From the Desk of the Superintendent...

Greetings,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the 2015-16 school year! I am delighted to share the winter edition of the district newsletter for your reading pleasure. This edition truly captures the essence of the Lincoln Public Schools and our commitment to excellence.

As always, my door remains open and I encourage you to contact me at any time.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing February vacation.

Stay warm!

Best,

Georgia Fortunato
Superintendent of Schools

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Lincoln Public Schools Hosts Kindergarten Events in February and March

Lincoln Public Schools is holding kindergarten orientations and conducting registration for kindergarten students and first grade students new to the school district for the 2016-2017 school year. This is the first year that information nights for the Lonsdale Elementary School and Saylesville Elementary School kindergarten programs will be held at the schools. 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. “These information nights 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:
- Tuesday, February 23 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Lonsdale Elementary School Kindergarten Information Night at Lonsdale Elementary School.
- Thursday, February 25 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Saylesville Elementary School Kindergarten Information Night at Saylesville Elementary School.
- Wednesday, March 2 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Lincoln Public Schools Kindergarten Information Night at Lincoln Middle School.

The information nights at the schools will introduce parents to principals and teachers who will talk about the kindergarten program, answer questions and give people an opportunity to see classrooms up close. The district information night will showcase the program.

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Learning Activities at Lincoln Central Elementary

Our talented librarian, Donna Ouellette, recently devoted a week of library time to “an hour of coding” to all the students at Lincoln Central Elementary. They loved it and took to it like fish to water!! Because it was such a successful endeavor, Mrs. Ouellette will continue coding with the students during winter indoor recess by creating a “coding club” for students to participate in. Second grade students who were very accomplished at coding their favorite video games are pictured below. The students put their strategic thinking skills to the test! Mrs. Ouellette has continued attending workshops and trainings about coding for elementary students in an effort to extend her knowledge and further develop the program for our Central students. For the past few months, Lincoln Central Elementary students have been immersed in a school-wide PBIS initiative. So far, they have collected 35 boxes of canned goods and food items for gift baskets to distribute to local families in need. Boxes of mittens, gloves, and scarves were also collected and will be donated to local charities. All was done under the guidance of our PBIS “Community Service Learning Projects” initiative. The students and their families were very generous!

Learning Activities at Lincoln Central Elementary

Authentic learning experiences are an important part of our education philosophy here at Lincoln Central. Students have many different opportunities for hands-on learning that makes exploring new concepts fun and engaging. For example, in Mrs. Ryan’s third grade science classes, students are learning to make rain – we like rain better than snow!

Math concepts are learned by rotating through various math “stations” where students have an opportunity to use hands on materials to apply concepts learned in math class.

Lincoln Public Schools Hosts Kindergarten Events (cont.)

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and share how it integrates with the rest of the Lincoln Public Schools educational offerings. Also upcoming are registration days for kindergarten:

- Saturday, March 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lincoln High School for children who reside in the Central and Northern Elementary School regions
- Saturday, March 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lincoln High School for children who reside in the Lonsdale and Saylesville Elementary School regions

Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2016 should register for kindergarten at this time. Children now attending kindergarten outside the Lincoln Public Schools, who will enter first grade in Lincoln in September 2016, must also register. Birth certificates and two original proof-of-residency documents (mortgage statement or 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. Therefore, a student’s school assignment may be subject to change.
During the month of January, our educators had the opportunity to receive some valuable math professional development. Many of our classroom educators benefited from working with Ms. Carroll Garland from the East Bay Educational Collaborative and our math coaches, Ms. Kasia Kidd and Ms. Ann Whitelaw. Teachers met to refine scoring rubrics, review student work and to discuss best practices used in the classroom. Lonsdale was fortunate in that one of our own educators, Mr. Michael Maloof, was willing to allow his colleagues a chance to visit his classroom and observe one of his lessons. Teachers were able to see, firsthand, the effective model he uses with students. Mr. Maloof, along with one of our special educators, Mrs. Stephanie Mohammad, work collaboratively to both enrich and support the needs of all students. Students in 5M have an opportunity to respond to a teacher-directed lesson and then, are given an opportunity to work independently, in small groups, and with classroom teachers to further develop their understanding of the lesson's content. Other fifth grade teachers that visited were impressed by the effectiveness of this model of instruction. They were also impressed by something we here at Lonsdale already know; we have wonderfully engaged and talented students!

