THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER

Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center
408 Merrimack St, Lowell, MA 01854
www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted - (978) 937-8989

Elizabeth McKiernan, Director

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Celebrating Black History Month

Abisi Adult Education joins the entire Lowell community in recognizing and celebrating Black History Month.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on the rich contributions and great achievements of African Americans here in Lowell and across the United States.

STUDENT SUCCESS CELEBRATION

On February 13th , we will be holding our second Student Success Celebration. We will recognize students who achieved goals in November, December, and January. Outstanding Attendance Certificates for January will also be handed out.

We will have regular classes on February 13th and at 10:15 am will gather to distribute certificates. After the certificates are handed out, students can enjoy cake and coffee.

Make sure you inform your teachers of goals you have achieved since becoming a student here at AAEC and which ones you are currently working on.

The mornings are getting colder.
The building doors do not open until 8:30am.
Please plan your arrival accordingly.

SCHOOL CLOSING/DELAYS

If there is **NO SCHOOL** in the Lowell Public Schools, all **AAEC Morning and Evening classes are cancelled.**

If there is a **one-hour delay**, Morning (in-person and remote) ESOL and HSE classes will begin at **10:00am.**

If there is a **two-hour delay**, Morning (in-person and remote) all **AAEC Morning classes are cancel.**

When there is delay evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

School cancellation or delay information can be found by:

- Visiting our website, https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted
- Looking on Facebook
- Watching the local news
- Listening to WCAP (980AM) or WBZ (1030AM)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

"The Road to Success Begins with Good Attendance"

You are expected to be in class everyday and be on time. If you miss too many classes, you risk giving your space to someone who is on our wait list.

If you know in advance you will be out, let your teacher (s) know.
You can also email:

- Sochitra: sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us *(ESOL students)*
- Sarah: swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us *(HSE students).*

Make sure to include your full name and teacher or group.

BUILDING DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 AM CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:00 AM

VISITOR POLICY

Lowell Public School Policy states all outside visitors must report to the main office and sign in and out. For the safety of all our AAEC students, outside visitors are not allowed to contact students during class time or to interrupt classes. If you forgot something at home or someone needs to leave

something for you, make arrangements to meet them after class. Deliveries and drop-offs are not accepted in the office. Please make sure you have all of your materials and items before you leave for school. Your class time is short and important for your continued success. If there is an emergency, please speak with the office staff, and they will assist you.

We love children, but children are not allowed in the school.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) TESTING INFORMATION

Massachusetts residents, who desire to earn a High School Equivalency credential, have the option of passing two tests: the HiSET or the GED. ***Candidates can choose to take all subject tests in one exam, or combine passing tests from both.*** The exams are comparable in terms of passing rates and complexity, but they do vary in some ways. For example, the GED is only computer based, but the HiSET can be taken on a computer or on paper.

Abisi Adult Education is an official Test Center for both exams. Candidates schedule their tests through their accounts at Hiset.org and/or Ged.com. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has provided voucher codes for free testing. At checkout, use one of the following codes:

HiSET - **MAHiSET**

GED (First attempt) - **MAFREEGED1**

GED (Retakes) - **MARETAKE**

GED Computer-Based Testing	HiSET Paper-Based Testing GED Computer-Based Testing	HiSET Computer-Based Testing
Thursday, February 8th **Thursday, March 7th** (Beginning at 12:30pm)	**Friday, February 9th** **Friday, March 8th** Beginning at 5:00pm **Saturday, February 10th** **Saturday, March 9th** (Beginning at 8:00am)	**Thursday, February 15th** **Thursday, March 21st** (Beginning at 12:30pm)

Have questions? Talk to our HSE Testing Specialist, Denise (in the Lab), or one of our HSE staff members.

REWARD PROGRAM

Reward Center Hours:

- Tuesday, February 27th for Liz, Meg (M-W), Martha, and HSE classes
- Thursday, February 29th for Carrie, Jen, Donna, and Meg's (TH/F) classes

The Reward Center is located outside Room 3 on the first floor. Classes will visit the center at specific times. Please wait to visit the center with your classmates.

If you plan to redeem your points, please bring your updated statement with you.

You can redeem your earned points now or continue to accumulate them for a bigger reward later.

If you have questions about your Reward Program statement or the Reward Center, please see Giovanna.

