

**PRIDE ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY ~ COMPASSION**

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Dear Lawrence School Families,

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly newsletter! I had mentioned that improved communication with our families is an ongoing goal at the Lawrence School. With two full quarters to go in the school year, I would like to remind everyone of our Week Ahead emails that go out on Friday afternoons. If you're not receiving, please call the school and one of our friendly and helpful secretaries will be happy to get you connected.

I'd also like to highlight some of the methods we use on a daily basis to support the progress of your child while they are in our care. One of the most impactful aspects of our Innovation School structure is the schedule. Within this schedule, most departments meet every other day to work on key components of their particular subjects. Together, they review common assessments, make sure they are pacing appropriately and share best instructional practices. On the other days, the Teams convene. This group will focus on fostering a

A Message from Assistant Principal Vieira,

Last week Lawrence School participated in the annual district and community-wide "No Guff" week. This week is an opportunity for our student body to participate in various themed activities to learn about proactive ways to handle conflicts and how to contribute to a positive school climate. We are focusing our daily activities around the school's motto of Pride, Respect, Responsibility & Compassion. Friday afternoon was a school-wide assembly to recognize students who were nominated by their peers because of their leadership and daily practice of the "No Guff" attitude, congratulations to the winners!

An exciting activity that is being completed during advisory is the "One Word Project". Students choose one word to live by and can help bring focus and clarity to what we want to create in our lives. The One Word Project isn't about making a resolution or crossing a specific goal off your list. It's about creating a simple one-word

team culture that is the most conducive for all students to succeed. They may work to implement some strategies into their teaching that will support a student that is struggling academically or emotionally. Team meeting time is also a time to conference with a parent or guardian if a more in-depth conversation needs to occur. The Guidance Counselors and School Psychologist regularly attend these meetings to assist in this practice. These are just two of the many scenarios where our faculty communicates about student progress and reflects on how we can continually improve our work.

Thank you to the many families who have made a connection with your child's teachers, counselors or administrators here at Lawrence. Your partnership in support of the students is extremely valuable. Our students, at this critical age, face challenges everyday - socially, emotionally, academically. But when we work together, this great group of kids thrives! Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,  
Tom Bushy, Principal

mantra to help guide your daily actions. This is just one example of an advisory activity that brings our school together as a community to share positive experiences with one another. What would your word be?

When you talk to your child at home, please ask them about a positive experience they had at school. A compliment they received from a classmate or a teacher. And if they don't have anything to share, encourage them to brighten someone's day with a kind gesture or compliment and perhaps the favor will be returned. The Lawrence School is a great place for our kids to learn and grow and their school experience can be even better if we help them along. Thanks for partnering with us to support your children through 7th and 8th grade!

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Vieira, Assistant Principal

## Team One News



Happy New Year! It's a bit cold outside, but it doesn't stop the action on Team 1. We say goodbye to art with Mrs. VanMooy and welcome to Ms. Lewis, the seventh grade Engineering teacher. The future is now as students create solar car races, rockets and robots. Ask your students about what they are learning! Please mark your calendars on April 7 and 8 for the ELA MCAS exams.

In English, we have put aside the rebellious '60s and will immerse ourselves in Victorian England and the antics of Ebenezer Scrooge. Students will work hard on their close reading skills using a difficult text. As with The Outsiders, we will have a companion text to read along with A Christmas Carol. We will examine and compare choices that authors make in their narratives. A Common Assessment, narrative writing and American Poets are coming down the line in February and March.

In social studies we just completed our Egypt unit. The students did an awesome job creating their own pharaoh tombs. The time, effort and thought was absolutely amazing by the students. They put many personal items that were very important to them in their tombs that they would take to the afterlife. It was a very hands-on culminating project that the students really enjoyed completing. I wish all could have seen the tombs lined up around my classroom. We are now moving into our Ancient India unit

## Team Two News

This year is flying by, it's so hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year!

In Ms. Johnson's English students are learning about Victoria London and Charles Dickens influence on the social problems of the day. We are about to begin reading A Christmas Carol. The 7th grade English teachers, in conjunction with Mass Poetry, hosted a Day of Poetry where students attended workshops taught by poets. Students participated in a variety of exercises to peak their interest in writing and performing poems. The day was highlighted with an open mic in the auditorium where numerous students shared their poems with the audience. This was fun and engaging

for all. In Mrs. Mulvey's math class students wrapped up equations and inequalities as the quarter was concluding. Now the math students are onto ratios, proportions and Percent.