The health and wellness of our students is an important part of the health curriculum’s focus. Teaching our students about their personal hygiene and helping them recognize the benefits of healthy activities is an integral part of both their health and physical education classes. Lonsdale is lucky to have some wonderful educators that work with all our K-5 students. Nurse-Teachers Jan Boucher and Linda Newberry along with Physical Education Teacher, Kim Drapala, all teach Health at various grade levels. In addition, Physical Education teacher Mr. Frank Almstrom, works with all grade levels during physical education class. Mr. Almstrom encourages our students to choose healthy, active lifestyles and integrates this thinking into all his classes. From lessons on lung capacity and healthy hearts, to the benefits of anaerobic activities, ‘knowledge is power’ as we educate our youngsters to make healthy lifestyle choices. In addition to teaching, Nurse Boucher also assists our students with vision and hearing screenings to ensure our students have no abnormalities which could impact their learning in the classroom. Promoting the health and wellness of our students and instilling positive, healthy lifestyles will help our students build the framework for an entire lifetime of healthy habits.

Mr. Almstrom attends a workshop facilitated by Playworks. Playworks is an organization that promotes safe and healthy play at school and recess. These all inclusive lessons were then shared with our Lonsdale students.

School Nurse Teacher Jan Boucher conducts vision screenings (at left) and teaches students about their lung capacity (at right).
The Saylesville PTO is an integral part of our school and helps to identify opportunities to support student enrichment. This year, the Saylesville PTO set out to raise enough money to end all fundraisers. We called it the “One and Done Raffle.” Given the hard work and generous support of the Saylesville community, we were able to raise over $16,000. Although we fell short of our goal, we were still able to raise a substantial amount of money to support field trips, assemblies and family-friendly activities. This year the PTO is providing financial support to a series of educationally enriching assemblies. On November 23, Saylesville students learned about writing process from Linda Croft Brennan and Jessica Kidd. Second graders attended a performance of the State Ballet of Rhode Island and met with the dancers in a Q & A at Saylesville prior to the performance and learned about the Native People of New England during a hands-on presentation from Brown University’s Haffenreffer Museum. On January 13, West African percussionist and storyteller Sidy Maiga shared his drums with the students and teachers and took them on a journey to Africa. In the Spring, Mad Science will return for its third year to bring science concepts to life in a school-wide assembly and through grade level workshops. In addition to the assemblies, Saylesville students will be able to use PTO funds to reduce or eliminate the costs of field trips, thus giving every eligible student the opportunity to participate in a field trip. At Saylesville, we believe these enriching assemblies and field trips support joyful learning and bring the core content to life. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and generous PTO who organizes activities, volunteer during events and raise money to support our school. We are always looking for more parents to support our school by leading activities, serving as an elected member of our Board, or by contributing time as a volunteer at family-friendly events such as Frosty Fun Fest, Culture Night and Saylesville Spirit Day. Our PTO meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Saylesville Art Room. The YMCA of Lincoln provides free child-care.

### Important Dates

- **February 15-19, 2016**  Winter Recess (No School)
- **February 23, 2016**  Lonsdale Kindergarten Information Night
- **February 25, 2016**  Saylesville Kindergarten Information Night
- **March 2, 2016**  Welcome to Kindergarten Information Night
- **March 5, 2016**  Registration for Children who reside in the Central and Northern Elementary School region
- **March 12, 2016**  Registration for children who reside in the Lonsdale and Saylesville Elementary School region
- **March 25, 2016**  Good Friday (No School)
- **April 13, 2016**  Elementary Only Early Dismissal
- **April 18-22, 2016**  Spring Recess (No School)
With so many wonderful things happening at the great Northern we decided a top ten list would help get the word out. With the assistance of Mrs. Dianne Mohler, the elementary technology coach, five fifth grade students countdown the great things happening at Northern. These newscasts are directed/produced by Mrs. Mohler and written by the grade five students. They are "aired" throughout the school and sent home via the ListServ for all to enjoy.

To date, two editions of the Top Ten have been aired, and a third is being worked on now.

So far this year the Top Ten subjects have been:
- new teachers
- new students
- The Walk
- the Holiday Concert at the high School
- classroom pets
- recess activities.

