

# THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



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

*April 2019 - Issue 7*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Abisi Adult Education Graduation

Friday, June 7, 2019  
6:00pm

Lowell High School Auditorium

Students who receive their high school credential with us or achieve a certain number of attendance hours in ESOL will be invited to attend our annual graduation event.



### TeamWalk for CancerCare

Sunday, May 19, 2019  
3 mile or 6 mile walk

LeLacheur Park  
(New Location)

Each year, AAEC students and staff team up and participate in Lowell General Hospital's *TeamWalk for CancerCare*.



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April 22, 2019

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAYS

If there is **NO SCHOOL** in the Lowell Public Schools—All Morning and Evening classes are cancelled.

If there is a **one-hour delay**, there will be no 9:00am ESOL classes. HSE classes will begin at 10:00am. Evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

If there is a **two-hour delay**, there will be no 9:00am ESOL classes. HSE classes will begin at 11:00am. Evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

School cancellation or delay information can found by:

- Visiting our website, [www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com](http://www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com)
- Looking on Facebook
- Watching the local news
- Listening to WCAP (980AM) or WBZ (1030AM)



*Some student names and pictures have been removed from the newsletter, as some students have taken the option given at registration to request that their names and/or pictures not be used in any publications.*

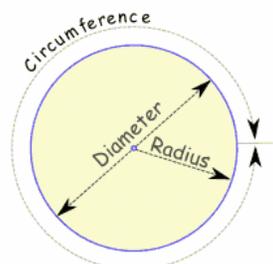
## STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

### MATH CAN BE FUN!

Learning math can be fun! Teacher Mary Gail showed Meg's ESOL students that math is used everywhere and what they are learning in class can be applied to their everyday life. They worked together to make a healthy trail mix using measurements and adding fractions to complete the recipe that fed the entire class.



On March 14th, our HSE students celebrated Pi ( $\pi$ ) Day. Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 because the numbers in the date (3/14) match the first three digits of the mathematical constant pi ( $\pi$ ). In honor of Pi Day, students measured different sized circles using cookies, then recorded and compared their data. They learned that no matter what size a circle is, if you divide the circumference by the diameter, you get 3.141519265359...better known as Pi!



$$\frac{\text{Circumference}}{\text{Diameter}} = \pi = 3.14159\dots$$



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Congratulations to Cleide Oliveira from Meg's ESOL class, for successfully completing her CNA training. She participated in a new program that was created in collaboration among Abisi Adult Education Center, the International Institute of New England, Middlesex Community College, and D'Youville Life & Wellness Community and funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

This CNA program began last November. It offered a free workforce development course to English Language Learners who were interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). All of the classes were held at D'Youville Life and Wellness Community. Students learned skills development, workforce-readiness preparedness, English for Employment in Healthcare, participated in a 100-hour clinical training, and prepared for the CNA licensing exam. Those that successfully pass the exam are guaranteed job placement at D'Youville Life & Wellness Community.

On Tuesday, March 14, 2019, Cleide and six other immigrant women were the first class to graduate from this program. The ceremony was held in D'Youville's stained glass chapel and attended by many community leaders.

Enrollment is now open for a new group of students interested in starting CNA classes in June. Students must have U.S. Work Authorization in order to apply **and** must pass a basic English Language screening to enroll. For more information see Adriana, our Student Services Coordinator at AAEC, or go online at: <https://iine.org/learnlowell>.



Betty McKiernan, Director of AAEC, Cleide, and Adriana

## STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

### TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

Karen Spengler, *LINKS* Coordinator from Middlesex Community College, and Alisa Povenmire, *Transitions to College* Coordinator from Northern Essex Community College, came and spoke with our HSE students about their free programs helping students transition into college after earning their high school credential. These programs build up essential skills in reading, writing, math, and computers, while earning college credit.

If you would like more information about these programs, you can make an appointment with our HSE College and Career Advisor, Patty, or visit the college's website listed below. Patty's office is located in the back of Room 6.

#### LINKS TOUR AT MCC

LINKS is a program for adults who are interested in enrolling in college but would like extra support. This program offers smaller class sizes, individualized guidance, and is a unique opportunity for students to acclimate to the academic setting while earning free college credits.

Classes are held during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and are offered during their fall and spring semesters at MCC's Bedford and Lowell campuses. Shuttle buses provide transportation to and from each campus.

For questions about this program, contact:

Karen Spengler, LINKS Coordinator  
(781) 280-3654 - [spengerk@middlesex.mass.edu](mailto:spengerk@middlesex.mass.edu)



[www.middlesex.mass.edu/links](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/links)

#### TRANSITIONS TO COLLEGE PROGRAM AT NECC

NECC's Transitions to College program provides academic work in reading, writing, math and computers, time management, note taking, paper writing, and study skills.

