



## Superintendent's

### EDUCATION UPDATE | April 8, 2022

Volume 14, Issue 14

## School News

### Donovan Elementary School (Donovan School)

Wednesday, March 30th was a great day for the Donovan School and one of its teachers, Taylor Thai who received a prestigious Milken Award. The event was shared in a Press Release by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that reads as follows.

#### Randolph Educator Receives National Milken Award

**RANDOLPH** - A Randolph elementary school teacher today was surprised with a prestigious Milken Educator Award.

Taylor Thai, a kindergarten and first-grade teacher of multilingual students at Donovan Elementary, became the state's 47th Milken Award winner. She is the only Massachusetts recipient in 2021-2022 and is one of more than 60 recipients across the country this school year. The Milken Award recognizes exemplary elementary and secondary teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in education and comes with an award of \$25,000.

"We are grateful to teachers like Mrs. Thai who have worked hard to support students, especially given the challenges of the past two years," said **Governor Charlie Baker**. "The Pandemic created learning challenges for all students,



especially English language learners, and dedicated teachers like Mrs. Thai make a huge difference as we address those challenges and work together to ensure kids get the education they deserve.”

“Teachers like Mrs. Thai who serve multilingual students have worked harder than ever during the pandemic, first through remote teaching and learning, and then by reconnecting with their students and families in person,” **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito** said. “We are lucky to have dedicated professionals like her in our schools, and we wish her and her students all the best.”

Mrs. Thai teaches English to multilingual students and collaborates with teachers to make lessons in other subjects accessible to all students whose first language is not English. She works hard on family engagement, and her fluency in Vietnamese has made her a strong resource for the school’s Vietnamese community. During remote learning, she assembled and delivered packets for each of her students, adopted new technology quickly, and helped her colleagues learn new tools. Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Thai has previously served as an INSPIRED Fellow and a member of DESE’s Teacher Advisory Cabinet.

“Mrs. Thai’s ability to support her colleagues, connect with families, and put her students at the center of all her efforts is a reminder of all that Massachusetts teachers do,” **Education Secretary James Peyser** said. “It’s a pleasure to see her work recognized in this way.”

During an assembly at the school today, Mrs. Thai was presented with her award by Dr. Jane Foley, senior vice president of the Milken Educator Awards and a Milken recipient herself, and Regina Robinson, deputy commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

“So many educators like Mrs. Thai work hard day in and day out without a lot of fanfare, so it’s great to see her recognized in this way,” said **Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley**.



"The award is a good reminder of how critical the teaching profession is, and I hope today's surprise announcement will encourage some of her students to consider teaching as a career."

"It's a pleasure to recognize Mrs. Thai in front of her students,' **said Deputy Commissioner Robinson.** I'm grateful for the work she does here in Randolph and for her work with DESE on teacher recruitment and retention and education policy."

Mrs. Thai, a Braintree resident, received a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2006 and a master's degree in elementary education from Lesley University in 2011. She has worked at Donovan Elementary since 2013 and has been a teacher for 12 years.

"Educators like Taylor Thai set the bar high for solutions to help all students succeed," **Dr. Foley said.** "Her compassion and persistence to meet student needs are inspiring and have positively impacted English language learners across the school. What's more, Taylor understands the essential role that families play, becoming a trusted source for parents and strengthening the school community. I congratulate Taylor and welcome her into the Milken Educator Network."

The Milken Family Foundation first presented the Milken Educator Awards in 1987. Massachusetts joined the program in 1997. Since then, \$1.175 million has been awarded to recipients in Massachusetts. Recipients can use their \$25,000 award in any way they choose.

For more information on the Milken Educator Awards program, visit their website at <http://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/newsroom/media-kit>.



Above: Mrs. Taylor Thai is pictured in the middle in a black sweater.



Above: Mrs. Taylor Thai is pictured on the right.



