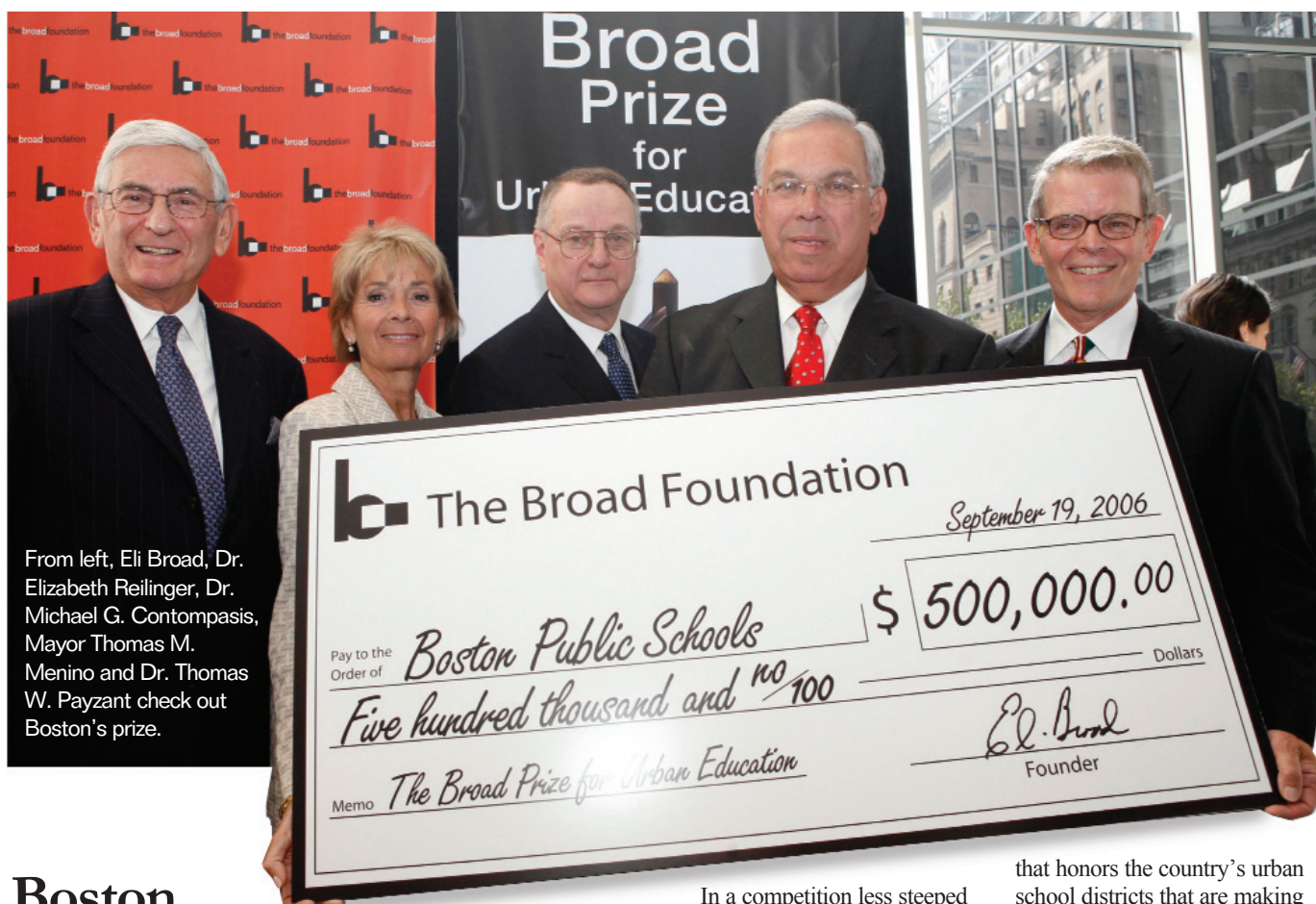


Best in the U.S.



From left, Eli Broad, Dr. Elizabeth Reilinger, Dr. Michael G. Contompasis, Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Dr. Thomas W. Payzant check out Boston's prize.

Boston schools win \$500,000 for achievement

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

When the name "Boston" rang out across the New York Museum of Modern Art, Hub representatives erupted in applause, reveling in the sweet victory of success on rival turf.

In a competition less steeped than a Red Sox-Yankees game, but far more advantageous to Boston students, Boston Public Schools emerged as the winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education. Started in 2002 by Eli and Edythe L. Broad, the Broad Prize is an annual award

that honors the country's urban school districts that are making the greatest improvements in student achievement while reducing the achievement gap.

The prize is the largest education award given to a single school district, and includes \$500,000 in college scholarship

See **BROAD** Page 12

Boston makes a super choice

BY PAUL HALLORAN

The next superintendent of Boston Public Schools is keenly aware that it is not exactly a restoration project he is taking on.

"The system has been improving and it is at a very good point as far as urban school systems go. We're not going to have to start from scratch," said Dr. Manuel J. Rivera, who takes over in Boston in July 2007.

"There are many successful programs and practices," Rivera added. "Boston is much further ahead in some areas."

Now, for the rest of the story.

"At the same time, there are challenges that the Boston Public Schools are facing that need to be addressed," he said, quickly listing a few: "to eliminate the achievement gap; reduce the dropout rate; have highly effective high schools across the city; address the needs of English Language Learners; reduce the number of

See **SUPERINTENDENT** Page 12

For more information on Boston Public Schools, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org



Dr. Manuel J. Rivera



inside

PLAY TO LEARN

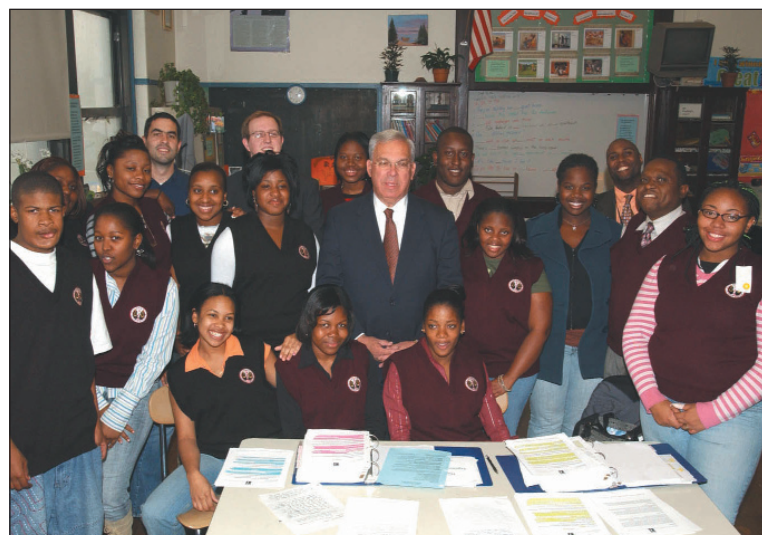
Pilot program teaches success at an early age

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A SOLID ARGUMENT

Dorchester debaters make their points

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THE BOSTON EDUCATOR
a publication funded by Comcast

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Science is an exciting challenge



**Michael G.
Contompasis**
Superintendent

The Massachusetts Board of Education recently voted to add the 10th-grade MCAS exam in science as a graduation requirement starting with the Class of 2010. This means that students currently in ninth grade will have to pass the MCAS in English, math and science to meet the state requirement for high school graduation. This move will bring a renewed focus on science instruction across the state and the Boston Public Schools is ready to meet the challenge.

Science has always been a focus in BPS, a fact I can attest to given my experience as a science teacher at the outset of my career. However, science is an ever-evolving topic, and while the basics are still the basics and formulas will never change, recent innovation has made teaching and learning science more complex.

Science education provides students with an exciting, hands-on opportunity to “learn by doing.” Much more so than any other subject, science requires students to be active participants in their learning and provides many of the “ah-hah” moments that educators cherish.

In order to foster the love of learning for

science, BPS has sought to supplement our lessons with more supplies and resources. We started in 2001 to align our local curriculum with the new state standards that were released that year. Since then, we have worked with classroom teachers and others to purchase new materials that will allow the lessons to come to life. Science projects are no longer just found at the high school level. Elementary and middle schools are using kits that allow students in the early grades to test out their own theories on a wide range of subjects.

In addition to the materials for classroom experiments, we have purchased and distributed classroom workbooks to complement the curriculum and increased our training for teachers. We ask a lot of our elementary school teachers, that they be able to instruct students in reading, writing, math, history and science. We want to make sure that we’re supporting them in all of those subjects and are providing more focused training in each of those subjects.

Much of our work in science is guided, and funded, by a \$12.5 million Math Science Partnership grant we received from the National Science Foundation in 2004. The grant helped form the Boston Science Partnership (BSP). The BSP brings together three core partners — Boston Public Schools, Northeastern University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston as the lead organization, along with two supporting partners, Harvard Medical School and the College Board, to

provide graduate-level science courses for teachers and support for students for advanced placement science classes.

Since 2001, BPS has received an annual grant of \$45,000 from the Merck Institute for Science Education for the development of teacher leaders and science leadership. We will continue to utilize these grants, and pursue others, as we continue to improve our science instruction.

The Boston Public Schools recently received our results on the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and they confirmed what we learned from the MCAS exams: We have more work ahead of us in science.

We will use the data provided at the student level from the MCAS exams and at the district level from NAEP to find the areas and disciplines in science where we need to strengthen our approach and lesson planning.

Science education will continue to evolve and BPS will continue to work with our partners, such as the Museum of Science, which has provided free passes for our students in the past, and our local college and universities, which have provided everything from access to laboratories for students to tutoring for classes. Boston is a city rich in science resources and we’ll continue to leverage that and improve our instruction so that we’re preparing our students for college and career.

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Comcast connects with Boston students

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In a war of words, so to speak, Richard Goggin, a 17-year old junior at Boston Latin Academy, battled through synonyms, antonyms and definitions to become the city's first-ever vocabulary champion.

Goggin outperformed 74 other local vocabulary scholars, winning the Boston Citywide Vocabulary Championship, sponsored by Comcast Cable. The event was held in November at the Northeastern University Curry Student Center ballroom. Students from 12 Boston Public Schools high schools competed, and the runner-up was Kadian Simmonds, a senior also from Latin Academy.

The competition is a nationwide educational initiative, dubbed "Win with Words" and conceived by the cable Game Show Network (GSN), that aims to promote the importance of vocabulary skills in school, at work and at play. The Boston event featured Dylan Lane, who also serves as host of the GSN series "Chain Reaction." Boston City Councilor John Tobin served as a judge of the competition and Vic Pascarelli, area vice president of Comcast's Boston system, served as a pre-competition emcee.

As the local champion, Goggin earned \$5,000 toward a higher education savings plan and qualified to compete in the National Vocabulary Championship finals in March in New York City. He will compete with 49 other students for a \$40,000 prize.

