The Lion's Roar

McAvinnue's Community Newsletter: Week Of November 22nd

MCAVINNUE'S PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello McAvinnue Community!

Well...that was a really busy week at McAvinnue! We had several positive moments and a few challenges due to a spike in COVID positives cases within our school community. Some of you have received the dreaded call regarding a positive notification or being a "close contact". We have made good use of the Test and Stay Program to keep students in school. Please keep in mind that these things tend to run in cycles...and we were glad to end the week with all COVID-19 weekly testing pools receiving



negative results. We will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 cases within our school community and make any adjustments to our safety protocols to minimize exposure to all stakeholders.

On Wednesday, November 17th, we successfully hosted McAvinnue's Thanksgiving Lunch for our school community! The students really enjoyed the meal and we did our best to make our cafeteria look really special. Our food service team did an amazing job preparing the lunch...and it was outstanding! We will continue this tradition at McAvinnue...it really was a great time for everyone...check out the pictures below!

Also, we were able to have our students head out to McAvinnue's School & Community Garden on Friday to do some seasonal planting. With the support from our partners at Mill City Grows, our students learned about and planted garlic and tulips that we will be able to enjoy during early Spring. While the weather was on the chiller side, everyone had an amazing time. We can't wait to see how things turn out! Check out the pictures below to see all of the planting fun!

Finally, we will dismiss students on Wednesday, November 23rd at 11:50 AM for the Thanksgiving Break. Keep in mind that this is not the usual time for student dismissal that occurs during Early Release Days. Please make the necessary arrangements to be available for your child on this day. There will be no school for Ms. Annie's morning PreK students on this day. McAvinnue's Before School Program will still occur on Wednesday...however, there will be no After School Program on this day.

As we end the month of November, there are a few items that you need to be aware of. Please mark your calendars for the following events and activities at McAvinnue:

- <u>Tuesday, November 23rd</u>: McAvinnue's 1st Annual "Turkey Trot" Allied Arts
- <u>Wednesday, November 24th</u>: Early Dismissal Thanksgiving Break
- <u>Thursday, November 25th & Friday, November 26th</u>: No School Thanksgiving Break

• Monday, November 29th: McAvinnue Reopens @ 9:10 AM

You will find additional details for the events and activities list above in this edition of McAvinnue's "Lion's Roar" Community Newsletter.

As usual, we are looking forward to another amazing week at the "best school that we all know"!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Main Office at McAvinnue or send Mr. Domina a message a <u>mdomina@lowell.k12.ma.us</u>.

McAvinnue's Thanksgiving Lunch!





McAvinnue's Planting Day









Here are important dates to remember during the month of November & December:

- Tuesday, November 23rd: McAvinnue's 1st Annual "Turkey Trot" Allied Arts
- <u>Wednesday, November 24th</u>: Early Dismissal Thanksgiving Break
- <u>Thursday, November 25th & Friday, November 26th</u>: No School Thanksgiving Break
- <u>Wednesday, December 1st</u>: McAvinnie's Parent / Teacher Group (PTG) Meeting Virtual
- Thursday, December 2nd: Parent / Teacher Conferences @ 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 8th: Early Release Day Student Dismissal @ 1:30 PM

Early Dismissal: Wednesday, November 24th @ 11:50 AM



<u>Students will be dismissed at 11:50 AM on Wednesday, November 24th</u> as part of the Thanksgiving Break. This is not the usual early release time. Please make the necessary arrangements to be available for your child on this day. There will be no classes held for Ms. Annie's morning PreK students. McAvinnue's Before School Program will still occur on Wednesday...however, the Afterschool Program will not take place.

Also, we will **NOT** serve lunch on this day. Breakfast will still be provided first thing in the morning.

McAvinnue will be closed on Thursday, November 25th - Friday, November 26th. We will reopen our doors again on Monday, November 29th @ 9:10 AM.

McAvinnue's 1st Annual "Turkey Trot" Challenge

Our amazing Allied Arts Team has been working on creating the 1st Annual McAvinnue's "Turkey Trot" Challenge complete with the Golden Turkey Award!

