

THE LYNN EDUCATOR

A PUBLICATION OF LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vol. 4, No. 2

Summer 2008

TOGETHER WE CAN breathe clean air on Lynn school buses



Gov. Deval Patrick has his hands full at the Callahan School with Giany Francois, 4, at the launch of the MassCleanDiesel: Clean Air for Kids, the Commonwealth's newest initiative aiming to provide healthier school buses by 2010. **Page 2.**

PHOTO: MEAGHAN CASEY



Ngozi Nwaogu is headed to Harvard.

Nigeria to Lynn to Harvard

English grad realizes dream

BY PAUL HALLORAN

If you were ever wondering just how far the reach of Harvard University is, Ngozi Nwaogu will confirm that it is at least as far as Nigeria.

Even before she came to the U.S. in 1995, Nwaogu had not only heard of Harvard, she had already set her sights on attending Harvard. The fact that she was a world away at that time would prove to be a minor detail.

"Harvard is a name that everybody knows, no matter what country you're in," said Nwaogu, a member of the Lynn English Class of 2008 who will realize

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BIOTEACH

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Tools of the Trade

History of Lynn Tech dates back to early 1900s

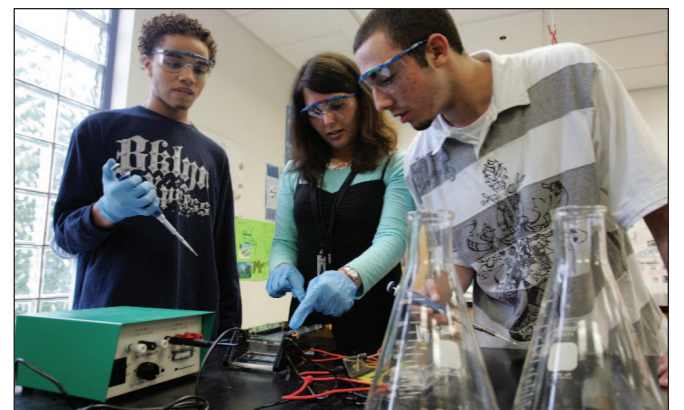
BY RICH FAHEY

Vocational education was born a century ago right here in Boston. But it's a good bet that Frank Parsons, who was educated as an engineer at Cornell but later became known as the father of vocational guidance for his work in Boston from 1905-08 and his seminal book, "Choosing a Vocation," wouldn't recognize his invention today.

At Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, students are almost as likely to be using a computer as a hammer or a wrench. And students in career and technical education schools such as Lynn Tech are increasingly ending up at two- and four-year colleges.

The Lynn Public Schools recognized the value of vocational education not

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Tech students Jonathan Gratini, left, and Anthony Scardina get a lesson in DNA fingerprinting from teacher Banafsheh Salamat.

THE LYNN EDUCATOR

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Positive developments in our schools



Edward J. Clancy Jr.

As we turn the page on another academic year, it is worthwhile to reflect on the countless positive developments in our schools that have been created by our students, teachers, administrators and coaches.

As you will read in this edition of *The Educator*, Lynn students are excelling academically, athletically and vocationally. Our school system is comprised of an incredibly diverse collection of students, yet they have a singular goal: take advantage of the opportunities the schools provide in order to be best prepared for their next step,

whether that be college, work or the military.

Our students benefit from the efforts of a dedicated staff of teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and other support staff. They understand better than most that, outside of parents, they likely have the biggest impact in their students' lives, and they take that responsibility seriously.

In reading through the stories in this excellent publication, one can't help but be inspired by the achievements of our students and teachers. Whether it is an impressive young lady from Lynn

English heading to Harvard, a group of Brickett School students acquiring hands-on knowledge about marine life, or the significant role Lynn Tech (formerly Trade) has played in the history of vocational education in Massachusetts, Lynn Public Schools has a great story to tell.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Educator* and that you have a safe and relaxing summer.

Edward J. "Chip" Clancy Jr. is mayor of Lynn.

We are meeting the challenge in Lynn



Nicholas P. Kostan

The challenges faced by an urban school district have been well documented over the years. For students, teachers and administrators in those districts, there are two options: embrace and accept the challenges, or use them as an excuse for not meeting expectations.

I think it is clear that in Lynn we have chosen the former.

As you read this, our students and teachers are heading home for a well

deserved summer vacation. Everyone in Lynn Public Schools, especially those at Lynn Tech, leaves with a heavy heart after the tragic accidental death of student Shanequa McKenzie on June 9. She and her family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Summer is a time for students and teachers to take a break and recharge their batteries for the next school year, which will be here in 10 short weeks. For our recently graduated seniors, it is a time for

them to prepare for the next step on their journey in life.

We wish them well and we send them on that journey with the knowledge that our schools have prepared them academically, athletically and socially. The rest is up to them. We are confident they will meet the next challenge.

Nicholas P. Kostan is superintendent of schools.



Clearing the air

Gov. Deval Patrick visited the Julia F. Callahan School on June 12 to launch MassCleanDiesel: Clean Air for Kids, the Commonwealth's newest clean-air initiative. It aims to install pollution controls on diesel-powered school buses serving public schools across the state by 2010.

MassCleanDiesel is the nation's first fully-funded statewide program to reduce air pollution from all school buses, and Lynn is the first district to partner with the state.

"I applaud the City of Lynn and its school bus operator, North Reading Transportation Co., for stepping forward as the first to volunteer for this new program," said Patrick. "I urge every other Massachusetts community to answer the call and make this initiative real."

The new program will equip up to 5,500 school buses, positively affecting the 750,000 students that ride buses every day.

Callahan School second-graders, from left, Tayler Varges, Charles MacDonald, Vivan Nguyen, Lois Wonsehleay and Juanita Beabe on a school bus installed with pollution controls.



