

# Lowell Lowdown

**MAY 2010**

James Russell Lowell School is a  
community of learners.

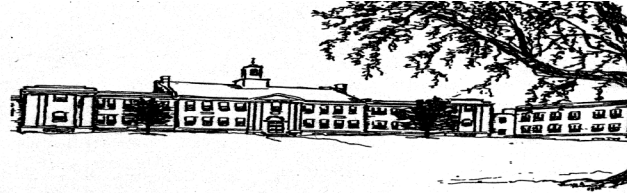
As a caring and responsible community:

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

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

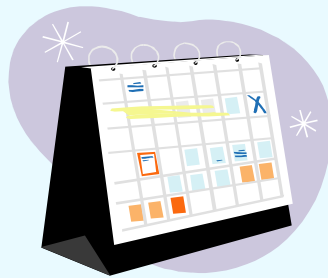
We **dare** to try our best, be creative and explore new ideas.

We care, share, and dare.



**LOWELL SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/lowell/index.html>



## Upcoming Events

### ◆ MAY

- ◆ May 10<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> - MCAS Math/Science testing takes place
- ◆ May 11<sup>th</sup> - Last PTO Meeting (at 2:45pm & 7:00pm)
- ◆ May 15<sup>th</sup> - KIC performance at WMS Auditorium 6:30pm (Free Admission)
- ◆ May 25<sup>th</sup> - Welcoming the class of 2023, 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Lowell Library
- ◆ May 25<sup>th</sup> - Site Council Meeting 7:00pm, Lowell Library
- ◆ May 28<sup>th</sup> - Spirit Day: Pajama Day

### ◆ JUNE

- ◆ June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Teddy Bear Social 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Lowell Gym/Cafeteria
- ◆ June 4<sup>th</sup> - Media Impact Parent Presentation by Veronica Knight
- ◆ June 10<sup>th</sup> - Lowell School End of Year Picnic - 2:30-5:00pm
- ◆ June 17<sup>th</sup> - *RAIN DATE for End of Year Picnic* - 2:30-5:00pm
- ◆ June 21<sup>st</sup> - Lowell School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- ◆ June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Last Day of School (PreK and K classes)
- ◆ June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Meeting the Kindergarten Team
- ◆ June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Last Day of School (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) ☺
- ◆ Sept 7<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School ☺

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Planning for next year is underway!

Please know that here at the Lowell School, we believe strongly in the partnership between home and school. We welcome your input regarding your child's educational experience. All factors are considered in the placement process for the coming year's classes, i.e. educational needs, academic peers, balance of social issues, gender, etc. If you would like to share your thoughts, you may do so in writing. Please understand that individual appointments cannot be accommodated. Due to budget reductions, class sizes will increase next year, making the placement process more complex. Although we will be able to consider your input, we cannot make the accommodation of parental requests a "first" priority. Please be assured that our goal is to meet the needs of **all** students and that the faculty and staff are committed to everyone's success. Thank you for your kind cooperation and patience through this process.

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## FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE



PTO Parents Event Committee has been hosting a series of discussion groups. The last one is scheduled for Friday, 6/4 - Media Impact

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Do check out the **Boston Globe Magazine**'s May 2nd, 2010 article on "*How to Stop a Bully*". The article can be found at:

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/magazine/articles/2010/05/02/the\\_secret\\_to\\_stopping\\_a\\_bully/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/magazine/articles/2010/05/02/the_secret_to_stopping_a_bully/)

In spite of the amazing weather, many of our children will be spending some time indoors in front of various forms of screens: TV, computer, DS etc. In light of recent events highlighting how technological use has increased the frequency and impact of bullying, we encourage you to talk to your children about (n)etiquette and safety issues.

Here are some good suggestions we have collected from various websites and articles:

- If your child signs up for **on-line websites** for games, quizzes, etc., it is a good idea to have him/her get your permission before signing onto a new website so you can preview it together for appropriateness and safety.
- It is also a good idea to have him/her compile a list of website addresses, logins, and passwords for you. I explain to my children that I do trust them. However, being a loving parent, I would not just "drop" them off in the middle of the cyber-world without having a way to check in to make sure they are "okay."

