

THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



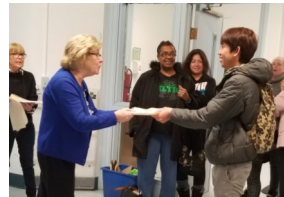
Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center
408 Merrimack St, Lowell MA, 01854
www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com - 978-937-8989

December 2018 - Issue 3

STUDENT SUCCESS CELEBRATION

Congratulations to all the AEC students who achieved goals!

On November 20, we held our first Student Success Celebration of the school year. One hundred thirteen students were recognized for achieving goals during September, October, and November. In addition, 123 certificates were handed out for outstanding attendance for the month of October. Outstanding attendance awards are given to students who have less than two absences in a month.



Everybody was happily cheering and excited to share their achievements. After certificates were handed out, cake and coffee were served.

Goals students were also recognized for:

Getting a Learner's permit or Driver's license	9
Getting a job	5
Getting a better job or increased earnings	3
Meeting new job requirements	3
Entering occupational training program	2
Opening a bank account	6
Enrolling in College	1

Filing an application for attaining legal residency	1
Passing the Citizenship exam	4
Voting in the election	21
Volunteering in their community	7
Taking on a school leadership role (SAC)	30
Buying a house	4

Thank you to our student volunteers who helped set up for the celebration and to Ana Rivas from Ann's 9:00am class, for helping us with our recycling!

Keep working on your goals and remember to report your achievements to your teacher!

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 4th from 10:30am—11:30am
HSE Center/Computer Lab

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Happy Holidays

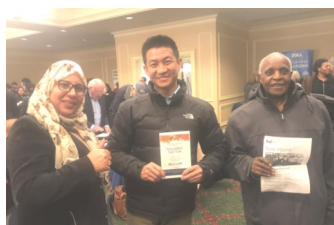
STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

MASSHIRE LOWELL CAREER CENTER

JOB FAIR

The MassHire Career Center of Lowell hosted a Job Fair at the Radisson Hotel & Suites in Chelmsford on November 15th. There were over 30 potential employers looking to hire employees.

Twenty-four ESOL and HSE students attended this job fair. A bus was provided for students to transport them to the hotel and back to school. Applications were filled out, resumes submitted, and 30-second interviews were given. Thanks to Margie, Patty, Cindy, and Adriana for organizing this great opportunity.



SEMINAR WORKSHOP



In November, Bob and Stacy from MassHire presented three Career Center Seminar workshops to over sixty-five AAEC morning and evening students.

On November 13, students from our Tuesday and Thursday evening classes also toured the MassHire office at 107 Merrimack St.

During this workshop, students were given an overview of the services and resources available to conduct an effective job search and became official MassHire members. Members can participate in job trainings, webinars, and workshops, create a resume, learn to job search using business social media sites, and more. Best of all, the services at the MassHire are free and open to everyone.

Did you miss this seminar or want more information about MassHire? Margie Miller is AAEC's connection to MassHire. She can assist you in becoming a member and tell you about the different services they provide. You can find Margie on the second floor in the back of Room 5 or at the MassHire Lowell Career Center.

Margie's Schedule:

	AAEC	MassHire
Wednesdays	8:30-10:45am	11:00am-1:00pm
Thursdays	8:30am-1:00pm	No
Fridays	11:00am-1:00pm	8:30am-10:45am

LINKS PROGRAM AT MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Karen Spengler, LINKS Program Coordinator and Advisor at Middlesex Community College, came and spoke with some of our HSE students about their program.

LINKS is a program for adults who are interested in enrolling in college and have a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential (HiSET or GED) but would benefit from extra support while transitioning into the college setting. The program offers smaller class sizes, individualized guidance, and a unique opportunity for students to acclimate to the academic setting while earning free college credits.

Classes are typically held during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and are run during the Fall Semester (Sept.-Dec.) and the Spring Semester (Jan.-May) at MCC's Bedford or Lowell Campuses.