In science class with Ms. Cruse the science projects have begun! Students brought home a project guide before the vacation and have now turned in a yellow project sheet (as of 1/15). The projects are students' choice of an experiment to conduct at home and are due in class or at the Science Fair on February 29th at Falmouth High School. Students are not required to present at the Science Fair but all are required to do a project. Any

and our big projects will include a *Dig It* archaeological magazine activity about Mohenjodaro and *Palm Leaf Booklet* about the cultural aspects of the Gupta Empire.

Science projects have been assigned and are in full swing for students opting to enter the science fair on February 29. All students have been working on conducting controlled experiments within class, along with their scientific method and inquiry practices. Classes are studying forms of energy and the transfer of energy between objects or transforming of energy to different forms. They have enjoyed testing the forms of energy!

In math, we started the quarter with simplifying algebraic expressions, and incorporated these skills into solving multistep equations and inequalities. We also solved equations with rational coefficients by combining skills we learned in earlier chapters. We just started ratios/proportions unit and used ratios to determine which product

questions or concerns regarding the project please contact Ms. Cruse.

In Ms. LeLacheur's social studies class students branched from ancient to modern in the last few weeks as they discussed the crisis in the Middle East today and learned about how the violence in modern-day Israel affects children their own age. We are now moving our way East into India.

Finally and as always if you have questions or concerns regarding your student please don't hesitate to reach out to the team. We are here and always willing to help our students.

## Team Three News

Congratulations to our students for completing half of the academic year! We'd like to encourage students to continue working hard on classwork and homework assignments during the third quarter.

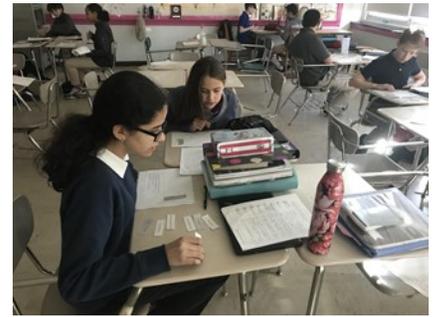
In ELA, the students continue to improve their writing skills through essay writing. In the coming weeks, we will be reading and analyzing the novella *A Christmas Carol* for its symbolic meaning. Dickens' wrote it as a "call to action" in an effort to publicize the horrific working conditions and treatment of the poor children during the Industrial Revolution of the Victorian Era.

Science projects have been assigned and are in full swing. Students should be performing a controlled experiment that will be presented in class prior to February vacation or at the science fair on March 2. We are now starting to study plant processes and

reproduction, to be followed by animal behaviors and reproduction.

In math class we've been focusing on ratios, rates, proportions and percents. We've also done quite a lot of work solving multi-step equations and word problems. We have been doing practical applications such as sales tax, unit rates, discounts and commissions. Next quarter, we will be investigating the advantages and disadvantages of interest.

Social Studies students have been learning about ancient Egypt and the early Israelites. We began the quarter studying the importance of the Nile River Valley then learned about social classes and the accomplishment of the pharaohs. We also explored the ancient pyramids and religion. We recently learned of the Israelites and the origins of the first monotheistic



religion, Judaism. We are currently working to explore the causes and effects of the current conflicts in the regions of Israel and Palestine. Finally, Team 3 students participated in the Preliminary Round of the National Geographic GeoBee. In unlocking social studies, students completed a unit on debate skills. They practiced a variety of public speaking skills and wrote, memorized and performed their speech in front of the class. They also researched and participated in a Parliamentary-style debate.

## Team Four News

Students recently concluded their study of the Middle Ages with a classroom jousting tournament before the winter break. It was great to see the energy and enthusiasm of the students as they jostled their classmates with Nerf lances. This annual event was such a success. Please ask your child how they made out.

Coming up in social studies, students will begin to examine the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation. This is an exciting period in European History with a number of significant individuals and events. To keep them straight, please make sure you child is reviewing their yellow note sheet each night.

In Ms. Smith's science classes, students are gearing up for the science

fair. Projects have been assigned and will be due at the end of February in order to have them completed and ready for judging at the annual competition.

In English, Mr. Sullivan's classes have begun their study of the Holocaust by reading *Night*. They are gearing up for some William Shakespeare while Mrs. Mitchell's math classes have been working on graphing linear equations. Up next in math will be a taste of Geometry.

Finally, students should start thinking about plans for next year. They will have many important decisions to make this year, primarily, what courses they will take to prepare them for their future. It's important to continue

emphasizing to your children that their efforts will make a difference in their future, and that they should still be studying approximately 90 minutes total each night.



Like Lawrence School on Facebook! Stay connected with all the current events and happenings going on!

