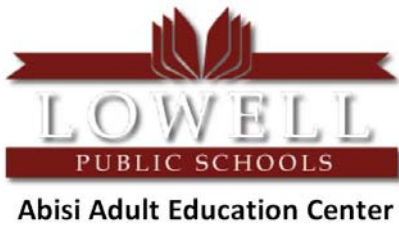


THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



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

Elizabeth McKiernan, Director

November 2022

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The **Student Advisory Council (SAC)** consists of AAEC students, the Program Director, and several staff members. The students who serve on the Student Advisory Council are elected by their peers or volunteer to represent their classmates.

This group meets to discuss the concerns of students and to communicate their ideas on important aspects of the program. The SAC will work together with Adriana and staff members to bring programs to students of AAEC, as well as other activities of interest to students. Please help them by volunteering, participating, and sharing your ideas.

Being a student council member is a good opportunity to develop leadership skills and practice English and we are hoping to have one or two representatives from each class. Reward points are also given.

This is a great opportunity to have the students' voice included in the program planning and the day to day business.

The meetings are held remotely via Zoom and the first will take place Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 11am –12noon



FOOD DRIVE

In October, we held our annual food drive. It was a big success! Thanks to the generosity of our students and staff, we donated several large boxes of food and toiletries to people in need. Dwelling House of Hope, the recipient of the donations, helps immigrants and lower-income families in the Merrimack Valley with food assistance and resources.



They are located at 125 Mt. Hope St., Lowell, 01854

Clients may come weekly, Saturdays from 9 — 11:30 am (Drive thru)

If you need more information or need to access their services at a different time, please see Adriana.



"There is always something to be grateful for." – Rhonda Byrne

Inside this Issue:

School Information	2
Citizenship Corner	7
Partners and Community Organizations	8
Community Information Activities	10
Crossword Puzzle	11
November Calendar	12

SCHOOL INFORMATION

NO SCHOOL DAYS AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The Lowell Public School and AAEC will be closed on the following days in November:

- Tuesday, November 8th – Election Day



- Friday, November 11 - Veteran's Day



- Wednesday, November 23rd, early dismissal at 10:45 am

- Thursday, November 24th, and Friday, November 25th—Thanksgiving Break



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) TESTING INFORMATION

The Massachusetts High School Equivalency credential is issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to those who pass either the HiSET or the GED exams. These tests are comparable in terms of difficulty and rates of passing. A detailed comparison of these two tests, as well as information for testers under 18 years old, and those who want to apply for accommodations, can be found at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/comparison.html>.

AAEC is both a Learning Center and an approved Test Center. We offer testing appointments for the HiSET on paper, HiSET on Computer, and GED (computer only). See dates below.

Free GED Testing for Massachusetts residents is now available! If you are scheduling a *subject test at a Test Center for the first time*, use the voucher code **MAFREEGED** during checkout. If you are scheduling a *retest at an official GED test center*, use voucher code **MARETAKE** during checkout.

The HiSET exam was recently acquired by a new company, PSI. HiSET testers must create new myHiSET Accounts. **If you started testing before this transition, you must create your myHiSET account using the same email address and the same last name as you used previously.** This way your new account will automatically be connected with your historical information, including test scores.

In the near future, the Commonwealth will also offer vouchers for HiSET Testing.

HSE Upcoming Testing Dates:

HiSET Computer-Based Testing

(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)

November 3 and 17

HiSET Paper-Based Testing Dates

(Friday evenings @ 5:00pm and 7:00pm & Saturday mornings @ 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am)

November 18 and 19

GED Weekend Computer Testing

(Friday evenings starting @ 5:15pm & Saturday mornings beginning @ 8:00am)

November 18 and 19

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

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 ESOL and HSE classes will begin at 10:00am. 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 (1-3-AM)



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
- Call (978) 937-8989. Leave a detailed message stating your name, teacher, and reason for your absence.
- Let your teacher know.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Savings Time ends

Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 2:00am



Change your clock,



It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors at home.

BLACK ICE AND SLICK SIDEWALKS

Safety tips for navigating ice and snow on foot this winter:

- Use footwear with good treaded traction and insulation.
- Wear gloves: They not only keep your hands warm, but also add some protection if you fall.
- Assume all wet or dark areas on pavement are icy and a potential falling hazard.
- Don't walk with your hands in your pockets. You'll need both hands to break a possible fall.
- Walk in designated, cleared pathways. Don't take shortcuts through snow or over frozen surfaces.



