As has become the tradition, this March edition of the District Quarterly Newsletter is dedicated to the Arts, STEM and Wellness. I hope that you, like me, take great pleasure in reading these articles that demonstrate the District’s commitment to these critical curriculum areas that enhance our students’ overall development.

As you’ll find in reading articles from team members across our schools, our students’ talents shine in a multitude of ways, each slightly different, but all built on a promise of excellence for all.

Physical education experiences that promote healthy living and incorporate dance patterns. You’ll find yourself line dancing to complicated step moves. These range from simple robot moves and Happy Reading.

Additionally, our students continue to reach new heights technologically, with our youngest students already coding to make a robot move and our intermediate students delving into the Next Generation Science and Technology/Engineering standards through various “real world” experiences. Wellness remains a priority and we hope you will commit to being trained in compression only CPR at our Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness on May 10th, always a most impressive event that you don’t want to miss.

I thank our dedicated staff, coaches, conductors, teachers and artists alike, for without them, this simply would not be possible.

Thank you for your continued support and Happy Reading.

Dr. Maryellen Brunelle
Superintendent of Schools

Our Annual Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness will take place on May 10, 2018 at Auburn High School from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Artwork from every student in grades K-5 and artwork from every middle school and high school student who takes Art as a class will be showcased. Walking through our “gallery” and viewing the continuum of curriculum and talent is always a delight and very impressive!

Physical Education students from grades K-12 will proudly demonstrate their “hip” dance moves. These range from simple line dancing to complicated step dance patterns. You’ll find yourself tempted to hop in. These may well be the future “Dancing with Stars” contestants! In addition, and new this year, our high school physical education teachers and some of their students will be providing CPR training to interested visitors. Learn CPR and save a life.

Music students, K-12, will perform throughout the entire festival. A great selection of songs is always chosen and these talented musicians make us all believe that they will one day be on “The Voice.”

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) will also be highlighted. Various projects that students engage in throughout the year that bring these four vital areas together will be showcased on the third floor of AHS. Some of these allow visitors to have an interactive experience. Be sure to check out the robots and the solar house designs. This evening is always a fun family event that highlights the creative growth of students as they move through the grades. No matter the present age of your child, there will be much to see and look forward to as your child progresses through the grades. This is a free event and open to the public—please spread the word and plan to join us for an afternoon/evening of the arts.

Dr. Kathleen Lauzé
Assistant Superintendent

SAVE THE DATES:
Auburn Middle School’s version of “Shrek, Jr.” is being performed this Friday and Saturday, March 16th and 17th at 7:00 p.m. each evening in the AHS Auditorium. Auburn High School’s version of “Mary Poppins” will be performed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 6th through April 8th...more details to follow but please mark your calendars now as you won’t want to miss these spectacular musicals!

The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively.

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education
Auburn High School’s Wellness Department strives to instill the importance and value of being physically active in all of our students. As President Kennedy suggested, it provides a base for all other success. This year our physical education teachers have implemented new technology to help share data and inform students and parents of current levels of fitness, as well as daily activity. Fitness testing data has been collected for years, often times just to sit in a folder. Using the IHT Spirit system, we are now able to share fitness testing data with families and students via email. These reports are sent out at the beginning and end of each trimester, and contain a wealth of information on individual student’s current performance on the fitness testing measures. Additionally, most physical education classes are using Adidas Zone Heart Rate Monitors to track their activity levels during class time. During class, students can scan their monitor and view a graph showing their heart rate history from the beginning of class. At the end of each session, a report is sent to student and parent emails showing teacher-set activity goals, as well as actual results. With this new technology students are able to set goals, see what they are actually accomplishing, and better understand what it takes to be active in a manner that benefits their overall health and well being.

**Art at AMS**

Sixth Grade students just recently finished working on their Doodle 4 Google. The theme, “What is my inspiration?” focused on taking ordinary objects and making them extraordinary by manipulating them into the Google letters. Students watched short video clips of the Google artists, how they work, where they get their inspiration and watched their creating process.