Computing careers

Tech students learn from grads about employment possibilities

The senior students in the computer technology shop at Lynn Tech were visited on April 17 by representatives of their trade area. An open discussion and question-and-answer session was held concerning industry trends and educational requirements for positions within the computer community.

Speakers included: Joyce Ioannidis, a graduate of the Lynn Tech computer technology program and Wentworth Institute of Technology who is working as a senior software test engineer at Analog Devices; Andres Tejeda, also a graduate of the Lynn Tech computer technology program as well as Northeastern University who is employed as a junior SAP developer at Instrumentations Laboratory; and Daniel Modini, a graduate of Bridgewater State



Jose Baguero and Jorge Gonzales work on their Web page design.

College working as the supervisor of research computers at Tufts University.

Emphasis was placed on continuing education and continued learning. Modini said that Lynn Tech students who are in the

computer technology program are far ahead of students from academic high schools in these courses when they start college.

Tejeda said the co-operative education program at Lynn Tech as well as at Northeastern University gave him a head start over other students when applying for a position. He added that the co-op job he got through Lynn Tech was the same job he held throughout college.

Discussions included the value of a college education, women in the workplace, earnings potential in the computer industry, job security within the industry and the value of the experience gained by attending a vocational program.

After the open discussion with the seniors, the volunteers turned their talents to judging. Three teams from the grade 10

computer technology program presented their designs for a new Lynn Tech Web page. The winning team consisted of Jose Baguero, Jorge Gonzales and Samantha Bragan. The other competitors included Yomaira Perez, Marleni Luna, Bennett Umah, Alejandro Gonzales, Nathalie Diaz, Kimmie Hennessey and Cassandra Pok.

The judges praised all three teams for their technical skill, design talents and the professional presentation of their work.

The seniors involved in the discussion were: Magdalena Candelaria, Alismely Garcia, Cody Howell, Lady Leonardo, Araseli Lopez, Yohan Mejia, Gissell Mendez, Krissy Norris, Yolitsa Paulino, Cynthia Pinto, Erica Rivas, Claudio Rodriguez, Jhocelyn Romero and Nick Ventura.

History of Lynn Tech dates back to early 1900s

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long after Parsons did. The Shoe School provided workers with the skills needed for employment in the city's booming shoe industry in the early part of the 20th century.

An industrial school in the 1930s and 1940s supported students who felt that vocational skills, coupled with a strong academic curriculum, were essential to their future.

Lynn Trade, which opened in 1943, was an all-male school that offered training in printing, drafting, metal fabrication, electronics, machine shop, carpentry and electrical work as the vocational component, with a strong emphasis on

reading, writing and arithmetic on the academic side.

In 1971, Lynn Tech replaced Lynn Trade and was considered a bold investment by the city at the time given that other communities were regionalizing their vocational programs. Today, the school's campus on Neptune Boulevard is 20 acres, containing three buildings with 18 programs open to all 1,100 male and female students.

The main building and annex have been outfitted with state-of-the-art

computers and machinery to keep up with the demands of modern industries. The T O'Connor Field House includes an Olympic-size swimming pool, Jack Barry Gymnasium, weight room and locker rooms.

"For many years, the city offered jobs that paid a decent wage for which you didn't need a lot of formal education," said Gene Gallo, the coordinator for cooperative education at Lynn Tech for the past 20 years, noting the old apprentice program at General Electric or other manufacturing jobs that



Sheila Santiago watches cosmetology teacher Lorraine LeBrun demonstrate styling hair.

no longer exist.

Now, Gallo said, fields such as automotive technology change almost monthly — with hybrids and electric-powered vehicles — and continuing education is a must for instructors and students.

"Each year our automotive teachers attend seminars at local dealerships to keep abreast of new technology," said Gallo. "Our students who are working in their fields as part of our cooperative education program also bring back the knowledge of new technologies with them into the classroom and share them with their fellow students."

Gallo said many Lynn Tech grads now own their own companies and are sending their sons and daughters to the

school, as well as providing co-op jobs to Tech seniors. The school's alumni association is very active and many alumni serve on the advisory boards that help keep school programs up-to-date.

Gallo said every Lynn Tech program is open to both males and females and some females choose automotive technology and some males study cosmetology.

A significant number of Lynn Tech grads are choosing to further their education at two-year or four-year colleges.

Lynn Tech Director James Ridley and Assistant Director Joseph O'Hagen are alumni of Lynn Trade who have returned to help lead Lynn Tech. Caroline Hall is the school's other assistant director.

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“Our students who are working in their fields as part of our cooperative education program also bring back the knowledge of new technologies with them into the classroom and share them with their fellow students.”

Gene Gallo
Coordinator for
Cooperative Education

Leading Breed

New principal takes over at his alma mater

BY GRETCHEN WEBER

New Breed Middle School principal Fred Dupuis has spent most of his life at the school. A long-time teacher and vice principal for more than 30 years, Dupuis began his tenure at Breed as a student at the former Breed Elementary School.

Back then, said Dupuis, he never would have imagined that one day he would be the principal of this school that has grown to more than 1,100 students. But in ninth grade, Dupuis had an industrial arts teacher who became a mentor and set him on the path on which he has remained.

“I’m really excited,” Dupuis said about his new role. “I am very proud of the school and the students and the people I work with, so it’s a great honor to be asked to be principal.”

Dupuis who grew up on Murray Street, began his teaching career at Pickering Junior High in 1976. He soon moved over to Breed as an industrial arts and technology teacher, and was appointed vice principal in 2004.

“He’s a perfect fit for the position,” said Superintendent Nicholas Kostan. “He’s a very dedicated guy, both to the school and the community, and he is a person the faculty, the students, and the parents have deep respect for.