Pictured above left: Superintendent Thea Stovell and Principal Beth Gannon, holding banner; Mrs. Taylor Thai in black sweater; Deputy Commissioner Regina Robinson in grey suit; Dr. Jane Foley, Senior Vice President of the Milken Educator Awards

### **John F. Kennedy Elementary School (JFK)**

#### **Our Boosterthon Fun Run Fundraiser is Back Fun Run - April 8th**

We are so excited to be partnering with Boosterthon for a fourth year. Our kickoff day was on March 29th. The Boosterthon Fun Run program is an amazing two-week long educational program and fundraiser. "Famous Shamus" from Boosterthon is with us for the two-week program and has brought amazing energy to the school each day. The program teaches our kids about leadership, character, and fitness in an exciting way during the two-weeks. All of our students have the opportunity to support their school by gaining pledges for laps they run at the grand finale on Fun Run day. The Fun Run also serves as a huge school wide community event for us.

JFK Families can go to [mybooster.com](http://mybooster.com) to register their child/ren. Help us reach our goal of \$5,000.





Our next School Site Council meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:00 PM. A zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

We are looking for more families to join us and take part in the decision-making process in order to improve achievement. While being a part of the JFK School Site Council, you will have an active voice in assisting the principal in adopting educational goals, identifying the educational needs of the students attending the JFK, reviewing the annual school building budget, and formulating a school improvement plan among other school concerns and initiatives.

### **Lyons Elementary School (Lyons School)**

Each month we are Spotighting a Staff Member of the Lyons Elementary School

#### [Katie Dugas- Science Teacher](#)

Ms. Dugas is one of our new science teachers. She works mostly with grades 1, 3, 4, and 5. Additionally, she teaches computer science for grade 2.

Here's what she says about herself:

- I grew up in Hanson, MA
- I went to Whitman-Hanson Regional School District and attended Bridgewater State University for my undergraduate degree, and American International College for my master's program.



- Prior to getting my teaching license, I worked in childcare settings. Upon graduating, I taught Kindergarten for two years, was a paraprofessional, taught Preschool/Pre-K for four years, and finally landed my position in the Randolph Public Schools District as a Science teacher.
- I have two beautiful children: Maggie (5) and Ryan (4), two dogs - Jazzi and Hailey, and have been married to my husband, Mark, for just about eight years.

Ms. Dugas' Favorites:

- Movies: Mrs. Doubtfire and Encanto
- Books: I Wish You More
- Ice Cream: Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
- Something I would love to do: Establish myself in a school where I can spend my career
- Someplace I would like to visit: The different Disneys around the world

EL Students gave an Oral Report Presentation on the Life Cycle of a Frog. Christina Nguyen and Taysha Alexandre with EL teacher Kate Zanker. They are now studying the life cycle of butterflies. (See below left-hand side).





Above right-hand side: Ms. Timbrell and Ms. Bennett's 3rd grade students participated in a Vocabulary Parade. Left to right, Jakayla Marshall, Deziyah Searcy, Aaliyah Young and Gavin Grandcham.

Below: Ms. Peters Kindergarten Class celebrates Mardi Gras!



We are looking forward to Ms. Flahert's 1st class hatching chicks in April.

Ms. Dugas has arranged for the 3rd grade science classes to have a guest speaker in May. Ms. Danielle Noyes, is a well-known Boston meteorologist. The third grade recently participated in a unit on weather.

### **Young Elementary School (Young School)**

As they say, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!

Last Friday we were able to have our weekly House Meeting outside and students in grades 4 and 5 participated in fun team building activities. We have been BUSY at Young making the most of everyday. Students have been writing opinion pieces, pulling key details from texts and we are knee deep in fractions work.





Grade 5 planned a Spirit Week to raise funds for their end of year events.

Culture Day was especially beautiful! See below for some photos.



The PTO will host our Book Fair and a movie matinee the first full week of April and the School Site Council is working on a survey for families so we can begin to set goals and make plans for the coming year.

### **Randolph High School (RHS)**

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides a credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, merit is based on student scores on the 10th grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test. The purpose of the award is to:

- Reward and inspire student achievement;
- Help attract more high-performing students to Massachusetts public higher education; and
- Provide families of college-bound students with financial assistance.



In order to receive this award, students need to meet three criteria: 1) score in the Advanced category on one of three high school state assessment tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, or STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering); 2) score in the Proficient or Advanced category on the remaining two high school state assessment tests; 3) and have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.

The following Randolph High School (RHS) students received this prestigious award and we will recognize them publicly during our Scholarship Awards Night on Wednesday, May 11th.