Upon successful completion of the program, you will have earned 9 college credits – a three-credit college success course and two three-credit computer courses.

Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at NECC Riverwalk campus in Lawrence. This program is offered in both the fall and spring semesters.

For further questions about this program, contact:

Alisa Povenmire, Transitions to College Coordinator  
(978) 659-1272 - [apovenmire@necc.mass.edu](mailto:apovenmire@necc.mass.edu)



[www.ness.mass.edu](http://www.ness.mass.edu)

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING

#### City Manager's Domestic Violence Task Force

Domestic Violence Prevention Training at Pollard Memorial Library for  
Abisi Adult Education Students

Held in April, date to be announced

Welcome & Introductions  
City of Lowell's City Manager

Presenters from different organizations in the community:

Alternative House, LPD Family Service Unit, and Middlesex District Attorney's Office



# STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

## CAREER CENTER SEMINAR

**Are you thinking about becoming a member of the Career Center of Lowell?**

MassHire Lowell Career Center will be coming to AAEC to present their Career Center Seminar and help interested students become members. Current members are welcome to attend and learn about new workshops and services available. You must have a social security number to become a member.

Thursday, April 25, from 9:15am-11:15am,  
Room 12 on the Lower Level

At this seminar, you will learn about the wide variety of services and resources available to help you with your job search. Only members of the Mass Hire Career Center can access their resources, workshops, webinars, and trainings.

Sign-up with your teacher, Patty (HSE), Cindy (ESOL), or our Career Center Advisor, Margie.



## LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (LCHC)



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

### Outreach Workers

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, & 24  
9:00am—12:00pm

Stop by the Main Office to speak with a LCHC Outreach worker to learn about their health services, get information about health insurance, or schedule an appointment. They are here on Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MEETING

On Tuesday, April 2, AAEC will hold its annual Community Planning Partnership meeting. Many different agencies and organizations will gather together to discuss ways and opportunities to better help our students. The mission of the partnership is to empower adults to become successful family and community members and productive workers.

Working with our community partners helps us continue to offer our students health clinics; job fair opportunities; workshops in financial literacy, health and wellness; workforce/career development; community college programs; housing; and more.

We will be discussing the services that local agencies provide for immigrants and how the current immigration policies are impacting our immigrant population.



## ABISI ADULT EDUCATION ANNUAL FIELD TRIP



Every spring, AAEC goes on a field trip. We will leave the school at 9:00am and return by 2:00pm. Students and teachers will work together to choose which place to visit this year.

The two options are:

- National Historical Park Tour in Lowell
- McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, NH.

The school will pay for transportation and provide a bagged lunch. Students pay for the admission fee, if any. More details will be shared in your classes.

# STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

## STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING



### Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 10:30am—11:30am  
HSE Center/Computer Lab

## REWARD CENTER

Don't forget to let your teacher know if you have achieved any new goals this month. Did you:

- meet with your child's teacher, attend a school event, or help them with their homework?
- apply or interview for a job, receive a new position at work, or get a pay raise?
- achieve outstanding attendance by not missing more than two days of school last month?
- participate in community events or volunteer at a community organization?
- apply for health insurance, attend a home buyer seminar, or open a new bank account?

Reward Program statements will be handed out on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Your statement will have your accumulated points earned through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Reward Center will be open on April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am-12:30pm. In June, we will have a big End of the Year Sale. The Reward Center is located outside Room 3 on the first floor. You can redeem your earned points now or continue to accumulate them for a bigger reward later. Points can be accumulated until May 31<sup>st</sup>.



If you plan to redeem your points, please bring your updated statement with you. There are many rewards to choose from. Check out these recently added items: bottle/can opener, lip balm, USB keychain, mechanical pencil, and pencil sharpener.

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

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



### "The Road to Success Begins with Good Attendance"

It is important for you to be here and be on time for your classes. Many students are waiting for the opportunity to join our classes.

Don't forget to inform your teacher if you are going to be absent or call (978) 937-8989. Leave a detailed message stating your name, teacher, and reason for your absence. You can also send an email to:

**ESOL Classes**—[apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us)  
or

**HSE Classes**—[swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us)

**Add Abisi Adult Education Center to your phone's contact list to make it easier for you to call us when you are going to be out.**

## CONVERSATION CLUB

The Conversation Club is a student-led club. It's a great opportunity for our AAEC students to practice their conversation skills. It can help you improve your English language skills by speaking and interacting with other learners. All students are encouraged to join.

