

Lowell Lowdown

OCTOBER 2010

James Russell Lowell School is a
community of learners.

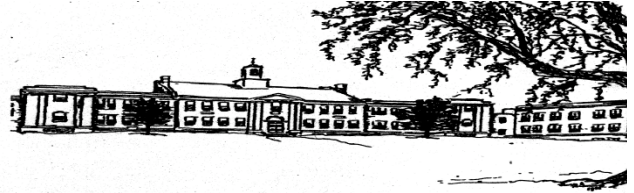
As a caring and responsible community:

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

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

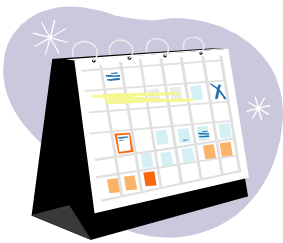
We **dare** to try our best, be creative and explore new ideas.

We care, share, and dare.



LOWELL SCHOOL WEBSITE:

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



OCTOBER

- ◆ Oct 6 Wednesday Early Release PD Day 12:15 pm
- ◆ Oct 11 Monday Holiday - Columbus Day No School
- ◆ Oct 12 Tuesday PTO Meeting 2:45 pm and 7:00 pm
- ◆ Oct 14 Thursday Picture Day for All
- ◆ Oct 15 Friday Assessment Review / Coffee 8:20am
- ◆ Oct 19 Tuesday School Site Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- ◆ Oct 23 Saturday Donahue's Family Night fundraiser 3pm - 7pm
- ◆ Oct 29 Friday Spirit Day - Bring in Fall leaves to display
Bring in beautiful leaves or make your own to be displayed

UPCOMING Dates to Remember!

- ◆ Nov 1 Monday Friendly's Family Night fundraiser Watertown/Arsenal St
- ◆ Nov 2 Tuesday Full Professional Development Day No School Students
Voting Day - Bake Sale School Gymnasium
- ◆ Nov 5 Friday Jenny Boston fundraising event Belmont Store
- ◆ Nov 9th & 18th Evening Parent Conferences 6:30 pm
- ◆ Nov 10th & 17th Early Release-Parent Conferences 12:15 pm
- ◆ Nov 11 Monday Holiday - Veteran's Day No School
- ◆ Nov 16 Tuesday School Site Council 6:15 pm
- ◆ Nov 16 Tuesday PTO Meeting 2:45 pm and 7:00 pm
- ◆ Nov 24 Wednesday Early Release-No Lunch 12:00 pm
- ◆ Nov 24th & 25th Thanksgiving Holidays No School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Important Information from Watertown Police Traffic Division

Sgt. Deignan has advised me that the vehicle operation behaviors at pick up and dismissal time are inappropriate and unsafe. The WPD will begin monitoring traffic at those times and citing operators for violations. There is no stopping, parking, etc. on Orchard Street. Please park your vehicle appropriately on a side street. In addition, do not wave a student to cross the street at any point other than a designated cross-walk!

Our New Social Curriculum Debuts

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a nationally recognized, research-based K–6 program that builds classroom and schoolwide community.

It focuses on strengthening students' connectedness to school—an important element for increasing academic motivation and achievement and for reducing drug use, violence, and delinquency. The U.S. Department of Education has recently highlighted the Caring School Community program's research base and effectiveness. More information to come!

Darilyn Donovan, Principal

Assessment Coffee/Discussion

Join us on Friday October 15th at 8:20am at the school to have coffee and learn about the MCAS scores and assessments. This is for anyone who has a child in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade.

OCTOBER SPIRIT DAY Friday Oct 29th

On Friday, October 29th, drop off one of the following to be displayed on the walls and windows at the entrance of the school:

- Real leaves with beautiful colors that you see while on the way to school
- A picture of a leaf or leaves that you colored, drew or created

Help us celebrate the fall season!



FROM GUIDANCE:

I hope you have had a smooth transition back to school! If you have not already, please check out the new Lowell Guidance Blog:

<http://lowellguidance.blogspot.com/>

I will be sharing resources and (hopefully) useful information there.

Caring School Community (CSC): This is very exciting! In my eight years here, I have always hoped for a school wide social-emotional program beyond the guidance curriculum. Thanks to the Watertown Education Foundation, the Watertown Community Foundation and the Miller-Tracy Foundation, all three elementary schools are now implementing the first phase of CSC 😊.

Student Interns: We are very fortunate to have a few graduate students doing their practicum and internship with us this year! From the Academy of Physical and Social Development we have Ms. Megan who is a student at Boston University (Go Terriers!) and Ms. Renee who is a student at Boston College. We also have Ms. Yifan Zhou who is a student at Harvard. They will be active in our lunch groups and guidance lessons; therefore, you may hear their names mentioned quite frequently.

Lunch Groups: Speaking of lunch groups, following our tradition we have started inviting our new students in to our "Welcome Lunch Groups." We have also been inviting different boys and girls in to catch up and talk about this school year. If your child has been invited to a lunch group, (s)he will have an "I had a Friendly Lunch Group" slip in his/her lunchbox (or pocket). If your child is in an on-going lunch group, we will send home a permission slip.

