

THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center
408 Merrimack St, Lowell, MA 01854
www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com - (978) 937-8989

Elizabeth McKiernan, Director

March 2023

ABISI ADULT EDUCATION ANNUAL FIELD TRIP



Every year in May, AAEC goes on a field trip. We will leave the school at 9:00am and return by 2:00pm. Student Representatives and teachers will work together to select possible places where we can go this year. The school will pay for transportation and provide a bagged lunch. Students pay for the admission fee, if any.

This is an educational field trip. We will have lessons in the classroom related to the place we choose to visit. For example, in 2019 we visited the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, NH.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In the United States, Women's History Month is an annual celebration that highlights the contributions of women to events in history, traces its beginnings back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1978, the school district of Sonoma, California participated in Women's History Week, an event designed around the week of March 8 (International Women's Day)



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



**Daylights saving time
begins at 2:00 am on
Sunday, March 12
(Turn clocks ahead 1 Hour)**



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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) ESOL and HSE classes will begin at **11:00am**.

When there is a 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 every day and to be on time. If you miss too many days, you risk losing your space to someone who is on our waiting list.

Don't forget to let us know if you are going to be absent. You can:

- Email us at:
ESOL Classes—apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us or
HSE Classes—bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us
- Let your teacher know.



VISITOR POLICY

Lowell Public School Policy states all outside visitors must report to the main office and sign in and out.

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



Student Advisory Council (SAC)

The **Student Advisory Council** is a group of elected or volunteer students who represent each class, our Director, and other staff members. Representatives help us by giving feedback on our programs and their classes and contributing ideas for student workshops and programs. Please let your teacher know if you are interested in taking a leadership role in our program.



Next meeting: **April 11, 2023**

SCHOOL INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) TESTING INFORMATION



The Massachusetts High School Equivalency credential is issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to those who have passed the HiSET® exam, the GED® exam, *or a combination of all subject tests from both exams.* The Commonwealth has made available voucher codes for a candidate’s first exam, plus two retakes, in each subject.

HiSET:

- Create an account at hiset.org. If you previously created an account with ETS, use *the same email address and last name to ensure that your test scores are transferred.*
- Use Voucher Code **MAHiSET** during checkout for all tests.

GED:

- Create an account at ged.com
- Use one of the following Voucher Codes at checkout:
 - **MAFREEGED** (first time taking a subject test at a Test Center)
 - **MARETAKE** (retake of a subject test at a Test Center)

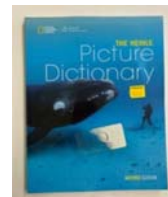
AAEC is an approved Test Center. We offer testing appointments for the HiSET on paper, HiSET on computer, and GED (computer only).

Upcoming Testing Dates:

HiSET Computer-Based Testing	HiSET Paper-Based Testing Dates GED Computer Based Testing	GED Computer Testing
<p>(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)</p> <p>March 2nd</p> <p>One subject test may be scheduled.</p>	<p>(Friday evenings beginning @ 5:00pm Saturday mornings beginning @ 8:00am)</p> <p>Friday, March 3rd and March 31st Saturday, March 11th and April 1st</p> <p>One or more tests may be scheduled, depending on appointment availability.</p>	<p>(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)</p> <p>March 16th</p> <p>Math, Science, or Social Studies may be scheduled.</p>

Have questions? Talk to our HSE Testing Specialist, Denise, or one of our HSE staff members.

REWARD PROGRAM



The Reward Center will be open on Tuesday, March 21st from 9:00 am — 12:30 pm.

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.

Reward Points are only valid for the 2022-2023 school year. Reward Points are non-transferable. You cannot give your Reward Points to another student. Remember to redeem your points before the end of the school year or before leaving the program.

Remember to report any goals you have achieved for the month to your teacher to receive your Reward Points.

Earn points. Get Rewards!

If you have questions about your Reward Program statement or the Reward Center, please see Olga (Back of room 3).



CONVERSATION CLASS WITH DONNA

In response to the interest expressed by students in different ESOL classes to have more time to practice their conversation skills, we have been able to provide a class dedicated to conversation for students in our ESOL program. In the fall, students from Meg, Susan, and Liz's classes attended a class lead by UMass students, and now students from Carrie and Daisy's classes are attending a class with Donna.

This is a voluntary class; however, regular attendance is encouraged as the hours are tracked and added to overall participation.

The students willingly comply with the "Only English" format. Students often work in pairs. Each participant is paired with a peer whose native language is different whenever possible.

The teacher, Donna, is a second language learner herself. She shares strategies that were helpful to her. She can also identify with the frustrations that students at this level encounter.



MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER AT ABISI ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

On February 15th, Daphne Nichols from the MassHire Career Center of Lowell visited several of our in person and remote ESOL classes. Daphne Nichols and Caitlyn Gullage, Career Advisors, presented information about the Career Center and what they can offer our students. Using the Abisi computer lab, some students registered to become members. The only requirement for eligibility is a social security number. Membership is free and a great first step to a new job or career.

The Career Center offers a team of experienced staff that can assist our students in all aspects of finding a job and training programs. These services include: Job searching assistance, Job recruitment for different companies, and Training programs.

Daphne will be back to visit our ESOL classes on March 1st and March 15th.

Write down any questions that you may have for Daphne. She will meet with any student who has questions about the Career Center and/or is interested in becoming a member to utilize the Career Center's services.

LENDING LIBRARY CARTS—UPDATE



Our library program continues to be very popular! ESOL and HSE students have a library cart available on each floor.

Students are enjoying the library Cart in HSE. The cart changes frequently as new books come in and as new themes are highlighted each month. Last month, students saw books displayed for February's theme which was Black History Month. March's theme is Women's History Month. Any HSE student can borrow a book by letting Christina or Maura know, and if they fill out a reflection form to share their personal connections to the book, they will receive reward points.

The ESOL classes look forward to Wednesday every week because that is **Library Cart Day!** Some people take a book home to read with their children. Others read the book on their own. It's wonderful to be able to read a nice, new book. Please take care of the library books and treat them carefully. If you should leave the program, please return any library books you have borrowed so others can use them. In the past six months, our students have borrowed books 1,231 times! Last year, that number was only 768. Congratulations and keep reading!

Many of the titles were selected so that our students could share them with their children. After reading "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" and learning about how maple syrup is made, Carrie and Daisy's classes had a Pancake Breakfast.



FAIR HOUSING PRESENTATION—CTI

Aaron Ginsberg from the Community Teamwork's Fair Housing Program visited all our morning ESOL and HSE classes on February 27th. He did a great job presenting a brief on fair housing. Students were attentive and engaged in the presentation.

You can contact Aaron with any questions related to fair housing at: aginsberg@commteam.org or (978)654-5736 / (978)221-8921.

The Community Teamwork's Fair Housing Program promotes fair housing throughout seventy cities and towns in Middlesex and Essex counties. The service is a comprehensive approach that includes raising awareness and understanding about housing discrimination through trainings, outreach, and assistance. Anyone involved in housing is eligible for assistance including tenants, homebuyers, landlords, owners, property managers, and anyone else providing housing related services. All assistance is provided at no cost.



Community Teamwork
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

www.commteam.org
978.459.0551

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

March 14, 2023

Workers Credit Union



On March 14, representatives from Workers Credit Union will be presenting information about banking to our students. The focus will be on savings and banking tools.

Savings tips Savings Products
Banking Tools

**Banking
& Finance**

POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY TOURS



www.lowelllibrary.org

401 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852
978-674-4120

Carrie and Daisy's classes will visit the Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell in March.

Civics teacher, Gail, has made arrangements to bring the classes on a tour on March 28th to learn about the services and enjoy the art and history of the building.

CITIZENSHIP CORNER

A Helpful Tool to Use: USCIS Early Filing Calculator

As a lawful permanent resident, or Green Card holder, you may apply for naturalization when you meet **all** the requirements to become a U.S. citizen. Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, is the form used to apply for U.S. citizenship. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) allows early filing of the N-400 form.

You may file the N-400 application **90 calendar days** before you complete your continuous residence requirement if your eligibility for naturalization is based upon being a:

Permanent resident for at least 5 years; **or**

Permanent resident for at least 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen

On its website, USCIS provides a free tool called the **USCIS Early Filing Calculator**. This tool helps you determine your 90-day early filing date. This date is important because if you apply earlier than 90 days before you are eligible, USCIS will return your N-400 application.

To use the Early Filing Calculator, you will need your Green Card and the date you became a lawful permanent resident. You can find this date on your Green Card at "Resident Since."

Here is an example of how to use the USCIS Early Filing Calculator:

Permanent Resident Since: 03/21/2019.

Add 5 years to the date; if married to a U.S. citizen, add 3 years. This gives you your Permanent Resident Anniversary Date.

Permanent Resident Anniversary Date: 03/21/2024. Enter this date into the calculator.

Permanent Resident Anniversary Date:

Month	Day	Year
3	21	2024

Earliest Accepted Filing Date:
12 / 22 / 2023

As long as this permanent resident has met all other eligibility requirements, the earliest date she can apply for naturalization would be on December 22, 2023.

