Message from Mr. Turmel, LMHS Principal

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are half way through the school year already. The second quarter grading period ended January 17th and with that a shift into MCAS preparation and testing begins to happen in the classroom for 7th, 8th & 10th graders. The district uses many different measures to assess our students’ strengths and weaknesses. The MCAS test in math, science and English assesses not only our students, but also our curriculum and provides invaluable data to continue individualized instruction. In addition, at the high school level the MCAS test has become a graduation requirement in all three subject areas.

The success of our students on the MCAS exam individually and collectively is important to the district and should be for the students and their families. Passing the MCAS is a step towards graduation, but excelling opens doors at the high school level to AP classes, scholarships, and free tuition to state colleges and universities. Middle school students’ success on the exam can also provide similar opportunities –immediately through course selections and placements and later with scholarships and post-secondary educational choices.

To further prepare students for the MCAS test, the school is offering an after school program which will focus on targeted MCAS math, science and English instruction. Writing techniques, geometric theorems and scientific theories are a glimpse of the areas covered during the study sessions. A few of our 10th graders took advantage of this opportunity last year and had dramatic success. So much so that we believe all students taking the test will benefit from this program. The three tests happen in March, April & June and the programs will run as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Jan. 28-Mar. 13 (Every Tues./Thurs.)</td>
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<td>Mar. 25-May 8 (Every Tues./Thurs.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20-29 (Every Tues./Wed./Thurs.)</td>
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Classes will be held from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. All extracurricular programs on these days will begin at 3:30pm so that students can participate.

To help motivate students to attend the sessions, we will be raffling off prom tickets, user fee waivers, class dues, iTunes, etc. for perfect attendance after each session. In order to secure materials and have a manageable student/teacher ratio we ask that students register through the school prior to the start date. Please contact your child’s guidance counselor to reserve a spot. Grade 7 & 8 counselor David Duquette can be reached at 243-2780 ext. 2114 or daduquette@leepublicschools.net and grade 10 counselor Dan Korte at 243-2780 ext. 2010 or dkorte@leepublicschools.net.

I look forward to seeing your child there.

January 2014 Parent Survey Available at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7NZMPWH
College Financial Aid Application Available for Today’s Modern Families

New Rule Updates Parent Financial Reporting

NEWARK, Del., Jan. 9, 2014 — It’s a New Year and college-bound students already have their first homework assignment: Apply for financial aid. Start by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Known as the FAFSA, the form requires information about income, assets and family size. That information is used to calculate a family’s expected contribution and to determine their eligibility for federal student aid as well as for many state, institutional and private aid programs.

Students won’t need to sharpen their pencils to get the work done. The 2014-2015 FAFSA, which became available on January 1, can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov.

New this year, the form collects financial information from dependent students’ legal parents regardless of marital status or gender, if those parents live together. For the first time, the form provides an option for dependent students to describe their parents’ marital status as “unmarried and both parents living together.”

Students may still need to study the financial aid rules to determine who is considered a parent. Here are three questions students should consider to determine whose financial information to include:

- Do your parents live together? If so, you should answer the questions about both of them.
- If not, where do you live? The FAFSA requires you to answer the questions about the parent you lived with most during the past 12 months.
- Is that parent remarried? You also must report your stepparent’s income and assets on the FAFSA.

Dependent students must complete financial information for their parents, even if they will not help pay for college. Students have to meet certain criteria to be declared independent. For example, they must be older than 24, a graduate student, a veteran, an orphan, homeless, or have a child to support, to be considered for independent status.

SOURCE: Sallie Mae

SAT Prep Class Set to Begin on January 29th

The first class will run from 3-5. Times for remaining classes will be determined in class based on student schedules.

Are You a Business Owner or Employer who would like to Help LMHS Students Learn about Careers?

On Thursday, April 17th, LMHS and the LYA will be hosting our 3rd Annual Career Fair and we are looking for local employers to attend.

To sign up to participate please go to: www.leepublicschools.net/guidance

If you have any questions, please contact dkorte@leepublicschools.net.
Heamon Williams Reaches 1000 Point Milestone

January 17, 2014 – On the first possession of the second half in a home game against Mt. Greylock, Heamon Williams eclipsed 1000 points for his basketball career. The Wildcats went on to win the game 64-52.

