



LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

BURBANK BULLETIN

March 13, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I wrote our last Burbank Bulletin gloating about resting and recharging in the nice warm weather we were enjoying. Little did I know what was really lurking around the corner... brutally bitter cold and the possibility of a March nor'-easter. So, as we hunker down and prepare for what weather event lies ahead, I am (literally) closing my eyes and counting down to spring, marking my calendar with bold red X's and all. Yes, 7 days and counting!

On a warmer and more hospitable note, our Lancaster schools were the site of the Nashoba Regional School District's full day of professional development for all district faculty and staff last Friday. Over 400 staff attended the professional development day which was entitled, "A Day of Exploration." This theme emanated from the diverse professional workshops that were offered throughout the day to support our district's commitment to continual professional growth for our educators in a wide variety of areas. Morning workshop offerings addressed topics such as: brain-based teaching, student engagement, social emotional learning, digital learning, multi-media, project-based learning, specialized curriculum resources and differentiated assessment. The afternoon workshops completed the day with educators meeting with their district "job-alike" colleagues to continue work focused on curriculum and instruction.

This type of professional learning day is incredibly powerful. Not only does it result in new knowledge for our educators to take back to their classrooms, it provides us with an opportunity to join together as a district to hone our craft and reaffirm our district mission and purpose to educate each child to his or her fullest potential. To this end, we are deeply grateful for our incredibly strong district and for your continued support, as parents, of our collective work.

With warm regards (and eyes still closed),

Laura J. Friend

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 13 – Trimester 2 Grades Close
- 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
- 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

Mark Your Calendars:

- April 3 – Spring MCAS Testing Window Opens
- April 8 – Lancaster PTO Auction – Please Join Us! Purchase tickets [online](#)
- April 13 – LBMS Spring Concert, 6:30 PM
- April 17-21 – Patriot’s Day, April Vacation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences

This Friday afternoon, we will conclude spring parent-teacher conferences. If you have not scheduled a conference and you would like to do so, please contact Judy Ursuliak in the main office for schedule availability.

Regional Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Amy Vivanco (gr.8) who will represent our school in the North Central Massachusetts Regional Spelling Bee at the Four Points Sheraton in Leominster on March 21st. Placing 2nd in our school spelling bee was Coleman Donelle, (gr. 8). Coleman will serve as school alternate for the regional competition. Congratulations to Amy and Coleman, and to our other competitors who definitely made us proud with their spelling skills and prowess. Well done!

Spring Interscholastic Season Right Around the Corner: Baseball, Softball, and Track and Field

The LBMS 2017 interscholastic spring season will soon begin. For students interested in baseball and softball, parents and players must attend a pre-tryout mandatory informational meeting. The baseball meeting will be held on March 16 at 6:00 PM in Mr. Dillon’s room, and the softball meeting will be March 20 at 6:00 PM in the LBMS library. All information needed for the upcoming season will be addressed during this meeting.

For students interested in track and field, a mandatory informational meeting will be held on March 28th at 6:00PM in the LBMS library.

For more information, including important registration information, please refer to our school [website](#).

Intramurals are Back Up and Running

Monday and Wednesday afternoons your child can challenge Ms. Macharia in a game of badminton. Badminton is a great game for developing hand/eye coordination and is also a good cardio workout!

On Tuesdays, we offer volleyball. Encourage your child to come play with his/her tournament team and work on skills. Our annual tournament will be coming up later in March, date to be determined and is a fund raiser for Relay for Life.

We are hoping to open the Fitness Room soon and to add another afternoon of volleyball. This information will be updated on the school website when it begins.

Please be sure to have your child submit a permission slip so that he/she can participate. Permission slips can be found on the website and in the school office. All students participating in intramurals should be picked up promptly at 4:00.

Yearbooks on Sale Until March 17th

This year's yearbook will be in FULL-COLOR! Our yearbook will include individual student images, photos of various school activities, school events, groups, clubs, candid photos and fun moments from throughout the year. Buy your yearbook now for only \$21.00 each! Order forms may be found in the school office. All order must be remitted by March 17th.

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.

MCAS 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

A Message From Our Nurse, Mrs. Perkins

With the impending storm this week, it is hard to believe that spring is right around the corner. If your student is interested in participating in a spring sport (softball, baseball or track) they must have a current physical (within the last 13 months) on file in the health office. If the physical expires during the season, a new one must be submitted for your student to remain eligible to play according to MIAA rules. Please feel free to call Mrs. Perkins if you have questions.

Postural Screening for Grades 6, 7 and 8 will begin soon. Please be reminded that this is a state mandated screening that assesses your child's spine for early signs of a curvature. Please refer to the letter that has been emailed for additional information.

Finally, please notify the school if your contact information has changed. It is important that we be able to get in touch with you as necessary.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



NRSD Digital Learning Coordinator, Cynthia Larsen, with two of our LBMS student guides during Friday's "Day of Exploration" professional development.