The USCIS Early Filing Calculator, along with the instructions on how to use it, can be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/uscis-early-filing-calculator>.

(If you have any questions about how to use the Early Filing Calculator, please ask Gail or Adriana.)

PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER OF LOWELL

107 Merrimck St. Lowell, MA 01852
www.masshirelowellcc.com



MassHire is part of the Massachusetts One-Stop Career Center System serving the communities of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford.

The Lowell Career Center offers a variety of services for anyone looking for a new job or learning a new skill that is in demand to help stay competitive in today's workforce. Their team can help you learn to do a successful job search, find a better job, network with area employers, connect with the right tools, find resources, and more.

Margie, our Career Advisor, can answer any questions about the MassHire Lowell Career Center and also help you become a member. Her office is on the second floor in the back of Room 6. She is here Wednesday (11am—12:30pm), Thursday (8:30am—12:30pm) and Friday (10:30am—12:30pm).

Hiring Event: American Training

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Please pre-register at masshirelowellcc.com/at

Hiring Event: Lowell Community Health Center

March 14, 2023
 11:00am —2:30 pm

Please pre-register at masshirelowellcc.com/lchc



Schedule of Abisi Adult Education Advisors Day.

<p>Margie Miller Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 am—12:30 pm</p>	<p>Cindy Taft Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 am—1:00 pm</p>	<p>Martha McQuaide Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am—1:00 pm</p>
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CTI—COMMUNITY TEAMWORK



FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

Community Teamwork Inc
IRS VITA Program - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Three Filing Options
(February 1st 2023 through April 8th 2023)

Online Visit
www.getyourrefund.org/cti

Drop Off
Monday - Thursday
10am-5pm
OR
Saturday
9am-1pm

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

• MA Tax Deadline is April 18, 2023.

• Federal Tax Deadline is April 18, 2023.

POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

www.lbgs.org



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER LOWELL

2022-2023 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Serving Youth 8-18
\$30 for youth 8-12
\$5 for youth 13-18
Apply Online or In-Person

Mondays-Fridays 2PM-6PM
Teen nights: Tuesdays-Thursdays 2PM-8PM

Activities offered: Life skill activities, STEM programs, Arts & Education, Sports & Fitness, Field Trips, and more

Contact: 978-866-9391 membership@lbgs.org



January 23—March 11

For Children Grade 5 and Younger*

Sign up and track your progress online via Beanstack (<https://lowelllibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>) or contact the Children's Department at 978-674-1529.



Indoor Winter Mobile Markets

Purchase wholesome, locally grown produce in the City of Lowell

University Crossing Atrium at UMass Lowell *
220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell
Monthly on Wednesdays from 2pm – 4pm
March 15, 2023

Mill City Grows ROOT Kitchen
19 Hall Street, Lowell
Bi-weekly on Thursdays from 2pm – 5pm
March 2 & 16, 2023

* Parking is available at the Pawtucket Metered Lot across from University Crossing at 219 Pawtucket Street.

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preschool Registration 2023-2024 February 1—April 24



Children turning 4 years old on or before September 1, 2023 are eligible to register for preschool for the 2023-2024 school year. Children receiving Special Education services are eligible to attend preschool at the age of 3.

[Family Resource Center / Preschool Registration \(lowell.k12.ma.us\)](https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us)

Lowell High School Open House March 23, 2023, 5-7 PM

Freshman Academy—40 Paige St. Lowell



Take a guided tour, meet LHS staff, and learn more about:

Academic programs, LHS athletics, Students activities & clubs, Early College Opportunities

[Open House \(lowell.k12.ma.us\)](https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us)

[LHS Freshman Academy Spring 2023 Open House Registration \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

WHITE RIBBON EVENT MARCH 9TH AT 12 NOON

White Ribbon is one of the world's largest male-led campaigns to end men's violence against women. It started in 1991 in Canada, and is now active in many countries across the globe.

Many members of the community and several agencies get together every year, stand together and take the pledge to help end gender-based violence and violence against women. This year in Lowell, the event will take place at City Hall, and D.A. Ryan and Lowell Police Superintendent Golner are invited to speak at the event.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing abuse, you are not alone! These are resources in the community to get help you.