Congratulations Heamon!

AP French Language and Culture Syllabus Approved

The College Board is pleased to announce that the French Language and Culture course syllabus is authorized to use the AP® designation for the 2013-2014 academic year at Lee Middle and High School.

What Does Authorization Mean?
The authorization of the syllabus is an official recognition by the College Board that it meets or exceeds the expectations colleges and universities have for that AP subject. The syllabus was reviewed by experienced college and university faculty, who have confirmed that it outlines how we provide a college-level learning experience for our students. This authorization grants us permission to use the "AP" designation on our students' transcripts in association with the authorized course.

Lee Middle and High School has a YouTube Channel

✓ Lee Live segments
✓ Athletic highlights
✓ Instructional videos
✓ Academic help playlists
✓ Highlights from the school year
✓ More added regularly...

http://www.youtube.com/leemiddlehighschool

LMHS Events Now Available on Google Calendar

✓ School Calendar
✓ School Counseling Calendar
✓ SAT Prep Class
✓ MCAS Testing
✓ Lee Live
✓ Athletics
✓ Bowling
✓ General Events

Subscribe to any calendars you choose and link them to your own Google Calendar to view on your computer, smart phone or tablet. http://www.leepublicschools.net/LMHsv2/LMHSSchoolcalendar.html
Project 351

Project 351 celebrates the power of young people as a force for positive change in their communities and our Commonwealth, promotes community service, and celebrates statewide youth leadership. Project 351 annually unites a new “Class” of more than 400 eighth grade “Ambassadors representing every city and town in the Commonwealth to serve, develop leadership skills, discuss issues critical to young people in their communities, and foster unity, kindness, and compassion. Ambassadors participate in a yearlong engagement of service and leadership development opportunities that both challenge and enrich them, and provide a platform to make a difference in their community.

This year Ambassadors are Khali Zabian and Samuel Johnson.

Senior Leadership Project
Brooke Bridagan, Class of 2014

At the end of November, Mrs. Brouker’s Adaptive Physical Education class of 8 students got the opportunity to work with the students from Mrs. Connors room during our Adaptive Physical Education unit. We had the pleasure to play mini golf with them, and to work with the different students. I think I can speak for all of us when I say "the smiles on their faces brightened our day." Even though I have a first period release this year and didn’t want to get out of bed extra early, it was well worth it all. To see them all so happy when we congratulated them made me realize how much they enjoyed it. I am looking forward to working with them and doing yoga on January 14, 2014. I can’t wait to see the smiles in their faces again! Mrs. Brouker’s Adaptive Physical Education Class will be planning another unit for the senior leadership project.

Attention Seniors, Class of 2014!!!

In an effort to help with the financial impact of Senior Class Dues, we are accepting payments starting now. Dues help to cover the cost of Senior Class Trip, Graduation and Class Night expenses, Caps and Gowns, and a Yearbook.

**Dues in the amount of $120 are due by May 2, 2014. You can pay as little or as much as you would like to now. You may bring payments to Mrs. Briggs or Mrs. Wade or you may pay online.**

**To pay online, visit the Lee Public Schools home page (www.leepublicschools.net) and then choose Online Payments from the links on the right.**
What began as a therapeutic side project has turned into one of the most popular assemblies for students across the country. Actor/Comedian John Morello considers himself a survivor of a high risk childhood. Having spent most of his life watching friends and family become victims of destructive decisions he responded by writing the one man show “Dirt”. Not a lecture or seminar, “Dirt” is a play of many characters all performed by one actor. With 15 years of stage experience Morello comically and effortlessly slips in and out of the characters to tell a story which is compelling, unique, and yet is unfortunately the story of far too many of our young people. Audiences are sure to see someone they know or can relate to and it is this cathartic recognition that has been connecting with young people across the country.