AAEC LIBRARY

The AAEC ESOL program started the mobile library during the 2021-22 school year. New titles have been added to it. The books are from writers around the world, they tell stories from different cultures and they reflect our diversity in school. There is a mobile library in the bistro and on the first floor with a variety of titles. There is something for everybody's taste and abilities.

Teachers have set aside class time so students can participate in this project to improve their reading skills and to encourage parents to get their children to love reading.

During the month of September, **81 students** borrowed books from the mobile library and **48** of those students read more than 1 book. Congratulations!

Thank you Susan for leading this project.

Daisy and Carrie's classes.

Students in these classes are getting together every Wednesday to enjoy a hot drink and pastries and present the information about the book they read.

Students respond to the following questions in front of everybody:

- What is your name?
- What is your teacher's name?
- What is the title of your book?
- Who is the author of your book?
- Why did you choose this book?
- Did you enjoy reading the book?
- What did you like about the book?
- What did you dislike about the book?
- Did you read the book with a family member?



AAEC wants to recognize students' efforts and extra time whenever they borrow books from our library cart and fill out the forms the teachers give out. Teachers are keeping track of the points students have earned. Soon you can use these points to get some of the items shown in the picture! Keep reading!



Reward points for reading

Reading English is an important part of language learning because it helps you develop other related skills like grammar, vocabulary, and writing.

Abisi Adult Education Center Reward Program	
Student: John Smith Class: Martha	
October, Statement	
Description	Amount
Library	5
Goals	6
IXL	10
Perfect Attendance	5
Carry-on points	3
Total	29
<p>Your points are Non-Transferable. They are valid for 2022-2023 School year only. Remember to redeem your points before the end of the year or before you leave the program! You can redeem your points in the AAEC Reward Center. This statement is part of the Reward Program at Abisi Adult Education Center.</p>	

STUDENT SUCCESS CELEBRATION

On November 22nd, we will be holding our first Student Success Celebration. We will recognize students who achieved goals in September, October and beginning of November. Outstanding Attendance Certificates for October will also be handed out.

You could receive a certificate if you have accomplished any of the following:

EMPLOYMENT

- Get a job
- Get a better job
- Increase your earnings
- Meet new job requirements



EDUCATION

- Enter Occupational Training program
- Complete occupational training

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- Get a learner's permit
- Get a driver's license
- Vote in an election
- Attain Legal Permanent Residence
- Pass the citizenship exam
- Open a bank account
- Buy a house or condo
- Start a business
- Take a school/community leadership role
- Volunteer at a community organization

We will have regular classes on November 22nd and at 10 am will gather to distribute their 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.

AAEC REWARD PROGRAM

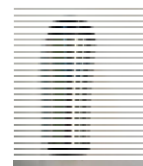
The Student Reward Program allows students to earn points for outstanding monthly attendance and/or completing one of their goals. Each goal has a pre-assigned point value. Students should notify their teacher when achieve a goal.

Once a month, students will receive a statement with their total earned Reward Points. These points can be redeemed for rewards (prizes/gifts) at the Abisi Adult Education Reward Center.

The Reward Center is open once a month. Dates are posted on the monthly newsletter calendar. Each class will have a specific time to visit the center.

Students can accumulate their points to get the biggest rewards or cash in their points at any time.

The Reward Center is located in the back of Susan's classroom on the first floor. Olga, our Student and Staff Support person, is responsible for the Reward Program.



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.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) TRAINING



Abisi Adult Education Program

The 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires states to provide Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) services. Adult education instruction is provided simultaneously with workforce preparation activities and workforce training (i.e., occupational skills training).

The CNA training is part of the MassSTEP ESOL, which includes ESOL instruction, workforce preparation activities, civics education, and workforce training. The purpose of these service is to facilitate credential attainment, workforce readiness, and entry into the workforce.

Congratulations to AAEC students enrolled in the training!

You completed the requirements to be enrolled in the program and you are ready to start!

During the next 18 weeks, students enrolled in the training will work hard to get the CNA, HHA certification, and the CNA MA state license.



The next cohort will start in April 2023. For more information ask Adriana, email her at agiraldo@lowell.k12.ma.us or text her at 617-299-6191

LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

The Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC) provides high-quality, affordable health care to children and adults in the Greater Lowell area regardless of their ability to pay. LCHC offers many specialty services, including dental, vision, and health care. Visit their website at www.lchealth.org for more information.