Seventh Grade just completed their Op-Art project which is inspired by the artist Bridget Riley and contemporary artist Kristin Farr. Students are taught multiple techniques using geometry basics to create these designs. After completing multiple sketches, they choose the design they feel most confident with to execute precisely with repetition to create movement.

Eighth Grade students are creating a logo for themselves or an imagined business of their interest. We began with investigating various types of logos and after completing physical sketches, the students are using their iPads with AutoDesk Sketchbook to create three different versions of their logo.

**Hands Only” Compressions CPR training at AMS**

The students at AMS have been very active this year in their physical education classes. They have been participating in a variety of activities including flag football, field hockey, lacrosse, paddleball, floor hockey, thouchball, volleyball and basketball, just to mention a few. Along with those activities, the entire student body participated in the “Hands Only” Compressions CPR training. Working with the American Heart Association the Unified Arts teachers were trained in the “Hands Only” compression method. The students were then taught how to administer compressions should someone go down and not be responsive. They were also taught how to use the Defibrillator (AED), a portable automatically diagnoses the allows the heart to reestablish Auburn community will also have participate in the “Hands Only” compression training during the annual Festival of the Arts to be held in May. Stay tuned for further information.

**WINTER OLYMPICS AT SWIS**

During the first few weeks of February, Swanson Road held a Winter Olympics in P.E. class. There were 6 events: Bobsled, Cross Country Skiing, Ski Jump, Ice Hockey, Curling and a new exhibition sport, Ice Climbing (we have no mountains, bobsleds, ice tracks, skis, ski jumps, or hockey rinks, but we did our own special versions created just for SWIS involving scooters, rock walls and other P.E. equipment). Each class was assigned a specific country and represented that nation with pride as they went for the gold, silver or bronze medals, which were awarded at a medal ceremony at the end of the Olympics. Classes heard the national anthem of their country in music class and created artwork relevant to their nation in Art class. Each class had a flag bearer who carried the flag of their nation at the front of the line as they walked to P.E. They were greeted with the Olympic Fanfare theme each time they came to an event and worked as a team to achieve the best results possible.

**“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.”**

~John F. Kennedy

**WINTER OLYMPICS AT K-2**

The winter months will find our K-2 students at Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag jumping, bouncing basketballs, dancing and playing team games.

The students have recently completed jumping stations using 2 foot jumping for height, distance, “hoopscotch” and practicing their jump-roping skills.

Next up, the students will enhance their eye-hand coordination with a number of basketball skills.

The big unit for the winter months is the Dance Unit for our second graders. The students will learn 3 different dances ( American Folk Dance, Italian Folk Dance and a good old fashioned Square Dance!). The culmination of this unit comes when the parents are invited to observe their children perform their dances and also have an opportunity to dance WITH their child. More information will be sent home when the performance dates get closer.

Denise Collins
P.E. Teacher

Ann Shane and Sean Dunn
P.E. Teachers
PreK-2 Art

Art classes at Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag have been very busy working on their regular art projects as well as on their Square 1 Art. We’ve all been participating in the Town-wide Art Department’s contributions for decorating the hallway that will usher guests into the play, Mary Poppins at Auburn High School! Each grade has made something to tie into the theme “Flight!” Kindergarten students drew and painted thumbprints on bug jars; Grade 1 students did crayon resist and watercolor butterflies (where they also studied symmetry); and Grade 2 students drew and colored “Disney characters in flight.” There will be a sampling from each class suspended from umbrellas painted like the sky. Also Grade Two students are working on decorating kites to display with a variety of themes! If you go to see Mary Poppins make sure to look up on your way into the play, I know you’ll be amazed at what these K-2 little artists can do!