The most recent top ten list included:
- #10. Grade four Table Hosting
- #9. Operation Holiday Cheer
- #8. Authors Visit Northern
- #7. Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- #6. Family Fun Night
- #5. Classroom Pets in Mr. Melaragno's class
- #4. Classroom News- Mrs. Reddy
- #3. New Students in Grade 4
- #2. New Teachers- Mrs. Peterson
- #1. Holiday Concert at the high school

Northern’s Top Ten was assisted by Mrs. Danis, a parent of a grade one student, through a grant from IBM.

The students love doing the news and they are an excitable and energetic group of kids!

The Alpha Delta Kappa Chapter (“Alpha”) Women Educators’ Organization of Lincoln continued with its altruistic endeavors during the first semester of 2015-16 by donating materials to the Family Literacy Center to stretch their budget, and by contributing to the Northern Rhode Island Food Pantry and Veterans’ Hospital in Providence.

In October, Rhode Island ADK chapters and eastern Massachusetts ADK chapters held a joint Founders’ Day brunch to honor the four women who founded Alpha Delta Kappa in 1947 in Kansas City, Missouri. The informative speakers focused on developing and maintaining excellence in our career lives and in our personal lives.

At this event members donated underwear to the Blackstone Valley Children’s Shelter in Pawtucket, paper goods to the Haven of Grace Women’s Shelter in Woonsocket and monetary donations to the “Be Like Brit” Program of Massachusetts. The “Be Like Brit” foundation is named for Britney Gengel, a nineteen year-old student volunteer from Massachusetts, who died as a result of the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. Her parents started this foundation to build an orphanage in Haiti that now houses sixty-six children and Alpha Delta Kappa continues in its support.

At Northern High School, classroom pets, and recess activities.

Our members are very happy to be the host of ‘Alpha’ ---the first ADK chapter in Rhode Island (founded 1965) and now known as the Lincoln Alpha Chapter. Our goals are to promote and recognize excellence in school, contribute to needs within the general community, and provide for women educators to gather outside of the work day for fellowship, conversation and support. We will be continuing with activities in the second semester and our next ‘news’ article will appear in the school department’s June newsletter. Many thanks to Superintendent Fortunato for including Alpha Delta Kappa in the newsletter; we are grateful to her for providing a forum so we may share our news.

In keeping with this thought, we wish to announce that all Lincoln High School senior girls who plan to major in education, nursing, physical therapy or other health occupation may apply for the Alpha Delta Kappa $500.00 scholarship that is awarded in June. Interested students should see their guidance counselor in late March/early April to request an application. It is a one page form and applicants will be evaluated on school achievement, leadership, and contributions to school and community.

Best wishes to all and in all ways for the year 2016!
Lincoln Middle School is a school of P.R.I.D.E. - principles of being Positive, acting with Respect, with Dedication while striving for Excellence. Together, our collaborate efforts enable us to take innovative and actionable steps to drive Lincoln Middle School forward with trust and an unwavering teaching and learning focus. Many examples of this collaboration were presented during the LMS Spotlight Presentation on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at the School Committee meeting and can be viewed on the LMS webpage. Above is a word wall of terms frequently used to describe what makes LMS great, one of the best middle schools in the state of Rhode Island and quite simply, a wonderful place to be!

December was a very busy month for LMS academically, socially and civically. One academic highlight was in the area of technology in which over 100 LMS students participated in the Hour of Code. Mrs. Johnson, an LMS technology teacher, entered her technology students in the hour of code, a worldwide competition designed to “demystify code and show that anyone can learn the basics”. The window for students in an individual school to complete their “hour of code” was one week. Our students completed their “Hour of Code” over two days with one set of classes completing their one hour on 12/9 and the second set of classes completing their one hour on 12/10. Within two days, over 7 billion students, including LMS students, participated worldwide, with 8 billion lines of code written! The most outstanding statistic by far is the fact that on day two, LMS was ranked 4th in the world for participation! Please find the attached link to the Hour of Code showing our students in action! https://www.youtube.com/embed/B_yWNdBq2Ag

In addition to the Hour of Code, students in technology classes mastered the basics of using technology to enhance reports and create functional learning tools such as color coded schedules, while other students learned to assimilate their learning to teach others through the use of Google Screencastify. Examples of these learning opportunities in action can be found in the LMS Spotlight Presentation Power Point found on the LMS webpage.

