

Good evening LHS Family,

Welcome back! Last week consisted of one delayed opening school day due to the heating concerns and weather. I am sure everyone is looking forward to a full and productive Lowell High School week ahead of us!

I was honored to attend the inauguration at city hall for the new City Councilors, Mayor and then School Committee members. The event was followed by a luncheon in the Courtyard Restaurant for all the School Committee members and their families. Special thanks go to our Chorus and JROTC students who participated in the event and did a fabulous job as usual. A big thanks also goes to all the students and staff that helped prepare and serve the wonderful celebration meal for our guests.

Especially over the past weeks and today, I spent countless hours walking the corridors, common spaces, gym and pool area (and even saw the underbelly of the pool area) to understand where the most serious heating concerns are located. I have learned a great deal about our school infrastructure, and I even know my way around a bit more than I did before. I am aware that many of the issues we are now facing did not just happen overnight. Nonetheless, the city, Dr. Khelifaoui, Rick Underwood and I (and many, many others) are committed to doing everything we can to bring our school to an acceptable level for our students and staff.

Many areas of the school have sufficient heat but as of 5:00 pm tonight we observed the following areas still need more attention:

- The 500's on the canal side
- The 200's in the Coburn Hall area
- The classrooms near the newer tunnel

As I said in my previous email, we have made progress but we are not out of the woods. Some of the parts we really needed should be in tomorrow. With the weather warming up this week, we are expecting the workers will be able to work on the roof for longer periods of time which had been hindered by the extreme cold.

Any classroom where the teacher and students feel they need to wear hats, coats and mittens to stay warm will need to move their classroom until this is fixed. I know that many of you have tried to tough it out, but we need to make sure you have a warm space to teach and students have a warm space to learn. Please contact Alan Sayer, Roxane Howe and myself immediately tomorrow morning if your room is unacceptable. We will work on identifying empty classrooms and areas to temporarily move your classroom to. We cannot allow you to stay in a room that is unacceptable no matter how much moving disrupts the students and yourself. Again, we do not believe there will be many, if any rooms that will be at this level tomorrow - hence the reason we are having school.

Upcoming Important Dates:

1/8	Monday	Friends of Lowell High School Meeting, 7:00pm Little Theatre
1/10	Wednesday	Early Release - Jessica Minnehan Presentation 12:30-2:30pm Auditorium
1/11	Thursday	Winter Dance Concert 7:00pm Auditorium
1/13	Saturday	Mill City Show Choir Festival
1/15	Monday	No School, Martin Luther King Day
1/23-1/26	Tues-Friday	Mid-Year Assessments (See Amy's updated email for more info)
1/29	Monday	Marking Period 3 begins (ends Thurs, 3/29)
1/31	Wednesday	Grades due at 7:50am
2/6	Tuesday	Semester 1 Report Cards distributed in Advisory

Have a good week everyone!

Marianne