent, team building activities, obstacle courses, a conservation project & more. The cost per session is $370.

**TDNC Counselor in Training Program:**
Applicants for Counselor in Training must be entering 9th grade or above for the 2013/2014 school year. CITs attend Orientation and then work a minimum of 2 weeks. CITs gain valuable work experience and have fun.

**2013 Schedule (camp runs from 9am to 3pm):**
- Session 1: July 8-12
- Session 2: July 15-19
- Session 3: July 22-26
- Session 4: July 29-Aug 2
- Session 5: August 5-9

Scholarships are available for any camper in need and no camper will be turned away for financial reasons. Activities vary between sessions however more than two sessions may be repetitive. Camp fills up fast, so register early. See the website for more details: tdnc.boltonconservationtrust.org.
Questions: bcttdnc@gmail.com (best means of communication) or 978-429-3004.