- Lastly regarding websites - it is really important (s)he knows how to protect his/her privacy and not disclose anything personal such as his/her full name, address, when (s)he may be home alone etc.
- If your child uses a **cell phone**, be sure that (s)he only answer calls from numbers (s)he can recognize and that you have registered the cell phone number on the "no-call" list to prevent telemarketers from calling/texting.
- If your child **texts** with his/her cell phone, make sure (s)he understands that any messages or photos (s)he sends can be forwarded to other people.
- If your child uses **email**, **chat** functions, **Gmail buzz**, or **instant messaging** in any form on the computer, please consider taking the time to review periodically the messages s(he) sends and receives.
- Although most social networking sites such as **Facebook** have an age limit, many students have created their own accounts. If and when your child ventures into the world of social networking, having your child "friend" you is a reasonable condition for access to these tools. (We should have a follow up chat about ways to NOT embarrass our children online ...)

Elementary age children need guidance in writing and reading online communications. Many conflicts/fights have **broken friendships** because of misinterpretation of tone and intent. **Cyber-bullying** is a serious issue in our society. If your child is being harassed online, he or she needs to "**stop, block and tell**" - stop reading the insulting messages, block the other student, and tell an adult. Watertown Public Schools, Watertown Police Department, and the Watertown community must work closely together to prevent and reduce these trends.

Ms. Parry from WiredKids, Inc. has some great suggestions:

- Make sure you are **sending things to the right person/place**
- Don't waste people's time with junk, chain e-mails, and false rumors
- Proofread and spell-check, make sure they know who you are
- **Don't attack others online**
- Don't forward other people's emails without their permission
- Don't share other people's personal information
- **Don't write and send messages when you are angry**
- Don't reply to spam
- Remember nothing is private once you send it; so if you don't want someone else to read it, don't send it

For the complete text, please visit:

<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/kids/msparrysguidetonetiquette.html>

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## Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Information

**Welcoming the Class of 2023** - Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Lowell Library  
**Teddy Bear Social** - Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Lowell Gym/Cafeteria  
**Meeting the Kindergarten Team** - Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 (Tentative last day of school)

**Extended Day Programs:** (Information will be available at Kindergarten Screening)

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## Lost and Found

As the school year comes to a close, we want to remind everyone to please stop in and check out the **Lost and Found** for anything that may belong to your children. Any items not claimed after the close of the school year will be donated.

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## 5th Grade Important Dates

5/14/10 - Social Mixer - 6:00-8:00pm - Middle School

6/16/10 - Plimoth Plantation - 8:30-2:00

6/18/10 - Field Day - 9-11 or 12:00

6/21/10 - Graduation - 1:00 (parents will arrive at 12:45 promptly so we can begin by 1:00)

6/23/10 - Last day of school

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## THE LOWELL LOWDOWN CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS!

All the first grade classes will be going to Drumlin Farm for a field trip experience on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We have a guided tour of the farm in Lincoln and will be enjoying a picnic lunch there.

Mrs. Fucci's class will be performing the Three Piggy Opera once again, with the musical accompaniment of Mr. Spano! The performance will take place in the Library at 9:00am on Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

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The second grade classes have fuzzy visitors in their classrooms. We welcomed caterpillars into our classes last week and have been keeping track of their growth and recording it daily. They have doubled in size and we are amazed at their growth! We really enjoy observing the life-cycle of the butterfly.

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## Technology In Action in the Rainforest!

Mrs. Centofanti's and Ms. Noftsker's students have been studying the rainforest with Mrs. Lehmann's and Ms. Simon's class. The students learned how to use Powerpoint as a powerful presentation tool to dynamically illustrate and organize information. They gained an in-depth of knowledge regarding the rainforest, including habitats, physical features of animals, their survival mechanisms, predators and prey. The students also learned how to use VoiceThread, a collaborative, multimedia slide show that allows images, documents and videos to be uploaded for students to leave recorded comments on slides. Dioramas added a three-dimensional representation. They looked amazing! The students learned effective research techniques and powerful new ways to integrate technology into their learning experiences. They had a blast and so did we!