I’ve always known him to make decisions based on what’s in the best interest of the students at Breed Middle School.”

Dupuis said he plans on continuing all the programs and policies that make Breed great, while working with teachers and the community to tackle issues such as school safety, MCAS scores and budget cuts. He harbors a dream of restoring the elective courses, such as home economics, that have been lost over the decades since he was a student, but cites Breed’s music and arts programs as examples of the amazing accomplishments that can happen when a faculty is as dedicated as Breed’s.

“For years, people have always asked how Breed continues to be so great,” said Dupuis. “And I always say that nine times out of 10 it is because a member of the faculty has stepped up to give of their time and effort, for which they are often not compensated. We have a tremendous faculty. I’d like to see the school continue to be known for this.”

Dupuis knows he has a big job ahead of him and pledged to work hard to achieve even more success for the school. The real credit, however, he said, will go to the dedicated teachers and the hardworking students and their parents.

“My job is made easier by all the great people I have working with me,” said Dupuis. “They are what makes Breed such a great place.”

One of those great people is former Breed industrial arts teacher, Michael Blatsos, the man who inspired Dupuis to become a teacher. Retired now, Blatsos continues to give his time to the Breed community by working with students in the school greenhouse several times per week.



Principal Fred Dupuis spends some time with Breed students.

Leadership is elementary for these three

BY RICH FAHEY

For one new Lynn elementary school principal, it’s a chance to steer her own ship. For a second, it’s exchanging one administrative position for another. For a third, it’s a chance to come home.

The Lynn School Committee approved the hiring of three new elementary school principals in late May and approved the transfer of two others to complete administrative assignments on the elementary school level for the upcoming school year.

Brian Fay, the principal at Burke Elementary School in Peabody for the last four years, will return to Lynn as principal of Cobbett School.

Assistant Director of Language Support Michael Molnar, a veteran of 14 years as a teacher and administrator, will lead the Harrington School.

Bernadette Stamm, an elementary school teacher at the Callahan School for the past 26 years, will take over as principal at the Drewicz School. She served as

acting principal at the Callahan during the 2006-07 school year, when Principal Edward Turmenne took a leave.

In addition, Superintendent of Schools Nicholas Kostan transferred Joseph Cole from the Washington Community School, which is closing at the end of the school year, to the Hood School, and Harrington Principal Jane Franklin to the vacant slot at the Sisson

School.

Fay is a graduate of Classical High School and has three teenage sons in the Lynn schools.

“My decision to leave the Burke School has been a difficult one,” Fay said. “However, it is the experiences and memories that I will take with me when I begin my new position at Cobbett.”

Molnar said his language skills will come in handy at the

Harrington School, where students speak 25 different languages and there is a large English-as-a-second-language population. He has the advantage of having previously worked as a CIT (curriculum and instruction teacher) at Harrington and has already met with school staff to talk about ideas for next year.

“It will be a challenge but I’m looking forward to it,” said Molnar,

a Connecticut native who came to Massachusetts to attend Gordon College in Wenham.

For the past four years, he has been developing strategies for Lynn teachers to use when teaching students who are learning English as they also learn subject matter. “The state has very specific strategies on so-called sheltered instruction for English language learners,” he said.

Stamm, a 38-year veteran of Lynn Public Schools, said she is “thrilled” to be taking over at Drewicz. “I feel I’ve been a mentor and a leader since day one and now I get a chance to do it officially,” she said.

The long hours Stamm expects to be putting in will be no problem. “I love getting involved in everything going on at a school,” said Stamm, who has introduced herself to the staff at the Drewicz.

“The most important thing is to get every child and teacher on the same page when it comes to achieving AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) on the MCAS test,” Stamm said. “I’d like for the Drewicz to be No. 1.”



Three new elementary school principals are set to start their new jobs this upcoming school year: from left, Brian Fay at Cobbett; Michael Molnar at Harrington; and Bernadette Stamm at Drewicz.

No stranger to safety

Lynn Woods teacher instills sense of awareness in her students

BY GRETCHEN WEBER

Lynn Woods kindergarten teacher Pamela Laramie knows that for children going off to school for the first time, spending the day with a “stranger” might be scary. With that in mind, she works hard to make her students feel comfortable right from day one, instilling in her students a love of learning and trust in the school community.

But with more than 2,000 children reported missing every day, according to federal statistics, teaching young children how to stay safe around strangers is crucial. In Laramie’s classroom, lessons about how to avoid dangerous situations are a top priority.

In fact, Laramie’s innovative approach to teaching her students about “stranger danger” earned her a first-prize recognition in the Honeywell Got 2B Safe competition, along with a \$500 gift certificate to Staples.

“I believe it’s important to teach kindergarteners stranger safety because I am unsure what background knowledge they come to school with,” said Laramie. “I want to make sure that they are aware of themselves, their rights, and most importantly, their safety at school, at home and out in the community.”

Going on the principle that children retain 80 percent of what they learn when they are doing it, Laramie uses role-playing as a way to engage her students. She puts on a white hat that signifies she is a “stranger” and the students act out scenarios. Laramie makes sure that all students have a chance to participate in the role-plays so that they will know what to do should an actual situation arise.

By using the “stranger hat” as a prop, Laramie is able to check back with her students days and weeks after each lesson to assess what they have retained.

“Role playing is a great way for youngsters to express themselves and have a sense of control over their learning,” Laramie wrote in her winning essay.

The essay competition is based on incorporating Got 2B Safe’s four rules of safety into classroom lessons: First,

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“I want to make sure that they [students] are aware of themselves, their rights, and most importantly, their safety at school, at home and out in the community.”

