

Leicester Middle School

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May 2017 Newsletter

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Important Dates in May:

05/02 - 05/24 MCAS Testing
05/10 - 05/24 Country Banking Days
05/10 Friends of LMS Meeting
05/17 Scholar Leader Award Dinner
05/18 Early Release Day
05/19 Special Olympics
05/23 Grade 7 Trip-Science Museum
05/25 Memorial Day Assembly
05/26 Music in the Parks
05/29 Memorial Day - No School
05/31 NJHS Induction Ceremony

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From the Administration

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Middle School has been a beehive of activity during the month of May. Recently we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week, but we want our teachers to know that we appreciate all they do -- EVERY week. We would also like to recognize our students' moms; we sincerely hope they had an awesome Mother's Day!



Ms. Joyce Nelson
Principal, LMS



Mr. Christopher Fontaine
Assistant Principal, LMS

This month all students completed the math MCAS tests and 8th graders completed STEM MCAS tests. We only have a few makeups to go, and then we are finished for the year!

The 7th grade is looking forward to its upcoming field trip to the Museum of Science in Boston. There are many new exhibits, including one called POPnology. This exhibit celebrates and explores the greatest works of innovation and imagination in history. Our students are going to love it.

Two 8th grade students were recognized by the New England League of Middle School for their outstanding scholarship and leadership. In addition, students who were accepted into the National Junior Honor Society will be inducted into this prestigious group in late May.

As always, our students continued to give back to their community by participating in a number of community service activities. On Saturday, May 13, many students worked hard to "spruce up" the Middle School grounds. Come on by to see the great work they did!

The LMS library is truly the "heartbeat" of the school. You can read about the library and more in this edition of the school newsletter. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Joyce Nelson - Principal
Christopher Fontaine - Assistant Principal

Future Search II



Four years ago, the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Paolucci, organized Future Search I, a workshop that brought together a broad cross-section of the community to develop strategies for improving the Leicester Public Schools. Developed by Marvin Weisbord and Sandra Janoff, Future Search is a “scientific process that creates optimal conditions for effective dialogue among diverse groups of people. This process has been used for many years throughout the world and across many different sectors of society.” The strategies coming out of that session generated concrete goals have been implemented throughout the district.

With the ever-changing needs of our schools, it was time to reassess those goals. Thus, 80 individuals came together on a Saturday in April to attend Future Search II, where participants focused on the district’s current improvement strategies:

1. Engaging instruction and effective interventions grounded in a rigorous curriculum
2. Development of staff skills through effective feedback and training
3. Improved infrastructure and resources



Part of the day was spent analyzing valuable data about the community’s values and needs. This data came from a Thought Exchange survey, conducted earlier in the year by the Town of Leicester and the school department.

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If you would like to learn more about the event and the data, just click on the following link.

[Future Search II](#)

The next step in this process is to create action plans. These goals will be presented to the School Committee at its June meeting and will be adopted by the entire district.

At the workshop, participants received a pin to wear which says, “Leicester aims for awesome.” Thanks to everyone who came together to make Leicester awesome.

Town Votes to Move Ahead

At the May 2 annual town meeting, the community came together to approve several important articles that impact the Leicester schools. Of greatest importance to the Middle School were Articles 20 and 21:



Article 20 established a formal Middle School Building Committee consisting of 15 members. The committee is authorized to oversee the planning, design and construction of the school facility that will replace the Leicester Middle School, which may also involve one or more other school facilities in Leicester.

Article 21 authorized the Middle School Building Committee to move ahead with a Middle School Replacement Feasibility Study. This comprehensive study will evaluate the school’s structural, mechanical, and programmatic deficiencies, survey the school’s campus, develop enrollment projections, and identify a shared vision for the future of Leicester Middle School. The study will take several months to complete and the final cost will be reimbursed by the state at a rate of about 59%.

At the conclusion of the feasibility study, subject to funding approval and a town vote, either Leicester Middle School will undergo a renovation or a new construction project will be initiated.

LMS Library - The Heartbeat of the School!

If you haven't yet checked out the Library pages on the Middle School website, you are really missing something. When you go to the website, you are welcomed warmly by the following picture and invitation:



Welcome to the Leicester Middle School Library, where students are encouraged to read, explore, create, collaborate, and become empowered information seekers!

The site contains the following items, plus a whole lot more:

- A list of upcoming events and a monthly calendar
- A Twitter feed
- New book arrivals and a space for new book suggestions
- Library guides and databases
- Information on how to avoid plagiarism, evaluate websites for accuracy, and create proper citations
- A student contributions section contains artwork and student book reviews.

This site is a mini-journey through the library. We encourage you to take a peek!

[LMS Library](#)

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Library Student Advisory Group

Ms. Minton oversees the Library Student Advisory Group, which meets weekly to plan events and discuss ways to improve the Leicester Middle School Library. All students are eligible to join this important after-school activity.



