

## PRIDE ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY ~ COMPASSION

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Dear Lawrence School Families,

Hopefully this newsletter finds everyone enjoying the beginning of Spring. Though this year has undoubtedly been one of the most unique experiences ever, the school days continue to go by quickly. In the last newsletter, I encouraged readers to build connections with teachers and the school and to take advantage of the many ways in which we share information about life at Lawrence, this communication being one of them. Hopefully folks are feeling like we are doing our part and if not, please reach out to us with suggestions.

With three quarters of the year behind us, I would like to say that it continues to be a

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A Message from Assistant Principal Vieira,

Our annual MCAS testing is coming up. This year the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has shortened the test length so students will only take 1 section in each subject area. Our testing will begin with the ELA/Literacy test on Thursday, May 27 followed by Math on Thursday, June 3. Finally, we wrap up testing on Thursday, June 10 for 8th grade students only with the Science, Technology, Engineering test.

At this age, the kids are pretty well versed in the importance of the tests and the small things they can do to help prepare on testing days. But as a reminder, please encourage a decent bedtime, healthy breakfast and a growth mindset on the way to school for the kids during testing season and timely attendance is crucial for a smooth testing session.

Also, students will be using their school chromebooks as their testing device, not personal devices. If your child has opted to bring in their own personal device, they will be issued a school based chromebook for all test sessions.

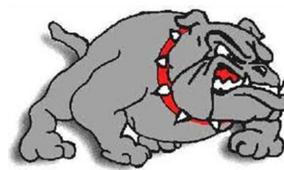
pleasure to work with your children. After the April break, we welcomed more students back to the building for in-person learning every day. But we also are happy to continue our work with students that have selected the remote option of the remainder of the year. Keeping kids connected has been an ongoing goal since the beginning of the pandemic and we are not losing sight of this goal in the closing months of the year. It has been inspiring to watch these students learn and grow during this difficult year. We thank you for your continued role in this process, and for building the bridge between home and school.

Sincerely,  
Tom Bushy, Principal

Please work with your child to ensure their chromebook is in good working order and they have their charger. If you discover any issues with the school chromebook or charger, please contact [cbrepair@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:cbrepair@falmouth.k12.ma.us) to help troubleshoot any issues before the start of testing.

Following the testing days, the end of the year will come up quickly but it will be a time that we continue our work with students to maintain a focus on school work and appropriate behavior so we can finish the year on a strong note. We thank you for your continued support and partnership during the 4th quarter.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Vieira - Vice Principal



## Team One News

Spring is finally really here! Birds are singing and winter coats are stowed. It is great to see and hear so many of our students back in school. They do have voices and they are using them! Congratulations to Aliyah, Kennedy, Rima, Hannah and Lily for their winning entries in the Quills and Quotes poetry contest. Well done! Look for their video presentations in the future. Also, a big shout out to the Team 1 No Guff winners, elected by their peers: Rima, Nathaniel, Ryan, Belle, and Brooke.

Why does an author use supernatural elements to tell a story? This is our overarching question in English as we will continue with our Science-Fiction Fantasy unit. We will read and discuss our companion books along with a project. As we read, we will incorporate activities around characterization, conflict and

theme. We will end the year with non fiction and poetry.

In math, we will begin the Geometry Unit. Students will be learning about angle relationships, area, volume and surface area.



In social studies we will be continuing our Ancient Greece Unit. The students will be exploring the architecture, philosophers and the achievements of Alexander the Great. We will be

wrapping the year up by diving into Ancient Rome!

In science, hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have plenty of opportunities to collect field data using the vernal pool. Specifically, we will learn about water chemistry and population sampling. Time to put on the waders and boots and study nature! We will continue to study human impacts on the environment and its natural resources, followed by the role of energy in all of the processes we have studied throughout the year.

Finally, we will have the second guest lecture by the Harvard Museum of Natural History as we study the role of environmental changes on the changes in organism's inherited traits through 3D printed fossils on loan from the museum.

## Team Two News

It's so hard to believe that we are in the final stretch of the school year!

Here are a few quick notes about what each class is up to;

In English class, Ms. Johnson's students are focused on working on their narrative writing skills. Students will have the opportunity to create an original science fiction story or create a new ending for one of the stories we have read. They will also be working on persuasive writing using the METAL format and if time allows, they will do a poetry unit.

In Ms. Cruse's science class students are wrapping up with energy and moving on to study ecosystems as the year concludes.

In social studies students are exploring Classical Greece. Right now they are entrenched in the stories and mythology of the Ancient Greek fables. Before the end of the year they will travel to Ancient Rome in preparation for grade 8.

