

**LUTHER BURBANK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**1 HOLLYWOOD DRIVE  
LANCASTER, MA 01523  
978-365-4558**

**NASHOBA REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# The Burbank Bulletin

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

**August 23, 2015**

## **Dates to Remember**

### **August 25**

- ◆ Meet and Greet with Mrs. Friend  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

### **September 2**

- ◆ First day of school for STUDENTS!

### **September 7**

- ◆ Labor Day, no school

### **September 9**

- ◆ School Council  
3:00 p.m.

### **September 10**

- ◆ Open House  
6:00 p.m.

### **September 18**

- ◆ Early Release,  
Professional  
Development  
Dismissal 11:30 a.m.

### **September 29**

- ◆ School Picture Day

### **October 5**

- ◆ SAVE the DATE  
MARC  
Parent Presentation  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

## **A Message from the Principal**

Welcome Back!

This July, my family and I traveled to Arizona where we visited extended family and did a bit of sightseeing. Our "bit of sightseeing" involved a jam-packed car, 115 degree heat, and hundreds of miles driving the roads of northern Arizona. We were, indeed, a sight to be had. Our ultimate destination was the [North Rim of the Grand Canyon](#). Just shy of the Utah border and over 200 miles from the South Rim, the North Rim is far from freeways and much more remote. It is also that much more spectacular. Upon approach, the sheer size and beauty of the Canyon leveled a silence within our car that was palpable. No more, "Are we there yet?" Just silence. Silence as we all looked out at the vista in front of us that was so immense, so unyieldingly breathtaking. As we spent the next two days hiking and exploring the North Rim, our initial reaction to the Canyon did not lessen. But, it did bring lots of questions about the "how" and "why" from my two 12-year-old boys. As my husband and I did our best to navigate these questions, it became increasingly apparent to me that my boys were using what they had learned last year in their 6<sup>th</sup> grade science course to make meaning of what they saw before them. You see, in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students learn that rock layers are records of geological history. The 2,000 million year old rocks at the Canyon surely had history to reveal. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students also learn about erosion. The Grand Canyon has to be one of the most spectacular examples of erosion in the world.

With their questioning, my boys were making connections between their school learning and the real world to help further and expand their own understanding. And, for me, this is education in its purest form. Whether it's coming to understand the geological features of the Grand Canyon, the motivations of a literary character, or a linear equation, there are no boundaries to our learning. With questions come connections, and with connections, comes true understanding.

As we welcome this school year, I am reminded of my trip to Arizona and the amount of learning and growth that occurs during the middle school years. The possibilities that each day brings is a true gift.

-Laura Friend



*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." -William Butler Yeats*

## New Faculty

I am thrilled to announce the following additions to our talented Burbank faculty.

Kate Lynch will join our sixth grade team as our English language arts teacher. Mrs. Lynch brings with her in-depth knowledge and enthusiasm of English pedagogy; she also brings with her a unique perspective having taught at the high school, middle school, and elementary level all within Nashoba. Claire Brunelle and Laura Pagington will join our 7th grade team as our new ELA teacher and history/social studies teacher, respectively. Mrs. Brunelle originally began her teaching career as an instructional assistant at Luther Burbank. For the past five years, she has served as a highly successful 7th grade ELA teacher at the Hale Middle School in Stow. Mrs. Pagington comes to us from our high school history department with nothing but the highest of praise. A content expert, Mrs. Pagington also brings with her instructional experience in co-teaching and interdisciplinary collaboration. Both Mrs. Brunelle and Mrs. Pagington will be great assets to our school community. The 7th grade team will be further supported by our new instructional assistant, Shannon Parson. Mrs. Parson joins us as a prior special educator and, most recently, as an experienced instructional assistant at Mary Rowlandson. Our 8th grade team will be joined by Amanda Scharr, our new grade 8 special educator. Ms. Scharr majored in child development and has recently completed her graduate work in education at Lesley University. She has completed internships in Newton, Needham, and Cambridge. Ms. Scharr's references speak enthusiastically about her intelligence and her intuitive, positive way with children. Further supporting the 8th grade team will be Patty Harris, an experienced and certified middle school educator. Mrs. Harris will serve this year as a long term substitute instructional assistant. Our Jr. Life Skills Program will be completed by Renee Joyce and Pam Konrad. Both Ms. Joyce and Ms. Konrad will join us from the high school where they have supported students in the Transitions Program for the past several years.

