

September 29, 2014

Dear Fuller Families

Hello! I am pleased to report that we started out the year with a mini-STEAM project designed to introduce the basic elements of STEAM to students, and to deepen and expand our identity as a Project-based Learning (PBL) school. Students were asked to explore the following essential question, “What team name best describes us a community of learners?” Students used research on Chrome Books and made proposals. They discussed and debated their ideas, and then unveiled their new team names at an all-school *Community Meeting* on Friday, September 19th. I am proud to share with you the new team names:

Opal United, Lime.com, Curious Crimson, Platinum Inspiration, Titanium Tangerine, Green Designers, and Built Blue

As you know, we have a new Vice Principal at Fuller, who has shared with you a little about his background:

Hello, I am pleased to introduce myself to the Fuller community.

Growing up 30 miles south west of London in the 1960’s and 70’s brought its own perspective on life in general. After an engineering apprenticeship and then a job as a materials development engineer in the aerospace industry, I sought a new perspective by living and working overseas. Nigeria hosted my first teaching experience for 18 months before I migrated west to the US in pursuit of the wonderful woman to whom I am still married.

Since then, I have spent over twenty years seeking also the wisdom of great technology education, striving to foster among kids at many age levels their technically creative skills and interests. Through curiosity, brainstorming, sketching, planning, fabricating, assessing – there are so many technical skills that are foundational for much of what adults do in both domestic and professional worlds. It is my privilege to be part of the Fuller School here in Framingham, challenged with how to boost such experiences for all of our middle school children.

*Sincerely,
Mike Stevens*

Overview of Fuller’s After-school Programs – Activities and Clubs

After school Sports

After school sports will be taking place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays this year. Students will be required to stay with a teacher from the end of the school day- 2:25 until 2:55. They will then be given a pass at 2:55 to come to the gym. Students should come prepared with proper physical education clothing- shorts, sweatpants, t-shirt, and sneakers. Students do not need to sign up in advance but they will be asked to sign in upon entering the gymnasium.

After school sports will consist of students being able to use the Fitness center and/or participate in the activity going on in the gym. These activities change on a weekly basis and consist of sports such as basketball, ultimate Frisbee, badminton, etc,

Students whom are given a bus to school will be able to take the late bus home as well.

Peer Leadership

The peer leadership program is intended to help children in grades 6-8 become role models and leaders who promote positive behavior change in their lives, schools and communities

We will begin by completing a series of teambuilding and awareness activities designed to help students learn a range of skills such as group facilitation, public speaking, and teamwork and leadership techniques. During this stage, kids will begin to identify areas of interest in the school where they can build one or more projects that are of hopefully lasting value. Topics can include but are not limited to environmental issues, support for low level readers in the school, and how to build positive climate and behavior in the school.

Pop Choir

Come join Miss. Thomas and Mrs. Shea in the Fuller Middle School Pop Choir where YOU decide what we sing!

This choir gives students the opportunity to learn how to properly sing some of their favorite songs and also learn awesome choreography to go along with it.

We will meet at 7:30am on Thursday mornings in room C13.

Participants will also get some surprise goodies for coming in early 😊

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Math Club

Math Club is a way for students to do a lot of higher-level thinking. The types of problems students will tackle are challenging and rigorous. The club specializes as a preparation for the IMLEM (Intermediate Math League of Eastern Massachusetts) and Math Counts. These competitions require students to use skills learned in math club to solve problems efficiently in the short time allotted during the competitions. There is no presenting or answering questions in front of judges, yet simply to answer questions on paper to be scored by a group of judges in a scoring room. The club is run by Anthony Cardarelli (eighth grade math teacher) and Alyssa Damiani (seventh grade math teacher) and our job is to facilitate the learning of these strategies to make students better math thinkers and problem solvers.

Last year our school was awarded most improved in our cluster and had ten of the most dedicated students working after school each week. We placed first in our cluster for the first time in years! This club is looking for students excited about math and ready to learn new problem solving methods.

FFSE FULLER'S FUTURE SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS

Fuller's Future Scientists & Engineers club is an exciting after school club in which students work in teams like engineers using the engineering design process to design, build and test projects to meet design goals and compete in club competitions. Some past projects include: Rocket, land yacht, tower, egg drop, catapult, Das boat, pendulum, paper airplane, and electronic game board.

Politics Club and Current Events

The aim of Politics and Current Events Club is to encourage students to become more informed about the role of government, politics and current events in the United States and abroad. Each week, we will take an interactive look at an issue being talked about in the news. We will look at clips from various media sources; including, Meet the Press, 60 Minutes, White House video, CSPAN and use them to debate and discuss the issues. In past years we have watched and discussed the Inauguration, learned about the United States Cabinet, reviewed Barack Obama's State of the Union address, and discussed the United States' relationship with North Korea. This fall we will focus on the many different challenges currently facing the United States; including, the crisis in Ukraine, Ebola, ISIS, and the midterm elections.

Interact is a club for young people ages 12-18 who want to join together to tackle the issues in their community that they care most about. Through Interact, you can:

Carry out hands-on service projects

Make international connections

Develop leadership skills

Have fun!

Fuller Middle School Drama Company's first show of the year is a musical, *Once on This Island*. The Drama Company is open to ALL Fuller Middle School students in grades 6, 7 & 8. Mrs. Shea, Fuller's Drama teacher, will be directing and choreographing and Miss Thomas, Fuller's Chorus teacher, will be the the musical director.

Audition Workshops, where the students will get to learn about the audition process, will be on October 14 & 15 from 2:30-4:15. Students do not need to attend both days.

Auditions, where the students will be trying out for their parts, will be October 21 for 6th graders, and October 22 for 7th and 8th graders from 2:30-4:15.

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursdays from 2:30-4:15. A detailed schedule will be available at auditions. The performances will be held January 22, 23 & 24 at 7 pm.

Students should plan on taking the Late Bus home or arrange for a parent to pick them up at the school at 4:15

Jazz Band

Jazz band is a select band ensemble that is chosen by audition in the fall. Students learn jazz music in a traditional "big band" setting and perform and compete throughout the school year. Open to 6-8 grade, instrumentation includes saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, bass, drums, and optional flute and clarinet. Students rehearse from 7-8AM every

Tuesday and Thursday morning

Yearbook Club

The Yearbook Club meets throughout the school year to put together the Fuller Middle School Yearbook which is available for purchase and distributed in June. Students meet to decide page layout formats, photographs to be used etc. Students in the Yearbook Club supply the pictures for the yearbook while learning how to take good pictures along the way. This group meets occasionally in the fall and more frequently as deadlines approach throughout the winter and spring seasons.

Robotics Club

Do you love designing? Working with technology? Being innovative? Do you want to work on a team to create a working robot? If so, join the Robotics Club! We meet on Thursdays after school to explore

different areas in robotics and build our very own fully-functional robot. You will gain experience with designing, building, and testin

Sincerely,

Sharon

Fuller Dates

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| Tuesday 9/30 | SCHOOL PICTURES TODAY!
All Fuller After school activities and Clubs begin this week. |
| Wednesday 10/1 | Beginning today, there is an increase of \$0.25 in the price of Lunch at all Middle Schools & the High School that will take place on Oct 1st, 2014. The cost of lunch is increasing from \$2.75 to \$3.00 starting on October 1st, 2014. |
| Thursday, 10/2 | Early Release Day – students are dismissed at 11:25. No after school activities are held on early release days. |
| Monday 10/20 | 1 st School Council meeting 5:30-7:00 in the Fuller Library
PTO 7:00-8:00 |