From the Desk of the Superintendent…

Greetings,

It’s hard to believe that we are half-way through the 2016-17 school year!

I am delighted to share our winter edition of the district newsletter which truly captures our commitment to excellence.

Just a reminder, this is the first year that Lincoln has no full February vacation. There will be no school on Presidents’ Day, Monday, February 20th and no school on Tuesday, February 21st because of teacher professional development. Schools will be in session beginning Wednesday, February 22nd through Friday, February 24th. We look forward to getting your feedback in early March via a survey.

I am also delighted to report that Lincoln High School’s Stage II Renovation Resolution was unanimously approved by the Lincoln School Committee. The Town Council will be considering the resolution at their next meeting on February 14th. Exciting times are ahead for the Lincoln Public Schools!

As always, my door is open for any suggestions that you may have.

Best,

Georgia Fortunato
Superintendent of Schools

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Lincoln Public Schools Hosts Kindergarten Events

Lincoln Public Schools is holding kindergarten orientations and conducting registration for kindergarten students and first grade students new to the school district for the 2017-2018 school year. There will also be a district-wide kindergarten information night. “Our kindergarten program is a stepping stone that starts children on the right educational path,” said Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools. “The information night will show parents how closely our teachers and administrators work with them to prepare their children for success in future grades.” Lincoln’s kindergarten events will give parents an introduction to the high-quality education they can expect from the kindergarten program.

The tours will give parents and students an opportunity to see classrooms up close. The district information night will showcase the program and share how it integrates with the rest of the Lincoln Public Schools educational offerings.

⇒ Lonsdale Elementary School
Kindergarten tour Monday, April 3 from 10:00-11:00

⇒ Saylesville Elementary School
Kindergarten tour Friday, April 7 from 10:00-11:00

⇒ Central Elementary School
Kindergarten tour Friday, April 7 from 9:45-10:30

⇒ Northern Elementary School
Kindergarten tour Friday, April 7 from 10:00-11:00

⇒ Lincoln Public Schools
Kindergarten Information Night at Lincoln Middle School Tuesday, April 25 from 6:30-7:30 PM

Also upcoming are registration days for kindergarten. Registrations are by appointment only. Please call the school your child will attend to schedule an appointment. Kindergarten registration will take

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Coding and Community at Lincoln Central Elementary

Lincoln Central Elementary has been engaged in offering coding opportunities to students while they are at their library class. Most recently, parents were invited to their child’s library class by Mrs. Ouellette, Central’s librarian. As participants in the class, the parents were able to join in the lesson being learned and practice coding with their child. This gave them the opportunity to gain some knowledge about coding and the various levels and skills required to accomplish a coding activity. Mrs. Ouellette also offers students various coding opportunities during indoor recess, when they can sign up to be a part of a coding class during these long winter months.

Central’s PBIS team has been very busy this year. Our December Community Service Project was very successful with more than 7 boxes of toys collected and delivered to Family Friends and Services so children could have a special Christmas this year. It was a rewarding and heartwarming experience for the students of Central as well as the families of Family Friends and Services. Central also received a letter from our Town Administrator, Mr. T. Joseph Almond, thanking us for our contributions for the town of Lincoln’s Annual Holiday Food Basket and Toy Program. Mr. Almond writes “We truly appreciate your caring contribution to help make this holiday a joyous time for many of those in need of assistance in our town”. They were able to provide over 200 families with much needed holiday cheer! Our next community service project is “Valentine’s for Veterans.”

Lincoln Public Schools Hosts Kindergarten Events (cont.)

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Lincoln in September 2017, must also register. Birth certificates and two original proof-of-residency documents (mortgage statement or notarized lease agreement and one of the following: property or fire tax bill, water bill or utility bill) are required at registration.

A recent physical, including vision screening and immunization records with month, date and year of shots for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (dpt 5), polio (ipv 4), measles, mumps, rubella (mmr2), chicken pox (varicella 2), hepatitis b (3), lead (date and result-if child was tested) or a certificate from a licensed physician stating that your child is not subject to immunizations because of medical reasons, must also be presented at registration.

Registration will not be accepted without birth certificate, proof of residency documents and immunization records. Registration packets are available online at www.lincolnps.org or you may call one of the schools listed below to obtain a registration packet.