For more information, you can ask Patty at AAEC or contact Karen by calling (781) 280-3654 or by sending an email to spenglerk@middlesex.mass.edu.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

“FRIENDSGIVING”

Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated in the United States is observed on the fourth Thursday in November. Thanksgiving is a time to enjoy a special meal together with family and give thanks for what we have.

Carrie's beginning ESOL classes gathered together for a “Friendsgiving Feast” on Tuesday, November 20. “Friendsgiving” is a celebration of Thanksgiving with friends often celebrated right before or after the holiday. Many brought in cultural dishes, desserts, and drinks to share with their classmates. They each shared what they were thankful for, learned about American Culture, and practiced their English conversation skills.



friends giving



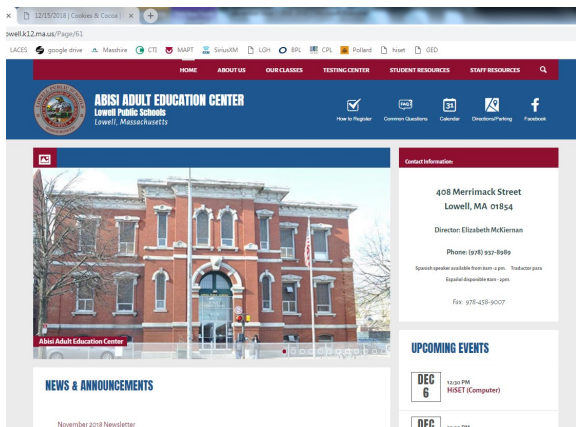
THANKSGIVING FUN

Our HSE students took a short break from the hard work they have been doing to participate in some fun Thanksgiving activities before the break.

Students created beautiful centerpieces for their Thanksgiving table, solved tricky math problems, and read *The Thanksgiving Visitor and Squanto* and *The Miracle of Thanksgiving*. They also created a yummy snack using cranberries, listened to *The North Wind Blows*, played bingo and participated in a *Turkey Dinner* brain teaser. Everyone had a good time.



AAEC NEW WEBSITE DESIGN



The Abisi Adult Education Center website has a new look. The new website design is easier to navigate through and find your favorite links.

Remember, our website is a great way to find out if there is a weather cancellation or delay.

Check it out at, www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

HOLIDAY TREE RAFFLE

Each December students have a chance to win a small Christmas Tree decorated with \$100. All of the proceeds from the raffle are donated to two local charities.



This year the raffle will run from Monday, December 10th through Wednesday, December 19th. Tickets are 3 for \$1.00, and will be sold outside the office on the main floor and in the classrooms until Thursday, December 20th. The winner will be drawn at the holiday celebration on Thursday, December 20th.

REWARD CENTER



Reward Program Statements will be handed out on December 11th. Your statement will have your accumulated points earned through November 30th.

The Reward Center will be open on December 13th, from 9:00am-12:30pm. It 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.

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.

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
or

HSE Classes—swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Every December, AAEC hosts a holiday celebration before the vacation break. This year's party will be held on **Thursday, December 20th**. The holiday celebration is for everybody in the school. We will be playing games, caroling, and enjoying good company. Yummy treats, coffee, and hot chocolate will be served.

On December 4th, Student Advisory Council members will share ideas and decide how we can plan a fun holiday celebration.

CONVERSATION CLUB



AAEC Conversation Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:30-11:00am

Susan's Room (Main Floor, Rm 3)

This is a student-led club. It's a great opportunity for our AAEC students to practice their conversation skills. The Conversation Club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30-11:00am in Susan's Room, on the Main Floor. 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.

MISSION STATEMENT AND CULTURE OF RESPECT

Our mission is to provide each and every adult in Greater Lowell with opportunities to develop literacy and math skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment, and to reach his/her full potential as a family member, productive worker, and citizen.