And finally, Mrs. Mulvey's math students completed their probability and statistics unit and are starting geometry. This is a large unit as they will learn about angles and triangles and how to find area, perimeter, surface area and volume of 2 and 3 dimensional figures.

We are very pleased at the way team 2 has stepped up the challenges of this year. Students have been working hard and communicating with their teachers

often which is a key to their success. We know this "new normal" is tough, and it has been ever evolving. So know that your efforts are recognized and applauded, both students and parents.

We'd like to remind families to continue to encourage their students to look at Schoology and PowerSchool. The work that your students will complete can be found here. Just a little bit of time left in the school year, we got this!

On behalf of the team three teachers, we hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy. We are excited to welcome many of our students back into the building and to finish off the year with success. Below you will see a brief description of your students classes during quarter three.

Social studies students explored the geography, history and culture of Australia and ancient Greece during the third term. Students practiced their writing and analysis skills as they worked to answer essential questions about the curriculum. Students used a variety of technical tools to help foster engagement during remote learning weeks and we used different types of group discussion strategies to get the kids working together to discuss and investigate the material. We will finish off the year in ancient Rome!

Math students have been working diligently to prepare for the math

MCAS testing. Students studied mean, median and mode and sampling and will be moving into a geometry unit. We will also be working on coordinate planes and graphing linear equations.

During quarter 3 in science, we finished our Earth Systems Unit. In this unit the students discovered how matter on Earth changes while continuously being recycled over time. Some of the specific cycles we explored were the rock cycle, the water cycle, the carbon cycle and the phosphorus cycle. We concluded the unit by discussing how these cycles interact with each of Earth's spheres. For quarter 4, we are completing a unit on human population growth, our impact on the availability of natural resources and the consequences of our actions on the environment. We will then explore energy and heat transfer and finally concluding the year looking deeper into ecosystem interactions.

In ELA, the students continue to improve their writing skills through narrative writing. During quarter 3, we worked on writing a narrative using descriptive words to create setting and mood/tone. We are currently wrapping up our science fiction/fantasy short story unit and will begin working on a science fiction/fantasy independent book project that focuses on supernatural elements and how they reveal a theme or universal message. Students will have the option to do either a visual, audio, or written project about their chosen book. After that, the skills we will be focusing on are: character, conflict and theme.

## Team Four News

As our team is now into the final quarter of the year, team 4 teachers are excited to see classrooms fill up with the return to in-person learning. For the latest news, please continue reading the principal's and superintendent's weekly messages. Also, please continue to monitor Powerschool to check up on your child's progress.

Team 4 teachers have been hard at work covering a bunch of subjects. In Ms. Smith's science classes, students are wrapping up their study of biology and evolution. They have focused on the changing of species, artificial selection and how humans have altered genetic traits.

Math classes with Mrs. Mitchell will move from slope to a study of parallel

lines and Pythagoras' theorem. Do you still remember that formula?

In English classes, Mr. Sullivan finished up Fredrick Douglass' autobiography and is preparing to tackle Shakespeare. He plans to turn classrooms into the Globe Theater and act out the classic, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Mr. Tribou's civics classes have finished the branches of government and their roles and will begin discussing significant Supreme Court cases in history.

Finally, the team would like to thank parents for their continued support and we look forward to a strong end of the year.



The PE/Health staff will be continuing modified games and activities that practice best social distancing practices and minimize sharing of equipment.

All classes will be outdoors from here on out, weather permitting. Please bring acceptable attire for movement while outside.

Health topics will be moving from decision making and peer pressure to a focus of drugs and alcohol and sexual education in the upcoming weeks. Please email your student's teacher with any questions.

Go Bulldogs!

## Team Five News

In math, quarter 3 was all about equations in math class! Students seemed to enjoy solving equations and solving systems of equations much more than working with slope! In quarter 4 we will be entering our geometry portion of 8th grade and we will be learning pythagorean theorem and angle relationships. Can not wait to finish out the year strong and have some more fun while learning math!

Quarter 3 for Science delivered us back up into our labs! This was a great opportunity which allows us to have more hands on experiences that utilize our lab space. Quarter 3 was all about Inheritance, Genetics and Evolution. We explored why and how organisms change over time by both natural and artificial selection. We finished up with a guest speaker from OPAK (Ocean Protection Advocacy Kids) and we will start quarter 4 speaking with Richard Primack,

author of *Walden Warming*. Our final lap at Lawrence in will lead us into Earth's place in the universe, seasons, weather and climate change. We will be investigating how human activities have many different effects on the planet and finally, we will end the year learning about Forces and Motion.