The Holiday season worked its magic at LMS by bringing the whole school community together for many special events. Some of the most anticipated events of the season are the LMS Holiday concerts which showcase the many amazing talents of the LMS students! Mrs. Birrell, the LMS chorus teacher and Mr. Casale, the LMS band teacher, worked tirelessly with the LMS students in chorus and band to create concerts for the LMS students to present their abilities to work collaboratively and independently through whole grade, select groups and solo opportunities. The chorus and band even had the audience singing to the music! The students did an outstanding job and should be very proud!

The month of December also brought out the charity in the LMS community! This could best be captured through the Can Drive in which over 1,000 cans, most from Team 1, were collected for three local food banks; the HoopFest, LMS Girls and Boys Basketball teams vs. LMS faculty, which raised over $2,000 for the local “Adopt-A-Family” program; the Team 5 “Pie Making Project” in which 100 pies were made and provided to the seniors at the Lincoln Senior Center; and by the LMS chorus spreading cheer at the Lincoln Senior Center through a special Holiday concert there. Thank you LMS for your demonstration of civic responsibility in making positive opportunities exist for others in the Lincoln and extended communities!

In the LMS school community, the Student Ambassadors at LMS have been hard at work in making new students feel welcome and in celebrating what makes LMS so great! It is because of the LMS Student Ambassador Program, a new program this year at LMS, as seen through previous highlights, that students new to the school have decreased levels of anxiety with increased levels of comfort within the first day and first week of transitioning to LMS from another school. Thank you to Mrs. London for presenting this positive data at the LMS Spotlight Presentation and to all of the Student Ambassadors present at the Spotlight Presentation in support of LMS. There is much more to come at LMS in the upcoming months! Please be on the lookout for the upcoming Unified Sports Program, the Nook/Reading Program and the Internet Safety Presentation this February and March 2016!
Mrs. Maureen Lapre, Lincoln Central Elementary, Teacher Assistant

Maureen Lapre is a welcome addition to our grade one team of teacher assistants. She brings with her a wealth of experience from working with special needs students. She is also attending graduate school at Lesley University in Boston working towards attaining a degree in special education. Maureen's personality and skill with her students has allowed her to make a considerable impact on the learning of her young charges. Maureen is dedicated and conscientious and a wonderful example of the professional expertise here at Lincoln Central Elementary.

Maureen lives in Lincoln and is married with one son, Alden, who attends Lonsdale School. In addition to being a Den Leader for Alden's cub scouts pack, she teaches Sunday School in Providence and studies herbalism.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have Maureen on our team at Lincoln Central Elementary.

Ms. Erin Metivier, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Grade 5 Teacher

Erin Metivier is not only an outstanding faculty member of Lincoln Central Elementary, she is also a former student and parent! She began as a kindergarten student at Central Elementary in 1980, and after completing her student teaching at Saylesville and Northern, began teaching at Central as a self contained special education teacher. As a special education teacher, she had the good fortune to work for four years with her mom who happened to be a grade four teacher at Central.

After fifteen years as an extraordinary special educator, Erin moved into the fifth grade regular education position she currently holds. As a valued member of the fifth grade team, she helped design and implement a shared model of teaching that has been very successful. It affords students the opportunity to move from classroom to classroom preparing them for the level of organization needed to be successful in their middle school environment. It also provides more intensive instructional opportunities with specialist support. Her skill as an educator has allowed her students to make strong academic gains. She is a highly regarded and talented teacher that has had quite an impact on the Central community.

Erin has also had a significant impact in Lincoln on a district wide level as a valuable member of the ELA Curriculum Writing Team and as a member of the Curriculum Advisory Council. Erin lives in Lincoln with her son, Kai, who is a fourth grade Lincoln Central student. Not a week goes by that we don't see Erin's mom, Gail, volunteering in Kai's classroom, or subbing for us.

Ms. Melissa Croce, Lonsdale Elementary School, Aramark Food Services

Melissa Croce is one of our newest Lonsdale staff members. She started with Aramark on August 31, 2015. She states the best part of her job is working with the children. She feels like she is finally doing what she is meant to do. She notes that the best part of her day is when she is taking student lunch orders. She enjoys having a few minutes to connect with students before they start their school day. She is reminded of her own childhood and the friends she made along the way. Since her first day of work in Lincoln, her experience has been wonderful. She has learned the importance of food safety in schools. As a Mom herself, she is happy to see that lunchtime is such an organized, sanitary, and well-balanced part of the children's daily routine.

