

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

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Subject: FW:

To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Greetings!

Here we are again. The dreaded annual letter. Sorry, but easiest way to try to stay in touch and share some family news.

“Kids” are all doing well. Georgia’s in kindergarten (Kate and Brian Cote’s daughter, Eileen’s granddaughter). She’s 6 going on 16. Fun, funny, and full of life. Jake (Nicole and Rob’s son, Eileen’s grandson) is 14, a freshman in high school and that means he’s a teenage. :) He played Professor Callahan “Legally Blonde” - a wonderful production put on by his middle school last spring. He was amazing and a bit of show stealer. So proud of him. All the other nieces and nephews are now young adults and in college or working. Emmy (Ashley’s daughter, Bobby’s granddaughter) works for Goldman Sachs in Manhattan. Renee (Michael and Michelle’s daughter) did her fourth summer at an extreme sports camp in Alaska. She runs the “ice camp” there – glamping tents on Matanuska Glacier. Eileen and I went to see her and managed to fit in an incredible sightseeing trip in the Gulf of Alaska to see orcas, seals, sea otters, eagles, all kinds of other wildlife, and glaciers of course. We did TWO helicopter rides and glacier landings, plus a guided trek on Matanuska – yup, climbing up on down the ice (no rappelling) and jumping across crevasses, as well as one night glamping when we actually got to see “alpen glow” while sitting in the hot tub at 9:00 PM. We visited a musk farm, the Alaska State Fair, and more. Last year’s Alaska trip with Brian and Maria was fabulous and this year’s trip equally so. Chris (Michael and Michelle’s son) and his girlfriend Maddie both earned their doctorates – he in AI from Harvard and she in neuroscience from UC Berkeley. Several of us were able to watch Chris defend his dissertation. Pretty big year! They are now both working in Cambridge and settling into an apartment in Somerville. Nice to have them close by. Michael was recently diagnosed with Parkinson’s. Disconcerting but he maintains his sense of self, his stoicism, and his sense of humor. There are more siblings and many more nieces and nephews but these are just some of the past year’s highlights.

Now, what have I been up to? I think I mentioned in last year’s letter that I’ve been working on a huge tobacco prevention project. The Town of Brookline passed a Tobacco Free Generation by-law four years ago and was sued by Big Tobacco. The lawsuit made it all the way to the MA Supreme Judicial Court. The SJC rendered a unanimous decision in favor of Brookline’s authority to adopt this policy. Since then six of the

seven communities that are in my Tobacco Prevention Collaborative have adopted the regulation – now called NFG – Nicotine Free Generation. Recently Concord and Manchester did also. And at a November 25th “NFG Celebration” at the State House, three state legislators announced that they will be filing NFG legislation in January. It’s no slam dunk. Still lots of work to be done on the local level but this is a huge step in potentially completely eradicating the harms of tobacco use – not just health but financial. A pack of Marlboro’s costs \$14.00. That adds up over the course of a year. Or a lifetime. And for young people many other opportunity costs – high school athletics, can’t join the military or become a police officer or firefighter. Very proud of our work so far but, again, we’re not done yet.

Enclosed photo is me after being recognized for our region’s work on this groundbreaking public health policy.

Hope to hear from each and every one of you. I think you know how to reach me: maureenbuzby@gmail.com Cell: 781-307-1411

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