Comcast has lent its support in the competition since August, airing "Win with Words" public service announcements that feature celebrities such as Whoopi Goldberg, Jeff Probst and Tom Bergeron encouraging



Above left, Richard Goggin is presented a check for \$5,000 by Comcast Senior Manager for Government and Community Relations David Green after winning the Boston competition of the National Vocabulary Championship at Northeastern University. Above right, shown at the event, are, from left, Vic Pascarelli, Area Vice President, Comcast; David Green; National Vocabulary Championship Host Dylan Lane; Alan Claremont, Director of Marketing, Comcast; and Ray Boller, Director of Distribution, GSN.

high school students to expand their vocabulary and, in turn, their opportunities in life. The company also promoted the event within the high schools.

"It's very exciting to be able to combine the community, education and our cable products for such an enjoyable educational event," said Pascarelli.

Pascarelli, along with Paul D'Arcangelo, Comcast regional vice president of the metro-Boston region, also participated in this year's Principal for a Day event in November. They were two of approximately 100 CEOs, university presidents, nonprofit directors and elected officials who spent the day shadowing BPS principals and gaining a first-hand



perspective of the city's classrooms. Now in its fourth year, the event is organized by BPS and the Boston Plan for Excellence.

"I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement of the principal and teachers, and their commitment to the students," said Pascarelli, who visited the Mary Lyon K-8 School in Brighton. "It was easy to draw

parallels between the functions of a principal and a general manager of a business, dealing with administrative issues, customer service – students and parents in this case – and staff development. The teachers and the principal were also very focused on results, and proud of the incremental increases in student performance on the MCAS exams."

Comcast has been generous in its support of the BPS and in the funding of The Boston Educator. The company is also an employer partner of BPS School Preview Time, allowing employees who live in the city to take up to four hours of paid time off to visit schools. School Preview Time is taking place now through Jan. 19. Schools are hosting open houses, school tours and other activities to welcome prospective families.

Boston high schools show dramatic MCAS improvement

BY MEAGHAN CASEY



From left, Jason Centeio, Ke'Aira Oliver and Richard Wiley celebrate the MCAS success of the schools at the Dorchester Education Complex.

Three years ago, TechBoston Academy junior Jason Centeio never would have expected to be standing in front of a packed auditorium at the Dorchester Education Complex, addressing student achievement.

Yet, in October, he did just that. "It was a pretty bumpy ride getting to where I am today," said Centeio. "My freshman year, I did absolutely nothing all year and got held back, but TechBoston didn't give up on me."

In his second year at TechBoston, Centeio's grades improved to a C average. "That's when I realized school was for me – not for my teachers, not for my mom, but for me," he said. "I promised myself that in 10th grade I'd do my very best."

And that he did. As a sophomore, Centeio achieved honorable mention and scored advanced in the MCAS mathematics exam and proficient in the English language arts exam, which qualifies him for an Adams Scholarship.

"I've never seen my parents so happy,"

said Centeio. "I speak on behalf of all the juniors when I say that I couldn't have done it without the teachers and students here, who work together to form a family of support."

"TechBoston has changed my life in so many ways," he added. "I've grown both as a student and as a person. I realize now that if we put our minds to something and actually try, we can achieve anything."

Centeio was one of three student speakers at the Massachusetts Dept. of Education MCAS results press conference, hosted by the Dorchester Education Complex. The others were Richard Wiley of Noonan Business Academy and Ke'Aira Oliver of the Academy of Public Service. The three small high schools that make up the complex were all among the top five schools statewide for increasing the percentage of grade 10 students scoring proficient or advanced. The other two of the five most improved in the state are also BPS schools: New Mission High School and Boston Community Leadership Academy.

"All of the hard work on the part of

teachers, students, administrators, community members and parents is paying off," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

District-wide, the percentage of grade 10 students scoring at the advanced or proficient levels has increased dramatically since the first administration of the test in 1998. This year, 51 percent of grade 10 students scored proficient or advanced on the English exam, up from 38 percent last year and only 18 percent in 1998. On the math exam, 53 percent scored proficient or advanced, up from 40 percent last year and 13 percent in 1998. The district's gains outpace the state rate of improvement of six percent in both subject areas.

"It's a tribute and a testament to all those who made a commitment and developed a vision to create a culture of learning, of community and of achievement," said Superintendent Michael G. Contompasis. "These scores tell us that everyone can be successful, now, and later on in the pursuit of higher education and careers."

BPS-TV keeps you tuned in to city schools

Cable programs tout district's education-reform efforts

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Lights. Camera. Action.

Thanks to a new series of cable television programs, called BPS-TV, Boston Public Schools is welcoming the spotlight. Airing on the City of Boston's public-access cable television channels (Comcast channel 24 and RCN channel 13), BPS-TV highlights education reform and provides opportunities for high school students to gain insight into critical educational policy issues and practical experience in television broadcasting.

The launch of BPS-TV is part of the district's ongoing efforts to increase communications and to reach broader audiences.

"We can't rely on the same old ways of getting out the message about what's happening in our schools," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "BPS-TV is one of many exciting ways that we are using technology to inform the people of Boston about issues that matter to them."

Programming will include instructional programs and teacher professional development by Annenberg Media. Other programming will include school and district events, messages from the superintendent and other school officials, student performances, trainings and workshops for parents and staff, and educational activities for



BPS-TV producer Jovia Leveille, right, and Anthony Smith, School Committee secretary, pose on the set.

students. The channel will also broadcast Boston School Committee meetings, in efforts to make the school board's proceedings and decision-making more accessible to families and the public.

BPS-TV is produced and directed by Jovia Leveille, who is devising strategies to engage young students in the process.

"Boston's high school renewal efforts are focused on providing students with the academic and technical skills to succeed in college and beyond," said Superintendent Michael G. Contompasis. "Some of our

BPS-TV schedule

Programming began Oct. 9 on the city's public-access cable channels (Comcast channel 24 and RCN channel 13) as follows:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, 4-6 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon

For a complete schedule or more information, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/bps-tv.

schools have innovative programs to get young people excited about careers in television broadcast, and BPS-TV creates valuable learning opportunities to complement their studies."

Six of the district's high schools now offer media and communications pathways that prepare students for higher education and careers in broadcast television and media fields. The program also offers additional opportunities for other students and alumni. Aubrey Ortiz, a graduate of Boston Latin Academy,

designed the BPS-TV logo though the TechBoston Consulting Group.

We want to communicate with you

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In efforts to further engage the community in Boston's educational success, the Boston Public Schools has undertaken an ambitious Strategic Communications Initiative.

Calling for a more systematic, long-term approach to meaningful engagement, the initiative is designed to strengthen the district's communications, internally and externally, with a goal of improving public involvement and support. The BPS hopes to increase awareness about the positive impact of reform efforts on the district and to generate support for the education of Boston's children.

"When I visit schools, I see so much good work that doesn't get nearly enough positive attention," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "We are recognized nationally for our work, and it's important that we communicate locally as well in order to

continue the positive gains that have been made."

"It's important to emphasize in schools, central offices and the community that efforts to improve communication are not apart from the educational agenda, but rather, critical to the success of that agenda," said BPS Chief Communications Officer Christopher Horan. "When families and the community are more informed and engaged, they're better prepared to support schools in improving student outcomes."

The initiative focuses on three key strategies. One is to improve the delivery of news and positive messages to families, staff and the community, through publications such as The Boston Educator, improved technology and use of the BPS Web site (www.bostonpublicschools.org), and the expansion to new media outlets such as BPS-TV.

The district's second strategy is to build

capacity among school and central staff to improve communication through district-wide policies and procedures and ongoing training and technical assistance. Number three is to measure and track public perception and satisfaction through market research, focus groups and surveys.

"This initiative is a multi-year effort to create a more robust and aligned approach to communications as well as resource development so that we may strengthen our capacity to meet the educational needs of our students," said Dr. Elizabeth Reilinger, chair of the Boston School Committee.

Launched in September 2005, the first phase of the initiative appointed Horan as chief communications officer, led a citywide School Choice communications campaign, supported new teacher recruitments and expanded communications office staff. Now in its second phase, the initiative has established

a communications policy and is creating a communications handbook for staff. The communications office is now conducting school visits and department briefings, sending regular e-mail bulletins, providing training to principals, headmasters and other staff members, collaborating with key departments to advance district priorities, tracking and reporting media coverage and building stakeholder database and mailing lists.

Through the initiative, the BPS has also developed a school-year calendar, "We Are Boston Public Schools," which features a series of 13 photographic portraits by local artist Mori Insinger. The images, depicting supportive teacher-students relationships, will be featured not only in the calendar, but on the BPS website and in marketing materials and other publications. The BPS also has developed a new blog, www.allaboutbps.blogspot.com.

Playing plays a key role in learning

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

It's never too early to plant the seed for educational success.

In Boston, families are learning just that, thanks to the Play to Learn Group – an innovative new pilot program for children age 1 to 3 and their parents.

“The Play to Learn Group concept is an excellent expansion on the district’s effort to engage Boston’s families with young children and encourage their partnership in their child’s education right from the start,” said Superintendent Michael G. Contompasis. “We’re delighted to host these groups, both in terms of extending learning opportunities to our youngest children and by providing the necessary parent supports critical to the role of parent as a child’s first teacher.”

A collaborative effort among Boston Public Schools, Countdown to Kindergarten, the Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts and ReadBoston, the program is funded by Children’s Hospital Boston.