At the AAEC, all students and staff are considerate of each other. We learn from and respect each other's diverse talents and differences in culture, education, economic status, color, race, and religion.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

PARKING

Parking is often difficult in downtown Lowell and can be costly. Students driving to school are encouraged to park at the Ayotte Garage, 1 Post Office Sq, across from Lowell High School.

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. Do not forget to pay 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 may be ticketed and towed.

CELL PHONE REMINDERS

Cell phones are not allowed to be used during class time unless your teacher says it's alright.



Remember to turn your cell phone off or put it on silent mode before you enter your classes, then put it away. When a cell phone goes off in class, it distracts everyone and takes away from your learning.

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

VISITOR POLICY

The Lowell Public School Visitor 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 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. Your class time is short and important for your continued success.

If there is an emergency, please speak with the office staff, and they can assist you.

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, last October, stormy weather and high winds knocked out power to many Lowell schools and residents resulting in school closings or delays.



Remember, we are part of the Lowell Public Schools and follow their school closing and delay policies.

IF THERE IS NO SCHOOL IN THE LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS—MORNING AND EVENING CLASSES ARE CANCELLED.

IF THERE IS A TWO-HOUR DELAY IN THE LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS—ONLY THE 11:00AM CLASSES WILL BE HELD. EVENING CLASSES MEET AT THE REGULAR TIME.

Students who have children attending Lowell Public Schools may receive a phone call from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools informing you whether school is closed or delayed. You can also find this information by:

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

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[®] or GED[®] test. These tests are comparable in terms of cognitive complexity and rates of passing, but vary in significant ways as well.

Whichever test you choose, you must take it at an official test center in Massachusetts. The Abisi Adult Education Center offers classes that will prepare students to take either exam and is an approved test center. We offer *HiSET*[®] testing appointments for both Paper Based Testing and Computer Based Testing and *GED*[®] Computer Based Testing. Testing dates are posted below and on our website at 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/. Denise, in the office, is also available to help you.

Which exam should I choose?



Total Cost	\$125	\$100 <i>Price will increase beginning January 1, 2019: \$103.75 computer based and \$125 paper based.</i>
Format:	Computer Based Only	Paper and Computer Based • Testers have the option to select either format for each test.
Question Types:	Variety of computer question types, plus extended response.	Multiple Choice and Essay only.
Calculator:	Used for 3 tests: Math, Science, and Social Studies	Used for 2 tests: Math and Science
Language Arts Test:	Reading and Writing are combined into 1 test.	Reading and Writing are 2 separate tests.
Website for further information and to schedule tests:	www.ged.com	www.hiset.ets.org

HSE Upcoming Testing Dates:

HiSET Computer Based Testing	HiSET Paper Testing Dates	GED Weekend Computer Testing
(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)	(Friday evenings 5:00pm and 7:00pm & Saturday mornings at 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am)	(Friday evenings starting at 5:15pm & Saturday mornings beginning at 8:15am)
December 6, 13 January 10, 24, & 31 February 7, 14, & 28	December 14 & 15 January 11 & 12 February 8 & 9	December 14 & 15 January 11 & 12 February 8 & 9

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (LCHC)

CITY HALL'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE



Outreach Workers

Wednesday December 5, 12, and 19

Every Wednesday, a Lowell Community Health worker will be available to answer any questions you may have about health services and health insurance, or to schedule appointments. They will be set up outside the Main Office from 9:00am-12:00pm.

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

The City of Lowell's Mayor William Samaras and City Manager Eileen Donoghue would like to welcome the public to attend the Lowell City Hall Holiday Open House on Tuesday December 11th from 4:00-6:00pm. There will be fun for the whole family with music, magic show, light refreshments...and more.








MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT



If you are enrolled in a ConnectorCare or Health Connector plan, like *MassHealth*, now is the time when you can choose to renew or change health insurance plans for 2019. The Open Enrollment period is from November 1, 2018, through January 23, 2019. If you have *MassHealth* and received a renewal letter, please take action by the designated date on the letter. For more information, visit www.mahealthconnector.org.