Other Exciting Activities

Over the course of the year, Ms. Minton has brought a certain vitality to the school that we think is unmatched--anywhere. She constantly works with teachers to bring the curriculum to life and sponsors fun and stimulating learning activities. The main purpose for these activities is to get students excited about reading and spending time in the library. Here are some examples of upcoming activities that have happened during the past few month or are scheduled to occur:

Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them Movie Release Party

In October, students celebrated the movie release of *Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them*, a spin-off book/movie from the Harry Potter franchise. Participants in the after school program made wands, played table top quidditch (a sport in the Harry Potter universe), enjoyed snacks and drinks at "The Three Broomsticks", took pictures with props in a themed photo booth, and had a chance to win two movie tickets.

National Poetry Month - Poem in Your Pocket Day

April was National Poetry Month. The library displayed blackout poetry. Students were invited to add poems to a "poet-tree", and little poems rolled up like scrolls were handed to students on Poem in Your Pocket Day. Students were encouraged to share them with a friend.



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6th & 7th Grade Graphic Novel Book Club

During their respective lunch blocks, students in grades 6 and 7 participate in a book club, discussing a different graphic novel each month.

Beauty & the Beast Movie Release Party

In March, students celebrated the movie release of *Beauty & the Beast* in the library. The Student Advisory Club helped plan and create decorations for the big day. 28 students joined in on the fun, eating French desserts, taking pictures in the themed photo booth, acting out scenes from the movie, and participating in a scavenger hunt to win movie tickets.

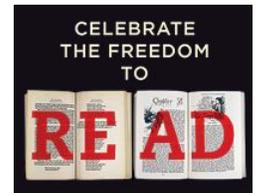


Grant Applications

LMS Library

Ms. Minton applied for the Judith Krug Fund Banned Books Grant in the amount of \$2,500. There are three groups that would benefit from this grant:

1. Town of Leicester - Banned book week activities will be held on the common. Middle School students will help out, showcasing their service to the community.
2. LMS - Banned book activities at LMS will showcase classic novels that have been banned at one time or another.
3. Enrichment Group - A small group of students will have the opportunity to be part of a book group focusing on banned books. They may even visit sites like the Norman Rockwell Museum to view the paintings of the Four Freedoms: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear.



Star Wars Day

In May the library is highlighting science fiction books, particularly because May 4th is Star Wars Day - "May the Fourth be with you", paying homage to the Star Wars franchise. Students who stopped by the library on May 4th received a mini storm trooper prize.

National Scavenger Hunt Day

On May 24th, National Scavenger Hunt Day, various images will be hidden around the school that can be located using the clues available in the Middle School Library. Students who find and return the images will receive a prize. Also, students and staff can add an object to a canvas in the library, creating a giant "I Spy" picture to display in the library.

Maker Fair

In mid-June, students will be invited to a Maker Fair where members of the Student Advisory Club teach participants how to make various crafts, projects, jewelry etc. Some of the projects include a hex-nut bracelet, ninja warrior pipe cleaner pals, slime, mini-poetry workshop, sock octopus, and a stress ball.

LMS CommuniTeen

The club advisor applied for a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Leicester Savings Bank. The mission of LMS CommuniTeen is to change the world by helping family, friends, and neighbors. The main goal is to supplement academic learning by providing meaningful service learning experiences, which encourage and enable students to positively impact their community. More importantly, the program teaches good citizenship and educates students to become the change agents of tomorrow.

The nature of this club is to give back to the community; thus the club does not conduct fundraisers to cover operating expenses. The advisor asked for this grant to cover such items as Veterans' Day packages, crafts with the elderly, Read Across America night, Teacher Appreciation Week and more. Please wish us luck in securing these funds.



**NATIONAL
JUNIOR
HONOR
SOCIETY**

National Junior Honor Society

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

We would like to remind all inductees to dress nicely for the ceremony - business casual to semi-formal. All current members

should try to wear blue, black, and/or white. Please make sure that skirts are the appropriate length for school and wear shoes that are suitable for walking across the gym floor.

On the night of the ceremony, inductees and their sponsors should arrive no later than 5:30 PM and proceed to the cafeteria in order to get lined up and receive any last-minute instructions. Congratulations to the 2017 inductees!



**New England
League
of Middle Schools**

The Scholar Leader Awards program gives public recognition to two

students from each middle school in the Commonwealth who have distinguished themselves in terms of outstanding scholarship and leadership.

On Wednesday, May 17, Delaney Sherman and Delia Shea, received Scholar Leader Awards from the New England



League of Middle Schools. They were nominated for this honor by their teachers. These students attended a state-wide awards banquet where they received plaques with their names on them signifying this honor.

