

Dear LHS Family -

October is flying by and it's hard to imagine we are still enjoying this beautiful weather at least for another week or so! This fall has been pretty amazing, let's hope this weather is a good indication of a mild winter!

Please note MCAS scores have been received and Advisory Teachers will be asked to hand them out this week. Charlie Pouliot will send out an email once they have been distributed to your mailboxes and I will send a follow-up message home. Our guidance team will also follow-up regarding the Adams Scholarship and Koplik Award information. More information on those items will come in the next couple of weeks.

Our six person high school and central administration team returned late Friday from a very informative trip to Nashville, which included visiting two Nashville Public High Schools. We were invited by the one8 Foundation to be part of this visiting group along with Everett, Uxbridge, and Watertown High Schools. Nashville Public Schools began a district-wide high school redesign initiative based on the Small Learning Communities (SLC) model in 2008.

All twelve zoned high schools have been restructured into much smaller learning environments called The Academics of Nashville. All SLC students belong to a personalized smaller learning community around shared interests and based on personal relationships. We had the opportunity to visit Stratford STEM Magnet HS and McGavock HS.

The level of community involvement and commitment to these high schools (and students) is tremendous and critical to the success of the academy structure. All of the high schools have a Freshman Academy Model and an A/B full year schedule (4 classes a day with an advisory time). The main focus is on relevancy which is accomplished by combining industry needs and resources with student interests. Students are exposed to many different academies in 9th grade (and some in 8th grade) so they can make an informed decision before committing to become part of one throughout the rest of their high school career. In the chosen academy structure, students take part in internships, use state of the art equipment (as donated by companies), work directly with industry partners in their classrooms, etc.

Of course my favorite part of the trip was meeting and talking with students, as you can in the picture to the right. The jackets and scarves the girls wear are part of the tour guide dress code. Students have to apply and go to training over the summer to be part of the group who welcome parents, freshman, tour groups, etc. to the school. They take their role pretty seriously and are important part of the culture of the school. We enjoyed meeting them along with other students who made us feel right at home!



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**JEANS FOR A CAUSE AND HELP FOR PUERTO RICO** - This coming Friday 10/27 will be "Jeans for a Cause" day! Please wear your Jeans (plus red and grey) and donate \$5.00 which will go toward our school fundraising efforts for our friends devastated by the hurricane in Puerto Rico. Also, please join us for the 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Potluck Dinner on Thursday evening 10/26 from 6-8pm in the cafeteria. The event will be "bringing people together for a cause" - money will be donated to Puerto Rico hurricane relief! NHS is also collecting money and goods (see list outside 204) for Puerto Rico hurricane relief efforts.

**JEANS** - Since we are talking about Jeans, I wanted to remind everyone that only one Friday a month is an "official" jeans day. 😊

**TEACHPOINT** - Reminder to make sure all your professional practice and student learning goals are entered into TeachPoint by October 31st.

**PAPER USE** - For some reason we have gone through an unusually high amount of copy paper - approximately 30% higher than this point last year. We've noticed tons of paper being printed and left on the E-house copier (which is located in the Teachers' Center) only to be recycled. As a reminder - house copiers are only for small jobs, anything more than a class set of single sheets should be given to the copy center in advance. Please be cognizant of the paper you are using and do your best to conserve paper. Thanks for your help with this!

**FOOD DRIVE** - Our Student Council will be holding a Food Drive 10/23 -11/3 for all canned goods and nonperishable items to support the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. Boxes will be located either inside or outside of house offices and will be collected by the students regularly. The house that donates the most items will be awarded 5 bonus points in this year's Clark Competition that will be held in April.

### SHOUT OUTS

Thank you to Lisa Colloca, and her team for making the National Honor Society Induction evening a big success!

### PLEASE WELCOME:



***Meghan Tesini - English***

Meghan has been teaching for 16 years both private and public schools and was inspired by her father Thomas Kelleher, a longtime teacher and administrator from Dracut High School, and her sophomore/senior year English teacher, Karen Bucholc, to become a teacher. Despite the glitch in the LPS system, her married name is Meghan Tesini (not Kelleher), and she has been married for 12 years to Jason who is an administrator in the Nashua Public Schools. They have two children - Kellen (9) and Caraghan (6). Meghan loves the beach, reading, and organizing! And, in her second life, she would love to become an event planner!



***Sam Descoteaux - Music***

Sam has been married to his wife Suzie for 7 years and together they have an 11 year old boy, Darren, and live in Nashua, NH (although born and raised in Lowell). Besides music, his passions include playing baseball, skiing, and cooking. Sam and his family are also really into movies. Sam also shares that he dislikes seafood and pineapple on pizza.

***Carolyn Breton - Dance***

Carolyn Breton grew up in Dracut, MA and now resides in West Roxbury, MA. She is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory and Northeastern University. She currently performs contemporary dance in New England & New York City with Pantos Project Dance. Aside from teaching dance, Carolyn enjoys playing golf, Bravo TV, and exploring the craft beer scene! Feel free to stop by Room 018!

***Marta Magnus - Visual Arts***

Marta Magnus comes to LHS from the Wang Middle School where she taught art for several years. Marta is from the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, went to Connecticut College for art, and received her MEd from Lesley University. She currently lives in Nashua with her husband and 4 year old son. She loves being with her family, and when she has time, also enjoys traveling, eating out, gardening, and making art.

**UPCOMING:**

- 10/24 Distinguished Alumni Welcome Dinner 5-8pm
- 10/25 Distinguished Alumni Event at LHS 12:30-2:30pm in Auditorium
- 10/26 Hispanic Heritage Night Pot Luck Dinner - Proceeds will go toward Puerto Rico 6-8pm in cafe
- 10/29 Grade 8 Open House; 11:30am-2:00pm
- 10/31 Goals are due in TeachPoint
- 11/07 Professional Development Day  
(we will review the assessment survey in the am together, the full agenda will be out soon)

I hope everyone has a good week ahead and as a reminder, my door is always open - if you would like to meet with me at any time, please let Sue Francisco know and she'll get you on my calendar. If it's time sensitive, let her know so we can make it happen ASAP.

Best,

Marianne