



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE POWER OF TEACHING

Issue #1 Monthly Newsletter

September 2011

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Since I was 6 years old and entering first grade I haven't missed a September in school and that's a long, long time! I honestly feel excitement to start the new school year every year. I remember the mystery as a kid, of wondering who will my teacher be and will they be nice? The excitement of being a teacher and wondering who will my students be and how will I meet their needs? The excitement as an Administrator wondering what will the State and district requirements be and how will I balance the workand now as Superintendent -- OMG -- what will happen next! This is important work that takes patience, character and caring on the parts of everyone -- WELCOME BACK to a new school year. Thank you for your work -- the children are counting on us!

Jean M. Franco



Did you know...?

- Our total student number of September 1st is 13,750
- We have 2,054 employees working in our system
- We have 1,015 active teachers in the system
- Our school community is comprised of 9,056 families
- 498 of our seniors are attending college this year
- We serve 9250 lunches a day

STAFF SHIFTS

Special Education Asst. Adm: **JoAnn Martin**

Bartlett School Asst.Principal: **Mathew McLean**

Cardinal O'Connell Coordinator: **David Cook**

Greenhalge Asst. Principal: **Keliann Woodlock**

LHS Housemasters: **David Slattery & Deidre Haley.**

LHS Guidance: **Patti Abisi, Shelby Boisvert, Yvette Crowell, and Rhonda Brown.**

LHS Science Department Chair: **Roger Mournneau**

Moody Interim Principal: **Robbie Keefe**

Morey Asst. Principal: **Andrew Desrosiers**

Pawtucketville Asst. Principal: **Kim Clements**

Reilly Interim Principal: **Sean Carabatsos**

Robinson Asst. Principal: **Thad King**

Sullivan Asst. Principal: **Jane Campbell**

Shaughnessy Interim Asst. Principal: **Grace Basile**

Washington Interim Principal: **Cheryl Cunningham**

Upcoming Meetings

- **Schoolhouse Meetings:**
[check your school for the date and time]
- **School Committee** [1st & 3rd Wednesday @7pm in the City Hall Council Chambers]
- **Citywide Parent Council**
10/17 Candidates Forum

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

1. Educator Evaluation

On June 28, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted new regulations on Evaluation of Educators. The regulations, which apply to both administrators and teachers throughout the state, are designed to:

- Promote growth and development of leaders and teachers,
- Place student learning at the center, using multiple measures of student learning, growth and achievement,
- Recognize excellence in teaching and leading,
- Set a high bar for professional teaching status, and
- Shorten timelines for improvement.

Implementation is beginning this fall in 34 Level 4 schools, Chelsea High School, and in 11 districts and 4 collaboratives whose applications to serve as "early adopter" sites were accepted this summer. Implementation will continue in Race to the Top districts in the fall of 2012 and in remaining districts in the fall of 2013. Our work begins at the Murkland School this year and in the entire district next year.

2. Continuation of Adapting the Common Core Standards into the Lowell Public Schools

Special thanks to Math Support Specialists **Jeff Gwiazda** and **Magaly Ronan** for leading the Mathematics Common Core Committee over the summer. The committee comprised of 30 LPS educators worked very hard to ensure that teachers could begin the year with updated curriculum guides and assessments correlated to the new Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks. The committee will continue to work throughout this school year. Also, thanks to our former Reading ELA Coordinator **Phyllis Schlichter** for her work in introducing the writing standard in the Common Core.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all who have made the smooth opening of school possible.

The school buildings are beautiful – thanks to **Brian Curley**, **Elizabeth McLaughlin** and each of our entire custodial and maintenance team.

Thanks to all staff who organized offices, made classrooms look beautiful for the children, prepared kitchens, libraries and other facilities.

Thanks to all administration who have worked tirelessly through the summer to be prepared for the opening of school.

[School Days – Cartoons from the New Yorker]



"Miss Finch, my attorney has advised me that I'm not obligated to address the question of what I did on my summer vacation. Nonetheless, I would like to respond."