Students show Brazil's Culture, Economy, and Natural Beauty

On January 18, Brazilian students from Carrie and Jen's classes gave a special presentation on their country of Brazil. The students worked very hard to put together the slide presentation. They were excited to share information about Brazil with their classmates.

The presentation included information on Brazil's geography, climate, and economy. Also highlighted were the delicious food dishes of Brazil and Carnaval. Carnaval is an annual festival known for its colorful parades, music, and dancing. The natural beauty of Brazil was seen in images of the Amazon River, the Amazon Rainforest, and Iguacu Falls, a beautiful waterfall. Soccer, the most popular sport in Brazil, was discussed, along with the famous Brazilian soccer player Pele.

Brazilian music, including the playing of the Brazilian national anthem, rounded out the presentation.

The presentation on Brazil was both educational and enjoyable!

CITIZENSHIP CORNER

Should I Consider U.S. Citizenship?

A lawful permanent resident, or Green Card holder, must meet certain eligibility requirements to become a U.S. citizen. Once these requirements are met, he or she may file the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The total cost to apply for citizenship is $725 ($640 filing fee plus the $85 biometric fee).

One question that students often ask is: "Should I start to study for the citizenship interview and test before or after I file my N-400? Many permanent residents prefer to begin to study **before** they fill out and submit the Form N-400.

USCIS notes that the naturalization interview and test consist of two parts:

The English Test, which is determined by the applicant's ability to read, write, speak and understand English; **and**

The Civics (U.S. history and government) Test

With so much to study, where should you begin?

A great place to start is online at USCIS. USCIS has a **Citizenship Resource Center**, which provides **free** information and resources to help you prepare for your naturalization interview and test.

Here are just a few examples of what you can find at the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center:

1. A four-part video series on the naturalization interview and test. Topics include preparing for the naturalization interview and test, the naturalization interview, the civics test, and the reading and writing tests.

To watch the videos, please go https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/the-naturalization-interview-and-test

2. Downloadable or printer-friendly versions of the Civics Flashcards, along with easy-to-use reading and writing vocabulary flashcards.

For more information, please go to https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources/study-for-the-test

3. A Civics Practice Test which allows you to test yourself. It can be found at: https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/civics-practice-test-2008

And please don't forget: If you have any questions about the citizenship process or need additional study materials, please contact Gail at gforman@lowell.k12.ma.us or Adriana at agiraldo@lowell.k12.ma.us.

PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER OF LOWELL

For more information and registration: https://masshirelowellcc.com/jobseekers/training/

Schedule of Abisi Adult Education Advisors Days.

Margie Miller	Cindy Taft	Martha McQuaide
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 am—12:30 pm	8:00 am—1:00 pm	9:00 am—1:00 pm

CTI—COMMUNITY TEAMWORK

COMMUNITY TEAM WORK

FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

Community Teamwork Inc

IRS VITA Program - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Three Filing Options

(January 29 through April 6th 2024)

Online
Visit
www.getyourrefund.org/cti

Drop Off
Monday - Thursday
10am-7pm
OR
Saturday
9am-1pm

In Person
Schedule an appointment by calling (978)735-6748 or (978)735-5589

For Drop Off - You will need to pick up an intake and instruction packet ahead of time at **165 Merrimack St**

1. Pick up your intake and instructions packet.
2. Complete the intake package with all forms that need to be filled out (don't forget to sign)
3. Make copies or your documents
4. Drop off your completed packet and copies at **165 Merrimack St**

Questions?
Call, Email or Visit Our Website
www.commteam.org/vita

Eric Rosario:
(978)735-6748
erosario@commteam.org

Jackyie Gonzalez:
(978)735-5589
jgonzalez@commteam.org

For More Info

Lowell Public Schools

City of Lowell

WinterFest Returns to Downtown!

The City of Lowell is excited to announce the return of WinterFest on Friday, February 16, and Saturday, February 17, 2024, to Downtown Lowell.

This beloved annual event will feature an array of exciting activities and attractions for all ages, including live music, performances, art and, of course, the soup competition.

Pollard Memorial Library

Need Help with Technology?

Our IT Specialist can help!

