

11-8-15

Message from the Superintendent
Hello All,

Given the great summer-like weather we have enjoyed recently, it is hard to believe that as of Tuesday, we will have completed the first quarter of the school year. We are at the end of the first marking term at the secondary level, and the fall sports season is in the midst of tournament play for a number of our very successful boys and girls teams.

At the elementary level, fall open house events and curriculum nights have been concluded and the various PTO groups are in full swing with fundraising activities and social and enrichment activities. Of course we are watching the unfolding of our Full Day K Program with great excitement.

If you were not able to attend last Sunday's Town Forum, do watch for it on HCAM or check out the "You Tube" version on the HCAM website. The presentation provides a great summary of information about potential School and Town facilities needs and projects and also a very clear financial summary, including information about the Town's cash reserves and borrowing capacity.

School Committee Subcommittees are working on Policy, Long Range Planning, Salary and Negotiations, and Special Education matters. Any recommendations from those groups are brought to the full School Committee for action; all of the regular SC meetings are televised, sometimes live and sometimes for later viewing (with multiple reruns).

It's hard to believe that budget planning for 2016-2017 has already begun; but that is a necessity given the many meetings and work sessions that are needed to get us to the April 2016 Town Meeting, the final activity of the Town's annual budget process.

Of course, educators and parents across the state are awaiting the Massachusetts Board of Education's November 17th decision about MCAS vs PARCC vs ????. I hope you have been following the very public and often somewhat political debate about curriculum standards and student assessment. In Hingham, and elsewhere, we are very anxious about what is going to happen next spring, just a few months from now! Stay tuned for more on that topic.

The School Committee's Community Outreach Subcommittee is working to enhance the hinghamschools.org website. If you haven't already noticed, a mobile version of the website (requested by a number of parents) is now available. However, we need your help in defining how else we can make the website more informative and helpful to your needs. To that end, the first link below will take you to a brief survey. The survey site will be open through November 25th, so please let us hear from you.

Website survey for parents

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPS-website>

I also have attached the "You Tube" links for the two most recent "Superintendent's Spotlight" episodes. Each is about 40 minutes long, so you may want to save them for some less sunny fall day. Future SS episodes will feature Elementary Science, Special Education and SNAP, and Foreign Language.

As always, my fellow administrators and I acknowledge how fortunate we are in Hingham to enjoy such a high level of parent support and involvement. That is crucial to fulfilling our common goal of providing an excellent education for Hingham students at all levels. We appreciate your help!

SS Episode 11 Tennoji Experience

<https://youtu.be/meBhoj8pPpw?list=PLYfedrfujpt2HhsyKyAeDTGPKtcMFMR4M>

SS Episode 12 Elementary Mathematics

https://youtu.be/Qav23_DgwtQ?list=PLYfedrfujpt2HhsyKyAeDTGPKtcMFMR4M