



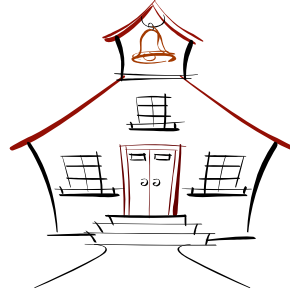
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## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

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Dear Staff, Families and Lowellians,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season. This past Monday, Lowell Public Schools had the honor of swearing in its new Mayor and School Committee Members. We would like to congratulate all of the following: Mayor James L. Milinazzo, Jacqueline A. Doherty, David J. Conway, Alison P.B. Laraba, John J. Leahy, Vice-Chair James D. Leary and Connie A. Martin. We thank them for their time, commitment and dedication to Lowell Public Schools. Our School Committee gives generously of their time and expertise and collaboratively works with us to ensure that all of our students receive an excellent education.

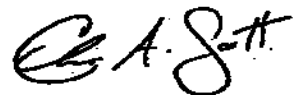
Of all the urban school districts in the Commonwealth, because of the hard work of the Committee and our Staff, Lowell Public Schools is being ranked #1 for its Growth Data in Mathematics and in the top third in English Language Arts. I am also proud to report that Lowell Public Schools is one of 14 districts in the Commonwealth with one or more Title I schools where Limited English Proficient [LEP] students are making significant gains. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [ESE] has informed us that based on individual student growth rates and school change in Composite Performance Index [CPI] that eight [8] of the thirty-six [36] schools identified in the Commonwealth are from Lowell Public Schools. The following schools have been cited by the State to be among the highest growth schools in the Commonwealth for Limited English Proficient Students:

*B. F. Butler, James S. Daley, Abraham Lincoln, Pyne Arts, John J. Shaughnessy, Kathryn P. Stoklosa, Dr. An Wang and Washington Schools.* Congratulations to these hard working students and staff for the earnest effort that is required to achieve these impressive results. As a point of interest, Lowell Public Schools has the second highest population of Limited English Proficient Students in the Commonwealth. These results demonstrate the expertise our staff have developed in order to address the linguistic challenges that our students have to overcome in order to engage the curriculum. These significant gains by our students now make us eligible for grants worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to deepen and enhance the delivery of services and instruction to our English Language Learners. During these difficult financial times these funds will make a significant difference.

Although it is flu season, cases of H1N1 flu seem to be rare in this area. The Health and School Departments are contributing this to be a direct result of the extensive preventative measures that we have engaged in to avoid the epidemic. These measures include: multiple flu clinics have been held throughout the region; the availability of hand-sanitizers in public offices; and people appear to be adhering to their grandmother's advice of washing their hands well and coughing in their sleeve. In preparation for the third wave of the flu season that we expect to arrive in the spring, the Health Department is now holding H1N1 flu clinics in our middle schools. A clinic has already been held at Lowell High School where over 650 students were inoculated. Individual middle schools will be in contact with families to give them consent forms, informational packets and the date of the clinic for participating students.

Wishing you all the best in 2010; stay well.

My best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Smith". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.