

Lowell Lowdown

April, 2009

James Russell Lowell School is a community of learners.

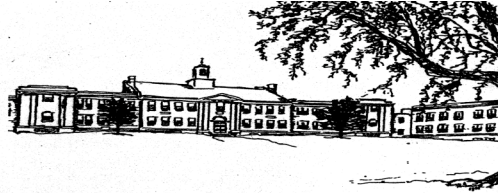
As a caring and responsible community:

We **care** about ourselves, others, and our learning environment,

We **share** our thoughts and feelings in kind and respectful ways,

We **dare** to try our best, be creative and explore new ideas.

We care, share, and dare.



Information on the Lowell Lunch Program

I wanted to take this space to review some of the information that surrounds our lunch and cafeteria program. As you read recently our prices in the cafeteria have gone up. Currently a lunch costs \$3.00 and snacks cost either .50 cents or \$1.00. Milk and juice cost .55 cents.

As you also know, our school system has a computerized cash management system which you can deposit money into at your convenience. Children are assigned a three, four or five digit number they have learned that they punch in when purchasing a lunch, snack or a drink.

Sevim Cinar is our cafeteria manager at the Lowell School. The children know Sevim well and feel comfortable approaching her with questions about their accounts. Additionally, Sevim is here each morning for our breakfast program, cost is \$1.25, and runs from 7:45 to 8:10 am. If you have questions or want to drop off a prepayment check or cash, this can be done in the morning when you drop your child off, or you may send it in an envelope with attention noted for the cafeteria.

It is also important to note that a child can only run an overcharge of \$6.75. This means that a child would be able to get two lunches once they run into a deficit. A child will always receive a lunch, but rather than a hot meal, they would receive a bowl of cereal, milk, vegetable and a piece of fruit, should they go beyond the two lunches in deficit. Children are told when they no longer have an account balance. Invoices are sent home weekly on Wednesdays to notify parents if their child is running a deficit on their account.

If you feel that you want your child to have access to the computerized cash management system for milk and lunches, but not for snacks, we can put this type of restriction on your child's account. Basically, if you just talk to Sevim Cinar, you can help tailor the program for you and the needs of your child and/or budget.

Finally, some of our students qualify for either free or reduced lunch prices. Entrance into this program is determined once a parent or guardian completes an application which mandates that we follow a specific formula to determine eligibility. If you think your family may qualify, please see Mrs. Ferrigno in the school office for a form. It is mandated that an application be filled out on a yearly basis.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Lowell School 'World Tour' Begins

On Tuesday, May 5th @ 9:00 a.m. the specialists' team will be presenting an all-school assembly called "World Tour." The theme of this year's assembly is "Mexico" and is a celebration of Mexican culture. Featured in the assembly will be 4th and 5th grade musical performances, exhibitions of Mexican arts and crafts, dance routines, traditional games, and a multi-media presentation. If you have any artifacts (arts, crafts, etc.) that you would like to temporarily donate from now until May 5th, we would love to put it in our showcase.

School Site Council

Thanks to all who filled out the Lowell School Site Council surveys during the parent-teacher conferences. We received 178 completed surveys, and we hope to have the results tallied in a couple of weeks. Look for the announcement in your child's backpack next week about when and where we will present the results. We will use the information you told us in the surveys to devise a plan for how best to improve communication between you and the school.

Watertown Working Moms Looking for New members

Working mothers living in Watertown and surrounding communities are invited to join a monthly discussion group held at the Watertown Family Network, 460 Main Street, Watertown. Meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of every month during the school year (September to June), 7:45pm - 9:30pm. Drop-in format, no pre-registration required or cost to attend. Open to all working mothers, regardless of the age of your children. Infants welcome. Wide range of discussion topics range from work-life balance, child development, co-parenting, favorite places to go with family, etc. Facilitated by mom volunteers.

Co-coordinators:

Indra Reinbergs (ireinbergs2@yahoo.com) / Elizabeth Davis (lizdavis@gmail.com)

Remaining meetings for 2009:

-Wed, May 6th

-Wed, June 3rd

-(July/August - no meetings at WFN)

-Wed, Sep 2nd

-Wed, Oct 7th

-Wed Nov 4th

-Wed Dec 2nd

Arbor Day Celebration

Over the April vacation, the town will be replanting trees in our front yard. The school will hold an Arbor Day/green day celebration of the planting on Friday, May 1st. Chris Hayward, the town tree warden, will be here to support the program and give a brief accounting of the tree issues we have experienced and the hope for the future of our trees. He will also be providing seedlings to students, to promote sustaining the greening of our beautiful town.

PTO News

March Fundraiser

The PTO is extremely grateful for the outpouring of support provided by many of the parents, school staff, local businesses and others in our community. Through their efforts and generosity, we raised over \$4,000 at our 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser!

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops Winners from February Collection Event

This past February, the Lowell School held a special Box Tops Collection event. Each classroom was invited to collect as many Box Tops as possible during the month before the submission date at the end of February. We'd like to announce that the K-1 Fucci/Jacobson classroom were the Box Top winners. This classroom collected a total of 326 Box Tops. What an awesome effort by these children and their teachers! Please congratulate: Alexandra, Andre, Antonio, Brendan, Brian, Charlie, Katie, Karim, Kevin, Leah, Madison, Madeline, M. E., Oliver, Olivia, Patricio, Rachael, Sophie, Trisanne, TJ, Mrs. Fucci and Ms. Jacobson. Congratulations and thank you! Lowell School PTO



PTO Calendar

April

Friday, 10th	No School Day
Tuesday, 14th	PTO Meeting, 2:45pm and 7pm
Mon-Fri, 20th-24th	April Vacation Week
Tuesday, 28th	Site Council Meeting, 7pm

May

Friday, 1st	Spirit Day
Mon-Friday, 4th-8th	Staff Appreciation Week
Tuesday, 5th	Middle School Spring Concert
Friday, May 8th	Movie Night
Tuesday, 12th	PTO Meeting, 2:45pm only- no night meeting
Saturday, 16th	Yard Sale
Tuesday, 19th	High School Spring Concert
Monday, 25th	Holiday
Tuesday, 26th	Site Council Meeting, 2:45 pm
Friday, 29th	Spirit Day, TBD

Don't Miss It

Charlie Appelstein, author of "No Such Thing as a Bad Kid" sponsored by Wayside Youth Coalition May 12th, 7pm at the Middle School Auditorium Watch backpacks for additional information.

Lowell School Parent-Child Book Club



Calling all 4th and 5th grade students and parents,
We would like to invite you to another Parent-Child Book Club meeting that will take place on **May 5, 2009** (6:00-7:00 pm) at the Lowell School Library. Our chosen book is called Each Little Bird that Sings by Deborah Wiles. *"Growing up in the family-run funeral parlor is not always easy for 10-year-old Comfort Snowberger, but her sage contributions to the local paper help her sort things out. A pleasing cast of characters include a whiny cousin, an imperfect best friend, a loyal dog, and a family who sticks together to help bring comfort to the bereaved, which at times turns out to be themselves. You'll be hooked from the first sentence, "I come from a family with a lot of dead people," to the touching conclusion"* (FamilyFun.com). The books will be given out at school to children who bring the permission slip back during the week of April 6, 2009. We hope you enjoy reading this book with your child or to your child and we will see you in May. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Evans or Mrs. Toledano.