



Middle School Newsletter

From: Dr. Flaherty
Week of: March 4, 2019
dflaherty@masconomet.org

Engagement, Assessment,
and Reflection—



creates the pathway to our
learning success!

March 2019

Monday, March 4	Delayed Opening; 10:05 a.m. C Day 12:50 – 2:14 pm Schuyler Bailar Student Assembly	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m.
Tuesday, March 5	D Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Sandpipers & Tribesman 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Old School Video Games 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Winter Workouts 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Knee Hockey 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6	E Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Risk 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 7	F day Grade 8 Course Selection Assembly, 8:00 a.m.	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Magic the Gathering 3:00-4:00 p.m. Old School Videos 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Creative Writers' Club 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Math Team 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ping Pong 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Grade 8 Parents' Course Selection Night 6:30 p.m./Auditorium
Friday, March 8	A day	

Messages from Principal Flaherty: Join Us on Twitter @Masco_Principal

Delayed Opening

This is a reminder that there is a planned delayed opening of **10:00 AM** on Monday, February 4th to allow for staff professional development. Bus routes will start 2.5 hours later than their usual times.

Middle School Report Card

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our school's report card is available at [MS Report Card 2018](#).

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more.

Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

You will notice on our report card that we are in the 89 percentile, which means our students scored higher than 88% of all elementary and middle schools in the state. However, we work diligently each day to continuously improve student performance in our school. We continue to focus on increasing reading and writing skills across all content areas. Furthermore, this year there is a strong emphasis being placed on reducing absenteeism. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Finally, our school receives federal Title I funds, so you have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach,
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver,
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher, and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have questions about our school's report card, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact Dr. Dorothy Flaherty at dflaherty@masconomet.org. To see our district's report card or to search for other schools' report cards, visit [MS School Profile 2018](#).

MOMO Challenge

Last week you may have read or heard about a local and national news story regarding the "MOMO Challenge", which allegedly depicts a scary image that pops up in YouTube videos and encourages kids to attempt dangerous stunts designed to hurt themselves or loved ones. Disturbingly, the reports also indicated that the image targets young people viewing these videos. Multiple resources state that evidence to support this claim is lacking, and experts regard it as a HOAX. However, we did want you to know that some students are aware and talking about the situation. We want to provide you with links to some information that may help you to be up-to-date about this challenge and allow you to start constructive conversations with your children. Unfortunately, as our youths' use of social media increases, every year these situations seem to arise with increasing frequency. Let's turn the negative impact of this hoax into an opportunity to discuss with your children the importance of on-line safety. Moreover, encourage them to notify an adult about anything they encounter online that makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or unsafe. Please emphasize to them that the phrase "See Something, Say Something" extends to their online experiences as well.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/28/health/momo-challenge-youtube-trnd/index.html>

<https://www.snopes.com/news/2019/02/26/momo-challenge-suicide-game/>

Math Meet

The Masco Middle School Math Team cruised to another victory at Thursday's home meet, with Masco 1 topping all competition with 166 points. They were led by Henry Liu's perfect score, and bolstered by very strong showings from Charles Dolan, Shreya Subbu, Evan Zeltsar, and Michael Tran. Masco 2 earned a hard-fought fourth place finish with 122 points, just missing out on tying for second place. Masco 2 was led by the strong scores of Joey Ellard, Nick Donnellan, and Kate Spaulding. We finish up the season at Ipswich on April 4th. Congratulations to all the Mathletes on another great competition, and a special thank you to Mrs. Malio, Mr. Lebel, Mrs. Fowler, and Mrs. Tenanty for helping to organize and run the meet.