LCHC has partnered with the Abisi Adult Education Center to bring services on-site to our students throughout the school year.

Last month, we had Lowell Community Health Center visit both our morning and night programs. Lowell Community Health Workers assisted students with questions related to the Health Center services, they visited the evening classes and presented information related to the use of Emergency Room and Urgent Care, and they partnered with the Lowell Health Department and Walgreens to bring Covid-19 and Flu vaccines to our sites.



161 Jackson Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Main Number: 978.937.9700

Pharmacy: 978.805.1004

Lab: 978.942.2103

Dates in November:

Thursday, November 10

AM remote classes—ER and Urgent Care information

Tuesday, November 15

AM Green School—Resource Fair and Covid-19 and Flu vaccine clinic

Thursday, November 17

Remote via Zoom—5:00—6:00 pm—Office hours: Ask any health related question.

CITIZENSHIP CORNER

The AAEC Citizenship Corner is a space dedicated to provide information about the naturalization process to become a U.S. citizen. It is located on the first floor outside Liz's room (Room 2).

Feel free to take any information from the display and if you have any questions please contact Gail Forman or Adriana.

Never pay for immigration forms. They are free!

www.uscis.gov



What if you need help filling out USCIS forms?

There is **free** assistance available at:

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA)

465 School Street
Lowell, MA 01851
Phone: 978-454-6200
Email: info@cmaalowell.org



Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)

490 Central Street Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: 978-970-1250
Email: [Elouise Galindo at egalindo@maps-inc.org](mailto:Elouise.Galindo@egalindo@maps-inc.org)



Project Citizenship

11 Beacon Street, Suite 720
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: 617-694-5949
Email: info@projectcitizenship.org



Other helpful immigration resources:

International Institute of New England (IINE)

101 Jackson Street, Suite 2, Lowell, MA 01852 Phone: 978-459-9031
Immigration Legal Services Information Request: <https://iine.org/legal/#legalform>
IINE Website: <https://iine.org/>

The International Institute of New England, which has an office in Lowell, offers a range of legal immigration services. As its website states, "Our Legal Immigration Service program offers professional and affordable immigration assistance to help immigrants file for green cards, secure work authorizations, reunite with their families, and apply for citizenship."



PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER OF LOWELL



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

The MassHire Career Center of Lowell 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.

IT'S MOSTLY ALL LOWELL COMPANIES

This is great for those of you without a car or license.

DATE: Tuesday November 1, 2020

TIME: 10 to 12:30 only

Arrive by 10:30 is suggested in case any companies leave early

LOCATION: Middlesex Community College 33 Kearney Square, Lowell, MA 01852
Cowan Building cafeterias

PARKING: John Downes Garage on 75 John Street or
Lowell Locks Parking Garage, 90 Warren Street

JOBSEEKER CHECK IN: MassHire Career Center (107 Merrimack St) in front of the cafe by the elevators. It is faster if you are pre-register before Monday (October 31 at noon).

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://masshirelowellcc.com/falljobfair/> for online registering or tell your career advisor to sign you up.

(If you are not registered, just come to it, and we will have you fill out paperwork then.)

JOB FAIR WEBPAGE: You can go to <https://masshirelowellcc.com/falljobfair/> to see all the companies that are attending.

DRESS CODE: Is business casual (shirts with collars, Docker pants, nice blouses, decent shoes, recent haircut, clean nails, etc.)

BRING: 10 to 15 resume copies (you can make copies for free at the MassHire Career Center) and your business cards if you use them

Ask any of our AAEC Education and Career Advisors, if you need help registering, or if you or have questions.

CTI—COMMUNITY TEAMWORK



www.commteam.org

Community Teamwork Inc. (CTI) is a local community action organization providing support for families in need, promoting economic self-sufficiency for all, and building a stronger community by partnering with others to expand economic growth.

They offer workshops and classes to learn how to become a first-time homebuyer; weatherize your home to reduce waste and costs; open a small business; prepare the youth in your family for the future; access affordable quality early education and care; create a budget and gain financial independence; and more.

Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP, also known as Fuel Assistance, helps eligible households challenged by the high cost of home heating fuel pay a portion of their winter heating bills. Homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent, can apply for LIHEAP. Eligibility is based on their household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age and older.

- Homeowners and renters are eligible
- Most who get fuel assistance also qualify for other energy assistance programs.

