Dear Fuller Families,

Welcome back to school! By now, you have been to Open House and met your children’s talented and dedicated teachers. You have also heard more about the 21st Century Learning grant after school program. There are so many exciting things happening at Fuller and I look forward to keeping you updated throughout the year with Ron Harvey’s daily emails, monthly memos (such as this), school-wide newsletters, Connect-Ed phone calls, Fuller website, and mailings.

Thank you to Susanne Olson and the Fuller PTO for hosting the annual 6th grade Ice Cream Social.  Check out the pictures and story in this link:  
  
[http://patch.com/massachusetts/framingham/slideshow-fuller-hosts-ice-cream-social-new-students-0](http://patch.com/massachusetts/framingham/slideshow-fuller-hosts-ice-cream-social-new-students-0" \t "_blank)

To stay in touch with all the PTO activities including meeting dates, please visit this site and sign up for their newsletters.

**Introductions – Fuller Leadership Team**

Sharon Seyller, Principal

I am thrilled to be starting my third year as principal of Fuller Middle School. I have over 25 years of experience as a middle school educator, in the roles of counselor, teacher, dean of students, vice principal, and principal. I am committed to the philosophy and practices of middle level education, and have presented at past NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) conferences. Because there is such a wide range of developmental needs of students at this level, I have an unwavering commitment to ***personalized learning for every student***. Each student at Fuller is recognized and celebrated for being an individual; this means that they have their own unique learning needs. Our staff will work hard to provide the instruction they need in order to support and challenge them. As principal, I am humbled every day by the opportunity to serve this wonderful community and I welcome feedback and input from you this school year.

Mike Stevens, Vice Principal

I am in my second year as vice principal at Fuller having previously spent 25 years teaching design and engineering at the middle and high school levels. I started my career in Britain as a mechanical engineer in the Aerospace industry. Following two years working as a teacher in Nigeria, I turned to education as a full time passion, which continues at Fuller. My particular interest is in helping to build the STEAM program, and fostering the benefits a multi-cultural community throughout our school.

Natalia Kierul, Team Evaluation Coordinator (Special Education)

In my role as a Team Evaluation Coordinator, I oversee and manage a caseload of students with special education and the implementation of their IEPs in the inclusion and substantially separate settings. In addition, I facilitate IEP meetings using a strengths-based and family centered approach. My particular area of interest includes assessment, especially of English Language learners. I have enjoyed working at Fuller these past three years!

Dr. Lori DiGisi, Department Head, English Language Arts

I love all things related to reading, writing, and expression.  With a degree in Reading, Language, and Learning Disabilities, I am fascinated by how students think and learn.  In addition to the many facets of English literature, I am interested in how students read, write, and learn in social studies and science and how students experience 21st Century skills of communicating, collaborating, citizenship, creativity, and critical thinking through project-based learning. In my free time, I serve on the board of the International Literacy Association, which allows me to present to educators across the country. My favorite place to be is at Fuller talking with students about what they are reading!

Barbara Rappaport, Department Head, Mathematics

I believe I am now the only staff member that has been at Fuller Middle School since it opened in 1994.  And I must say I am proud of it!    I started my career at Fuller as a Title I teacher and then taught  6th grade math for seven years.  I then moved into the position of math specialist and since 2011 I have been math department head.  Over the course of these years I have seen many changes in education.  I do believe that today, we are finally on the right track, ensuring that the teaching and learning are relevant to students and ensuring that they will be global citizens of our future.  The math department is comprised of dedicated, talented, and supportive adults who all have the belief that all children can be good at math and that WE will be their guides on this math educational journey.  If there is anything you would like to talk to me about whether it be curriculum, your child's progress, ways we can support your child, etc. feel free to contact me at [brappapo@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:brappapo@framingham.k12.ma.us" \t "_blank)

Megan Quinlan, Department Head, English Language Development

I am starting my eighteenth year working as an ESL teacher at Fuller Middle School. This year, in addition to continuing with my passion for working directly with students in my own classroom, I will support teachers, curriculum, and SEI (Sheltered English Instruction) at Fuller as the ELD (English Language Development) Department Head. We are excited to embark on the Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) model of language development, where newcomers are taught in their first language while also taking ESL classes and interacting with native English speakers during specials classes, lunch, and homeroom to acquire English. The ELD department is comprised of thirteen teachers, some of which are native Spanish and Portuguese speakers. In Framingham and through the MATSOL organization, ELL leaders are focusing on SEI, increasing cultural proficiency, and teaching educators about implementing academic conversations and Socratic Seminar in their classrooms, whereby all students interact more, practice using academic vocabulary in meaningful contexts, question each other and the world, and construct meaning together. I am happy to be a part of the Fuller Leadership Team!

Lisa Cogliandro, Math Teacher and Administrative Intern

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at Fuller Middle School.  Many families already know me as a long time educator in this community, as I have been teaching here at Fuller since 1997.  I began my Fuller career as a Special Education teacher and continued in that role for eight years.  Since then, I have taught 8th Grade Integrated Algebra and Algebra 1 and have served as a team leader.  I am currently in the process of completing an administrative internship toward Middle School administration licensure. Since March of 2015, it has been my pleasure to collaborate with the Fuller families and the Fuller Leadership Team, under the supervision of Sharon Seyller, to provide a safe and professional learning environment for our students and staff.  I look forward to continuing these relationships with families, students and staff as this year unfolds.

**Fuller Technology Update – using Technology to Personalize Learning!**

We started 2014-2015 with three Chromebook carts of 25 each (75) and then received four more carts half way through the year to help with PARCC (two carts of 25 and two of 30=110)

We will receive five more carts of 25 each this fall for 6th grade Math (125)

Total Chromebooks = 310

Total Fuller students (X2)=452

Chromebooks per student = 0.686

We are very excited to be moving forward toward a Chromebook for every student to use! You will learn more this year about how teachers use technology as a tool to promote and advance student learning.

**21st Century Grant Update**

I am please to share with you the following *21st Century Grant Community Council* members:

Jennifer Wentworth Fuller parent

Tina Crotty Fuller parent

Cheryl Elkins Fuller parent

Mike Elkins Fuller parent

Scott Wadland Fuller parent

Cheryl Gordon Fuller parent

Dr. Coretta McCarter FPS Director of Title I and Grants

Mel Weinzimer Raytheon *Retired School Volunteer Association*

Gerry Brody Raytheon *Retired School Volunteer Association*

Irene Porro Director of McAuliffe Center at FSU

Herb Chasan Executive Director, Hoops and Homework

Genoveffa Grieci FPS Director of Bilingual Education

Colleen Coffey Director of the Metrowest College and Career Planning Center

Susanne Steiger-Escobar Professor of Computer Science at Mass Bay Community College

Molly Dunne English Language Arts teacher at Fuller

Tanea Cezar Fuller Science teacher at Fuller

Caroline DiCicco Fuller Art teacher

Barbara Rappaport Math Department Head at Fuller

Lori DiGisi English Language Arts Department Head at Fuller

Margaret Ayres Administrative Assistant to the FPS Director of the FPS Community and Resource Development Office

Sharon Seyller Principal, Fuller Middle School

Joseph Corazzini FPS Director of the FPS Community and Resource Development Office

We have been meeting on a weekly basis to work collaboratively in the development of the Fuller after school program. I have thoroughly enjoyed brainstorming, problem solving, and developing ideas with this talented group of people!

Sincerely,

Sharon