

Leicester Middle School

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April 2017 Newsletter

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Important Dates in April:

04/03 - 04/07 Washington D.C.
04/03 - 04/13 MCAS for ELA
04/12 Country Banking Day
04/14 - 04/21 Spring Break
04/24 - 04/28 Nature's Classroom
04/26 - 04/27 MCAS for ELA
04/26 Country Banking Day
04/27 Old Sturbridge Village
04/27 LMS Open House

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From the Administration

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As usual, the month of April is flying by and we are in the home stretch of the school year.

Earlier in the month, the eighth grade went to Washington D.C. for their annual field trip, and then worked on a culminating

project. The sixth graders are currently at Nature's Classroom and will return at the end of the week. At Leicester Middle School, we believe in the power of field trips to provide lifelong learning. When students leave the classroom, they see the connections between what is happening at school and in the real world. These enrichment opportunities can have a direct impact on who students become as people.

Students who are eligible for induction into the National Junior Honor Society are currently working on completing the requisite application. Necessary traits that members of this prestigious group must possess are character, citizenship, leadership, and service.

Again, the National Junior Honor Society and LMS CommuniTeen have shown exemplary citizenship by providing community service at the Leicester Food Pantry and New England All Breed Rescue. We are very proud of everything our students do to make Leicester a better community.

Finally, we are holding a second open house at the Middle School so that community members can learn about the condition of the building and the options for the future. See this newsletter for more information. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Joyce Nelson - Principal
Christopher Fontaine - Assistant Principal



Ms. Joyce Nelson
Principal, LMS



Mr. Christopher Fontaine
Assistant Principal, LM





Study: Students Really Do Learn Stuff on Field Trips

According to an article in [The Atlantic](#) by Julia Ryan, field trips are beneficial to students because they allow them to connect what they are learning in the classroom to the real world. A study from the University of Arkansas on the importance of field trips in education reveals two major findings:

1. Field trips are becoming less and less common in American schools. Additionally, when schools do sponsor field trips, they are opting for “reward trips” to movie theaters and amusement parks as opposed to “enrichment trips” to museums and historical sites.



2. Cultural field trips offer students an important opportunity to add measurable depth to their education. In fact, after conducting the study, researchers urged schools to reconsider the national trend to cut field trips to balance tight budgets. “We don’t just want our children to acquire work skills from their education; we also want them to develop into civilized people who appreciate the breadth of human accomplishments. The school field trip is an important tool for meeting this goal.”



Overall, this study provides evidence that school trips to cultural institutions have notable benefits. At LMS we believe wholeheartedly that well-chosen and well-planned field trips are an important part of our educational mission. They provide authentic learning experiences that supplement our classroom curricula.



Sixth Graders Think Outside the Books

During the week of April 24, sixth grade students will have the opportunity to attend Nature’s Classroom, an outdoor environmental education program. The motto of Nature’s Classroom is, “Think Outside the Books.” That’s because students and teachers have the chance to experience education from a different perspective, outside the walls of the classroom.

The curriculum at Nature’s Classroom is strong, emphasizing scientific inquiry and critical thinking. At Nature’s Classroom, students take an active role in their education by participating in hands-on activities that expand their knowledge of the environment and help them understand about their own place in the world.



Old Sturbridge Village

An 1830s New England Living History Museum

On Thursday, April 27, sixth grade students who are unable to attend Nature’s Classroom will have the opportunity to go to Old Sturbridge Village, an historically accurate replica of a 19th century rural village. While there, students will meet costumed characters who will help them become immersed in early New England life. They will visit antique buildings, a water-powered mill, a blacksmith shop, and a working farm. They will also have a chance to take part in some hands-on activities.





Washington D.C. Field Trip

During the week of April 3rd, eighth graders boarded buses headed for our nation's capital. For the 32nd year in a row, students were able to gain first-hand knowledge about American history and government and visit some of the world's most notable museums and monuments.



In preparation for this trip, students learned about the history of our nation's capital. However, nothing compares to physically experiencing the sights and sounds of Washington. This field trip exposed students to

magnificent sources of information, allowing them to integrate visual data with what they already know and believe. They will learn a whole new set of words, phrases and symbols related to our rich history -- words like freedom, liberty, and justice.

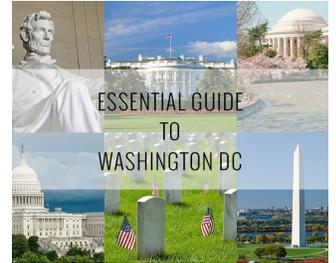
Imagine our students standing beneath the imposing statue of President Lincoln, witnessing the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, and entering the Rotunda of the United States Capitol! And this year the entire class will be able to meet and greet Congressman, Jim McGovern, at the Capitol building.