Central Elementary School: 401-334-2800
Lonsdale Elementary School: 401-725-4200
Northern Elementary School: 401-769-0261
Saylesville Elementary School: 401-723-5240

Enrollment is based on space availability.
During the month of December, all students in kindergarten, first and second grade collaborated on a unit involving the story How the Grinch Stole Christmas, written by Dr. Seuss. Students in all six classrooms had the chance to read the story and then write reflective, response passages.

Students enjoyed sharing their responses with each other both in the classroom and at our December Community Meeting. Based on the excitement and the wonderful collaborative work that was exhibited, all students had a great time working with classmates and students in other grades as well.

Our kindergarten students are beginning to put their thoughts into words. At this point in the year, most kindergartners have acquired important pre-writing skills and are learning to use phonetic spelling, sight words and inventive spelling to communicate their thinking. They all enjoyed sharing their writing and reading aloud their responses.

Our first and second graders have much more to say and write about too. First graders were required to think of ways to make the Grinch smile. Some of their suggestions ranged from tickling his feet to reading him a funny story. Second graders had to write a persuasive essay and convince their readers that the Grinch was either a good character or a bad character. They had to cite evidence from the story to defend their thinking. They also had to revise, edit and publish their own work. All of the students enjoyed sharing their responses with one another and particularly enjoyed working with our ‘younger’ students as well.

Alpha Delta Kappa is a women’s educator sorority that promotes educational excellence, altruism and world understanding. Lincoln’s Alpha Chapter is proud to be the first chapter in RI. Our members consist of current Lincoln teachers and retirees. Welcome again to our newest members - Ginny Avenia, MaryAnn McComiskey, and Charleen Lagace.

Our chapter hosted the 7th Annual Bi-State Founders’ Day Celebration on October 15, 2016 for RI and MA sisters. It was held at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket. All members in attendance were impressed with the quality of the museum and the fellowship of our sisterhood.

We collected over $500 at that event for the Family Literacy Center located in Manville. We received a beautiful thank you card from the children at FLC. In November we volunteered there to help to make Veteran’s Day cards. It was so gratifying to see the effort the children put forth and their heartfelt sentiments to the veterans.

We would also like to remind LHS female seniors that March 1, 2017 is the deadline to submit an application for the $500 ADK scholarship. It is available to those who are planning a career in teaching or a health field. Information is available at the Guidance Office. Now is a good time to start the process. Return the packet to Guidance in a large envelope marked Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship. Last year, Kate Zanoil was the recipient of the scholarship and is studying nursing at Rhode Island College.

We wish all the best in 2017 to the Lincoln Public Schools’ students, parents, faculty and staff!
Lincoln Public Schools

Saylesville has started a Best Buddies chapter. Best Buddies is an international non-profit that has offices in 53 countries and 27 states. This year, there are approximately 27 chapters throughout the state. Saylesville Elementary is only one of two elementary school chapters in Rhode Island.

The mission of our Best Buddies program is simple: create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, especially for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In fact, Saylesville’s chapter is an inclusive program for all students who would like the opportunity to make new friends and participate in special events with the purpose of cultivating respect and appreciation for students.

Our Best Buddies program was launched on December 9th and is under the leadership and guidance of Patti Hien and Paula Bowen. Prior to the kick-off event, fourth and fifth graders, known as Peers, attended a training meeting with Jessica Null of Best Buddies. The Peers learned about the program, explored the concept of inclusiveness and practiced doing some of the activities they planned for the kick-off event. The first event was a tremendous success! It was an enriching experience for the Buddies, Peers and teacher leaders.

Since the kick-off event, the Peers have volunteered to attend weekly planning meetings. They have come up with a variety of activities they can do with their Buddy during the school day. For example, the Peers would like to create a movie about their Buddy, participate in Buddy Reading, and teach the students games to play with their classmates. Four Friday afternoon special events have been scheduled (December; February; March; June) where the Buddies will work and play with all the participants in the program. In addition to spending time during recess or lunch, Peers and Buddies have sat together during Town Hall meetings, exchanged journals, and even rode the bus together to the Holiday concert.

We hope to see the program continue. So far we have more Peers than Buddies. If you believe your child would benefit from having a 4th or 5th grade Peer as a Buddy, please contact Reza Sarkarati, Principal of Saylesville Elementary School.