Building Bully Free Schools: We are kicking off our guidance lessons in will continue to work on defining bullying, effective ways of reducing school, and the importance of activating bystanders. Ms. Sudbay and I together with the 3rd graders in computer classes; and Ms. Steim and I teaching the 4th and 5th graders in library classes.



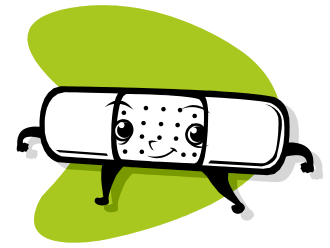
Grades 3-5. We bullying in our are working are co-

MCAS: Lastly, for your planning purposes, this year's Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) windows for Grades 3, 4, and 5 are as follows. Please put them on your calendars to avoid scheduling conflicts.

- ♦ March 22nd, 2011 - April 4th, 2011
- ♦ May 10th, 2011 - May 24th, 2011

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

Ms. Knight



FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

HEADLICE

Headlice are contagious little wingless bugs that can be a nuisance. Headlice do not fly or jump, but they are quite adept at getting from one head to another by crawling from head to head. Teach your child not to share clothing, hats or combs. Parents should regularly inspect their child's hair for headlice. A weekly inspection should be included as part of your regular hygiene routine.

Listed below are some great websites that can help educate parents and kids about headlice. www.Headlice.org is a good website for parents and kids and gives facts about headlice and scabies. www.Kidshealth.org is not only about headlice, but kid's health in general. It includes a parent section, a kid section and a teen section.

There are many treatments on the market, but before using any treatment, please contact your doctor. As always, please visit my office with any problems or questions.

Thank you,
Mrs. Taverna

LOWELL

CLASSROOM

HAPPENINGS!



Mrs. Tarr's Pre-K/K Classroom: We recently lost a classroom pet, our fish Sprinkles, at the end of September, so we have decided to create 3D fish to hang in a classroom ocean scene. We plan to add other 3D ocean creatures, such as jellies and an octopus. Counting the tentacles on the jellies and octopus will link with our counting lessons in Think Math.

We are going to have an Apple Week, during which we will do science and reading about apples, math, art and cooking with apples. This will be followed by a Pumpkin Week, during which we will again integrate science, language, math and cooking.

On October 29th, Pre-K/K parents are invited to a Halloween Breakfast. The children will come to school in their costumes and parade around the school with all the Kindergarten children.

I have a request for all families and faculty at the Lowell: Could you save empty mini-candy boxes from Trick or Treating, for Pre-K/K art and math projects? Thank you so much! Lynne Tarr

Physical Education News



Physical Education News:

In Physical Education class, students worked on classroom procedures, rules, responsibilities, and expectations. Cooperative games were played where children learned to work together safely. In the K-2 classes, low organizational games were played, as well as exploring different forms of movement.

In the 3-5 classes, the students worked together to complete adventure challenges and discovering what it takes to make the whole group successful. In addition, football and soccer units were started. Also, grade 3-5 students will be conducting fitness tests to determine their level of fitness compared to national averages.

A special introduction: Ms. Loguidice is the new Lowell Physical Education teacher. Ms. Loguidice is looking forward to teaching students the benefits of exercise. Along with teaching Physical Education class, Ms. Loguidice will assist Ms. Donahue with the Lowell Before School Activity Programs and the Lowell After School Sports Program.



Welcome Ms. Loguidice!



Before School Fitness Activities **7:45-8:15 a.m.**

Students in Grades 3-5 meet before school to get physically fit and have fun!

- **Monday** **Grade 4** **Open Gym**
- **Tuesday** **Grade 3** **Open Gym**
- **Wednesday** **Grades 3-5** **Jump Rope Team**
- **Thursday** **Grades 3-5** **Fitness Workouts**
- **Friday** **Grade 5** **Open Gym**

Stay healthy and happy,
Eileen Donahue
Lowell Physical Education Teacher



Lowell Elementary After School Programs

"A Safe and Enriching stop between school and home"

IT ALL HAPPENS FROM 2:30-6:00! DESIGNED FOR ALL STUDENTS NEEDING BEFORE SCHOOL CARE, AFTER SCHOOL CARE, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, ENRICHMENTS, SPORTS AND RECREATION.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE: 7:15-8:10 MON-FRI: TUITION BASED

AFTER SCHOOL CARE: 2:30-6:00 MON-FRI: TUITION BASED

12:15-6:00 EARLY RELEASE DATES

BOB GALANTE AND LAUREEN RAFTES

OFFICE HOURS ARE: MONDAY – FRIDAY, 9:00am - 12:00noon

PHONE: 617-926-7779 / 617-926-1157

FOR MORE INFORMATION: http://watertown.k12.ma.us/Lowell/documents/LEAPregistration_000.pdf

PTO Announcements

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.