In science the second quarter was a combination of finishing up our Chemistry exploration and beginning our adventures into Life Science. Students started by looking into the mysteries of DNA. We learned about its structure and how it replicates using origami and even candy models! We talked about traits, where they come from and how they can be passed from parents to offspring, as well as how mutations in genes can cause both good and bad changes in organisms. We are continuing our journey through Life Science with more about inheritance and how organisms change over time. Don't forget, Science Projects are due February 27th and Science Fair is Saturday, February 29!

In social studies students spent the second marking period focusing on Middle Ages Europe, diving deep into the Feudal System as well as the Crusades, amongst other topics. Readings, videos, maps, illustrations, class discussion and other methods were used with the students to

Team 6 is pleased to introduce Mr. Levasseur as our long term English substitute. In English the students are finishing up the "Night" unit and looking forward to Shakespeare.

In math, periods 1 and 3 just finished up the last of the Algebraic units with the close of the function unit. We are currently concentrating on Geometry for this semester. Periods 5 and 6 will be finishing up their Geometry unit next week and will be heading into Quadratics (my favorite:) for the rest of quarter 3.

It's time for **science projects!** Students have selected their topic questions and should be working at home on designing and performing experiments to answer them. Projects will be presented in class, **February**

## Team Five News

explore the rich history of this era.

Students finished the quarter by competing in the annual National Geography Bee. Questions were asked of each student in their respective classes before two Team Five representatives were chosen to compete against the winners from the rest of the school. Fun facts were learned by all on topics including but not limited to the 50 states, the seven continents and the oceans of the world.

In math we are continuing to work toward mastery of skills and problem solving strategies required for our math curriculum. Students are working independently and cooperatively to explore and investigate concepts that will help them find creative solutions to problems involving functions and data analysis. Third quarter will include our geometry units. All students should be encouraged to stay focused and keep up their good work

through the end of the year to maintain the level of achievement they will need for a successful transition to high school! Extra help is available during lunch on ACE days or after school - usually on Wednesday!

In English the students had a great time reading *Twelve Angry Men*, by Reginald Rose. The portrayal of the jurors was insightful and lots of fun. Some students said it was the best book so far. I am more of a fan of *Animal Farm*, but I think the idea of expressing the tones of the characters was what the students enjoyed the most. Lots of interaction amongst the jurors and some contentious moments. We are working on writing skills in English - specifically including literary elements and analysis. Editing and revising is something that is often overlooked or avoided, so we are spending time on that skill as well.

Team 5 will be going to the Museum of Science on March 18th. There will be more information coming home soon.

## Team Six News



**26th** or at the town Science Fair on **Saturday, February 29th** for extra credit. In class, students have explored DNA structure, protein synthesis, genetic mutation, and reproduction. They are currently finishing up their study of genetics and heredity and are preparing to delve into evolution and natural selection.

In social studies, we're closing out one of my favorite units which is the

Middle Ages in Europe. We still have the fantastic finale which will reveal the Black Death. Great Stuff!! Cole Hennen proudly represented Team 6 in the National Geographic Geography Bee in the school wide finals. He dazzled his fellow competitors and come up one question short, placing second overall. Way to go Cole.

Team 6 has been an absolute treat to work with. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns. This Spring thaw has the sap running on Team 6. If you could spare a box of tissues and or bottle of hand sanitizer it would be greatly appreciated. These items can be brought in to Mr. Thomas and I will disperse them team wide.

Thank You!

## 7th Grade Engineering

We are having an exciting year so far in 7th grade engineering! Team 2 students finished up their trimester in November with work on robotic creatures. Our workshop was full of lights and movement as students crafted and coded interactive creatures.

In December, Team 1 students began their engineering adventures. They started by exploring the engineering design process through challenges such as saving a Muppet from a fire, making a



“printer” out of duct tape and launching bottle rockets as high as possible. Now students are exploring alternative energy and transportation technologies as we design and build solar cars. The solar car work will also introduce students to woodworking techniques and prepare them for future projects in both the 7th and 8th grade shops. We will finish off our term with more robotic creature creations before Team 3 students take over the workshop in March.

## 8th Grade Engineering

We are keeping busy in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Engineering program this year! We are currently working with Team 4 students whose prior engineering experience with Ms. Lewis has allowed us to review many of last year’s concepts and then launch right into construction. Our overall focus in 8<sup>th</sup> grade is to provide students with the opportunity to understand and explore the presence of engineering and problem solving in the world around them and to pick up some construction skills of their own at the same time.

