

Lowell Lowdown

MARCH 2010

**James Russell Lowell School is a
community of learners.**

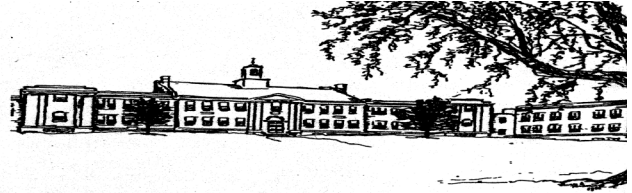
As a caring and responsible community:

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

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

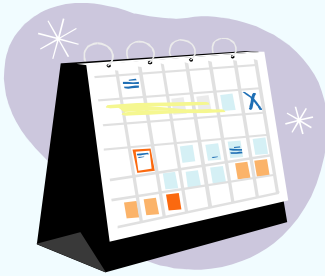
We **dare** to try our best, be creative and explore new ideas.

We care, share, and dare.



LOWELL SCHOOL WEBSITE:

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



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **March 15th** - Public Budget meeting 7pm
Central Office Building, room 101
- ◆ **March 17th** - ½ Day for Afternoon
Parent/Teacher conferences
- ◆ **March 18th** - Evening Parent/Teacher
conferences
- ◆ **March 23rd** - Evening Parent/Teacher
conferences
- ◆ **March 24th** - ½ Day for Afternoon
Parent/Teacher conferences
- ◆ **March 24th** - Ice Skating Party at John
Ryan Rink (1pm-3:30pm)
- ◆ **March 25th** - The Original Boston Coffee
Cake Fundraiser STARTS
- ◆ **April 2nd** - No School
- ◆ **April 5th** - Coffee Cake Fundraiser ENDS
- ◆ **April 11th** - Assembly - Science Show
Theme (Michael Bent)
- ◆ **April 19th-23rd** - Spring Vacation Week
- ◆ **May 4th** - South Africa Assembly

Arsenal ARTS presents

Play in the Black Box, a new intimate showcase of a diverse line-up of “see them now” musicians from around New England; music in the series will range from acoustic to pop, rock to reggae, blues and jazz. According to the Arsenal Center for the Arts’ Executive Director, Sharon Glennon, “we are excited that the first four evenings will feature sounds from Berklee College of Music’s very talented “rising stars” and we hope that any interested young musicians contact arsenalARTS (info@arsenalarts.org) about future dates.”

The Arsenal Center for the Arts is located at 321 Arsenal St. in Watertown.

WED, MARCH 17 at 6:30PM – MIDDEN JONES

WED, MARCH 24 at 6:30PM – TUBBY LOVE

Performances start at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12, or \$8 for Arsenal members and students with valid ID. For tickets or more information, call 617-923-8487 or visit <http://www.arsenalarts.org>. Free parking is available and the venue is handicapped accessible.

Here is direct link to Arsenal Arts Play In the Black Box URL.

http://www.arsenalarts.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=23&Itemid=4

Site Council Announcement

During the parent/teacher conferences over the next two weeks, please stop by one of the tables at the entrances to fill out a survey.

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE



PTO Parents Event Committee is hosting a series of discussion groups.

In response to recent events in the news around bullying, we are moving "Friendship/Popularity/Bullying to this Friday 3/12/2010 8:20-9:00 AM in Room 116.

- Friday 3/12 - Friendships/Popularity/Bullying
- Friday 4/16 - Response to Intervention
- Friday 6/14 - Media Impact



At the Lowell School, we have been addressing the issue of bullying through our guidance lessons for many years. We begin the conversation with

respecting diversity and building positive friendships in the lower grades. In the upper grades, we focus more directly on defining bullying, the role of bystanders, and the power of kindness. We have small groups and one-on-one discussions about how to avoid being bullied and how to respond to bullying.

Our operational definition for bullying is: "A student is being bullied when someone makes him or her feel hurt or afraid, on purpose, again and again. We define when someone has crossed the line from teasing to bullying. Students practice using the word "STOP" and learn to respect the word "STOP." In addition, we have procedures for investigating bullying allegations and an escalating consequence rubric.

Bullying is a pressing and complex issue, especially with our children's increase access to various kinds of technology. Please join us in this first of many conversations on this important topic this Friday, March 12th. We will also be scheduling an evening session. Stay tuned for the date and time!



