

Citywide PTO May 11th 2010

- Sherry Nadworthy came to speak to us about Hallmark Health's "Stride for Health", which will be held Sunday, June 6th at 5:00 PM, around Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield. Proceeds raised from this year's 5K walk will go towards kits to teach bystander CPR at MHS. For more information, and to register for this year's walk, go to www.hallmarkhealth.org and click on "Stride for Health" or call 781-979-6116.
- The Melrose "Shine the Light" training was well-attended, with over 225 residents present. The program was offered through Darkness to Light, a nonprofit organization with the mission of empowering people to prevent child sexual abuse. Teaching staff who attended received professional development credit. Another training is planned for this fall. The goal is to reach a "tipping point" in cultural action and change by training 5% of the adult population in Melrose to recognize, prevent, and react responsibly through the Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention program. More information can be found at <http://www.darkness2light.org>.
- Training for teachers on bullying prevention will begin soon....the goal is to align the training with the new anti-bullying legislation. The school committee will be developing a policy over the summer.
- How will the new anti-bullying legislation impact SPED students with serious behavior problems, whose IEP's already dictate how discipline can be handled? The district is working on developing an anti-bullying policy that will apply to all groups of students.
- What is the percentage of current 8th grade students who will not matriculate to MHS? Does this percentage fluctuate from year to year? What is the district doing to address the concerns

of families who are thinking of leaving the public school system?

- The 2010 Mayor's Cup Math Challenge was a success! Two teams from each elementary school competed. Congratulations to the Hoover 4th grade and Lincoln 5th grade for their victories!
- Buses for the Prom...many parents and students were disappointed that no buses were reserved to transport children to the senior Prom. Principal Dillon rectified this for the senior Prom, but not for the Junior Prom. Many parents and students want the option of having a bus for Prom transportation, for a variety of reasons (safety, cost, the ability of friends to travel together, etc.) Can offering students the option of bus transportation to the Prom become standard policy in the future?
- Some elementary parents have suggested that E-camp be held in the 6th or 7th grade. Some districts send middle school students to E-camp over April vacation. Others go in the fall as part of a team-building exercise. What are the pros and cons of making changes to the current E-camp program? Could middle school children have a “scholarship work day”, and perform community service to raise money to pay for E-camp?
- Parent Orientation for 5th to 6th grade families will be held on June 10th at 7:00 PM. Step-Up day for 5th to 6th grade students will be held on June 14th at 9:00AM.