



## LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### BURBANK BULLETIN

May 1, 2017

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that May is upon us, and we have turned the corner headed straight towards the end of the year. Wow. Time certainly has flown.

April was a busy and productive month. I hope that everyone enjoyed family time during the well-deserved vacation week. It was great to see the students upon their return last week and hear about the fun they had during the week off. It was equally great to have our community back together and hear all of the enthusiastic chatter in the hallways. Before vacation, we recognized National Poetry Month. Many of our students participated in the 3rd Annual Seven Bridge Writers' Collaborative poetry contest. Guest judge, Lex Thomas, read upwards of 300 poems submitted for the contest from students in grades 2-12. Taking top honors from Luther Burbank were Owen Donelle (gr. 6), Margot Sonia (gr. 7), and Blake Winsmann (gr. 8). All winning poems are published online at <http://sevenbridgewriters.blogspot.com/>

Upon return from vacation, our students recognized Earth Day with the support of our LBMS Green Team and Lancaster Gardens. Our advisory groups worked on beautifying the landscaping in the front of the building with the planting of annuals. Check them out the next time you are at school! Advisory groups also spent time discussing ways in which our school can take further steps to "go green." We will collate this feedback with the hope of making some of our students' ideas a reality. More to come on this!

Looking ahead, May is scheduled to be a very busy month. Our students will complete this year's state-wide testing with math MCAS and science technology engineering MCAS for our 8th graders. Testing will take place from May 9-19. We thank you in advance for supporting your child with positive encouragement and ensuring your child's timely attendance on his/her testing days. End-of-year events also begin this month. Please refer to this Bulletin for a list of days/times for these events and mark your calendars accordingly.

Finally, please join me in extending appreciation to our dedicated faculty for their hard work and commitment throughout the year as we acknowledge Teacher Appreciation Week at our school this week. Thank you! And, thank you to our Lancaster PTO for their efforts to make this week very special for our staff.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura J. Friend".

Laura Friend  
Principal

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Judy Ursuliak  
Administrative Assistant

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 1, Lancaster Town Meeting, 7:00 PM  
May 1-5, Teacher Appreciation Week!  
May 10, School Nurses Day  
May 17, Capital Experience Mandatory Parent/Guardian/Student Meeting, 6:30 PM  
May 20, Sam Pawlak Memorial Fun Run 5K, 10:00 AM  
May 25, Memorial Day Assembly, Please Note – Date Change – Time TBA  
May 26, Early Release Professional Development, Dismissal at 11:30 AM  
May 26, Gr. 7/8 Band to Great East  
May 29, Memorial Day (no school) & Memorial Day Ceremony/Parade, Town Green, 8:30 AM  
May 30- June 2, Gr. 8 grade DC Trip  
TBA: Meet and Greet – Incoming grade 6  
June 14: Field Day, All School Event  
June 19, Move Up Day, Time TBA  
June 19, Gr. 8 Grade Recognition Night Ceremony & Dance  
June 20, Last day of school (early release)

## **LBMS MCAS Testing Dates**

	<b>MATH</b>	<b>STE</b>
<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>May 9, 11</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>May 10, 12</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>May 16, 17</b>	<b>May 18, 19</b>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Warm Weather and Student Dress Code**

The warm weather has finally arrived! And with the warm weather comes the natural inclination of many of our students to dress in lighter fashion. As this seemed to be the case with last week’s sultry temps, I write to you with a kind request to review with your child our school dress code that can be found in our school [handbook](#) (p.25). Our dress code is not intended to be fashion “backward” but it is intended to maintain a learning environment that is free from distraction and reflective of proper dress for a school setting. As we move forward, any student who is in violation of the decorum set forth in our dress code will be sent to the nurse and a phone call home will be made to solicit alternative clothing. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this matter.

## Sole Hope Project

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have been hard at work in health class with Mrs. Hutton as they engage in a community service learning project to support the Sole Hope Project. The core purpose of Sole Hope is to “put in place preventive methods to combat diseases that enter through the feet, and to create a positive difference in the lives of individuals in impoverished communities.” To this end, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have been extending their global vision by working collaboratively to prepare donations for shoes using cut denim. These donations will eventually be used to make shoes for Ugandan children through [Sole Hope](#). We are very proud of this work!

## Alex Allison Represents Luther Burbank at Central District Jr. Music Festival

On Saturday, Luther Burbank French Hornist, Alex Allison, participated in the Massachusetts Central District Jr. Music Festival. Alex auditioned and was accepted to this elite festival in January. His score earned him a chair as Horn III in the Symphony Orchestra, directed by Dr. Spencer Aston. Since January, Alex has attended three rehearsals, and otherwise independently prepared high level repertoire by composers Georges Bizet and Edvard Grieg. Alex represented himself and Luther Burbank exceptionally, demonstrating exemplary musical finesse and professionalism at rehearsals and in performance. We would like to congratulate Alex on his accomplishment on French Horn. You make Luther Burbank very proud!

## Spring Interscholastic Sports Underway

Our spring sports season has begun! While our first several softball and baseball games have been cancelled due to weather conditions, we are looking forward to a great start to the season this week. Our track and field athletes will also compete this week when they travel to Marlborough on Wednesday. We love fans, so please come check out a game or an event. Click [here](#) to access our athletic calendar.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C. Trip – Mandatory Meeting

There will be a mandatory Washington, D.C. trip meeting for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents/guardians on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the auditorium. Agenda topics will include: trip information, medical forms, expectations, and questions/answers. Students are asked to sit with their family during the meeting.

## 2017-2018 School Calendar

The Nashoba Regional School District School Committee has approved next year’s school calendar. Click [here](#) to access the calendar.

## A Message From Our Nurse, Mrs. Perkins

Helping Your Student Prepare for a Day at School.

What are the things that a middle school student needs to be successful in school? You, no doubt, know the answer - a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Early adolescents require about 9 hours of sleep per night to function at their best. Sleep is important to maintain a healthy body, helping the immune system, and improving energy levels, learning and concentration. A lack of sleep can have a negative effect on emotions, behavior, attention, social relationships and school performance.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day! That fact has not changed since we first learned it in school. That first meal of the day improves brain function, particularly memory and recall. Research shows that students who eat breakfast perform better academically. A healthy breakfast of a combination of protein and carbohydrates is a perfect opportunity to provide your student with energy for the day and carry them through to lunch.

Getting your student to comply with both of these practices may be a challenge, but it's worth the fight to help your child be the best that they can be!

### **PICTURE OF THE WEEK**



Mr. Dillon working with his advisory group to plant pansies near our front walk.