You may use any type of heating fuel (oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, etc.)

CTI Fuel Assistance
45 Kirk Street, 2nd Floor Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: (978) 459 6161
Fax: (978) 458-8594
FuelAssistance@commteam.org

2022-2023 LIHEAP Income Eligibility Chart

Family Size	Maximum Annual Gross Income
1	\$42,411
2	\$55,461
3	\$68,511
4	\$81,561
5	\$94,610
6	\$107,660

How to Apply:

Online: New & Returning applicants

Please do not use the portal if you have already sent in your beige application for the current fuel season. You can start your online application by clicking toapply.org/CTI

Telephone interview: New applicants only

First-time applicants that do not want to apply online can schedule an interview/appointment to have a representative call you and start your application over the telephone.

Schedule a telephone interview by calling 978.459.6161 today to make an appointment and to learn more!

Applications can also be emailed to FuelAssistance@commteam.org, faxed to 978.458.8594 or mailed/dropped in a specially marked mailbox outside the Community Teamwork Fuel Assistance office 45 Kirk Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

Returning applicants must apply each year; applications are mailed to households after the first year. If you did not receive your application or you have moved, please call or email the office with your updated information. An application will be mailed to you.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

GENERAL ELECTION — TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Where do I cast my vote? You can go to www.wheredoivotema.com, input your information, and your polling location will be displayed.

All polling locations will be open from 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

Bring a photo ID and proof of address with you. You may be asked for it at check-in for verification.



Voting in an election will earn you some reward points, so make sure you let your teacher know if you voted.



Lowell High School

GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE

NOVEMBER 17, 2022, 5-7 PM
FRESHMAN ACADEMY
40 PAIGE STREET, LOWELL



Join us for guided tours; meet LHS Staff, and learn more about:

- Academic Programs
- LHS Athletics
- Student Activities & Clubs
- Early College Opportunities

Use this [link](#) to pre-register today



Shaughnessy Elementary School Fundraiser

Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 19th 2022
10am to 2pm

1158 Gorham St Lowell, Ma 01852
Mill City Events by Tara
millcitycraftfairs@gmail.com

- 50+ Vendors
- 50/50 Raffle
- Raffle Baskets
- Food by Heavenly Dogs
- Hot Cocoa Bar



Hello Autumn

Craft & Vendor Fair

November 5th 2022
11am to 3pm

Sip & Shop

Dom Polski Club
10 Coburn St
Lowell, Ma 01850

Mill City Events by Tara
tara_347@hotmail.com

Are you the parent of an 8th grade student deciding where they want to go to high school next year? Come by Lowell High School on Nov.17 to discover all that the school has to offer.

Register here: [LHS Open House](#)

CITY OF LIGHTS PARADE

On Saturday, November 26 at 4:30 p.m., the parade will start on Jackson Street and end at City Hall, where Santa Claus will make his first appearance of the season, and will throw the switch to light City Hall!

Get in the holiday spirit by joining in the festivities at the City Lights Parade. Each November, the family-friendly event features activities for guests of all ages. Some of the attractions includes: the Holiday Parade, Photos with Santa, a holiday movie screening at the Donahue Family Academic Arts Center and the annual hot chocolate and window decorating contests (vote for your favorite!)

City of Lights is a family event with something for everyone.

