

Lowell Lowdown

December, 2009

James Russell Lowell School is a community of learners.

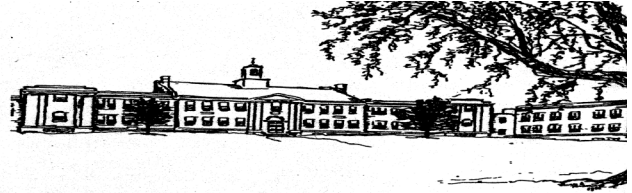
As a caring and responsible community:

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.



LOWELL SCHOOL WEBSITE:

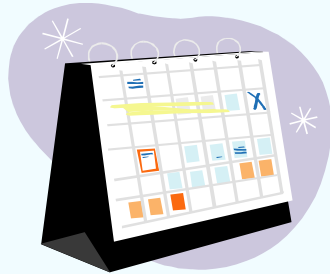
<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/lowell/index.html>

From the Principal's desk

As is true in many schools, the Lowell is experiencing some inappropriate behavior in the common student bathrooms. It is always a challenge because it is the one space that students experience the least adult supervision. Some behaviors are unhealthy, some are unsafe, and some are concerning because they result in a loss of time on learning.

We would very much like to reduce or eliminate all of the inappropriate behaviors. In the upcoming weeks, a number of strategies will be explored and implemented in an effort see what works. Some of the strategies under consideration are, sign out systems that limit the number of children out of class, monitoring by adults at assigned intervals, setting up class schedules for bathroom usage, propping the main door of common bathrooms open to hallway (not effecting privacy of course), etc.

It would also be great if you could talk with your child about using the common bathrooms and encourage the students to refrain from inappropriate behaviors.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dec 15th-18th - Book Fair Dates
 - Tues 12/15 2:30-3:30
 - Wed 12/16 6-8 pm
 - Thur 12/17 7:15-8:15 am
 - Fri 12/18 2:30-3:30 & 6-8pm
- ◆ Dec 18th - Winter Spirit Day
- ◆ Dec 18th - Winter Wonderland event
- ◆ Dec 24th-Jan 1st - Holiday Break
- ◆ Jan 4th - Return to School
- ◆ Jan 5th - 2:30pm Providence Bruins Mascot at school
- ◆ Jan 12th - 7pm PTO Meeting
- ◆ Jan 24th - Lowell School Night at the Providence Bruins
- ◆ Jan 26th - 7pm Site Council Meeting
- ◆ Week of Jan 11th - Box Tops Collection Contest begins
- ◆

Winter Weather Recess

Our daily routine at the James Russell Lowell School includes outdoor recess. Generations of schoolchildren have counted the minutes in anticipation of the short block of free time to play. New research shows that this unstructured playtime with sunshine and fresh air improves overall school performance. It also stimulates brain activity.

Outdoor air in the winter is more humid and much fresher than indoor air, which tends to be more drying to mucous membranes increasing nosebleeds, chapped lip, impetigo and upper respiratory infections. Being active everyday will help make child less vulnerable to illnesses in cold weather.

Children are so excited to go outside when the snow is whirling. To ensure that children have a safe, and fun winter recess be sure to send your child to school with a winter jacket, a warm hat, warm gloves or mittens, boots, and snow pants. Please keep an extra change of clothes in your child's backpack, especially dry socks.

Your child's health is an important part of the educational process. All children need daily exercise and fresh air to remain healthy and alert. Temperatures will be monitored from local news stations for unsafe weather conditions. Winter is not a reason to stay inside



One of the best things about being a Guidance Counselor is that I get to welcome our new families! So far this year, 34 new students have joined the Lowell. We have been busy getting to know them and help them settle in. Please join us in welcoming our new families and making them feel at home in our community!

We spent the months of September and October organizing for instruction by assessing and reviewing learning data. One of the new tools we have added is the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress. We are all learning how to use multiple sources of data effectively to guide our teaching. This has been very exciting!

In November, the fifth graders, Ms. Phipps, and I learned about Conflict Resolution. We focused on the importance of looking at other people's perspective and practiced some reflective listening. At the end of the unit, we thought that just about any of our fifth graders would be able to serve as a mediator in a pinch. Since we no longer have the Peer Mediators program, we took the opportunity to teach EVERY ONE the basic skills. Please feel free to visit the Lowell Guidance website for more information.

