



LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

BURBANK BULLETIN

October 3, 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that autumn is upon us. Did we really turn the page of the calendar to October? The leaves have started to change, and the cool, crisp mornings are a brisk reminder to remember those sweatshirts and jackets as we race off to school. Nothing like fall in New England to bring about our inner hardiness!

This week, you will be receiving your child's 2016 MCAS Parent/Guardian report. As you are aware, the MCAS assessment is designed to measure student performance based on the Massachusetts curriculum standards and to report the performance of individual students, schools, and districts. It is important to remember that MCAS is only one measure of student performance. As a school and as a district, we recognize the critical role that MCAS assessment data plays in informing our progress towards continual academic growth for all learners. We also recognize that MCAS is a singular means of assessment which serves as a complement to our broader school and district assessment system, one that includes multiple measures of formal and informal assessments such as classroom work and performance and teacher feedback.

On Monday, September 26, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released accountability status to the public. This year, Luther Burbank Middle School earned an accountability rating of Level 2, the same designation awarded to the Nashoba Regional School District. This achievement rating recognizes the continued efforts of staff and students to narrow achievement gap goals. However, the designation also reflects the continued need for us to narrow the achievement gap for all learners. In 2011, the state set ambitious 6-year proficiency goals for all learners and subgroups of learners. With the 6-year target upon us this spring, we continue to work to ensure that all of our students are making continual growth to attain 100% proficiency. While we have not yet hit our target, we continue to make progress towards this goal. And, we are very proud of our progress.

A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Our school percentile is 89. This means that our school is performing higher than 88 percent of the middle schools in the state. In 2015, our school percentile was 86. In the past 6 years, our proficiency rates have grown in each assessed content area: math, English language arts, and science technology. In math, we have seen a 12% increase, in English language arts, a 6% increase, and in science technology, an 11% increase. The number of students achieving in the advanced category for all content areas has also continued to grow. Of most notable performance, 65% of last year's 8th grade students scored Advanced in mathematics and 38% scored Advanced in English language arts. More information about our school's performance can be found on the state's [School and District Profile Page](#).

As a school, we are fully committed to continual growth and achievement for all of our students, and we look forward to working with you in partnership to make our proficiency goals for all students a reality.

Warm Regards,


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Principal

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Judy Ursuliak
Administrative Assistant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Columbus Day

Please be reminded that there will be no school on October 10th in honor of Columbus Day.

PowerSchool Parent Access

After our Open House, an email was sent to all families about PowerSchool Parent Access. Parent Access provides families and students with easy, instant access to real-time student performance. Did you know that PowerSchool is also available as an app? The app is available for download on any iOS or Android device, including Apple Watch. If you do not already have access to PowerSchool Parent Access, and would like to have access, please email Judy Ursuliak, jursuliak@nrsd.net, for assistance.

School Council Election Survey

Please be on the lookout for an LBMS School Council Election Survey on behalf of the Lancaster PTO. The survey will come out in our next Burbank Bulletin. We are fortunate to have interested parents involved in School Council and look forward to a great year with the Council as we move forward.

Our Cross-Country Team is Off to a Fast Start

The cross-country team hosted Gibbons Middle School last Wednesday. The girls were led by Natasha Ramos finishing first in 10:47 for the 1.5 mile course. Hanna Fish came in third with Sydney Machado, Lauren Basteri, and Haley May rounding out the scoring. Gibbons girls won with a score, 24-31. Our boys were led by Ryan May who placed second with a time of 10:10. Andrew Dray finished fourth, Alex Allison finished ninth, and Chase McClintock and Nicolas Cerioni rounded out the scoring. The Gibbons boys won with a score of 22-33. This Wednesday, our cross-country team faces Marlborough at home. Please come cheer on our athletes. The meet begins at 3:30.

For the full schedule, please visit our [school website](#).

Intramurals – Space Available

The LBMS intramural program is open to all students in grades 6-8. It is a supervised after school athletic activity that promotes fair play and physical fitness, free of charge to LBMS students. Space is available for any interested student. All sessions begin at 2:15 and end at 4:00 (with the exception of fitness room which ends at 3:15) at which time all participants must have transportation home. Students may not take the elementary bus at 3:15 due to space restrictions. Any student wishing to take part in any of the activities must submit an Emergency Contact/Parent Consent form which may be downloaded from this [link](#).

We are currently offering CAPTURE THE FLAG on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2:15-4:00) and the FITNESS ROOM on Mondays and Wednesdays (2:15-3:15). FLAG FOOTBALL will start in mid-October. SPEED BALL and BASKETBALL will begin in late October.

Audio-Visual Club

The Luther Burbank Audio-Visual Club is up and running with the first meeting to take place on Tuesday, October 4th. The AV Club will focus on video production, video and photo editing, script writing, and video broadcasting. Interested students should complete a permission slip and see Mr. Newton for more information. The AV Club will meet in the LBMS Computer Lab on Tuesdays, from 2:15-3:10 p.m.

Yearbook Club

The Luther Burbank Yearbook Club had its first meeting last Friday. Students interested in photography, writing, design, and exercising those creative and collaborative muscles are encouraged to join the yearbook team. It's not too late! Interested students should see Mrs. Brennan in the library for more information.

2017 Lancaster PTO Auction – Help Needed

We are looking forward to another successful Lancaster PTO Auction this spring. This event is a highly successful fund-raising event and a great opportunity to come together as a Lancaster community. Our last auction raised nearly \$60,000, and we are looking forward to raising even more funds to support our schools with the 2017 auction event this spring.

We need your help! Parent volunteers are needed to facilitate class projects. We have some ideas already and are excited to get going. Please email Laura Pagington, lpagington@nrsd.net, if you are willing and available to lend a hand. Thank you!

From the Health Office

Letters were sent to the parent/guardian of 7th grade students who are not in compliance with Massachusetts immunization requirements. Please be reminded that Oct 15th is the last day to submit the necessary documentation indicating that your child has received the required immunizations. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Lion's Club Eye mobile will be at LBMS on Thursday, October 20, from 8-10 a.m., screening all 7th grade students for vision and hearing. Mrs. Perkins is looking for three volunteers who could help with writing down the results of the screenings and/or helping with crowd control. It is fun and easy! If you are interested, please email or call Mrs. Perkins at 978-365-5629.

Mrs. Perkins is beginning to collect names of families who are in need of a Thanksgiving Basket. If you feel that your family could use assistance during the upcoming holiday season, please call Mrs. Perkins at the number listed above. All information is confidential.

Last year, we began a new tradition of reaching out to businesses in our community for their help in putting together baskets of the essentials for a Thanksgiving meal. If you know of a business that might be interested in participating this year, please let Mrs. Perkins know. Last year, six local businesses participated in addition to Lancaster Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Nashoba Football. We provided 12 baskets to families in our school community. We are hoping to grow our project with more businesses participating this year.

And, finally, LBMS will be responding to a request from our students to form a GSA, Gay Straight Alliance Club. We are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe and caring environment for all students in which to learn and thrive. The club will be open to all students. Please look for more details to follow.

Picture of the Week



Technology education teacher, Mrs. Sama, teaching our 6th grade students how to use our new Pasco Sensors in the tech-ed lab.