Preschoolers at both Auburn High and Pakachoag that I teach Art to have really tried many new types of art supplies with a variety of themes! Thing One and Thing Two was this week’s theme of Dr. Seuss. Oh the fun we have!!!

Debbie Hughes Johnson
Art Specialist
Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag Schools

YOUTH ART MONTH AT SWIS

March is YOUTH ART MONTH, a national celebration emphasizing the value of art education! The Worcester Art Museum is holding the 2018 “Youth Art Month Regional Exhibit” from March 8, 2018 through March 31, 2018. Four “SWIS” students have art work on display, along with many other student artists from the region. The exhibit is being held in the Higgins Education Wing at the WAM. This exhibit is free to the public. Worcester Art Museum hours are Wednesday-Friday, Sunday: 11am-5pm; Saturday: 10am-5pm; and the third Thursday of every month: 11am-8pm.

The students from Swanson Road Intermediate School, whose art work is on exhibit are Katelynn Taylor (Gr. 3), Isabella Rufli (Gr. 4), Danielle Treadwell (Gr. 4) and Ethan LePoer (Gr. 5). Congratulations!!

Gayla Bieksha
Art Teacher
Swanson Road Intermediate School

Music and the arts make a bridge across this world in ways that nothing else can.

Julie Andrews

Clean Energy Day at AMS

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) awarded Auburn Middle School (for the second year in a row) an $8,000 grant to host a Clean Energy Day. The event, taking place on May 30, 2018 at 8:00 a.m., will be on the school grounds and feature hands-on science, technology, engineering and math activities for the students. Through the program, local clean energy businesses were invited to partner with six schools across Massachusetts to host the events. Ms. Shirley Young of SafeV Inc., Auburn High and Holy Name Central Catholic High School Environmental Science Classes, Dr. David Willis of UMass Lowell, and Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor are participating in the event alongside our host teachers Christine Robbins and Kerry Palumbo. In addition, an Ecotarium in-house field trip, T-shirts, bags and water bottles are being awarded.

MassCEC is a state economic development agency dedicated to accelerating the success of clean energy technologies, companies, and projects in the Commonwealth—while creating high-quality jobs and long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton chairs MassCEC’s Board of Directors. MassCEC helps clean energy companies grow, connects students with clean energy careers, supports municipal clean energy projects, and invests in residential and commercial renewable energy installations, creating an innovative and robust marketplace for the clean energy industry. This funding program builds upon the Baker-Polito Administration’s ongoing efforts to support the Commonwealth’s vibrant clean energy innovation sector with MassCEC’s ongoing investments in workforce training for high school students and internships for college age students.

Clean Energy Day Team
Auburn Middle School

CONGRATULATIONS TO
AHS ART STUDENTS....

The Auburn High School Art Department is happy to congratulate the following students for their participation in a number of outside exhibition opportunities. Four students were selected for awards, which are listed next to their names. We are proud of all art students who take creative risks in our classrooms daily, especially every student listed below who dedicated many hours to honing the skills necessary for these achievements.

Accepted for Publication in The Marble Collection: A Massachusetts High School Magazine of the Arts
Obiamaka Igwenagu, Chalk Pastel Drawing, Kai Lindsay Gauthier, Mixed Media
Gender Dysphoria

Selected for Exhibit at the Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Worcester Art Museum:
Lauren Francis, Windows to the Soul
Sen Luc Miglin, Truffles
Gianna Grici, Blooming
Brighid Campbell, Swinging

Recognized for Awards at the Boston Scholastic Art and Writing Awards
Brighid Campbell, Both Honorable Mentions and sculptures, Not What They See, and Elegance Discarded
Rebecca Chamberland, Honorable Mention, Painting, Watch The Time
Lindsay Gauthier, Gold Key, Mixed Media, Gender Dysphoria
Obiamaka Igwenagu, Gold Key, Mixed Media, Strokes to Image

