



LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

BURBANK BULLETIN

October 16, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Just over a week ago, Ellen Miller, from the Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early's Community and School Outreach office, visited Luther Burbank. Ms. Miller spoke to each grade level about social media, online-safety, and the digital footprint we leave within the cyber world each day. Ms. Miller also shared anecdotes of related legal cases the district attorney's office has handled as a result of the behavior in the cyber environment. From cases involving cyber-bullying to cases involving online predators who seek out information that is often inadvertently shared through gaming platforms, Ms. Miller's cautionary message really resonated with all of us. If you haven't already done so, please ask your child about Ms. Miller's presentation and have a conversation about his/her take-aways. To help further the conversation, Ms. Miller provided us with a flyer which lists helpful resources for parents/guardians. You will find the flyer attached to this week's Bulletin.

On the MCAS front, official district and school level 2017 MCAS and MCAS-Alt results will be released to the public this week. Soon to follow will be the distribution of parent/guardian reports. As you are aware, last spring marked the first year of administration of the next generation assessment. This new assessment has brought more rigorous and complex questions and question types as well as new scoring categories. In the upcoming weeks, I will be providing more information about the next generation assessment. In the meantime, you may find this [Parent Guide](#) provided by the Massachusetts Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) a helpful resource.

Warm Regards,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Importance of Attendance

Daily attendance at school is critical to student learning. 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

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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.

As we move ahead, 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.

Early Release, Friday, October 27

Please be reminded that there will be an early release on Friday, October 27th. Dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m.

Scholastic Book Fair is Coming

The Book Fair is coming! Our LBMS students will attend the Book Fair during their ELA classes the week of October 23rd. 8th grade students will attend on October 23rd and 6th and 7th grade students will attend on October 27th. Happy reading!

SEPAC Presentation on Co-Teaching in the Middle School Mathematics Classroom

On Thursday, October 19th, two of our very own Burbank teachers, Mrs. Cauley and Mrs. Alberts, will speak about co-teaching in the middle school mathematics classroom during this month's SEPAC meeting. The meeting will be held at Luther Burbank at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are an optimal way for parents and teachers to come together to discuss student's strengths and areas for further growth. As such, our fall conferences are goal setting in nature. Conferences will be held on the full day of November 6th and the afternoon and evening of November 9th. We will utilize an internet-based appointment booking system to schedule conferences again this year called Pick-A-Time. Registration will open on October 23rd at 7:00 PM. A link to Pick-A-Time will be provided on our school website as the date approaches.

Purple Pinkie Day Returns on October 26

October 26th is Purple Pinkie Day at Luther Burbank. Join us as we help promote understanding and support of Rotary International's effort to eliminate the disease of polio for good.

Why is it called Purple Pinkie? When a child is vaccinated for polio, he/she has a purple stamp placed on their little finger. Building on this symbolism, our students will learn about the efforts to raise funds for oral vaccine in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria the three countries where polio still remains and become part of the solution. Since one dollar is the estimated cost to immunize a child from polio, students are encouraged to bring in a dollar or more to help with the cause. Each time a student puts a dollar in the Purple Pinkie Bucket, he/she will get a pinkie painted purple. Best of all, the donations will be matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation so every donation will go even farther.

The Luther Burbank Drama Year is About to Begin!

A meeting for parents and students will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, in the Mary Rowlandson auditorium, beginning promptly at 6:30 PM. All interested students should have representation at the meeting of a parent or guardian. Information about the drama club, auditions, and director will be given as well as an opportunity to ask questions.

The LBMS Drama Club provides an opportunity for LBMS students to be a part of a musical production in the Spring. No previous drama experience is necessary. There are opportunities for onstage roles or helping with backstage crew. Students interested in helping with lights and sounds should consider joining the AV club and express an interest to Mr. Newton about helping with drama. LBMS Drama is open to all LBMS students. Auditions are required for role decisions for any students wishing to perform onstage.

Auditions will be on Tuesday, November 14, and Thursday, November 16, 2017, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Students will need to attend both audition dates if they would like to be considered for all roles, unless they've made alternate arrangements ahead of time with the director.

Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, November 28, and will run every Tuesday and Thursday through the performances on Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10, 2018. All events will be held in the auditorium.

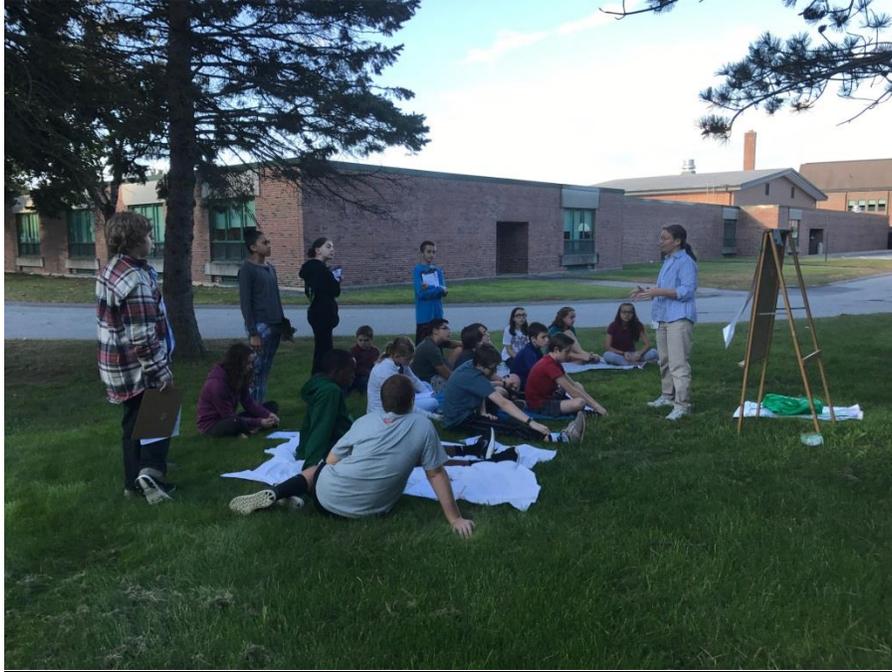
Questions before November 7, 2017 may be emailed to Paula Castner at lbmsdramaclub@gmail.com.

From the Health Office

The holidays are right around the corner. While holidays are usually a joyful time for many, the holidays can be stressful and burdensome for those experiencing financial difficulty. If you, or someone you know, in our Lancaster school community would benefit from assistance this upcoming holiday season, please contact Nurse Ramae at 978-365-5870 or Darlene Perkins at 978-365-5629 by Friday, October 27th. All inquiries and referrals are confidential.

The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health will offer a flu clinic at the Nashoba Regional High School on October 17th from 3:00-6:00 PM. Immunizations will be available for all those 6 months and older. Please click [here](#) for a complete list of flu clinics available in our area.

Picture of the Week



“Characteristics and Needs of Living Things”

Mrs. Sorrows conducting a 7th grade science class in the perfect environment, an outdoor classroom.

Helpful websites

-  www.worcesterda.com
-  www.netfamilynews.org
-  www.netsmartz.org
-  www.common sense media.org
-  www.cmch.tv
-  www.netlingo.com
-  www.thebullyproject.com



You can find more information from DA Early's Office follow us on Twitter @worcesterda and Facebook

Please visit your school district's website to find your school's specific Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan