



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli helps student Robert Bennett put on his microphone prior to a television appearance. PHOTO: DAVID LISCIO

General excellence

Quincy boy commands attention

By DAVID LISCIO

The senior military adviser to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates took time out of his busy schedule to visit Atlantic Middle School student Robert Bennett in North Quincy after the boy wrote a poignant letter about his views on the war in Iraq.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli was touched by Bennett's letter, which he received in April 2006 while serving in Baghdad.

Currently assigned to the Pentagon, Chiarelli was head of U.S. security in Baghdad from May 2004 to May 2005, returned home for seven months and was then reassigned in 2006 to lead the entire multi-national force in Iraq. His command included every American serviceman – about 160,000 to 180,000 troops – and nearly 200,000 Iraqi soldiers.

A seasoned warrior who joined the Army as a second lieutenant in 1972, Chiarelli understands the value of military strength, but

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Quincy builds for the future

By RICH FAHEY

Anything good is worth waiting for.

The new Quincy High School has overcome roadblocks, jumped hurdles and finally moved forward despite a number of twists and turns in the road.

About a decade after the idea was first discussed, ground was broken in June on the \$126 million school, to be situated directly behind the present school. The school is the largest public works project in the city's history.

School administrators have already moved to the NAGE Building on Burgin Parkway in preparation for the demolition of the building they were in, the first of the current campus buildings to fall. Woodward Avenue, which runs through the present campus, has been closed to traffic.

The new school will be built and opened in phases, said Quincy High Principal Frank Santoro, who has been intimately involved in its planning and design.

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Above: a preliminary rendering of the new Quincy High School, which will be located directly behind the current high school site.

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Quincy schools a model for the state



William J. Phelan

Quincy stands as a leader in our efforts to provide a quality public education to all our students. I recognize that the future of our city and our country shows up at schools throughout Quincy with their backpacks on, ready and willing to learn.

In the last year alone we have made tremendous strides within our school system.

With the full support of the School Committee and City Council, we have again increased the funding priorities for our education budget at a higher rate than any other city department.

The implementation of all-day kindergarten has established Quincy as a model school system on how to implement such a program. We understand how vital early learning is to the future success of a child. Gov. Deval Patrick recently visited Quincy to begin promotion of his educational plan,

highlighting some of the successes we have realized in Quincy.

Our early intervention literacy program has grown exponentially in five years. We now have literacy specialists in every elementary school and summer reading camps to help provide our children with the skills they need to succeed in every subject.

Our energy management program has transformed every classroom in our school system. New lighting and new temperature-control systems have made our classrooms better learning and working environs for students and teachers alike. New plumbing fixtures and solar panels are setting an example for our children and teaching them the importance of being environmentally conscious.

But the most critical component of Quincy's success has been an active and involved citizenry. Our parents and parent/teacher organizations continue to support our schools, teachers, and children in so many ways. I want to thank every parent and every teacher for going that extra mile to help the Quincy Public Schools be the best we can be.

William J. Phelan is mayor of Quincy.



John Adams re-enactor Sam Goodyear greets third-graders from Atherton Hough and Parker Elementary schools wearing their powdered Federalist wigs.

Study of John Adams pays off

By RICH FAHEY

For third-graders from the Atherton Hough and Parker elementary schools, a visit to Quincy City Hall proved a "rewarding" educational experience and provided them with some direct knowledge of "historic change."

That's because each of the students left the ceremony \$2 richer, courtesy of the U.S. Mint.

Officials from the Mint, including director Edmund C. Moy, celebrated the unveiling of the \$1 John Adams Presidential coin, the second in the Mint's series honoring U.S. presidents.

The students were presented their coins by Moy at the ceremony that also featured comments from Mayor William Phelan and Peter Boylston Adams, a seventh-generation descendant of John Adams.

Phelan said that because of the prize-winning biography by the late David McCullough, the popular movie "Amistad" and the upcoming TV

series planned by Tom Hanks, John Adams was still taking care of his birthplace.

Noting the large increase in the number of visitors to the nearby Adams National Historic Site and their effect on the city's economy, the mayor said that "even today John Adams remains a most valuable part of the community."

Both Phelan and Peter Boylston Adams also paid tribute to the city's efforts to keep John Adams' memory alive and his legacy intact. Pointing across the street to the Church of the Presidents, where two of his ancestors are buried with their wives, Peter Boylston Adams said, "You have honored and kept the faith with their bequests."

Students from the Atherton Hough School, guided by teachers Courtney Judge, Pat Landi and Laura McCarthy, were given powdered wigs to wear as they entered City Hall Plaza and cavorted with Adams re-enactor Sam Goodyear.

QUINCY EDUCATOR

City of Quincy

William J. Phelan, Mayor

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Excitement is building in Quincy schools



Dr. Richard DeCristofaro

Welcome to the Fall 2007 edition of the Quincy Educator. This publication will highlight our incredible students and staff, as well as share the accounts of many wonderful educational opportunities, activities and creative initiatives.

These are exciting times for the Quincy Public Schools. The long-awaited

construction of the new Quincy High School has begun. Our gratitude goes to Mayor William Phelan and our School Committee, past and present. As you read the following articles in this issue, more exciting details of this project will unfold.

I am pleased to announce that the mayor has once again appropriated additional funds for our school system – a 7-percent increase over the 2006-2007 budget. This level of support allows us to continue to grow and expand our focus on students first through excellent class size, followed by spotlighting programs and services to all of our student populations. With this

“Excellent school systems must embrace change in order to meet student needs in an ever-changing world. Quincy Public Schools offer a vision that is reflective of managing the change necessary to maintain and improve and educational organization.”

budget, our school system will move ahead in our literacy initiatives, special-education programs, and services provided to all of our students.

As we enter our second year of free full-day kindergarten for all Quincy Public Schools children, we reflect on how proud we are of this outstanding initiative. A child's love of learning and the excitement and enthusiasm of learning to read is incredibly rewarding for students, teachers and parents. This program, which balances social and academic elements, has met with resounding success.

Excellent school systems must embrace change in order to meet student needs in an ever-

changing world. Quincy Public Schools offer a vision that is reflective of managing the change necessary to maintain and improve and educational organization. This vision is shared through our District Improvement Plan as it offers our school system and learning community cohesive and unified goals.

Our school system makes decisions through a team approach. Collaboration within teams comprised of teachers, department heads, parents, counselors, nurses, directors, principals, custodians, administrators, the mayor, School Committee and many other professional and para-professional staff, brings our school system to a place we are proud of, where change occurs through a collective effort and goals are met through teamwork.

As you read this edition, be reminded of our pride in each of our students, staff and administrators. Know, as well, how much we value the leadership of a mayor who continues to focus on educational excellence, and the unwavering support of the Quincy School Committee.

Dr. Richard DeCristofaro is superintendent of schools.

FIT KIDS

Marshall students get up early and stay late to get in shape

By GRETCHEN WEBER

How many elementary students do you know who want to get up and go to school early? Janice Chapman, the physical education teacher at the Clifford H. Marshall School, knows at least 40.

Three days a week during two 8-week sessions per year, dozens of Marshall students in grades 3-5 come to school at 7:15 — an hour early — to participate in Fit Kids, a program that combines exercise, nutritional education, and team-building activities to create a fun, supportive experience where students learn to make healthy choices.

At Fit Kids, there is a focus on health (each student has a folder with hand-outs about fitness and nutrition as well as logs for tracking nutritional choices and exercise), but there is also an emphasis on how to be part of a team and how to treat peers with respect and compassion. Students are encouraged to take pride in being a Fit Kid, but to also realize that everyone comes from a different starting point and therefore everyone's gains are different.

"It's been amazing," said Sullivan, who

originally started Fit Kids as an after-school program 12 years ago. "After having a morning workout, students are more prepared for their day. They have more energy and their attitudes are up, along with their self-esteem. Teachers are noticing the difference, and the kids are having real gains academically."

Each morning at Fit Kids is different. On Mondays the students go through stations, working out different body parts and muscle groups by doing things such as dips, wall sits, push-ups, sit-ups and endurance running.

"This is the one time students get to run on the stairs at school," said Sullivan. "They love it. Often in the mornings as teachers are getting ready for their day, they'll stand in their doorways and cheer the kids on."

On Wednesdays, the Fit Kids run the circuit they've dubbed "Heartbreak Hill" which is the intimidating incline on Moody Street outside the school. After the run, students will

participate in Marshall Training Camp on the school playground where they do upper body

exercises using the playground equipment.

"They think they are in the Marines," said Sullivan.

On Fridays students do aerobics and sometimes yoga or meditation, and then they have their favorite activity, the Fit Kids Challenge, which is always a team-building exercise that requires cooperation and strategy.

At the end of every session the Fit Kids eat breakfast together in the cafeteria. There, Sullivan facilitates conversations about nutrition. Students compare labels and talk about what actually is in the food they are eating. Students learn about fat content, calories, and protein, and they learn how to make healthy choices about what they eat at school and at home.

"It's a fantastic program," said Principal Phil Connolly. "Here at the Marshall School we care deeply about our students. We try to engage the students academically as well as physically."

"Ms. Sullivan is an outstanding physical



Marshall Elementary School students Zachary Marhamo, left, and Peter Lee limber up.

educator who is a vital part of our staff," he added. "Fit Kids is a fun way of promoting healthy eating habits and regular exercising. Strong bodies and strong minds make Marshall students truly special."

By all reports, the students love Fit Kids. Last spring, the school had to limit enrollment to 40 because the interest level was so high. Students are extraordinarily committed as 31 of 40 participants won awards for perfect attendance.



North Quincy valedictorian's journey led to MIT

By SEAN LEONARD

Ivy Huang has overcome incredible adversity during her years in Quincy Public Schools.

She began her education separated from her parents, who remained in China, and was raised by a great aunt and grandfather until she was 7.

In 1998 her mother, Zheping Seto, and father, Tincoon Huang, emigrated to America and Ivy, along with sister Christy, were reunited, living in a Quincy apartment. But tragedy struck in 2000 when a fire destroyed nearly everything the family owned.

Despite those obstacles, Ivy Huang graduated from North Quincy High as

valedictorian, one month after taking first place in the state science fair at MIT, where she is a freshman.

In her commencement address, Huang talked about overcoming adversity, using her experience as an example.

Huang's 2007 Genzyme Award-winning science project, "The Effect of Bio-stimulants on Coastal Wetland Bioremediation With Oleophilic Bacteria," garnered \$17,500 in prize money divided between her, her environmental science teacher, Tom Eldridge, and North Quincy High.

"There's \$5,000 for me, \$5,000 for school equipment, \$5,000 for my teacher to do research, and \$2,500 for me to do an internship at Genzyme," Huang said,

adding the award also allowed her to attend a national youth science camp last summer.

Explaining her project in layman's terms, she said it is to determine the optimal amount of oxygen and nutrients to add to bacteria in a salt-water solution to maximize effectiveness of the chemical cleanup of oil spills.

"This was a continuation of a project I began in my junior year ... With the help of my teacher, I was able to work in the lab practically every day" mixing various solutions in test tubes of oil, she said.

Huang said she was shocked to win the top prize. "A lot of the projects were really complicated and the students worked with university Ph.D.s."

But Huang admits her project — which also earned second place at a regional fair — could yield a practical use, and she hopes to continue her work at MIT.

"I'll be studying environmental science to satisfy my interest, and also studying economics to satisfy my parents," said Huang, who also volunteered as a science and math tutor and participated in the Thomas Jefferson Forum and Operation Days Work community service programs while at North Quincy High.

"I credit my academic success to my teachers and their commitment, at North Quincy High and at Broad Meadows (Middle School). It was at Broad Meadows that I realized that if I work hard, I can get results," she said.



Ivy Huang in a freshman at MIT.



Quincy High teacher Tom Cassidy and student Mike Brown prepare to take down the mock wind turbine.

Going green

State grant energizes Quincy High

By RICH FAHEY

The new Quincy High School will have a healthy shade of green.

Thanks to the ingenuity of students in the career and technical education programs and a new state energy program, the new school will be part of the growing movement towards renewable energy. The high school has already won a \$50,000 Clean Energy Integration Grant from the Mass. Department of Education and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Education and Outreach program — one of only two such grants given statewide — to develop three small projects that involve renewable energy.

Sam Nutter, senior project manager of the collaborative's Green Schools initiative, said there is a "strong chance" the new Quincy High will receive certification as a Green School, freeing up \$95,000 in design costs and \$300,000 in construction costs for a photovoltaic, or solar, electric system that will be part of the new school.

The projects the students are constructing will generate real energy for school use now, and the students will be able to measure the amount of energy they are generating. The projects will then transfer over to the new Quincy High.

Quincy High's technology programs answered the call when a request for proposals was issued for vocational-technical schools, asking them to come up with ideas for small renewable energy projects. The \$50,000 grant will

enable Quincy High students to install a photovoltaic system ion tracking device on the East wing of Quincy High. It will move as the sun moves. Electricity generated will go into the power grid, and the school will be able to track how much power is generated, through the use of an inverter. Some power will go into a battery on the bridge between the main campus and East wing that will also power some lighting.

A solar thermal collector, a more conventional vacuum-tube-style solar panel, will heat the bridge between the two campuses, which has never been heated before, and will also provide hot water for science experiments.

