

# DEAC Newsletter

For Devens residents by the Devens Educational Advisory Committee



These are certainly strange times, but we hope that you and your families are healthy and safe. More than ever, we are appreciating the myriad options that the Devens Community offers for getting outside and enjoying these warm summer days.

We hope you enjoy these highlights from your community!

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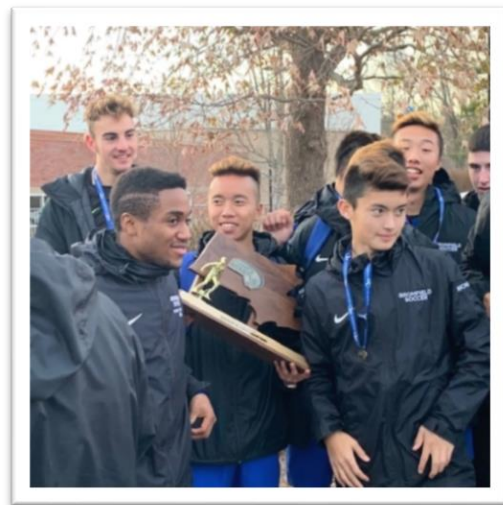
## Thank You Kim Walsh!



The members of the DEAC would like to thank Kim Walsh for all her years of service to the community of Devens. Kim organized and managed so many community events, from the annual Tree Lighting, to hosting Resident Ice Cream Socials, Family Fun Days at Mirror Lake, Outdoor Yoga with Dragonfly Wellness, communicating the status of our wonderful ice rink, and overseeing the many athletic events on Rogers and Willard fields – Kim had the ideal personal characteristics to successfully run the Devens Recreation Department for many years and always had the best interests of our residents at heart. Kim is missed – but we wish her all the best in her new opportunity.

## Bromfield Soccer – MA Div IV State Champs

On Saturday, November 23, 2019, the Bromfield Boys Varsity soccer team was once again hailed as the Massachusetts Division 4 State Champions. This is the third year in a row. Three of our neighborhood boys were on the team – Jordan Colon, Tom Khuu and Ryan McNulty. The team worked hard all season beginning in August and fought with sheer tenacity. At the end of the State Championship game, there was still no score. The crowd was cold, the players exhausted and nervous about going into overtime. Ryan McNulty provided the assist for the game winning goal scored in the last two minutes of the game. The State Championship game had a final score of 1-0.



Devens soccer players Jordan Colon, Tim Khuu, and Ryan McNulty.

### Just a Conversation

*with Avery Haschig and Naraen Thanigaivel*

Click link below for a very adorable conversation between two elementary school students

[Transferring Schools During Covid 19](#)

# Highly Anticipated 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Washington DC Postponed Due to Covid-19

*by Jack Babcock*



On March 18th the 9th grade students at the Bromfield school were supposed to leave for the highly anticipated class trip to Washington D.C. Despite many parents and students advocating for the trip to continue, the school decided that it was in the best interest of the faculty and the students to not attend the trip in March. At first, this decision was opposed by the students, as one would expect, due to the fact that they had been looking forward to this trip for a long time. However, as things progressed in events around the world it turned out to be the right decision.

To start things off was the arrival of Covid-19. Over time as the death and infection rates started to incline, students became more aware that there was a possibility of the trip being canceled. Many of the students had expressed their thoughts of the trip likely still continuing, as at that point there wasn't any hint of this being a global pandemic as the virus had not been very prominent in the United states. And as things progressed with the trip, such as roommates given out, and bus lists being given out, students had little fear of the trip being canceled.

However, after some time concerns arose as the pandemic started to become more and more apparent. Some parents expressed their concerns, and the students became warier of the trip not happening. There was a poll taken by the school committee, with the majority of the parents still in favor of the trip continuing.

