

Good evening LHS family,

We certainly felt the signs of spring this weekend and are grateful for the sun, the birds and the smell of spring in the air! This week looks like it will be filled with lots of sunshine, just in time for MCAS testing.

This week we embark on our first ever all computer based MCAS testing, we only have a couple of students who will be doing the paper test. There have been several parent reminders sent out about the importance of attendance, rest and nourishment for best results. We have also asked all advisory teachers to review MCAS prep information. Our grade 10 English teachers have been helping students prepare since the beginning of the school year. We are ready to rock this test!

Again, we have a loft goal of 100% participation, along with students doing their absolute best on the test. Participation and performance on this test have a direct result on our school accountability scores. Last year we did not make participation in our SPED population and we have plans to not let that happen again this year.

Please remember sophomore students should not have any homework or tests this week during MCAS. This is a school-wide policy, make sure you plan accordingly. We understand that the four days of testing was a bit unexpected, but we all want our students to be well-rested and without worry for the test!

### **BRIGHTS SPOTS AND CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Robert Aliganyira who was accepted into Brandeis University's Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program.

Congratulations to Kat Crabtree on her acceptance into the Air Force Academy, she is still waiting to hear from the Naval Academy!

### **Spotlight on Excellence at the School Committee 3/20**



Students from Jessica Landers class presented their book, "We Are America" to the School Committee last Monday evening. Check out their book - they did a fabulous job and their stories are authentic and extraordinary!

### Trip to Hollis Hills Farm

The maple trip for Lowell High took place this past Wednesday 3/20/19, at the Hollis Hills Farm in Fitchburg, MA. We traveled with 48 students for a day long trip.

Hollis Hills put on a fabulous experience by showing the students the sugaring process from tree taps, to seeing the boiling process, bottling, and samples. The kids got to try freshly made syrup, maple snow candy, and their homemade maple cream.



Their day was also filled with exploring the apple farm, visiting the animals in the barn, and eating cider Donuts.

This trip was part of the two Nutrition & Dietary Choices classes and our farm to table unit. The students were instructed prior to the trip about using maple syrup as a better alternative to white sugar because they can use much less and still achieve optimal flavors. They are also learning about how small local farms operate and survive with products they produce for sale. Thanks to Susan Brassard for offering this fun educational experience to our students!

**AP Government and Politics at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute**

These are pictures shared from Nate Kraft's AP Government and Politics field trip on Wednesday to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. The students really enjoyed the trip and took a lot away from it. While acting as a "Senator for the Day" they worked in committees to develop a bill on immigration.

We had 18 students on the trip and were joined by students from Hingham and Hanover. When debating the bill in front of the entire Senate of 78

students, 4 students gave floor speeches regarding amendments to the bill. Two of them were seniors Kat Crabtree and Evan Soroken and they both did a fantastic job. Nate was told by the staff that our students were very insightful and respectful during the trip (we would expect nothing less of course). Thanks to Nate for making this amazing field trip a reality for our students!





## A Bed for Every Child

On Saturday over 100 AFJROTC students joined together with community members to build beds for children in Lowell. Thirty beds were built in our cafeteria Saturday morning and were then ready for mattresses, sheets, blankets and books that will then be delivered to Lowell's needy children.

Thanks to Lt. Col. Ironfield, MSgt. Casilli and TSgt. Smith for helping to bring this program to our school (along with our community



partners) and being there every step of the way to make this community event possible. It was a beautiful thing to see our students write messages on each headboard to the specific child who was receiving the bed they built:)

## 5th Annual LHS Women's Breakfast

Special thanks to Dr. Vejar and her planning team for offering the 5th annual Women's Breakfast to our students. We had an inspiring panel of women who shared their stories and advice for young women (and some young men) in the audience. Thanks to all the women on the panel, especially Superintendent Durkin who took the time to be part of this annual event and wowed the crowd with her motivational messages!

This is a very special tradition at LHS and we are grateful to our team of women who planned and prepared for this year's event. The planning team consisted of: Dr. Vejar, Amy Ellentuck, Yvette Cheeks, Carla Correa, Maria Cunha, Maria Tellado, Diva Carvalho, Damery Montoya, Rosa Segarra-Morales and Aracelis Sullivan.



### Tech Tip from Malinda:

**It is official! MCAS is now a computer based test (CBT). Our students were born into an age in which they have been dubbed digital citizens. Most have a level of comfort when it comes to the digital world unlike their adult counterparts. The key to our MCAS success this week will be staying calm, especially if an issue arises. The minute you start to stress, even the simplest of tasks becomes nearly impossible. So I ask you to remember this: if an issue arises in your testing room, start by taking a deep breath to keep yourself calm. If the issue wasn't addressed in the training video, simply pick up the phone and call the MCAS triage center in room 108 - extension 1080 in the old building, or 91080 in the new building (or Charlie's cell phone 508-523-5803). Charlie will be in direct contact with all the resources you need. Remember, we are watching the test from a console in the background. There will be at least 3 people constantly monitoring student progress, and restarting student tests that have stopped prior to their submission of the final answers. There will also be techs and helpers rotating through the testing hallways, so don't hesitate to flag one down if needed. Everything is being backed up, and even if the power goes out, nothing will be lost. In the words of our fearless leader: "We've got this!"**

**Important Reminders:**

- **The LHS Special Education Department is hosting its third annual Transitional Resources Fair on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the LHS cafeteria.** Students (and families) of all ages with disabilities are welcome to attend to meet with public agencies - not just adult agencies, services, and organizations. The fair is designed for any student and family members in the district (and neighboring towns) with disabilities. The goal is to familiarize students and families with the array of agencies, services, and organizations available to them as they transition from high school to the adult world. In addition, parents and families of elementary, middle, and junior high school students are invited to come and meet staff from our various schools to address questions and anxieties that come with transitioning to a new school. There will also be light refreshments and free raffles! Link with additional information: <https://sites.google.com/view/lhstransitionalresourcesfair/home>

**LOOKING AHEAD:****March**

Mar. 25	Mon.	Community Presentation on LHS Blg Project	6:00-8:00pm	Senior Center
Mar. 26-29	Tues - Fri	MCAS Grade 10 Computer based ELA test		
Mar. 26	Tues.	Transitional Resources Fair	6:00-7:00pm	Main cafe
Mar. 29	Fri.	Schoolhouse Breakfast with staff	all 7:15am-7:45am	Teach out room - sponsored by E House

Thanks ahead for your flexibility, patience and support with MCAS testing implementation.

Marianne



**Marianne E. Busted**  
Head of School  
Lowell High School