Selected for Exhibit at the Emerging Young Artists 2018 Juried Exhibition at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Obiamaka Igwenagu for Kai, Chalk Pastel Drawing
Rebecca Chamberland for Is this Family?, Watercolor and Acrylic Painting

Selected for Exhibit at the New England Secondary School Art/Design Competition at Anna Maria College
Erica Garand: Three Sisters, Oil Pastel Drawing
Jackie Jacques: Cyber Bullying, Foam Core Sculpture
Sen Miglin: Personality Crisis, Digital Photography. Life During Death, Digital Photography

Amanda Bastien
AHS Art Teacher
This year, Swanson Road Intermediate students are diving into the Next Generation Science and Technology/Engineering standards as part of their Media Literacy Studies.

During the 2017-2018 school year, students have engaged in the reduction of environmental impact at all grade levels using their Media Literacy skills. A group of Grade 3 students has assembled to form the “Green Team,” a club that meets three times each week in order to put forth initiatives to reduce the use of plastic bottles in the school cafeteria. Their efforts are two fold, encouraging their peers to bring reusable drink bottles and likewise championing recycling. Grade 4 students are redesigning Auburn’s downtown by evaluating urban planning concepts in order to define edges, strengthen public green (and blue) spaces, and encourage transportation that is both kid and environmentally friendly. Students have proposed a walking path that will connect the library to the fire station as well as a bike lane along main roads in Drury Square. In Grade 5, students learned to calculate engineering budgets before constructing hurricane proof house models using recycled materials.

In all Media Literacy classes, students are examining photos of outdoor learning in an Arboretum at Swanson Road Intermediate School taken between 1971-1979. In addition, students are analyzing newspaper articles published about the thriving space to formulate conjectures as to why it fell into disrepair. Students are working with Clark University’s Geography Department to discuss how increased human foot traffic impacts the existing ecosystem. In March, students will undergo a conservation simulation in order to help them better understand what happens to plants and animals when people “move in.” Through the simulation exercise, students will have to prioritize human needs for development in regards to the needs of the natural environment. As students set out to create a community walking tour of the Arboretum, they will think as stewards and conservationists to design an event that will activate an outdoor space in a manner that is respectful to the land.

As our Mother Earth Day Celebration approaches, students are working together to communicate with our Artist in Residence, Alice Mizrachi, from New York City, who will complete a 25’x25’ mural in the Arboretum. Students will illustrate the transformation of the land in a Participatory Photography exhibit featuring photos organized to contrast change over time. The exhibit will be on display at the Mother Earth Day event. Please join us for a celebration in the Arboretum and a chance to meet Alice Mizrachi on May 19th from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Sarah Connell
Media Specialist
Swanson Road Intermediate School

It is important to remember that educational software, like textbooks, is only one tool in the learning process. Neither can be a substitute for well-trained teachers, leadership, and parental involvement.  

– Keith Krueger

Technology in Grades K-2

Whether we are ready for it or not, technology is becoming an integral part of our children's lives both at home and school. The children in grades K-2 have weekly Technology classes in which they are learning many new concepts from keyboarding to using iPads appropriately as well as learning to write code.

This school year began with lessons on Digital Citizenship and the children were able to review all the rules of using an iPad safely. All students in grades K-2 are able to participate in lessons that are meant to empower students to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in our digital world.

This year, we were fortunate to utilize a new keyboarding program for grades K-3 called Keyboarding Without Tears. This keyboarding curriculum develops pre-keyboarding skills (e.g., target practice, clicking skills, drag/drop skills) as well as digital citizenship, literacy and touch typing. Keyboarding and handwriting are essential to student success with written work and are also life-long skills that develop through proper instruction. The key is to teach developmentally, according to what students are ready to master at different levels. This program has been a wonderful addition to our technology curriculum.

