

# THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



**Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center**

**408 Merrimack St, Lowell MA, 01854**

**[www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com](http://www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com) - 978-937-8989**

**March 2018—Issue 5**

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



AAEC held a holiday tree raffle fundraiser in December, donating all of the proceeds to two local charities. Last month, students and staff cast their votes and chose It's All About the Kids and Merrimack Valley Food Bank to receive our donations. Each organization will receive \$350.

On Tuesday, February 6, our AAEC Student Advisory Council presented a check for \$350 to It's All About the Kids co-founder and

ESOL Teacher, Carrie Carolan. It's All About the Kids is a non-profit organization, helping Greater Lowell families and children with food, clothing, and gifts during the holiday season and emergency assistance all year. They work with the social workers and guidance counselors from the Lowell Public Schools and other local agencies. With the help of community members and local businesses they served more than 300 families this year. A special shout out to Rosalba Garcia from Ann's 9:00am class for all of her hard work helping with the raffle.

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@Frederick Abisi Adult Education

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAYS

The weather is always unpredictable in New England. In case of inclement weather, the Lowell Public Schools may cancel school or have a delayed opening. For example, on January 23, rainy weather and overnight cold temperatures caused icy roads in the morning delaying school opening two hours.



If you have children in the Lowell Public Schools, you may receive a phone call from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools informing you that school is closed or delayed.

You can also find out if there is a cancellation or delay by:

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

**No school in the Lowell Public Schools:**  
No classes at AAEC!

**Two-Hour delay in the Lowell Public Schools:**  
Morning: Doors open at 10:45am for the 11:00am classes  
Evening: Regular time 6:00pm to 8:40pm

*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

## CONVERSATION CLUB

### AAEC Conversation Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:30am-11:00am

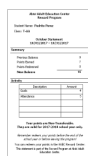
Susan’s Room (Main Floor, Rm 3)

Conversation Club will be held on Tuesdays & Thursdays in Susan’s Room on the main floor.



This is a student led club. It’s an opportunity for you to improve your English language skills by speaking and interacting with other learners. All students are encouraged to join.

## REWARD CENTER



Reward Program Statements will be handed out on March 15. Your statement will have your accumulated points earned through February 28.

The Reward Center will be open on March 22, from 9:00am-12:30pm. It is located outside of Room 3 on the first floor. You can redeem your earned points now or continue to accumulate them for a bigger reward later.

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

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

## STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 6,  
from 10:30am—11:30am  
HSE Center/Computer Lab



## CELL PHONE REMINDERS

Cell phones should not be used during class time unless your teacher says it’s all right.



Please remember to turn your cell phone off or put it on silent mode before you enter your classes. When cell phones go off in class it distracts everyone and takes away from your learning.

If you need to take a call due to an emergency, like work or child’s school/daycare, quietly leave the classroom and take it outside into the hallway. Then, quickly return to your class.

## 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 leaving a detailed message, stating your name and teacher. You can also send an email to:

**ESOLClasses**—[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)

## PARKING

Students driving to school are encouraged to park at the Ayotte Garage across from Lowell High School. AAEC students can get a letter from the Main Office to be eligible for a discounted rate.

On-street, metered parking is also available. Meters have a 2 hour parking limit. The kiosk accepts cash and credit/debit cards. If a pay kiosk is not working, go to another one and enter your space number. Do not forget to feed the meter. You may get ticketed.

- 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 Apartment parking lot.
- Cars will be ticketed and towed.**



# STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

## STUDENT SUCCESS CELEBRATION

***Congratulations to all the students who have achieved some of their goals and to everyone who had outstanding attendance during the month of January.***

On February 15th, we held our 2nd Student Success Celebration of the year. Students were recognized for goals they had achieved during the months of November, December, and January.

Also, 96 students were awarded certificates for having outstanding attendance. These students missed no more than 2 days of classes in January.

Everyone enjoyed cake and coffee during the celebration.



### Certificates Awarded for Goal Achievement

Getting a Job	12
Getting a Better Job	10
Meeting a New Job Requirement	2
Completing Occupational Training	2
Entering the LINKS Program @ MCC	2
Opening a Bank Account	8
Starting a Business	1
Attaining Legal Residency	2
Passing the Citizenship Exam	3
Getting a Driver's License	3
Getting a Learner's Permit	3
Volunteering at a Community Org. or School	8
Helping Child with Homework for 4 months	4

## LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH



A special thanks to all the volunteers from the Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC) for providing an on-site, free health clinic to our students and staff on February 27th..

Students lined up to have their blood pressure and blood glucose levels checked, ask questions about health insurance, and learn about the services and programs LCHC offers. We had over 130 students participate in this clinic.

LCHC will be providing dental and vision services in the coming months.

## FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

On March 19 & 22, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union will be presenting a variety of financial workshops to our students. Learn about basic banking, different types of credit and credit scores, budgeting, evaluating marketing and advertising techniques companies use to get you to purchase products, and more.



## ABISI ADULT EDUCATION ANNUAL FIELD TRIP



Every year in May, AAEC goes on a field trip. 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. Last year, we visited the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, MA. If you have an idea on where to go this year, share it with your class representative.

# STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TESTING INFORMATION

Residents of Massachusetts who desire to earn a High School Equivalency credential have the choice of two exams: GED and HiSET. The Abisi Adult Education Center is an official testing center for both exams.

The successful completion of either the GED or HiSET exam will earn a Massachusetts high school credential opening up doors for college and better career opportunities.

### Which exam should I choose?



<b>Total Cost:</b>	\$125	\$100
<b>Format:</b>	<b>Computer Based Only</b>	<b>Paper and Computer Based</b> • Testers have the option to select either format for each test.
<b>Question Types:</b>	Variety of computer question types, plus extended response and short answer	Multiple Choice and Essay only
<b>Calculator:</b>	Used for 3 tests: Math, Science, and Social Studies tests	Used for Math & Science tests only
<b>Language Arts</b>	Reading and Writing are combined into 1 test.	Reading and Writing are 2 separate tests.
<b>Writing Requirements:</b>	150 minutes (3 sections) • Part 1—Language Strand • Part 2—Timed Extended Response (45 minutes) • Break • Part 3—Reading Comprehension	120 minutes (2 sections) • You are allowed to go back and forth between the Essay and 50 Multiple Choice questions.
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.ged.com">www.ged.com</a>	<a href="http://www.hiset.ets.org">www.hiset.ets.org</a>

**Currently, there is no expiration date for test scores.**

### HSE Upcoming Testing Dates:

**GED Computer Based Testing**  
(Tuesday afternoons @ 12:45pm)

March 13 & 27  
April 10 & 24

**GED Weekend Computer Testing:**  
(Friday evenings starting at 5:15pm & Saturday mornings beginning at 8:15am)

March 9 & 10 - April 6 & 7 - May 18 & 19

**HiSET Computer Based Testing**  
(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm )

March 1, 15, & 29  
April 5, 12, & 26

**HiSET Weekend Paper Testing Dates**  
(Friday evenings 5:30pm and 7:00pm & Saturday mornings at 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am)

March 9 & 10 - April 6 & 7 - May 18 & 19

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child who is a resident of Lowell and will be 5 years old by September 1st, 2018 (born between September 2, 2012-September 1, 2013) your child is eligible to start full-day Kindergarten in September 2018.

**Location:** Family Resource Center  
151 Merrimack St, Lowell  
978-674-4321

**Date :** March 5-April 27, 2018

**Time:** Monday through Friday  
8:00am to 4:00pm  
Thursdays until 6:00pm



Please bring the following documents with you:

- Parent Photo ID
- Proof of Address (i.e. current utility bill)
- Child's Birth Certificate
- IEP with pages signed, if applicable
- Updated Immunization Record

*Please Note: The entire registration is viewed as one day of registration. You are not required to register on the first day in order to be considered eligible. Please consider any other day to avoid long lines.*

## WHITE RIBBON DAY CAMPAIGN

On Thursday, March 1, several students and staff participated in the 11th Annual White Ribbon Day held at City Hall.

The Lowell City Manager's Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Alternative House, and many members of the community, stood together and took the pledge to help end gender-based violence and violence against women.

### Domestic Violence Hotlines:

Alternative House:  
24hr Hotline 1-888-291-6228  
Local Line 978-454-1436

Massachusetts Hotline:  
Safelink 1-877-785-2020

National Domestic Violence Hotline:  
1-800-799-7233



## COLLEGE SAVINGS WORKSHOP

Are you looking for ways to save for your children's college education?

The Massachusetts Office of Economic Empowerment has partnered with MEFA, Inversant, and SoarMA to offer free workshops for families interested in learning how to save money for their children's college education.

All workshops will be offered in English, Spanish, and Khmer.

Where:  
Stoklosa Middle School, 560 Broadway St, Lowell

### Upcoming workshops:

**Tuesday, March 20—Strong College Candidate**  
Learn how to help your children become successful college candidates from an early age.

**Tuesday, April 10—College Cost & Types**  
Plan and prepare for your children's post-secondary academic and financial options.

**Tuesday, May 15—Career Panel**  
Meet influential leaders, learn about their career paths, and foster connections with community organizations.

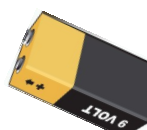
For more information, contact:  
Nicole Lynch  
Community Engagement Organization  
(857) 292-2275  
nlynch@tre.state.ma.us

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



Daylight Savings Time Begins  
at 2:00am on  
March 11, 2018  
(Turn clocks ahead 1 hour.)

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors!



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### LOWELL'S WOMEN'S WEEK



For over twenty-three years, Lowell Women's Week has celebrated women — from the women who have come before us to the women of today.

Lowell Women's Week is proud to announce this year's theme: "*Nevertheless, We Persist: Moving Forward Together.*" We encourage you to reflect on the women who influenced your life. Lowell Women's Week's will hold many events from February 25 through March 10, 2018. The events take place at locations throughout the city and recognize women's achievements, struggles, and amazing contributions to our community. Most are free and open to the public.

Visit [lowellwomensweek.org](http://lowellwomensweek.org) for a complete listing of events featured this week.

