

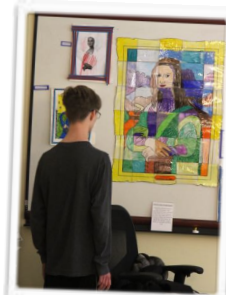
MILESTONES MATTERS

Winterfest Annual Art & Talent Showcase

Winterfest is a special time of year here at Milestones. Every winter Milestones invites students to showcase their talents at an annual performance event.

Families were invited to the show to see their students during their special moments. This opportunity helps our students to build confidence, courage, and executive functioning as they prepare their act for the show.

During the festival, we also have an eye-catching student art show that is on display throughout the school for families to see and enjoy what the students have been working on. Thank you to all staff involved, especially Music Specialist, Emily Desmond and Art Specialist, Julie Lauritsen for their preparation and leadership!



Important Dates

February 17-21: No School - February Break

Friday, February 28: Last Day to Submit Parent Customer Service Survey

Wed., March 11: Half Day - noon dismissal

Friday, March 13: Pi Day Celebration

Friday, March 20: PAG Meeting & Presentation: Executive Functioning @ 10-11:30AM

Friday, April 3: End of 3rd Quarter

Wed., May 6: Half Day - noon dismissal

Friday, May 22: Elementary & Middle School History Fair @ 9:30-11:00AM and Half Day - noon dismissal

Monday, May 25: No School - Memorial Day

Friday, May 29: PAG Meeting & Presentation: Dyslexia @ 1:30-3PM

Friday, June 12: End of 4th Quarter

Tuesday, June 16: Moving Up Day/Graduation

Wednesday, June 17: Last Day of School (pending any additional snow days)

Milestones Hosts Education Commissioner

Milestones had the pleasure of hosting MA Education Commissioner, Jeff Riley and Chief of Staff, Leldamy Correa, for a tour of our school on Halloween.

They were wonderful guests as they joined our elementary students in a math game, helped our middle schoolers with an "escape the room" literacy activity, observed a Halloween themed STEM experiment in our science lab, and cooked up a delicious meal with

the post high school students.

This special day was featured in the Waltham Patch, Lexington Patch, Belmont Patch, and the Waltham News Tribune!



Adopt-A-Family

Each December our therapists oversee the Adopt-A-Family initiative where we sponsor some local families in need.

We share information about these families within the Milestones community and our students become fully immersed in the process as they collect donations, purchase and wrap wish list gifts, and deliver items.

All donations from "March a Mile for Milestones" and our Adopt-A-Family Bake Sale directly supported our annual collection for families in need.

Thank you to students, families and staff for helping to bring holiday cheer to 3 local families!



What's Going On

Growing the After School Sports Program

We are proud to announce that our first ever interscholastic soccer season was a success! After successful one-day soccer and basketball jamborees last school year, we knew we wanted to take the next step and offer season long sports for our students.

Milestones Soccer Team

Students played with and against other schools in the area. Players had the opportunity to be named co-captain for the week by working hard, supporting teammates, and displaying positive overall leadership.

We wrapped up the season with a team dinner celebration complete with a slideshow of season photos and presented awards to each player. Thank you to our Milestones players, coaches, and our Learning Prep teammates and co-coach for a great season! We look forward to next year!



Milestones Basketball Team

We are also excited to announce that our first ever Milestones basketball season is off to a great start!

Students have weekly practices and travel for games against other schools in the area.



Benefits of After School Clubs

Team sports help children increase their physical activity levels as well as improve their social skills, giving them a greater sense of self-esteem and community.

Students playing in our sports leagues learn the basic rules of the sport while building relationships with their teammates. They will also learn the value of sportsmanship as they play with and against students from other schools.

Other past and current after school programming has included Dungeons & Dragons Club, Sports Club, Art Club, Music Club, and Board Games Club.

Parents of interested Middle and High School students can contact Heather Miller, Education Operations Manager/HR, hmiller@advancingmilestones.com for future seasons and more information.

Bulldog
Pride



Get your Milestones merchandise!

online,
Please visit the **Squadlocker** Bulldog store
link below:

teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/bulldogs-527

New
Website!

Check out our updated look @
www.advancingmilestones.com



Speaker
Series

Free Speaker Series

Wednesday, April 29th | 12:30pm- 2:30pm



**Understanding Gender Identity:
Working Effectively with Transgender and Non-Binary Clients**

Topics covered include gender dysphoria, name changes, social transition, medical transition (including hormones and surgeries), working with schools and parents, and particular clinical implications for this population.

