Welcome to April! Hopefully we have seen the last of winter and will soon see signs of spring. This is a very busy time of year here at HHS. Please be sure to read through this issue of *Highlights* and take note of upcoming, important events.

The class placement letter was sent out at the beginning of this month. Attached to this letter was the [placement information form](#). We’re asking parents and families to fill it out and return it before April 27th, if you feel there is additional information you would like to share regarding your student. Please know that requests for specific teachers will not be accepted. The teachers and I will be meeting during the month of May to develop the class lists for the 2018-2019 school year. The objective of our meeting will be to form cooperative groupings of students while serving each child's individual learning needs. In our meetings the teachers share information about each student's progress, academically and socially, in order to help us make the most appropriate placement decisions. By the end of our process, the goal is to have created classes that will result in a very positive and productive learning experience for your child.

MCAS testing begins this month for grades 3 and 4. English Language Arts testing will take place on April 5th and 6th for Third Grade and on April 10th and 11th for Fourth Grade. The students are prepared for the tests. This preparation began when they started school here in kindergarten. The students are tested according to the state standards and our curriculum is the state standards. Professional development ensures that our educators’ lessons and units of study are aligned with the curriculum and they consistently collaborate and observe each other to share and learn of effective instructional practices. PD also provides our teachers with a view of our curriculum
vertically. Teachers have the ability to see what was taught in previous grades and what is expected of them at the next level. This allows for collaboration between the grade levels and establish common language regarding strategies or expectations that students are familiar with and understand as they move on from one grade level to the next.

Our data assessment meetings also inform us that our students are prepared for the tests. Since kindergarten, data has been collected in the area of ELA and Math. Standards based interim assessments are administered throughout the school year at all grade levels. Students results are discussed, action items for individual students are determined if necessary and teachers once again share effective instructional strategies. The tests are taken on line and the students have practiced using the computer to take MCAS tests. We have simulated testing days and discussed MCAS type questions in class and in small groups. MCAS is a challenge. Historically, our students rise to the occasion, give their best effort and earn very good results. This spring will be no different.

It is expected that some students will be anxious before taking the tests. Please communicate to your child that the teachers and I are very confident in all our students’ ability to give their best effort on the test and show what they know. Get a good night sleep, eat a good breakfast, be on time to school and do the best that you can. That’s all we can ask.

Have a great month,

Brian

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our most recent parent speaker, Chris Herren drew the highest attendance at a parent forum in the past two years. We had approximately two hundred people in attendance. If you were able to attend, I hope you left the auditorium with a greater knowledge and understanding of the importance of raising children who are confident, resilient and strong as they are faced with so many potentially life changing decisions throughout their adolescent and teenage years.
As I was reflecting on the very powerful and moving evening with Chris, I was reminded of the influences outside ourselves that our children are exposed to on a daily basis. It is impossible for us to be with them every minute of everyday, and quite frankly it would not be healthy to do so. As a result, we need to build a strong network of people for support and guidance to help navigate our way through the challenging, rewarding and often difficult years of parenting, which certainly do not end after high school graduation.

Whomever you choose as part of your network please keep in mind, the community of professionals in the Lynnfield Public Schools is an invaluable resource. We are fortunate to have professionals throughout our district who are experts in a multitude of areas. We have early childhood experts working with our youngest learners in our preschool and elementary schools. Academic experts can be found throughout our district. We have a special education department comprised of educators who are talented and knowledgeable in a wide range of best practices from anxiety to executive functioning. Our physical education department is filled with experts on health and wellness and our music and art departments can lend assistance in nurturing musical or artistic talent in your children. Most importantly, our professionals understand our commitment to an excellent education extends far beyond the boundaries of reading, math, and test scores.

Educating our children requires a strong partnership between parents and educators both at home and at school. This home-school partnership needs to remain a focal point if we are to ensure our continued success. It truly takes a village, all hands on deck, everybody all in, if our ultimate goal is to raise healthy, intellectually curious learners and to maximize each student’s potential. I have yet to meet an individual or family able to accomplish this awesome responsibility in isolation.

