

Perspective.

A monthly newsletter by Superintendent Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette



SEPTEMBER 2009 WELCOME BACK!

Convocation Welcomes Staff Members to New School Year

Manchester Public School's annual convocation welcomed staff members to the 2009-2010 school year. Members of the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette and the district's administrative team were in attendance to welcome staff members. In her opening remarks, Dr. Ouellette acknowledged the hard work performed by all staff members to provide students with a world-class education.

"As I reflect on the coming year, we must make this district one of excellence and innovation so that every single one of our students is exceedingly well prepared to have lifelong success in making this increasingly fast-changing world a better place for all," Dr. Ouellette stated.

Dr. Ouellette also highlighted the district's performance in the CMT and CAPT. "Upon examination, the data shows major growth moving students from the proficiency skill level to the goal/advanced level. Our strength area continued to be mathematics. Our area of consistent focus is reading across all grade levels," she added. "We continue to close the achievement gap. Specifically, the achievement gap is progressively closing with our students of color, English language learners, students with special needs and low social-economic learners."

In the area of CAPT, scores came in with a level performance when compared to last year. "Given the large jump that occurred in last year's scores, we were anticipating the same types of gains. Largely, this year's scores were flat over all; slight increase in some areas with slight decreases in others," Dr. Ouellette explained. "Overall, both tests demonstrate progress and indicate our students are moving into mastery levels."

During the event, staff members who celebrated 25 years of service to the district were also recognized. These staff members included: **Kim Cleary, Bette Copeland, Rita Donovan, Steven Hadge, Cynthia Hilton, Dennis Jenkins, Lisa Kerkin-Bundy, Margaret Kloner, Timothy Lewis, Matthew Schardt, Susan Schiavetti, Loisann Sisson, Lee Snuffer, Myrna Spector, E. Charles Vousden** and **Alan Watson**. The following staff members were not present but were also acknowledged: **Joyce Fish, Theresa Germond, Jacqueline Kelsey** and **Richard Moore**.

Dr. Ann Richardson, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, recognized the district's "Teachers of the Year." **Mary Walsh**, a teacher from The Elizabeth M. Bennet Academy was named the district's "Teacher of the Year." In addition to Walsh, the event recognized each school's Teacher of the Year recipient. They included:

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Communications Tool Provides Parents with Flu Information

In an effort to keep parents informed about this season's influenza, a communications tool was developed. The two-page flyer contains important information on what parents should do in the event their child has flu-like symptoms.

"We wanted to take a proactive approach to informing parents about this year's flu season," said Suzanne Valade, coordinator of school health. "The guide is designed to answer common questions about the flu," Valade explained. "The bottom line is that prevention is the key."

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--Convocation Continued

Kevin Brophy, Manchester High School; **Tracy Clarke**, Bowers Elementary School; **Nola Barrett**, Highland Park Elementary School; **Colleen Bombria**, Illing Middle School; **Jennifer Jalbert**, Keeney Elementary School; **Linda Bride**, Martin Elementary School; **Jennifer Tyler**, Nathan Hale Elementary School; **Jodi Clare**, Robertson Elementary School; **Thimas Nicholas**, Bentley Alternative Education Academy; **Michael Villandry**, Manchester Regional Academy; **Ann Curley**, Washington Elementary School; and **Margo Williamson**, Buckley Elementary School.

Motivational speaker Dr. Crystal Kuykendall, author of "Rage to Hope" concluded the convocation with an inspiring discussion on the importance of motivating students. She referred to district staff members as "Merchants of Hope" because of the each person's responsibility to "shape and mold the lives of children."

School Registration Enhanced with Mobile RV

Registration for the 2009-2010 was made a lot easier for parents and guardians thanks to a mobile recreational vehicle (RV). The RV was made possible through a grant by the William C. Graustein Memorial Fund.

"We wanted to make the registration process easier for parents and guardians," said Sharon Kozey, early childhood specialist. "We made it convenient by placing the RV in strategic locations across the district," Kozey explained. The RV was staffed by members of the Manchester Readiness Council, including the early childhood specialist, the school district health coordinator, the director of the Manchester Youth Service Bureau and the coordinator of school health.

A total of 124 children were registered for the fall.



Tours of the RV were given to children while parents filled out paperwork.

--Flu Flyers Continued

Everyone must wash their hands and take proper precautions." The guide, which was also developed in Spanish, was distributed to Manchester's schools. For more information, contact your school nurse.

GIFTED AND TALENTED UPDATE



Manchester Public Schools introduced a new communications tool, "Creativity Opportunity Resources Engagement (CORE)" to promote its gifted and talented program.

The brochure is designed to promote program services in Grades K-8.

"The brochure is an ideal way to inform parents and the community about the programs we offer as part of our gifted and talented programs," said Dr. Nancy Eastlake, gifted and talented consultant.

Welcome to Manchester Public Schools!

Please take time to welcome the following new staff members:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Location</u>
Filomena Aamik	System-wide
Cynthia Agyemang	Manchester High School
Christina Anselmo	Illing
Mary Berube	Manchester High School
Aisha Boland	Manchester High School
Cheryl Bozeman	Robertson
Debra Byam	Manchester High School
Jennifer Clark	Illing
Janine Conti	Bowers
Christina Cook	Martin
Christi Craig	Manchester High School
Melissa Curran	Keeney
Marc Didominzio	Manchester High School
Courtney Ditarando	Martin
Barabarajo Doody	Waddell
Gregory Dunford	Manchester High School
Kasey Dunn	Manchester High School
James Farrell	Illing
Brian Gordan	Robertson
Michelle Hier	Illing
Katheryn Holdt	Keeney
Vicki Hoover	Bowers
Ann Marie Johnson	Waddell
Natalie Kennedy	Verplanck
Ashley Kocur	Manchester High School
Regina Kosior	Robertson
Paige Lepage	Illing
Claire Lombardo	System-wide
Tricia Lynn	Manchester High School
Heidi Macchi	System-wide
Denise Marti	Manchester High School
Brienne McGreevy	Nathan Hale
Jodi McNamara	Robertson
Martina Miller	Manchester High School
Kristin Obrien	Washington
Maria Pappa	Nathan Hale
Justin Pearson	Manchester High School
Marc Pfalzgraf	Verplanck
Jessica Pierleoni	Manchester High School
Nicole Polino	Nathan Hale
Katie-Lyn Przybylski	Illing
Michelle Rizzo	Manchester High School
Danielle Rozewki	Buckley
Kathryn Shakeel	Nathan Hale
Jacqueline Sullivan	Bennet Academy
James Tierinni	Manchester High School
Shonda Vincent	Manchester High School
Kyle Waters	Manchester High School
Mary Kay Welch	Manchester Preschool Center
Kathleen Young	Martin

News & Notes

The **Manchester Preschool Center** will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, September 30 at 5:30 p.m. The center is located at 60 Washington Street.

The Center, which will provide Head Start services to children, can accommodate up to 192 students.

Congratulations to the following administrative personnel:

Dena DeJulius, Vice Principal;
Illing Middle School

Diane Burns, Associate Director of Teaching and Learning

Diane Kearney, Adult Education Coordinator

Robert Pease, K-12 Instructional Technology Specialist

Joan Charnas, .5 Vice Principal,
Nathan Hale

Mary Luce, Keeney Principal

Have A Great School Year!

If you have information to share, we would like to hear from you! Contact the Community Relations Office at (860) 647-3442.