Want more conversation opportunities? The Pollard Memorial Library hosts an *ESL Conversation Café* on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. There are guided conversations between native and non-native English speakers. It is free and no registration is required.



### AAEC Conversation Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
from 10:30-11:00am

Susan's Room (Main Floor, Rm 3)

# STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) TESTING INFORMATION

The Massachusetts High School Equivalency credential is accepted by virtually all colleges, universities, and employers in the United States as exactly equivalent to a high school diploma. In order to earn the credential, you must take and pass either the HiSET<sup>®</sup> or GED<sup>®</sup> test. These tests are comparable in terms of cognitive complexity and rates of passing.

The Abisi Adult Education Center offers classes that will prepare students to take either exam and is an approved test center. We offer *HiSET*<sup>®</sup> testing appointments for both Paper Based Testing and Computer Based Testing and *GED*<sup>®</sup> Computer Based Testing. Testing dates are posted below and on our website at [www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com](http://www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com).

Detailed information about the two testing options, state requirements, accommodation for testers with disabilities, eligibility requirements, and other important information can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website at [www.doe.mass.edu/hse/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/). Denise, in the office, is also available to help you.

### HSE Upcoming Testing Dates:

#### **HiSET Computer Based Testing**

(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm )

April 4, 11, & 25  
May 9, 16, & 23

#### **HiSET Paper Testing Dates**

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

April 12 & 13  
April 26 & 27  
May 17 & 18

#### **GED Weekend Computer Testing**

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

April 12 & 13  
April 26 & 27  
May 17 & 18

## PARKING

Students driving to school are encouraged to park at the Ayotte Garage, 1 Post Office Sq, across from Lowell High School. Bring your ticket with you to class. You can validate it in the office after classes are finished.

On-street, metered parking is also available. Meters have a 2-hour parking limit Monday through Saturday, from 8:00am-6:00pm. It costs \$3.00/2 hours. The kiosk accepts cash and credit/debit cards. If a pay kiosk is not working, go to another one, and enter your space number. You may get ticketed if you don't pay the meter.

Remember:



- Do not park in the school parking lot.
- Do not park in the library parking lot.
- Do not park in the Santander Bank parking lot.
- Do not park in the Olympia Restaurant parking lot.
- Do not park in the Lowell Housing Authority parking lot.

### CELL PHONE REMINDERS



### VISITOR POLICY

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 forget 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.

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## SUMMER PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION



### FREE Citywide Family Resource Fair

Wednesday, May 1, from 6:00-7:30pm  
STEM Academy—43 Highland Street, Lowell

The Citywide Family Resource Fair is a great way to learn about programs available for your children this summer.

One of the organizations featured is the City of Lowell Recreation Department. They offer many free programs for Lowell residents this summer.

#### Children's Programs

- Tiny Tots, for ages 3-4
- Youth Adventure, for ages 5-11
- Busy Bees, for all ages, and focused on summer school students.

#### Sport's Programs

- Swim Lessons
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tennis Lessons

Lowell Recreation activities are held at neighborhood park or school. Registration starts in April and is required for all programs. Space fills quickly. To register, go online to [www.lowellrec.com](http://www.lowellrec.com).

## LOWELL'S SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

A friendly reminder from the Lowell Solid Waste and Recycling Department:

- Glass bottles and jars can be put in your recycling cart. Metal lids can be screwed back on or thrown in the trash. Empty and rinse glass bottles and jars before putting them in the recycling.



- Keep these out of your recycling cart.



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## CMAA KHMER NEW YEAR



Join the CMAA in celebrating the traditional Khmer New Year and honoring Cambodian Arts and Culture

**Saturday, April 20**  
**Free event**  
**From 8:30am-5:00pm**

Events details can be found on the CMAA's Facebook page.

## UMASS SPRING CONCERT

UMass Lowell Strings Project Spring Concert

**From Screens to Strings**  
**(Celebrating music in films)**

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm**

**Free event**

**Durgin Hall**  
**35 Wilder St, Lowell**



## SEED SWAP

**Mill City Grows**  
**Annual Seed Swap**

**Saturday, April 6**  
**11:00am-2:00pm**

Free event at  
Christ Church United  
Bartlett St, Lowell

For more information  
visit [millcitygrows.org](http://millcitygrows.org).



## APRIL PLAYCATION

School Vacation Week April 15<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup>

The Lowell National Historical Park teams up with a variety of community organizations to offer fun family activities and programs during April school vacation week.

Events details and registration information can be found on their Facebook page, *Lowell Kids Week*, or website, [www.lowellkidsweek.org](http://www.lowellkidsweek.org), after April 1<sup>st</sup>.



## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT



**City of Lowell's**  
**14th Annual**  
**Take Back the Night**  
**Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Rally starts at 5:45pm  
City Hall, Arcand St. Plaza

Followed by a march to  
MCC for a Survivors  
Speak Out!

Join in supporting survivors  
and help build a community  
free from sexual abuse.

## HEALTHY LOWELL WEEK

**Healthy Lowell Week**  
**April 1-7, 2019**

Join the Lowell Health Department and many of our community partners to kick-off the first *Healthy Lowell Week*.

Events and ways to participate are listed on the Lowell Health Department website, [www.lowellma.gov/275/health](http://www.lowellma.gov/275/health).

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER—LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### Kindergarten and Preschool Registration Information for the 2019-2020 School Year

##### Pre-School

If you have a child who is a resident of Lowell and will be 4 years old by September 1, 2019 (born between September 2, 2014, and September 1, 2015), your child is eligible to start preschool in September 2019. Lowell Public Schools offers two sessions of 1/2 day pre-school; morning or afternoon, five days a week.

##### Kindergarten

If you have a child who is a resident of Lowell and will be 5 years old by September 1, 2019 (born between September 2, 2013 and September 1, 2014), your child is eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2019. **Note: If your child is currently enrolled in PK with LPS, you still must come in and register for kindergarten.**

Registration for Kindergarten and Preschool will take place from March 1 through April 30, 2019, Monday—Friday 8:00am-4:00pm, and until 6:00pm on Thursdays. No registrations will be taken 1 hour before closing. Please call ahead to ensure they can service you properly. Contact the Early Childhood Department at (978) 674-4330 if you have any questions, or go to their website, [www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Domain/84](http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Domain/84).

### MERRIMACK VALLEY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Project Genesis offers a series of training seminars for first-time home buyers and landlord training for people owning multi-unit homes. These classes are offered in English, Spanish, and Khmer

Register online at [www.mvhp.org](http://www.mvhp.org), or call (978) 459-8490 for English and Spanish speakers. Khmer speakers can call (978)459-6200.

#### Upcoming Home Buyer Training Sessions

<i>English</i>	<i>Tuesdays &amp; Wednesdays 6:30-9:00pm - April 9, 10, 14, &amp; 15</i>
<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Saturdays 8:00am-1:00pm - April 6 &amp; 13</i>
<i>Khmer</i>	<i>Saturdays 9:30am-2:00pm - April 27 &amp; May 4</i>

#### Landlord Training Sessions

<i>English</i>	<i>Thursday, April 23, 4:30pm-8:30pm</i>
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### VITA TAX PROGRAM



VITA is a free service offered to low-income individuals, and families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. This is a service available **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

Visit CTI's website, [www.commteam.org/how-we-help/finance-business/vita](http://www.commteam.org/how-we-help/finance-business/vita) for more information about the free tax return preparation service. Click on the **VITA Tax Flyer 2019** link for detailed information to see if you qualify for these services, what you need to bring with you, where and when the services are offered, and more.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling Community Teamwork Inc. (CTI), (978) 654-5676 or Mills42 Federal Credit Union (978) 328-5100.

**Community Teamwork Inc.**  
17 Kirk St, 1st Floor

<u>Saturday Mornings</u> 9:00am—12:00pm	<u>Wednesday Nights</u> 5:00pm-8:00pm
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**Mills42 Credit Union**  
83 Merrimack St

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
9:00am-3:00pm

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 SAC Mtg. 10:30am Computer Lab  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room	3  LCHC Outreach 9:00am—12:00pm	4  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room  ETS HiSET CBT @ 12:30pm	5	6
7	8  ESOL Orientation 8:30 or 10:30am in Susan's Rm.	9  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room	10  Reward Program Statements  LCHC Outreach 9:00am—12:00pm	11 Attendance Certificates  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room  ETS HiSET CBT @ 12:30pm	12  GED TESTING SERVICE® CBT starting @ 5:15pm  ETS HiSET PBT starting @ 5:00pm	13  GED TESTING SERVICE® CBT starting @ 8:00am  ETS HiSET PBT starting @ 8:00am
14   Khmer New Year Begins	15  Patriot's Day	16	17	18	19	20
<i>SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL</i>						
21   Happy Easter!	22 	23  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room	24  LCHC Outreach 9:00am—12:00pm	25  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room  ETS HiSET CBT @ 12:30pm	26  GED TESTING SERVICE® CBT starting @ 5:15pm  ETS HiSET PBT starting @ 5:00pm	27  GED TESTING SERVICE® CBT starting @ 8:00am  ETS HiSET PBT starting @ 8:00am
28	29	30 Reward Center Open 9:00-12:30pm  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am Susan's Room				