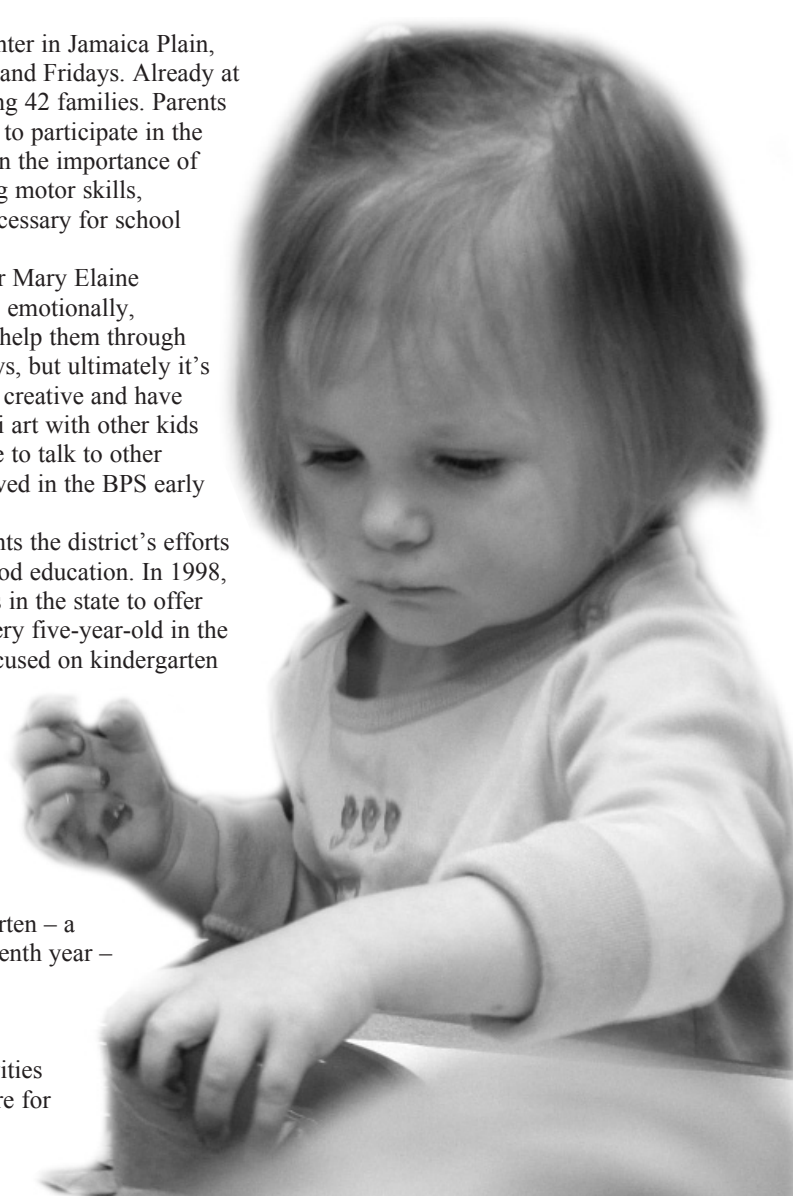
Above, children finger-paint during the West Zone Early Learning Program. At right, Annika Epstein focuses on her artwork.

Hosted by the West Zone Learning Center in Jamaica Plain, sessions are held Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Already at full capacity, the play groups are serving 42 families. Parents and primary caregivers are encouraged to participate in the sessions, discovering with their children the importance of play in the learning process, developing motor skills, reading, and promoting social skills necessary for school readiness.

“It’s all about play,” said coordinator Mary Elaine Anderson. “That’s how children learn, emotionally, physically, mentally and socially. We help them through transitions, taking turns and sharing toys, but ultimately it’s fun. It’s an opportunity for them to get creative and have fun finger painting or making macaroni art with other kids their age. And for parents, it’s a chance to talk to other parents, to share ideas and to get involved in the BPS early on.”

The Play to Learn Group complements the district’s efforts to strengthen and expand early childhood education. In 1998, Boston became one of the first districts in the state to offer guaranteed full-day kindergarten to every five-year-old in the city. In recent years, the district has focused on kindergarten for four-year-olds, expanding from only 700 K1 seats in 2004 to more than 1,700 this year. Seventeen new K1 classrooms opened this fall.

The BPS additionally created the Department of Early Childhood Education to strengthen educational offerings in kindergarten classrooms. Together with Countdown to Kindergarten – a non-profit collaborative, now in its seventh year – the department will produce a school readiness DVD for parents, featuring important information about BPS kindergarten programs and useful activities for parents to help their children prepare for school.



Early education center named for civil-rights heroines

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Over the last half-century, two heroines of civil rights have stood up for their beliefs, opening the doors to fairness and equality during our nation’s turbulent years.

Today, students, educators, community members and city officials are standing up in their honor, applauding their courage, grace and resolve. To pay tribute to Dr. Catherine Ellison and Rosa Parks, the Mattapan Early Education Center now bears their names as it ushers in the city’s youngest learners.

In June, the Boston School Committee voted to rename the center the Dr. Catherine Ellison-Rosa Parks Early Education School, following requests from parents, students, residents, elected officials and other community members. The change became effective July 1, and the school held a dedication ceremony in October. City and school officials, Mattapan residents and members of Ellison’s family came out to celebrate the lives of the two remarkable women and to unveil the new school sign.

“There is nothing more important in my administration than the education of our young people,” said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “And I can think of no more fitting tribute to two women who devoted so much to improve the lives of future generations than to dedicate a school in their honor.”

Ellison was active in the Mattapan community and a long-term supporter and fundraiser for the Mattapan Community



Mayor Thomas M. Menino speaks at the dedication ceremony in October.

Health Center. She also served as executive director of the Department of Implementation from 1977 to 1986 when that office existed to oversee desegregation of the BPS, and was senior officer of desegregation from 1986 to 1994. She passed away in 2005 at age 76.

Parks, known for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955, is credited with launching the civil rights movement in the U.S. Her actions and

subsequent arrest sparked a 381-day bus boycott, followed by sit-ins and protest marches that resulted in a Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated buses. She continued to advocate for civil rights and founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, a nonprofit youth organization. She died in 2005 at the age of 92.

“Both women demonstrated their commitment to the civil rights struggle for equality and justice,” said Ellison-Parks Principal Nora L. Toney. “Because of their historical contributions, the students of the Ellison-Parks Early Education School, and all students, are better able to exercise their civil rights and experience greater opportunities.”

Opened in 1998 as a child-centered community, the Ellison-Parks Early Education School serves approximately 200 students in pre-K through first grade, some as young as age 3. The school is part of the BPS’ continuing efforts to expand its early childhood offerings and to provide all students with the highest quality learning facilities.

“Over the past few years we’ve built six new schools in Boston – brand new, state-of-the-art schools in Dorchester, Roxbury, East Boston and Mattapan,” said Menino. “I was thrilled to be there eight years ago when we first opened the school as the Mattapan Early Education Center, but I’m even prouder to name the school after two remarkable and inspirational civic and community leaders.”

Guild thrilled to have Milken Award winner

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

At an assembly at the Curtis Guild School in East Boston in October, second-grade sheltered English teacher Amanda Sequin was honored for receiving the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

This public recognition, in front of her peers and students, for years of hard work and dedication to students would be honor enough for most teachers. Now add to that an audience including Mayor Thomas

M. Menino, Senate President Robert E. Travaglini, and Superintendent of Schools Michael

G. Contompasis, and an unrestricted \$25,000 check from the Milken Family Foundation and you have a recognition assembly that surpasses a teacher's wildest dreams.

"I was so excited, but practically speechless," Sequin said, after realizing that she was the one being honored at the surprise assembly and that the award included a \$25,000 bonus.

School administrators had kept Sequin in the dark about the award nomination, her selection by the foundation and the schoolwide assembly, so all aspects of the event were a complete surprise to her.

Sequin was one of nearly 100 teachers

recognized nationwide presented award. Each year, the Milken Family Foundation awards teachers committed to furthering excellence in education and who use innovative and effective ways of helping students learn and grow.

Sequin is only 29, but she already has eight years' experience and a master's degree in child development from Tufts University. She has always been interested in bilingual education, having first taught at a bilingual school in Connecticut, and basing her master's thesis on transitional bilingual classrooms.

Now, in her fourth year at the Guild School, Sequin teaches 18 students who are native Spanish speakers working towards

transitioning into English classrooms. She teaches her students to speak, read and write in English, but as a fluent Spanish speaker, Sequin is available to clarify concepts or provide examples for them in Spanish.

"I absolutely love working with these students," said Sequin. "They are very smart kids who are in the process of learning a second language. We give them the right environment, so they can make huge strides in language and in learning the new concepts that they'll need to progress in the future."



Milken Award winner Amanda Sequin leads class at Guild Elementary School in East Boston.

Schools improve proficiency through technology

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

At 8:30 on a Saturday morning, hundreds of eager members of the Boston Public Schools community fought the urge to sleep in, and came together for the LINC III: Pillars for Success technology conference.

The conference, held at the Hyatt Regency in late October, highlighted how Boston plans to use technology to support student proficiency and to close the achievement gap with the launch of the Learning & Information Network for the Community (LINC) III Plan. A three-year strategic technical blueprint for 2006 to 2009, LINC III is designed to keep the district in line with changing technologies by addressing issues regarding access, information and innovation.

"Boston was one of the first communities in the country to wire all

of our classrooms for the Internet," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "Now, we are again at the forefront of technology in schools as we lay out a plan that ensures all students not only have access to the most up-to-date technology, but that their teachers are trained in how to best utilize hardware and software to help increase student learning and achievement."

Nearly 500 teachers, students, families and staff attended the event, which featured workshops on Digital Learning Tools for the Net Generation; Anytime, Anywhere Learning; Wireless Boston; Preparing Boston's Students for Cyber Citizenry; Engaging Parents with Technology; and Data-Driven Decision Making to Close the Achievement Gap.

Omar Wasow, the co-founder of BlackPlanet.com, an online community, was the keynote speaker at the conference. Wasow, who is pursuing a

doctorate in African American studies and political science at Harvard University, is also a technology analyst for CNN, NBC and the Oprah Winfrey Show.

After delivering the keynote address, Wasow participated with students on a panel, "To Block or Not to Block?" moderated by BPS Chief Information Officer Kimberly Rice. Conversations about social networking and community sites included information on the district's Internet Safety Campaign, which is launching this year with the help of the BPS Cyber Super Heroes — characters that were designed by BPS students Phoebe Mei of Charlestown High School and Jason Quarrles, a graduate of TechBoston Academy.

For more information about LINC III, visit www.boston.k12.ma.us/linc3/plan.



Mayor Thomas M. Menino spoke at the technology conference at the Hyatt Regency.



Diversity on the rise at city's exam schools

BY FRANK FAHEY

Efforts to increase the number of minority students at the city's three exam schools are paying off.

This year's acceptances at Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy and the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science saw notable increases in the percentages of black and Hispanic students invited to attend.