Pamela Laramie
Lynn Woods teacher

children should always check with parents or guardians before accepting gifts, rides, or invitations from anyone. Second, never go anywhere alone. Third, children should know they have the right to say “no” to unwelcome touching. Fourth, children should tell a trusted adult about anything that makes them uncomfortable.

Laramie said that she has always talked informally about stranger safety in the classroom, but that writing this essay inspired her to craft more formal lessons on the topic. The results have been positive.

“My students have been very receptive to my lessons so far,” she said. “They are very interested and love to role play. They are excited and anxious to participate and share what, if anything, they know.”

Laramie has worked in the Lynn schools in various roles for the last 15 years. This is her first year teaching kindergarten at Lynn Woods.

“Pam exemplifies the term ‘hard work,’” said Lynn Woods principal Ellen Fritz. “She’s a very talented teacher who works tirelessly every day building strong foundations. For example, her safety lessons focus on helping students to think and make good choices. This type of preparation for all students is critical.”



Lynn Woods teacher Pam Laramie wears her white “stranger hat” with her kindergarten class.



Literacy lives in Lynn



Community leaders share their love of reading with Harrington students

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Equipped with stories, teachers dressed up as Mary Poppins, Little Red Riding Hood and Fancy Nancy joined the likes of former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, new Mass. Commissioner of Education Dr. Mitchell Chester and local business and community leaders for the annual Harrington Reads Day.

The guests delighted Harrington students with literary and personal tales.

Dukakis, the Democratic presidential nominee in 1988, gave students a quick lesson in Spanish and Greek and shared with them his family history.

"My parents were immigrants from Greece," he said. "My dad settled in Lowell at age 15 and my mom came to Haverhill when she was 9. They were really unusual. My dad couldn't speak a word of English and didn't have a penny in his pocket but he went on to become a successful doctor. My mom was the first woman in the family to go to college."

Chester, who most recently served as the deputy for the Ohio Public Schools, was sworn into office on May 19. His visit to the Harrington School on May 30 was a special one.

"It was my second week on the job and my fourth or fifth school visit," said Chester. "I was very impressed with the third grade class that I read to. The students were engaged and attentive. For me, going to the schools is so important in terms of getting to know the community, the students, the teachers and administrators and getting a chance to talk to them first-hand."

The community reading day has become a popular event, celebrating reading and literacy.

"It's a positive modeling experience for our students to witness firsthand that their community leaders value books and reading," said Harrington library media specialist Carole Shutzer, who has organized the event for the past five years.

Students and teachers are also encouraged to dress up as their favorite literary characters.



Clockwise from top: former Gov. Michael S. Dukakis reads to students during the annual Harrington Reads event in May; newly appointed Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester reads to students; Chester greets student Kseniga Synkevych with Lynn deputy superintendent Dr. Catherine Latham.



Clockwise from top: Superintendent Nicholas Kostan reads to second-graders at Harrington School; Deputy Police Chief Kevin Coppinger interacts with students during the Harrington Reads event; Harrington technology teacher Kathy Aiello ("Mary Poppins") joins second-grade students.

Capitol gains

Connery teacher convinces Congress to back kidney bill

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

It is not unusual for teachers and students to visit Washington, D.C. for field trips at this time of year, but when Connery School teacher Jennifer Allen went to the nation's capital in late May, she was on important business.

Allen, a fifth-grade teacher at Connery, traveled to Washington May 21-22 with Bill Pedreira to lobby Massachusetts congressmen on behalf of a bill supported by the National Kidney Foundation. The bill – the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act – is an important piece of legislation designed to provide funding for pre-dialysis education for all Medicare patients and to train and certify more dialysis technicians. It is attached to a larger Medicare bill.

After arriving in Washington, Allen and Pedreira spent a day in training with staff from the National Kidney Foundation during which they learned about the bill's details and went over their schedule for their day on Capitol Hill.

On Capitol Hill, Allen and Pedreira met with staff from Sen. John Kerry's office, as well as staff from the offices of Rep. John Tierney (6th District), Rep. Edward Markey (7th District) and Rep. Richard Neal (2nd District). In each meeting Allen and Pedreira had approximately 30 minutes to explain why each congressman should support the bill, recounting the tremendous impact dialysis and kidney care has had on each of their lives.

"It was so incredible to be in these offices, speaking with staffers, and getting our message across," said Allen. "We were very well received, which was gratifying. When we left the Capitol there were 148 representatives on board, and since our visit Rep. Markey has decided to co-sponsor the bill, which is great."

Allen became involved with the National Kidney Foundation at age 17, when doctors diagnosed her with chronic kidney disease. Since that diagnosis she has received two kidney transplants and is currently on a home dialysis method called peritoneal dialysis that requires a nine-hour treatment each night.

According to the Kidney Care Council, "The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act seeks to

improve educational services and establish a patient-center continuous quality improvement initiative. Patient education is critically important to ensuring a high quality of life for patients. This bill creates public and patient education initiatives to increase awareness about Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) as well as other initiatives to help CKD patients learn self-management skills to slow the progression of their disease."

The bill was originally introduced in the 2007 legislative session, but did not pass. It has since been reintroduced.



Connery fifth-grade teacher Jennifer Allen met with congressional staff in May.



Megan Forti with Lynn English Latin teacher Michael Haddad.

Perfectus! Lynn English student aces National Latin Exam

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

The Latin word for perfect has a memorable ring to Lynn English scholar Megan Forti. As a sophomore, Forti attained a *perfectus* score of 40 on the Level II National Latin Exam.

The nationwide exam tests students' knowledge of Latin grammar, and the history, culture and mythology of the Ancient Roman Era. It consists of 40 multiple choice questions and an essay portion.

"A perfect score is very rare," said Michael Haddad, Latin teacher at Lynn English. Haddad also earned a perfect score on the exam in his sophomore year at Boston College High School. "In the five years that I've been here, we've had gold medalists – 38 or 39 out of 40 – but never a perfect score."