Who will win this coveted award? Check out the picture below to see the Golden Turkey Award!

Students will come to the gym to participate in Thanksgiving themed games with their Allied Arts teachers during their scheduled Specials time on Tuesday, November 23rd.



Be on the lookout for pictures of this new and exciting event for our students on Tuesday, November





Parent / Teacher Conferences: Thursday, December 2nd @ 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

We will host Parent / Teacher Conferences on **Thursday, December 2nd from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**. The conferences will be either in-person at the school or using the Zoom meeting platform. This will allow us the most flexibility to best meet everyone's needs.



Please be on the lookout for a message from your child's teacher with an online Sign-Up Genius link that you can use to book your time and other details about conferences that are relevant to your child's classroom.

REMINDER: Masks Are Required When Riding School Bus

Please remember that all students must wear their masks on the school bus unless they have a medical exemption. It has been brought to our attention that there has been a large number of bus incident reports for students who are not wearing their masks on the bus throughout Lowell.



Bus drivers do not always have masks that they can give to kids, so

please send your student to the bus stop with a mask. If they do not have one or refuse to wear one on the bus, their bus riding privileges can be suspended.

If you do not have masks at home for your student, please let us know and we can make sure they have some to wear on the bus.

Please keep in mind that if your child refused to consistently wear a mask on the bus, they are subject to have their bus riding privileges suspended or completely removed.

Join McAvinnue's Parent Teacher Group (PTG)!

We are looking to rebrand McAvinnue Parent Teacher Group (PTG) and we need your help to get thing off the ground this school year!



One of the strengths of McAvinnue over the years has been its parent and family support! From attending amazing events, donating funds for various school activities, and your recent partnership with our teachers last school year when things were less than normal for everyone. Your support for McAvinnue is at an all time high!

We want to use this energy to reform McAvinnue's Parent Teacher Group....also known as McAvinnue's PTG!

Come out on <u>Wednesday, December 1st at 6:00 PM</u> to learn more about the PTG and to begin to plan for another awesome year for our students at McAvinnue. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend!

This event will be "virtual" and conducted using the Zoom Meeting platform. Please see the meeting invitation below.

McAvinnue's Parent Teacher Group (PTG) Meeting

When

Wednesday, Dec. 1st, 6pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

Join Zoom Meeting

https://lowell-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/82732160441?pwd=NVJPZXZMZ09idkF5RzI5MmRFRFJwUT09

Meeting ID: 827 3216 0441 Passcode: 569787

Emergency Contact Form: 2021-2022

Still need to fill out your emergency contact form for the 2021-2022 academic school year?



We have made it really easy for you to complete this important task. You can access the online form below. When you complete this form, it is immediately sent to McAvinnue and we will print it out for our records.

You don't need to come to the school to complete this form...you can do it right on your phone, tablet, or computer!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. De La Luz at <u>adelaluz@lowell.k12.ma.us</u> or contact the Main Office at McAvinnue for support!



Emergency Form 2021-2022 Formulario de Emergencia 2021-2022 Formulário de Emergência 2021-2022

Sign in to Google to save your progress. Learn more

:



Announcements during this up and coming week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

You can get an early head start and practice this technique before we launch into another exciting week!





McAvinnue's Week In Review



Art Fun!

Check out Grade 2 students in Room 101 working on weaving patterns in Art!



Word Detectives Are Back!

Grade 1 students in Room 204 received a special delivery this week! Check out their "official" word detective badges that they will need when they discover new words as they build and expand their vocabulary!



Snap Word Work!

Mrs. Garcia worked with some Grade 1 students building "snap words" using wiki sticks! We LOVE this!



Where Did All Of The Turkeys Go?

Will the farmer find the turkeys? These Kindergarten students did an amazing job at disguising their turkeys! Looks like the have a great chance to avoid being someones Thanksgiving meal this year!

Grade 4 Students Working On Keeping A Beat & Working Together



Collaborative Beat Work!

Grade 4 students working on keeping a beat and working together during Music class! Now this was a ton of fun.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Logistics

Drop-Off Logistics

- Arrival begins at 9:10 AM each day. The late bell rings at 9:25 AM.
- Please pull up to the 4th Avenue side of the building when dropping off your child.



- As you approach the 4th Avenue sidewalk, a faculty member will greet and support getting your child safely out of the vehicle.
- This area is a drop off area ONLY. You will not be permitted to park in this location.
- Please be sure to drive all the way down to the end of the sidewalk so we can fit as many vehicles in this location as possible.
- Ensure your child is ready to go and do not get out of the car so we can keep traffic moving.
- Students accessing our CSA program will be dismissed out the 4th Avenue door near the rear of the school building by the exit driveway.
- Large bus students will enter using the back door located in the rear of the school building.
- Small bus and van transportation students will use the 4th Avenue door near the rear of the school building by the exit driveway.

Morning Lining Up Locations

- Grade 1, 3, and 4 students will use the Main Door to enter the school building.
- Grade 2 will use the 4th Avenue doorway near the front of the school to enter the building.
- PreK & Kindergarten will use the Early Childhood door to enter the building. This door is located to the right of McAvinnue's Reading Garden and to the left of the Main Door.

Pick-Up Logistics

• Grade 1 will be dismissed out the Main Door.

- Grades 2, 3, and 4 will be dismissed out the 4th Avenue door near the front of the school.
- Kindergarten students will be dismissed out the Early Childhood door. This door is located to the right of McAvinnue's Reading Garden and to the left of the Main Door.
- Students accessing our CSA program will be dismissed out the 4th Avenue door near the rear of the school building by the exit driveway.
- PreK students will be dismissed out the 4th Avenue door near the rear of the school building by the exit driveway. Please contact Ms. Annie for the specific dismissal time.



Updated COVID-19 Information & Updates

Here is a bulleted list of basic COVID 19 protocol information to help you make some decisions for this school year. Please remember the Lowell Public School District has <u>no remote option</u> for this school year.

- All student and staff members entering our building are required to wear masks indoors. We will
 provide mask breaks throughout the day. Strict mask protocols seem to minimize the spread of
 COVID. If a student is unable to wear a mask due to a documented disability please reach out to
 Mr. Domina at mdomina@lowell.k12.ma.us. Please try to find a mask that fits your child properly.
 We have some at schools for emergencies, but families should provide the masks.
- Students are required to wear masks on buses.
- We will try to reach 3 feet in social distancing in each classroom, but this is unlikely. If a class size reaches above 21 students, we will be within 3 feet of each other. Social distancing is not required in schools at this point.
- We will be eating in the cafeteria for lunch each day for most of our students. Students will be within 3 feet of each other in this environment and only have their masks off while they are consuming food and beverage.
- We will sanitize hands throughout the day. Students entering or leaving a class or the building are required to use hand sanitizer.
- In-school pool testing will continue for this school year. It is not required, but families can sign their children up using this link https://www.lowell.k12 ma us/pooltesting

 Please see the video to show how the testing works. <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MSQ7h3tRyRCg-Sz4lT6iNbNsyMl7VTj7/view</u>

Can I Go To School? Updated Lowell Health Department COVID-19 Guidance

The Lowell Health Department has updated the flow chart guidance for parents, a copy of which is shared with you below.

<u>Please do not send any children to school if you are waiting for the result of a COVID test or if your</u> <u>child has/has had symptoms. Students will need a negative COVID test in order to return to school.</u>



Free Weekly COVID-19 Screenings



Free weekly COVID-19 screenings will continue this fall at all Lowell Public Schools... and we will now offer FREE rapid testing for any symptomatic students. No more making appointments, driving to the testing site, and waiting days for your results!

You <u>MUST</u> complete the consent form to have your child participate in <u>ANY</u> of the free COVID-19 testing at McAvinnue. To consent for "Test & Stay" if your child is a close contact at school and is not showing any COVID-19 symptoms, you can sign up using the link below.

McAvinnue will now be testing students and faculty on WEDNESDAY each week!

To access the consent form, click the button below.

#McAvinnuePride

Click Here To Access The Consent Form

11

Enhanced COVID-19 Testing Offerings

Symptomatic Testing	"Test and Stay" Close contact testing	Routine COVID Safety Checks
 For when individuals present symptoms while at school; individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home. Samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test. Those testing negative with isolated/mild symptoms can stay in school. 	 For when individuals are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school. Samples are collected at school using the Binax NOW rapid antigen test. Tests are administered daily for at least five days from the date of exposure. 	 Routine Pooled Testing and <u>School-Based</u> Follow-Up Testing: samples are collected at school; if a pool is positive, follow-up testing at school with either BinaxNOW and/or individual PCR testing as necessary. Routine Pooled Testing and <u>Lab-Based</u> Follow-Up Testing: samples are collected; if a pool is positive, individual follow-up testing occurs at the lab, without a second sample collection.

COVID-19 Local Vaccination Clinics

The LPSD is offering multiple COVID-19 vaccination opportunities, including COVID-19 booster shots, throughout November and December. You can find the schedule in the flyer below. Also, there is some important information you need to be aware of prior to attending one of these free and easy opportunities. Please see the information below...



All students 5 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine at these clinics if you are looking for the opportunity to vaccinate your children.

Family members, friends, and community members are also invited and encouraged to get vaccinated at these clinics. You can get your first dose, second dose, or booster dose.

The vaccine is free and you will not be required to show an ID or health insurance in order to receive it. Appointments are not required.

Anyone under the age of 18 must have the consent form filled out by a legally authorized representative (usually a parent or guardian), and the minor must bring the form with them at the vaccination appointment.

Copies of the consent form in multiple languages may be found at <u>https://www.mass.gov/.../covid-19-vaccination-consent...</u>.

If the parent or guardian is not accompanying the minor, they must also download and complete a pre-vaccination screening form which is available at <u>https://www.cdc.gov/.../pre-vaccination-</u> <u>screening-form.pdf</u>.

The form is also available in several languages at <u>https://www.cdc.gov/.../info-by-</u> <u>product/pfizer/index.html...</u> (approximately halfway down the page you will see the "Pre-Vaccination Screen Form" section).

Also, booster shots are available during the clinic to any individual who qualifies. To check for eligibility, please visit the MDPH COVID-19 Booster Eligibility Checker. More information on booster eligibility can be found at:<u>https://www.mass.gov/.../covid-19-booster-frequently...</u>

Additionally, the following conditions must be met to receive a booster dose:

- Individuals must have received their second dose of Moderna or Pfizer at least 6 months prior to receiving their booster dose. OR received their initial dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 2 months prior to receiving their booster dose.
- Individuals must bring their CDC vaccine card (white card) or have a photo of the vaccination card in order to receive their booster dose.



COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS

11/14 McAuliffe Elementary School 570 Beacon St. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

11/17 BRIDGE Program 73 Woburn St. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

11/17 & 12/8 Bartlett Community Partnership School 79 Wannalancit St. 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

11/19 and 12/10 Rogers STEM Academy 43 Highland St. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

> Students 5+ are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine (with parental consent for those under 18)

VaxAbilities - COVID-19 Vaccination Alternative Option

For our friends with developmental disabilities and sensory support needs - VaxAbilities disability-friendly vaccination clinics are now available to ensure that Massachusetts residents have the most comfortable and positive COVID-19 vaccination experiences possible. Vaccine appointments at designated disability-friendly locations staffed

with trained professionals will provide skilled support to children and adults with disabilities and their family members and caretakers.

Lowell Vaccination Site:

- 40 Old Ferry Rd (the former Elks Lodge)
- Saturday, November 20, 2021 (second dose December 11, 2021)
- Availability: Children 5-17 years (Pfizer), Adult initial series or boosters (J&J Janssen, Moderna and Pfizer)
- Accessibility: Wheelchair Accessible, Language line, Low Sensory Space

To register for a vaccination, please use the link below.





COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics For Children: Aged 5 - 11

Lowell Community Health Center is offering COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children aged 5 - 11. You need to be a current patient to qualify for this great opportunity.

Here are the dates of each of the clinic options:

- Friday, November 19th @ 2 PM 4 PM
- Saturday, November 20th @ 9:00 AM 2:00 PM
- Friday, January 7th @ 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
- Saturday, January 8th @ 9 AM 2:00 PM



If you have any questions, please call (978) 937-9700 or visit their at https://www.lchealth.org/



McAvinnue's Student Bus Information

Need to know your student's school bus information? All you have to do is click below, put in their LASID (Lunch Number or the number they use to log into their computer), and you will have access to it.



If you need your student's LASID, please contact the front office at (978) 937-2871 or email <u>mdomina@lowell.k12.ma.us</u>.

If you have questions about your student's transportation, please don't hesitate to reach out using the methods above for support.

Click Here For The LPSD "Bus Lookup Tool"

You will need to have your child's LASID or lunch number to access the most up to date bus information for your child. Please keep in mind that this number is also used to log into your child's borrowed device.

UPDATED: LPSD School Calendar 2021-2022 School Year

Please click the link below for the recently approved LPSD School Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

There has been a "NO SCHOOL" date added on Tuesday, September 21st due to the local Primary Election in Lowell.





2021-2022 School Calendar - REVISED.pdf

Download 308.7 KB

Community Connections & Opportunities



Want To Be A McAvinnue Substitute Teacher?

Lowell Public School District is seeking substitute teachers immediately! Attend a one hour workshop to learn more.



- Tuesday, November 23rd 10 AM 11 AM
- Tuesday, November 30th @ 10 AM 11 AM
- Tuesday, December 7th @ 10 AM 11 AM
- Tuesday, December 14th @ 10 AM 11 AM
- Tuesday, December 21st @ 10 AM 11 AM

You are only required to attend one date.

The workshops are held at 155 Merrimack St., Lowell, 4th floor. The substitute workshop is mandatory for all new substitute teachers. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lisa Murphy at limurphy@lowell.k12.ma.us to register. Space is limited and you must register in order to attend.

APPLICATION PROCESS: (You must be at least 20 years of age)

- Applications will only be provided at the workshop, once completed please email Lisa Murphy at lmurphy@lowell.k12.ma.us to schedule a time to bring your paperwork in to be reviewed. You must bring ALL required documentation:
- Proof of fingerprinting receipt, two forms of govt issued i.d., official transcripts if you have a degree, a voided check for direct deposit, cori form.
- Retired teachers need to bring proof of retirement (current paystub from MTRS).
- Applications will be reviewed for processing.



CTI HEAD START EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

Community Teamwork has a number of Early Learning Programs for kids and parents. Starting with their Home Base Program assisting families as early as Prenatal Mothers, to their School Age Program that serves children up to 13 years of age and their Early Head Start and Head Start Center Based Programs that serve all those in between.



For more information contact the people listed on the flyer below or call CTI at (978) 654-5100.



THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FROM THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is opening up its sign-ups for its "Angel Tree Project" earlier than usual this year. Applications will open on <u>October 4th</u> and remain open only until capacity has been reached.

See the attached flyer for all of the eligibility and documentation requirements in order to qualify for support.



For more information contact Dianne James at 978-458-3396 or through email at <u>Dianne.James@use.salvationarmy.org</u>

Click Here For The Application

Available Starting On October 4th



Community Resources & Daycare Options for Families

Looking for before or after school daycare options for your child? Here is a short list of options and information for your consideration.

