



LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

BURBANK BULLETIN

February 26, 2018

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. Whether it was spending time on the slopes, sleeping in a bit later than usual, going to the movies, reading a good book, or enjoying that warm weather, I hope that the February vacation offered you a well-deserved respite from the hectic nature of the daily routine.

With the halls of our school quiet during vacation, last week provided me with the luxury of time to reflect - time to reflect on the importance of family, friends, and the strong and supportive Lancaster community we are honored to serve. On behalf of our Luther Burbank School faculty, I begin this Bulletin with a thank you. Thank you for your partnership and for your continued support of our collaborative work. We are privileged to be a part of your children's education and life journey.

Warm regards,

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 5 – Rising Freshmen Academic Night, 6:30 PM, NRHS auditorium
- March 6 – LBMS School Council, 3:00 PM
- March 8 – Early Release, Afternoon & Evening Parent Teacher Conferences, 11:30 AM (dismissal)
- March 9 – No School, Full Day Professional Development
- March 11 – Daylight Savings, Spring Forward!
- March 12 – Trimester 2 Grades Close
- March 16 – Early Release, Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences, 11:30 AM (dismissal)
- March 23 – Report Cards Issued
- March 23, 24 – “Mirror Image,” LBMS Musical, 6:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delayed Openings Due to Weather

Please be reminded that, in the event of a delayed opening, students should not be dropped off prior to the delayed start time. For example, in the event of a 2 hour delay, students should not be dropped off any earlier than 9:20. The delayed opening is intended for both staff and students and ensures safe travels for all. Thank you for your cooperation.

LBMS Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Hansika Kommanavancha (gr.6), who will represent our school in the North Central Massachusetts Regional Spelling Bee at the Four Points Sheraton in Leominster on March 20th. Placing 2nd in our school spelling bee was Kiera Petri (gr. 7). Kiera will serve as school alternate for the regional competition. Congratulations to Hansika and Kiera, and to our other competitors, who definitely made us proud with their spelling skills and prowess. This year's spelling competition was a nail-biter! Well done!

A Shout Out to Ms. Belhumeur and to Our Students who Auditioned at Jr. Central Districts!

Earlier this month, our very own Ms. Belhumeur was joined by 13 of our Luther Burbank students who auditioned for the Jr. Central District Festival. Ms. Belhumeur reported that our "students looked and acted professional, representing LBMS and Nashoba well!" She also shared the following fun fact: "we (had) the most students audition across the Nashoba middle schools (Go Lancaster!)"

We are pleased to announce that six of our students were accepted into this elite festival: Billy Nash (gr.7), James Erickson (gr.7), Emily Cote (gr.7), Dylan DeLisle (gr.7), Margot Sonia (gr.8), and Alex Allison (gr.8).

Lisa Sama Recognized as WGBH Educator Ambassador

Lisa Sama, LBMS engineering teacher, has been selected as one of 23 educators from across the Commonwealth to participate in the pilot project, 2018 WGBH Educator Ambassador. As Ambassador, Mrs. Sama will join an esteemed group of educators representing different regions of Massachusetts, subjects, grades, and professional roles to serve as consultants on public media educational resources.

Rising Freshmen Academic Presentation at NRHS

Nashoba Regional High School will hold its annual presentation regarding its academic program and the course selection process for 8th graders and their parents from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Monday, March 5th in the high school auditorium. This evening is designed for students and parents to gain an understanding of the 4-year academic program at the high school and how the course selection process will work for 8th graders. Department chairpersons will be available to answer questions. No courses will be selected this evening. All parents of the Class of 2022 are encouraged to attend. Information that will be presented to all 8th graders at the middle schools will also be shared. In the case of a school cancellation, the snow date for this event is Tuesday, March 6th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

LBMS Spring Musical, “Mirror Image” – Mark Your Calendars!



Luther Burbank Middle School Drama is proud to present *Mirror Image* on Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the MRE and LBMS auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door for \$4.00 for students and seniors and \$6.00 for adults. For more information, email lbmsdramaclub@gmail.com.

Written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcu with music by Dennis Poore and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado, this musical adventure will surely delight. Fantasy comes face to face with the hard reality of high school in this pop musical where the best — and worst! — of both worlds meet. In the fairy tale world, princes are charming, and stepsisters are wicked. But the Woodsman dreams of being more than an incidental character without a name. When Cinderella’s stepsisters find a portal to another world, they get zapped into a very real high school. The Woodsman jumps at the chance to rescue them, but the stepsisters have no intention of returning to the fantasy realm. The Woodsman finds himself in over his head and recruits the help of Danica, a hard-core realist who never believed in fairy tales. Meanwhile, the sky is falling in the fantasy world! As reality seeps into the fairy tales, the characters start to break free of their patterns and the classic princesses cross the portal and discover they can be their own heroes! You’ll love this complex, rich tapestry of enchanted fun woven with a poignant, meaningful thread about what it means to be alive and in control of your own destiny.

Student Attendance

With 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.

Important Calendar Information: Spring State Assessments, MCAS

As we head into this spring’s state-wide assessment window, please be reminded that there continue to be changes to our state-wide assessment. 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.

Our 7th and 8th grade students will be taking this year’s assessment on the computer. 8th graders will use their 1:1 Chromebooks, while 7th graders will use school Chromebook devices. Next year, the plan is for computer-based MCAS to be fully administered statewide.

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 3, 5	May 8, 10	N/A
Grade 7	April 4, 10	May 9, 11	N/A
Grade 8	April 11, 12	May 15, 16	May 17, 18

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



LBMS Advisory at Work
Reasons we love our school!