MCAS English Language Arts (ELA) Testing

The third, fourth, and fifth grade students at the Lowell School will be participating in the state-wide MCAS English Language Arts assessments on the following dates. **We will be starting promptly at 8:30 AM.**

Tuesday	03/23/2010	Gr. 4 Long Comp
Thursday	03/25/2010	Gr. 4 Reading Session 1
Friday	03/26/2010	Gr. 3 Reading Session 1
Wednesday	03/31/2010	Gr. 3 Reading Session 2
Thursday	04/01/2010	Gr. 4 Reading Session 2
Tuesday	04/06/2010	Gr. 5 Reading Session 1
Wednesday	04/07/2010	Gr. 4 Long Comp makeup
Thursday	04/08/2010	Gr. 5 Reading Session 2

Below are some suggestions to help you support your child(ren) through the testing process.

- Make sure your child has a good night's sleep
- Make sure (s)he eats a good breakfast each morning
- Send in a healthy and nutritious snack and drink
- Remind your child of your confidence in him/her
- Explain that this is an opportunity in which (s)he can show what (s)he already knows
- **Help them to get to school on time**

We will remind them of the different strategies in test taking and reaffirm the message that they just need to do their best work as always. The Mathematics and Science/Technology/ Engineering portions of the MCAS will take place between May 10th and May 27th, 2010. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!

THE LOWELL LOWDOWN CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS!

Art Room News

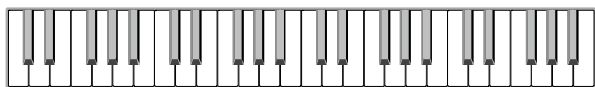
The annual Watertown Art Show will run from April 10-April 26, 2010 at the Watertown Mall. The theme this "Famous Artists" elementary host the center Opening will be Monday, from 6-8 pm. receive a letter exhibiting work. This is an all school event and everyone is invited to view works from grades K through 12. Mark your calendar and come enjoy an evening to support the arts. Hope to see you there!!



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Anna Lochiatto

Music Room News



It's been a busy couple of months in music class. At the end of February, we wrapped up Black History Month where students learned music from four different African-American genres: spirituals, blues, jazz, and rock. Our instrumentalists have been practicing for the annual Bandarama show on March 9th and the spring show in June. Our chorus, 4th grade, and 5th grade have been learning a series of traditional and popular songs from South Africa which is not only challenging them musically, but linguistically. The South African National Anthem is in 5 languages! Finally, we're continuing work in basic piano skills. Please check out Mr. Spano's website as much of this material is reinforced there. Anthony Spano <http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownLowellElementary/spano/ap9.aspx>



1ST Grade Scientist of the Day Program

Science is the theme of our first grade classroom this month. Science experiments were modeled by Mrs. Fucci, Mr. Stockless and even Mrs. Taverna!

Each child was given the opportunity to choose a Science Experiment from the classroom collection or find one on their own books or with the internet parents. During the month of March each student will have the chance to demonstrate that experiment to the class.



Look for more information and pictures on our website. Mrs. Fucci <http://TeacherWeb.com/MA/WatertownLowellElementary/Fucci>

Upcoming 5th Grade Activities

5th Grade Boys Night

Date: Thursday March 18, 2010

Topic: Puberty and Our Changing Bodies

Where: Lowell School Library

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

with Dr. Dan Slater, Harvard Vanguard and Kathy Taverna, R.N.

Child must be accompanied by an Adult.



5th Grade Girls Night

Date: Tuesday March 30, 2010

Topic: Puberty and Our Changing Bodies

Where: Lowell School Library

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

with Dr. Lisa Thayer, Harvard Vanguard and Kathy Taverna, R.N.

Child must be accompanied by an Adult.