Mrs. Centofanti and Ms. Noftsker

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On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the specialists' team presented the Second Annual Lowell School World Tour Assembly. This year, we travelled to South Africa. Featured in the assembly was the 4th and 5th grade musical performances, exhibitions of arts and crafts, dance routines, sports demonstrations, folktale readings, and multi-media presentations. It was a great event and all the students enjoyed the presentations. Enjoy some of the photos below!



## Art Room News



All classes will be starting a unit on clay. We will be learning hand building techniques (coil, slab and pinch). We use self hardening clay and paint them with a waterbase tempera paint. The clay pieces should not be used for food and please do not add any liquids to them.

Anna Lochiatto

## Matt Light visits the Lowell School



Chris Iannetta from Ms. Tarr's PK class and Robbie Iannetta from Mr. Shpritzer's 3rd grade class were the lucky winners of a promotion sponsored by Pepsi and Shaw's. They welcomed Matt Light from the N.E. Patriots to their home on the morning of Wednesday, May 5th, where they enjoyed a brief visit. The family was then escorted with Matt by limousine to the school, where he spoke to the kids at an assembly about being responsible and getting yourselves to school on time and giving it your all. The students were in awe!!



## KIC Musical! May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

Kids In Common, one of the after school programs, will be doing a Wizard of Oz remix for our annual musical! It will include a mix of music and criss-crossed story lines from: The Wizard of Oz, The Wiz and Wicked.

The show takes place on **Saturday, May 15th at 6:30pm at the Watertown Middle School!** Be ready for some cameo appearances by some of your Lowell School teachers! **FREE ADMISSION!**

# Welcome to Vocabulary

*Research Says...*

"Repetition and multiple exposures to vocabulary words will... assist vocabulary development."  
~ National Institute of Health

Try this at home...



Vocabulary word - **prefer**

If you prefer something, you like it better than you like something else.

*Discuss with your child certain food or activity preferences that you and other family members have.*

Try this at home...



Vocabulary word - **generous**

Someone who is generous is happy to share whatever they have with others.

*Ask your child to remember with you a family occasion when someone was generous.*

Mrs. Toledano, Reading Teacher, the Lowell School

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## PTO Announcements

**Teacher Appreciation Week and Lunch:** Thank you! The luncheon and other events to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week last week went great! All of the teachers and staff were very appreciative. We had more than enough food for them to eat and drink. We want to thank everyone who volunteered and brought things in - it was a great success thanks to all of you. THANK YOU!!!!

**Green Spirit Day** - Thank you to everyone for such a great Green Spirit Day! Thank you to everyone for doing their part to BE Green and to all those that brought in bottles and cans to be recycled and Seed Packets!!

**Next PTO Meeting - Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:45pm and 7:00pm:** The last PTO meeting of the 2009-2010 school year will be held on Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 and 7:00 pm in the school library. As the school year winds down, this will be an important opportunity for all parents and teachers to review this year's activities and begin to make plans for next year. We look forward to seeing you there!

**NEW PTO Board and Positions:** It is the mission of the PTO to enhance the academic experience and build community among the students, parents and teachers at the Lowell School. As a PTO member, parents and teachers plan and organize a variety of social activities, events and fundraisers during the school year.

### **2010-11 PTO Board Members are:**

President: Linda Tracy

Vice President: - o p e n -

Treasurer: Monica Timperio

Secretary: Nancy Iannetta

5<sup>th</sup> grade Coordinator: Anne Korte & Lisa Cavaretta

4<sup>th</sup> grade Coordinator: Angela Horrigan

3<sup>rd</sup> grade Coordinator: Laura Stokes

2<sup>nd</sup> grade Coordinator: Sharon Sharifi

1<sup>st</sup> grade Coordinator: Stephanie Venizelos and Seta Davidian

K/PreK Coordinator: Pam Dennison

We are still seeking partners for grades PreK-4. Please submit your name and contact info to the PTO mailbox as soon as possible. The primary role of a Grade Level Coordinator is to work with the Room Parents and teachers to communicate information. If you have any questions about the PTO or specific positions, please feel free to contact any of the current PTO Board members - we would be happy to speak to you! You can find a list of the current PTO Board members on the PTO website at: [www.watertownlowellpto.com](http://www.watertownlowellpto.com)

**End of Year Picnic:** Mark your calendars! The end of year picnic will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-5:00pm. The rain date is June 17<sup>th</sup>.

