



LHS NEWS

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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LHS News

designed by

Mr. Prescott's

LHS

Desktop Publishing

class

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Reader,

As of this writing, our students are well into quarter 2, the transition to the 2009-2010 school year nearly complete. I am pleased to report that all is running smoothly: student attendance has recovered from the recent flu pandemic; extracurriculars are meeting regularly during Flex, our fall sports teams finished with impressive results, and students and staff alike are focused on ushering in the winter term.

We have a number of new clubs this year designed to provide opportunities for our students to work on our civic and social expectations for student learning. The Greener Impact Club started by junior Katherine Mullen and advised by science teacher Dean Birdsall intends to raise student awareness regarding life-long, eco-friendly habits. English teacher James McGoldrick is advising the Dead Poets Society, a literary club envisioned by freshmen Megan Resendes. Though not new to our school, The Interact Club has new advisorship in English teacher Christine Taylor, who has been working closely with our students on civic-minded projects. Finally, though only in its second year, the Invisible Children Club, advised by social studies teacher Emily McAdam and originated by seniors Abigail Martin and Rachael Beauregard, is busy organizing several activities to raise student awareness of the plight of Third World orphanages. The number of student-initiated extra-curricular activities, lead by volunteer faculty, is a testament to the positive school culture that is evolving at Litchfield High School.

Some important dates to remember:

- Marking period 2 mid-point, December 11
- End of Marking Period 2, January 20
- Mid-term exams, January 21, 22, 25, 26
- Report cards issued, February 5

We strongly encourage you to use PowerSchool effectively to monitor your son's or daughter's progress. Though grades are accessible 24 hours a day, teachers verify their accuracy twice a marking period: at mid-point and at the end. Any one assignment can result in a significant fluctuation in an overall average, and if you have any questions, you should contact the teacher directly. For any issues with accessing or navigating PowerSchool, contact your school counselor at 567-7534.

New York Times essayist Stanley Crawford wrote that "winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do - or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so." While I must admit I don't see much lessening in things to do here in these winter months, I do relish the thought, and I hope you find time during the long nights of the next few months to engage in family-centered activities.

Sincerely,

Kristen DellaVolpe

Principal

Public Speaking Students Deliver Final Speeches

Students in grades 9 – 12 who were in Ms. Dove's Public Speaking course this past semester completed their final speeches in late January. These speeches were presented in venues outside their Public Speaking class to challenge the students to use their acquired skills with new audiences. In addition to history, English, band, and culinary classes at the high school, students also spoke to middle school students, to students at LIS, and to residents of Brandywine. Although the students acknowledged initial anxiety, the experience was very rewarding. Two more classes of Public Speaking students will follow in their classmates' footsteps second semester when they complete their course in the spring.

Making a Difference Through Greener Impact

An industrious group of environmentally savvy students at LHS are “walking the talk” regarding contemporary environmental issues. These students wanted to do more than just learn about the environmental challenges that face their generation; they wanted to actively work toward confronting those challenges. To that end the Greener Impact Club was formed. Twenty members from grades 9-12 meet every Tuesday during flex time to plan activities that will help accomplish its three pronged mission, working toward environmental improvements, promoting environmental awareness, and actively experiencing outdoor adventure. The group has embraced the initiative with gusto! Several teams have formed and they are working independently to accomplish the following:

- ◆ **Improve the recycling effort at LHS** – Waste stream reduction, resource conservation, energy savings, pollution prevention.
- ◆ **Introduce composting to LHS** – Waste stream reduction, energy conservation, cost savings, soil enrichment.
- ◆ **Invasive plant removal at LHS** – Removal non-native invasive plants on the LHS campus.
- ◆ **Hiking trail maintenance** - Blazing, clearing and maintaining a nine mile section of the Mattatuck Blue Blaze Trail.
- ◆ **Outdoor adventure** – Planning outdoor activities that include skiing, skating, hiking, canoeing, snowman making, and camping.
- ◆ **Educational outreach**
 - ◇ Preparing and teaching a lesson for LMS 6th grade students promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy.
 - ◇ Premiering the movie *Kilowatt Ours* at LHS with pizza and discussion.
- ◆ **Energy Efficiency**
 - ◇ Promotion and sale of energy efficient lighting.
 - ◇ Promotion and sale of Home Energy Audits.
 - ◇ Volunteering and promoting smart energy choices at the Living Green Home Show in Torrington, CT on May 1st.
(<http://www.litchfieldboard.com/?rm=lp&pg=lgbs>)
- ◆ **Humanitarian Efforts**
 - ◇ “Green Regift” new and gently used clothing drive targeted for adolescents in need.
 - ◇ Haiti relief charitable collection.

Students Participate In Connecticut Benchmark Assessment System

Litchfield Schools are participating in a state pilot called CBAS (Connecticut Benchmark Assessment System). This interim assessment provides valuable information to the classroom teachers in Grades 3-8. The assessments, in Reading and Mathematics, are planned for October, February and May.

Each assessments measures how Litchfield students perform on state-wide learning standards. Students take the tests on-line. The teachers receive immediate feedback about individuals and groups. The information is used to adjust instructional strategies to improve learning.

Different from the CMT which provides reports to the student, schools and district, CBAS is used exclusively by the classroom teachers, coordinators and principals. The results do not count toward a student’s grade.

While teachers are always monitoring for learning, CBAS provides a formal way for the district to evaluate our curriculum efforts.

Scoliosis Screenings Scheduled

In compliance with section 10-214 of the Connecticut Education Regulations, scoliosis screenings will be done at Litchfield Intermediate School and Litchfield High School beginning in February.

These screenings will be conducted by the School Nurse for students in grades 7 through 9. If the student has been screened this school year by their own physician, and a report has been given to the school, they will be exempt from the screening.