KIC Musical

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 Friday, May 21st at the Watertown Middle School! Be ready for some cameo appearances by some of your Lowell School teachers! FREE ADMISSION

Trivia Night to Benefit the Watertown Education Foundation

Do you like Trivia? Then do we have the event for you! The Ed Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides grants to teachers for aid in their classrooms. Trivia night is scheduled for Thursday March 25th at the Hibernian Hall from 6-9pm. Teams consist of five people/\$125 team. Teams and additional sponsors are needed. If you are interested, please contact Linda Tracy at tracy92@rc.com

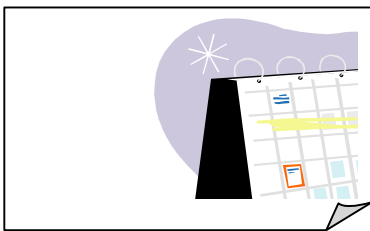
Kids Read to Kids at Starbucks

On the first Monday of every month, from 4-5pm, parents and children (preschoolers and younger elementary children) are invited for story reading and free snacks/drinks at the Starbucks located at 75 Mt. Auburn Street.

Welcome to Vocabulary

"How can sophisticated words become part of children's "mental dictionaries?" Since young children's oral competence develops in advance of their literacy competence-they can think and talk about much more sophisticated ideas than they are able to read on their own. We can take advantage of their listening and speaking abilities to enhance their vocabulary development."

~ Isabel L. Beck, Ph. D. & Margaret G. McKeown, Ph. D.



Vocabulary word - **expression**

Your expression is the look on your face that shows what you are feeling.

Have your child model different expressions for you. Talk about the feelings that each expression shows.

Try this at home...



Vocabulary word - **shelter**

To shelter something is to keep it from getting hurt by the sun or the weather.

Have your child identify things that could be used to shelter a person or animal.

PTO Announcements

The Original Boston Coffee Cake Fundraiser March 25th-April 5th: Coffee Cake sales will run between March 25th-April 5th with an expected delivery date of May 5th. They are delicious and freeze great! Purchase to have for a coffee, luncheon, brunch, after school snack, birthday's, Mother's Day, Happy Spring!.....OK you get the idea. They are yummy.....just make your own frosting for the chocolate coffee cake and what a fabulous dessert to serve!!! Look for the brochure to come home soon.

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!

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.

OPEN SKATE-Break the Ice

Sponsored by the PTOs of the Cunniff, Hosmer & Lowell schools along with the John A. Ryan Rink (JAR), 1 Paramount Place, Watertown



WHEN: Wednesday March 24, 1:00-3:30

WHERE: John A Ryan Rink, Watertown

WHO: Families of the Cunniff, Hosmer & Lowell schools

Admission: \$5 per skater child/adult - includes skate rental
(*cash/check only please*)

Attention 5th Graders! This is a great opportunity to *Break the Ice* and make a few new friends before heading to Middle School.

Important: To ensure safety, helmets are ***strongly*** recommended (bike helmet is OK). Children must be accompanied by an adult; supervision is required. No sticks/pucks. Skating instruction will not be provided.

[PTO sponsored Raffle and Refreshments will be available for sale.](#)

Box Tops Collection Event Winter 2010 W I N N E R!



CONGRATULATIONS MS. MCCORMICK'S 3RD GRADE CLASS!

Thank you to everyone for an incredible collection contest this year! Thanks to you, we have exceeded our goal of \$700. In fact, the PTO/School will receive a check in April for over \$800. **Wow!**

We will post a picture of the winning classroom and their names in the April Lowell Lowdown, as well as the PTO Bulletin Board located in the lobby. Here is a list of those classrooms that collected over two hundred individual box tops. A full list will be posted on the PTO Bulletin Board.

Don't stop collecting those Box Tops! Keep reading the Lowell Lowdown for future contests!
Laura Stokes, Lowell School Box Tops Coordinator

Box Tops site: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx>

Place	TEACHER	GRADE	QUANTITY	DOLLAR AMOUNT
1	Ms. McCormick	3 rd	296	\$ 29.60
2	Mrs. Buonomo	2 nd	290	\$ 29.00
3	Ms. Dalton	1 st	282	\$ 28.20
4	Ms. Hudon	K	279	\$ 27.90
5	Mrs. Kherlopian	3 rd	227	\$ 22.70

Heart Spirit Day - February 2010

What a fantastic collection of hearts! The amazing and beautiful hearts made by children of the Lowell School were on display during the day in the hallway leading into the cafeteria.

Some special numbers for everyone from the month of February:

Collection for Red Cross for Haiti Relief: \$777

Heart Day donation for American Heart Association: \$248

Jump-A-Thon (Ms. Donahue): _____

Thank you to everyone for their generosity in helping to support others in need.