The richness of this experience cannot be overestimated. Thanks to all who made this wonderful field trip happen.

D.C. Final Project

Now that the eighth graders have returned from Washington D.C. they are required to complete a comprehensive project.



The essential question that they have to answer via this project is, "What are the most important elements of our government, culture, and history as depicted in Washington D.C.?" The end product, is a travel guide that provides four specific sites within a Wolverine Walking/Uber tour.

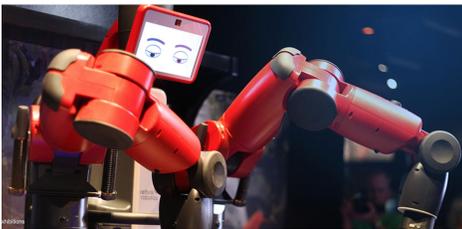
For this assignment, students choose *a role, the audience for the travel guide, a format, and specific topics*. These requirements were described to students as follows:

- **Role** - Who are you as the writer/creator of this travel guide? Tell your story from one of the following perspectives: politician/lawyer, anthropologist, arts enthusiast, military historian, or architect/ engineer.
- **Audience** - To whom are you writing? Identify the specific people who you are trying to reach (think about it in reference to your chosen role).
- **Format** - What format will your project take? Options for projects include: Kizoa, Prezi, Photopeach, virtual map, an interview and exploration uploaded to Youtube featuring direct clips of the trip or a physical map crafted with information on it. If you have other ideas for a format, please get permission from Ms. Mason.
- **Topic** - What is the subject of the project? Your task is to guide a tour that identifies and describes the most important elements of our American government, culture and history, using a minimum of four locations in Washington D.C.

This is an important project and is worth an exam grade. Hopefully we can show some examples of student work in the May newsletter.

7th Graders Will Use Their Powers of Observation and Critical Thinking

On Tuesday, May 23, the seventh grade class will visit the Museum of Science in Boston. While at the museum, students will have the opportunity to view many interactive exhibits that focus on the science, social studies, math, health, and technology/engineering standards.



POPnology is the museum's newest, temporary exhibition, celebrating and exploring the greatest works of innovation and

imagination in history. Here the students can discover how the most innovative breakthroughs often have surprising beginnings — how movies, books, television, and art continue to inspire technological advancements. Four key exhibit areas reveal the science and technology in our everyday lives, where we've been, and where we're going.

Another temporary exhibit is called Defeating Disease. Here students explore the efforts and progress that have been made over time to defeat infectious diseases such as Guinea worm, polio, malaria, and others. Smallpox is the only human disease that has been eradicated, but governments worldwide have been working hard for many decades to wipe out other diseases on the national level — and many have been successful.

Students will also learn about Boston's historic connection to polio and what polio treatment was like at Boston Children's Hospital during outbreaks in the first half of the 20th century. They can examine a 1950s-era restored iron lung, the mechanical device that helped polio patients breathe — and it was invented in Boston!



The Launchpad for Your Imagination!



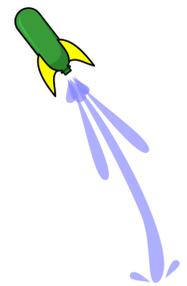
The Leicester Public School Department is proud to announce that Camp Invention will be offered again this summer. Developed with the guidance of National Inventors Hall of Fame inductees and supported by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention is the premier summer day experience for curious young minds.

At Camp Invention children are presented with fun, hands-on challenges that encourage creative problem-solving, teamwork, entrepreneurship, and innovation. This summer's curriculum allows children to:

Create their own personal, ultimate Spy Gadget Alarm box by taking apart and upcycling everyday machines.	Explore a distant new exoplanet and design inventions to create the next Earth.
Launch water rockets, build bubble blasters, and engineer giant castles.	Design duct tape products and pitch them to mock investors.

Camp Invention is available to students entering K-6. To register your child, visit campinvention.org or call 800-968-4332. The details are:

Dates: July 10 - 14
Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Place: Leicester Middle School
Cost: \$250/per student (pay online)



If you have questions, contact the Program Director, Christine Bugbee, at bugbeec@lpsma.net.



With the Box Tops for Education program, schools can earn up to \$20,000 per year to use for such items as computers, books, art supplies, sports equipment, and much

more.