She is so impressed by Aramark's process of preparing and serving lunch. She is grateful to work alongside her co-worker, Ms. Carrie Shifflet. Ms. Shifflet trained Ms. Croce on all aspects of the job and is a conscientious co-worker. She has become a great friend as well. In the past, Ms. Croce worked as a hairdresser and in the jewelry business. She absolutely loves working at Lonsdale Elementary. She thinks the faculty and staff are kind and thoughtful people, and the students truly brighten her days! She is married and has 2 children, a 13-year-old son. Some of her hobbies include spending time with family, shopping, cooking, eating, and going on cruises!
Mrs. Linda Guarino, Lonsdale Elementary School, Grade 2 Teacher

Mrs. Linda Guarino has been an educator for 33 years. Although she has taught first and second grades, she has spent the majority of her career as a reading specialist. Mrs. Guarino enjoys working with students and watching them develop important skills that help them become strong, independent readers. Currently, she is a second grade teacher at Lonsdale Elementary School. Mrs. Guarino thoroughly enjoys having her own classroom now and having the opportunity to teach other content areas as well. She says that the best part of teaching second grade is watching the students become more and more independent with each passing day! She loves to see when they truly master a concept and take pride in their accomplishments. Mrs. Guarino shared that she has wanted to be a teacher from a very early age. Her own third grade teacher was such an inspiration. She remembers her being a kind and energetic teacher in spite of the 43 students that were in her class! Mrs. Guarino serves on the Lonsdale Courtyard Committee and the Reading Week Committee.

Outside of school, Mrs. Guarino loves to spend time gardening, knitting, reading and sitting on the beach. She lives in Lincoln with her husband Steve. She has 4 adult children; 2 who are in college in Washington and Maryland. Mrs. Guarino is anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new family member…..her new puppy!

Mrs. Lisa Scott, Northern Elementary School, Teacher Assistant

Lisa Scott is a Teaching Assistant working in the Preschool program at Northern. She began her career in 2001 when she was hired to be a teaching assistant at the Fairlawn Early Learning Center. Since then she has worked at Central Elementary School in a K,1,2 special education classroom, Lincoln High School as a one on one assistant, and now at Northern. Mrs. Scott says she likes the challenge of the little kids, “Is where my heart is.” Lisa is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a degree in Interpersonal Communication. She was a community health educator through Department of Health and Human Service in New Hampshire, teaching health education and curriculum development for the school department.

When not at work Mrs. Scott’s twin girls keep her busy. Both attend the University of Rhode Island, though one is presently in Japan as an exchange student. One daughter is studying nutrition and the other is in the speech pathology department. Lisa is an avid walker, and can be seen on the Blackstone Valley bike path all the time. She also loves cooking and gardening.

Mrs. Andrée Brochu, Northern Lincoln Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher

Andrée Brochu is a kindergarten teacher at Northern Elementary School. She will be celebrating her 20th year teaching this year at Northern — all have been in the kindergarten program. She has been in Lincoln for a total of 23 years. Mrs. Brochu graduated from Rhode Island College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She followed that up with a Masters of Education from Lesley University in Curriculum and Instruction- Integrating Teaching Through the Arts.

When asked about why she teaches kindergarten, Andrée responded, “I can’t see myself teaching another grade. Kindergarten keeps me young.” She continued by stating the constant hum of the classroom, the singing, dancing, and storytelling is joyful. The growth of her students that she witnesses each year is amazing.