Evans	Appiah		Hy	Nguyen
Jan Carlos	Concepcion		Trieu	Nguyen
Genesis	Fernandez		Ngozi	Nwaoha
Kyle	Forde		Adetoun	Okusanya
Loc	Hoang		Christopher	Ramirez
James	Huang		Kiara	Tejeda
Taylor	Huang		Steven	Tran
Ebony	Idama-Ogagan			

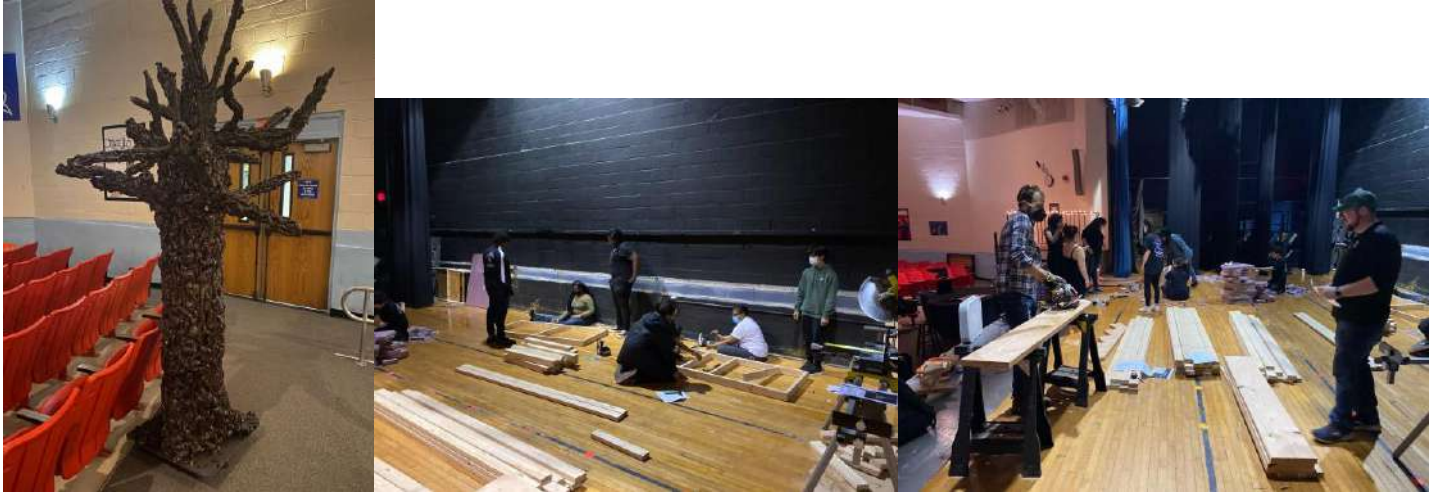
Congratulations to Aland Tran (Gr. 9) from RHS who won the **Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul Writing Contest** in February! Aland is a dynamic student who enjoys writing, video editing, singing, and computer programming. He wants to be a filmmaker someday and thrives on making videos for school projects. In his free time, Aland studies languages and finds pleasure in helping others learn his "mother tongue," which is Vietnamese. Whenever he has the opportunity to write, he tries to include a balanced blend of both his Vietnamese and American heritage into his work so that people can appreciate both cultures. One of the mottos he lives by is, "Trust in the process and have



fun with it!" We look forward to seeing what Aland does with his writing in the next three years! (Aland is pictured below).



The RHS Drama Club's next show is "*The Addams Family*" on Friday May 6th at 7:00 PM and Saturday, May 7th at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. This past weekend, students and staff worked hard building the set for this incredible show! Students learned how to use certain tools and they made a lot of progress. See some of the images below and please plan on coming to a wonderful night of entertainment while you support our students in May!



## Teaching & Learning

### iReady Update

Congratulations to all students that participated in extending their learning over February vacation!