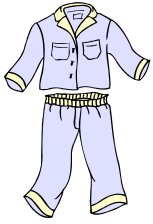
**May Spirit Day - May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Wear your Pajamas to school day!

**Lowell Elementary Afterschool Program (LEAP):** is seeking Interim Parent Advisory Board members to oversee the program. Please submit your name and contact information to the PTO mailbox if you are interested in serving on the board for the upcoming 2010-11 school year.

**T-Shirts and Sweatshirts!** The PTO still has a few Watertown t-shirts and sweatshirts available for sale - order forms are available outside the main office - get them while supplies last!

**Family Dues!** It's never too late to turn in family dues. We'll take them all year, any year! Just drop your dues in the PTO mailbox or give to any board member.

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# Pajama Day



*This is a Lowell School PTO Sponsored Event*

**Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*No Fuss No Stress Just:*

***WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PAJAMAS TO SCHOOL***

All Teachers and Staff are encouraged to participate in this casual fun day!  
Don't forget appropriate footwear for gym & recess!

INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOMS MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.  
ASK YOUR TEACHER AND WATCH FOR NOTICES.

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## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**



**COMING SOON: SUMMER  
VACATION BOX TOPS CONTEST  
DETAILS!**



Keep collecting those Box Tops! During June, information will come home with your child in their backpack, on the details of a summer collection contest. This will be an individual contest and NOT a classroom contest. Collection bags and information will be sent home with your child during June.

Note: if you currently have Box Tops - please check the expiration dates! If any are due to expire in June 2010 - send them in with your child to put in the Box Tops Collection Box at the front entrance. They can be submitted before the expiration date and be counted toward our school goal!

If you love Box Tops - join our team! Contact Laura Stokes [laura.m.stokes@gmail.com](mailto:laura.m.stokes@gmail.com)

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## WATERTOWN COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NEWS

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May 15

### Save the date for Watertown's 1st annual "Donation & Recycling Event"

80 Mt Auburn Street  
St John's Methodist Church  
1:00 to 5:00

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We are able to accept the following items:

- ☑ sheets, towels, blankets and used cat carriers for the Cat Connection in Waltham
- ☑ books, records, CDs, DVDs & VHS (no magazines or encyclopedias)
- ☑ ink cartridges--proceeds benefit WCES
- ☑ prescription and nonprescription eyeglasses for the Belmont Lion's Club
- ☑ electronics: only cell phones, MP3 players, PDAs and digital cameras
- ☑ clothing and small appliances for Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ☑ Used athletic shoes to be recycled by Nike--NO CLEATS
- ☑ building materials, see <http://www.bostonbmrc.org/bostonbmrc/donate.html> for details

Don't miss our composting demonstration as well as displays by Watertown Recycling Committee and Chemical Use Reduction Education (CURE).

You might win a reusable stainless steel water bottle, a recycling bin, a compost bin or a rain barrel for your garden!

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This event is brought to you by WCES



Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety  
*Watertown's Voice for Peace, the Environment, and Social Justice*



May 15

### Save the date for Watertown's 1st annual "Paper Shredding Event"

80 Mt Auburn Street  
St John's Methodist Church  
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

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Watertown residents:

Do you have papers & documents that you don't want to recycle because they contain personal information?

Then attend our **free** paper shredding event and watch your documents shredded on-site, right before your eyes. Services provided by ProShred

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This event is brought to you by WCES



Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety  
*Watertown's Voice for Peace, the Environment, and Social Justice*