### MERRIMACK VALLEY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP (MVHP)

Looking to buy your first home? *Project Genesis* is a series of training seminars for first-time home buyers. It consists of 10 hours of instruction over four evenings. There is a fee to register for this course.

It is taught by MVHP staff as well as several volunteer real estate professionals. Instructors include lenders, attorneys, home inspectors, real estate brokers, and others.

Topics covered include an overview of the home-buying process, mortgage application process, down payment assistance, home inspections, building good credit, and more. 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



<b>English</b> (4 sessions)	<b>Tuesdays &amp; Wednesdays</b> 6:30-9:00pm March 13, 14, 20, & 21
<b>Spanish</b> (2 sessions)	<b>Saturdays</b> 8:00am-1:00pm Call for dates
<b>Khmer</b> (2 sessions)	<b>Saturdays</b> 9:30am-2:00pm March 31 & April 7

Classes are held at 67 Middle St, Downtown Lowell. Go to the 4th floor, Rm 405.

### FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a free service offered to low-income individuals, and families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

This service is available by APPOINTMENT ONLY! Appointments can be scheduled by calling Community Teamwork Inc. (CTI) at (978) 654-5676 or Mills42 Federal Credit Union (978) 328-5100.

Visit [www.comteam.org/how-we-help/finance-business/vita/](http://www.comteam.org/how-we-help/finance-business/vita/) for more information about this free tax return preparation service. Click on the VITA Tax Flyer link to find information regarding dates, times, and locations.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS @ LGH

Lowell General Hospital offers a variety of health and wellness programs and support groups for FREE!

Check out all of their program offerings online at [www.lowellgeneral.org](http://www.lowellgeneral.org), click on Health and Wellness. You can register online or call 1-877-544-9355.

**Brain Health: Learn How to Keep Your Brain Healthy**  
Wednesday, March 7, from 6:00-7:00pm

**Let's Meditate: Going Within to Your Peaceful Space**  
Thursday, March 29, from 6:00pm-8:00pm

**My Life, My Health: Chronic Disease Self-Management**  
Wednesdays, April 11—May 16, from 1:00-3:30pm  
Call 978-946-1211 to register

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## SCAM PREVENTION

### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is warning taxpayers of a quickly growing scam involving tax erroneous refunds being deposited into taxpayers bank accounts. Scammers file fraudulent tax returns and use the taxpayers’ real bank accounts to deposit the refunds. They then pose as IRS or law enforcement agents telling you there was a mistake made and asking you to return the money to them. If you discover a refund deposited into your account that should not be there, call the IRS immediately.

The IRS has a step-by-step explanation on how to return the funds and avoid being scammed. It can be found on their website at [www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts). Remember, the IRS will never contact you through email, text messages, telephone, or social media to request personal or banking information.



### IMMIGRATION

The Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law, also known as “Notario” fraud, can be devastating and costly to its victims.

Check out the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office website for an informative guide to help you avoid immigration scams.

The Massachusetts Attorney General’s Guide can be found at: [www.mass.gov/guides/avoiding-immigration-scams](http://www.mass.gov/guides/avoiding-immigration-scams)

You can use the “Select Language” link on their website to have the article translated.



## IDENTITY THEFT AND SCAM PREVENTION WORKSHOP

The Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office will be presenting a FREE workshop on identity theft, scam prevention, and consumer protection.

All are welcome to attend. Dinner is provided.

Spanish and Khmer interpreters will be available.

When: Monday, March 5th, from 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Coalition for a Better Acre  
517 Moody St, Lowell.



### IDENTITY THEFT AND SCAM PREVENTION WORKSHOP



## DON'T GET SCAMMED!

**Free Workshop**

- Identity Theft
- Consumer Protection
- Avoiding Scams

Presented by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

Part of Consumer Protection Week and Lowell Women's Week

All are welcome to attend  
Spanish and Khmer Interpretation  
Dinner Provided

**Coalition for a Better Acre**  
517 Moody St  
Monday March 5th, 6-8 p.m.



## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1   CBT @ 12:30pm	2	3
4	5  <b>ESOL Orientation</b> <i>8:30 or 10:30am</i> in Susan's Rm.	6  <b>Student Advisory Council Mtg.</b> <i>10:30am</i>	7	8  Attendance Certificates	9   CBT starting @ 5:15pm   PBT stating @ 5:30pm	10   CBT starting @ 8:15am   PBT stating @ 8:00am
11   "Spring Ahead." Set your clocks one hour ahead.	12	13   CBT @ 12:45pm	14  $\pi$ Happy Pi Day	15  Reward Program Statements   CBT @ 12:30pm	16	17   <b>St Patrick's Day</b>
18	19  <b>HSE Orientation</b> <i>8:30 am</i>  <b>ESOL Orientation</b> <i>8:30 or 10:30am</i> in Susan's Rm.	20  	21	22  Reward Center Open <i>9:00-12:00pm</i>	23	24
25	26	27   CBT @ 12:45pm	28	29   CBT @ 12:30pm	30  No School  Good Friday	31



# STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES



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