7th Grade Team Time

During team time on Friday, March 1, the entire 7th grade had a guest speaker. Michael Fairbanks is an economist, author, and father of a 7 Blue student. He has served as an economic advisor to leaders across the Caribbean and South America as well as the presidents of Rwanda and Afghanistan. This will wrap up the Global Cultures and ELA units on Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Taliban, and Malala Yousafzai. Mr. Fairbanks will speak specifically about Afghanistan to bring a more personal side of the country to Masco. He touched on the four broad themes of demographics, culture, politics, and economics, inserting some personal stories about working for the president there, watching the Pats win the Super Bowl from an underground bunker, and helping to work out the 2014 power-sharing agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

EXCELS

It is important that students are picked up at 4:00 p.m. A staff member will wait until students participating in Excels are picked up or a note is sent in allowing the student to walk or ride their bikes home. As such, any student that is repeatedly not picked up by 4:15 p.m. may not be able to continue to participate in their activity.

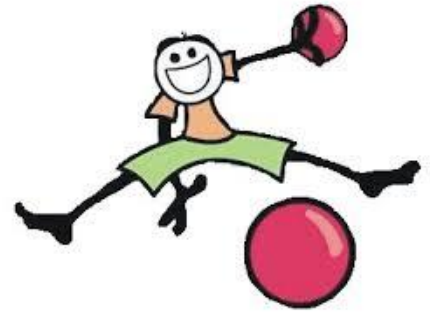
Masco Millions:

Masco Million Results: **All Team weekly** results **9,079** and the **Grand total: 629,859** pages. Great job by all teams posting pages in our March Madness competition. Remember, the page total reflects that we need 370,141 more pages to reach 1,000,000 pages, but we are trying to beat the year-end total from June 2017. Congratulations on the page totals read. Please continue to encourage your children to enter pages read from their textbooks, short stories, or any other reading you do as a class. These figures represent the numbers logged in by 3:00 PM Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Team	Week Total	Total
7 Blue	1,952	81,586
7 Red	800	102,718
7 White	3,380	134,771
8 Blue	192	82,790
8 Red	352	117,403
8 White	2,403	110,591

Upcoming Dates of Importance

March 14, 2019	Trimester 2 Ends
March 21, 2019	International Dinner
April 1, 2019	Delayed Opening, 10:05 a.m.
April 8 & 9, 2019	ELA MCAS, Grade 7
April 10 & 11, 2019	ELA MCAS, Grade 8
April 15 – 19, 2019	Spring Vacation
April 22- 25, 2019	ELA Make Up Testing



OPEN GYM NIGHTS

sponsored by Tri-Town Council

Next one is Saturday 3/2/19!

**Join your Masco friends on
Saturday, March 2nd
7-9pm**

Masco Field House for a fun night...

Shoot hoops, play floor hockey, board games and more.

Open Gym is open to current Masco Middle & High School youth.



So... get some friends together for a pickup game and join us for some fun! Remember... IT'S FREE & FUN!

Bring your Masconomet School ID and a WATER BOTTLE

**Open Gym Nights 2019:
3/2; 3/23 & 3/30 (snow date)**

**Tri-Town Council and Masconomet are teaming up to host
OPEN GYM NIGHTS for YOU!**

Contact TTC if you have any questions (978) 887-6512

www.tritowncouncil.org

Marion and Katie Need Your Vote!

This winter Katie Bernard and Marion Duval, Masconomet sophomores, independently created and submitted a video for the Biogen Foundation's Spark Video Contest, entitled "Counting on Biotech for a Cure". Their video focuses on the role biotechnology plays in the treatment of Type 1 Diabetes. The Biogen Foundation has selected their video for the public voting round, which takes place March 1st through March 31st. This is a high stakes competition and your vote matters. If they win the popular voting round they will win GoPro video cameras and \$10,000 for Masconomet Regional High School. Please join me in congratulating Marion and Katie for their hard work bringing recognition to Type 1 Diabetes and its treatment.