The winners for the February Vacation iReady Competition are:

Donovan Elementary

- Briana Cole (3rd grade) for ELA

JFK Elementary:

- Jackson Mahoney and Eniibukun Adegbayibi (1st Grade) for Math

Lyons Elementary:

- Alexa Browne (4th Grade) for Math

Young Elementary

- Edinson Quinteros Silva (5th grade) for ELA

RCMS

- Luventz Rateau (6th grade) for Math





### Math Update

Randolph Public Schools (RPS) received DESE's Financial Literacy Planning and Implementation Grant. RPS is creating a team of staff members to deepen the understanding of the financial literacy standards and develop and supplement our current High School financial literacy program.

RPS strives to provide learning opportunities to all students that can provide real life experiences to help them become contributing members of our community. The financial literacy curriculum will provide some of these experiences including income, home buying, credit, investments, taxes, etc.

Randolph High School (RHS) math teachers received training and practice on utilizing the Math Work Rooms, including workstations, graphing, collaboration, critical thinking application problems, etc.



Ms. Winans Algebra I class in the "Graphing Room" A student walks the slope from a point while their group verbally directs them where to walk in order to graph a linear equation on the floor coordinate plane. Ms. Winans and Mr. Tavares used these rooms to reinforce what the students were learning about linear equations and writing equations in slope-intercept form, point-slope form, and standard form in the "Station Room."



Mrs. MacElveen utilized the “Station Room” as a review day of quadratic equations. The students worked at 10 stations solving various types of quadratic equation problems and applications. The students solved problems by using the quadratic formula, completing the square, factoring, and application problems.

### Science/Engineering/Computer Science Update

Elementary science/computer science are planning an expansion to our program offerings for next year. The addition of 3 new kindergarten modules, 1 first grade module, 2 second grade modules, and 1 fifth grade module in conjunction with restructuring of our existing modules will ensure that all elementary students experience a robust and comprehensive curriculum at all elementary grade levels.

Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS) science classes are currently working through their second OpenSciEd (OSE) unit of SY21/22, with sixth grade students studying sound waves, seventh grade students studying contact forces, and eighth grade students studying chemical reactions and matter. RCMS adopted OSE this year and is engaged in a 3-year rollout of the program.



OSE is a rigorous, research-based curriculum that emphasizes student voice and lesson coherence, providing students with plentiful opportunities to engage in critical thinking and discourse.

The Randolph High School (RHS) science's program of studies has undergone serious revision as we plan for the introduction of academic pathways in biomedical science, engineering, and computer science. Interested students will have the opportunity to engage deeply within a pathway, developing the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in these fields in college and the workforce.

### ELA Update

Our Elementary and Middle Schools are currently trying out our top candidates for new ELA curricular materials for next year. We have already rated the programs based on their materials, and are currently collecting data on the experience of the materials in the classrooms for both students and teachers.

For more information about the pilots, please see the letters we sent to [Elementary Families](#), and [RCMS Families](#). We expect to make decisions this spring, and warmly invite families to information sessions about our final selections.

### Informational Meetings for Families

RCMS families: April 26 from 6-7:30 on Zoom ([link here](#))

Elementary families: May 3, from 6-7:30 on Zoom ([link here](#))

### History / Social Science Update

We are pleased that our partnership with Generation Citizen is broadening our 8th Grade Civics curriculum to include a project-based action civics experience. Students are identifying topics of concern in their communities and will research the causes of these issues, and what can be done on a civic level to address them.



They will be conducting research, contacting community members, and preparing presentations that we will proudly share later this spring. The History Department is teaming up with the ELA teachers for an equity pause, when we take time to review our priorities, and name what we might do better to support equity and inclusion. We're going to focus on practices for reflecting on the materials we teach with—strengthening our culturally responsive pedagogical practices and building a better curriculum along the way.

## **Athletics Department**

**Randolph Boys Basketball Team Defeated St. Joseph's Prep.!**

### **Winter Sports Recap**

This past winter athletics season was one of the most exciting in recent school history!

After losing the first game of the season, our Varsity Boys Basketball Team tallied 23 consecutive wins on their way to a Division IV State Championship where they defeated St Joseph's Prep 71-56 at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, MA. Four members of the team earned League All Star honors: Stevens Joacine, Malik White, Marquis White, and Lenny Tangishaka. Joacine was also named to the Boston Herald and Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team while Marquis White earned a spot on the Boston Globe's All-Tournament Team for his stellar playoff performance!