The third project being proposed is a wind turbine.

Its spinning will generate electricity that will go back into the school's energy grid. A mock-up of the Sky Stream turbine has already been built to assess where it might fit.

Lab space will be built on the bridge that will allow the students to monitor the projects and track how much energy is being generated, what the weather is when the energy is being produced, and analyze other pertinent data.

The projects will involve students from many of the career and technical education programs — plumbing, carpentry, science, electrical, and engineering, some 60 students in all.

Components have been built into the math and science curricula as part of the initiative and the high school is working with architects for the new school and the mayor's office to transfer the projects to the new Quincy High.

By RICH FAHEY

When a student falls ill or has a problem, the entire school feels it. And sometimes, the entire school does something about it.

Quincy students find ways to help their classmates all the time. In fact, it doesn't even have to be a fellow student. It can be children in a far-off village in Zambia or the animals at the local shelter.

At the **Bernazzani Elementary School**, students are keenly aware that third-grader Aileen Farrell struggles with a condition known as Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Aileen is a tireless supporter and fundraiser for SMA. The school held a Gingerbread Decorating Night, led by teacher Nichole Santoro, to raise money for the cause. When all was said and done, \$2,356 was raised to help Aileen fight the disease.

At the **Lincoln Hancock Community School**, community is more than just a part of the name. The students demonstrated this at the Walk for Diabetes, which was chosen because one of the students has diabetes.

The student took on the role of grand marshal and led all the students in a continuous walk around the track. The student body raised \$3,147 with Alex Chamness raising more than \$500.

The Workerbees community service group at the **Broad Meadows Middle School** was honored by Bank of America for its support of Quincy-based Cradles to Crayons, a program for kids to help other kids who are in need. Over the past five years the Workerbees have organized

Quincy kids care



Bernazzani student Aileen Farrell with guidance counselor Maura Shaughnessy, left, and teacher Nichole Santoro.

clothing drives to collect new and gently used items of clothing, toys, books and other items that would be helpful to less fortunate children. The group collected book bags and school supplies to help students this fall.

Students at the **Beechwood Knoll School** hopped, hopped and then hopped some more. They didn't stop hopping until they had raised

\$2,000 in the Easter Seals Hop-N-ing program to help children with disabilities.

Students at **Central Middle School** screamed for ice cream ... for a very good cause. Central participated in the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Scooper Schools Program, which raises money for the Jimmy Fund. The event was in memory of a Central student.

Students from the **Merrymount Elementary School** and the **Central Middle School** raised money for the family of a young Merrymount student from Kenya who was stricken with leukemia.

At the **Atlantic Middle School**, students found a way to think globally. Language arts teacher Holly Rendle was a former Peace Corps worker in Zambia who continues to visit the village of Chipita in which she worked. The lack of books in the village troubled her. Her students led a book drive that collected 15,000 books for children and adults in the village. The students collected, sorted and packed the shipping container for the Community Service Learning project.

The **Montclair Elementary** Student Council has made it a point to hold an annual fundraiser for the Quincy Animal Shelter. Under the guidance of teacher Janice Ronayne, fourth- and fifth-graders contacted the shelter to find out what its needs are. They found it could use food, paper towels for cleaning, and blankets to make the animals more comfortable. The students held a Hat Day and Slipper Day, with participating students donating 25 cents to the cause. Ronayne said students raised more than \$100.

Students at the **F.W. Parker Elementary School** knew how they wanted to help others. The students put out a call for gently-used clothing, according to Principal Maryanne Palmer, and they ended up donating 150 coats to the Quincy Crisis Center, which provides food, shelter and clothing to those in need.



State Street Corp. hosted a reception for Quincy students and their mentors. Those pictured include State Street Vice President Christopher Meyers, far left, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, far right.

State Street gives global perspective to Quincy students

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Whether on a high-tech trading floor, watching stocks rise and fall, or in a warehouse sorting clothing, books and toys, Quincy high school students are learning valuable life lessons beyond the books.

The State Street Global Outreach mentoring program, developed in 2004, is designed to partner State Street Corporation employees with high school students. Through Global Outreach, the company's employee-volunteer program, employees can use flexible hours to volunteer during the work day on an ongoing basis. The mentoring program was piloted at North Quincy High School with five employees and five sophomores. The program expanded to Quincy High School in 2007 and is serving more than 30 students from the two schools.

"It all started when we began talking about high school dropout rates and how to retain students," said Christopher Meyers, State Street vice president, investor services. "It's been a success and has just grown from there."

"We look for programs in our school system that can be sustained, and this really is sustainable," said Superintendent Dr. Richard DeCristofaro.

The program is supported by Mass Mentoring Partnership, the umbrella agency for youth mentoring in Massachusetts. Research nationwide shows that youth mentoring improves academic performance and personal development.

"It's just letting them have one more adult – a professional adult – to connect to," said Quincy High social studies teacher Sue Creedon. "The mentors are able to talk to them about college and jobs and following their dreams."

"It's good to have someone to talk to," said Quincy High sophomore Lilly Moreno. "It's a chance to meet new people and to be introduced to different things."

Students meet weekly with their mentors, who listen to them and guide them throughout their high school journey. They also take field trips. Earlier this year, students and mentors volunteered at Cradles to Crayons – a nonprofit organization that services poor and homeless children from birth to pre-teen and provides them with the basic essentials to be safe, warm, ready to learn and to feel valued.

Students toured State Street Corporation's global headquarters in Boston, seeing first-hand the fast-paced world of the investment industry. Catherine Norcott, senior managing director of State Street Global Markets, talked to students about stock trading, investments, 10-year returns and the effects of inflation.

"This is a very different world," said DeCristofaro. "Just being here and seeing it is terrific. We appreciate everything Catherine, Chris and State Street have done for us."

COMING TO AMERICA

Montclair students research families' journeys to U.S.

BY RICH FAHEY

They were 16 students who shared a common bond: the story of a family coming to America. Slowly but surely, those stories morphed together and became a book, forged over 18 weeks of 90-minute sessions.

Sixteen Montclair Elementary School students in grades 2 and 3 combined their stories into *Dreaming of America*:



Montclair School second-graders Briana Fantasia and Sonny Lee read their work for the Write on Writers group with teacher Ann Wetherby.

Words and Pictures of Our Family's Journeys to America.

The Write on Writers project was under the guidance of teacher Ann Wetherby, a 16-year veteran of the Quincy Public Schools.

"I was touched by a lot of the stories," said Wetherby, who helped the students get their thoughts down on paper and prepare the accompanying illustrations.

The students were given interview forms to bring home and fill out with family members. They found out when and how the family arrived in America, where they came from, and why they came.

