

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Colleagues,

In just a few hours we will have some time off to reconnect with family and reflect on our blessings and our treasured memories. As we ponder on the many opportunities we have had over the years and the people who have impacted and blessed our lives, part of the focus may lead to think about our calling to serve the youth of Lowell. The work that we do matters and lasts in the lives of young people for years to come. I give thanks for my calling to this distinguished profession and I am truly thankful to work along side such a talented group of colleagues. I wish to thank each of you for your service, integrity and dedication to children. I'd like to wish each of you a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.

Our young people depend on our focused collaborative work and all of us together can create amazing results.

Jean M. Francis



MERRIMACK VALLEY FOOD BANK

Amy Pessia, Executive Director

A bit of information.....

- 4,500 POUNDS of food was collected equaling over 3,400 meals
- This food was provided to our families in the city Schools
- It was noteworthy that the quality of food was of the highest standard and dearly appreciated
- In a time of giving thanks, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank gives thanks for our generosity

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COMMON CORE—MATHEMATICS

Common Core Committee met last Monday, November 14th as a whole group. Prior to that additional teachers joined grade level teams to support the work and share their expertise in curriculum alignment and writing. We appreciate the assistance and support from our new and old members! The curriculum office could not do this alone. It is a true example of our professional learning community and shared leadership.

Grade level teams are continuing to align our curriculum to the 2011 CC MA standards. CC Grade Level Teacher teams are continually unpacking standards and doing soft unpack of Investigations and CMP units to determine if our primary resources teach the standard. In cases where our primary resources do not suffice the CCC has been working hard to put together additional resources to meet the standards. In addition, the team is updating pre-tests and post-tests to assess the new standards and 2012 assessable standards. As always, this is a work in progress and the feedback and questions we have received from coaches and teachers thus far has improved our curriculum alignment. The committee appreciates and welcomes feedback, questions, and concerns as we continue to work on the kinks of aligning our curriculum to the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics Incorporating the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

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UPDATE ON C.E.L.T. STUDY

Many of you have heard of or been involved in the ongoing Technology Study. This is what has happened thus far:

- Data collected during a week in September provided by district in schools
- Interviewed staff—differ in a variety of forums
- Key findings and reconnections were submitted for review
- The draft was reviewed with internal staff confidentially
- An Executive Summary was submitted to the Superintendent and staff for feedback
- A meeting was held to review overall reconstruction/next steps that will include action plans for implementation based on cost factors
- A formal presentation will be made in the future at a School Committee meeting—with action plan for next steps

LEVEL 4 SCHOOLS

I am proud to announce that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education just released six Level 4 Schools at this particular time. Lowell has maintained capacity and an additional Level 4 School has not been identified. Congratulations and continue your focused work!

UNITED WAY

The City of Lowell will continue their partnership with the United Way starting on November 30th. The "Live United" Campaign allows you to make donations to your favorite charities through a convenient and easy payroll deduction. Your voluntary contribution can be specifically directed to one or more agencies, including any of the 50 local non-profit agencies and organizations, as well as 200+ partner agencies. Pledge cards will be distributed to all employees to every school on December 1 and December 2. Please consider making an automatic weekly payroll deduction to support your favorite local or national charity or organization.

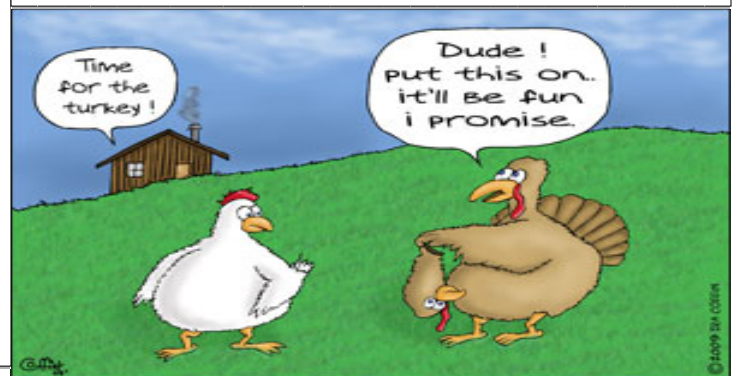
STAFF SHIFTS

Carolyn Cuneo, Alternative School Coordinator/
Leblanc Therapeutic Day School

Jeff Gwiazda, Coordinator of 5-12 Mathematics

Deborah Romeo, Coordinator of Grades 5-12
English Language Arts and Literacy

Magaly Ronan, Coordinator of PreK-4 Mathematics



Upcoming Meetings & Events

School Committee Meetings: [1st & 3rd Wednesday
@7pm in the City Hall Council Chambers]

Student Support Services Subcommittee Meeting:
Monday, November 28th @ 7:00PM [rm. 221] Agenda:
Introduce Head Injury Policy and Update on Bullying
Program

Joint LHS/Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting:

Thursday, December 1st @ 7:00PM [rm. 054] Agenda:
Latin Lyceum Update on Recommendations, Class
Syllabi and Update on Online Learning

Mayor's Holiday Reception: Wednesday, December
14th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at City Hall