The results are as follows:

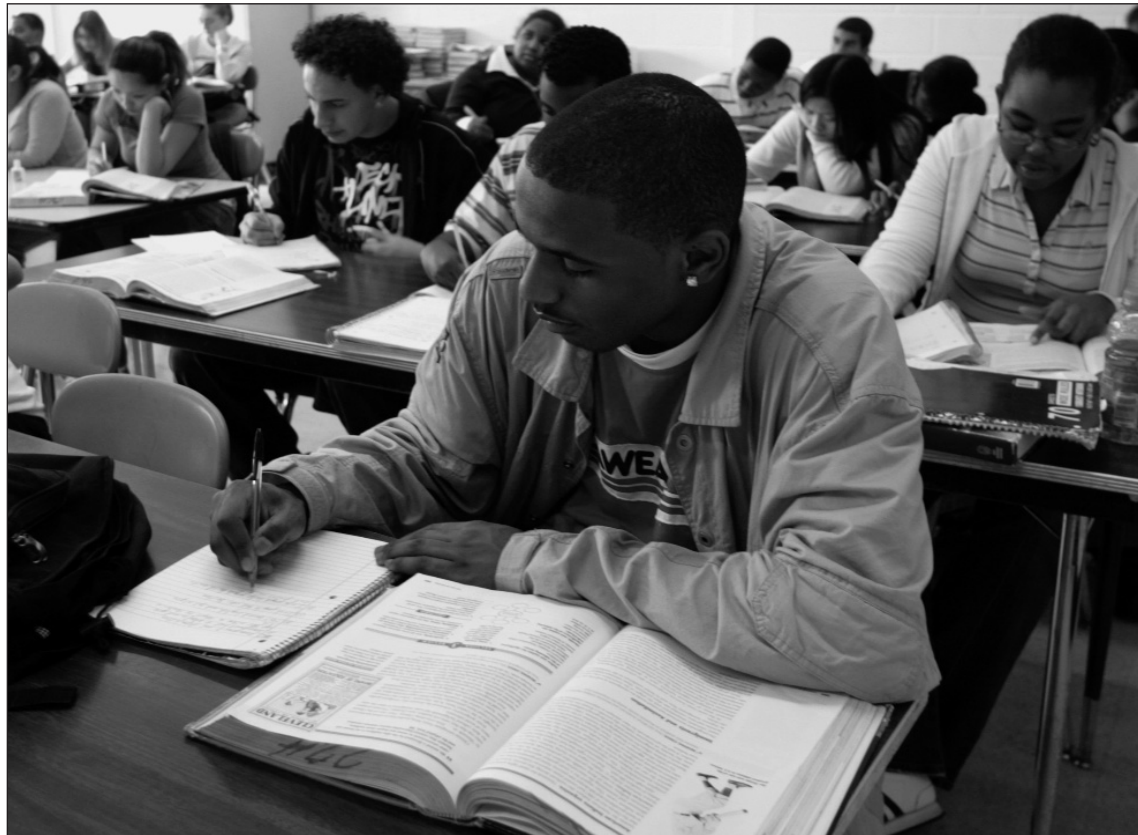
In total, 41 percent of all grade 7 exam school invitees were black or Hispanic this year, up from 33 percent last year.

At Boston Latin School, the percentage of black and Hispanic invitees rose from 18 percent to 24 percent in one year.

Boston Latin Academy's invitees included 47 percent black and Hispanic students, up from 40 percent last year.

At the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, 62 percent of invitees were black or Hispanic, compared to 50 percent last year.

In addition, the percentage of grade 7 invitees who are currently enrolled in a Boston Public School also increased in total and at Boston Latin Academy and O'Bryant, but declined slightly at Boston Latin School. Among all new invitees, 56 percent are



Xavier Miranda works during class at the O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

currently enrolled in the BPS, up from 53 percent last year.

The increases reversed the trend that had taken place in the six years since a federal court ruled that Boston Latin School could not consider race as an admissions

factor. In that period of time, black enrollment at the school had declined by more than 42 percent.

The number of Hispanic students at Boston Latin had dropped by 32 percent during the same period.

Before the ruling, which covered

all three exam schools, Boston reserved 35 percent of seats for black and Hispanic students. Now, Boston's exam schools admit students based solely on scores on an entrance exam and grades. The Latin School is the largest of the

three, with more than 2,400 students in grades 7-12.

Part of the increase can be attributed to BPS initiatives, which have included improved outreach to schools and families, as well as academic-preparation programs to ensure students' acceptance and success at the schools. It is also a product of the overall closing of the achievement gap between white and minority students.

"It is a priority of mine that every student in Boston receive a quality education so these results are very promising," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "While there is still work to be done, this shows that the great work the Boston Public Schools is doing to help close the achievement gap is beginning to take hold."

"We want to ensure that all students have full access to the opportunities that the exam schools provide," said School Committee Chair Dr. Elizabeth Reilinger. "We are pleased to see progress with these efforts and to see more invitations extended to under-represented groups, including students of color and students currently in our public schools."

Boston Public Schools spokesperson Jonathan Palumbo said the BPS is committed to vigorously enforcing the residency requirement to make sure that all

No arguing: Academy of Public Service debate team is a winner

BY FRANK FAHEY

The debate is over. The fledgling debate program at the Academy of Public Service in Dorchester is a rousing success.

Last year, in its first year of competition in the Urban Debate League, teams from the Academy of Public Service finished first and second in the junior varsity division of the competition, held at Boston College.

Even Mayor Thomas M. Menino has taken note. He visited the school on Oct. 26 to congratulate the students and watch them put on a demonstration debate.

Headmaster Zachary Robbins, in his second year, said starting a debate team was one of the first things he wanted to do when he came to the school. Another is entering the statewide mock trial program, which he hopes will happen this year.

By the end of the last school year, the APS debate team was 14 students strong. This year, some of the experienced debaters from last year's team have moved up to the varsity level while first-year debaters will

compete at the junior varsity level, with 18 debaters in all.

And while success is the goal of the team, both Robbins and APS staffer and debate team coach Locksley Bryan, a lawyer by trade, say there are other things more important than success.

"Students learn how to be tenacious while facing substantial challenges," said Robbins. "They have to plan and prepare for a competition and that takes discipline."

Bryan said the students took their lumps against more experienced debaters earlier last year. That slowly changed, as the students learned from their losses and the feedback from judges and other teachers who watched the matches and offered advice. By the end of the year, their performances were more polished and they had bonded as a team.

Both Robbins and Bryan say the debate team has attracted a cross-section of students, including one student who is in foster care, another who is in special

education, and even a student who had to choose between basketball and debate.

Bryan said it was an uphill task at first on selling students on the virtues of debating. "I basically sold the kids on old-fashioned ideas about the intrinsic value of the program," he said, while also noting that colleges see such things as a plus.

Along the way, the team had another point to make. "Our goal is to change the perception and reputation of what African-American students from Dorchester can accomplish," said Bryan.

Last year, the debate topic was the Patriot Act; this year, it concerns funding for service programs such as AmeriCorps. Students have to absorb the material in about 1,200 core files that will be at the heart of the debate.

Another side effect of the reading and debating is that "students are being exposed to viewpoints they hadn't heard before," said Bryan.

The keys to success, when you come

down to it, aren't much different from any other competition, even basketball or football.

"You have to stick with it and not give up," said Robbins.



Freshman Tyrell Carter and senior Charlene Tate enjoy working together on the debate team.

Things are looking up at Hurley



Left, first-grade Hurley School teacher Mary Shetterly leads class. Above, first-graders Rhomani Rhodes, left, and Justin Laboy start the day with a handshake.



Left, second-grade teacher Sofia Chaparro participates in exercises with students, from left, Josie Ortiz and Raquel Coronado.

School to convert to K-8 next year

By FRANK FAHEY

These are exciting, yet stressful times for the Hurley Elementary School in the South End and second-year Principal Marjorie Soto.

The School Committee has approved the Hurley becoming the system's 20th K-8 program, and changes will begin with the 2007-2008 school year, when grade 6 will be added. Soto, a former middle school teacher, is aware of the transition problems students have when they come to a middle school. The K-8 configuration, which is catching on nationwide as well as in Boston, allows students to stay in an environment where they are already comfortable, they know the teachers and their fellow students, and they feel safe and valued.

Often, students from several different schools have problems melding together at the middle-school level.

"We find parental involvement is highest at the elementary-school level," said Soto. "It dips when students get to middle school. K-8 allows parents to stay involved for 9-

10 years, depending on if they begin in kindergarten or pre-kindergarten. That's a big plus."

One of the worries that parents have with a K-8 configuration is possible interaction between the youngest and oldest students. The Hurley's physical layout will allow the students from K-4 to have their own distinct area, apart from grades 5-8.

Soto said the Hurley parents are on board with the decision, knowing that while the older and younger students will have their own areas of the school, that's not to say they will never interact.

"We want our older students to act as leaders for our younger students," she said, adding that older students may serve as mentors and help younger students with reading and other subjects.

The Hurley also happens to be one of three bilingual/two-way language schools in the district, along with the Hernandez and the Sarah Greenwood. That means subjects are taught in both Spanish and English. Students who are native English speakers are learning to speak, read and

write Spanish as they are learning subject matter, and vice versa for native Spanish speakers.

While there may be bumps in the road early as students struggle to absorb the curriculum which is being taught at least part of the time in a language not their own, Soto said research shows that after 5-7 years of being taught in both languages, students routinely score as well or higher than their counterparts in standardized tests.

The program means recruiting staff who have the necessary skills to teach in both languages. The Hurley works with the other bilingual schools in that regard. "We work with both of the other two-way schools to align our curriculums," said Soto.

They also help each other find the qualified staff with the bilingual skills needed to teach at the school. "There's several ways we do it," said Soto. "There's word of mouth, staying in contact with local colleges and universities to see what students might have those types of skills, and getting references from current teachers."



Above, Mayor Thomas M. Menino attended the Hurley library ribbon cutting ceremony. Right, the mayor takes some time to distribute library cards to students.



Team effort leads to new library

It opened, appropriately enough, on International School Library Day, Oct. 23.

The Hurley Elementary School has its first real library, thanks to a collaborative effort between staff and parents, aided by generous donations and grants.

The opening of the library was the culmination of planning that began a year ago. "The parents and I cleared out a room that looked like it hadn't been used in 30 years," said Hurley Principal Marjorie Soto. "Now it's a lovely space."

That was only the beginning. Donations were sought from book companies and grants were obtained from such disparate sources as the Laura Bush Library Fund and a Jewish literacy advocacy group. The furniture chain Ikea donated furniture and Soto and the parents had an assembling party to put it all together.

Soto took some of the computers Verizon had donated as part of Hispanic Heritage Month and assigned them to the new library.

"Parents came together and raised funds for a part-time librarian," said Soto.

The new library – the first real one the school has ever had – was dedicated in the memory of late Hurley teacher John Dones.

Students have been brought in on a rotating basis when the librarian is available to tour the library and learn how to check out books. Teachers can reserve the library to do research projects – the computers are wired to the Internet – and there are works in both English and Spanish, befitting the Hurley's status as a bilingual school.

Soto said the new facility is an inspiring reminder of what can happen with a "group and community effort. It's easy to have a vision but you get there a lot faster when you have people willing to pitch in and do the work."

The new library is part of ongoing efforts by Neighborhood Parents for The Hurley School to enhance the school, build corporate relations and improve the facility.



Left, student Michael Ejim answers a question. Right, Stephen Thompson, a consultant from Urban Voices, leads teacher Sofia Chaparro's second-grade class.



Health Careers Academy benefits from *all that jazz*



Above, Mayor Thomas M. Menino, right, speaks at the "To Your Health Jazzfest" fundraiser while Health Careers Academy Executive Director Al Holland looks on. Right, Health Careers Academy Headmaster Caren Walker and Boston radio personality "Coach" Willie Maye was the master of ceremonies.



BY MEAGHAN CASEY

It was a night of good jazz for a good cause, as nearly 350 guests gathered for the fifth annual Health Careers Academy fundraiser, "To Your Health Jazzfest."