Wetherby recalls one student's story about her family member's arrival in this country in 1981. "He was looking for a better life, education, a job. He was on the boat a long time. He was hungry and sick," the student wrote.

It wasn't always easy to get the story. One student had just arrived from China and spoke no English. Wetherby was able to get the concept across and someone at home spoke English and helped fill out the form.

As part of the project, Wetherby went online to identify multi-cultural, age-appropriate authors who had written about coming to America as a child, such as the book about the person fleeing the Irish Potato Famine and arriving at Ellis Island in New York Harbor, the stopping-off point for millions of immigrants.

Students were encouraged to read their stories to each other. The project had an important educational component. Students who were struggling to write sentences at the beginning were writing entire paragraphs by the end.

Wetherby said she was fortunate the school was able to arrange a double-block of 90 minutes each week to allow the students the proper time to complete the project.



Tiffany Yong reads her story aloud.

A cleaner, greener Quincy

Students help clean their school environments

BY RICH FAHEY

While city officials have unveiled a variety of initiatives to ensure a cleaner, greener Quincy, students are doing their part for the environment and making their schools better places to be.

Between Earth Day programs that recognize environmental concerns, to recycling initiatives, to beautification projects, students and teachers have been pitching in and going green.

At the **Squantum Elementary School**, environmental concerns were front and center during Earth Week. Students took part in events that promoted environmental awareness, including litter patrols. As part of the celebration, students designed "trash gobblers," animals made out of recyclable trash that eat litter. "Gobblers" designed by Joseph Hutchins, Rance Gillespie, Mosab Amleh, Maria Theodore, Sam Grossfeld, Ying Ying Zhen, Danielle O'Driscoll, Rachel Gillespie and Christie Kelley were judged the best and won book prizes donated by the PTO.

At the **Snug Harbor Elementary School**, students partnered in an Earth Day awareness project with the Stop & Shop supermarket. Students decorated grocery bags with environmental themes and the supermarket distributed them. They also wrote essays and poems with environmental themes and had a visit from an environmental engineer.

At the **Sterling Middle School**, a third-floor greenhouse maintained by science teacher Bob McGillicuddy for the past seven years has served as a living laboratory for students, who take the plants generated by the greenhouse and plant them on school grounds.

The greenhouse has also served as a source of seedlings for staff members. Donations from the Home Depot and nearby Almquist Nursery and the school's PTO have helped the greenhouse expand its offerings and offer a design-a-garden program for grade 6 students.

McGillicuddy credits former long-time custodian George DePaulo with keeping the greenhouse going. McGillicuddy and

DePaulo were honored at the State House for their work. "It's been a labor of love," said McGillicuddy.

At the **Clifford Marshall Elementary School**, Tammy Duncan's intensive special needs class started a new life skills unit that involves a weekly recycling job. Every Friday, they get in their green clean-up shirts and go around to the classrooms or office to empty the blue recycling bins.

"It is their way of working on our school project of recycling and helping our environment stay healthy," said Principal Phil Connolly. "Mrs. (Donna) Brodeur, Mrs. (Val) Higgins and Ms. (Meghan) McLean are important supports to this very special group of children."

At the **Atherton Hough Elementary School**, the Green Team — kindergarten and grade 5 teachers and students — worked together on weeding, planting flowers and plants, spreading mulch, and watering the Atherton Hough Arboretum at the front entrance of the school, as well as the large planters at two of the main entrances.

The tools used in the project were funded through a Community Service Learning grant. "There is great satisfaction knowing they have helped make their school a more beautiful place within the neighborhood of Hough's Neck," said Atherton Hough Principal Dorothy Greene.

The **Wollaston Elementary School** undergoes a similar beautification project each spring, thanks to fifth-graders under the guidance of teacher Sara DiZinno and PTO Vice President Diane Foley, who prepare the garden beds and flowers in front of the school.

On the Highland Avenue side of the school is the Asian Peace Garden, which the students plant and maintain, as well as a vegetable garden. Students plan to put bricks around the Wollaston American Legion monument in the front of the school this year and families near the school take turns watering and weeding during the summer.



Sterling Middle School students, from left, Lizzie Kelley, Juliette Callahan, and Lisa Flora work in the greenhouse.

PHOTOS: REBA SALDANHA



Wollaston School student Man Qing Mai uses a ruler to space plants.



Wollaston School students Alison Slattery and Kevin Le tend the grounds with teacher Sara DiZinno.



Students plant flowers on the grounds of the Wollaston School.

Honeywell to help city save energy, money

BY RICH FAHEY

Going green will save the city — and schools — plenty of green.

Last May, the City of Quincy signed a \$32.8 million contract with the Honeywell Corp. for a conservation program that will reduce the city's energy costs, improve its buildings and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The 20-year contract is the first of its kind for a Massachusetts city since the state passed legislation — Chapter 11 of the Acts of 2006 — that allows municipalities to enter into long-term energy-saving projects.

"This is a milestone energy conservation project not only for the City of Quincy, but also the state of Massachusetts," said Mayor William Phelan. "We are extremely proud to be a municipal leader in the area of energy conservation. This program makes sense from an environmental and financial perspective."

The project is well under way at 18 city schools, where more than 5,000 lighting fixtures have been retrofitted to make them more energy-efficient. In addition, new boiler systems have been installed in the Montclair Elementary School and the Atlantic Middle School. Energy-management programs at school buildings will be able to monitor temperatures 24 hours a day.

"We're about 30-percent complete with the project at this point," said Mike Ryan, the city's director of facilities and maintenance.

Under the contract, Honeywell will upgrade a total of 40 of the city's buildings and public schools. Quincy expects to cut costs by \$1 million per year as a result of the energy-efficient improvements. The addition of a more accurate water-metering system is expected to generate approximately \$1.25 million in extra revenue. The city anticipates that the energy savings, which are guaranteed by Honeywell, and new revenue stream will pay for the entire program, so the work will not increase city operating budgets or require additional taxpayer dollars.

The program also will generate environmental benefits, reducing the city's electricity use by an estimated 25 percent, and fuel (natural gas and heating oil) use by 27 percent. The decrease in energy consumption is expected to curb more than 5.2 million pounds of annual carbon dioxide emissions. According to figures from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this is equivalent to removing more than 500 cars from the road.

The city also has partnered with the EPA to be the first community in New England to take part in the Energy Star Challenge, an initiative to reduce energy consumption across residential, commercial and government buildings by 10 percent. Through its work with Honeywell, Quincy anticipates it will reduce energy use across its buildings portfolio by at least 25 percent, far exceeding the EPA guidelines.