Adam Glick, LICSW, Co-owner of Live Well Therapy Associates

RSVP.EVENTS@advancingmilestones.com

MCAS
Dates

Grades 3, 4, and 5:
ELA - March 30 & March 31
Math - April 28 & April 29

Grades 6 and 8:
ELA - April 2 & 3
Math - May 4 & 5

Grade 7:
ELA - April 6 & 7
Math - May 8 & May 11

Grades 5 & 8 ONLY:
STE - May 13 & May 14

Grade 10:
ELA - March 24 & 25
Math - May 19 & 20
Biology - June 2 & 3

Upper School Highlights

Post High School & Transitions

College Enrollment

PHS students have continued their hard work this semester. We're thrilled to have five students dually-enrolled in college courses at MassBay Community College - 3 post high school students and 2 high school students.

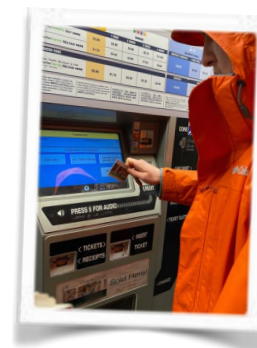
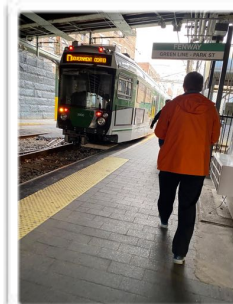
Internships

This semester we have students interning at Neighbors Who Care, Animal Rescue League, Science from Scientists, and Springwell. Students Richard and Jimmy have also been working at an onsite library internship with Karen D'Ortenzio - Reading Specialist, where they are responsible for tracking inventory and categorizing the Milestones library.



Community

Post-high school students have been focusing on travel training recently, specifically on getting around on the bus, subway, and train. Students work together to identify locations of interest and plan their routes using teamwork, technology, and a variety of planning tools. They have also been able to incorporate some leisure interests into their trip planning, fostering the growth of social connections.



High School

Science

Biology students are learning about cell transport. They performed various lab activities to analyze the effects of changes in the external environment on the cells. They explored the different ways viruses can propagate and replicate. The students are also learning about classification and how living organisms are classified into different taxa.

In Genetics class, students are learning about how information in DNA is transferred to create a functional protein in the body. They are working on a unit about DNA replication, transcription and translation - using DNA lego models to model each of these processes.

Anatomy and physiology students are studying molecules that are essential for the function of the human body. They learned about carbohydrates, fats, proteins and nucleic acids and their functions.

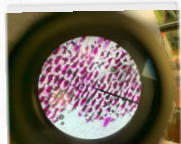
In Biochemistry, students are learning about electronic configurations. They studied the Bohr model of the atom and then learned about the quantum numbers. They used the Gizmos application to explore and practice electronic configuration. Students conducted flame tests to identify metals and also applied their knowledge of electronic configuration to explain the color of the flame produced.

Electives

Not only do students participate in core academic and therapeutic classes, they also have the opportunity to pick electives that rotate each

semester. Electives are an enriching part of our programming and currently consist of yoga, chess club, book club, poetry club, student council, documentary analysis, guitar, cooking, and more.

One particularly fun club is the Italian cooking club known at Milestones as the Basil Bunch. These students have learned various Italian dishes in which they help to plan, purchase ingredients, and prepare the meal. At the end of the lesson they get to enjoy their delicious creations - including homemade pasta!



Lower School Highlights

Middle School

STEM

Students used the Engineering Design Process to build prototypes of suspension bridges and hurricane towers. 7th and 8th graders made suspension bridges and the 6th graders built food trucks.

Social Skills

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Wales and Italy Social Skills classes read the book, *Martin's Big Words*.

As a class, they discussed how Martin Luther King, Jr. helped teach people to be respectful of one another and how this aligns with our core value of respect. They also talked about ways that we can take what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us about respect and apply it to our everyday experience at Milestones - in thinking about others, helping out friends in need and compromising.

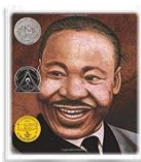
Electives

During Q1 and Q2 middle school students accepted the challenge of learning how to sew! Students started by learning how to thread a needle, cut fabric and sew two pieces of fabric together by hand.

Multiple staff kindly donated their old

sewing machines so that students also had the opportunity to practice sewing in a straight line using a machine. Many students were excited to take home pillows that they had made from start to finish.

Middle school students were also given the opportunity before winter break to participate in some gingerbread house building holiday fun while collaborating and socializing with peers.



Elementary School

STEM

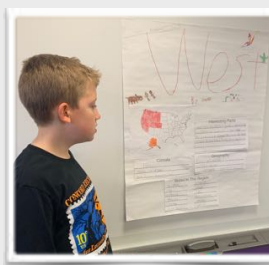
Elementary students worked in teams on their flying machine project. Students shared ideas, followed the engineering design process and practiced how to be great engineers.