Forti, also a French scholar, began learning Latin freshman year. While many high schools no longer offer Latin courses, the language has increased in popularity at Lynn English. The department recently hired its second Latin teacher.

"The program has grown exponentially," said Haddad. "We have close to 200 Latin students now."

Haddad, who earned his bachelor's degree in Ancient Greek and Latin from Boston University, praises the academic and cultural values of the classic language.

"Latin increases your vocabulary and helps to improve English

grammar," said Haddad. "In law or medicine, many of the terms are still in Latin. Plus, the culture and history of the Romans and Greeks are still such an influence today. If you don't know your history, you're doomed to repeat it."

In his classes, Haddad uses a hands-on approach to engage his students. Every student also takes on a Latin name from the gods.

"I think the biggest thing is passion," said Haddad. "If you have passion for the material, they're going to get excited. I also try to get them out of a routine, whether it's sitting in circles instead of rows or playing a game."

"The class is enjoyable," said Forti. "The mythology is interesting, but I find the grammar to be fun, too."

Forti, born and raised in Lynn, also serves as class president and is a member of the French Club, soccer team and winter track team. For the past two years, she has been named a Northeastern Conference girls soccer All-Star.

"It's rare to find a student so well-rounded, yet still so grounded," said Haddad. "Megan is both."

In addition to Forti, 40 Lynn English students were given special recognition for their high achievement on this year's Latin exam, at levels I through III. Prizes included nine gold medals and four silver medals, as well as magna cum laude and cum laude certificates.

Peace among peers

Mediation program helps Classical students settle differences

BY GRETCHEN WEBER

An innovative and effective program at Lynn's Classical High School is empowering students to take the lead in resolving disputes peacefully among themselves.

The peer mediation program, now in its 14th year at Classical, takes conflict resolution beyond punishment by training students to get to the root of problems among their peers. By working to understand why conflicts happen, these peer mediators are discovering how to prevent them in the future.

"It's a very valuable tool we have here at the high school," said Classical vice principal Gene Constantino. "We've had a lot of successful mediations over the years, and they help prevent a lot of fights."

All three Lynn public high schools have peer mediation programs, which focus on conflict resolution and conflict prevention. At Classical, there are 25 student mediators tackling issues such as rumors, physical fighting, gossip, bullying, theft, harassment,

and recently, cyber-bullying. Mediators are trained to sit down with classmates who are in a conflict, and, as an impartial third-party, help them come up with a strategy for effectively resolving that conflict. More than 70 peer mediations have taken place at Classical this year with a 90 percent success rate.

"The mediators are not finding the solutions to conflicts, but they are instead helping the participants come up with their own solutions," said Miriam Markowitz, Classical's peer mediation coordinator.

Frances Mathieu is a junior at Classical in his second year as a peer mediator. He said that one reason the program

is so effective is because it allows students to confront one another in private, without the peer pressure of having to act a certain way in front of their friends. By providing a unique adult-free safety zone, kids can "put down their shields" and open up without feeling

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“The mediators are not finding the solutions to conflicts, but they are instead helping the participants come up with their own solutions.”
Miriam Markowitz
Peer mediation coordinator



Lynn Classical peer mediators Sararith Roeng, seated, and Chris Lazcano.

interrogated or like they are already "tagged as guilty."

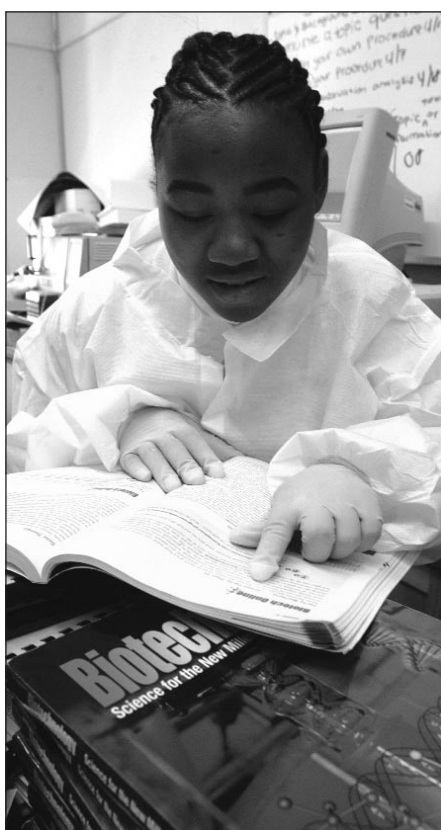
"A jock confronting another kid would be more likely to fight to keep a reputation of being tough or athletic," he said. "The mediation program removes those pressures. It provides a safer environment for students in which they are more open to talk in order to get help instead of resorting to other means of interactions."

Markowitz describes the role of mediator as like that of a detective. The mediators work to discover what is really going on in a given situation by asking questions, listening carefully, and remaining neutral. This way, they are able to identify miscommunication,

which often plays a role in the student conflicts.

"You get to know a lot of kids and understand them," said Mathieu. "It's like when you first pick up a book and simply look at the cover; you don't really know what it's about yet. It's not until we sit down with these kids and listen to everything that they have to say, do we really understand what's going on. It's pretty cool."

The selection process for Classical's peer mediators is rigorous. This year Markowitz sifted through 130 applications before narrowing the pool to 60 for interviews and then finally selecting 15 students as new peer mediators.



Lynn English High School biotechnology student Shiba Kibirige.

BioTeach

Biotechnology pilot program a success at Lynn English

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Building BioScience literacy, one school at a time.