Mrs. Brochu lives in Cumberland with her husband of 20 years and they have three beautiful daughters. As a family they love to travel, hike, run and bike together. The Brochu family has ridden in the Pan-Mass Challenge for the past four years in memory of her nephew Evan. The Pan-Mass Challenge is a 163 mile 2 day bike ride. They raise money for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute to fund the Evan T. Mandeville Research Fund at DFCI. The Northern school community is extremely fortunate to have Mrs. Brochu as part of its staff!
Mrs. Dawn Almstrom, Saylesville Elementary School, Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher

Dawn Almstrom is Saylesville Elementary School’s Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher (DPT) and Resource Teacher. She is an active member of the Saylesville PBIS team. Mrs. Almstrom has been an educator for 20 years. This is her twelfth year in Lincoln and her first year at Saylesville. Mrs. Almstrom’s journey as a teacher began in Pawtucket where she grew up. Growing up in a big city can present challenges. However, Dawn’s teachers made school a safe and supportive place. In fact, Mrs. Almstrom’s elementary school teachers were a positive influence on her and shaped how she interacts with her own students. One former teacher in particular stands out: Mrs. Luther. Mrs. Luther highlighted the positive attributes of each student and made the entire class feel like they were one of her children. Mrs. Almstrom strives to make each of her students feel as good about themselves and their learning the way Mrs. Luther and her other teachers did for her. From early on, Mrs. Almstrom knew that she wanted to teach. After graduating from Tolman High School, where Dawn set records as a cross country runner and track star, she attended Rhode Island College. She began her teaching career at Chariho Regional High School and moved on to Dighton Middle School and then North Cumberland Middle School. Along the way she earned her Masters from Simmons College. With seven years of experience, Mrs. Almstrom applied for and was hired in Lincoln, where she worked in the middle and high school for eleven years. She credits Mary Ann McComiskey for helping her transition to Lincoln and for supporting her over the years. Mrs. Almstrom loves challenges and is enjoying the new perspective she has developed being in an elementary school. Her Saylesville colleagues have been supportive in her transition from the secondary level to elementary.

Fitness is important to Mrs. Almstrom and is a big part of her family life. When Mrs. Almstrom is not teaching, you might find her with her husband of 16 years Frank Almstrom, who also teaches in Lincoln and is the PE teacher for Lonsdale and Saylesville. Together they enjoy running road races, working out or cheering on their two children at lacrosse or gymnastics.

Mrs. Pat Fisher, Saylesville Elementary School, Fine Motor Skills Program Volunteer

For over 6 years, Pat Fisher has been a volunteer at Saylesville Elementary School. Mrs. Fisher began volunteering while her son was a student at Saylesville. This year, we are fortunate that she has continued training parents and helping students develop fine motor skills even though she no longer has any children at Saylesville. The Fine Motor Program was designed by our Occupational Therapist, Cheryl Zecchin. Teachers identify students for the program. In groups of 1-3 students, Kindergarten and first grade students work with trained volunteers to enhance fine motor skills using core strength exercises and fine motor activities. A twenty minute session will begin with wall push-ups, cocooning, superman stretches and crab walk. Weak core strength can impact posture and writing so it’s important to help build the core muscles. Fine motor activities build digit strength and enhance precision as students learn how to form letters and numbers or as they work on writing words and sentences. One first grader told me, “I like tracing lazy eights, finding pennies in putty and picking up dominos and doing Supermans.” Mrs. Fisher makes the program work. She is positive and ensures the activities are fun. One student summed up the feelings Mrs. Fisher’s students have, “I feel very happy on Fridays. At the end of the day, I get to go with Mrs. Fisher.” The multi-sensory approach to learning has helped scores of students solidify what they are learning in class, and Mrs. Fisher’s approach has made learning fun. Pat Fisher is a Lincoln resident. She is married and has two children. Mrs. Fisher is an educator at Johnson and Wales University.
Mrs. Janet Vanasse, Lincoln Middle School, Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Vanasse is one member of Lincoln Middle School’s valuable Teacher Assistant team! She may be new to Lincoln Middle School this year, but she is not new to the position. Mrs. Vanasse has worked as a Teacher Assistant for 14 years, working with students at the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative, Fairlawn Early Learning Center, and Northern Elementary School. She currently works with Mrs. Burlingame on Team 2. Mrs. Vanasse loves being a Teacher Assistant and especially enjoys working with students over the course of many years. She says, “I love to see the students grow and acquire new skills!” Mrs. Vanasse is very positive, encouraging, and attentive with her student. Daily, she arrives early, anticipating her student’s arrival. Her pleasant smile and greetings start everybody’s day off on the right foot and she is a wonderful asset to our school!