Honeywell is making numerous building infrastructure improvements as part of the program. This includes heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades in 40 buildings and boiler replacements in nine buildings that will enhance operational efficiency and provide greater comfort to building occupants; roof replacement in six buildings; and other improvements including window and door replacement, insulation, caulking and weather stripping in more than 30 buildings; and a lighting retrofit that will update 18,000 outdated lamps and ballasts with new energy-efficient fixtures.

Honeywell is also installing a solar panel at the Lincoln Hancock Elementary School that will heat the school's pool as well, utilizing renewable energy technology to reduce utility costs and environmental impact. In addition, the pool will be fitted with a special cover to retain heat and reduce evaporation when it's not in use, further enhancing energy efficiency at the school.

Honeywell expects to complete the facility improvements and install the water meters by August 2008.

Group effort to keep students safe and secure

By RICH FAHEY

Keeping students safe and secure isn't one person's job. That why the Quincy Public Schools meet monthly with representatives from law enforcement and state agencies that deal with students to make sure all involved are up on current issues.

The monthly student safety summits have been going on for a decade or more and have been hugely successful, according to Ken McPhee, director of security and transportation for the QPS.

"We really have a high level of cooperation among the various agencies," said McPhee.

A recent meeting, for instance, included:

- ♦Seven Quincy police officers involved in the areas of community policing and work with juveniles;
- ♦Members of the MBTA police force;
- ♦Probation officers from Quincy District Court;
- ♦Officials from the state Department of Youth Services and Department of Social Services;
- ♦A representative from the Norfolk County District Attorney's office;
- ♦Assistant principals from Quincy middle and high schools, representatives from elementary schools and high school deans and school attendance supervisors;
- ♦A representative from the Quincy Fire Department;
- ♦several top school administrators, including McPhee and Janet Powell, director of student support services.

"Our purpose is to share information on issues that affect students' safety and security," said Powell, who helps set the agenda, which focuses on taking preventive and proactive measures that will stop problems before they begin.

One of the initiatives is the MBTA's Stop Watch program, which provides both a police and school presence at MBTA stations during the school day to make sure students who might be tempted to hang around at the stations instead of attending class know they will be seen by school officials if they do skip out.

"We think that being a positive presence at the stations helps dissuade students from seeing that as an option," said Powell.

Training is another important part of the program; the latest information is provided on topics such as substance abuse and Internet safety. Participants also learn about new laws that affect the schools.

The monthly summits have become part of the school system's administrative structure.

"We think we're making a difference in helping students make safe decisions," said Powell.



James Fay, left, and Donika Hazrijah were part of the growing drama program at Quincy High School.

Art plays major role at QHS

By RICH FAHEY

The Romans had a phrase for it: *Ars gratia artis* — art for the sake of art. Louis B. Mayer later borrowed it as his firm's slogan when he started the film studio Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM).

Under Principal Frank Santoro's guidance, the arts have been increasingly welcome at Quincy High School. This is apparent in the new artistry program, in which QHS students can now major in an aspect of the arts, or get a sampling of several different areas.

The new artistry major at Quincy High provides students the opportunity to explore and get started on a career path in such areas as music, art, fashion, the performing arts, and broadcasting.

"These things are a very important part of education," said Santoro, who is a patron of the arts and has worked with theater groups outside the school.

All high school students must study core subjects as set down by the state to be able to graduate. But elective studies provide the opportunity to major in an area outside the core subjects.

While students in the QHS Career and Technology Center have long been able to double-block their studies — combine two 45-minute periods into one 90-minute block — that wasn't something usually available when it came to electives. But double-blocking is one of the features of the artistry

program, allowing students the time to really get into a subject matter.

Take the theater program, which did four shows last year, including the high school drama "Up the Down Staircase" and the musical "Grease." A series of one-acts plays were also performed.

The theater program offers chances for inter-disciplinary cooperation. Students in the carpentry program help with set design, while fashion students work on costume design.

Student newscasters are broadcasting daily on Quincy's community access cable TV station, and wrote and directed their own show, "Wollaston Beach," a takeoff on TV's "Laguna Beach."

"We have students winning scholarships to Emerson College and then getting hired in their field," said Santoro.

Each area has beginning and advanced courses, or specialized areas within a discipline.

The study of music includes not only instrumental study but the school band and chorus, while art offers the chance for independent study, building a portfolio, or creative imaging.

The teachers in the artistry program are Richard Kenneally, instruments/music; Paul Conroy and Peggy Spencer, theatre; Marina Rozenberg, chorus; Mary-Rose Mirick, fashion; and Andrew Bell and Esta Carnahan, art.

SENIOR CLASS

Point Webster students pair up with elderly for school project

By RICH FAHEY

Amateur anthropologists at the Point Webster Middle School helped residents of the nearby 1000 Southern Artery assisted-living complex connect the past and the present.

The grade 6 students mined data about the residents and wrote mini-biographies of them as part of the inter-disciplinary project, which was part of an ongoing relationship between the school and the housing complex.

The students used the data collected to construct bar graphs, line graphs, circle graphs, histograms and pictographs, timelines and geographical maps that displayed what they learned. The various skills needed encompassed areas such as math and reading, language arts, science and social studies.

Residents of the elderly complex who volunteered for the program were paired up with students who interviewed them. The students also took pictures of the seniors they interviewed.

"We found out who was the youngest, who was the oldest, and other interesting data and statistics about them," said teacher Patti O'Brien.

"We also tracked how the seniors found their way to Quincy," said teacher Barbara Driscoll.

The timelines contained information about what life was like when the seniors were born. The students conducted the interviews in early June and it culminated with a "birthday celebration" later in the month at 1000 Southern Artery, hosted by the grade 6 students at Point Webster and O'Brien.

They presented the seniors with their biographies and the results of the surveys they conducted, using maps, charts and graphs. Community Police Officers James Dentremon and Matthew Miller accompanied the students on the field trip.

O'Brien said the program also served another important purpose. "This activity will help students to develop a compassion for the elderly."



Full-day kindergarten students Christine Le and Jalem Varela work at the Amelio Della Chiesa Early Childhood Center.

Full house

All-day kindergarten is a smash success



Full-day kindergarten student Larry Ogala works with para-professional Lori Cahill at the Della Chiesa Early Childhood Center.

By RICH FAHEY

Quincy education officials are sure that the all-day kindergarten program, now in its second year, has been a rousing success.

How sure? About 99.7 percent sure.

That's because all but two of the 628 students eligible to participate in the program have done so, according to Edie Hughes, the Quincy Public Schools' coordinator of early childhood education.

The School Committee and Mayor William Phelan committed last year to the \$2 million in funding it would take to hire 16 additional teachers and buy the supplies and furniture it took to open the all-day kindergartens in the elementary schools.

Hughes had prepared for a high level of participation, but even she was surprised when only six parents opted out of the program at first last year when it was first introduced.

