

# Green Meadow News

September 13, 2007



Dear Parents and Caregivers;

Next Thursday is our **Open House** which is always a big event! It will run from 6:30-7:30 P.M. and it is a family event. Everybody is welcome to come and see how your child(ren) spend school time. There is no parking in the circle area. We encourage you to park at Fowler School and walk down to our school.

During Open House the **PTO is sponsoring a Spirit Sale**. They will be selling water bottles, cinch bags and hooded sweatshirts in the foyer.

We will also have our **Book Fair during Open House**. The Book Fair will run from 6:00-8:00 P.M.. Come and see the great selection of books and meet the new librarian, Sheila Hayward.

**Maynard Special Education Parent Advisory Council** will meet on Monday, September 17, 2007 from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Maynard High School Library. All members of the community are welcome.

Last year we shared in the newsletter some quick **bios of our new staff** so you could get to know them. We will be putting a couple of the bios in the newsletter each week. We hope you enjoy reading them.

We are looking to add some new parent members to our **School Council**. The School Council meets once a month (usually the first Monday) from 6:30-8:00 P.M.. We develop a School Improvement Plan around curriculum, assessment and other building needs. We provide an annual report to the School Committee on our progress on the goals. The Council is composed of teachers, parents, community members and the principal. If you are interested in being a parent representative please let me know or call if you have any questions. We have two openings and one preschool parent has already expressed interest.

Our **Back to School Picnic was a great success** even more families than last year. John Fitzimmons was great entertainment for all. During the picnic a few people asked me **about the construction**. The project has many dimensions and it is very difficult to make sure workers can 'do their thing' while we protect the safety of our students and conduct a positive learning environment. The roof work was done last week over two days. The cement was delivered and now a pad has to be built for the boilers. Each of these efforts meant trucks had to have access while we don't have parents and students in route or at recess or lunch. We don't have a date for the delivery of boilers yet and we also need to replace univents in individual classrooms. We will keep you posted on the progress. These projects will definitely improve Green Meadow facilities once they are finished.

We ask that students not wear **flip flops** to school. They are a safety hazard walking around school or out on the playground.

Please remember that we are still collecting money for the **Manganaro family** and selling tickets to the benefit for them.

We will have our first **Early Release Day** on next Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. This means that we will dismiss students at 11:25 A.M. (kindergarten 11:15 A.M.). The students will not have had lunch before they are dismissed.

Several people in town have initiated Maynard's version of The Biggest Loser. This is a 12 week program and prizes will be awarded. The first session is September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.. If you would like more information please call Emily at 978-461-1694 or you can reach her at [emjacobsen@comcast.net](mailto:emjacobsen@comcast.net) to register.

We had a great turnout at the **PTO meeting** on Tuesday. We are hoping that all those people plus more join us at the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the school library.

Sincerely,

Bernadette McLaughlin, Principal

<http://web.maynard.ma.us/schools/gms>

My name is Joy Collier. I recently moved back to Massachusetts from Kissimmee, Florida and am so excited to be working in Maynard. I will be teaching first and second grade special education at Green Meadow this school year. In 2000 I graduated from The University of Tampa with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education, and in 2004 I graduated from Rivier College with a M. Ed. Degree in Learning Disabilities. I have six years of teaching experience; four in special education and two in regular education.

Nate Thomas received his undergraduate degree in U.S. History from Bates College in 2000. After graduation, he spent several years studying ceramics, including a two-year degree program at the Worcester Center for Crafts. He also attended intensive two-week to two-month ceramic workshops at Penland Craft School in North Carolina, and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine. Nate earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Lesley University in 2006. He worked as a long-term substitute in Arlington and Needham during the '06-07' school year.

Nate enjoys many outdoor activities, including fly-fishing, skiing, mountain biking, camping and hiking. He has run two half marathons and is running another one in early October. Nate is an avid photographer, and has recently changed from shooting film to the world of digital photography. He is in the process of building a ceramic studio in his basement, and hopes to have the studio up and running this fall. This summer Nate built a new patio, driveway turnaround, and deck at his house. Nate is thrilled to join the staff at the Green Meadow School and is looking forward to integrating art into all areas of the curriculum.

Sheila Hayward, Library Media Specialist

I spent the past eleven years working in the Lunenburg School System as a librarian. My undergraduate degree is in education. I began my career working in the Widener Library at Harvard University. In 1985 completed my Masters in Library Science at Simmons College in Boston as I continued to work in a variety of libraries, including an engineering firm, a law firm, a consulting firm as well as The College of Education at U. Mass Lowell. While raising my 2 children (15 & 19), I came back to my "roots" and enjoyed being a public school librarian best of all!

My name is Kelly McMullen. I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts called Sherborn. I recently moved to Gardner, after living in Brookline for about 3 years. I attended the University of New Hampshire for my undergraduate work and Lesley University for my graduate work. For the last 2 years I have been teaching third grade in Pepperell, MA. Some of my hobbies include playing soccer, cooking, reading and watching sports.

I am Catherine Mills, a Title I Reading Tutor. Previously, I worked at Fowler School for one year and Green Meadow for five years as a Special Ed Instructional Aide. I look forward to a fantastic year working with the students at Green Meadow School.