Here is a list of daycare options in Lowell:

- Community Team Work (CTI) (978) 454-5100
 - · Families who are already enrolled in a CTI program...
 - · Call or text school-age coordinators to request a slot
 - Billy 978-995-0028, <u>wma@commteam.org</u>
 - Karen 978-729-7216, <u>kshannon@commteam.org</u>
 - Families who are not enrolled in a CTI program
 - If you've filled out a CTI application in the past...
 - Contact Karen (978) 729-7216, <u>kshannon@commteam.org</u> to see if where you are on the waitlist (if there is a waitlist)

- Fill out an application at 17 Kirk St., 126 Phoenix Ave
- Or call the main CTI number (978) 454-5100 to request an email version of the application.
- YMCA: (978) 454-7825; 1 YMCA Dr in Lowell
 - Karen Espinola is the school-age director
 - Fill out a application online or at the YMCA to request a slot
 - Debbie Doben is the preschool director if your child is preschool age
- Family Childcare: Call programs to see if they have openings near you
 - Bethel Family Childcare (978) 458-6577
 - Clarendon Family Childcare (978) 454-3026
 - Child Development and Learning (CDE) (978) 275-2843
 - ACRE Family Childcare (978) 937-5899
 - CTI: See above contact information
- Girls Inc: (978) 458-6529, 220; Worthen St. in Lowell
 - Accept girls ages 5-14 years old
 - Accept Child Care Circuit vouchers, DCF vouchers, and private pay (income-based, sliding scale)
 - Call Pam Lerocque (Director of Finance & Administration) to check on openings
- Boys and Girls Club: (978) 458-4526; 657 Middlesex St in Lowell
 - School-age openings for after-school
 - Teens who are working with the Department of Children and Families can call BGC or DCF to see if they're eligible

Greater Boston Food Bank

The Greater Boston Food Bank is back again in Lowell for this school year! Mark your calendars with the dates below in you are interested and in need of support.



The Food Bank is located at the STEM Academy (Rogers School) at 43 Highland Street.

The next opportunity is Tuesday, December 14th from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM!

You can also see the schedule for the Greater Boston Food Bank for this school year below!



WHERE:

STEM Academy at the Rogers School 43 Highland Street In-School Entrance:

South Street Parking Lot

3:30 - 4:30 PM

DATES (2021-2022 School Year):

September 14 October 12 November 9 December 14 January 11 February 8 March 8 April 12 May 10 June 14

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: Carolyn Rocheleau-Feeney crocheleau@lowell.k12.ma.us

Registration can be completed at the School Pantry.

Please bring reusable grocery bags, baskets, or a cart to carry your food.

AMERICA

Local Food Support

Do you need support with food options for your family. No need to worry...there are many local groups that can offer support for you during your time of need.



Click the link below for a list of local food pantries that are willing to help.

You can also reach out to Mrs. De La Luz, McAvinnue's Social Worker, for support navigating these and other options.



Greater-Lowell-Area-Pantry-List 8-27-20 (1).xlsx

🛃 Download 15.3 KB

McAvinnue's Family Read-A-Loud

"Twas The Night Before Thanksgiving"

'Twas The Night Before Thanksgiving: Kids Read Aloud Book



McAvinnue's School Website

Check out our school website where you can find a wealth of information including school news, calendars, and other events.

Please visit our website at: <u>https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/mcavinnue</u>



Follow McAvinnue On Social Media

You can follow McAvinnue on social media at the following sites! We update things daily and this is a great way to stay in touch with all of the amazing things that are happening inside and out of "the best school we all know"!

FaceBook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/McAvinnueElementarySchool</u> Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/McAvinnueLPS</u> Instagram: <u>http://instragram.com/mcavinnueelementarylps</u> YouTube: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAUzGwuFaKMy13iFbHpSiMw</u>





Our Vision

Facebook @@McAvinnueLPS

McAvinnue Elementary School is a place...where there are <u>high</u> <u>expectations</u>, where students are <u>academically engaged</u>, where instruction is guided by a <u>systematic approach to examine data</u>, where there is a <u>multi-tiered system of support</u>, and where a responsive environment that fosters <u>social emotional connections</u> between faculty and students prevails.

#McAvinnuePride #BeTheDifference #NextLevel

- 🔮 131 Mammoth Road, Lowell, M... 🛛 🐹 mdomina@lowell.k12.ma.us
- **L** (978) 937-2871
- Iowell.k12.ma.us/Domain/21