Prior to becoming a Teacher Assistant, Mrs. Vanasse was a bookkeeper and a stay-at-home mother with her now 22 year old son, Andrew. She valued the time she was able to spend at home as it allowed her to observe and be part of his magical childhood. Today she is proud of his attendance at the University of New Haven in Connecticut where he studies Audio Engineering. Mrs. Vanasse has been married to her husband Paul for 30 years. One thing they have in common is their birthday! They were both born on the 4th of July! They also enjoy time at the beach, entertaining family and friends, reading, eating Italian food and going on road trips as a family. We are so glad to have such a warm and caring individual like Mrs. Vanasse as a member of our staff!

Mrs. Susan Johnson, Lincoln Middle School, Technology Teacher

What is “coding”? Just ask Mrs. Susan Johnson, one of Lincoln Middle School’s innovative technology teachers. Mrs. Johnson will not only tell you what coding is but everything that is happening at Lincoln Middle School surrounding this important skill in the world of technology! Mrs. Johnson spearheaded the “Hour of Code” at LMS on December 9 and 10, 2015, and which is featured in this issue of the District Newsletter. In addition to the “Hour of Code” initiative, Mrs. Johnson has served as one of Lincoln Middle School’s “Techsperts” (Technology Expert) at the teacher technology professional development this year, together with her technologically savvy colleagues and the Highlander Institute while taking this instruction to the classroom. Mrs. Johnson’s students are creating learning platforms for other students utilizing Google Screencasting – a “Student Teaching Student” initiative in which students create a Screencast in an academic skill area or in a talent. The student Screencasts range from a math or writing concept to a specific talent such as “How to Play the Trumpet” and “How to Saddle a Horse” on a platform similar to Skype in which the skills the student teaches are recorded to help others. Currently, Mrs. Johnson’s students have created over 200 LMS student Screencasts, all equally powerful. In addition to Mrs. Johnson’s Google Screencasting initiative, she helped to secure two upcoming Internet Safety presentations, one for the students on February 12th and one for the Lincoln community on March 7th.

It is not surprising that Mrs. Johnson began teaching the creative features of technology because her first job out of Rhode Island College (RIC), where she majored in Industrial Technology, was designing the blueprints for Home Depot, Inc. over 32 years ago! Mrs. Johnson decided to change fields and began teaching over 27 years ago, 22 of those years here at LMS, and she has not looked back. A little known fact is that Mrs. Johnson taught woodworking prior to moving to the new LMS building, while learning and keeping up with technology advancements. Due to this interest, Mrs. Johnson attained her Master’s Degree from RIC in Technology Education. Mrs. Johnson has been teaching technology at LMS ever since. Students in Mrs. Johnson’s class stated that Mrs. Johnson’s class “helps them stay current in today’s world.” Mrs. Johnson has one daughter, Rayna, and a 21 year old grandson named Michael. She loves spending time with them outside of school. Mrs. Johnson states that she is very grateful to Lincoln Public Schools for providing the opportunities for teachers to learn and grow, especially through the technology provided.”

Mrs. Lise Hannon, Lincoln High School, Kitchen Manager

Working behind the scenes to keep LHS students fueled for learning is our Kitchen Manager Mrs. Lise Hannon. Mrs. Hannon, who works for our food service provider, Aramark, has been assigned to LHS for the past 11 years. In that time, she has risen from cafeteria worker to manager. She has also seen the breakfast program grow and has helped to manage the many changes to “school lunch” that have been implemented nationwide. Mrs. Hannon, as the kitchen manager, is responsible for ensuring that the meals served to LHS students conform to all federal and state regulations. She and her staff take great pride in making those meals as tasty as possible given the guidelines. Mrs. Hannon credits her dedicated staff for their hard work and creativity. The lunch program staff really enjoys working with the students. Mrs. Hannon echoes this sentiment in that she rates working with Continued on page 11
Known for her kind and welcoming demeanor, LHS science teacher Joanne Phillips was recently very much in the spotlight. On Wednesday, January 6, 2016, Commissioner of Education Ken Wagner, NBC 10 TV Anchor Patrice Wood, School Committee Chair Kristine Donabedian, School Committee Vice Chair Maryanne Roll and Superintendent Georgia Fortunato surprised Mrs. Phillips in her Biology class and presented her with the Golden Apple. Joanne is the seventh Lincoln Public Schools educator to receive this award. Also joining the celebration were Joanne’s husband, daughters, members of her family, Town Administrator Joe Almond, Principal McNamara, members of the central office and high school leadership teams. Maya LaFleur, a senior at LHS and a student in Joanne’s Human Anatomy and Physiology class, nominated Joanne for the award and was interviewed as well by Patrice Wood.

