



LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

BURBANK BULLETIN

February 27, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I hope that everyone was able to find a bit of time to rest and recharge during February vacation last week. And, how about that weather?! I'm still scratching my head about those warm temps. The thermometer hit 71° in my car on Saturday. I will not be surprised to see our students in shorts as they get off of the school busses this week. Who can blame them, right? And, to think, the week before I was scouring Amazon Prime in pursuit of warmer mittens. This conundrum is what makes living in New England so unique. Plus, not knowing what weather event is lurking around the corner makes all of us a bit tougher, right? This has to be a good thing - or, at least, that's what I keep telling myself..

In two weeks, we will be springing forward with the start of Daylight Savings Time. Mark your calendars for March 12th. The history behind Daylight Savings has always interested me, especially after having lived in a state that does not observe the time changing phenomenon. Last week, I came across this National Geographic article, ["The Case for and Against Daylight Saving Time."](#) The article is chock full of information tidbits you probably never really cared to know. Needless to say, I found the article interesting, and so I share it with you. Pros and cons aside, the bottom line for me is that more daylight means more sunlight to enjoy at the end of the day and no more travels home in the pitch black!

Welcome Daylight Savings!

Laura J. Friend

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 27 – Pick-A-Time Opens for Spring Conferences, 7:00 PM
February 28 – Screenagers Community Showing (ages 10+), NRHS, 6:30 PM
March 2 - Rising 9th Grade Open House for Nashoba Regional High School, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
March 4 – Nashoba Basketball Play Day
March 9 – Early Release, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon and evening)
March 9 – Museum of Fine Arts Visits 8th Grade, “Art of the Americas: Creating an American Identity”
March 10 – No School, Professional Development
March 15 – Nashoba SEPAC, NRHS, Rm. 216, 7:00 PM
March 16 – LBMS School Council, 3:00 PM
March 17 – Early Release, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon only)
March 24 – Report Cards Issued
March 24 – LBMS Spring Dance, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Mark Your Calendars

March 31- Trimester 2 Honor Roll Breakfast
March 31/April 1 – LBMS Spring Musical, “You Ain’t Nothin’ But a Werewolf,” 6:30 PM, Auditorium
April 3 – Spring MCAS Testing Window Opens
April 13 – LBMS Spring Concert, 6:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Screenagers – Screening Tomorrow, Tuesday, February 28

The Nashoba Regional School District, in partnership with the Lancaster PTO, Bolton PAC and Stow PTO, presents the documentary “Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age”. All Nashoba community members are invited to attend an evening showing at Nashoba Regional High School on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. District middle school students will view the presentation on 3/1 or 3/2 at Luther Burbank Middle School, Florence Sawyer School and Hale Middle School.

Parents and guardians, please feel free to bring your upper elementary through high school-aged children to view the documentary with you. Babysitting services will be provided at Nashoba Regional High School for children aged 3-12. Please pre-register for babysitting at: <http://bit.ly/SAbabysitting>.

Please feel free to contact Donna Linstrom (dlinstrom@nrds.net) with questions. For additional information about Screenagers, and to RSVP for the presentation, visit <http://www.screenagersmovie.com/>. To reserve seats (not a requirement), choose “Find a Showing”, then click the “Reserve tickets” tab after the February 28, 2017 NRHS/Bolton, MA listing.

[Screenagers Parent Guide](#)

Rising 9th Grade Open House for Nashoba Regional High School

The high school will host an information night for rising 9th graders and their parents at the high school on Thursday, March 2nd, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, starting in the high school auditorium. This night will be an opportunity for rising 9th graders and their parents to see the high school, hear about academic programs and extracurricular opportunities, meet department heads, and tour the building. It will also be an opportunity for parents to learn about the high school course registration process.

Student Attendance

With our 100th day of school behind us and trimester 2 coming to a close, we are heading into the final third of the school year. As is the case throughout the year, daily attendance at school is critical to student learning and is especially critical as we turn the corner into spring. The Nashoba Regional School District's [attendance policy](#) articulates the important role of attendance to student success. Excellence comes from participation, engagement, and commitment. The District believes that "consecutive daily attendance is the best way to foster student success and overall excellence. The District is committed to helping students learn that taking part on a continual basis demonstrates commitment to self and others. This commitment further expands the student's ability to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered." Furthermore, attendance in school is required by Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.), specifically Chapter 76, §§ 1, 2, 4, and 19.

For the vast majority of our students, attendance at school is a nonissue. For others, absences are resultant from medical needs. And, yet, for a small minority, absences are an issue that present a challenge to school attendance. Should attendance be an issue that *is* applicable for your family, I ask that you have a conversation with your child about the importance of school attendance in the context of the larger picture and the importance consistent attendance plays on learning.

As a reminder, a parent or guardian may excuse a student's absence through a written note up to seven (7) full days or fourteen (14) half days. After this, the student's absence is only excused if an excusal note is provided on official letterhead for the following reasons: bereavement, family or catastrophic event, observation of a legal holiday, illness, or legal event.

Over the course of the next two weeks, I will be sending home letters to families where student attendance presents an ongoing concern from the administrative lens. Please know that my door is always open and that I am more than happy to meet with you to work together in partnership towards a solution to support your child.

LBMS Yearbook STILL in Need of Your Help!

Our Luther Burbank yearbook crew is in need of some adult help to get us to the finish line. We are looking for a few parents who are comfortable with technology to assist. Technology skills do not need to be super savvy – simply moderate – and work can be completed at home. Please email Laura Friend, lfriend@nrzd.net, if you are willing, interested, and available. We would greatly appreciate your help and support.

Important Calendar Information: Spring State Assessments, MCAS

As we head into this spring's state-wide assessment window, please be reminded that there have been some changes to our state-wide assessment. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) has upgraded MCAS to better measure the critical thinking skills students need for success in the 21st century.

The Next-Generation MCAS test builds upon aspects of prior MCAS assessments. The test includes items developed by PARCC, along with new items specifically created to assess the Massachusetts learning standards.

The Next-Generation MCAS is designed to be taken on a computer. The plan is to phase in computer-based testing so that computer-based tests are fully administered statewide in 2019. This year, our 8th grade students will be taking this year's assessment on the computer using their Chromebooks. Grades 6 and 7 students will be taking the paper-based version of the assessment.

Please click [here](#) for more information about MCAS and test development.

As you plan ahead for the spring, please mark your calendars for the important Luther Burbank MCAS testing dates below. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring your child's attendance during his/her testing dates.

	ELA	MATH	STE
Grade 6	April 4, 12	May 9, 11	N/A
Grade 7	April 3, 5	May 10, 12	N/A
Grade 8	April 6, 7	May 18, 19	May 16, 17

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Sadler facilitating our LBMS Math Team in a fierce strategy game.