The point is, parenting is not a straight line, nor is it black and white. It is a complicated and often messy process. The journey brings us great joy, and great sorrow sometimes simultaneously. I don’t think there is any one job on earth that is more important, complex, exhausting and fulfilling all at the same time.

A strong extended network can often be the reassurance we need when we simply can’t sort things out. If we do this right, the highs and lows will become life lessons for our children resulting in resiliency, strong character, and unflappable confidence. We need this network to remind us that life was not meant to be easy, including the real, hard, and at times debilitating struggles of our children. We need our network to turn to for answers when we can’t begin to wrap our head around the questions.
The bottom line is, you are surrounded by people in the Lynnfield Public Schools who have made it their life’s work to guide and support you and your most precious gift. Remember that when you are not sure where to turn.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work with you and your children.

Warm Regards,
Jane Tremblay
Superintendent

Just a thought:
*Having kids- the responsibility of rearing good, kind, ethical responsible human beings is the biggest job anyone can embark on. As with any risk, you have to take a leap of faith and ask lots of wonderful people for their help and guidance. I thank God everyday for the opportunity to parent.*

-Maria Shriver

Follow me on Twitter @LPS_Tremblay

**Absence, Arrival & Dismissal Info**

**Rise and Shine!**

1. School success begins with regular attendance. Students should come to school every day and arrive between 8:20-8:45 AM. **Instruction begins at 8:50.** Good attendance isn’t just about being here; it’s about being on-time, prepared and engaged. It is crucial that students get plenty of sleep, enjoy a healthy breakfast, get plenty of exercise and complete all homework assignments. Please contact the principal and/or the school psychologist if you or your child need suggestions and support with school attendance issues.

2. When dropping children off in the morning, the normal drop off time is between **8:20 and 8:45.** Students should exit the car on the school side only. If you regularly pick up your child/ren please keep us (and your child) informed of any change in drivers. For parents who regularly pick up their children, please place a sign in the dashboard of your vehicle displaying your last name. If you need a “family name” sign, please let us know.
and we will make one for you. Again this year, there will be supervision available for early arrival drop/off starting at 8:20am.

3. All dismissal changes need to be in writing to the classroom teacher. If you need to call during the day, please call the main office and not the classroom. If emailing any dismissal changes or absence notifications please include our office clerk, Heide Carbone: carboneh@lynnfield.k12.ma.us. Be sure to include your child’s full name and teacher in any correspondence. If your child attends LEDS, please notify community schools of any changes as well at 781-334-5814. We still have some PTO dismissal note pads available from the office and are $5.00 (cash or check payable to: LPS PTO HHS).

4. Any ‘bus’ student who does not have written permission to stay after school or to be picked up will be placed on his/her regular bus home. In addition, we cannot honor requests to have a child ride a bus to which he/she is not assigned unless it has been pre approved through the Superintendent’s office for long-term day care.

5. Parents are reminded to call the school asap if their child is going to be absent or late. For your convenience, the answering machine will be on at all times (24/7) after normal school hours. You can call during the evening (781-334-5835) and leave a short message.

Frequently Asked Bus Questions and Answers

Q: Where is my child’s bus stop?
A: Bus routes were posted on the school department website and published in the local papers late August.

Q. Can my child ride a friend’s bus or get off at a different stop?
A. No. For safety reasons, you must have a bus pass that has been approved of by the principal. This would be in case of emergency ONLY.

Q. Who do I contact regarding my child’s bus stop?
A: Call or email Morgan DeShaw at 781-334-5820 x1112 or email her at deshawm@lynnfield.k12.ma.us

Q: Who do I call if my child’s bus is very late getting my child home?
A: Stay calm. You can call the school at 781-334-5835. If the office is closed, call the DPW at 781-334-9500.
Feel free to contact us.....

Staff Email
All staff members have an active email account for home/school communication. The email address for staff members, in most cases, is: last name first initial@lynnfield.k12.ma.us. (Example: bemissb@lynnfield.k12.ma.us)

E-Mail & Confidentiality
For confidentiality reasons, we respectfully request you do NOT use general email for sharing of personal or detailed information. We encourage you to use the telephone or schedule an appointment to discuss personal information.

