



# Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

## Executive Director's Newsletter

### February 7, 2018

Dear AKF Families and Staff,

Welcome to the second half of the 2017-2018 school year. Founded in 1998 by a small group of dedicated individuals with a vision to improve education in their community, we are currently in our 20<sup>th</sup> year of operation and will celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the fall of 2018. Today we are as dedicated as ever to partnering with our families, staff and the community to build upon the school's strong foundation. Enjoy the journey with us!

#### **CHARTER RENEWAL**

The 20<sup>th</sup> year charter renewal site visit was concluded in September 2017. Thanks to the entire staff, administrative team, and Board of Trustees, as of January 23, 2018, AKFCS received a clean report and successful five year renewal from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Congratulations!

#### **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME RENEWAL**

The IB staff and administration are continuing to evaluate opportunities to provide more course options. The IB Prospective Student Night for sophomores and freshmen will occur on Thursday February 8, 2018, complete applications are due by Wednesday, February 28, 2018. The first IB Assessed Skills Semester Report Cards were sent to parents via email on Monday, February 5, 2018.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

The High School just entered into the 3rd Quarter and students are planning the second half of their year. The winter sports are winding down and teams are looking to make the District Playoffs. Students are heavily involved with our clubs and activities and will be applying to NHS (National Honor Society) and IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma programs in the next month.

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The Elementary School is finishing up with the mid-year student learning assessments. Response to Intervention meetings for Kindergarten through Third Grade have all taken place. Students who have not made sufficient progress will be receiving targeted support and students who made significant progress and are on grade level will be removed from additional intervention support. Teachers have their mid-point formative assessment meetings for their evaluations. Progress towards their student learning and professional practice goals will be reviewed to determine what supports may be needed in order for them to meet their goals by the end of the year.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The middle school held its fourth annual National Geographic Bee during the month of January. On January 10, 2018 all 481 students participated in the school wide Round 1, which narrowed the contestants to 50 and from there the field was narrowed to 10. On January 26, 2018 the top ten students competed for the school champion spot. To get to Round 3 students answered questions such as "The city of Belem is a chief port city near the mouth of the Amazon River in what country" and "Bordering the Mediterranean Sea, which African country is a monarchy, with the King's official residence in the city of Rabat?" A big congratulations to our top winner, grade 7 student, Ben Burgos. The top contestant from the final round will go on to take a written test in an attempt to qualify for the state level bee. On January 20, 2018 sixth grade students from the middle school were honored at the Worcester Historical Museum for their submissions into the Martin Luther King, Jr. poster contest. This year the students created art based on the question: "How can you be the best of whatever you are to make our community a better place?" Students from across Worcester were chosen as winners. Abby Kelley had five students selected.

## GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The K-12 School Counseling Department has been working with a mentor from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) this year to help institute best practices throughout our respective school counseling programs. Each school is also working with the mentor to continue to bring our school counseling programs in alignment with the ASCA National Model. Part of this process involves ongoing assessment and evaluation of the structure of our counseling programs and counseling practices, as well as feedback from the ASCA mentor.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Our school district has just become members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. This is the equivalent of the "National Honor Society" for music students, both instrumental and choral. It falls under the governing organization of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) AKFCS, as a district, in national chapter number 7970, established on January 9, 2018. Tri-M stands for "Modern Music Masters". It started in 1952 in the US, and is now an accepted international music honors program with over 6,200 chapters worldwide in every major country and city. The organization recognizes musical excellence, but its main goal is school and community involvement. This ranges from community performances and fundraising, to scholarships, unity, and cultural awareness. This season's 2017-2018 instrumentalists and choral students will be considered the "inaugural members", as will the current music department faculty. Congratulations to Mr. Shannon, the entire music department and our students!

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

Support is needed to reach the \$25,000 fundraising goal for the 5th Annual AKF Educational Foundation Golf Tournament, scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2018, which raises money to support funding requests made by AKFCS administrators, teachers and staff to provide additional opportunities to our students. Check out our website at [www.akfcs.org/giving/akf-foundation/](http://www.akfcs.org/giving/akf-foundation/) for more information.

## WELLNESS

AKFCS is very involved with the Wellness of our district. Please visit our website at [www.akfcs.org](http://www.akfcs.org) and check out our Wellness Policy. If there are any questions or concerns, please direct them to Diane Mikulski at [dmikulski@akfcs.org](mailto:dmikulski@akfcs.org).

## ENROLLMENT

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School accepts applications for students entering Kindergarten through Grade 6. Our formal enrollment campaign began in October and concluded on January 28, 2018. An enrollment lottery will be held on February 27, 2018 in the High School Concert Hall at noon. All applicants in Grades 1-6, including siblings will be placed on the waitlist. There are 60 seats available for resident applicants entering Kindergarten. Siblings entering Kindergarten should have received their enrollment package. If not, please contact Linda Driscoll at 508-854-8400 x3644. The enrollment campaign included parent information sessions with the elementary school principal and staff. In addition, the Abby Kelley Foster school community continues to play a vital role in the enrollment process. Parents and friends often recommend our school to applicants and as a result, a significant number of applications are generated through informal and formal advertising. The school continues to maintain an average retention rate of 95%.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2018-2019 academic calendar was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 31, 2018 and is now posted on the homepage of the school website at [www.akfcs.org](http://www.akfcs.org).

Respectfully,



Brian Y. Haas  
Executive Director