If you have any questions about or for the PTO, 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:

<http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownLowellElementary/ParentPortal/apt4.aspx>

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts! The PTO has Watertown t-shirts and sweatshirts available for sale - order forms are available outside the main office!

Family Dues! Just drop your dues in the PTO mailbox or give to any board member.

Volunteers: If you are interested in helping out - in any way - at upcoming PTO sponsored events or committees, you can contact us by:

- Speaking with any of the PTO Board members ;
- Drop a note in the PTO Mail Box outside the front office;
- Send an email to PTO President Linda Tracy (tracy92@rcn.com)

Election Day Bakesale. Nov 2nd.

If you are interested in baking something, you can drop off your baked goods on Monday Nov 1st during school drop off or pick up.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



REMINDER: The winners of the Summer Collection Contest will be announced at the October 12th PTO meeting!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Parents: If you love Box Tops - join our team! Contact Laura Stokes laura.m.stokes@gmail.com

CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION

The Lowell Elementary School is collecting Campbell's Labels For Education (LFE) this year. Don't throw away any of the LFE's from participating products: Campbell's soups, Franco-American, V-8 products, Pepperidge Farms, Prego Sauces, etc.

For a list of participating products, use this link:

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/participating-products.aspx>



Current promotion: For every LFE point that we submit, now through 12/31/2010, we earn a matching LFE point! (up to 1000 additional points can be earned)

Want to help? Contact LFE Coordinator: Angela Horrigan (ahorrigan@gmail.com)

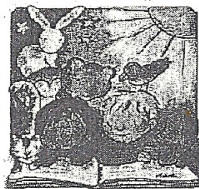
HAPPENINGS AT THE WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Parent reading event on Friday October 29th 9:30am to 10:30am

The Watertown Public Schools present...

Building Lifelong Reading Habits with Your Child

Friday, October 29 ~ 9:30 – 10:30
Watertown Public Library (123 Main Street)
Watertown Savings Bank Room



The presentation and discussion will include answers to the following questions:

- *What is the difference between independent reading and instructional level reading?*
- *How do I know when a text is too hard or too easy for my child?*
- *Is it important for children to develop "tastes" as readers?*
- *How do good reading habits develop?*

In addition, a tour of the Children's Room (Watertown Public Library) with a focus on genre will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Mena Ciarlone, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator: mciarlone@watertown.k12.ma.us

Dog Reading Partners Program at the Public Library:

Starting in October, the Watertown Public Library is kicking off a *Dog Reading Partners* program where children can sign up to read to therapy dogs. It is specifically intended for children that struggle with reading as it creates a nurturing and low pressure environment, but any child who can read independently is welcome to participate. Below is a link to an article by Caitlin Browne, one of the Watertown Children's Librarians, about the Dog Reading Partners program:

<http://watertownchildrensdepartment.blogspot.com/2010/09/read-to-dogs.html>

At the moment, the public library is only doing this once a month for two hours, which limits it to six children. But if they get a lot of interest, they can increase the number of sessions since they have had a lot of dog teams inquire. If you are interested in knowing where the library gets the volunteers from, this is the link: <http://www.therapydog.info/>. For further information on the program, contact Caitlin Browne directly at cbrowne@watertown-ma.gov.

Site Council News

Everyone, we have added a couple of new members to the Site Council for AY2010-11. The members are:

Dari Donovan, Principal and Co-Chair
David Stokes, Parent Representative and Co-Chair
Nicole Brown, Faculty/Staff Representative
Lisa Cavarretta, Faculty/Staff Representative
Michelle Gaseau, Parent Representative
Jean Qualters, Faculty/Staff Representative
Elisa Stevenson, Parent Representative
Stacey Vachon, Faculty/Staff Representative
Stephanie Venizelos, Parent Representative

Space is still available for one more Parent Representative. Please talk to David Stokes <david.m.stokes@gmail.com> for more details. We'd love to have your ideas and input!

The next Site Council meeting will be Tuesday, 19 October 2010 @ 7:00 PM in the Teachers Lounge. Hope to see you all there!

**BJ's has a special
Membership offer just for
J.R. Lowell Elementary**

4 Great Reasons to Join or Renew*

- 1. Get \$10 off our \$45** Annual Membership Fee**
- 2. FREE Additional 3 Months of Membership**
- 3. FREE Second Membership Card for a household member**
- 4. PLUS, BJ's will donate \$5 of your Membership fee to
J.R. Lowell Elementary School!**

**It doesn't matter when you last renewed, we will add 15 months to your current expiration date.
This special offer is **not** valid online or at any BJ's Club location.*

**Please return your completed applications to:
J.R. Lowell Elementary School, Front Office
175 Orchard St. Watertown Ma 02472**

Date : Between now and Oct 15th

*** Existing members can extend their current membership out 15
months from their expiration date for \$35.00**

No cash accepted. Please make checks payable to: **BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.**

**Plus state tax where applicable. All applications are sent to our Home Office, processing takes approximately 3 to 4 weeks