Any concerns should be addressed to the school nurse, Theresa Simaitis, who can be reached at (860) 567-7533.

New Student Teacher at LHS

Please welcome Nick Patenaude to Litchfield High School. He began his twelve-week student teaching assignment with Mrs. Dove at the end of January. Nick attended The Gunnery, Bard College for his BA in English, and he is currently at the University of Bridgeport for his teaching training.

2010-2011 Course Selection Process Kicks Off

The 2010-2011 course selection process kicked off January 27th, 2010 with the Program of Studies Night held at the LIS auditorium. The guidance department in conjunction with the department coordinators provided an overview of the course scheduling process, course offerings, and enrichment programs.

During the week of February 1-5th, students in grades 8-11 attended similar mini-presentations on the high school Program of Studies during their Flexes and received their course selection sheets with instructions.

Beginning February 8th- March 12th, at designated times all students will meet with their counselors in small group meetings to finalize their course selection sheets. If you were unable to attend the Program of Studies Night or would like to set up a time to consult with your student's counselor, please feel free to call the guidance department at 860-567-7534.

In preparation for these meetings and throughout the entire process that will end mid-March, we **highly recommend** that students in collaboration with their parents/guardians use the Program of Studies to explore and understand course requirements. The Program of Studies is available on-line (www.litchfieldschools.org/lhs/lhs.html).

All students will leave their meetings with a copy of their course selections; this copy is not to be interpreted as a finalized schedule, but rather course requests used to build the master schedule.

Junior Planning

All juniors began meeting with their counselors early January to begin post-secondary planning. Parents are strongly encouraged to be a part of this process and schedule a time with their student's counselor. Parents can also log into Family Connection/Naviance to virtually review their student's portfolio and work in these sessions. Please contact the guidance department for further information and assistance at 860-567-7534.

Advanced Web Design Students Redesign Litchfield Public Schools Web Site

Mr. Prescott's Advanced Web Design class recently took on the formidable task of creating a new "look and feel" for the Litchfield Public Schools' Web site. The class began the process by consulting with Superintendent of Schools Deborah Wheeler, and researching and discussing Web site designs of similar local high schools.



Students worked for several weeks in teams of three to create six distinctive designs for a new site. Their final design templates were reviewed by selected administrators, technical staff, students, parents, and teachers. After careful review a blending of two team designs was selected for the final design.

Over the course of the next few months, the LPS Technology Department will be working to transition the current site over to the new design, with a goal of having a complete "live" site by the end of the school year. Visit www.litchfieldschools.org frequently in the upcoming months, as the new design starts to take shape!

Parents: The Anti Drug Substance Abuse and Our Children



Facilitators From:
Caron Treatment Center
CT State Troopers
State of CT Substance Abuse Counseling

Saturday
February 27th, 2010
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Litchfield Intermediate School

Calendar of Events

February 18, 2010	7th Grade Winter Survival Day, White Memorial, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
February 20	Robotics Scrimmage, Suffield H.S., 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
February 24	Class of 2010, Student Council Senior Sweepstakes, 11:30 a.m.
February 27	“Substance Abuse and Our Children,” STPC Parent Academy, LIS Auditorium, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
February 27	Talent in Town Concert, Bantam Firehouse, 7:00 p.m.
March 1-11	Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)
March 1-12	Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)
March 4	Music Parents, LHS Chorus Room, 2:30 p.m.
March 5-6	Northern Region MS Music Festival, Har-Bur MS, 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Friday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Saturday)
March 10	EARLY DISMISSAL, Professional Development Day, 12:00 p.m.
March 12	Mr. Litchfield Contest, LIS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
March 12	Peer Educators, "True Colors Conference", UConn-Storrs, 8:00am-5:30pm
March 13	Class of 2013, Open Mic Night, Litchfield Community Center, 7:00 p.m.
March 18	9th Grade English classes to “Julius Caesar”, St. Joseph’s College, 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
March 18-20	New England Music Festival, Lewis Mills HS, 2:00-9:00 p.m. (Thursday) 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. (Friday), 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Saturday)
March 19-20	Student Council State Leadership Conference, Wesleyan University
March 25	8th Grade to Museum of Natural History, New York City, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
March 28-April 2	Close-Up trip to Washington D.C.
April 1-3	Robotics Competition. CT Convention Center. Hartford
April 2	NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
April 6	Litchfield County Band Festival, Warner Theatre, 8:00 p.m.
April 12-16	NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess
April 27	Art Department trip to Metropolitan Museum, NYC, 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
April 30	Peer Educators Health/Career Fair, LHS Gymnasium, 8:45 a.m.-1: 20 p.m.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Snacks will not be provided this year during CMT Testing (March 1-12).
Students should feel free to bring their own! Thank you for your understanding.

PowerSchool Term Abbreviations

PowerSchool is a wonderful tool for parents and students to monitor academic progress at LHS. When you access PowerSchool, you will see a screen that has several columns with a variety of term headings that change throughout the year. The table below explains each of the abbreviations, and how it relates to grade calculation. If you have any questions about grade calculations for a specific course, please contact your child’s teacher. Thank you!

Term Abbreviation	Q1	Q2	M1	S1	Q3	Q4	F1	S2	Y1
Term Title	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Midterm Exam ¹	First Semester ^{2, 3}	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Final Exam ¹	Second Semester ^{2, 3}	Final Course Grade
Weighting Calculation				40% Q1 40% Q2 20% M1				40% Q3 40% Q4 20% F1	50% S2 50% S2

¹Final Exam for 0.5 credit, one semester course

²Final grade for 0.5 credit, one semester course

³Weighted 45% Q1, 45% Q2, 10% M1 or F1 for 0.5 credit, one semester course