"Hi! We are so excited to share our video with you. We are both fascinated by the biotechnology field and its potential in treating and curing diseases, especially Type One Diabetes (T1D). Marion was diagnosed with T1D in the 5th grade, and she uses biotechnology everyday to treat and control T1D. We are very excited about the future that biotech holds in treating and possibly one day curing Type One Diabetes. Thank you so much for your support and taking the time to vote for our video! --Marion and Katie

How can you help?Vote every day for Katie and Marion's video, "Counting on Biotech for a Cure". (MA high school category)

Where: <https://spark.biogenfoundation.com/>

When: March 1st-31st

Feel free to spread the word!

The New Look of **NICOTINE ADDICTION**

Vape pens and e-cigarettes are not harmless, yet 20% of MA high school students report currently using them, and 40% have tried them at least once. And, according to the latest national survey, *Monitoring the Future*, increases in adolescent vaping from 2017 to 2018 were the **largest ever recorded** in the past 43 years for any adolescent substance use outcome in the U.S.

Learn about and access resources on what these products are, why they are harmful, and how to protect our kids from this latest trend.



Date: Monday, March 4th

(Snow date: March 11th)

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Location: Masco HS Library

Register [Here](#)

Presentations by:

***Diane Knight, RN, Director of the
Northeast Tobacco Free
Community Partnership***

and

***Dr. Cynthia Grondin, CTD Scientific
Researcher, North Carolina State
University***

***Parents, educators and caring adults of teens
and pre-teens encouraged to attend.***

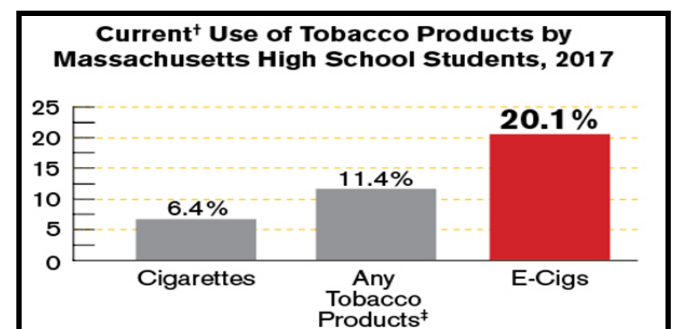
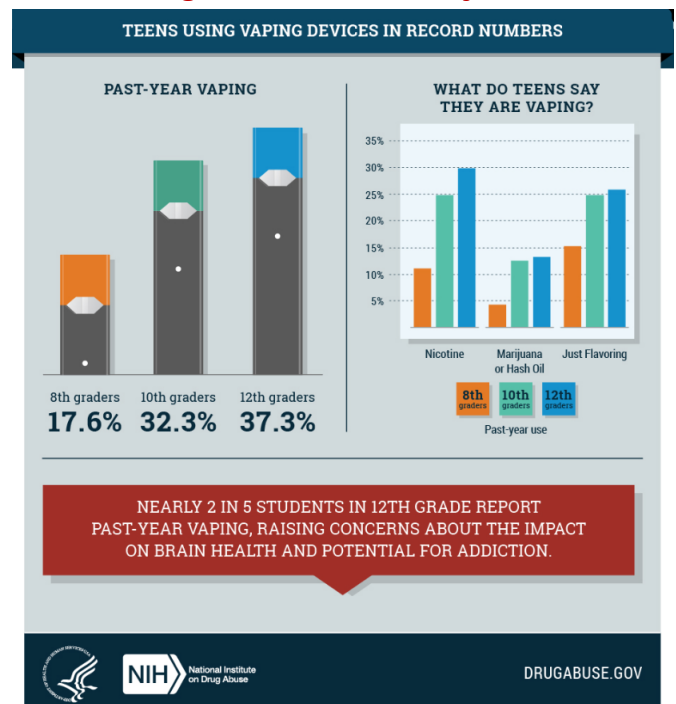
Questions???

Contact Meredith Shaw at 978.887.6512 or

mshaw@tritowncouncil.org



Monitoring the Future Survey 2018 Data:



[†] Use in the past 30 days.