The event, held at Northeastern University's Curry Student Center, raised \$16,000 for Health Careers Academy (HCA) after-school programs, student support services and scholarships. Founded in 1995, HCA is a Horace Mann charter school and college preparatory high school, located on the campus of Northeastern.

"As a charter school, we're required to do our own fundraising each year," said Executive Director Albert Holland. "We send 90 to 95 percent of our graduates on to college each year, and that extra funding helps us give them that extra encouragement and support."

The evening featured jazz and R&B artists, including Ray Greene, Leon Beal, Athene Wilson and Orpheus recording artist Andre Ward. Ward, who attended Berklee College of Music on a music performing scholarship, has gained recognition around the world, from the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland to the Performing Arts Tour in Africa. Yet, here in Boston he is known for more than his chart-climbing albums and musical collaborations. Also a teacher at the Patrick Lyndon K-8

School, Ward epitomizes what the event was all about – a celebrated passion for both music and education.

"We have such great local talent here," said Holland. "Athene is a fantastic vocalist who works at Dana Farber (Cancer Institute), Leon also works for the school department, and of course Andre teaches, but he's had international success. We're very fortunate."

The Jazzfest was co-chaired by Northeastern Vice President for Public Affairs Robert Gittens and Dr. Judy Ann Bigby, medical director of community health programs at Brigham and Women's Hospital and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. The event was attended by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and his wife, Angela, Northeastern President Joseph E. Aoun and Superintendent of Schools Michael G. Contompasis, among others.

"So many people came out to support the school," said Holland. "It was a good feeling to have the mayor, the superintendent and people in the community such as the Rev. Dr. Michael Haynes and (School Committee members) Alfreda Harris and Michele Brooks there. Having them, along with the number of educators, hospital supporters and parents made for a wonderful event."

Greenwood School moves to the head of the class

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Awarded the largest single school-improvement prize in the country, the Sarah Greenwood K-8 School is at the top of its class.

The school was honored with the inaugural EdVestors Payzant School on the Move prize, which highlights the ongoing work of improving urban schools. The prize was named in honor of former Boston Superintendent Dr. Thomas W. Payzant, who retired in June.

The Greenwood School received \$100,000, of which \$80,000 will be used toward school improvements and \$20,000 will be used to support sharing its best practices with other urban schools. The funds were raised through EdVestors – a nonprofit organization aimed to level the playing field for urban schools in their pursuit of private investment.

"We're absolutely thrilled to receive this award," said Principal Isabel Mendez, who has led the Greenwood School for the past 18 years. "These funds will be used to continue the work we've been doing, in

concert with our whole school-improvement plan, to help our students learn and achieve at high levels."

Selected for their accelerated academic achievement in the MCAS exams, approximately 25 schools were invited to apply for the prize last spring. The Greenwood School was chosen as one of three finalists, along with the Dennis C. Haley Elementary School and the Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA). A team of education, business and philanthropic professionals visited each of the three schools, interviewing staff, students and parents, observing classrooms and analyzing teaching and learning practices.

The Greenwood School, which has evolved from an elementary school to a K-8 model, from traditional bilingual instruction to a dual language program, and from substantially separate to inclusive instruction of students with special needs, emerged as the winner. As runners-up, the Haley and BCLA each won \$10,000.

Since 2002, the Greenwood has been able to accelerate its students' performance

at a rate three times faster than the district average in English language arts, and twice as fast as the district average in math, compared to other K-8 schools.

"Over the last four years, each of our three finalists has demonstrated consistent improvements in the quality of educational programming, the depth of parent and community involvement and the results of their students' MCAS scores," said Laura Perille, executive director of EdVestors. "The Sarah Greenwood School demonstrated that its approach to improving performance in English language arts – with a large number of students for whom English is not their first language – is a strategy that can be replicated and embraced by other public schools."

"There was a lot of intensive work from staff, looking at data and curriculum, learning to adapt lessons to advance achievement and spending extra time identifying individual needs," said Mendez. "It was very exciting for staff, students and parents to see how their hard work reached this level of recognition."

In 2005, the Greenwood School was named a Compass School by the Massachusetts Dept. of Education and a Title I Distinguished School by the National Association of State Title I Directors, for both its tremendous academic progress and its outstanding results in closing the achievement gap.



Ed Vestors Award winning school Sarah Greenwood K-8 principal Isabel Mendez and 7th grade classmates.

BPS students win Adams Scholarships in record numbers

BY FRANK FAHEY

Passing the MCAS exams is now a must if students want to graduate from a Massachusetts public high school. Doing well on the tests can have other benefits.

For instance, 899 Boston Public School students have now qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, which provides four years of free tuition to any state college or university in Massachusetts. That number was up from 724 last year; statewide, 16,169 students qualified for the scholarships.

Last September, Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Superintendent Michael G. Contompasis joined Gov. Mitt

Romney, Education Commissioner David Driscoll and Chancellor of Higher Education Patricia Plummer for a press conference at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science. The O'Bryant School was picked because of the increase in the number of students scoring in the top two categories (advanced and proficient) in the MCAS exam.

"We are truly humbled and most proud of all the efforts of both our students and our faculty," said Joel

“Our teachers and administrators work very hard every day preparing our students for the challenges and rigor of college. We are pleased that so many of our students will now also be prepared for some of the costs associated with that college education.”

Michael G. Contompasis
Superintendent

Stembridge, O'Bryant headmaster. "It's terrific that these students will now have the opportunity to attend and graduate from our outstanding public colleges and universities."

"Our teachers and administrators work very hard every day preparing our students for the challenges and rigors of college," said Contompasis. "We are pleased that so many of our students will now also be prepared for some of the costs associated with that college education."

There are 131 students from O'Bryant who have met the three requirements to receive an Adams Scholarship:

- ♦ Scoring in the advanced category in either the mathematics or English language arts section of the 10th grade MCAS test;
- ♦ Scoring in the advanced or proficient level in the other section of the test;
- ♦ Having a combined MCAS score that is in the top 25 percent of their district.

The scholarships provide a waiver of tuition for eight semesters at the University of Massachusetts, seven other state colleges, and 15 community colleges. Students must keep a grade point average of 3.0 and finish in four years to remain eligible for the scholarship. They are also responsible for paying fees and room and board, if applicable.



PRINCIPAL PROFILE



Manning Elementary principal Genteen Lacet Jean-Michel works with student Jamine Velez.

Jean-Michel graduates to principal role at Manning School

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

Jamaica Plain's Manning School received a fresh dose of knowledge, commitment, compassion, and enthusiasm this fall when former elementary school teacher and Boston Principal Fellow graduate Genteen Lacet Jean-Michel assumed the principalship.

Jean-Michel spent 12 years teaching in Boston Public schools, first at the Condon Elementary School teaching second grade and then at the Rev. Dr. Michael E. Haynes Early Education Center in Roxbury, where she taught kindergarten and first grade. She applied for a Boston Principal Fellowship at the Boston School Leadership Institute, now led by Jean-Michel's predecessor at the Manning Casel Walker.

"I love teaching, especially teaching young students to read and write. It's really my passion," said Jean-Michel. "But I've always known I wanted to be a principal, so I decided to go for it and apply to the institute."

Jean-Michel returned to the Condon School for her fellowship year, where she honed her skills as an administrator under the guidance of Principal Ann Garofalo.

"It was a great experience and nice to go back to Condon where I had gotten my first professional experience," said the 34-year-old Jean-Michel.



“The partnerships that have been created over time within the Manning community, between families, teachers, administrators and outside support organizations are amazing.”

Genteen Lacet Jean-Michel
Manning School principal

Like all good leaders, Jean-Michel has a vision for the Manning.

"The partnerships that have been created over time within the Manning community, between families, teachers, administrators and outside support organizations are amazing. These self-built resources are going to be critical to closing the achievement gap, which is my ultimate goal," said Jean-Michel.

Jean-Michel has spent the fall meeting individuals throughout the

Manning community, learning how the school functions from the inside out, and identifying its strengths and weaknesses.

"This is a school that is doing really well. My job is to figure out how we make it do even better," she said. "The main question is 'What do we need to do to change it from really good to great?'"

Toward this end, Jean-Michel is committed to supporting all students, as well as the teachers and parents whose hard work and involvement has helped the Manning achieve its current success.

"I have a lot of respect for children, so making connections with them as individuals is one of the best aspects of being an educator," she said. "Part of my work is to connect what they are doing in their every day lives with what we do in here. There is a purpose to everything we do here and it is important for us to be transparent and clear, so that each child understands that."

As a lifetime resident of Boston and a graduate of Boston Public Schools, Jean-Michel's mission to make the Manning a safe, supportive, and effective community of learning has a personal aspect as well and is definitely an additional motivator.

"We have progress to make, but I live for this kind of challenge," she said.

Boston schools earn \$500,000 Broad Prize

BROAD: from Page 1

money for BPS students. Boston, a finalist for the previous four years, has earned a total of \$1 million in scholarship money since 2002.

“Finally,” said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “The School Committee, Superintendent Michael Contompasis and his staff have been working hard to accelerate the improvement in all of the city’s schools. This award could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the staff in schools and of the students and families who make the Boston Public Schools an exciting place to be and a great place to learn. We are also tremendously grateful for the 11 years of leadership provided by retired Superintendent Thomas Payzant, who helped design and implement the reform plan that guides the BPS today.”

“In Boston, we sometimes have trouble getting the balance right between impatience and patience,” said Payzant. “Many of us are long-time Red Sox fans. When we get it right, it’s called perseverance. And indeed, the fifth time’s the charm, and for that we’re most grateful.”

More than 100 urban districts nationwide were eligible for the Broad (rhymes with road) Prize this year. The four other finalists, selected based on a rigorous review, included Bridgeport (Conn.) Public Schools, Jersey City (NJ) Public Schools, Miami-

Dade County (Fla.) Public Schools and the New York City Dept. of Education.

Teams of educational researchers conducted site visits at each of the five districts, interviewing administrators, conducting focus groups with teachers and principals and observing classrooms. The BPS was unanimously selected for its unwavering focus on teaching and learning, and its strong foundation of partnerships within the city and community.

“In Boston, they’ve got an integrated model for collaborative teaching, increased levels of student achievement, the highest performing school district in the country,” said Eli Broad, founder of the Broad Foundation. “For the citywide partnership between the mayor and the school district, the Boston Public Schools is a model for how accountability and stable leadership translates into very solid results and student performance.”

Broad also credited the district’s work to close the achievement gap and increase advanced placement (AP) participation in mathematics and English. Broad cited a 237 percent jump in AP participation among Hispanic students in the BPS, as well as a 78 percent increase among black students.

“The leadership of the mayor in putting education as a top priority and the school committee in continuing to help guide the education reform agenda in Boston are both major factors in the improvements we’ve seen,” said Contompasis.

Boston makes a super choice

SUPERINTENDENT: from Page 1

students referred to special ed.”