And last, but certainly not least, Jane Giumette, Bridget Welch, and Darlene Perkins will join our school-wide community in critical roles. Mrs. Giumette, a veteran and beloved classroom teacher, will serve as our writing specialist, taking over the former role of Mrs. Lynch. We will share Mrs. Giumette's talents with the Mary Rowlandson School where she will spend half of her time. Mrs. Welch, our new literacy specialist, comes to us with outstanding recommendations from West Boylston where she served as a classroom teacher and reading specialist. Finally, Darlene Perkins joins us as a highly dedicated and committed Nashoba colleague as our school nurse. Mrs. Perkins has served as the school nurse at the Florence Sawyer School for the past 18 years. During her tenure at FSS, not only has Mrs. Perkins more than competently served as school nurse, she has interwoven herself into the fabric of the school-wide family, initiating numerous strength-based activities to better the students, staff, and the community at large. We welcome our new faculty at Luther Burbank with open arms. Each individual brings a skill and competency that will serve to strengthen our school overall. We look forward to the year ahead!

## Open House

All parents/guardians are invited to our annual Open House on Thursday, September 10th. The purpose of this evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet our staff and learn important information about our school programs and expectations. Presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Rowlandson auditorium. Since this evening is intended for parents and guardians only, I respectfully request that students do not attend this event. I am hopeful that at least one parent or guardian from each family is able to schedule time to join us. A Title I information meeting will precede our Open House at 6:00 p.m. in the library.



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

### Grade 8: 1:1 Initiative

NASHOBA Regional School District is implementing a 1:1 Chromebook Initiative for our eighth graders beginning the fall of 2015. Within the first month, students will begin to become acclimated to using the Chromebook and they will be assigned a device. All educators on the eighth grade team will share with their students the expectations for student use and this will be discussed even further with parents during Open House events.

A personal mobile device offers students anytime, anywhere, access to rich educational resources and 21st century learning experiences that align with the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks. Consistent access to a mobile device ensures that students are provided opportunities to use technology to create, collaborate, communicate, and think critically. A 1:1 model enables teachers to regularly guide students in the ethical and safe use of technology and to use digital resources to personalize and self-direct learning. This digital learning model promotes equitable access to curriculum, differentiation of instruction and independent discovery. It is important that we provide authentic and enriching learning experiences through the use of digital tools that students will be expected to use effectively and efficiently for research, innovation and problem-solving in future educational opportunities and careers. (NRSB FAQ for 1:1 Initiative)

### School Pictures

Please note that Tuesday, September 29th is School Picture Day and that informational packets for purchasing pictures will be distributed soon. Although all students will need to have their picture taken, purchasing pictures is strictly optional for families.

### Bus Schedules

The updated bus schedules are on our website and can also be accessed by the following link.

<http://www.nrsd.net/index.php?id=169>

Should you have a questions regarding the district's school bus transportation, please contact Deb Jansky at **First Student** at 978-365-3027 or via email at [deb.jansky@firstgroup.com](mailto:deb.jansky@firstgroup.com)

### Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

School hours are from 7:45 until 2:15 and students are considered tardy at 7:45. Students should not arrive at school any earlier than 7:25 unless prior arrangements have been made with a teacher. If you are picking up your child at dismissal for 2:15, please pull around the back of the school. Take your first right as you enter Hollywood Drive. On early release days, students are dismissed at 11:30.

### PowerSchool Parent Access

NRSB sees communication among parents, students and teachers as a cornerstone to academic success. For the past nine years we have been using PowerSchool, a database for student information. In grades 6-12, Parent Access to PowerSchool includes access to grades, attendance, teacher comments, posted assignments, lunch balances and transactions. In grades below six, parents are able to view lunch balances and transactions. To gain access to the parent portal, please contact Judy Ursuliak in the school office at [jursuliak@nrsd.net](mailto:jursuliak@nrsd.net) or 978-365-4558

### Recess Rejuvenation in Action:

Do you have an old stereo with iPod player or an old iPod you are not using? We are looking to add music to our recess repertoire. Donations of either type are greatly appreciated. See Laura Friend.



# NASHOBA

## Regional School District

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George P. King, Jr.  
Assistant Superintendent

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH School Year 2015/2016**

To: Day Care Providers, Private Preschools, Physicians, Dentists &  
Private/Parochial Schools, Parents

From: Tracy Conte, Director of Special Education  
Nashoba Regional School District (Bolton, Lancaster, Stow)

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The Nashoba Regional School district needs your help to identify all children in the community, ages 3 to 21, who may require special education or 504 services. If you are aware of a child who has or may have an educational disability, who may not be known to the district, please contact the Special Education Department @ 978-779-0539 x3013. Thank you.

