

## Alan K. Stern

*Pediatrician*

*Vice Chairman of Needham Board of Health  
Class of 1982*



Alan Stern looks back on the early 60's as a challenging time in his life. The pressure to succeed was intense, although he concedes that much of this pressure was self-induced. Alan especially enjoyed the school community. He remembers being surrounded by students who were bright, energetic, and interesting. At that time, he comments, students enjoyed actively participating in extra-curricular activities such as athletics, student government, music, drama, and school publications. Alan graduated in 1982, but he still keeps in touch with many of his high school friends. He humorously admits that as a pediatrician, he even takes care of his friends' children.

Alan is thankful for his experiences at Needham High School: "I was very fortunate to have wonderful teachers and friends." "Teachers," he recalls, "challenged us to work hard yet enjoy all of our educational and extracurricular pursuits." He also praises the school administration for making it "acceptable to challenge authority." Alan recognizes that his high school experience made him aware that students and teachers learn from each other, an important lesson for the field of medicine. "I am always learning from my patients," he acknowledges.

Alan received his A.B. from Brown University in 1986 and his M.D. from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 1991. He was a Resident at Children's Hospital in Boston from 1991 to 1994. Since 1994, he has served in Needham Pediatrics and as Needham School Physician. From 1995 to the present, he has been an Instructor in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital-Harvard Medical School and at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Alan's professional affiliations are also indicative of his success. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Massachusetts Medical Society. Since 1997, he has served as Chairman of School Health for the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is currently Vice Chairman of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Commit-

tee on Student Health and Athletics.

His high school experience, Alan claims, has contributed significantly to his success as a student and as a physician: "Mr. Kazarian taught me everything I know! It wasn't until I reached college that I realized how fortunate I was in attending a great high school. I do think that my experience in Needham helped lay the groundwork for a career in helping people. I learned to ask questions that do not necessarily have easy answers."

Alan is happy to be back in town and looks forward to guiding his own children through the Needham School System.

E.M.B.