We recently completed a study of bridges in which students constructed their own plywood bridge to

hold a 10 pound weight and stand up to the force of a leaf blower. Another project that the class undertook was to tour the behind the scenes systems of Lawrence School to better understand all the components that work to make their day happen- from the boiler room to the water system and the fridge and freezer in the kitchen. Students then compared these to their systems at home to learn that the school functions in a very similar way!

Currently, students are constructing their own display shelves using logos designed with google docs and then carved into their shelves using our new CNC router. This device allows

students to lay out a display of clip art and font work on a computer, convert it to a jpeg and send it to a mechanical deck which allows a palm router to carve their design into a piece of lumber. This has greatly enhanced the personalization value of our display shelf project and allowed students to create their own professional looking designs for display in the school and at home!

We will wrap up the trimester in March with our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Iditarod!

Please visit [www.tinyurl.com/engineering8](http://www.tinyurl.com/engineering8) for pictures, videos and more information!

## Digital Literacy & Innovation

Do you ever feel like you don't have enough time for things you want to do? Maybe your MEDIA BALANCE needs a check!

Students on team 2 this trimester analyzed their online media use and then made a plan to become more media balanced and tried it out over the course of 2 weeks. Some students tried to limit their time on certain games, others tried to be sure important things like homework were

done before they went online. Overall, they began noticing patterns and rethinking their media use.

DLI7 students also learned about how everything they do online becomes part of their DIGITAL FOOTPRINT. By looking at others' digital footprints in a class activity, students began to realize that others may be making assumptions about us, just from seeing our digital footprints.

For more information about either of these lessons, use the links to

COMMON SENSE MEDIA's resources below:

Tips: [Help Kids Balance Their Media Lives](#)

Video: [5 Signs Your Kid Has A Healthy Relationship With Screens](#)  
Q&A: [How Can I Get My Kids To Put Down Their Phones?](#)

DLI7 - [Mrs. O'Connell](mailto:loconnell@falmouth.k12.ma.us)  
([loconnell@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:loconnell@falmouth.k12.ma.us))

## Health Office



As the cold/flu season is upon us, here's an important reminder for everyone that washing our hands frequently and covering our coughs/sneezes are effective ways of preventing the spread of germs. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) also recommends that everyone 6 months & older get a flu vaccine each year.

**If your student is sick with a fever of 100F or above, please keep your student home until he/she is fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of any medication.**

**Please do NOT send any medication inside a student's backpack or lunch pack as this creates a risk to all students sharing medication or skipping doses of medication that they should have been taking.**

If your child needs to take medication during school hours, please drop off the medication and paperwork to the school nurse so we can assist your child. Thank you for working together to keep our school safe and healthy.

SBIRT screenings will take place for 8th graders February 24th.

Information will be sent home to parents. Please contact me with any questions.

Eating healthy is important to your child's health and success at school. Healthy foods and regular physical activity can really help your child in the classroom by having better attendance and improving concentration. It's always a good idea to bring a water bottle to school.

Matty Leocadio, RN, BSN

## Library Media Center

As the Science Fair quickly approaches, students have been visiting the library for lessons on reliable sources and creating a works cited page. Students should now have the tools and skill set to focus on the research aspect of their projects and accurately cite their sources using NoodleTools. As always, students can come see Mrs. DeBettencourt in the library if they need any extra help!

The American Library Association Youth Media Awards took place on January 28th. The Youth Media Awards could be considered the Oscars or Grammys of the library world - librarians anxiously await all year to see which books are awarded medals. The Newbery Medal winner this year was none other than one of our 7th grade companion texts, entitled New Kid by Jerry Craft. New Kid is also the first graphic novel to be awarded the Newbery. It was a very exciting day in the library world! The library has many of the other Youth Media Award winners in our collection, so students may come check them out!



Maker Club has competed in two rounds of Battle Bots using Spheros, craft supplies and balloons. Students were tasked with designing protective armor to cover their Sphero and once in the battle ring they had to do their best to pop their competitor's balloons. While it was a struggle to actually pop any balloons, the design process and actual battle were enjoyable for all.

## World Language

What has proficiency been looking like in World Language classrooms these days at Lawrence?

**7th grade Spanish:** How do schools around the world compare? Students will be investigating what other schools look like around the world. They will also be able to describe their own school uniform, lunches and classrooms to native Spanish speakers as they learn about others. It will be fun when students receive their pen pal letters from Barcelona and Leon, Spain!