Social Studies

In social studies, students have been researching different regions of the United States. Each student was assigned a region to become the class expert on and collected information such as climate, geography, and fun facts. They then created an informative poster to share with the class.

Art

In art class, students have been learning about Baroque artists and their portraits. They have been thinking critically about emotions, how to convey emotion through art, and even created their own self-portraits.

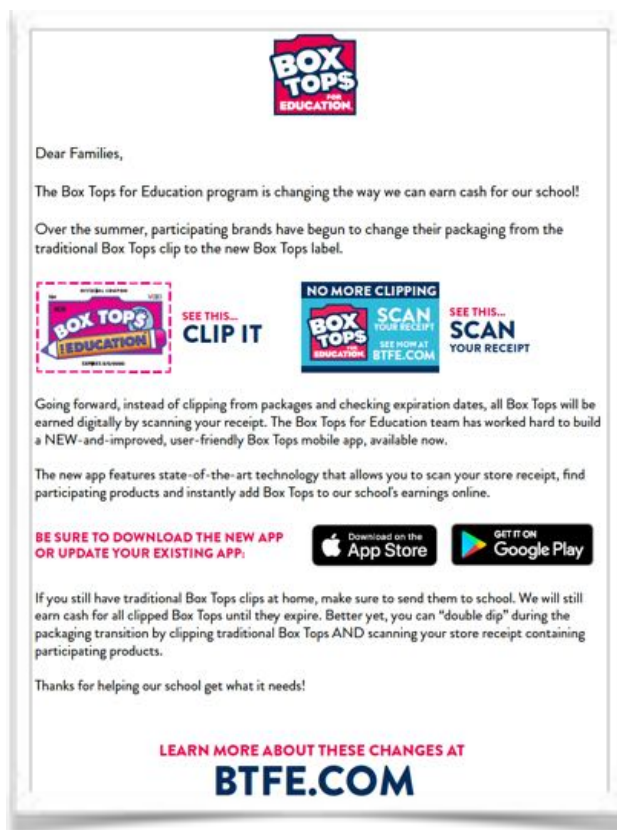


Parent Advisory Group

Box Tops for Education

Each year, the PAG raises money to support the PAG's fund, and these contributions are used to support outside of school activities for students as well as recognition activities for staff.

If you have any questions regarding the Box Top Program, please contact our PAG Box Top Coordinator: Lynda Leary at: LLeary427@verizon.net.



Upcoming PAG Meetings

Executive Functioning

Presented by Grace Little, Speech Language Pathologist

Friday, March 20, 2020 @ 10:00-11:30am

Dyslexia

Presented by Julia Kimball and Karen D'Ortenzio, Reading Specialists

Friday, May 29, 2020 @ 1:30-3PM

Have a suggestion for a future PAG presentation? Let us know by emailing Heidi Schuler, Project Coordinator at hschuler@advancingmilestones.com

Thank You PAG!

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to sincerely thank our parent community for organizing and supporting a wonderful holiday lunch for us!

The staff enjoyed a range of delicious pizzas (*that were very allergy conscious*), as well as salad, clementines, desserts, and beverages.

The team felt very appreciated and we'd like to extend a special thank you to our PAG parent leaders for their initiative on this staff gift!



Team Shout-Outs

Way To Go!



Library Revamp & New Resource Room

Heidi Schuler - Project Coordinator redesigned the administration area and created a Resource Room. Karen D'Ortenzio - Reading Specialist managed a new organizational system for the library!

Books are categorized by elementary, young adult, readers theatre and other categories.

The area will be a working library where students and teachers can come find books they would like to read. There is also a section for biographies and research material to help students with reports they might be working on.

Our Resource Room is an area where teachers can go and find a robust collection of resources such as curriculum guides, textbooks and other materials needed to help them in the classroom.



DESE Dyslexia Stakeholders Group

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education put forth an initiative to invite experts to participate in a Dyslexia Stakeholders group to contribute to the development of Massachusetts Guidelines.

Julia Kimball - Reading Specialist was nominated to be in the group and her application was accepted! She participated in one offsite day-long meeting in January and will be involved in ongoing future meetings.

Congratulations, Julia!



Thank You For Supporting The Annual Book Fair

Milestones held another successful book fair last month thanks to Reading Specialists - Julia Kimball, Joan Grzywna, and Karen D'Ortenzio.

Sales totaled \$1,378.68!

This earned Milestones \$676.23 for teachers to use for books and classroom supplies.

Thank you to everyone who supported our book fair and a special thanks to families who donated books to their child's classroom.