[‡] Any tobacco is defined as cigarettes, cigars (including little cigars and cigarillos), and smokeless tobacco (such as chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip).



STAND STRONG!

A PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS (gr 7 & 8)

Join Julie Benson & Courtney Bush for a 2-part program focused on building a healthy relationship with yourself, friends, family, and your community.

**Confidence, Communication, Relationships &
Having the Courage to be Yourself!**

Saturday March 23 and 30 from 10:00am—1:30pm (lunch included!)

at 7 Grove Street, Topsfield

Registration Required HERE

(commitment to attend both sessions required)

Through discussion, role play, and fun activities you'll consider:

- ♦ Is the media effecting how I determine my value?
- ♦ What does it mean to be a good friend?
- ♦ How can I be myself while still being part of a group?
- ♦ What impact is social media having on my friendships, my school work, and my relationships with my family?



TOGETHER, we will discover new strategies to take care of yourself, build confidence, improve relationships and make connections that are positive, supportive and empowering!

Let's do Some Big Thinking Together!

Pre-registration is required. Register HERE or call (978) 887-6512

Scholarships are available to defray cost, please contact Dawn or Lisa at TTC.

Space is limited, please register ASAP—Attending both sessions is expected to get the full benefit.

Julie Benson holds dual Masters degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Guidance Counseling & Courtney Bush, Ed.S, NCSP, holds an Ed.S. degree in school psychology

GET IN THE GAME

**GAMES PLAYED SATURDAY
AFTERNOONS**

**Season starts april 6th
One game and one practice per week**



COACHES NEEDED

EVERY PLAYER GETS

Official NFL FLAG jersey and flag belt to keep.

Football for the team

Certificates of excellence from the NFL

Minimum 7 weeks of games.

Championship rings

Tritown Youth Flag Football



REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 8TH.

Sign up at www.northshoreflagfootball.com

Call 978-338-4108 or e-mail us tritown@northshoreflagfootball.com

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Write a poem

Encourage your tween to experiment with language by writing a family poem. Together, make up a title about something your family loves (*Tasty Tortilla Soup*). Agree on a format, such as a limerick or free verse (no rhyme or regular rhythm). Then, take turns writing the lines, and let your child read your poem aloud when you finish.

Problem-solving pro

If your middle grader leaves for school without something she needs (book, graphing calculator), resist the urge to rescue her. Handling the situation herself will teach her to be a good problem solver. She might find alternatives like borrowing from a friend who has the same class during a different period.

DID YOU KNOW?

Taking an opioid like oxycodone for as little as five days can lead to addiction. Share this fact with your teen, and explain that he should never take medication that isn't prescribed for him. If he is injured or has surgery, ask his doctor about alternatives to opioids. And if anyone in your home takes an opioid, keep it locked up, and discard leftovers immediately.

Worth quoting

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." *Mahatma Gandhi*

Just for fun

Q: Why did the gum cross the road?

A: Because it was stuck to the chicken's foot.



Respect: The 4th R

Treating people with respect can help your tween form strong relationships with classmates, teachers, and family members. Consider these ideas to help your middle grader show consideration for others.

Look for examples

Point out respectful behavior to your child, such as knocking on a closed door or being quiet while others are speaking or performing. Likewise, let her know what disrespectful behavior looks like. After a concert, you might say, "It was not nice when the people behind us were whispering. That was disruptive to the musicians—and the audience."



Be a model

Middle graders are quick studies when it comes to life. What they see is what they learn. If you treat your child respectfully, she is apt to follow your lead. And if you embarrass her in front of her friends or invade her privacy for no reason, she will get the idea that actions like these are acceptable.

Set limits

Make it clear that disrespectful language is never allowed. If your tween loses her cool and behaves rudely, suggest that she take a break. Tell her you'll listen when she calms down. Letting her know that you won't tolerate disrespect provides the guidance she needs to change her behavior. 👍

Spring science

Warm weather brings opportunities to explore science outdoors. Share these activities with your tween.