LMS CommuniTeen is collecting box tops so that the Middle School can take advantage of this great



program. There are several ways to earn cash:

1. Regular Box Tops - worth 10¢ each
2. Bonus Box Tops certificates - printed or stickered on a package during a special offer-worth 30¢ (sometimes 40¢)
3. Bonus Box Tops offers - awarded automatically through participation in various promotional offers such as:
 - a. Box Tops Sweepstakes - We enter a contest.
 - b. Clipboard Collection Drives - You make a pledge to submit a certain amount of box tops to reach a school goal during a drive. We will be running a drive in the fall.

Box Tops for Education also has:

- A cool Bonus App that allows you to scan your grocery receipt, which automatically adds amounts to the school's account. Just click on the following link and sign up for the app.
[Box Tops for Education Bonus App](#)
- Coupons for discounts on Box Tops products - Click on the coupon link below to see this week's coupons. Click on the Products link below to see all the products that contain Box Tops for Education.
[Coupons Link](#)
[Products Link](#)

So far they have collected almost 1,000 box tops. The goal for the remainder of the school year is 5,000. Please keep sending in those box tops! Thanks for your continued

National Junior Honor Society

The induction of new NJHS members will be held on Wednesday, May 31st from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the gym.

- Students who have a cumulative GPA of 89.5 and higher are eligible for NJHS.
- Eligible students should have already received a letter in the mail with a Student Activity Information Form (SAIF) and other necessary documents to be returned to Mrs. Duprey, the advisor.
- Students who would like to type directly into the form can find it by clicking on the following link and selecting the file called SAIS. It will be saved in the student's Google account at school. Once the form is completed, students should print it out and hand it into Mrs. Duprey. Forms are due **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, APRIL 27**. Late forms will NOT be accepted.



[Online Student Activity Information Sheet](#)

- After the due date, the NJHS Faculty Council will meet to review student responses. This review is a "blind" assessment. In other words, the committee does not know the names of the students they are reviewing.
- All eligible students will be informed of acceptance or non-acceptance by letter. Important documents explaining induction and the appeal process will be included.
- Within a week or two after those letters go out, there will be at least one rehearsal for inductees.



Good luck to all the students who are applying to NJHS!

support!



During the month of April, LMS students volunteered to help people in the neighborhood.

The **National Junior Honor Society** and **LMS CommuniTeen** helped with the annual Easter food distribution at the Leicester Food Pantry. They unloaded trucks, stocked the tables and shelves, and constructed carry out boxes. Here are some pictures!



Sean and Mrs. Duprey



Jason and Connor



LMS CommuniTeen volunteered their time during school vacation to help out at New England All Breed Rescue. They learned some correct methods for disciplining dogs, raked the play yard, and just spent time cuddling the dogs. Here is a slide show:



[Visit to New England All Breed Rescue](#)

By the way, the dogs at New England All Breed are ready to be adopted. If you visit, you will not be able to resist taking home a friend. Just look at these faces!



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Delaney Sherman, this year's ambassador to Project 351, conducted a clothing drive in conjunction with Cradles to Crayons as part of her year of service.

Cradles to Crayons is an organization that provides children from birth to age 12, living in low-income and homeless situations, the essential items they need to thrive –





Recognized by the community as its greatest asset, the Leicester Schools engage every child in rigorous and student-centered learning in a safe and technology-rich environment.

Hailey and Jaedyn

LMS CommuniTeen

at home, at school and at play. Thanks, Delaney, for your dedication to this effort!

Building Walk-Through Open House

A building committee made up of school and other town administrators, teachers, parents, and townspeople has been formed to study options to either renovate or replace the Middle School. To help guide the committee’s decisions, it is extremely important to get feedback from the entire community. If you would like to learn about the condition of the building and the options for the future, please join us for a walk-through:

Date: Thursday, April 27
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Place: Leicester Middle School

We hope to see you there.



The next meeting of the friends of Leicester Middle School is scheduled as follows:Date:

Date: Wednesday, May 10
Time: 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
Place: Leicester Middle School Library

MCAS Schedule

MCAS testing will be conducted on the following dates:

May 2	Math	Grade 7
May 3	Math	Grade 7
May 4	Math	Makeups
May 5	Math	Makeups
May 8	Math	Grade 8
May 9	Math	Grade 8
May 10	Math	Grade 6
May 11	Math	Grade 6
May 12	Math	Makeups
May 15	STEM	Grade 8
May 16	STEM	Grade 8
May 17	STEM	Makeups
May 19	All	Makeups
May 22	All	Makeups
May 23	All	Makeups
May 24	All	Makeups

Nurse Substitutes Needed!

Are you a parent or community member who is an RN or LPN? Do you have time to work (on call) in our schools? If so, Leicester Public Schools needs you to become a substitute nurse. You can choose your days to work, and training will be provided. It's a great way to give back to your community. Please go online to apply. [Nurse Application](#)