Parents are welcome to visit our school at any time. For security reasons, we keep all doors locked after school begins. Please follow the steps below....

- Ring the buzzer
- State the reason for your visit
- Sign in at the office and put on a visitor's badge
- Go directly to your appointment
- Visitors do not have unlimited access to our school
- Sign out in the office after your appointment

If you hope to volunteer at our school you must be “Double OK’d”
If you have not yet done so, please plan on attending a Volunteer Orientation (once) and filing a CORI application with LPS as soon as possible.

OK # 1) VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
All adults who plan on working with students in any capacity MUST attend ONE Volunteer Orientation session. If you have ever attended a session at HHS, you do not have to attend another. Three Orientations have been scheduled at HHS and the last orientation took place on April 3rd.

OK # 2) CORI Completed
Massachusetts State Law requires that all school volunteers and chaperones for school sponsored field trips must complete and pass a CORI (Criminal History background
check). LPS CORI’s are valid for 3 years and are system-wide. CORI’s must be submitted in person, in the school office, along with a valid MA photo ID for official verification. CORI forms are available in the school office throughout the year and will be available at the above Volunteer Orientations.

If your 3 year-end is approaching you should plan to complete another CORI application soon. (Every parent’s CORI expiration date is noted on their child’s (yellow) emergency form which will be sent home on day 1. If no date is noted, a CORI will be needed to volunteer.)

**Food Service Information**

We utilize a Point of Sale ("POS") system for school lunches. It is used for school breakfast and lunch in all of our cafeterias. You can make deposits into your child’s account in various ways.

1. You can deposit online and also view the child’s account activity at [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com)

2. You may also send in a check with your child, in a clearly marked and labeled envelope and it will be forwarded to the food services office.

3. You can mail your check directly to the Food Service Office at the Lynnfield Middle School, 505 Main Street. Please be sure to make all checks payable to: “Lynnfield Food Services”. All children will keep their same PIN number K-12 and any monies remaining in their account at the end of each year will be available for them in September of the next school year.

Meal prices for SY 17/18: Breakfast $2.00, Lunch $3.00, Milk only $.75, Reduced lunch $.40. Healthy snacks are available every day during the lunch hour for children to purchase. Snack prices will range from $.25 to $.50.

The monthly lunch menu is available on the [Huckleberry Hill School web page](http://www.lunchapp.com) behind the lunch tab, on the Lynnfield Food Services link and in the local newspapers.

Based on financial need, students may be eligible for free or reduced school lunch and breakfast. Forms to determine eligibility are available online at [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com) or at the Food Services Office at Lynnfield Middle School.

For more information about our food service program, please contact:

**Jim McCarthy, Director of Food Services**

mccarthyjam@lynnfield.k12.ma.us or (781) 334-7320.
Art News from Mrs. Lorenzo

This year for Fine Arts Night we are trying something new with the 3rd and 4th grade student’s artwork.

We will be displaying the student art in matted picture frames, one piece of art per student.

This will be on display in the HHS Health and Wellness Center (Gym) from 5:30 to 7:45.

We hope this will give the students the true feeling of how galleries showcase professional artist work.

As a bonus we will offer the picture frames that your child’s artwork is in for purchase the night of the show. This will be the only night it is available. You are under no obligation to buy the frame. All students will get their artwork returned to them. If you choose to purchase the framed picture, we strongly encourage you to do so before your child’s musical performance. The (HWC- Gym) doors will be closed promptly at 7:45 to dismantle the display of framed artwork.

We hope this will be something we will offer in the future for all grades but at this time it is for 3rd and 4th grade only.

Look for a notice that will be going home in backpacks with more details about the show as we get closer to the date - Thursday, April 12, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to the show please email me at Lorenzok@lynnfield.k12.ma.us

See you at the show! Kathleen Lorenzo, HHS Art Educator

Greetings from the Music Room!

What an exciting month for our third and fourth graders here at Huckleberry Hill! Our Spring Fine Arts Night is finally here! This fun tradition of sharing our ART and MUSIC with our friends and family is always such a special evening. The third and
fourth graders have been busy practicing their musical selections. We have such fun songs to share! You’re all going to be tapping your toes and humming along with big smiles on your faces in the All-Purpose Room.