Congratulations to Delaney and Delia. We are very proud of you!

SAGE Scholars tuitionrewards

Did you know that your child can earn college tuition credits by participating in our annual magazine drive fundraiser? It is our biggest fundraiser of the school year and gets kicked off in early fall. Students earn thousands of dollars in Sage Scholars Tuition Rewards every year, which can be redeemed at over 340 participating private colleges and universities.

To become eligible, students must sell the following amounts:

- \$100 in product sales= \$1,000 in tuition reward points
- \$250 in product sales= \$2,500 in tuition reward points

If your child qualified for tuition rewards, on Thursday May 14, he or she received their certificate in school. If you have any questions regarding the certificate, please contact Mr. Fontaine. For more information about this program, click [here](#).

Congratulations to our students. Overall they earned \$112,000 in tuition rewards from our 2016/2017 fundraiser!



On May 26th, the LMS Band will travel to Holyoke and Agawam to participate in the Music in the Parks competition at Six Flags New England. Students will perform two pieces in front

of judges and receive valuable feedback. They are playing "Transformers" and "How to Train Your Dragon." On the way there, they will perform a concert for Memorial School students. We wish our students good luck!



LMS Pride Day

On Saturday, May 13 a group of Middle School volunteers participated in the district's annual Pride Day, which is set aside to "spruce up" the school grounds. They started work at 8:00 AM and finished around 11:30 AM. When the work was done, the group came together in the courtyard to share pizza and stories. Thanks to everyone who made this day a success. The grounds look great!

LMS CommuniTeen

Helping Family, Friends, and Neighbors

LMS CommuniTeen is planning a fun project at New England All Breed Rescue.

There is a white wooden fence in the dogs' play yard

that needs a coat of paint. Instead of just repainting it, the group will be painting some cartoon dogs on the fence. ALL Middle School students will be invited to join in the fun. We don't have a date for the project yet, but it will most likely be a Saturday in mid-June. Stay tuned!



CommuniTeen is still collecting box tops. We recently turned in 1,000 box tops and have almost \$100 in the Middle School account. We are striving to collect 5,000 box tops by

the end of the school year! Please remember to send in your box tops!

For Teacher Appreciation Week, LMS CommuniTeen members made cards for each teacher and personalized them by adding their names. Thank you, teachers, for all you do!



CommuniTeen members created a Family Movie Night Basket which was raffled at a benefit for an LHS student who is battling cancer. We understand that a little kid won the basket. Congratulations!

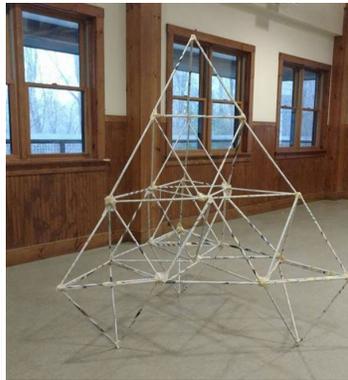
We hope our high school friend gets better soon.



Nature's Classroom

Although they had a wet week, the 6th graders came back from Nature's Classroom looking like a bunch of happy campers. A quote from one sixth grader, Connor Wilson, says it all. "I felt like I was at home! I had my friends, my teachers, and great food, especially the ribs!"

Here are some pictures.



Friends of
Leicester Middle School

During Teacher Appreciation Week, Friends of Leicester Middle School sponsored a luncheon for the Middle School teachers, administrators, and staff. They provided sandwiches, chips, soft beverages, and home baked goodies. The group also sponsored a pizza lunch for the LMS Pride Day volunteers.

The group has had a very successful first year. If you would like to get a recap of the year by the chairperson, Christine Fadden, click [here](#) to see the minutes from the May 10 meeting.

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

Date: Wednesday, June 14
Time: 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM
Place: Leicester Middle School Library

Please feel free to join us, especially parents of incoming 6th graders.



From Friends of Leicester Middle School to LMS

Thank you so much for the great bags you gave to us!

Save the Date!

Please join us at LHS for three important informational sessions for parents of incoming 9th graders, and the SBIRT Training is also for parents of incoming 7th graders. The details are as follows:

Date: June 13th (originally scheduled for June 15th)
Time: 5:00 PM “Why choose Leicester High?”
(Presentation by LHS Guidance Dept.)
5:30 PM Chromebook Roll Out
6:00 PM* SBIRT Training for Parents
(Alcohol Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment)

*This agenda item refers to legislation mandating SBIRT in schools. In March, 2016, the Massachusetts Legislature passed House Bill, No. 4056, which outlines the requirements for public schools in the Commonwealth to engage in substance use prevention and education. This legislation can be found at:



[An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education, and Prevention](#)

See Sections 15, 63, 64, and 66. If you have any questions please email Mrs. Hippert at hippert@lpsma.net



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](#).