That's the motto of BioTeach — a program developed by the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd) that helps students gain a greater understanding of biotechnology science, research and products. The program aims to enable every public high school in Massachusetts to teach biotechnology and to engage high school students with hands-on lab experiences that inspire scientific curiosity.

"This industry was created by very bright people, driving the local economy and helping humankind," said Robert K. Coughlin, President of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, which is affiliated with MassBioEd. "To secure our role as the super-cluster in biotechnology, we need to continue to build an educated workforce."

In Lynn, students at English High School completed their first year of BioTeach. The full-year pilot biotechnology course was offered to students who had completed a prerequisite of biology and chemistry.

"We were the pilot group, the biotech pioneers," said student Shiba Kibirige. "I enjoyed the experimenting and the hands-on work. We had fun while learning, which is a good method of teaching."

The course, developed in cooperation with MassBioEd and North Shore Community College (NSCC), combines hands-on lab work with seminars designed to provide theory and background for techniques and applications basic to the biotechnology industry.

"There's quite a demand right now for biotechnicians," said English High science chair James Connick. "In offering this course, we'll hopefully be sparking an interest among the students and setting them up for future career paths."

Kibirige, born and raised in Africa, aspires to be a doctor. "I'll be able to apply some of these concepts later on," she said.

"Most students are hands-on learners," said Robert Ross, director of BioTeach. "If we can bring reality into the classroom through lab experiments, they can get a real sense of what they can do in the future."

BioTeach was launched in 2005. To date, 113 schools have been awarded almost \$1 million in grants, receiving professional development training and equipment. More than 300 teachers have received biotech lab training and more than 20,000 students have enrolled in a biotech course. Lynn English was awarded a grant in 2006.

The idea to implement the course in Lynn came from John Olson, president of the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce.

Olson and Pat Abbott, head of Venture Forward — a consulting firm that performs business functions for biotech startups — have been active in seeking out donations in equipment and funding from area biotech companies, and were generous in their own contributions. In efforts to jumpstart the program, Alexandria Equities donated more than \$100,000 in supplies, equipment and furniture. Other donors included Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Atlantic Lab Equipment, Agion Technologies, Millipore Corporation, Community Lab Biogen and Cell Signaling.

SCHOOL LYNN DIRECTORY

Elementary schools

Aborn

Anne Graul, Principal
409 Eastern Ave., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7320

Brickett Elementary

Debra Ruggiero, Principal
123 Lewis St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7333

Julia F. Callahan

Edward Turmenne, Principal
200 O'Callaghan Way, Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7340

Cobbet K-8

Linda Lord, Principal
40 Franklin St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7341

William P. Connery

Patricia Riley, Principal
50 Elm St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7344

Drewicz Elementary

James Cole, Principal
34 Hood St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7350

William R. Fallon

Stanley Serwacki, Principal
100 Robinson St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7370

Robert L. Ford

Claire Crane, Principal
49 Hollingsworth St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7375

E. J. Harrington

Jane C. Franklin, Principal
21 Dexter St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7380

Hood

Paula Akiba, Principal
24 Oakwood Ave., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7390

Ingalls

Kimberlee Powers, Principal
1 Collins Street Terr., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7400

Lincoln-Thomson

Helen Mihos, Principal
115 Gardiner St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7460

Lynn Woods

Ellen Fritz, Principal
31 Trevett Ave, Lynn, MA 01904
(781) 477-7433

Sewell-Anderson

Patricia A. Mallett, Principal
25 Ontario St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7444

Capt William G. Shoemaker

Linda Mann, Principal
26 Regina Road, Lynn, MA 01904
(781) 477-7450

Edward A. Sisson

Inez Accursio, Acting Principal
58 Conomo Ave., Lynn, MA 01904
(781) 477-7455

Tracy

Mary Dill, Principal
35 Walnut St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7466

Washington Community Magnet

Joseph Cole, Principal
58 Blossom St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7470

Middle schools

Breed

Fred Dupuis, Principal
90 O'Callaghan Way, Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7330

Thurgood Marshall

Dr. Richard Cowdell, Principal
19 Porter St. Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7360

Pickering

Robert Murphy, Principal
70 Conomo Ave, Lynn, MA 01904
(781) 477-7440

High schools/Alternative

Career Development Center

William Newell, Acting Principal
33 North Common St. Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 268-3000

Classical High

Warren White, Principal
235 O'Callaghan Way, Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7404

Lynn Alternative High

Maureen Horgan, Principal
20 Wheeler St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 593-7155

Lynn English High

Andrew Fila, Principal
50 Goodridge Street, Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7366

Lynn Voc Tech Institute

James Ridley, Director
80 Neptune Blvd, Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7420

MAST

Maura Durgin-Scully, Lead Teacher
1 Munroe St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7339

LEEP Evening Program

Karen Twomey, Director
50 Goodridge St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7361

Welcoming Alternative School

Nancy Conway, Principal
176 Franklin St., Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 477-7401

Welcoming Middle

Maureen Horgan, Principal
20 Wheeler St., Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 477-7220

Brickett students learn about life in the sea

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

Over the past several weeks many students at the Brickett School have ventured beyond their classrooms and traveled to Nahant's rocky coast to learn about the unique habitat and the rich sea life that calls the coast home. Students have done this through a program developed by the Northeastern University

Marine Lab in Nahant and supported by the General Electric Corporation, through funding and volunteer staff.

In the program, educators and marine biologists from the Northeastern Marine Lab introduced students at all grade levels to the richness of the region's rocky coastal habitat over four individual sessions. After learning about the habitat and some of its inhabitants, students at all grade levels had the opportunity to handle and examine tide pool organisms, such as sea stars and crabs, brought by Northeastern staff to the Brickett School.