Happy Spring everybody! The majority of the third quarter in social studies class has been spent identifying and analyzing the three main branches of the national government, as stated in the U.S. Constitution. Students have completed numerous activities learning about the varying roles/responsibilities of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches, with an emphasis on their interaction amongst each other through the systems of checks and balances. We've also taken minor reprieves from the curriculum to complete research and creative assignments celebrating both Black History

Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Both instances presented kids with the opportunity to further learn about these important groups while fostering discussion about ways in which to continue honoring and celebrating all groups of people.

English students have read three class texts so far this year, *Animal Farm*, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and *Twelve Angry Men*. Now the students are going to write a speech using Rhetorical Devices to express their ideas and passions about a topic of their choice. In discussions of themes, the students are aware of many issues that are present in society today and they will have the opportunity to make inquiries about an issue or topic and express their thoughts in their speech. I will culminate the speeches and publish a shared document.

## Team Six News

In civics with Mr. Thomas, by now your child should be a Constitutional scholar. They should understand how the three branches of government work together and are checked by one another. We have played numerous role playing games to simulate what it is like to be President, a member of the Congress and a citizen deprived of his or her liberties. I'm proud of how hard the Team 6 students have worked despite this bizarre year!

In science classes, team 6 students completed our look into the world of Biology. They have explored DNA structure, protein synthesis, genetic mutations, reproduction, genetics and heredity and finally evolution and natural selection. Wow! Lots of fascinating and exciting topics! This

spring we will begin to investigate Earth's place in the universe. I'm excited to see more in-person faces! As always, it has been a pleasure to see our students persevere in this wacky environment.

English classes have finished up our unit on *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and students worked on an essay about what modern Americans continue Douglass' legacy today. Although they were writing in the regular METAL format, students got very creative with their writing, so keep your eyes out for a sort of "museum of great writing" in an upcoming email from me! In quarter 4 we are moving into Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* - finally, a text with no death or destruction!

In math class we're finishing up Pythagorean Theorem and is about to start their study of transformations and then move onto angles. Both of the upcoming units are very visual and are Geometry units. The students have been very engaged and working hard!

Algebra 1 class is in the midst of factoring, the most important skill of Algebra 1. After we finish factoring we will be applying our skills in our quadratics unit which brings back almost every other skill we have learned so far this year!

# Engineering

In 7th grade engineering, Team 2 students began the engineering trimester by learning about the engineering design process. We looked at many examples of engineering and innovation from different areas of our lives and analyzed how engineers used science and math to arrive at their solutions.

Now students are using the design process to solve several challenges as we go on an imaginary mission to Mars. Students have already discussed the difficulty of space travel and designed Mars Mission patches while learning to identify the criteria and constraints of a problem. Then they launched themselves into space using catapults, while also learning about the importance of iteration.

Next, students will be learning to design for a specific user by creating

board games for each other to play on the long journey to Mars. We will finish up the course exploring systems engineering as we design and race Mars rover vehicles and build Mars colonies.

In 8th grade engineering, team 5 students began their engineering adventures by exploring the engineering design process, which included discussions about how important failure is when it comes to improving designs and finding solutions to problems. Students also designed, built and tested flying paper-clip devices that would stay in the air as long as possible before hitting a target on the ground. We have also seen how art-design and engineering are often compatible and through this lens, students had the chance to create a well balanced spring inspired Calder-Mobile!

In our second unit the focus will be on structures and materials. Even though we can't use the wood shop for bigger projects, we will individually work with smaller scale hands-on projects. For example, recently tested the forces of compression and tension in our Leaning Tower of Spaghetti project. In addition, we will virtually explore both small and large engineering projects from around the world and get the chance to digitally invite a couple of real life, local engineers



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

## Digital Literacy & Innovation

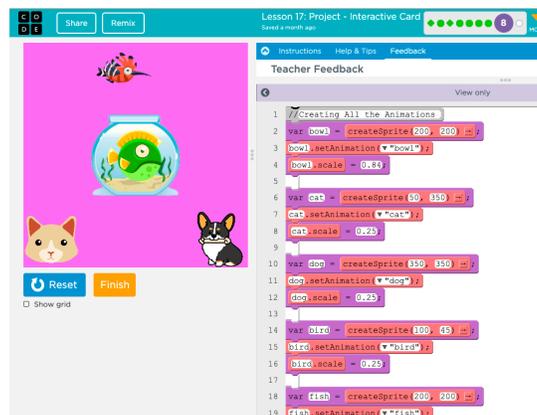


In 7th grade DLI, students recently completed lessons in the problem-solving process (define, prepare, try, reflect),

which included an exercise in building 2 iterations of a paper tower. The goal was to build it as tall and sturdy as possible and improve the design between the 2 iterations.