"We were prepared to have a teacher for a half-day program if enough signed up, but it turned out the holdouts were able to join the



Full-day kindergarten students, from left, William Levitt, Alan Ha, and Rishika Makkena. existing classes after the noon hour," said Hughes.

Those that did opt for a half-day program soon changed their minds.

"The parents realized that full-day kindergarten was something they didn't want their kids to miss out on," said Hughes.

Slowly, but surely, the half-day students joined their full-day mates during the school year.

"The parents realized this was something they didn't want their kids to miss out on," said Hughes, a 36-year veteran of the QPS.

Adjustments were made with the full-day

schedule. Each kindergarten teacher has a full-time paraprofessional, and the students are given a break time in the morning when they can relax on their mat, even though some choose to keep working.

A growing number of school districts across the state are adding full-day kindergarten, but some, unlike Quincy, are charging a fee to recoup some of the cost.

Gov. Deval Patrick has made expanding full-day kindergartens one of the priorities of his administration, and he had Lt. Gov. Tim Murray visit Quincy last year to see how the program was going. Murray talked with

teachers, students and administrators and came away impressed.

Kindergarten teachers used to have about 20 students in the morning, and another 20 different faces in the afternoon. They like being able to stay with the same group of students all day.

"The amount of growth and development they can see under this program is amazing," said Hughes.

Students must be five years old on or before Aug. 31 to enroll in kindergarten. "Teachers can accommodate children who are at different developmental stages," said Hughes. "They've been doing it right along."

Hughes said she was excited after visiting classrooms at the beginning of the school year and then returning last November to see what was happening. Assessment tests showed "amazing growth."

The mayor and the School Committee have made a long-term commitment to the program, and its future is assured, Hughes said.

Snug Harbor students are quite the characters

By SEAN LEONARD

The Terrific Kids Program at Snug Harbor Elementary School was recognized as a "promising practice" by the national Character Education Partnership.

Based in Washington, D.C., the Character Education Partnership is a nonprofit coalition of organizations and individuals committed to fostering effective character education in the country's K-12 public schools.

Snug Harbor Principal Allan

Osborne said the program, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, aims through positive reinforcement to motivate students with their schoolwork.

"The program has actually been around for 15 years and it was started by the Kiwanis. We applied for an award from the Character Education Partnership and while we didn't get the award, the Terrific Kids Program was recognized and written up in a national magazine put out by the partnership," Osborne said.

Osborne said each teacher

nominates two students a month for a Terrific Kids award, submitting the names to a guidance counselor.

"There's really no contest. All of the students who are nominated receive a Terrific Kids pin. They're nominated for things like showing up for school every day on time, reading, doing their homework, being polite and respectful — a lot of things that they should be doing anyway. But this is a way to motivate the kids, and it works," Osborne said. "For some of the kids, wearing the pin and

walking around with them means the world. They're proud as peacocks."

And in addition to the pin, each Terrific Kid has his or her picture taken and the photos are displayed prominently in the front lobby of the school, and letters of commendation are also sent home to parents.

Osborne recommends all elementary schools adopt the Terrific Kids program, especially those like the Snug Harbor School in the Germantown section of Quincy that have a high percentage of

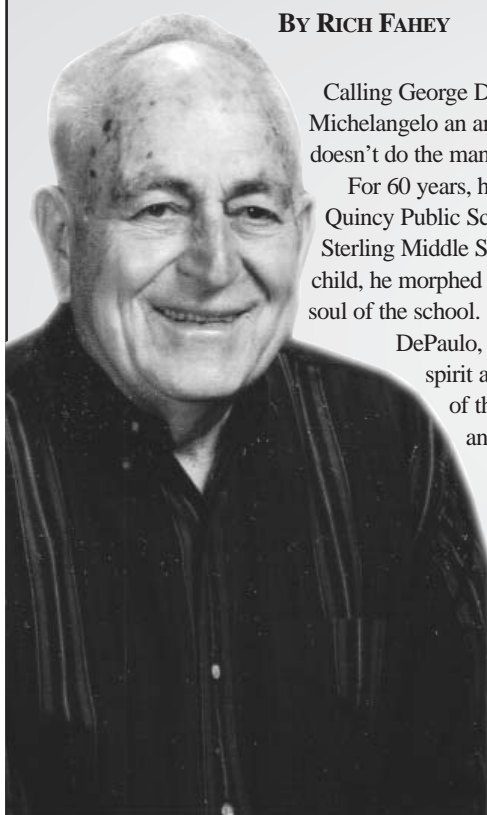
underprivileged children.

"The kids are very appreciative of anything you do for them, and this program does motivate them," he said. "It keeps them focused on their work and on being good citizens, and that's what it's all about. It's positive reinforcement."

Osborne said the Kiwanis Club, which provides the pins and film, has been tremendously supportive of Snug Harbor. The Kiwanis held a bowl-a-thon and the proceeds went to the Snug Harbor Student Council.

DePaulo's Sterling performance spanned 60 years

By RICH FAHEY



Calling George DePaulo a custodian is like calling Michelangelo an artist. Technically it's correct, but it doesn't do the man justice.

For 60 years, he was a dedicated employee of the Quincy Public Schools. During his 44 years at the Sterling Middle School, which he attended as a child, he morphed into something else: the heart and soul of the school.

DePaulo, 85, retired in February, but his spirit and presence is still felt in the halls of the school, according to teachers and administrators.

DePaulo was hired by the Quincy schools in 1947. He said he was "fortunate the City of Quincy hired me, and because I appreciated my job for all these years, I always gave it 100 percent."

That's an understatement. Try coming in at 4 on a winter morning to make sure the Sterling's cranky boiler was up

and running. Even now after he's retired, he still gets up at the same time to take his shower and eat his oatmeal.

"I feel that the best part of the day is the early morning," he said.

DePaulo's connections to Sterling are both strong and deep. His daughter, Kathy Scribi, has been a secretary at the school for six years; his granddaughter, Lisa Marie Flora, is an eighth-grade student; and several other family members, including School Committee member Anne Mahoney, his niece, attended the school during his tenure.

Earl Metzler, who was principal of Sterling Middle School before moving to North Quincy High this year, spent 20 years with DePaulo. In a book of letters given to DePaulo on his retirement, he wrote, "When I think of George DePaulo I remember the words of Charles Eliot. 'Live today and every day like a man of honor.' George has done that every day of his life and it is what makes him the great father, grandfather, friend and co-worker that he is. He makes everyone around him a better person."

"Our school motto is 'kids first,' and he exemplified that," said Acting Principal Christine Barrett.

DePaulo made few concessions to age, even in his later years. Woe to anyone who tried to tell him he was

too old to be up on a ladder or on a roof. Scribi said she and her brother and sister were continually asking him to come down off the roof of their cottage on the Cape, while Barrett said that when she voiced concern about him being up on a ladder, he firmly but politely told her it was part of his job.

A decorated Army veteran of World War II, he often spoke to students in social studies classes about his experiences. He received the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, four Battle Stars, and a Bronze Star and also recently received one of France's highest honors, the Legion of Honor Award, for his service to that country during the war. The school made a DVD of DePaulo describing his war memories.

Science teacher Bob McGillicuddy credits DePaulo with saving the third-floor greenhouse. Both McGillicuddy and DePaulo were honored at the State House for their work in revitalizing it.

DePaulo and his wife of 57 years, Mary, have six grandchildren in addition to their three children.

Reflecting on his lengthy tenure. DePaulo knows who deserves the credit for his longevity and productivity.

"I am so fortunate that God has given me good health, which allowed me to continue doing what I love to do ... work," he said.

Quincy boy commands attention from general

GENERAL: from Page 1

is also a strong believer in winning the Iraq war through reconstruction and strengthening that country's economy.

Bennett shares the same views, something he learned upon reading a *New York Times* article about Chiarelli's mission. Here's how the middle-school student put it in his letter: "I am writing to thank you for belief in shooting less and rebuilding more in Iraq."

The letter cites examples of successful reconstruction efforts, such as a turbine installed by U.S. troops to provide Iraqi citizens with electricity, and the creation of 77,000 public-works jobs through the National Empowerment program.

The three-star general was impressed by the amount of research that Bennett had done, the letter's level-headedness and supportive tone. As a boy, Chiarelli wrote a letter to then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who wrote back. The gesture was not forgotten. So Chiarelli, who grew up in a blue-collar family in Seattle where his father worked as a butcher, telephoned Atlantic Middle School and made arrangements to call Bennett at home, and to visit upon his return to the U.S.

"It's very heartening to get a letter like that," said the general. "Especially since we had just gone through a couple of tough weeks."

Bennett said he became interested in the Iraq conflict after talking with his

grandfather, a World War II veteran, and his uncle, a former aviator. "I wanted to find out why we are attacking them. Why is this happening? My grandfather said this war has been going on longer than all of WWII. If we keep shooting these people, they will never be our friends. But if we help them, they will," he said.

Bennett's letter writing stemmed from an assignment that Holly Rendle, the school's language arts teacher, gave to her seventh-grade students. "We do a unit entitled 'Letters that Matter' in which the students pick an issue they feel strongly about," she said. "Robert was very interested in Iraq."

Bennett presumed at best he would receive a form letter on Army stationery, not a call from the battlefield and a personal visit. "When he called and said, 'This is General Peter Chiarelli,' I was like, 'Oh my God.' I asked him how he was doing. I mean, all these soldiers are getting killed and we're just fighting and not doing enough to rebuild the country," the boy said.

On the day Chiarelli arrived at the school with Maj. Stephen Smith, the boy's parents, Robert Sr. and Mary Bennett, and sister, Dianora, 9, were beaming with pride. The general spent about an hour with Bennett and another hour with a select group of students, giving a photo slide show of Iraq, talking about his experiences and answering questions.

Quincy builds for the future

QUINCY HIGH: from Page 1

Among the highlights:

A 750-seat, state-of-the-art performing arts center which will also be used for cultural events in the city.

A larger gymnasium complete with an indoor track.

The Science/Math/Technology Academy, the first building slated to be completed, in December 2008; it will be the new home for Career and Technology Education.

A Humanities Academy, where English, social studies and the arts will be housed.

A Freshman Academy, designed to ease the transition process into the new school.

A marketplace-type cafeteria.

"The entire campus has been designed with inter-disciplinary team teaching in mind," said Santoro. "With this school, we're re-designing urban education."

The different academies have been designed with a goal of breaking down a large school into smaller elements. Engineering and math will be adjacent to aid in areas such as the award-winning robotics program. Art, fashion, visual arts and performing arts will be located near the new auditorium.

While the students will be the primary occupants, the school has been designed to be heavily used outside the normal school day.

The expected completion date for the entire project is the start of the 2011-12 school year. As buildings come on line, other parts of the old campus will be demolished. Gilbane Building Co., which oversaw the Milton school building project, will head the construction team. The Providence-based company oversaw

construction of the Plymouth courthouse and expansion of that town's Jordan Hospital.

Gilbane will be the "construction manager at risk," performing preconstruction work with the architects designing the high school to refine plans before it negotiates with the city on a guaranteed final price to build the school. Crafted under a state law signed in 2004, the deal ensures that cost overruns will be paid by the contractor, not the taxpayers.

Gilbane is currently working on renovations to Salem High School under a similar arrangement.

Tishman Construction will oversee the project on behalf of the city. Symmes Maini & McKee Associates is the architectural and engineering firm.

The project's \$126 million cost breaks down this way: \$72 million will come from the state under an earlier agreement to pay 90 percent of the cost of the original plan; \$15 million will come from a low-interest loan; and the city will issue bonds to pay for the remainder.

Finding an appropriate site has been the most difficult part of the process, given the city's notorious lack of open space. One earlier proposed site under a previous administration had serious environmental issues. Even the site finally chosen had to clear wetlands issues and get state approval. The School Building Assistance Board also had to sign off on the final plan.

Twenty classrooms moved from Quincy High to adjacent Coddington Hall over the summer as Quincy College, the former tenant, moved to nearby President's Place. That means the school won't need temporary classrooms that would have been placed in front of the building.

Middle-school students make the grade on SAT

BY SEAN LEONARD

Scoring nearly 1200 on the SAT is an achievement for any high school junior, but for middle school students to do that is astonishing, and that’s exactly what some precocious youths at Central Middle School did again this year.

Each year a growing number of Central students qualify to take the college placement exam, based on their scores on MCAS and another standardized test, according to Central Principal Jennifer Fay-Beers.

“If they score a 95 percent on their standardized tests, they can apply to take the SAT as part of this program administered through Johns Hopkins (University),” Fay-Beers said. “A couple of kids scored just shy of 1200 and one over 1200, and they took this test in seventh grade ... As a teacher and as a principal, I look at these kids and I’m amazed by their talent.”

Fay-Beers noted that Central houses the district’s Gifted and Talented Students program.

About one-third of the school’s 600 students are in that program.

“Some students who qualify to take the SAT live in the neighborhood and would attend Central anyway, but many of them come from other areas of the city and are here because of the Gifted and Talented program,” she said.

Guidance counselor Stephen Sylvia said the SAT program at Central has been in place for the past five years and is part of a talent search

conducted each year by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

“Each year we get the criteria from Johns Hopkins on what makes students eligible ... and we invite those who score highest on the standardized tests to participate in the talent search, and have the opportunity to take the college boards,” Sylvia said. “It’s a great thing for their confidence..”