In subsequent sessions, students in upper grade levels traveled to Nahant to tour the lab and get hands-on experience in the lab and the tide pools just outside the Nahant laboratory. At the lab students in Sheila O'Neil's fifth-grade class identified organisms using a microscope, completed scientific drawings of a larger organism, viewed a variety of skeletons, including a dolphin skeleton staff were reassembling, and studied and collected seaweed to use in a seaweed press.

"This has been an incredible educational experience for these students," said O'Neil. "They've had the



Fourth-grader Willem Wonsang searches for marine specimen at the Nahant Marine Lab.

chance to explore and study in-depth a resource we have right here in Lynn. Some of the students are looking forward to doing this over the summer at Lynn Beach."

Back in the classroom, O'Neil's students are creating a bulletin board of the rocky coastal habitat that highlights its important features and displays information about the organisms that call it home. Each student is also creating

a brochure that highlights important information and describes some of the experiences.

Although Brickett's youngest students did not travel to the Marine lab, they were still inspired by the tide pool creatures lab staff brought to them in large buckets.

"The kids love this program and the staff and volunteers," said first-grade teacher Stacy Welch. "Some of my students brought in shells and seaweed they had collected over the weekend to show to the marine biologists. They are just so into this stuff and the whole program has been such a great opportunity for them.

"Around here," Welch continued, "we take the beach for granted. This program has given everyone a chance to pay closer attention to our surroundings and to look at them in detail."

Over the summer the school will be installing a salt-water tank in the lobby, and Northeastern Marine Lab staff will train Brickett teachers and students to care for the organisms living there.

"This program has been wonderful for all Brickett's students," said Principal Deb Ruggiero.

Elementary schools

Fallon

Fallon had a busy month in April with a one-woman performance by Historical Perspectives on the life of Marie Curie. Grades K-3 learned some Latin dances in a workshop that was partially paid for through a grant. Grade 5 had a field trip to Boston with a guided walking tour provided through Histrionic Academy. Grade 3 toured the State House and had a meeting with state Sen. Thomas McGee.

Lynn Woods

Lynn Woods had a grand drama production call "Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood." The cast, crew, parents and teachers worked for months and the show was excellent.

Mrs. Moore, a grandmother of students at Lynn Woods, was involved in the play production, as well as the recent Shoemaker play. She also directed an annual musical review at Grace United Methodist Church in Wyoma Square that featured many area students and parents.

Ford

All eighth-grade students were able to participate in a rocketry lesson with Rick Varner, their Aerospace



Educational Specialist from NASA. Varner prepared a terrific lesson where the students had to design a paper rocket, following a specific set of instructions. Upon completion of the rockets, they went outside and tested them for lift, thrust and drag. Students presented their findings to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

Sisson

The Quartet of Happiness, a jazz group, visited the school on May 30. The event was arranged by music teacher Julie Carroll. The students listened to various jazz songs to prepare for the visit.

Middle schools

Breed

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded a \$5,000 Toolbox for Education grant to Breed Middle School for a project joining families, teachers, and students to build easels for classroom use.

Breed Technology/Engineering Education teachers Dave Angelli, Ed Flynn, Mike Quinn and Bill Shurtleff worked with students in their wood manufacturing class to construct kits for teachers and families to assemble and place in the classroom. Easels were the most requested material from teachers at Breed but the cost prevented Breed from ordering them for all teachers. Through the generosity of this grant, each teacher now has an easel for instructional use.

High schools

Lynn English

English sponsored its annual poetry contest under the guidance of poetry chairs Shannon Gardner and Carol Conway. Each April, National Poetry Month, students are encouraged to submit their original poems to be read aloud and judged according to content, delivery and creativity.

In the poems that impressed the judges most, students took on serious issues. First prize went to Jason Diamond, who won \$100 for his poem "To Be a Hero" about the courage of soldiers. Joshua Asequia wrote about graduating and leaving home in "Who We Are," which won second prize. Third-prize winner Jessica Morillo focused on school bullying.

Chemistry carries Classical to first softball title in 26 years



Hannah Byrne had a great freshman year.



Afton Dean celebrates after scoring a run.

SOFTBALL: from back page

The fate of any softball teams starts with the person in the circle and the Rams cast their lot this year with Jenny Garrity, a sophomore who had excelled in Babe Ruth but was unproven at the varsity level, especially with the mound being moved from 40 to 43 feet this year. “A lot was put on Jenny,” said Stevens.

Garrity had the unenviable task of replacing ironwoman Melissa McLaughlin, who pitched through a variety of injuries as a senior last year. Garrity delivered in a big way, pitching almost every inning for the Lady Rams while compiling a 15-7 record with a 2.55 ERA and 101 strikeouts in 140 innings.

“Jenny works real hard at it year-round,” Warren said. “There isn’t a camp or a clinic she hasn’t gone to. Pitching was a big question for us and Jenny stepped up and did a tremendous job.”

The other big question mark was on defense, with three new starters in the infield: Stevens at second, Kristen Dean at first and freshman Hannah Byrne at third. Dean actually got a good amount of playing time last year before missing half the season with pneumonia. Stevens played a little, while Byrne was fresh out of 13-year-old Babe Ruth.

Those who are familiar with Byrne’s well-beyond-her-years ability were not surprised to see her step in and make an impact right away. Byrne hit .404 with 16 RBI and played third base as you would expect a shortstop-type player would.

Warren credits an annual pre-season trip to Cape Cod that includes a slew of scrimmages with playing a key role in Classical’s cohesiveness.

“We do a lot of things together off the field and that goes a long way,” he said. “This is the best bunch of kids to be around. As players, as students and as people, you couldn’t ask for a better group.”

