

Dear LHS Family,

As evidence by the feedback received, we had a positive professional development day last Tuesday and I want to thank everyone who planned such a successful day. We also heard that staff appreciates the survey break out groups because it gave them a chance to meet and discuss the topic with colleagues outside their normal day to day interactions. Special thanks to Jessica Lander for offering a workshop on Family Engagement which was interactive, informative and left us wanting more. I hope everyone enjoyed the day the time off on Friday and you had an opportunity to thank a veteran for their service.

I am delighted to be back at full speed following my trip to Nashville, which then quickly moved into an illness that lasted way too long, in addition, my husband had emergency eye surgery and in the midst of all that my beloved brother-in-law died suddenly. It was a rough couple of weeks for me, but I appreciate all the kind words and the flowers sent to me. Thank you for your understanding as I was not available as much as I would like to have been during that timeframe. Health cannot be taken for granted nor can we ever know when our time comes, in my brother-in-law's case he was only able to enjoy 5 weeks of his long awaited retirement. In light of my recent experiences, my thought this week is to appreciate every day, tell those in your life how much you cherish them and practice kindness wherever and whenever you can. I know two of our staff members recently lost their dad's which must be heartbreaking - we hope they find peace and comfort from those around them. Take care of each other folks!

On a different note, please make sure you email Roxane and Alan with any heat issues, it's really important for us to be able to address any issues that arise quickly and with location accuracy.

Lastly, as a reminder our 11th grade students will be attending the Financial Literacy Presentation on Tuesday, 11/14 from 10-10:45 in the auditorium. We apologize but this had to extend into period 3 due to scheduling constraints, we are trying our best not to affect the same block all the time. See Roxane's email for more detailed information.

#KINDNESS MATTERS - Monday 11/13 is world Kindness Day - let's spread some extra Kindness today!

Saw this bulletin board up in B House - looks great!



Some pictures from our Professional Development afternoon last week!

Cemetery Tour



Canal Tour



Walking Art Tour



SHOUT OUT:

Special thanks to our AFJROTC students, Band and Choir students and their instructors for an outstanding Veteran's Day Tribute last Thursday! They worked hard to make it a fitting tribute to all who participated; it was a very proud LHS event!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We have pre-sold many of our LHS Unity t-shirts to staff already and some have been able to pay it forward for students. This is a community wide endeavor and it's extra special that we can all come together to make these t-shirts happen for our students. The plan at this point in time is to send out a t-shirt size form to every advisory to make sure you know what sizes are needed. T-shirts are supposed to be delivered a week from Monday 11/20. We are working toward getting the t-shirts distributed to all students and staff to wear on the day of the pep rally. We have donations coming in from the community and we hope we can get them all purchased in time for all of us to wear them together on that following Wednesday, 11/22! Stay tuned for more info!

PLEASE WELCOME:**Shonii DeFrancesco - Special Education Department Chair**

Shonii is a "city girl" through and through. She was born and raised in Manhattan, New York until she came to New England where she attended Boston College. Instead of going to law school as planned, she entered the work force and started a career in financial services that would last a dozen years. She actually managed a branch office at 154 Merrimack St, 20 years ago!

After the birth of her 2 children, she changed careers and began teaching in the evenings at an alternative school in Fitchburg, MA. The teaching bug bit her very quickly, and she hasn't looked back since. She returned to graduate school and obtained an M.Ed. in 2006 and began teaching to special needs. She spent 14 years in Worcester, MA, teaching ELA to general education and special education students. Very recently, she began gaining administrative experience in Special Education in Gardner, MA and most recently here in Lowell, MA. Welcome Shonii!

***Nick McArdle - Science***

Nick went to UMass Lowell and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics. He also competed for the University in cross-country and indoor and outdoor track and field. Nick teaches Introduction to Engineering Design, Robotics, and Architecture. He also helps coach cross-country and will help during indoor and outdoor track and field. Nick enjoys eating at the 99's, his favorite show is The Office and his favorite NFL player is Phil Dawson. Welcome Nick!

***Mike Giardina - Biology***

Mike was born and raised in Lowell and graduated from Lowell High School in 2011 and UMass Amherst with a Kinesiology degree in 2015. Mike ran three years of cross country and track at Lowell High and four more at UMass Amherst. Mike teaches Biology in room 316. He is a member at Longmeadow country club and enjoys golfing and playing cards there. He is also a member of the BSSC indoor flag football 2016 championship team. Welcome Mike!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11/14 MCAS ELA Make-ups
- 11/14 Financial Literacy Event for Grade 11; 10:00-10:45 in the auditorium
(please see Roxane's email for more detailed information)
- 11/15 MCAS Math Exam
- 11/16 MCAS Math Exam
- 11/22 Pep Rally
- 11/23 Thanksgiving
- 11/24 Thanksgiving break

Enjoy the week friends!

Marianne