Joanne has worked at LHS for 22 years and in that time, she has developed an excellent reputation. Able to work with high achieving students and reluctant learners, Joanne understands how to genuinely engage students in meaningful learning. Joanne works with students to meet them where they are at and work through rich and rigorous content. Outside of LHS, Joanne authored a book entitled Angelique and the Green Planet. The book is a representation of what she teaches her students everyday: they can change the world for the better. She and her husband are the proud parents of two daughters. LHS is certainly very lucky to have an educator of Joanne’s caliber on staff!

Mrs. Joanne Phillips, Lincoln High School, Science Teacher

1,000 Point Club

Congratulations to Lincoln Public Schools educators, Michael & Bethany (Iacoi) Bedrossian who were recently recognized by their alma maters over the holiday break. Both were honored with 1,000 point banners for their contributions to their respective high school basketball teams.

Mike Bedrossian, a LMS health and physical education teacher, is a graduate of Seekonk High School. Bethany (Iacoi) Bedrossian, a LHS health and physical education teacher, is a graduate of Westerly High School.
The LHS Music program continues to earn statewide honors. A record seven students were selected for the All State band.

- Jason Huang, Grade 9 - 7th ranked trumpet in Junior All State Band
- Meghan Wenz, Grade 12 - 2nd ranked baritone saxophone in Senior All State Band
- Alexandra Dalbon, Grade 12 - 5th ranked trombone in Senior All State Band
- James Heineman, Grade 12 - 14th ranked trumpet in the Senior All State Band
- Melissa Drake, Grade 12 - 1st ranked flute in the Senior All State Band
- Yuri Li, Grade 9 - 2nd ranked clarinet in

As the first semester comes to a close in Art Exploration, the students began their final project of making two large Korean Onggi pots. These pots are made from large coils carefully blended together to form a vessel. Generally these are not made as a group but as the students create these oversized pots, they are working as cohesive team. The pots are traditionally used for storing kimchee but for the students, according to LHS Art teacher Heather Binder, “it is the doing, the making as a whole class that is the most important part of the project. We have hit a few issues along the way, and students are realizing it’s trickier than it looks when fighting gravity with heavy clay. A little creative problem solving and logic goes a long way.” Following completion, the pots will need to dry well in to semester 2 before going into our large kiln. If they make it out in one piece, they will be displayed.

Congratulations to Stephannie Cames for her Scholastics Art and Writing award of a Gold Key. Stephanie submitted 16 x 20 acrylic painting of a “Julia” depicting a young girl on a playground. Stephanie is a senior who has applied to several art schools including Parsons School of Design and RISD and plans to pursue a career in the visual arts.

Art teacher Sue Kolenda and English teacher Kileen Gilroy joined forces to create and host Lincoln High School’s first Asian art and poetry collaborative, exhibit, and reading with students. Both teachers united their classes to embrace LHS’s partnership with Bryant University’s Confucius Initiative and Classroom by integrating an Asian perspective into their curriculum. Miss Gilroy’s 9th English class is studying and analyzing poetry from various perspectives. The Japanese Haiku is one of the most well-known and ancient poetic forms in literature. Students not only analyzed the work of Japanese poets like, Basho as “mentor texts”, but they also studied the form to craft their own pieces. Students were invited to practice meditative writing in nature and embrace the natural world to truly capture the artistry of the haiku. Then students participated in “writer’s circles” and other components of the writing process before the final submission.

These final haikus were then given to Mrs. Kolenda’s Asian Art class, comprised of students from 9th-12th grade. Each student was given a haiku and asked to interpret using water colors and images from nature; additionally, they integrated their names in Chinese symbols and rewrote the poems with calligraphy.

However, there is a twist to this event. The students from both classes had no idea who their poet is or which artist interpreted their poem; they met each other for the first time at this collaborative. Not only did this reading showcase the great pieces produced by LHS students in both Art and English, but it will truly reveal the power of creativity, interpretation, unity, and the integration of another culture and across disciplines.