Though Classical may have been a darkhorse at best in the Northeastern Conference North division to start the season, once the Lady Rams got rolling, Warren wanted to make sure they knew what they could accomplish. So prior to the first meeting with Peabody, the coach gave each player an envelope. Inside every one was a piece of paper with the number 26 on it

It took them awhile, but eventually the players figured it out. It had been 26 years since a Classical softball team had won a championship. The message was clear: Win this game and everybody has to chase you the rest of the way.

The motivation worked as Classical won 3-1 and stayed atop the NEC North throughout the year. When Peabody got revenge in the rematch, it looked as if the Lady Rams would have to share the



Classical’s Amanda Stevens gets an out at second base.

crown, but Peabody lost its final game giving Classical the title outright.

“I don’t think anybody expected us to be NEC champs and go 14-6 (in the regular season),” said Afton Dean, who will play at Merrimack next year. “That’s a huge accomplishment.”

The Lady Rams went into the MIAA tournament as the No. 8 seed in Div. 1 North and drew NEC rival Danvers in the first round. Afton Dean went 3-for-4, while Courtney Sullivan was 2-for-3 and Barker had a big two-run single in the first inning to lead the Lady Rams to a 6-3 win. Garrity allowed seven hits, walked two and struck out six in the win.

The magical ride came to an end in the quarterfinals when Acton-Boxborough eliminated Classical from the tournament for the second year in a row, 8-3. Kristen Dean went 2-for-2 with two runs scored while Byrne, Garrity and Erin McCall all knocked in runs.

Naturally, there were some tears shed, but not just because the season was suddenly over. You got the feeling that the most upsetting aspect to the defeat was the realization that these players had played together for the last time.

Based on all they accomplished, the way they did it and, most importantly, the type of young women they are, some day they will look back on them as tears of joy.

English student to fulfill dream of attending Harvard

HARVARD: from Page 1

her dream and start classes at Harvard in the fall.

With her father, Victor, already here, Nwaogu came to the U. S. with her mother, Grace, at the age of five. Knowing only enough English to “communicate a little,” she attended the Ford School, where she would stay from kindergarten through grade 8, before going to English.

Nwaogu’s sister, Ozi, and brother, Victor Jr., ages 11 and 10, respectively, were born here. Their father, Victor, died in 2000.

At English, Nwaogu not only excelled in the classroom, earning a 4.26 GPA and a No. 5 ranking in the senior class, she played basketball four years, served as editor of the yearbook, was involved with student government and peer mediation, worked as an

anchor on the school news, was a member of the National Honor Society and played in the marching, jazz and concert bands.

“With all the things she was doing, I don’t know how she kept all those balls in the air,” said English guidance counselor Karen Twomey. “The personal drive she had put her head and shoulders above the rest.”

Nwaogu, who will be joined at Harvard by classmate Hunter Richard as well as Alex Watler and Evan D’Avolio from the Classical High Class of 2008 and Chris Liberge from St. Mary’s, said she loved everything she was involved in at English and that she did not have a favorite activity. Because of all the opportunities the school offered, she feels ready to sit side by side with some of the world’s best students.

“Lynn English prepared me (for Harvard) in every aspect,” she said. “There are a lot of

challenging courses, honors and AP. There are so many extracurricular activities.

Academically and in every other way, Lynn English helped me get ready for college.”

Nwaogu had a cousin graduate from Harvard about seven years ago and she has another cousin who is a junior there now. There was no doubt in her mind she would follow in their footsteps.

“All I heard about was Harvard,” she said. “I told myself I was going to go to Harvard. I always had the feeling I would get there no matter what it took.”

After hearing from six of the seven colleges she applied to – and getting in to all of them – Nwaogu was still waiting to hear from one. You can guess which. She returned from a freshman orientation weekend at New York University, her second choice, thinking she did not get into Harvard, since she had not

received an e-mail from the admissions office.

“I was convinced I didn’t make it,” she said, but then she saw a big package had arrived from zip code 02138 and she knew it was not a rejection letter. “My mom and I started jumping up and down and screaming,” said Nwaogu, who recently won an Agganis Foundation/Michael J. Agganis Scholarship. “We called my grandmother in Nigeria to give her the good news.”

Twomey calls the Ngozi Nwaogu story a classic example of the “eyes-on-the-prize theory.” And now that the prize has been obtained, Nwaogu is not the only winner, according to her guidance counselor.

“Harvard is a great fit for her,” Twomey said. “She will bring a lot with her to Harvard. They will gain from her as much as she gains from them.”

Maybe more.

SPORTS

THE LYNN EDUCATOR

Winning formula

Chemistry carries
Classical to first
softball title
in 26 years



BY PAUL HALLORAN

At Lynn Classical, chemistry is not confined to classrooms and laboratories. The softball diamond – of all places – is where you will find a level of chemistry that at least rises to the level of AP, if not higher.

Meet the Lady Rams, a collection of 15 players who embody one of the Merriam-Webster definitions of chemistry: a strong mutual attraction, attachment, or sympathy; interaction between people working together, specifically such interaction when harmonious or effective.

“The chemistry on this team is better than any team I’ve ever been on,” said senior second baseman Amanda Stevens. “It’s unbelievable. We’re best friends. There are no issues.”

“It’s a big part of our success,” said senior shortstop and co-captain Afton Dean. “We’ve jelled really well.”

And so, despite losing seven starters from a 13-8 team, the Lady Rams combined the intangible of excellent chemistry with some straight-A performances to bring the school its first softball league title in 26 years.

“The coaching staff expected we’d be good,” said Chris Warren, who is in his ninth year as head coach. “I don’t think the players thought we’d be as good as last year. We knew we were going to be OK offensively, but defense and pitching were the big questions.”



Clockwise from above: Classical's Jenny Garrity shows good form; catcher Samantha Barker receives a pitch; coaches Chris Warren (sitting), Oliver Toomey and Lysa Newhall.

See SOFTBALL Page 11