Alternative House: 24hr Hotline 1-888-291-6228

Local Line 978-454-1436

Massachusetts Hotline: Safelink 1-877-785-2020

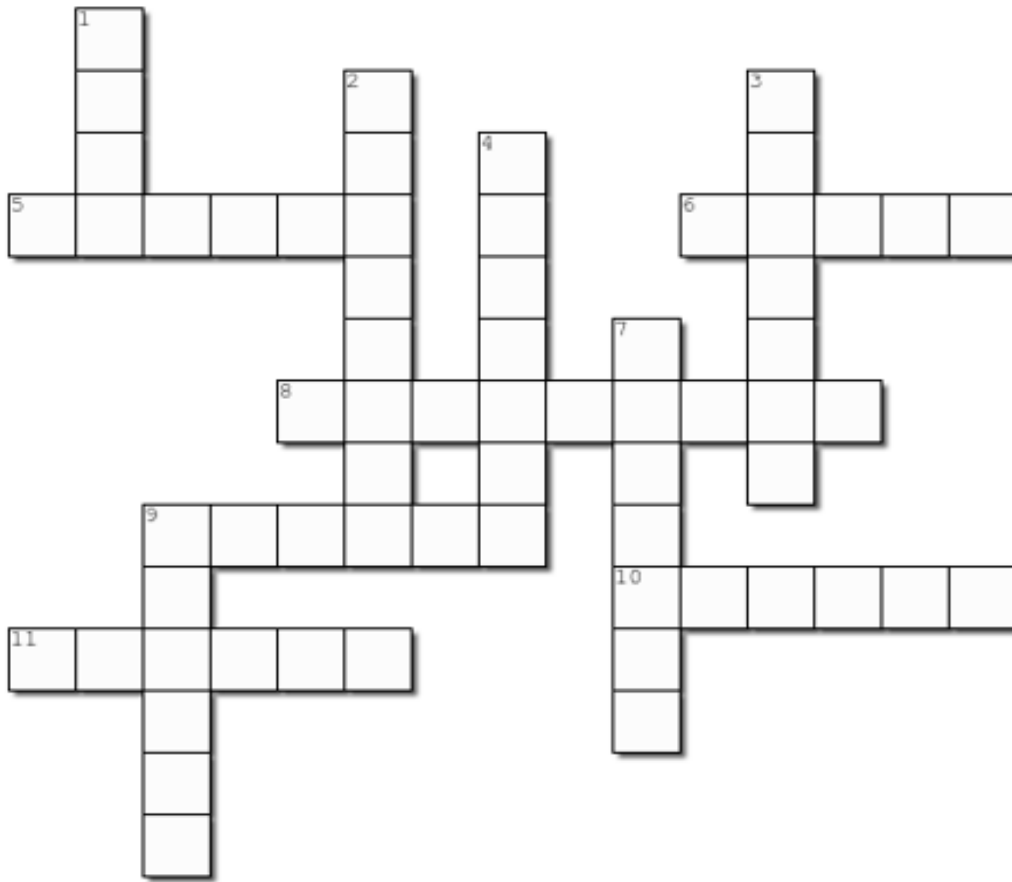
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-723



Name: _____

Women in U.S. Government

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----------|------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--|
| Harris | Driscoll | vote | Pelosi | Sotomayor | First | Warren | Anthony | Healey | Clinton | |
| | | | | | Jackson | Sandra | | | | |

Across









- 5. the first woman elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy _____
- 6. as the President's wife, Dr. Jill Biden has a special title, _____Lady
- 8. in 2009, she became the first Hispanic U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Sonia _____
- 9. the Governor of your state now, Maura _____
- 10. the first woman to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, _____Day O'Connor
- 11. one of your state's U.S. Senators now, Elizabeth _____

Down

- 1. in 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave American women the right to _____
- 2. the Lieutenant Governor of your state now, Kim _____
- 3. she has served as U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Senator from New York, First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham _____.
- 4. she fought for women's rights in the 1800s-early 1900s, Susan B. _____
- 7. in 2022, she became the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown _____
- 9. the Vice President of the U.S. now, Kamala _____

School Activities Calendar

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 HiSET CBT starting @ 12:30pm	3 Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy & Carrie's Classes HiSET PBT starting @ 5:00pm GED TESTING SERVICE CBT starting @ 5:00pm	4
5	6 Welcome New Students	7	8	9	10  Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy & Carrie's Classes	11 HiSET PBT starting @ 8:00am GED TESTING SERVICE CBT starting @ 8:00am
12 	13	14 Financial Workshop 	15 MassHire Career Center Presentation	16 GED TESTING SERVICE CBT starting @ 12:30pm	17   Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy & Carrie's Classes	18
19	20 	21  Reward Center Open	22	23	24  Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy & Carrie's Classes	25
26	27 Welcome New Students	28 Pollard Memorial Library Tours Daisy&Carrie Classes	29	30	31	