One of the goals for technology this year was to integrate Science and Technology at the K-2 level. There has been much collaboration among the teachers to put this plan into place. The students have learned all about many science topics such as animals and their habitats, sound, and properties of matter, to name a few. Students were able to share some of what they had learned about animals with their parents during Family Literacy Night at Bryn Mawr School.

Currently, all students in grades K-2 are learning about algorithms and how important they are to everyday life. One of the concepts that the children are learning about is coding. Coding (or computer programming) is a new type of literacy. Just as writing helps you to organize your thinking and express your ideas, the same is true for coding. As part of this unit, the children will be programming their own robots to move using algorithms that they have created. We are continually amazed by how quickly the students are learning this new language.

We are very fortunate to have such wonderful technology available to children of all ages within the Auburn Public School District.

Kerry LeBreton
Technology Specialist
The High School Music Department had 7 student musicians participate in the Central District Festival. These students represented Auburn and performed at historic Mechanics Hall in Worcester on January 13th. Sam Benoit, Derek Brigham, Sean Campbell, Angelique Davis and Ana Pietrewicz were accepted to the Chorus, and Hannah Cherry and Zachary Hauge were accepted to the Band.

Sean Campbell and Ana Pietrewicz auditioned and were accepted to participate in the Massachusetts Music Educators All State Festival in Boston on March 9-11. These students recently performed in the Chorus and had the opportunity to perform at Symphony Hall during the festival.

Three students successfully auditioned in January for the Junior Central District Festival which will take place in April. Nishil Adina and Sydney Lyons were accepted to the Band on trumpet and clarinet respectively and Claudia Symonick was accepted into the Chorus. Congratulations!

Auburn held its first ever All Town Chorus Concert on March 6th with a capacity crowd in the audience. It was a challenge putting it together with over 250 student musicians participating in the Grand Finale piece, Imagine. It was a truly moving rendition of the Beatles classic.

The weather has taken its toll and the Auburn All-Town Band Concert has been snowed out twice! It will now take place on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. We invite you to come to what will assuredly be a fantastic performance.

There are also several performances and events scheduled in the next few months. We hope you’ll be able to join us!

- All Town Children’s Choir - Thursday March 22 at Auburn High School.
- Festival of Arts, STEM and Wellness - Thursday, May 10th at Auburn High School.

The High School Drama Club has been working hard on the family friendly show, Mary Poppins will take place on Friday April 6, Saturday April 7 and a Sunday matinee on April 8. A performance not to be missed!

We are pleased to congratulate Obiamaka Igwenagu and Lindsay Gauthier for winning Gold Keys in the Boston Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Their work is chosen from thousands of entries, so this is a huge accomplishment. Their work will now move on to the national contest in March. Images of their work are included below.

- Lindsay Gauthier, Gold Key, Mixed Media: Gender Dysphoria
- Obiamaka Igwenagu, Gold Key, Mixed Media, Strokes to Image Drawing: In Flames

Collin Myers
Fine Arts Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for UPCOMING EVENTS, including THE ARTS and other Important School or Community Events (see the District Calendar on our website for more details and times):

March 16th/17th  AMS Presentation of Shrek, Jr. 17 7:00 p.m., AHS
March 19th   All Town Band Concert, AHS, 7 p.m.
March 22nd   All Town Children’s Choir, Grades 1-3, AHS, 6:30 p.m.
March 26th   Public Viewing of “Screenagers,” 7:00 p.m., AHS
March 27th   Half Day for Students
March 29th   AHS National Honor Society Induction, 6:00 p.m.
April 2nd   BM Community Reading Day, 9:00 a.m
April 4th   SWIS Community Reading Day, 9:00 a.m.
April 5th   PAK Community Reading Day, 9:00 a.m.
April 6th-8th  AHS Musical, Mary Poppins, at 7:00 p.m. on 6th and 7th and 2:00 p.m. on the 8th
April 16th   Patriots’ Day Observed—All buildings closed
April 16th-20th  Spring Vacation—NO SCHOOL
April 30th   Chris Herren Assembly for AMS Students at 1:00 p.m.
May 4th   RocketFest Music Festival, 8:00 — Noon
May 10th   Festival of Arts, STEM & Wellness, 4-6:30 p.m. featuring all grades, AHS
May 17th   AMS Band and Chorus Concert, 7 p.m., AHS
May 19th   SWIS Mother Earth Day, 8:00—Noon
May 23rd   SWIS Strings/Jr. Choir Concert, AHS, 6:30 p.m.
May 30th   AMS Clean Energy Day, 8:00-Noon
June 8th   Class of 2018 Graduation, AHS Gym, 6:30 p.m.