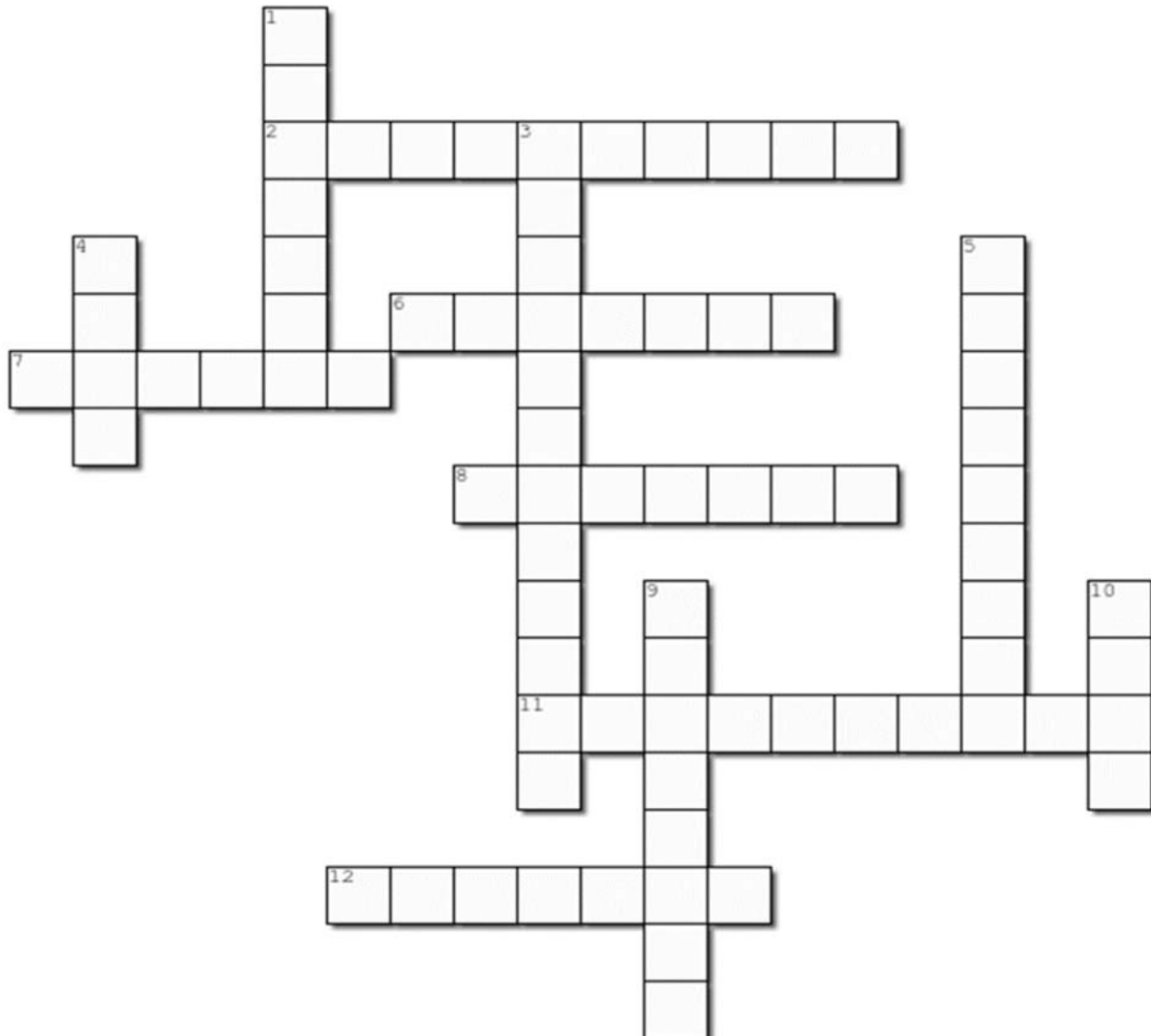
Find more information at www.likelowell.com



Name: _____

Civics Questions

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

NewYork

liberty

Atlantic

California

Independence

Jefferson

Indians

Guam

Alaska

July

Washington

freedom

Across

2. the first U.S. president, George _____
6. one reason colonists came to America
7. one state that borders Canada
8. they lived in America before the Europeans arrived, American _____
11. one state that borders Mexico
12. 3 rights in the Declaration of Independence, life, ____, and the pursuit of happiness

Down

1. where the Statue of Liberty is located (2 words)
3. a national U.S. holiday in July, _____ Day
4. when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, _____ 4, 1776
5. he wrote the Declaration of Independence, Thomas _____
9. the ocean on the East Coast of the U.S.
10. one U.S. territory

School Activities Calendar

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	October 31st New Students! ESOL Orientation 8:30am Susan's Rm	1	2	3 Citizenship Class 9:30—11am Rm 10  CBT starting @ 12:30pm	4  Conversation Club 9:00 and 10:30	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends 	7	8  No School	9	10 Citizenship Class 9:30—11am Rm 10	11  No School	12
13	14	15  On-site Clinic 9:30—12:30	16	17 Citizenship Class 9:30—11am Rm 10  CBT starting @ 12:30pm	18  Conversation Club 9:00 and 10:30  PBT starting @ 5:00pm  CBT starting @ 5:15pm	19  PBT starting @ 8:00am  CBT starting @ 8:15am
20	21	22  Student Success Celebration 10:00 am	23  10:45 am	24 	25	26
27	28	29  Reward Center Open	30			