Here is what you need to do:

				
Review your 2019 eligibility & plan	Compare changes for 2019	Check providers and prescriptions	Shop during Open Enrollment	Pay your monthly premium

Free in-person help is also available. Enrollment Centers have certified and trained Enrollment Assistants to help you apply for coverage, shop for plans, answer your questions about your eligibility, payments, plan details, and health care reform rules and requirements. Help from an Enrollment Assistant is free for people of any income level. Please call ahead because you may need to make an appointment.

Enrollment Centers in Lowell:

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA)	465 School St, Lowell	(978)454-6200
Lowell Community Health Center	161 Jackson St, Lowell	(978) 937-9700
Lowell General Hospital, Main Campus	295 Varnum Avenue, Lowell	(978) 937-6000

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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, or call (978) 459-8490 for English and Spanish speakers. Khmer speakers can call (978)459-6200.

If you are thinking about purchasing a multi-unit home, consider attending their Landlord Training program. It is a 4 hour course offered once a month.

Information about other programs, parking information, directions, etc. can be found on their website at www.mvhp.org.



Upcoming Home Buyer Training Sessions

English *Tuesdays & Wednesdays*
 (2 sessions) 6:30-9:00pm
 January 8, 9, 15, & 16 or
 January 29, 30, & February 5 & 6

Spanish *Saturdays*
 (1 session) 8:00am-1:00pm
 February 9 & 16

Khmer *Saturdays*
 (1 session) 9:30am-2:00pm
 February 9 & 16

Classes are held in Rooms 113 & 114 in the Middlesex Community College Building, 33 Kearney Square, across from the Lowell Auditorium, Downtown Lowell.

Landlord Training Sessions

English Course *Tuesday, January 22 or Thursday, February 21*
 4:30pm-8:30pm

The Landlord course is offered once a month and held at 67 Middle Street, Downtown Lowell. To register call their office at (978) 459-8490.

LOWELL RECYCLES

Christmas Tree Drop-off & Yard Waste

Looking Ahead...Christmas Tree Disposal
 December 26, 2018-January 19, 2019



There is no City curbside pick-up for Christmas trees in Lowell. Residents need to drop them off at one of the designated drop-off locations. Below are nine parks that will be open for tree drop-off. Remember to remove all the lights and ornaments. No Wreaths or Swags.

Yard waste collection in Lowell ends on "your neighborhood trash day" the week of December 10th– 15th, 2018.



Check out lowellrecycle.org for important information about recycling in Lowell.

Acre	<i>North Common— 413 Fletcher St</i>
Back Central	<i>South Common—200 South St</i>
Belvidere	<i>Cawley Stadium—512 Douglas Rd or Shedd Park—433 Rogers St</i>
Centralville	<i>Gage Field—78 Thirteenth St</i>
Highlands	<i>Hadley Park—1650 Middlesex St or Callery Park—200 B St</i>
Pawtucketville	<i>Elks Club—40 Old Ferry Rd</i>
Sacred Heart	<i>Ventura Field— 303 Boston Rd</i>

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

WINTER CONCERT

The String Project and Youth Orchestra
Winter Concert

Friday, December 14,
7:00– 8:30pm

Durgin Concert Hall at UMASS Lowell
35 Wilder St, Lowell

Come and experience the magic of the season! All of our ensembles will be performing pieces that will range from orchestral classics to contemporary favorites. From their youngest students in the Prelude ensemble to seasoned players in the Lowell Youth Orchestra, this night of festive celebrations has much to offer to all ages of music lovers!

The UMass Lowell String Project provides music instruction to K-12 students from the Merrimack Valley. While learning to play string instruments, students discover how music can build positive relationships with their peers and within the community.