Barrow a Book Library at Northern Lincoln Elementary School

One of the Title 1 outcomes for this year is to increase the number of fiction and nonfiction books readily available to all of the K-5 students at Northern. When they arrived back at school on January 3rd, the students saw the Browse and Borrow Library in the front foyer. Presently, the Browse and Borrow Library consists of a small section of chapter books and the larger portion houses picture books. Students are allowed to borrow a book any time they pass by the library. Our hope is to increase the number of books each student has the opportunity to read. Many of the homes in the Northern area do not have books. For this reason, we are not concerned if books do not make it back onto the shelves. Currently, the books which stock our library have been donated by teachers and the literacy center. We are constantly looking for donations of gently used books that are looking for a good home.

Saylesville Elementary School Welcomes Best Buddies
It is a new age and keeping in step with dynamic learning strategies through the use of technology is in motion. The game? Blended Learning.

Highlander Institute and FUSE have been providing professional development to the teachers and administrators at Lincoln Public Schools. This training has enabled teachers to incorporate the use of technology in their classrooms; classrooms which extend beyond the walls of the school. The platform most seen is Google Classroom. Lincoln Middle School social studies teacher and social studies curriculum leader Mr. David Clegg and English teacher Mrs. Jill Gould, are working with the Highlander Institute consultants to incorporate technology into the very fiber of the lessons the students take part in daily. These teachers are challenging themselves to re-create lesson units in an effort to encourage students to be independent and self directed learners while scaffolding instruction to support all learners and by providing systems and resources for students to solve problems independently; the focus goals of blended learning.

It is a distinct pleasure to observe students in the blended learning environment. The carefully, well crafted lessons allow students to explore a specific topic, compare and contrast, and/or discover meaning, all the while challenging themselves. They do this while utilizing instruction, videos and links to text that ultimately guide students to the information necessary to complete the lesson goal. Mr. Clegg’s eighth grade social studies class is studying the civil war. The students are working to understand three important topics: The Emancipation Proclamation, The Election and The Gettysburg Address. The culmination of the research the students are completing on one of the chosen topics is a five paragraph essay scored using the school wide rubric aligned with the common core state standards. Research is the important feature in this process. To accomplish the goal of blended learning, Mr. Clegg designed the unit with research parameters. Mr. Clegg stated that he is “teaching to create rich research based experiences for his social studies students through the use of technology” and utilizes his method of station rotation in which he is the rotator assisting the students with questions they come up with from the research on their topic.

Mrs. Gould will be working with the Highlander consultants to redesign her unit on the Holocaust utilizing blended learning. Having students become independent learners is preparing them to become digital citizens which is “an instructional mindset in which blended learning is used” according to Mrs. Heather Charlemagne, sixth grade teacher who is utilizing this premise in her English classes. Mrs. Charlemagne and seventh grade English teacher and English curriculum leader, Mrs. Erika Doherty, have both attended the Tier I of the URI Digital Literacy Summer Institute with Mrs. Charlemagne currently working toward her certificate in Digital Literacy from URI. They both bring their expertise to the classroom with a focus on teaching “credible vs. non-credible online sources and how to determine the source credibility when researching.” Mrs. Doherty stated that she has incorporated www.padlet.com into her classroom while Mrs. Charlemagne, as part of a current unit, is incorporating links to reliable text sources in her lessons to guide students to independently locate answers to their questions from literature. This guided practice at a young age level develops the digital citizen mindset to become independent learners using blended learning as the students progress at LMS.

Stay tuned as there is much more to feature as LMS advances in this digital age of learning!
Mrs. Amy Archambault, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Grade 3 Teacher

Lincoln Central Elementary is fortunate to have a cadre of exceptional staff members. Amy Archambault is a shining example of this dedication and professionalism. Amy joined our Central team in 2012 as a long term substitute teacher. The following year Amy joined our Central team full time as a grade 3 teacher. Amy is a skillful teacher whose enthusiasm for teaching permeates all her lessons, keeping her students engaged in their learning. She embodies all that it takes to be a great teacher in this digital age of learning -- a creative teaching style, unique lessons that capture her students attention, and a warmth that her young learners respond to very well.

Amy’s undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont was in English/Art History and Studio Art -- which explains a lot to those of us who know and love Amy. She is very creative! After years in retail, Amy obtained a Master of Teaching degree from Rhode Island College and began substitute teaching. Amy has been married for 12 years to her high school bestie and has two beautiful daughters who attend Lonsdale School. Amy is also highly involved in their education, serving for many years on the Lonsdale LPT board. In addition to her teaching duties, Amy is also a valued member of our Culture and Climate committee, lending her creative flair to organize some very fun events! Amy also brings her considerable expertise to the district ELA revision committee, NGSS training committee, and serves as the Assistant Director of Camp Intervention.

