

# Nashoba Pride

**Integrity—Communicate—Achieve—Relate—Engage**

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## A MESSAGE FROM DR. GRAHAM

It is hard to believe that December is here. It seems as though the first day of school was just a few weeks ago, but when I went to the grocery store over the weekend, Christmas carols were in full swing; there is no surer sign that the winter season is upon us.

I wanted to use this month's newsletter message to talk about work we are doing this year for our NEASC re-accreditation. NEASC stands for New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is the organization that accredits high schools throughout New England. Every ten years, high schools go through a re-accreditation process that consists of three parts: a self-study conducted by the school, a site visit by a team of outside educators, and a final report from NEASC that summarizes a school's re-accreditation status. Nashoba is conducting its self-study this year, and we will have our site visit in March 2015.

The self-study is a comprehensive internal analysis against a set of seven standards identified by NEASC. Those seven standards are:

- [Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations](#)
- [Curriculum](#)
- [Instruction](#)
- [Assessment of and for Student Learning](#)
- [School Culture and Leadership](#)
- [School Resources for Learning](#)
- [Community Resources for Learning](#)

Within each standard is a set of indicators that define effective high school practices. For example, one of the indicators within the Assessment standard reads "Professional staff collects, disaggregates, and analyzes data to identify and respond to inequities in student achievement." Through the self-study process, we are determining the extent to which our current practices meet that indicator, i.e., the extent to which we are collecting, disaggregating, and analyzing data to address inequities in student achievement. In all, there are 54 indicators across the seven standards, and by this time next year we will be finalizing a 100+ page report that identifies how our school practices measure up

against those 54 indicators.

The ostensible reason for the NEASC process is to determine re-accreditation, but I believe the deeper reason is to help us reflect as an organization on our strengths and weaknesses, and to identify specific areas in which we can improve. For example, if it turns out that we are not doing enough as a school to collect, disaggregate, and analyze student learning data, that might very well be a practice that we need to focus on improving.

In order to make the NEASC process truly valuable, we need two important resources: time and feedback. We are spending a tremendous amount of time this year collecting evidence about our current practices and comparing them against the NEASC indicators (just about all of our early release time this year, along with lots of discretionary time during events such as faculty meetings, is being devoted to NEASC). We have also tried to solicit lots of feedback from students, parents, and the community about our practices (the Endicott Survey that we put out back in the fall is one example).

I would encourage every parent to spend some time learning about NEASC (their website at <http://cpss.neasc.org/getting-started/2011-standards> provides detailed information about all seven standards and 54 indicators), and we are always looking for parents interested in participating in our self-study committees. We will also be bringing information about the self-study process to the school committee on a regular basis, to keep the community informed about the process and our findings. My hope is that the NEASC process will make our practices and processes ever more transparent to our parents and community, and will help us identify concrete ways that we can make our already good school even better.

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

**\*\*ATTENTION PARENTS\*\***

For the protection and safety of your child, please make sure to inform the bus driver/company if your child has any life threatening allergies,



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asthma, diabetes, seizures, or any other medical condition that may require immediate attention (calling 911) while on the school bus.

The link below will take you to the district website where the school bus emergency medical information form:

<http://www.nrsd.net/assets/files/Health%20Office/School%20Bus%20Emergency%20Medical%20Information%20Form.pdf>

### HOLIDAYS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Your help is needed. It is often said that Christmas is for kids, yet even those who have outgrown Santa still dream of finding a gift or two under the tree. But not all families have the means to buy gifts for older children, and not all “giving” programs serve teenagers. “Holidays for High Schoolers” is a compassionate effort by the adult community of the Nashoba Regional High School to bring a little Christmas joy to those who might otherwise go without a gift.



Contributions are used to purchase gift certificates to the mall for each student identified by nurses, administration, guidance and the faculty as being a candidate for “Secret Santa”. Student selection is discreet and completely confidential. No names are used. Contributions are collected by the school nurses to insure anonymity.

