



# Hingham Public Schools

Greetings HPS Community,

The time since December break has flown by and since then, Hingham Public Schools have been alive with activity. I recently spent a morning at Plymouth River to see and hear student research presentations. I was delighted by the quality of their work and so impressed by how each student was able to synthesize their information into a very comprehensive report and presentation. At Hingham Middle School, 7<sup>th</sup> graders recently celebrated the half-way mark of the middle school experience. Before they know it, they will be planning for their entry into high school. At the high school, mid-year exams have passed and students quickly progressed past the mid-point of the school year. This past Saturday, I had the pleasure of judging National History Day presentations by Hingham High School 11<sup>th</sup> graders. I was impressed by the quality of work the students produced. Although competition dictates choosing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, every presentation was deserving of high praise and award. While traveling around the District and seeing the students in action, I have become increasingly appreciative of the hard work and dedication of the school staff and leadership. Congratulations to all students and staff for a job well done!



*Paul W. Austin, Ph. D.  
Superintendent of Schools*

During January and February, the Central Office staff and I have been busy preparing the Fiscal Year '21 budget that begins July 1, 2020. It is a long process, but we are fully focused on presenting a proposed budget that meets the needs of all students. After meetings with the Hingham School Committee, Town Officials, and holding a budget hearing with the public, we are nearing the end of the budget process. If you have questions about the budget, I would encourage you to review my presentations and budget documents that are posted on the District website.

Over the course of the past few weeks, we have all become aware of the Coronavirus outbreak across the globe. While the spread of this virus is a concern, I am confident that the risk is still very low in our region, and that our District and the Hingham Health Department are taking the necessary precautions to protect our students, staff, and community. If anyone has any questions about the Coronavirus or the seasonal flu, I encourage you to contact the Hingham Department of Health at (781) 741-1466.

Finally, a number of people have contacted me recently regarding the school calendar and conflicting information about the March workshop day. While an earlier version of the schedule included March 11 as a workshop, that date was changed to March 3<sup>rd</sup> to accommodate the State Primaries. As a result, please be advised that school will not be in session on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 11<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of school for all students.

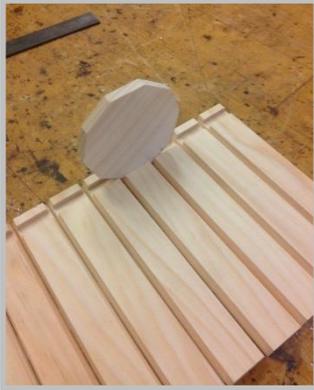
With the February vacation just a few days away, I wish you all a happy and restful week.

*Paul Austin*

## Around the Schools

### Bucket Town

*Contributed by HHS Principal Swanson*



Once known as "Bucket Town," Hingham was the woodenware capital of the colonies prior to the Industrial Revolution. Last month, students in Mr. Malerbi's woodworking class at Hingham High School examined that history while employing traditional techniques to craft mugs. Students crafted the mugs in a traditional manner by machining "staves" to form a barrel and then cutting a groove all around the bottom of the staves to fit the bottom of the barrel, in this case the bottom of the mug. Finally, each student used the mug to serve a root beer float to a favorite teacher who has most inspired them. It's



hard to imagine a more thoughtful way to say thank you to the talented members of the hard-working HHS faculty. And it's hard to imagine a single project that better captures some of the school's most essential values. At HHS, real-world learning is cross-curricular, meaningful and powerful!

### Project 351 Ambassador

*Contributed by HMS Principal Smith*

Killian La Tanzi, an eighth-grader from Hingham Middle School who was selected as the Hingham Project 351 Ambassador, joined other young leaders from across the Commonwealth for the annual Launch and Service Day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. La Tanzi joins eighth graders representing every city and town in Massachusetts for a transformational year of service, leadership development, and civic engagement. Since 2011, 3,381 eighth graders have engaged as Ambassadors, serving more than 720,000 neighbors through youth-led statewide service campaigns.



Killian was selected by Hingham Middle School to represent Hingham for his inspiring ethic of service and values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude.

From this group of 351 students, Killian was one of six Ambassadors invited to share his "dream for a better world" at the opening of Launch Day in front of a crowd of 500 people including Governor Charlie Baker, First Lady Lauren Baker, and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

"My dream is for a cleaner, more sustainable, less harmful, and more responsible world. I want people to think and act more globally and to consider the greater good before their own interests. Our planet faces great threat, and it's up to us to work together to ensure its future. My dream is for my kids and grandkids to have a healthy planet to live on," was Killian's message.

HMS is proud to be represented by Killian, who will be working with members of the Hingham Middle School community on a spring service project in support of the Cradles to Crayons program.