The ART component of Fine Arts Night will be a little different. I am so excited to see the Gallery of artwork that will be on display in our Health and Wellness Center. I think it will be really special to see the students' precious creations carefully matted and framed and on display. The gymnasium will truly be a feast for the eyes!

Please plan your evening so that you can leisurely stroll through the gallery of artwork and still be in the All-Purpose Room in time to see the students perform. Please note the times of the musical performances. Students need to be in the All-Purpose Room in time for their performance.

FINE ARTS NIGHT
Thursday, April 12, 2018

Artwork is on display in the gym beginning at 5:30 pm

Grade Three Performance
In the All-Purpose Room
6:15 pm

Grade Four Performance
6:45 pm

Students should plan to be in the All-Purpose Room at least five minutes prior to their performance time to line up on the risers. The third grade performance will feature drums and claves with a spirited narration and two-part singing. I am so proud of their efforts and can’t wait to show you what they've learned. The fourth grade performance will feature Recorder Ensembles. These students have been playing the recorder all year - plus a part of their third grade year. They really have come so far in their musicianship, playing technique, and ensemble skills. The four songs come from all over the world: England, Japan, Germany, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. What a feast for the ears!

Throughout the evening, you will hear songs by great American songwriter Irving Berlin. Irving Berlin came to the United States from Russia when he was five years old. He eventually became a citizen, served in the United States Army, and wrote some of
the most patriotic, well-loved songs. The entire school has learned about Irving Berlin this year and every student has learned one or two of his songs. He wrote 1,500 songs, so it was really easy to choose a few for our Huckleberry students to sing!

Can’t wait to see you all at Fine Arts Night! Thank you for supporting your child’s fine arts education. The parent community here at HHS is simply the best. Speaking of which, I do have a request for the talented, knowledgeable, and fascinating parent community! I’d like to invite you to join your child’s music class this year to share a musical story. I would love to have parents and/or grandparents in to the music room for a little “show and tell” or “show and sing”! Please contact me if you’d like to visit one of our classes: fraserk@lynnfield.k12.ma.us or extension 4310 here at the school. Last year, I had about 15 parents come in to the school and it was just incredible. I learned so much! Everybody who came in did their own unique thing and shared something that was meaningful and personal to them. I had some parents who actually sang or played an instrument. I had others who talked and shared pictures. I had others who shared a video or an audio recording of a song from their childhood or a modern day song that is meaningful to them. I’d love to double the amount of special guests this year, so please let me know if you’d like to come in! Please come to one of our music classes! It will be fun and educational as we learn more about the diverse Huckleberry Hill School community. Music can be such an effective connector! It can take a bit of coordinating to match up schedules, but I am determined to make it work if you have the time in your day to come in. I can’t wait to hear from you!

See you on April 12!

A Note from Laura Sullivan, School Nurse

During the month of April we will be doing the mandatory hearing screenings on grades 1-3. We will also be doing the mandatory BMI screenings on grades 1 and 4. If for any reason you would like to opt your child out of one or both of the screenings, please email me at sullivanla@lynnfield.k12.ma.us as soon as possible.

April 2018

HHS Calendar of Events

April 3, 2018 Volunteer Orientation 6:30 p.m./PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. @ HHS
April 4, 2018 Early Release-12:00 p.m. Teacher Professional Development
April 5, 6, 9, 2018 Grade 3 ELA MCAS
April 10-12, 2018 Grade 4 ELA MCAS

April 12, 2018 Fine Arts Night 5:30 p.m. @ HHS (Grades 3 & 4)

April 13, 2018 Human Growth and Development video for Grade 4 students

April 16-20, 2018 School vacation week

April 27, 2018 Tele-Olympics - Grade 3

Looking ahead...

May 1, 2018 5th Grade Orientation night for Gr. 4 parents and students @ LMS

May 2, 2018 Early Release - 12:00 p.m. Teacher Professional Development

May 8, 9, 10, 2018 Incoming Kindergarten screening

May 14, 15, 2018 Grade 3 Math MCAS

May 16, 17, 2018 Grade 4 Math MCAS