

Dear LHS Family,

Well, I started writing this last night and then lost power, so now that I'm in the office I get a chance to finish it and have it off to you before the day starts tomorrow ☺ What did we do before we had internet connection, I'm trying to remember! Today was certainly an unexpected no school day and I hope we will all be back tomorrow. What a wild and crazy storm, I hope everyone was able to stay safe and well for the day.

What a busy and especially proud week we had last week! On Wednesday we presented five new distinguished alumni awards in a wonderful ceremony in the Irish Auditorium. It took many hands to make this event and the dinner the night before possible! Special thanks to Sue Francisco and for all the planning and preparation work as she worked alongside the Alumni Committee to make this event possible.

***For those of you that don't know we celebrated the following honorees:***

**Esther M. Wilkins**  
Class of 1933  
**Gerald R. Wallace**  
Class of 1952  
**Brian J. Martin**  
Class of 1968  
**Brian L. Chapman**  
Class of 1980  
**Thomas A. Golden, Jr.**  
Class of 1989



Also on Wednesday, we came together as a school for UNITY DAY, where staff and students showed their support for kindness, acceptance and inclusion and against bullying by wearing orange. Also a video called "Mean Stinks" was shown during advisory. This will be shown again this coming Tuesday, October 31st. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in this day of UNITY!

Thursday night we held a Hispanic Heritage Potluck Dinner and Celebration with proceeds going to Puerto Rico hurricane funds. Thanks to Dr. Maria Vejar for planning the evening and making sure everyone had fun for a good cause! We collected almost \$500.00 at this event - thanks also for the generous donations of delicious food from our families. Thanks also to **Dr. Vejar** for planning and holding the Latino Parent Conference at MCC for our families on Saturday!

Friday was Jeans Day for a Cause - you donated and we collected almost \$550.00 to donate toward the hurricane efforts in Puerto Rico, thanks to all!!!

Sunday we hosted an 8th grade Open House planned by **Jill Rothschild** and her team, thanks to all their efforts in making this informative and well run event. We had a great turnout with many families interested in learning as much as they could about LHS. What a delight it was to watch our students host, speak and perform which included the AFJROTC drill teams, our STEP Team, LHS Dance Ensemble and a Student Poet. Student speakers Philip Sekayi, Allyson Imbacuan, Moureen Methenge and Mohammed Albo Hasabullah all made us very proud!

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS:****Therese Packard** - Culinary

Therese has spent the last 21 years teaching Family & Consumer Science elective courses in Winchendon. She graduated from Framingham State and lives in Ashburnham with her husband and three children Jake (16), Joseph (12), and Skyler (10). Therese enjoys being with her family, sunny days by the pool or at the beach, attending her children's games, riding in her Jeep and crafting. Welcome Therese!

**Deanna Masse** - Special Ed Teacher/English and Instructional Support

Deanna is originally from Everett, but lives in Lowell with her husband and son. Deanna has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Boston. Not only is she a teacher here at the Freshman Academy, but she also teaches Zumba at the gym. She loves to listen to music, read, do crafts, and spend time with my family. Welcome Deanna!

**Yaraliz Amézquita** - Foreign Language

Yaraliz has worked with students for the past thirteen years in the City of Lawrence - eight years with Special Education, and five years as a Spanish teacher. To work at Lowell High School is an aspiration Yaraliz has had for several years and now that she is finally here, she is grateful for the opportunity. On a personal note, she is the proud mother of two teenage girls and an attention seeking Chihuahua. ☺ She is originally from the Dominican Republic and a blend of different Hispanic ethnicities. Welcome Yaraliz!

**SHOUT OUT!**

Congratulations to **Jessica Lander** and her students who were presenters among one hundred author sessions at the Boston Book Festival on Saturday. For those of you who don't know, Jessica's students published "Defining Diversity" last May. Six students out of the seminar's 24 students presented in front of a large crowd. They made sure to share how much they appreciated having attended Lowell High School. For more detailed information about their day, see [RichardHowe.com](http://RichardHowe.com) (thanks to Rob DeLossa for sharing this with everyone!).

Thanks to **Lyn Blouin** for offering a job fair last week where over 140 students were in attendance with 21 employers participating. Congratulations to the students who were hired on the spot!

Special thanks to **Dr. Roxane Howe** for putting together some wonderful opportunities for us on the afternoon of our Professional Development Day, 11/7! The team wanted a focus on what Lowell has to offer and Roxane "went to town" so to speak, investigated and set up a list of options for us to take advantage of. Thanks Roxane! Remember - you need to select your PD options by 8 am Monday (now Tuesday)

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

##### ["Does it Matter Whether Kids like School"?](#)

This EdWeek article title caught my eye and even though some of the ideas pertain to younger children, I think we can all take something away from this article. We intuitively know that if a child enjoys coming to school, feels like they belong and matter to other students and adults, they will do better. We may not have a toy box in our room for Fridays, but I love the idea of making sure every student feels special and part of our school community!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Starting today we there will be Puerto Rico penny collection jars in each House Office area and the main office. We will have some healthy competition (penny wars) between all the Houses to see who can raise the most money to continue building our donation toward those affected by the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. The jars (which were decorated by Katy Sheridan's Sped art class) will accept all donations from students, parents and staff. We are hoping advisory teachers can collect coins in a canister or basket or jar in their advisory classrooms and then send someone down to empty them at the house office. Before Thanksgiving we will have each House Office jar counted so we know who gets the bragging rights! We will be donating to Boston Foundation's "United for Puerto Rico". One third goes to relief efforts in PR, one third will be deployed to help with reconstruction and economic recovery projects and the last third supports relocation efforts in the Commonwealth.

- 10/31 Goals are due in TeachPoint
- 11/07 Professional Development Day
- 11/10 No School - Veterans Day

Have an outstanding week friends!

Marianne