LOWELL HAPPENINGS

Looking for something to do in Lowell? Check out the City of Lowell events/activities website at www.likelowell.com, where you can find information on upcoming events, things to do, and places to visit in the city. Not all the events listed are free, so check first before you go. Here are a few upcoming events:

Pollard Memorial Library:

- Cookies and Cocoa
Saturday, December 15, from 1:00-2:00pm.
Children in grades K through 4 are invited to join them for an afternoon of decorating cookies and drinking hot chocolate. Register online at www.lowelllibrary.org.
- Family Holiday Movie Matinee
Saturday, December 22, from 1:00-3:00pm.
Come and watch a holiday classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. No registration required.






















LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

At the Lowell National Historical Park, you can explore the rich history of Lowell through its guided tours, museums, lecture series, and family fun activities. The Visitors Center is located at 246 Market Street, downtown. Their website, www.nps.gov/lowe, lists all their upcoming events.

- **Hands-On History Workshop**
Saturday, December 8, from 1:00-4:00pm
Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 115 John St, Lowell
Connect, Create, and Discover! Lowell National Historical Park and the [Tsongas Industrial History Center](#) are excited to offer hands-on workshops for everyone to come and experience history by doing! Bring the whole family down to the Boott Cotton Mills and use our educational workshop spaces to discover the Industrial Revolution and its legacies. Activities are appropriate for all ages.
- **“Weaving Mindfulness” Hands-on Weaving Program**
Tuesday, December 11, from 6:00-7:00pm or 7:00-8:00pm
Boott Cotton Mills, 115 John St, Lowell
We invite you to join us for a new park program--a session of mindful weaving. Using looms housed at the Tsongas Industrial History Center, we will embark on hour-long sessions of meditative manual weaving. No prior experience is required, but reservations are needed. To make a reservation call (978)-970-5000.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Hanukkah Begins	3 HSE Orientation	4 Student Advisory Council Mtg. <i>Computer Lab</i> 10:30am <hr/> ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am <i>Susan's Room</i>	5 LCHC Outreach 9:00am—12:00pm	6 Outstanding Attendance Certificates <hr/> ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am <i>Susan's Room</i> <hr/>  CBT @ 12:30pm	7	8
9	10  Holiday Tree Raffle Ticket Sale begins	11  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am <i>Susan's Room</i>	12  LCHC Outreach 9:00am—12:00pm	13  Reward Center Open 9:00am-12:30pm <hr/> ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am <hr/>  CBT @ 12:30pm	14   CBT starting @ 5:15pm <hr/>  PBT starting @ 5:00pm	15  CBT starting @ 8:15am <hr/>  PBT starting @ 8:00am
16	17 	18  ESOL Conversation Club 10:30-11:00am <i>Susan's Room</i>	19  Last Day for Holiday Tree Raffle Tickets <hr/> LCHC Outreach 9:00am—12:00pm	20 AAEC Holiday Celebration 	21 No Classes	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Holiday Vacation Break—No School					31
	 New Year's Eve					Classes Resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2019

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

In October, AAEC held its annual food drive for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. Our donations helped provide foods and household items to others in need. Below is a letter of gratitude sent from the Merrimack Valley Food Bank to all our students and staff who help make this event successful.



October 30, 2018

Frederick A. Abisi Adult Education Center
Elizabeth McKiernan
408 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01854-3907

Dear Ms. McKiernan,

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank is very grateful to you for your support of our mission to provide adequate nutrition and freedom from hunger to our neighbors in need. We were delighted to receive your donation in the amount of 258 pounds of food, which will help the MVFB as we seek to ensure that no member of our community goes to bed hungry.

Your gift makes a real difference to the people we serve, who include people from all walks of life. From parents who have lost a job or face unexpected medical bills, to seniors raising their grandchildren, to students who worry about whether there will be anything in the pantry when they get home from school, we know that hunger can live anywhere. We serve more than 68,000 individuals each month through our six hunger relief programs, and we can only do this because of your support.

On behalf of the MVFB staff and all who will benefit from your gift, I thank you for your generosity. You make MVFB's food distribution programs possible, and both we and the people we serve are very thankful.

Warmest Regards,

Amy L. Pessia
Executive Director