**8th grade Spanish** What Street Food is popular in Spanish speaking countries? Students are learning about Empanadas, the ingredients in them and how to describe this new food to a friend. Students went to the Lifeskills room and made them both savory and sweet ones! While "ordering them" and "trying them" they used their language skills to express their opinions and write a review on "Yelp" in Spanish.

**7th grade French:** Learning French or any language is not just about learning a new language, but about learning a new culture. Students have been comparing the French family, school and way of life to their own. They have been learning grammar in context to describe members of their family, themselves, animals and their school. In this way, learning French gives students the practical abilities to describe their world and the things that matter most to them.

**8th grade French:** Students have been learning language and grammar in context through a variety of cultural studies including a virtual trip to Montreal, a study of French art and music and a close reading of the book *Pauvre Anne*, set in Belgium and the United States.

**8th grade Exploratory Spanish:**

Students are taking a trip (virtually) around Mexico and learning about the different regions in Mexico popular for travel, Mexican currency, lodging, things to do and the most fun part for many, food! Students discovered the Mayan ruins near Cancun, swimming in the Cenotes in Tulum and visiting food markets in Mexico City. Next experience, making street tacos!

**7th and 8th grade Exploratory**

**French:** Students are learning about French eating customs in France using the new vocabulary. Next week we will make Belgian Waffles with whipped cream, strawberries, bananas and Nutella and also dessert crepes with a special sauce from Quebec. During this marking period the students will make their own menus when they have mastered all the new vocabulary. We just finished listening to the students present their projects about the 33 countries that speak French, as each student chose their own country to research.

## School Play



Rehearsals are in full swing! Students have been rehearsing since December and have learned up to five dances and nine songs!

**PERFORMANCE DATES**

The performance dates are no longer on Mother's Day Weekend!

They are:

**March 28, 2020 at 2:00 & 7:00 & March 29, 2020 at 2:00**

Tickets are sold at the door  
\$5 for students/seniors  
\$8 for adults

## Music, Band & Chorus



The Lawrence School band is hard at work preparing lots of new pieces, including *Blazing Bugles*, *Project Mars* and *Zia*. We've been using the web-based online music classroom called MusicFirst. Students are able to login and send assignments from any internet-enabled device, including Chromebooks. In Band, we've also been focusing on sight reading using Sight-Reading Factory. Our next performance is on Wednesday March 11th at 7pm at the FHS fieldhouse gym for All Bands Night. Also included is the Lawrence Jazz Band along with performances from the Morse Pond and FHS bands.

The Lawrence School Choir is busy preparing repertoire for All Choral Night which takes place on Monday, March 16th at the Lawrence school at 7PM. This concert will also feature performances from Falmouth High Schools' Choir, FHS Repertory Singers, Solfege and the Morse Pond Choir. New choral repertoire this semester includes a spiritual *Freedom is Coming*, a classic children's choral piece by Benjamin Brown's *Old Abram Brown*, *Adiemus* a 'new age' song that originally premiered in an advertisement for Delta Airlines and *Ubuntu* in which the text is based on the African (Xhosa) philosophy, in English this one word 'ubuntu' relates to 'the essence of being human'. LawCappella continues to meet on Wednesday mornings before school and are polishing off another Pentatonix hit song *Take Me Home*. Mrs. Cahill would like to welcome the new 7th grade students to music class that began in the 3rd quarter.

Students in this class are quickly learning the basics of beginning guitar and can expect to learn how to pick notes to play their favorite songs and strum chords to accompany themselves as they sing! So far they have learned how to play the notes on the 1st string and how to strum and play the E chord. Upcoming guitar songs will of course include lots of songs by the Beatles including *Love Me Do*, *Twist and Shout*, *Nowhere Man*, *Hey Jude* and *Let it Be*.

8th grade Music Tech classes just finished the first semester section and students created a portfolio of original songs in mp3 format! The new section is just starting up for second semester. I'm looking forward to a fun-filled class with piano playing, programming drum beats, creating remixes and more.

Congratulations to the following Lawrence School music students who auditioned for and were accepted to perform in the 2020 MA Music Educators Association Southeastern Jr. District Music Festival:

Mixed Choir SATB: Kylie Shelott - alto, Brianna Tidey - soprano.  
Treble Choir SSA: Merritt Willcox - Soprano, Alyssa Miceli - alto, Anna Bennett - alto.  
Orchestra: Alex Tang - cello.  
Jazz Ensemble: Sebastian Verslycke - Alto Saxophone

**Upcoming Music Events:**

March 13, 14: SEMMEA Junior District Music Festival  
March 11: All Bands Night  
March 16: All Choral Night  
May 29: Great East Music Festival/Six Flags  
June 8: Spring Concert