## Around the Elementary Schools

### Solving Real-World Problems at East

*Contributed by Principal Keady*

East School capped off its annual coat drive by collecting 181 coats for local families in need. The school also came together for All-School Meeting to hear the Grade 2 students recite a poem to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

East School is in the middle of its third rotation of Makerspace lessons. Makerspace encourages students to use collaboration, creativity, and communication to solve real-world problems. Each grade level is given different materials, including erector sets, Strawbees and Brickyard Building sets that are then used to complete an open-ended project that may include building a bridge, a tower or even an animal.



East's Grade 4 students are also working on the annual electric house projects - a highlight of the 4th grade year!

### Foster School – Math and More

*Contributed by Principal Wilcox*

Foster students were busy in January. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, students and families enjoyed playing math games and coding at Math and Technology Night. Thank you to Mrs. Kitchen, Math Specialist, and Mr. Riser for helping to put this program together.



*Mrs. Kitchen with students at Math & Tech Night*

At Foster's All-School Celebration, the school community celebrated those students who took part in Math Olympics. Students participating in Math Olympics extended their learning by solving additional math problems each week. Foster School is proud of the number of students who challenged themselves and took part in this great PTO program.

Students in Grade 4 attended a field trip to the John F. Kennedy Museum while the Grade 2 students enjoyed a visit to the Aquarium.

In February, students at Foster continued service to others as part of the "Souper Bowl." Students who brought in a canned good were able to vote for who they believed would be the winning team in the Super Bowl. As part of the Toolbox Program, designed to develop social emotional skills in students, Foster students will be focusing on 2 of the 12 tools in their toolbox - the "Garbage Can" tool (used to discard unkind words and actions) and the "Taking Time" tool (to use time wisely).

## Digital Literacy at PRS

Contributed by Principal Smith

At Plymouth River School, students have been showcasing their learning using their digital literacy skills.

As a culminating project to the Grade 3 study of Massachusetts geography, students demonstrated their knowledge using computer science. Students used the Scratch coding program to create voice recordings about various locations in Massachusetts. On the interactive map (which they made and used as a circuit board), they connected wires from each location to a command on their Chromebooks. When they touched the brass brad, it read aloud a fact about that location.



In Grade 5, students studied routes of early explorers to the New World. Working with partners, they gathered their research including dates, motive for exploration, the country that supported the explorer and the impact that explorer made. Students presented their findings to the class through a Google slideshow. PRS is seeing the great benefits of utilizing technology to enhance learning and to communicate that learning to others!

## South Elementary Responds to Fires in Australia

Contributed by Principal Eastwood

With the start of a new year, South Elementary has been working on expanding the theme of “Being Kinder than Necessary” with the idea of kindness “from within to *ourselves*.” Students and teachers have been discussing the idea of having a positive mindset in Morning Meetings and classes and the theme is also emphasized in daily announcements. Each week, several students are recognized for displaying a positive mind set. Many activities have grown out of this theme, including a school-wide collection to support the animal victims of the Australian fires. This effort was spearheaded by the Grade 2 team and students, and children were encouraged to earn their own donations by doing chores outside of school. They collected over \$1,000 which was sent to Australia to aid koalas who were injured by the fires.



South has welcomed several new students and families recently. At the January Buzz Assembly, the South community welcomed them and the New Year and decade with an All School welcome song.

At the same time, South students are extending their academic learning with many hands-on projects. The fifth grade is planning a Wax Museum on February 14 featuring the Notable Americans they have been studying this year. Thanks to the South School PTO, the second and fourth graders have had visits from the Museum of Science to study **Building Bridges** and **Electromagnetism** respectively. South students are so happily busy that they have had no time for those mid-winter blues!

## In Closing - A Message from the School Committee

*Contributed by School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer*



On behalf of the School Committee, I want to thank the community for their engagement in the budget process. Whether you attended one of the multiple budget workshops or School Committee meetings, sent an email to the Committee, the Board of Selectman, or Advisory Committee, took to social media to voice your thoughts, wrote an editorial, or made phone calls, we sincerely appreciate the support for a fully funded school budget. The budget process continues through Town Meeting when the budget is adopted, so keep up your engagement or join the conversation! Our children can't vote, so we must be their voice.

We would also like to express deep appreciation to the school administration, the principals, the department heads, the resource teachers, and the faculty and staff for all of their hard work on preparing the budget. The process is incredibly thoughtful—this isn't a "throw it all on the wall and see what sticks" process—and we know that your recommendations reflect the critical needs of our district and our students. The School Committee will continue its work and advocacy to ensure you have the resources to meet those needs.