In December, Ms. Sudbay and I are co-teaching our 3rd graders the unit on (not) Bullying. We will be integrating technology and working together in the computer lab. Also in December, Ms. Garabedian and I are co-teaching in the library. We are working with Kindergarteners, first, and second graders on naming feelings and problem solving using the Second Step® Curriculum.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership in cultivating good citizens and life-long learners ☺ Please feel free to call or email me with any requests, questions or concerns about the lessons, lunch-groups, etc. Wishing you and your family a meaningful holiday season~

Ms. Knight

Kindergarten Information Night



Thursday, January 28, 2010

(Snow date 2/4/10)

Parents/Guardians of children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2010 are invited to attend the Kindergarten Information Night.

(To enter kindergarten, your child must turn five on or before September 7, 2010.)

Kindergarten information sessions will be held at each elementary school. Parents should attend the session held at their neighborhood school. If you do not know your neighborhood school, please call 617-926-7765.

Times

Cunniff School: 6:30-7:30pm
Hosmer School: 6:30-7:30pm
Lowell School: 6:30-7:30pm

This meeting will provide the opportunity to:

- learn about early education in Watertown
- have questions answered about kindergarten
- learn about the registration process
- pick up registration packets*

Prekindergarten information and applications will also be provided at this meeting.

*Completed kindergarten packets should be returned to your neighborhood school at registration during the week of March 1st.

THE LOWELL LOWDOWN BULLETIN BOARD



Mrs. Fucci's class and her student teacher, Ms. Arnold, are performing the Gingerbread Man play in the library on Tuesday the 22nd at 9:00am.

Calling all Volunteers!

There are many areas of the school that needs volunteers: the library and help getting materials photocopied for classrooms are just two of many ways you can help at the school. Contact the PTO if you are interested in volunteering!



Save those BOX TOPS for the Winter Collection Contest – coming in Jan/Feb 2010.

On Saturday, January 9th at 11am at Robbins Library in Arlington, LEX America (a non-profit organization based in Cambridge) will host a lecture by Dr. Suzanne Flynn, MIT Professor of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, entitled "Raising Multilingual Children."

The event is free and open to the public, and babysitting will be provided in the library's Children's Room for the first 15 children (age 3+) registered. Registration for the lecture (and for babysitting) should be done by e-mail to info@lexlrf.org or by phone at 617-354-1140.

PTO Announcements

PTO Website! The web address is: www.watertownlowellpto.com.

You can also contact the PTO using this email address: watertownlowellpto@gmail.com

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!

Book Fair: Raise money for the school and encourage your children to read by participating in our upcoming Book Fair by Bookends, on December 15th through December 21st – see the PTO website or Angela Horrigan angela.horrigan@libertymutual.com for details and ways you can help.

Providence Bruins event on Jan 24th @ 4:05pm: To purchase your tickets, fill out the order form below and return it to the Lowell PTO with cash or a check payable to the Lowell PTO by January 12. For more information, please contact Lars Fossel at lfossel@comcast.net. You can find details on the PTO web site.









WINTER SPIRIT DAY



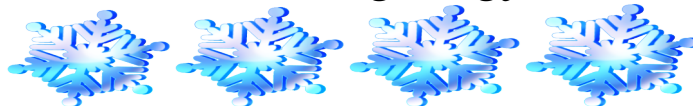
Friday December 18, 2009

Please help us decorate our gym for the Winter Wonderland Event!

We invite everyone, students, teachers, & staff to...

-  Make one homemade snowflake – any size.
-  Put your name and grade on the snowflake.
-  Please follow the color scheme of the Winter Wonderland: grey, silver and/or white.
-  Drop off snowflakes at school entrances, as you enter school.
-  Look for your homemade snowflake later that night during the Winter Wonderland Event!
-  Paper is available outside the main office if needed.

*We are looking forward to seeing all the beautiful snowflakes
decorating our gym!!*



Thank you for your support
Lowell School PTO



Winter Wonderland



**DECEMBER 18TH @ 6:30-8:00PM
LOWELL SCHOOL GYM & CAFETERIA**

DJ, dancing, games and interactive fun for all ages!

Pizza & Water for sale

**Free Admission – all Lowell School families and staff are
welcome to attend!**

Student created Snowflakes will be on display

**SPONSORED BY LOWELL SCHOOL PTO
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DECORATE THE GYM, SET UP
CAFETERIA, SELL PIZZA AND DRINKS, KEEP AN EYE ON
DANCERS, KEEP FOOD OUT OF THE GYM, RUN GAMES AND
HAND OUT PRIZES, CLEAN UP GYM AND CAFETERIA. PLEASE
CONTACT PTO AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS:
WATERTOWNLOWELLPTO@GMAIL.COM**