We are Auburn
Music at SWIS has seen quite the change over the past few months! With a growing band program, an ever-growing strings program, our 4/5 Honor Choir, and a stellar general music program, we here at SWIS are watching your children grow in a multitude of ways!

Our band program has grown both in numbers and abilities over the past three years. This year, the band is 82 students strong which is nearly 18 more students than last year. The students are preparing for the All Town Band concert which will be at AHS on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. The All Town Band concert includes every band member in the district. It is an experience that is unforgettable for all.

The SWIS String Society is in its second year and is doing extraordinarily well. We are 100 members strong and are working very hard on various string techniques like performing scales, pizzicato, and playing with a bow (it is harder than it looks!). Students have shown so much growth in such a short period of time. We are working hard towards our final performance of the year which will be at AHS on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm! We welcome all families and friends to, what is bound to be, an amazing evening.

The grades 4/5 SWIS Honor Choir is also working very hard in preparation for their final concert which will be at AHS on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm. The kids are working on a variety of music from “Blackbird” by the Beatles to “I’m Still Standing” by Elton John.

As a whole, SWIS students are working really hard in the general music classroom. We are rocking and rolling on ukuleles in third grade, recorders in fourth grade, and xylophones and keyboards in 5th grade. Our students are learning a multitude of musical techniques; identifying notes on a staff, creating chords to jam along to their favorite song, identifying steady beat and playing difficult rhythms. If you walk into either music room at SWIS you will be treated with an earful of beautiful music!

All students are also preparing for their end of the year concerts, so please keep an eye out for notices home regarding dates and times for these incredible shows!

Thank you for your continued support of the arts! We wouldn’t be able to do what we do without you!

Krissi Caruso and Rob Lesley
Music Teachers

Music at Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag Schools allows our K-2 students experiences in a variety of musically creative activities that make pure connections to Music and to other academic areas.

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year so far, students have participated in annual Holiday Programs, participated in musical community service at The Woods at Eddy Pond, explored cross-curricular connections in Math, Science, Language, and Social Studies, and learned many valuable musical concepts that they will continue to grow upon through their APS education.

Some recent highlights have included:

Cross-curricular “Science of Sound” unit in Grade One. Students were able to perform a variety of sound and vibration experiments with a culminating activity of instrument construction.

“The Music of Star Wars” unit in Grade Two. Students took an in-depth look at the elements of emotion, theme and characterization, and orchestration through a variety of games, movement activities, and composition projects. During the Holiday season, Grade Two students delighted residents at The Woods at Eddy Pond with a concert and informal Sing-a-long.

Kindergarten students have been learning about standard music notation through games, drumming activities, and simple symbolic composition.

Looking forward to the remainder of our year, students will be presenting musical selections at the Festival of Arts, STEM, and Wellness, on Thursday, May 10th, 4pm-6:30 p.m. Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag Schools are also honored to celebrate our Veterans, Armed Forces, and First Responders during our annual Memorial Day celebrations on May 24 (Pakachoag) and May 25 (Bryn Mawr). Please refer to your school’s newsletter and communications for exact times and locations of these celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support of the Auburn Public Schools and Music Education.

Maria Garrow
Music Teacher, Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag Schools

“Our vision is to educate and prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of a changing world.”