Recently Morello’s show “Dirt” has become the number one recommended assembly for young people by the New England and New Jersey chapters of SADD, MADD, and ASAP (Association of Student Assistance Professionals). “Dirt” is now endorsed for camps and retreats like TIGS, MADD Power Camp, and numerous peer mediation groups. The formula for this success is quite simple according to Morello. “Kids don’t need flashing lights, cliches, and a circus production to connect with them. Like all of us they want honesty, respect, and someone who is real.” As characters speak honestly about their experiences the audience understands how seemingly disconnected lives are indeed tied together and influencing each other. In the end “Dirt” addresses the core reasons for substance abuse such as self esteem, depression, and a desire to find a purpose in this often chaotic life.

John will be addressing the students in grades 9-12 at Lee Middle and High School on Tuesday February 11. He will be doing a second performance at 6:30 pm in the auditorium for any families (middle school students welcome with an adult) and community members that wish to see this wonderful show. Thank you to the Junior Sons of Italy Lodge for funding this show to make it possible.

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**On-Line Resources for Tackling Research Projects from Home**

Often students find researching for information to complete school projects challenging. Random Google searches can result in less than helpful or credible sources. Locating print books requires forethought and can be limiting for obscure topics. Fortunately, the LMHS library web page offers students a convenient way to access reliable information from home. To access the library web page, go to the Lee Public Schools web site and select LMHS. From the list of links located on the right, select library and LMHS. This will bring you to the library web page. The page lists over fifty useful links to credible sources of information. Many are links to top flight databases which the school district receives free of charge from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Databases are one stop shopping for information from varied sources. For example, the *Gale - In Context*, databases offer information from reference, newspaper, journal, ebook, video and audio sources all from one page. As an extra bonus, all Gale databases include MLA-style citations at the end on each entry for easy cut-and-paste entries on a project’s work cited page. For additional information or assistance, please the library media specialist at asconsolati@leepublicschools.net.

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**Mr. Hungate Appointed as the Berkshire County Director of MAST**

Mr. Hungate has been recently appointed as the Berkshire County Director of the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers (MAST). This is a professional organization dedicated to improving science education at all levels. MAST is the state chapter of the National Science teachers Association and acts as the representative on national and state policies concerning science education. The mission of MAST is to enhance science teaching and empower teachers of science. Mr. Hungate has been an advocate for the sciences for close to 30 years at Lee Middle and High School and will be a great addition to the association.
2013 – 2014 National Junior Honor Society

Officers:
President: Mikayla DeSantis
Vice President: Alyssa Heath
Secretary: Cassidy Crawford
Treasurer: Ahna Schlaefer

Members:
Rachel Belanger  Shannon Finnegan  Jullian Nejaime
Hunter Cannon  Alyssa Heath  Alicia Paolini
Iris Courchaine  Alyssa Jager  Hunter Roosa
Cassidy Crawford  Samuel Johnson  Ahna Schlaefer
Mikayla DeSantis  Lukas Loehr  Craig Simmons
Colin Finnegan  Will McKeon  Elana Stalker
Lydia Morawiec  Khali Zabian

Ann Jon Visits Art Classes
By Nicole Clark, Art Teacher

Ann Jon, the Executive Director of Sculpture Now, visited our Foundations of Art class for a Foam Carving Workshop. Sculpture Now was founded by a group of people involved in the arts in the Berkshires who want to promote the experience and knowledge of sculpture through exhibitions and educational outreach.

Working with sculptor Ann Jon the students create their own three dimensional figures based on objects found in nature then discuss their creative process together. Sculpture Now is a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, a 501(c) 3 public charity.

The goal of this workshop is to support broadening student’s minds - helping them to understand, see and feel creative concepts with a professional community artist – encouraging students to partake in the numerous local cultural recourses here in the Berkshires.

The sculpture workshops are free for the schools, providing an experience that would not otherwise be available. Ann and I both feel strongly that interaction with local artists provides students with inspiration for their own creativity. These programs are more important than ever, during the current economical challenges to school budget. The Carving Workshop was supported by Lee and Otis Cultural Councils and the Lee Educational Enrichment Fund.

Lee High School student publication, Orange Ink, is back and seeking submissions!

We are accepting creative work of all kinds to publish - art (paintings, drawings, photography, etc.) and written (creative, lyrical, informative, descriptive, etc.) work.

Deadline to submit is Friday, January 24th. If you have any questions or need inspiration, please see Mrs. Clark or Mr. Schueler.