After much debate, the school came to the decision to postpone the trip as they evaluated the circumstances. The students quickly spread word around, and the worst was confirmed when the students were sat down and told they would not be going on the D.C trip during the current school year. The trip hasn't been given a new date yet, but students are expected to go next year, during their sophomore year, but if current situations make that not possible, the principal Mr. Hoffman has promised that the students will go during their time at Bromfield before they graduate.

As you might imagine, ninth grade students were really disappointed that this milestone trip was postponed. Little did we know, it was just the start of changes to our schooling that were totally unimaginable.

## Neighborhood Visit by Miss Ruth

In late April, Ruth McFarlane, our treasured bus driver, visited “her kids” with a drive through Devens. Elementary students had been notified, and some were out with signs of greeting and cheerful waves. Miss Ruth wore her Hildreth Elementary sweatshirt and decorated her car with balloons – including graduation balloons – as she was thinking about the Senior students. Miss Ruth misses all of the kids tremendously and looks forward to the day she’ll be picking them up on the big yellow bus again!



## Finishing Your Senior Year of College – From Home in Devens

*Tiffany Khuu – Stonehill College*

My name is Tiffany, and I am a senior studying Business Management at Stonehill College in North Easton, MA. I miss seeing everyone on campus and participating in extracurriculars such as the Equestrian Club and DECA, a business leadership club. I also miss being able to meet with my classmates in person to work on projects instead of meeting vis Zoom. However, my professors have adapted really well to the switch to online learning, so that has worked out well.



When I first got home, it was nice to see my friends and family. It is a little more difficult these days because of the stay-at-home advisory, but I am an essential worker, so I still get to interact with my coworkers.

Overall, coming home for my last semester of college was unexpected, but I believe that every experience in life, whether good or bad, shapes us and makes us who we are. I am looking forward to attending my college graduation later this summer.

## High School Seniors Graduate After Very Irregular Spring

I think everyone is in agreement, there's never been a school year like this one. Students were abruptly pulled out of school on March 13<sup>th</sup> – not to return to their school buildings for the rest of the school year. This was tough for all students – but especially disappointing for high school seniors. Many milestone events did not happen – proms and Celebration, awards dinners, inductions, sports seasons. Learning was moved to a virtual platform.

Schools got creative – there are lawn signs congratulating senior students. Parades were held to celebrate the Class of 2020. Community and families gathered, with safe social distancing, to congratulate and cheer on these resilient seniors.

The Community of Devens has 6 high school seniors this year. We wish them all the best in their futures and feel the adversity they overcame this Spring will lead them to great success.

- ***Eleyna Colon***
- ***Tom Khuu*** - is heading to Northeastern University to study Mechanical Engineering
- ***John Parlee*** – Bromfield - will be attending Bridgewater State University pursuing a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Management and Marketing.
- ***Natalie Stoltzfus***
- ***Tommy Wacek*** – will be attending UMass Lowell to study Civil Engineering
- ***Angela Xing***

## Congratulations Seniors!!!





## Last Day of School – June 16, 2020

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 was the last day of school for students in the Harvard Public Schools. The anticipated last day had been Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – however, after learning transitioned to home in March, the school decided to forgo the 4-day April break (a full week including Patriots Day) – in order to provide consistency in students routines and move up the final day of this strange school year.

Bus driver, Miss Ruth McFarland visited the neighborhood once again to wish the students a happy summer!



## **Note Change to School Calendar - 1st Day of School, Tuesday September 8th**

Due to planning for the complex school year ahead and in order to give teachers time for additional professional development, the start of the school year has been changed to Tuesday, September 8th. We recommend you visit the school website prior to the start of the school year to confirm the final school schedule.

The school calendars can be found on the district's website under Quick Links:

<http://www.psharvard.org/>

## **DEAC Education Survey Postponed Until Next Year**

This Spring, the DEAC had planned to conduct its bi-annual education survey. Since everything got turned upside down due to Covid-19 – the committee decided to postpone the survey for a year. The data is intended to assess the regular school year – and this year was anything but. We plan to send the survey out next Spring.