His background indicates that Rivera is the right man for the job. A veteran educator with more than 30 years’ experience, Rivera, 54, is in his second stint as superintendent of Rochester (NY) City School District. Last April, he was named National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. He has drawn widespread praise for improving student achievement and an inclusive leadership style.

Rivera was chosen in late September by a search committee co-chaired by school Committee Chair Dr. Elizabeth Reilinger and Cleve Killingsworth, president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The School Committee unanimously approved the recommendation Oct. 4.

Rivera said the School Committee’s willingness to wait until July for him to start was very important in his decision to seek and, ultimately, accept the job. “I was not ready to leave Rochester right away,” he said. “But if they were willing to wait and I would have a chance to exit gracefully and return to a great city, I decided this was the right move for me.”

Two meetings with Mayor Thomas M. Menino helped convince him. “I found the mayor has an incredibly genuine commitment to public education,” Rivera said.

After the original search process stalled when a Boston newspaper published a story – identifying finalists – that included inaccurate information, according to several people involved with the process, the committee went back to work and focused on Rivera. Some questioned the lack of public input in the process, but Rivera said, though he would have

been happy to participate, it isn’t necessarily the best way to go about it.

“A process that yields 2-3 candidates can potentially be divisive. Factions can develop before someone starts,” he said. “People want what’s best for the students in Boston Public Schools to continue to build on their successes.”

Rivera has had a few opportunities to meet with Boston students, parents, administrators and community members. “I have been so keenly impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement about Boston Public Schools and what has been accomplished and the belief in what can be done in the future,” he said.

Dr. Thomas W. Payzant has been credited with bringing Boston Public Schools to a new level in his 11-year tenure, which culminated with Boston winning the Broad Prize this year as the top urban school system in the country. Michael G. Contompasis has stepped in to guide the system through this transition period and it has not missed a beat. Rivera is aware that the bar has been set high.

“There are very high expectations and in a way that does create an even bigger challenge,” he said. “What are we going to do different that’s going to take student performance to another level? It’s going to mean breaking new ground in some areas.”

Rivera, a Brandeis graduate who earned a master’s and doctorate at Harvard, is up to the task. “We need to do whatever it takes to make Boston the first district to eliminate the achievement gap. I want to see Boston be the place that everyone in the country wants to see how we have made a difference serving all children regardless of their race or economic status. The pressure and expectations are high.”

And he can’t wait to get started.



Grew Elementary student Maria Francisco makes use of the renovated library.

Grew and Grew form a firm partnership

BY FRANK FAHEY

The relationship between Grew and Grew grew and grew.

Now the partnership between Meredith & Grew, one of Boston’s leading commercial real estate firms, and the Henry Grew Elementary School in Hyde Park, which serves 270 students from kindergarten to grade 5, has won an award.

The Boston Business Journal named Meredith & Grew as Education Partner of the Year, one of two firms picked by an independent panel of judges from among 90 nominees. The award was featured in the Sept. 8 edition of the BBJ and presented at its Corporate Philosophy Summit.

The partnership dates back to 1998 when the school, named after the father of one of Meredith & Grew’s founding members, contacted the company to ask for support. Since then, the firm and its employees have contributed time and money to improving the school, working closely with the principal on where and how resources should be spent.

“Obviously, this is an important affiliation for us,” said Melissa Browne, Meredith & Grew senior vice president and director of marketing and research. “This is something all of our employees could rally around.”

Among the list of Meredith & Grew’s investments in the school are:

- ♦ tutoring students in mathematics;
- ♦ serving as guest readers on the school’s annual Community Read Out

Loud Day;

- ♦ refurbishing the school library and the teachers’ lounge;
- ♦ organizing a book drive to provide the library with \$5,000 worth of books
- ♦ donating 15 new IBM computers;
- ♦ sponsoring performances such as puppet shows, ballet, storytellers and author readings.

Grew Principal Ronald Jackson credited Tom Hynes, president of Meredith & Grew, and Browne for their leadership in forging and sustaining the relationship.

“We are very grateful to Meredith & Grew for all they are doing to support our school,” said Jackson. “Certainly their financial support has been a tremendous help, but the hours their employees have spent with our students have an even greater impact in the long run.”

“We’re glad to be able to help the school in whatever way we can,” said Browne. “Having the students around reminds us of what’s really important in life.”

“Partnerships with local companies and organizations are an important means of bringing resources into schools to support learning and teaching,” said Michael G. Contompasis, superintendent of Boston Public Schools. “I congratulate Meredith & Grew and the Grew Elementary School on working together successfully for nearly a decade to improve student achievement.”

AROUND

Boston's

SCHOOLS

Elementary and K-8 Schools

William Blackstone Elementary

On Oct. 17, the Blackstone School celebrated Keeping Kids Warm Day. Six hundred children received a new coat, hat and gloves from Charm Shoppes. This was many months in the making and it is something that the school is tremendously grateful for.

The school celebrated Family Math Night on Nov. 30. The Blackstone's annual holiday concert for families and friends will take place Dec. 12 and 13. The first Holiday Fair for Families is scheduled for the evening of Dec. 19 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Staff and children are preparing special cultural presentations for families, and there will be food and door prizes for guests.

The monthly Parent Alliance Workshop for families will take place on Friday, Dec. 15, from 9-11 a.m. Families can visit and observe their child in their classroom for 30 minutes.

Channing Elementary

Principal Deborah Dancy is a 2006 Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) participant. Dancy traveled to Japan for three weeks where she visited schools in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Shizuoka to learn about the Japanese education system and to share information on the policies and practices of Boston Public Schools.

In November, Consul General of Japan Yoichi Suzuki visited the Channing School.

Clap Elementary

The Clap Elementary School Grade 3-5 students will travel to the Sportsmen's Tennis Club once a week for tennis lessons during the months of December, January and February.

David A. Ellis Elementary

Science specialist Michelle Teleau started the Ellis School Newspaper and would like to congratulate all the students who have been selected for their hard work. The students actually had to fill out an application — just like a real job — and on the application had to submit what position they were applying for and also write a short essay explaining why they would be an ideal candidate for the position. The newspaper had positions for writers, editors, publishers, reporters and photographers. The response was overwhelming. Students were selected based on their essays and then interviewed for their prospective positions. Some even came dressed for their interviews. The newspaper has a staff of 26. It is a work in progress; students are very aware of the work they need to do. The goal is to help students become computer savvy, enjoy writing, and most of all have fun. The group hopes to have its first paper published before the winter break, and then again in March and June.

Rafael Hernández Two-Way Bilingual School

Jennifer Barefoot Smith taught her students from a research boat in the Amvrakikos Gulf in Northwestern Greece this fall. Barefoot Smith, of Jamaica Plain, traveled to Greece on Sept. 19 to join the Earthwatch Institute research expedition Dolphins of the Ionian Sea. She spent nine days assisting scientists with data collection on the migration patterns, feeding habits, and social interactions of bottlenose dolphins in the Amvrakikos Gulf to better understand their role in their ecosystem and to identify the main threats affecting the animals. During her time in Greece, Barefoot Smith kept in contact with students and staff at the Hernández through an interactive Web site, video conference calls, and assignments posted on the Web site and given by the middle school team at home in Boston.

Higginson Elementary

The Higginson Elementary School sponsored a "Salute to Veterans Day" on Nov. 8. This celebration included poetry, songs and a special tribute to Iraq war veterans, as presented by school students. This event was coordinated by Derrick Ciesla and Renee Craigwell, Higginson staff members.

Kenny Elementary

Twenty fifth-grade students spent a week at the Farm for City Kids in Woodstock, Vermont. They harvested vegetables, collected eggs, milked cows, and cleaned the barns. They were accompanied by teachers Cathy Durham and Michele Papile.

In technology, Grade 4 students are using Microsoft PowerPoint and Publisher to develop presentations, Web sites, and brochures for the unit on animal studies.

The Kenny Elementary School Marching Band will perform at the BPS celebration for the Broad Prize on Dec. 15.

McKay K-8

The McKay will host a Multicultural Festival Dec. 11-14, as well as a holiday sing-along on Dec. 20. Grade 8 students will be attending a diversity conference in Waterville, NH in January.

Parent Council meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month.

Richard J. Murphy K-8

A group of about 30 parents, students and teachers, as well as volunteers from ONEin3 Boston turned their attention to the Murphy School as part of the first ever Boston Schools Shine event. Building on success of the Boston Shines program, which has been operating in many neighborhoods across the city, Boston Schools Shine is a new collaboration between the BPS and ONEin3 Boston, a program that serves the one-third of Boston's population that is between the ages of 20 and 34, by connecting young adults with resources related to home buying, business development,

professional networking, and civic engagement. The volunteers cleaned up the Murphy school yard in October.

Patrick O'Hearn Elementary

The O'Hearn School received a \$5,000 gift in memory of Mark Charbonnier by his family and friends. A Dorchester native, Mark was a Massachusetts State Trooper who was killed in the line of duty in 1994. The gift will be used to purchase instructional materials for the kindergarten classroom, as well to as purchase technology for students with disabilities.

Middle Schools

Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School

The Lilla Frederick School just completed its preparation process for the roll out of laptops for all students! Administrators and teachers planned thoughtfully, prepared carefully, and are ready to begin the process of teaching using this powerful tool. The process involved determining what student outcomes should be, what teacher and administrator expectations should be, and what the initiative should look like. Once the bids from several computer companies came in, a team of teachers, parents, and community members selected the MacBook. Teachers have recently received their computers and are busily planning classroom experiences for their students. Student computers are due soon. At the same time, the school is working hard to provide families with computers and wireless access at home through the Mayor's Technology Goes Home and WiFi initiatives. The process has been a collaborative effort - involving many parents, students, teachers, administrators, community members, and elected officials.

Timilty Middle School

Jessica Penchos, an 8th grade science teacher, traveled to Belarus this past summer through a grant from the Earthwatch Institute. She was part of a research team there that collected samples on bogs. The wetland areas are difficult to explore but are essential to understanding global warming. This year, her students are studying global warming and its effects on ecosystems throughout the world and she's using her firsthand experience to help bring the lessons to life.

High Schools and Special Programs

Boston Adult Technical Academy

At Boston Adult Technical Academy, students in the World Issues class are learning about population, education, healthcare and other issues that affect the quality of life in a country

through a collection of photographs. The class is learning about topics such as Gross Domestic Product and fertility rates by studying extra-large photographs of families from around the world, their homes and possessions to make the connection between policy and practice. Students then dig deeper; looking for statistical indicators of nation's development and constructing meaning around their visual observations of the photographs.

Boston Community Leadership Academy

BCLA continues to strengthen its mission of creating scholar leaders by developing a senior capstone course in which all twelfth graders combine history, research, and community service. The new course, entitled Lead, Act, and Change: Youth Empowerment and Possibility in a Democratic Society, will develop students' capacities for leadership, encourage contributions to the community, promote academic scholarship, and stress the BCLA habits of mind. Humanities teacher James Liou designed this exciting new course with support from the Boston Plan for Excellence.