Sylvia added that those who score well on the SAT often qualify for Johns Hopkins summer camps, scholarships and even pre-college internships. A girl who took the SAT at Central several years ago, Zenab Tavakoli, landed a high school internship, through Johns Hopkins, with Goldman Sachs.

“That’s amazing experience for a high school student,” Sylvia said.

“This (talent search) program opens a lot of doors.”

The SAT is given on a Saturday in January at Central Middle School. Johns Hopkins sends proctors to the school to administer the test.

Thirty Central students took the SAT this year and of those, 25 earned marks of distinction in English and math, and nine students earned distinction in both.

“Distinction means they scored at average or above the average of a high school senior,” Sylvia said.

Middle school students statewide who score a combined 1200 or better on the SAT are honored at a banquet at Boston University.

New turf a big hit with teams

STADIUM: from Page 12

facilities,” said Mayor William Phelan. “Young men and women, boys and girls, will be playing soccer, lacrosse, and football on this new surface for the next 20 years. This is a facility that Quincy can be proud of as we host more games than any other community in the region at this facility. Increased use of the stadium turf will also take the pressure off other fields and improve the overall conditions at most of Quincy’s varsity fields.”

Rendle said that with the refurbished Veterans Memorial Stadium, Adams Field, the city’s recently-renovated baseball stadium, and Mitchell-McCoy Field for softball, the city has three first-class athletic

facilities. “It’s made my job that much easier,” he said. “Other teams want to come here and use our facilities.”

Quincy High and North Quincy High will move to the Patriot League next year, and the league has already made inquiries about holding the pre-season football jamboree there.

The stadium repairs are part of the mayor’s Natural Resource Investment Initiative, a \$10 million investment in Quincy’s quality of life through park improvements and the protection of open space. Proceeds from the city’s hotel tax are being used to pay for the initiative.

Quincy teams moving to Patriot League

PATRIOT LEAGUE: from Page 12

day at 2 p.m. “The athletic directors and the officials at the other schools have been very patient with us,” said Rendle. “But we end up getting to many events late, and that gets us in trouble with the officials, too.”

Quincy has been a member of the ACL for six years, while this is the Red Raiders’ third year in the league, and early dismissals have become the order of the day in a league that also includes Barnstable, Falmouth, Dennis-Yarmouth, Sandwich, Plymouth North, Plymouth South, Marshfield and Whitman-Hanson.

Whitman-Hanson will join Quincy and North Quincy in the move to the Patriot League, which already includes Duxbury, Hingham, Hanover, Pembroke, Randolph, Rockland, Scituate and Silver Lake.

The Quincy schools have had several different athletic affiliations since the old Greater Boston League of the 1960s and 1970s with Malden, Waltham and Somerville, which gave way to the Suburban League, which spawned rivalries with schools such as Cambridge, Waltham, and Brockton

in the 1970s and 1980s. Then came the move to the Old Colony League and teams such as Taunton, Barnstable and Silver Lake.

The move to the ACL has resulted not only in the extra costs associated with transporting students large distances, but other issues as well.

“Playing in the ACL has absolutely killed the gate in all the sports where we have gate receipts,” said Rendle.

It has also been hard to build rivalries and school spirit with schools so far away.

“Barnstable High, for instance, has a great girls volleyball program and it’s a great rivalry, but it’s hard for our kids to get down there and support their team on a school night,” Rendle said.

Rendle has already begun attending Patriot League meetings in preparation for the move, and league officials have inquired about the possibility of holding next fall’s pre-season football jamboree at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Quincy.

“The Patriot League is a very strong league and we’ll have our hands full with programs such as Hingham, Duxbury and now Whitman-Hanson coming over with us,” said Rendle.

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- North Quincy High**
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SPORTS

THE QUINCY EDUCATOR

Field of dreams

Veterans Stadium turf is a big hit with sports teams

By RICH FAHEY

Even in decent weather, the annual Thanksgiving Day football game between Quincy and North Quincy High School at Veterans Memorial Stadium often turned into a mud bowl.

The turf, worn down by a heavy schedule of games at the stadium, was all but gone between the 30-yard-lines by Columbus Day.

Fast forward to Oct. 9, 2006, when the new Field Turf surface at Veterans Stadium opened for business. Then go to last Thanksgiving, when Quincy beat North Quincy, 10-7, in a game that was played despite conditions that would have forced its postponement in the past.

"It was a tough day for spectators, but the field made it possible to have a real football game," said Quincy Athletic

Director Jim Rendle. "It was rainy, raw and cold, but it was a legitimate football game, not a slip-sliding mess."

The renovation of the field has created a problem of a different sort for Rendle — everyone wants to play on it. This fall, besides a full schedule of varsity, JV and freshman football, Quincy Youth Football is also using the facility, as is North Quincy soccer, to name just a few. On Sept. 7, there was a varsity football doubleheader, with North Quincy and Quincy High playing football games back-to-back.

"That never would have been possible with the old surface," said Rendle.

The new surface is also used for practices, and in the spring hosts lacrosse. Last spring, iffy weather that might have forced lacrosse games to be

postponed was no problem.

"It has taken quite a load off our other fields," said Rendle. "It was a life-saver last spring when the bad weather hit."

The feedback from coaches and players always includes the same word: spectacular. Medically speaking, Field Turf has proven to be superior to past generations of artificial turf, especially when it comes to knee injuries. The surface also comes with a 20-year guarantee, and that's based on daily usage.

The MIAA has taken note, putting the 7,500-seat stadium into the rotation for playoff and Super Bowl games.

"Veterans' Stadium is now the crown jewel of our athletic

See STADIUM Page 11



PHOTO: KEIKO HIROMI

Quincy teams making move to Patriot League

By RICH FAHEY

Never mind the nightmarish trips through Route 3 traffic to the far reaches of Cape Cod, or the small number of students and parents able to journey to Barnstable or Falmouth on a school night.

The decision to have both Quincy High and North Quincy High leave the Atlantic Coast

League for the Patriot League next year came down to one basic fact: Student-athletes at both schools were losing a lot of valuable class time.

A case in point of the hardships facing players, coaches, and parents wanting to see their kids play: Quincy High was scheduled to play a 4 p.m. volleyball game on Friday, Sept. 14 at Nauset High in North Eastham on Cape Cod, 86 miles away, with the team slated to

leave Quincy at 2:30 p.m.

"Given the distance and the traffic on Route 3 at the time — with so many people still going down to the Cape — we had absolutely no chance of making it in time," said Quincy Public Schools Athletic Director Jim Rendle.

He ended up rescheduling the game to Sept. 18 at 4 p.m., because he could get a bus that

See PATRIOT LEAGUE Page 11