

## NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# NASHOBA NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE XVII

MAY 5, 2005

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Last Day of School will be Wednesday, June 15, 2005. Lunches will not be served and students will be dismissed early as shown below.
- Rowlandson, Pompo/Center and Sawyer will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m.
- Burbank Middle, Hale Middle and the high school will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m.

#### Town Meeting

#### Schedule

Stow—May 16

#### Tri Town

(Next Meeting)

June 1, 2005

7:00 PM

Bolton Town Hall

- ♦ Early Release Day Wednesday, May 18, 2005 for Professional Development.

## School Choice Option



The Nashoba Regional School District will be discussing whether or not to participate in school choice at their May 19 regular meeting. Currently, the District does have school choice in grades 6-12. We allow students up to 100 per class per school in grades 6-8 and 200 per class in grades 9-12.

Each year, school committees must consider whether their district should be in the school choice program during the upcoming school year. School districts that **choose not to accept school choice pupils from other districts must take a vote to that effect and report the result of the vote to the Department by the June 1, 2005.** They may also choose to accept new pupils but only in certain grades. They may also choose to specify the number of available openings. If there are more applicants than available openings, a lottery should determine which pupils are accepted.

If no vote is taken, a district will automatically be identified as a choice receiving district.

## Stow Home Invasion

The Stow Police Department released a press release today regarding the recent home invasion in Stow on Taylor Road. The Police are still investigating the alleged incident with the assistance of the State Police. At this time the investigation is looking into whether this incident is connected to several alleged attacks in the Metro-West region over the past several years, however, there is no positive evidence of a connection. The Police do not believe there is any extreme safety risk at this time, they encourage anyone who observes any suspicious activity or person to immediately contact the Stow Police Department. The schools in Stow have taken additional precautions such as locking all exit doors except for the main entrance and talking with faculty to update them on the information that we have. Students and parents who need additional supports should contact their child's guidance counselor for strategies that help children work through stressful and anxious situations.

### MCAS Question Search

I am pleased to present the MCAS Question Search, an online tool to provide educators, parents, and students with the opportunity to search through and print more than 2,500 MCAS test items administered to students between 1998 and 2004. The tool allows multiple-choice and short-answer questions to be displayed with or without answers, and sample student responses can be reviewed for open-response questions and writing prompts. Users can search for questions based on several criteria, including the year, grade level and subject area of the tests in which items appeared, and a search can also be launched by applying selected keywords.

In the future, additional items will be made available on the MCAS Question Search located at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html>. I believe that this new service will go far in helping to improve student performance, and I welcome your feedback. Please send us your comments and suggestions by completing the response form located at this link.

Commissioner David Driscoll,

Commissioner's Update, April 21, 2005

### DEAR EDWINA PERFORMANCES

Students in Grades 5-8 at the Florence Sawyer School in Bolton are presenting the musical, *Dear Edwina*, on May 6th and 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are available ahead of time by calling Faye at 978-779-0154 for more information or you may purchase tickets at the door. The cast and crew have been hard at work to make this wonderful play a memorable one. *Dear Edwina* promises to be a play you don't want to miss, and it will be fun for all ages!

### Town Meetings

The Towns of Bolton and Lancaster held their Town Meetings on Monday, May 2. John Antonucci and I were on hand at the beginning of Lancaster's meeting and then I traveled to Bolton for a brief presentation there.

Both towns passed the article containing the school district's budget. Don Adams, Monica Campobasso, and Mary Beth Yentz were on hand and gave testimony in support of the District's budget. Cathy Giunta and Tricia Kelly were on hand in Bolton had I arrived too late to present.

### Weatherman's Donation

Todd Gross has been recognized as the outstanding weatherman in New England by the Puffs Tissue company. He is being awarded \$5000 worth of tissues to be awarded to his favorite charity. He is donating them to the district. He will be working out the specifics with Ann Farrell and once done, the School Committee can accept the gift.

### German Class Participation in Theaterfest

The German AP class participated in the 28th annual Theaterfest competition at Mount Holyoke College. The class did a tremendous job. Ross Beyler won the best actor's award in the Peter Weiss play which the class adapted to the competition.

There are more details by going to: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/theaterfest/>.