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George King  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business & Finance  
gking@nrsd.net

## **September News from NRSD Health Services:**

Welcome back! We are looking forward to a healthy, happy school year. A few health-related notes:

*Coming soon!* Nashoba Regional Health Services website – link will be available on the District Website – [www.nrsd.net](http://www.nrsd.net).

Follow us on Twitter: @NRSDHealthServices

**HEALTH FORMS:** 1) Please review/complete/update and return your child's "Student Emergency and Health Record" which was sent home on the first day of school. This form provides the school with contact information, various permissions, and medical information that must be updated each year. 2) Be sure to provide the school nurse with new medication orders, careplans and a fresh supply of medication if your child needs it at school. 3) If you would like to inform the bus company/bus drivers of a medical condition, complete the School Bus Medical Emergency Information Form (sent home or emailed) and send it to the address at the bottom of the form. 4) If your child is entering the school system (preschool, kindergarten or transfers into any grade), or is entering 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade, please supply a physical (within the last year) and updated immunization record to the school nurse.

**SCHOOL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION:** Each year the district's school nurses work with parents and guardians to develop plans for both prescribed and over the counter medications that may need to be administered to students during the school day. In the case of certain over the counter (OTC) medications, our district physician writes standing orders which allow nurses to dispense ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), acetaminophen (Tylenol), diphenhydramine (Benadryl), antacids and some topicals (calamine lotion, hydrocortisone cream, bacitracin) with additional written and sometimes verbal permission from the parent or guardian. All medications must be administered under the direct supervision of the school nurse in the schools' Health Offices, unless specific criteria are met which would allow a student to self-carry and self-administer certain medications. In response to increasing concerns about insect-borne illnesses and sun exposure, our school physician has added authorization for the administration of insect repellent and sunscreen to students at school. As with any medication, parents must consult with their child's school nurse to develop a medication plan. In some cases, nurses may authorize the self-application of these products by students. If you have any questions about the protocol for administration of these or any other over the counter medicines, please contact your school's nurse.

For prescription medications and OTC medications not covered by district standing orders, the following applies:

- Medications (**both over-the-counter and prescription**) may be administered at school by the nurse with a written order from a licensed health care provider and with parent permission.
- No student may carry prescription or over-the-counter medication, including inhalers, at school without prior approval of the healthcare provider and school nurse.
- All medications should be delivered to the school nurse by a parent or responsible adult. Children are not allowed to carry medications to school. All medications must be in the original pharmacy or manufacturer's container. No other containers will be accepted.

**MANDATED HEALTH SCREENINGS:** All schools are mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to perform health screenings, including hearing, vision, growth/BMI (height/weight) and postural (scoliosis), each year in certain grade levels. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to exclude your child from any screenings, contact your school nurse.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE:** Is available for purchase through QBE Insurance. Please contact your school nurse for information.

ATTENDANCE: Please notify the school daily as soon as you determine that your child will be late or absent due to an injury, illness or other “unscheduled” circumstance. For planned absences (i.e. vacations), a single notice is sufficient. Each school has an email address that we encourage you to use for this purpose:

Mary Rowlandson Elementary – [MREattendance@nrsd.net](mailto:MREattendance@nrsd.net)

Luther Burbank Middle School – [LBMSattendance@nrsd.net](mailto:LBMSattendance@nrsd.net)

Nashoba Regional High School – [NRHSattendance@nrsd.net](mailto:NRHSattendance@nrsd.net)

Florence Sawyer School/Emerson – [FSSattendance@nrsd.net](mailto:FSSattendance@nrsd.net)

Center Elementary School – [centerattendance@nrsd.net](mailto:centerattendance@nrsd.net)

Hale Middle School\* (note different format) – [Halenurse@nrsd.net](mailto:Halenurse@nrsd.net)

FLU SEASON: It is not too early to think about protecting yourself and your family from the flu! CDC recommends a yearly [flu vaccine](#) for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease. People should begin getting vaccinated soon after flu vaccine becomes available, if possible by October, to ensure that as many people as possible are protected before flu season begins. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating in the community, it’s not too late to get vaccinated.

In addition to getting a seasonal flu vaccine if you have not already gotten vaccinated, you can take [everyday preventive actions](#) like staying away from sick people and washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs. If you are sick with flu, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading flu to others.

Thank you! Feel free to contact your school nurse with questions.