Mrs. Linda Newbury, Lonsdale Elementary School, School Nurse Teacher

Linda Newbury has been working as a school nurse teacher for more than 30 years — 27 of those years have been in Lincoln. Before coming to Lincoln, she worked for 15 years in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in the Potter Building at Rhode Island Hospital, now Hasbro Hospital. In the PIC, she saw so many preventable tragedies and thought if she could teach children some strategies and how to make good choices, maybe she could prevent even one child from getting seriously hurt. She tries to be an active member in school, being involved in SIT, PBIS, PTA now the LPT, and Climate Committees. She also belongs to the District’s Health & Wellness Committee. She states the best part of Lonsdale is the close family atmosphere between the staff and families. She feels the absolute best part of her job is the children. They bring smiles to her face every single day!

Mrs. Newbury has two married children. Her son and his wife live in Washington, DC and can see the Washington Monument from their condo. Her daughter lives in Maine with her family. Mrs. Newbury says that her granddaughters are the joys of her life. It might surprise people to know that every year she spends her birthday in an inner tube floating around the Lazy River at Typhoon Lagoon in Disney.

Mrs. Debbie Jacobson, Northern Lincoln Elementary School, Literacy Coach

Debbie Jacobson returned to Northern this year as the K-2 Literacy Coach after teaching both special education and first grade in Lincoln for almost three decades. In her new role, she works with our primary teachers to support the literacy development of our students both at school and at home. Debbie has organized two evening literacy events at the Family Literacy Center in Manville. Both literacy nights were well attended and resulted in enjoyable parent-child conversations, interactions and activities the students took home. Each week Debbie hosts two literary lunches with first and second grade students during which she reads and discusses quality books with the hope of helping to excite students about reading, increase their exposure to literature and create positive experiences that center around literacy. Most recently, Debbie organized the K-5 Browse and Borrow Library in the Northern foyer.

Mrs. Jacobson has had a positive impact at Northern. She can be found in the classrooms supporting literacy and working with the teachers to improve their art of teaching.
Ms. Melissa Manfredi, Saylesville Elementary School, Special Education Teacher

Melissa Manfredi knew from an early age that she wanted to be a teacher. While studying education at Rhode Island College, she realized she wanted to be a special educator. “I enjoy seeing the growth my students make, especially when students overcome their struggles.” She graduated from RIC with degrees in Elementary and Special Education. Shortly after graduating, Ms. Manfredi served as a substitute teacher in various schools and then landed her first teaching job as a Grades 1-2 Self-contained Teacher in East Providence. Since joining the Saylesville team in August 2016 as our Grades 3-5 Self Contained Teacher, Ms. Manfredi has made a tremendous and positive impact on her students and our school. It is apparent that Ms. Manfredi is fond of her students and her students respect her. “My students make my day! Every day I come to work excited and I look forward to seeing their progress.” Ms. Manfredi’s classroom is engaging and designed to meet the needs of various learners. The class primarily features stations and small group instruction, which allows the students to get direct instruction and opportunities for independent and paired work. “I want my students to be successful and have confidence. Some of my students can get down on themselves. I want them to see themselves as capable.” As a result of her hard work and leadership, the class is a positive and supportive place for students to learn, grow and succeed. “They are showing so much growth already!” Ms. Manfredi has really enjoyed her transition to Saylesville. “Everyone has been so very helpful. The parents have been great! The teachers are a pleasure to work with. The principal has helped make the transition as smooth as possible. We’re like a close-knit family.” Ms. Manfredi is a major part of her own success. She communicates regularly with parents, meets with and plans with colleagues and takes the time to really get to know her students as individuals. She is an asset to our school and the Lincoln Public Schools.