Holidays for High Schoolers is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. It has been tremendously gratifying to witness the community’s efforts to share with high schoolers who, like younger children, are touched by the generosity inspired by the spirit of the season.

To make a donation, send checks made payable to: “Holidays for High Schoolers”

Send to:

**Attn: The School Nurse  
Nashoba Regional High School  
12 Green Road,  
Bolton, MA 01740**

For more information, contact the school nurses at 978-779-2257 x6

### ON THE ROAD

\*\*\* The thought of a car accident is very disturbing, but taking precautions will help you avoid them. In this section of TeenDriving.com, we go over some simple best practices for being on the road, making turns, **how to handle driving in rough weather**, passing, **driving on your school campus**, and the dreaded merging. We also talk about how to avoid an accident—and what to do if you’re in one.



**General Driving Tips | Merging / Turning / Passing | Driving in Bad Weather | Avoiding Accidents**  
<http://teendriving.com/driving-tips/on-the-road/>

**Please go over these safety driving tips with your teenager(s) or have your teenager(s) read this information by going on the link above.**

For more information, contact the school nurses @ 978-779-2257 x6  
Thanks and have a safe December!

Ms. Rivera, Mrs. Oetman, and Mrs. Sullender  
High School Nurses

### NASHOBA FRIENDS OF DRAMA NEWS

The NRHS community has experienced yet another stellar production! A Midsummers Night’s Dream, written by Shakespeare, was performed by a very hard-working cast and crew. The audience was transported to mythical Athens, into the enchanted forest, where they experienced the adventures of star-crossed lovers and woodland fairies. The cast’s colorful costumes and elaborate hair and makeup helped bring the “Dream” to life and everyone in the audience “fell in love” on that Midsummer’s Night.



Many thanks to Bill Grady and all the parent volunteers for another fabulous run and to all who support Nashoba Drama.

Class plays are underway. Students should check with their class play director(s) and Mr. Grady for more information if they are interested in participating. Mark your calendars and be sure to attend this fabulous event where each short play is directed, produced and performed entirely by the students! The class play competition will take place on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Auditions for the Spring Musical, “Les Miserables” will be held Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm and Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm in the Nashoba auditorium. Students trying out only need to attend ONE of the auditions.

The next Drama Society meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm in the auditorium. The Friends of Drama meeting for parents will be held at the same time in the lobby. Please visit our website at [www.NashobaDrama.com](http://www.NashobaDrama.com).

Contact Audrey MacLean ([samjackaud@yahoo.com](mailto:samjackaud@yahoo.com)), Tracy Lindsay ([joelandtracy.lindsay@comcast.net](mailto:joelandtracy.lindsay@comcast.net)) or Carolyn Ryan ([carezy@comcat.net](mailto:carezy@comcat.net)) for more information.

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## FRIENDS OF MUSIC NEWS

### Ten Nashoba Students Chosen for the Central District Music Festival

On November 16<sup>th</sup> over 1500 central Massachusetts music students auditioned for the Massachusetts Music Educator Association's Central District Music Festival. The students auditioned for slots in the Central District Band, Orchestra, Chorus and Jazz Band. Approximately 550 students were ultimately chosen to perform in the various groups. Of the 550 students chosen about half are recommended for the All-State auditions at the end of January. Ten Nashoba students will be attending the Festival to be held at Mechanic's Hall in Worcester in January. Instrumentalists chosen were: Allyson Conlin, Trombone; Evan Daisy, Oboe; and Erika Rohrberg, Flute, who also received an All-State rec. Vocalists who will be attending are: Ryan Bonner, Tenor with an All-State rec.; Kevin Cote, Tenor with an All-State rec.; Andrea Delisle, Alto with an All-State rec.; Lyndsey Hawkes, Alto with an All-State rec.; Tyler Plaskon, Bass with an All-State rec.; Marianna Sardella, Soprano with an All-State rec.; and Isabella Tanashian, Soprano.

### Holiday Band Concert: December 6<sup>th</sup>

The Holiday Band Concert will be held on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Selections will include "Variations on Hanukkah, O' Hanukkah", "Baby it's Cold Outside", "Die Bänkelsängerlieder" and many other festive selections. Admission is \$5. Students and Senior Citizens are free.

### Friends of Music Meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup>

Parents, please join us at our next meeting on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, in the chorus room.

### Holiday Choral Concert: December 13<sup>th</sup>

The Holiday Choral Concert will be held on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Admission is \$5. Students and Senior Citizens are free.

### FOM Raffles

The Friends of Music are raffling off two floor tickets to the Boston Holiday Pops and two Community Spirit ski passes for Wachusett Mountain.

The Holiday Pops performance is on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. The seats are in Row P Center. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held at the Holiday Band Concert on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (you do not need to be present to win). To purchase tickets, please see Mr. O'Toole or Mrs. Mianulli or send an email to Beth Atkinson ([beth@iwindsurf.com](mailto:beth@iwindsurf.com)).

The Wachusett Mountain ski passes are good for a one-day or night session lift ticket (with certain blackout dates in effect, and no lessons or food included). Passes are

valid for this season OR next season. Tickets are 3 for \$5. The drawing will be held at the Holiday Choral Concert on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> (you do not need to be present to win). To purchase tickets, please see Mr. O'Toole or Mrs. Mianulli or send an email to Kelly Williams ([williams07@comcast.net](mailto:williams07@comcast.net)).

## CHESS CLUB NEWS

The Nashoba Chess Club meets on Fridays at the Nashoba Regional High School cafeteria, located at 12 Green Rd, Bolton MA. Instruction for all levels starts at 5:30 pm. Games take place 6 –7:30 pm. Coaching is provided by Dr. Toth. Light refreshments and snacks are served. Player contributions of \$2 are asked at the door to cover costs.



For experienced players, the club is also an opportunity for mentoring, besides playing challenging chess games with peers. Additional information is available at <http://www.nashobachess.org/>.

The full schedule for the 2013-2104 season is: November 15, December 6, December 13, January 10, January 24, February 7, February 28, March 7, and March 21.

**NASHOBA ATHLETICS** Some current Nashoba Athletics Booster Club information is provided below.



Please visit the Nashoba Athletics Booster Club Website [www.NashobaBoosters.com](http://www.NashobaBoosters.com) for more information. Please click "Follow" and enter your email address to receive updates.

The **Nashoba Athletics Booster Club** (NABC) is the parent volunteer organization that supports all interscholastic athletic programs at NRHS and the Athletic Director.

**FALL OPEN MEETING.** The next Booster Club open meeting will be held in the high school cafeteria at **7 pm on Tuesday, December 10.** Parents of student athletes are encouraged to attend.

**BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED.** At the end of this year, several board positions (including President and Vice President) will be vacant. These positions are voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. The Board meets four times during the school year (in conjunction with the Booster Club Open and Annual meetings). Please contact Gigi Lengieza at [gigilengieza@gmail.com](mailto:gigilengieza@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

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**THANK YOU!** The Booster Club would like to thank all the parents who volunteered to work at the concession stand this fall. We raised over \$5,000 this fall from concessions sales. We couldn't do it without you. THANK YOU!



### **CONSERVATION WALK**

Come out and explore Bolton's conservation land on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month with Conservation Commissioner Janet Pesaturo. Janet is an experienced tracker, birder and forager, and recently earned her master's degree in conservation biology. Currently she blogs about all of these interests at [ouroneacrefarm.com](http://ouroneacrefarm.com).

The walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. and last approximately 3 hours. The walk will be done at a leisurely pace to give us time to explore our natural surroundings. The walks will be held in good and fair weather but cancelled in heavy rain. Wear shoes that provide ankle support, traction and can get dirty on our trail explorations. Please do not bring pets along for these walks.

**December 19– Annie Moore Conservation Area** Meet on Annie Moore Road. Roadside parking only (past house #81 and before #167).

Pre-registration is not required, but if you have questions or want to let us know you're coming, please contact the Conservation Office at 978-779-3304 or [con-com@townofbolton.com](mailto:con-com@townofbolton.com).