In October, the capstone seniors were treated to four powerful presentations all designed to revolve around case studies of young people in the Boston area — their lives, the forces that shaped their lives, and the ways in which they organized and stood up for themselves. In the spring, students will conduct their own community service learning through participatory action research projects.

Boston International High School

Students at Boston International High School are organizing a trip to Honduras to assist with the building of a family's new home as part of the Habitat for Humanity Home Building Project. Headmaster Oscar Santos says the 15 students will learn valuable life skills while experiencing firsthand the power of leadership through service and commitment to others. Additionally, the lessons they learn in Honduras will be shared with their classmates upon their return, allowing students to become teachers as well. The school is not alone. Since September 2005, 186 BPS students from 12 schools have traveled to 12 countries through exchange, language and other learning programs.

Burke High School

Burke High School Spirit and Bulldog Pride are alive and well as staff and students settle into their temporary new home on Lawrence Avenue. The school is especially grateful to the Mayor's Office, the Boston Police Department and School Department personnel for assisting with the massive move from 60 Washington, which is undergoing a substantial renovation project. The Burke started off the year with a Community Housewarming and the Fall Open House and Potluck Dinner.

Students have been very busy with aca-

demic and extra-curricular activities. Burke High School students will once again participate in the Students Taking Action for Nursing Diversity (STAND) program in which 9 members of the class of 2006 successfully completed the dual enrollment program, and are currently enrolled and attending Bunker Hill Community College full-time. A number of students participated in the National Vocabulary Championship and four students of the class of 2007 are Adams Scholarship recipients. Students are continuously enhancing their skills with a variety of learning experiences including taking on the role of scientists in the study of evolution, demonstrating their knowledge of math vocabulary by building three dimensional models, and writing and publishing "The Burke Banner" our school newspaper. The Burke boys soccer team won the city championship.

Carter Developmental Center

The Carter School held its second annual Sibling Night on Oct. 25. Students' brothers and sisters, from ages 7 to mid-twenties, came to school for an evening of education, information, sharing, pizza and prizes. Everyone had the chance to visit their siblings' classrooms, meet their teachers and see what kind of work they do. After the classroom visits, participants broke down into groups, sharing stories, information and feelings.

Madison Park Technical Vocational High School

Students from the Automotive Technology Program at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School were invited to attend Massachusetts Port Authority's (Massport) Aviation and Transportation Education Expo at Boston Logan International Airport. The students visited interactive displays, a wide range of aircraft exhibits and a variety of informational presentations designed to raise participants' awareness of career opportunities in aviation and other related transportation industries. This annual event is co-sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), United Airlines and Massport and is in its 13th year of providing career awareness opportunities to Boston Public School students.

Media Communications Technology High School

During a four-day urban expedition (Nov. 19-22), humanities teachers Elexia Reyes-McGovern and Marc Antone took 60 juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C. In support of the Humanities Genocide curriculum, students visited the Holocaust Museum and the new Native American Museum in the Smithsonian complex. Students have been learning about the complex issues of genocide, past and present. While in D.C., students also made four college visits, toured the monuments at night, and enjoyed a performance at Ford's Theater.

Boston **DIRECTORY** School

Elementary, Early
Childhood and K-8

Adams Elementary School

Grace Madsen, Principal
165 Webster St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8383

Agassiz Elementary School

Alfredo Nunez, Principal
20 Child St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8198

Alighieri Elementary School

Anthony Valdez, Acting Principal
37 Gove St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8529

Baldwin Early Learning Center

Graciela Hopkins, Principal
121 Corey Rd., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8409

Bates Elementary School

Catherine James, Principal
426 Beech St., Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8064

Beethoven Elementary School

Eileen Nash, Principal
5125 Washington St., W. Roxbury 02132
(617) 635-8149

Blackstone Elementary School

Mildred Ruiz-Allen, Principal
380 Shawmut Ave., Boston 02118
(617) 635-8471

Bradley Elementary School

Anne Kelly, Principal
110 Beachview Rd., E. Boston 02128
(617) 635-8422

Channing Elementary School

Deborah Dancy, Principal
35 Sunnyside St., Hyde Park 02136
(617) 635-8722

Chittick Elementary School

Michelle Burnett-Herndon, Principal
154 Ruskindale Rd., Mattapan 02126
(617) 635-8652

Clap Elementary School

Mary Tormey-Hamilton, Principal
35 Harvest St., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8672

Condon Elementary School

Ann Garofalo, Principal
200 D St., South Boston 02127
(617) 635-8608

Conley Elementary School

Kathleen Armstrong, Principal
450 Poplar St., Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8099

James M. Curley Elementary School

Mirma Vega-Wilson, Principal
40 Pershing Rd., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8239

Dever Elementary School

Guadalupe Guerrero, Principal
325 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8694

Dickerman Elementary School

Jessica Bolt, Principal
206 Magnolia St., Roxbury 02121
(617) 635-8253

East Boston Early Education Center

Olga Frechon, Principal
135 Gove St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-6456

East Zone Early Learning Center

Ben Russell, Acting Principal
370 Columbia Rd., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8604

Eliot Elementary School

Antoinette Brady, Principal
16 Charter St., Boston 02113
(617) 635-8545

Ellis Elementary School

Carlos Gibb, Principal
302 Walnut St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8257

Ellison-Parks Early Education School

Nora Toney, Principal
108 Babson St., Mattapan 02126
(617) 635-7680

Emerson Elementary School

C. Sura O'Mard-Gentle, Principal
6 Shirley St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8507

Everett Elementary School

Nicole Mack, Principal
71 Pleasant St., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8779

Farragut Elementary School

Rosemary Harmon, Principal
10 Fenwood Road, Boston 02115
(617) 635-8450

Fifield Elementary School

Craig Lankhorst, Principal
25 Dunbar Ave., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8618

Gardner Extended Services School

Erica Herman, Principal
30 Athol St., Allston 02134
(617) 635-8365

Garfield Elementary School

Victoria Megias-Batista, Principal
95 Beechcroft St., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8351

Elihu Greenwood Elementary School

Ida Weldon, Principal
612 Metropolitan Ave., Hyde Park, 02136
(617) 635-8665

Sarah Greenwood K-8 School

Isabel Mendez, Principal
189 Glenway St., Dorchester 02121
(617) 635-8710

Grew Elementary School

Ronald Jackson, Principal
40 Gordon Ave., Hyde Park 02136
(617) 635-8715

Guild Elementary School

Simon Ho, Principal
195 Leyden St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8523

Hale Elementary School

Sandra Mitchell-Woods, Principal
51 Cedar St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8205

Haley Elementary School

Ross Wilson, Principal
570 Am. Legion Hgwy Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8169

Hamilton Elementary School

Ruby Ababio-Fernandez, Principal
198 Strathmore Road, Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8388

Harvard/Kent Elementary School

Richard Martin, Principal
50 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown 02129
(617) 635-8358

Haynes Early Education Center

Valerie Gumes, Principal
263 Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-6446

Hennigan Elementary School

Eleanor Kearse-Perry, Principal
200 Heath St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8264

Hernandez K-8 School

Margarita Muniz, Principal
61 School St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8187

Higginson Elementary School

Joy Salesman-Oliver, Principal
160 Harrishof St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8247

Holland Elementary School

Michele O'Connell, Principal
85 Olney St., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8832

Holmes Elementary School

Catherine Constant, Principal
40 School St., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8681

Hurley Elementary School

Marjorie Soto, Principal
70 Worcester St., Boston 02118
(617) 635-8489

Jackson/Mann K-6 School

Joanne Russell, Principal
40 Armington St., Allston 02134
(617) 635-8532

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Eileen Morales, Principal
7 Bolster St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8127

Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School

Marice Diakite, Principal
343 Saratoga St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8466

Kenny Elementary School

Suzanne Federspiel, Principal
19 Oakton Ave., Dorchester 02111
(617) 635-8789

Kilmer Elementary School

Mairead Nolan, Principal
35 Baker St., West Roxbury 02132
(617) 635-8060

Lee Academy Pilot School

Kyle Dodson, Principal
155 Talbot Ave., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-6619

Lee Elementary School

Kimberly Curtis, Acting Principal
155 Talbot Ave., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8687

Lyndon K-8 School

Kate Johnson, Teacher-Coordinator
20 Mt. Vernon St., W. Roxbury 02132
(617) 635-6824

Lyon K-8 School

Deborah Rooney, Principal
50 Beechcroft St., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-7945

Manning Elementary School

Genteen Lacet Jean-Michel, Principal
130 Louders Lane, Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8102

Marshall Elementary School

Teresa Harvey-Jackson, Principal
35 Westville St., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8810

Mason Elementary School

Janet Palmer-Owens, Principal
150 Norfolk Ave., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8405

Mather Elementary School

Alenor Abdal-Khallaq Williams,
Acting Principal
One Parish St., Dorchester 02122
(617) 635-8757

Mattahunt Elementary School

Gloria J. Woods, Principal
100 Hebron St., Mattapan 02126
(617) 635-8792

McKay K-8 School

Almudena Abeyta, Principal
122 Cottage St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8510

McKinley Elementary School

Christine Stella, Program Director
90 Warren Ave., Boston 02116
(617) 635-9978

Mendell Elementary School

Vera Johnson, Principal
164 School St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8234

Mission Hill K-8 School

Ayla Gavins, Principal
67 Alleghany St., Roxbury 02120
(617) 635-6384

Mozart Elementary School

Albert Taylor, Principal
236 Beech St., Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8082

Murphy K-8 School

Mary Russo, Principal
1 Worrell St., Dorchester 02122
(617) 635-8781

O'Donnell Elementary School

Robert Martin, Principal
33 Trenton St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8454

O'Hearn Elementary School

William Henderson, Principal
1669 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester 02122
(617) 635-8725

Ohrenberger Elementary School

Anita Moore, Principal
175 W. Boundary Rd., W. Roxbury 02132
(617) 635-8157

Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School

Yolanda Burnett, Principal
906 Albany St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-1600

Otis Elementary School

Sunny Bianca Astorga,
Acting Principal
218 Marion St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8372

Perkins Elementary School

Barney Brawer, Principal
50 Burke St., South Boston 02127
(617) 635-8601

Perry Elementary School

Mary Jane Dotson, Acting Principal
745 E. Seventh St., S. Boston 02127
(617) 635-8840

Philbrick Elementary School

Stephen K. Zrike, Jr., Principal
40 Philbrick St., Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8069

Quincy Elementary School

Suzanne Lee, Principal
885 Washington St., Boston 02111
(617) 635-8497

Roosevelt Elementary School

Emily Glasgow, Acting Principal
95 Needham Road, Hyde Park 02136
(617) 635-8676

Russell Elementary School

Norman Townsend, Acting Principal
750 Columbia Rd., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8803

Pauline A. Shaw Elementary School

Maudlin Wright, Principal
429 Norfolk St., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8719