Mrs. Heather Charlemagne, Lincoln Middle School, Grade 6 Teacher

Mrs. Heather Charlemagne has been a teacher in the Lincoln Public Schools for 16 years, starting out as a long term substitute in reading at the “old” middle school, teaching enrichment in Saylesville and Lonsdale Elementary Schools, grade 6 at Central Elementary School, and grade 5 for four years at Saylesville Elementary School. She is now in her second year teaching grade 6 at Lincoln Middle School. As Mrs. Charlemagne attests: “I have done it all!” We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Charlemagne at LMS! She currently teaches both English and science on team 3. Mrs. Charlemagne is notably completing her certificate in Digital Literacy from URI and is instilling the mindset of how to be a digital citizen into her classroom through her tailored lessons incorporating blended learning. Mrs. Charlemagne knew she wanted to be a teacher for her entire life. She stated that she never thought of doing anything else and enjoys connecting with her students and watching them grow. With her love of education, Mrs. Charlemagne would love to be a published author one day.

Mrs. Charlemagne has been married for 14 years and has two children; one who will be starting middle school next year. Mrs. Charlemagne resides in Smithfield with her family and their two year old Labradoodle named Buddy.

Thank you Mrs. Charlemagne for all that you do!

Mrs. Cheryl Maiorana, Lincoln High School, Special Education Teacher

Working at LHS for the past sixteen years is the quiet, kind and positive Mrs. Cheryl Maiorana. Mrs. Maiorana is a member of the Special Education Department. She works alongside her regular education colleagues as the co-teacher in the Fundamental classes. In this environment, Mrs. Maiorana is responsible for ensuring that students have access to the general curriculum with appropriate modifications. She supports her students in their work to meet their goals. As a faculty member, Mrs. Maiorana works on the PBGR committee. For the past few years, she has worked very hard to publicize the many wonderful things going on at LHS by communicating with the local media. She takes note of many small and large events and ensures that the media is aware. For those times when a reporter cannot attend, Mrs. Maiorana sends along a small press release and pictures. Mrs. Maiorana is very supportive of her colleagues’ efforts and always wants to make sure the public knows about the great things going on at LHS. Outside of school, Mrs. Maiorana is a devoted mom to two adult daughters. She loves spending time with her family. She’s just as supportive to them as she is to her students, fellow colleagues and school community!
BootStrap Program at Lincoln High School

CS4RI, a comprehensive statewide computer science initiative, provided several Lincoln teachers with the opportunity to learn about the BootStrap program which was implemented in Miss Kerry Holden and Mrs. Regina Ferriera’s Algebra 1 Foundations classes at LHS. The BootStrap Program applies mathematical concepts and rigorous programming principles which culminate by students working collaboratively to create simple videogames. The program took approximately 6 weeks to complete and provided a deeper understanding of functions and basic coding with innovative approaches. Using Circles of Evaluation, students were able to apply their knowledge of functions and expressions to rewrite each expression as a Circle of Evaluation. This approach guided the students to write each Circle of Evaluation as a piece of “racket code” for the WeScheme programming language used to create their videogames. The program also emphasizes keeping track of each function’s ‘contract’ which requires the students to determine the data types for the domain and range of each function. Students would eventually progress to writing Design Recipes, an organizational tool to facilitate students writing definitions for new functions needed for their game. The program provided all the instructional tools and exercises necessary for a successful implementation. The students enjoyed a different approach to learning about functions and while it was challenging, they were all able to create their own unique game and all students feel a great sense of accomplishment. On December 20, Superintendent Fortunato and Principal McNama were able to visit Miss Kerry Holden’s class to view student presentations. The students took great pride in explaining their video games and the learning stretch involved in their creation.

On December 16, Mrs. Amanda MacDonald’s period E Good Food II class participated in a demonstration on how to make stuffed grape leaves. The class used a recipe provided by Mrs. Maureen Gurghigian. Mrs. Gurghigian is a parent of one of the students in the class. Mrs. MacDonald collaborated with LHS Transition Coordinator, Mrs. Patricia Kilsey for the lesson. Mrs. Gurghigian donated the supplies to make grape leaves for the students. Each student was able to stuff and roll about 10 grape leaves. In addition to making the grape leaves Mrs. Kilsey and Mrs. Gurghigian discussed their shared Syrian heritage and their cooking traditions. The students truly enjoyed the special treat!

On January 13, 2017, students enrolled in Exhibition courses presented their projects. This semester, as a result of work done by the LHS Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements committee, the projects have a renewed focus on the application portion of the rubric. Some of the projects included: The Design of a Small Cyclotron to Study Subatomic Particles; Modular Solar Panel Highways; and How Can We Make Net Zero Housing Affordable. Many community members joined the LHS faculty to judge the exhibitions. This project is one of the most important learning experiences for the students of Lincoln High School.