As problem-solving is the basis for computer coding, students will be

applying these skills for the rest of the trimester as they focus on learning HTML and CSS coding languages to create their own web page on a topic they choose.



In 8th grade DLI, students began the Computer Science Unit directly after April vacation. Team 4 students will be building skills in JavaScript in order to create an interactive animation as their final project.

What's great about the Code.org CSD curriculum is that students can work at their own pace within the lesson and can choose the practice exercises and challenges based on what they need more of or have an interest in. Through these authentic, hands-on applications, students are gaining confidence in coding and learning that it can be used as a means of self-expression.

# Music, Band & Chorus



Students in the 7th grade Trimester 2 music classes are learning the process of music production. Using a Digital Audio Workstation called Bandlab students are learning how to write, arrange, track, edit and mix songs. Their projects so far include a Hip Hop Original Composition, No Guff Rap and Original Soundscapes. Upcoming projects include a *Scary Soundscape*, *Popular Song Remix Project*, *Parody Song Project* and to write and record an *Original Blues Song*. In school students are enjoying learning how to play the ukulele and how to play popular chord progressions and strumming patterns to fun and familiar songs such as

*Can't Stop the Feeling* (Justin Timberlake), *Imagine* (John Lennon), *Send My Lover* (Adele), *Waiting in Vain* (Bob Marley) and *You Can't Always Get What You Want* by the Rolling Stones. Throughout the spring students will learn to play popular chord progressions that will enable them to play their favorite songs!

Lawrence School Virtual Choir members meet weekly via zoom every Friday. We are currently working on recording our first Virtual Choir Performance of *The Wellerman*, a sea shanty which was a recent TicToc sensation. In quarter 4 students will continue to work on recording their individual voice parts to create virtual choral performances to be released later in the spring!

Students have been learning about the history of sound recording technology, basic keyboard skills and creating expressive, fun projects in the Music Tech lab. Students are learning about the science of sound waves, microphones and processing, as well as how media content is created. Some of the music projects we've done in the class include: *Scary Soundscape*, *Checkerboard Form Song*, remixing a popular song and setting a vocal to original musical accompaniment. This month we are focusing on drums and programming beats!

Band members are working hard learning music theory, as well as practicing up for our first virtual performance of "The HEY Song," to be released some time in June. It is also time for 7th and 8th graders to sign up for FHS Marching Band and Color Guard for next year. Remember, 8th graders can be in Marching Band.

## Health Office

Spring seems to bring seasonal allergies to all in New England. The Pollen Count has been at High Levels for weeks, and will continue. Allergy symptoms can cause more problems than most of us anticipate or give them credit for....feelings of fatigue, poor sleep, general achiness and irritability are common. If you or anyone in your family are feeling this kind of seasonal low....remember the basics of self-care...a good night's sleep, a healthy diet and lots of water. If you find yourself feeling really lousy for a week or longer, consider over the counter allergy medication. If you continue to feel poorly, consider asking your Primary Care Physician for advice.

And of course, we are still in the midst of COVID. If you feel "viral" (especially if you have body aches, fever, or loss of smell or taste), get tested. Better yet....get Vaccinated. Remember to cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze, wash your hands often (or use hand sanitizer) and stay away from others when they are sick, or isolate when you are.

Abiding by the Travel Guidelines is also critical:

**Traveling Guidelines**

<b>When traveling to a high-risk state for greater than 72 hour:</b>	<b>When traveling to a high-risk state for 72 hour or less:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fill out "Mass Travel Form"</li><li>• Receive a Negative COVID-19 test no longer than 72 hours prior to your return to MA</li><li style="text-align: center;">OR</li><li>• Quarantine for 10 days</li><li>• International travel depends on destination and risk level</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fill out "Mass Travel Form"</li><li>• Receive a Negative COVID-19 test AFTER your return to MA</li><li style="text-align: center;">OR</li><li>• Quarantine for 10 days</li><li>• International travel depends on destination and risk level</li></ul>

### Other tips for a Healthy Spring:

- ◆ Get outside, enjoy the early rising sun, get your Vitamin D!
- ◆ Enjoy the warm weather, exercise out of doors!
- ◆ Indulge in fruits and vegetables as they come into season!
- ◆ Enjoy our Bountiful Ocean! Eat more fish!