401 Merrimack St. Lowell, MA 01852 978-674-1529

www.lowelllibrary.org

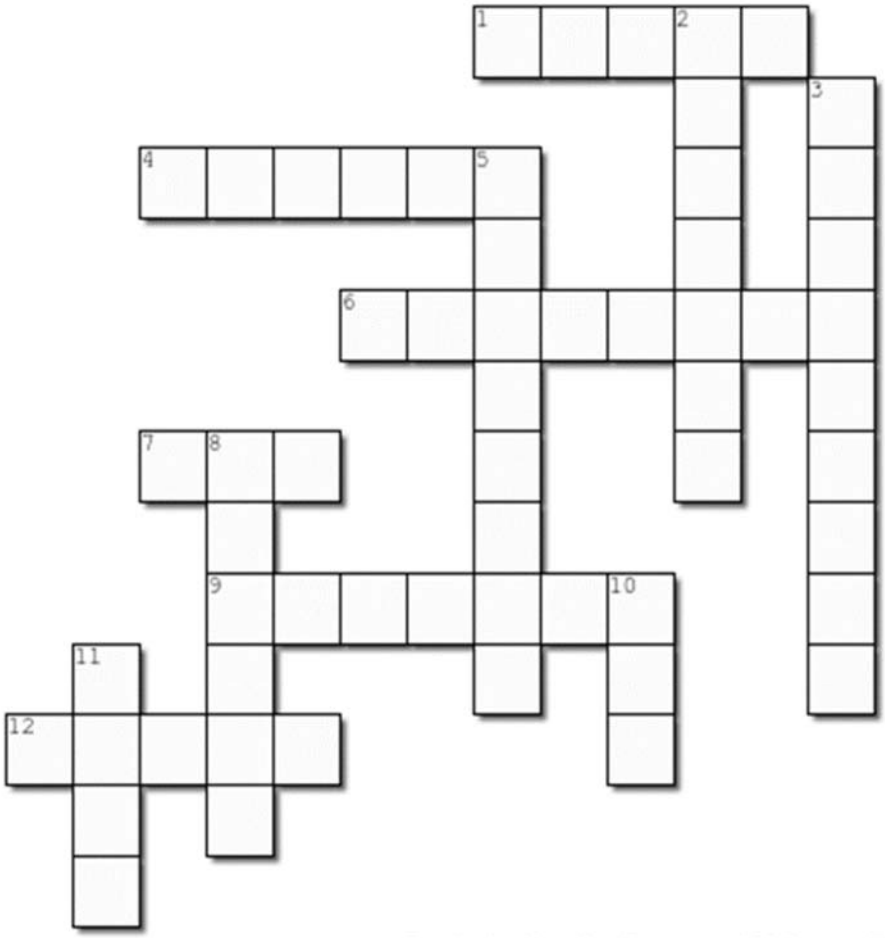
One-on-One Tech Help at the PML

Registration is REQUIRED. Call Adult Reference at 978.674.1544 or use the link:

One-on-One Tech Help

United States (U.S.) Government

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

two | Warren | Roberts | Congress | President | Senators | Supreme | nine | House | six | Harris | Biden

Across

1. the two parts of the U.S. Congress, Senate and ____ of Representatives
4. the Vice President of the United States now, Kamala___
6. the branch, or part, of the U.S. government that makes federal laws, ____
7. we elect a U.S. Representative for ___ years
9. the Chief Justice of the United States now, John___
12. the President of the United States now, Joe____

Down

2. the highest court in the United States, ____ Court
3. the ____ is in charge of the Executive Branch
5. there are 100 U.S. ____ and 435 voting members in the House of Representatives
8. one of your state's U.S. Senators now, Elizabeth____
10. we elect a U.S. Senator for ___ years
11. the number of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court,___

School Activities Calendar

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30	3
4	5 **Welcome! New HSE Students**	6 **Library Tour Carrie and Jen classes**	7 **Student Advisory 10—11am Computer Lab**	8 **CBT starting @ 12:30pm**	9 Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 **PBT starting @ 5:00pm** **CBT starting @ 5:00pm**	10 **PBT starting @ 8:00am** **CBT starting @ 8:00am**
11	12	13 **Student Success Celebration**	14	15 **Library Tour Donna and Meg classes** **CBT starting @ 12:30pm**	16 Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Mid-Winter Vacation Week No School					
25	26	27 **Reward Center Open**	28	29 **Reward Center Open**		