Design detective. Georges de Mestral invented Velcro after noticing burrs stuck to his dog! Suggest that your child observe objects in nature, pick one, and invent something inspired by its structure. Maybe he'll watch a turtle emerge from its shell, then design a retractable phone case.

Energy consultant. Have your middle grader look closely at renewable energy sources like solar panels on buildings or wind turbines spinning in the March breeze. Based on his observations, perhaps he'll try making a model turbine that will spin in the wind. 👍



Standardized test success

Your child may be gearing up to take standardized tests soon. Here are ways to support him so he can do his best.

Plan ahead. Have your tween post the school testing schedule on the refrigerator and highlight dates for the ones he's taking. Then, try to be sure he gets 9–11 hours of sleep and eats a healthy breakfast on test day (and every day).



Ease nerves. Talk calmly and positively about the tests to reassure your middle grader. Explain that effort is what matters most. Also, he'll feel well prepared if he's in class each day leading up to the tests, since teachers often review material or give practice tests.

Follow up. After each test, ask your tween how it went. Which parts did he find easier, and which were more difficult? Reflecting on a test can help him do better on the next one.

Note: When you receive the test results, go over them together. 👍

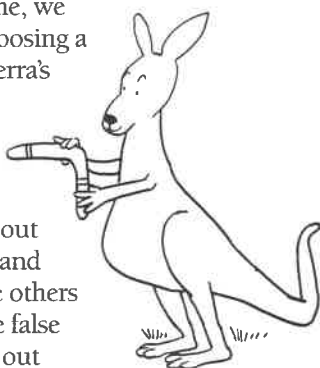
Parent to Parent

Wordplay

Our family loves games like Scrabble and Boggle. They're fun, and they help my daughter, Sierra—and all of us—build vocabulary. Recently, we've started adding variety by inventing our own word games.

In one game, we take turns choosing a word from Sierra's textbooks or vocabulary lists and writing three statements about it—two true and one false. The others try to spot the false fact. I figured out Sierra's incorrect fact for the math word *acute* ("A boomerang has an *acute* angle"), so it was my turn to pick a word.

We also made up a vocabulary version of 20 Questions. One player thinks of a word. Then we ask yes-or-no questions like "Is it a living thing?" and "Does it have fur?" The first person to figure out the word selects the next one. I wonder what new game we'll come up with next! 👍



Q & A

A perfect image online

Q My eighth grader is new to social media. When she sees classmates' posts, she thinks they have perfect lives. Help!

A Suggest that your daughter compare scrolling through social media posts to watching a movie trailer. The trailer doesn't tell the whole story—it just shows scenes that will attract viewers' interest. On social media, children (and adults!) tend to share happy moments, not ones that are boring or embarrassing.

If your daughter feels jealous of a classmate's vacation pictures, for instance, have her think back to a trip she took, perhaps when you went camping last summer. Ask which moments from the trip she would and would not want made public.

Also, set limits on your child's social media use. Maybe she can check her accounts once after she finishes homework and then log off for the evening. Kids need time away from social media to experience real life—not the lives their friends are "creating" online. 👍



"Sunny" mornings

Daylight saving time begins March 10. Even if it's still dark when your tween wakes up, you can make mornings bright and cheerful in your home—and send him off to school ready to learn. Try these tips.

1. Turn on the lights.

Light sends signals to the brain that it's time to wake up.

2. Play music. Ask your middle grader to make a playlist called "Good morning!" He can include everyone's favorite upbeat songs.



3. Laugh. When you hear or see a funny joke, save it for morning. You could tell it at the breakfast table.

4. Exercise. Have sneakers and headlamps or reflective gear ready to go the night before, and head out for a quick run or to walk the dog together.

5. Enjoy trivia. Get everyone's brain in gear with a question of the day. Keep a deck of trivia cards on the table, or ask your smart speaker for today's Jeopardy question. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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