A celebratory rolling rally was held to cheer on the champions on Saturday, March 26th through Crawford Square to Town Hall. A summer parade is planned for July 3, 2022 to celebrate both the Randolph Blue Devils Basketball Team and the Randolph Superbowl football champions as grand marshals.





The Indoor Track team was highlighted by the Boys 4x200 Relay Team who won the Division V State Championship. They performed so well this season that they qualified for and competed in the Nike National Indoor Championship in New York City! The group of four: Carl Deye, Gardy Augustin, John Morgan, and Jaden Phillips all earned All-Star Honors. Augustin was also named the South Shore-Sullivan Track Athlete of the Year!

Three student-athletes from the Girls Track Team also earned All Star honors this season: Senior, Ngozi Nwaoho; Senior, Keemberly Belony; Junior, Emalle Hally.

Girls Varsity Basketball Captain senior Zharyah Moore earned All-Star honors this season as she led the Blue Devils in points, assists, rebounds, and steals.

Our Swim team also featured three league All-Stars: Junior, Julienne Baptiste; Junior, Jada Shelton; Junior, Claire Lovett.

We are so proud of our student-athletes for all their hard work this season. We love the direction in which our athletic program is trending.

### **Family Resource Center (FRC)**

Kindergarten Registration for school year 2022-2023 opens on Monday, April 4, 2023.

As in the past 2 years, we will continue to use the Family ID online registration system. For parents/guardians who need additional assistance, (in-person /phone) The Family Resource Center is available to assist with the online process and to arrange for translators. We are open Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.



Please call us at 1-781-961-6247 to schedule an appointment to come in. To register your Kindergarten-eligible child (Age 5 on or before Aug 31, 2022) for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, please go to the Randolph Public School website and click on the round Student Registration button at the top of the page.

The link will take you to the FRC website where there is a complete list of all required documents.

### Randolph High School World Languages Dept.

1. Randolph Public Schools will again participate in the *Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy assessment*, which recognizes Grade 12 students who can speak, listen, read, and write in English and a language other than English. By offering the Seal of Biliteracy, we hope to honor the bilingual student community of Randolph High School and encourage more students to pursue bilingualism.

To earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must meet the ELA graduation requirements. Graduating students **must also** demonstrate **proficiency** in a partner language. (languages available: Arabic, Chinese, Mandarin, French, Hindi, Italian, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Korean, Polish, Haitian Creole).

When a student meets the criteria to be awarded the MA Seal of Biliteracy, an official state insignia is affixed to his/her high school diploma and transcript.





The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are to:

1. Encourage students to study and master languages; Certify attainment of biliteracy skills; Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills; Provide universities with a method to recognize and **give credit to applicants** for the attainment of high-level skills in languages; Prepare students with skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society; and strengthen intergroup communication and honor the multiple cultures and languages in the community.

Seniors and their families that would like to learn more, or sign up to take the assessment, can contact Hana Walsh at [Walshh@randolph.k12.ma.us](mailto:Walshh@randolph.k12.ma.us) or Ms. Purtell or Mr. Semenard in the World Language Dept. at RHS.

2. The World Language Dept. and the ELL dept. are pleased to offer all Randolph Community School, and Randolph High School families, free licenses to the online language learning program; **Rosetta Stone**. Families, and students, of the two schools can contact Hana Walsh via email at [Walshh@randolph.k12.ma.us](mailto:Walshh@randolph.k12.ma.us) to receive a link to a short form that will provide access to the program. Unfortunately, we can only offer this free access to RCMS and RHS families and students.

*Si ou gen kesyon anplis, tanpri souple kontakte Lunine Pierre-Jérôme,  
Liaison pou fanmi ki pale Kreyòl Ayisyen yo nan 1-781-807-0081.*

*Si tiene más preguntas, llame a Jeannette Pizarro, la intérprete para  
las familias hispanohablantes al 1-781-961-6220 ext. 588.*

*Se você tiver qualquer outra pergunta, por favor entre em contato com Regina  
Federle, para auxílio com o idioma Português, número 1-781-961-6247.*

*Nếu quý vị có câu hỏi nào khác, làm ơn liên hệ phiên dịch viên tiếng Việt, tại 1-  
339-216-2400.*