Stone Elementary School

Patricia Niles-Randolph, Interim Principal
22 Regina Road, Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8773

Sumner Elementary School

Lourdes Santiago, Principal
15 Basile St., Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8131

Taylor Elementary School

Elie Jean-Louis, Principal
1060 Morton St., Mattapan 02126
(617) 635-8731

Tobin K-8 School

Cheryl Watson-Harris, Principal
40 Smith St., Roxbury 02120
(617) 635-8393

Trotter Elementary School

Corrinna Holloway, Principal
135 Humboldt Ave., Dorchester 02121
(617) 635-8225

Tynan Elementary School

Carlene Shavis, Principal
640 East Fourth St., S. Boston 02127
(617) 635-8641

Boston DIRECTORY School

Warren/Prescott K-8 School

Domenic Amara, Principal
50 School St., Charlestown 02129
(617) 635-8346

West Zone Early Learning Center

Eunice Da Silva Fernandes, Principal
200 Heath St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8275

Winship Elementary School

Antonio Barbosa, Principal
54 Dighton St., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8399

Winthrop Elementary School

Emily Shamieh, Principal
35 Brookford St., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8379

Young Achievers K-8 School

Virginia Chalmers, Principal
25 Walk Hill St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-6804

Middle Schools

Cleveland Middle School

Andy Tuite, Acting Principal
11 Charles St., Dorchester 02122
(617) 635-8631

Mary E. Curley Middle School

Michelle Madera-Cepeda,
Acting Principal
493 Centre St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8176

Dearborn Middle School

Teresa Soares-Pena, Principal
35 Greenville St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8412

Edison Middle School

Elliot Stern, Principal
60 Glenmont Road, Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8436

Edwards Middle School

Michael Sabin, Principal
28 Walker St., Charlestown 02129
(617) 635-8516

Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School

Debra Socia, Principal
270 Columbia Road, Dorchester 02121
(617) 635-1650

Gavin Middle School

Alexander Mathews, Principal
215 Dorchester St., S. Boston 02127
(617) 635-8817

Harbor Pilot Middle School

Amy Marx, Principal
294 Bowdoin St., Dorchester 02122
(617) 635-6365

Irving Middle School

James Watson, Principal
114 Cummins Hghwy, Roslindale 02131
(617) 635-8072

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School

Audrey Leung-Tat, Principal
100 Maxwell St., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8212

Lewenberg Middle School

Myrtilene Mayfield, Principal
20 Outlook Road, Mattapan 02126
(617) 635-8623

Lewis Middle School

Ronald Spratling, Principal
131 Walnut Ave., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8137

McCormack Middle School

Jane King, Principal
315 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester 02125
(617) 635-8657

McKinley Middle School

Joseph Brown, Program Director
50 St. Mary St., Boston 02215
(617) 635-9853

Middle School Academy

Yvonne Vest, Director
2 McLellan St., Dorchester 02121
(617) 635-1534

Mildred Avenue Middle School

Kennietha Jones, Acting Principal
5 Mildred Ave., Mattapan 02126
(617) 635-1645

Rogers Middle School

Andrew Bott, Principal
15 Everett St., Hyde Park 02136
(617) 635-8700

Timilty Middle School

Valeria Lowe-Barehmi, Principal
205 Roxbury St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8109

Umana/Barnes Middle School

Jose Salgado, Principal
312 Border St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-8481

Wilson Middle School

Claudette Mulligan-Gates, Principal
18 Croftland Ave., Dorchester 02124
(617) 635-8827

High Schools and Special Programs

Another Course to College

Gerald Howland, Headmaster
20 Warren St., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8865

Boston Adult Technical Academy

Rachel Bonkovsky, Headmaster
Madison Park Complex
75 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-1540

Boston Arts Academy

Linda Nathan, Co-Headmaster
Carmen Torres, Co-Headmaster
174 Ipswich St., Boston 02215
(617) 635-6470

Boston Community Leadership Acad.

Nicole Bahnam, Headmaster
20 Warren St., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-8937

Boston Day and Evening Academy

Margaret Maccini, Headmaster
20 Kearsarge Ave., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-6789

College Month



Murphy School eighth-graders participated in early-college awareness discussions during the “Get Ready for College” program, facilitated by TERI College Access. The program was part of the district-wide College Month, which also featured college and career fairs, free PSAT tests, “Represent Your Alma Mater Day” and the release of the first BPS Career and College Guide. The guide is available online at <http://boston.k12.ma.us/bps/CollegeGuide.pdf>.

Boston International High School

Oscar Santos, Headmaster
25 Glen Road, Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-9373

Boston Latin Academy

Maria Garcia-Aaronson, Headmaster
205 Townsend St., Boston 02121
(617) 635-9957

Boston Latin School

Cornelia Kelley, Headmaster
78 Ave. Louis Pasteur, Boston 02115
(617) 635-8895

Brighton High School

Toby Romer, Headmaster
25 Warren St., Brighton 02135
(617) 635-9873

Jeremiah Burke High School

Carol Bradley Moore, Headmaster
77 Lawrence Ave., Dorchester 02121
(617) 635-9837

Carter Developmental Center

Marianne Kopaczynski, Principal
396 Northampton St., Boston 02118
(617) 635-9832

Charlestown High School

Michael Fung, Headmaster
240 Medford St., Charlestown 02129
(617) 635-9914

Community Academy

Linda McIntyre, Principal
76 Shirley St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-7734

Dorchester Education Complex

9 Peacevale Road, Dorchester 02124
Academy of Public Service
Zachary Robbins, Headmaster
(617) 635-8910

Noonan Business Academy

John Leonard, Headmaster
(617) 635-9730

TechBoston Academy

Mary Skipper, Chief Education Officer
(617) 635-1615

East Boston High School

Michael Rubin, Headmaster
86 White St., East Boston 02128
(617) 635-9896

English High School

Jose Duarte, Headmaster
144 McBride St., Jamaica Plain 02130
(617) 635-8979

Fenway High School

Peggy Kemp, Headmaster
174 Ipswich St., Boston 02215
(617) 635-9911

Greater Egleston Community High

Julie Coles, Headmaster
3134 Washington St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-6429

Health Careers Academy

Albert D. Holland, Executive Director
Caren Walker, Headmaster
360 Huntington Ave.,
502A Hayden Hall, Boston 02115
(617) 373-8576

Hyde Park Education Complex

655 Metropolitan Ave., Hyde Park 02136
Community Academy of Science and Health

Linda Cabral, Headmaster
(617) 635-8950

Social Justice Academy

Winston Cox, Headmaster
(617) 635-6960

The Engineering Academy

Mweusi Willingham, Headmaster
(617) 635-6425

Madison Park Technical Vocational High

Charles McAfee, Headmaster/Director
75 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-8970/635-9802

Roland Hayes School of Music

George Simpson, Director
(617) 635-8973

Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Jeremiah Ford, Principal
40 Armington St., Allston 02134
(617) 635-8534

McKinley South End Academy

Christine Stella, Program Director
90 Warren Ave., Boston 02116
(617) 635-9976

McKinley Prep High School

Joseph Brown, Program Director
97 Peterborough St. Boston 02215
(617) 635-9907

New Mission High School

Naia Wilson, Headmaster
67 Alleghany St., Roxbury 02120
(617) 635-6437

John D. O'Bryant High School of Mathematics & Science

Joel Stembridge, Headmaster
55 New Dudley St., Roxbury 02119
(617) 635-9932

Josiah Quincy Upper School

Bak Fun Wong, Headmaster
152 Arlington St., Boston 02116
(617) 635-1500

Snowden High School

Gloria Coulter, Headmaster
150 Newbury St., Boston 02116
(617) 635-9989

South Boston Education Complex

95 G St., South Boston 02127
Excel High School
Ligia B. Noriega, Headmaster (617)
635-9870

Monument High School

Jonathan Pizzi, Headmaster
(617) 635-9865

Odyssey High School

Virginia Ordway-Macrina, Headmaster
(617) 635-9860

West Roxbury Education Complex

1205 V.F.W. Parkway, W. Roxbury 02132

Brook Farm Business and Service Career Academy

Edmund Donnelly, Headmaster
(617) 635-6956

Media Communications Technology High School

Sung-Joon Pai, Headmaster
(617) 635-8935

Parkway Academy of Technology and Health

Barbara Ferrer, Headmaster
(617) 635-6732

Urban Science Academy

Rasheed Hakim Meadows,
Headmaster
(617) 635-8930

SPORTS

The Boston Educator

Brighton memoirs

Tigers earn league crown, playoff berth

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Ten years ago, they were forced to play a junior varsity schedule just to keep the program alive. Last year, they won only two games. This year, they are champions.

So goes the improbable journey the Brighton High Tigers took to the Boston South title and their first-ever berth in the MIAA Div. 4 playoffs.

The architect of this gridiron resurrection is Coach James Philip, who has been with the program for 25 years, including the last 11 as head coach. Philip said he was fairly optimistic heading into this season, thanks to a good mix of returning players and new faces.

"I thought we'd be good," the coach said. "We had a lot of returning players, mostly on offense, but we had experienced defensive players as well."

The Tigers rolled through the Boston South with a perfect 5-0 record (7-3



Junior fullback Carl Williams breaks away from a tackler.

PHOTOS: STAN LITCHMAN

overall), outscoring their league opponents by an average of 26 points per game. They were set to take on either West Bridgewater or Marian in the first round of the playoffs, with a Super Bowl berth at stake.

"These kids listen and work well together," said Philip, a Washington, D.C. native who moved to Boston in 1972 and

started teaching in Boston in 1974, the first year of court-ordered desegregation. "They like each other. They pick up their teammates after a mistake."

Leading the way for the Tigers has been senior wingback Dolan Reid, who was third in scoring in Div. 4 with 97 points. Reid has scored in every way imaginable: rush, reception, kickoff return, punt return,

and he's thrown a TD pass for good measure.

Philip said Reid and the other backs have benefited from an improved offensive line, which includes center Dane Daguiar, guards Kyle Nedd and Fidius Pina, tackles Taidge Mitchell and Kareem James, and ends Kariym Azeez and Alan Williams.

Reid leads a cast of six "interchangeable" running backs, Philip said. Manny Boria and Jamil Sanders are the other wingbacks, while Louis Hill, Carl Williams and Renel Jean have all contributed at fullback. Junior quarterback Kameel Lashley is a three-year starter.

"Most of these kids have not grown up with football," Philip said. "There has always been a learning curve as they learn the intricacies of football."

Philip said a large portion of credit for this year's success goes to his assistant coaches: Randolph Abraham, a 2000 Brighton grad who played for him; Gilbert White, a disciplinarian at the school; Jim Unis, a student-teacher who earned a scholarship to play at Boston College before having his career ended by recurring concussions; and William Jones, who played for Brighton in the early 1980s when Philip started coaching.

