Rebecca McFall, Ed. D., Superintendent

Lincoln Public Schools Ballfield Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

Core Values

• Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning
• Respect for Every Individual

Collaboration and Community

19-20:12 November 13, 2019

See Page 10 for Employment Opportunities

Superintendent's Bulletin

The Superintendent's Bulletin is typically posted on the Lincoln Public Schools website each Wednesday during the school year. It provides timely, relevant information about meetings, professional development opportunities, curriculum and program development, grant awards, and School Committee news.

Dear LPS Community,

I'm writing today to give you an update about our district-wide, three-year literacy initiative. As most of you know, in the 2016-17 school year our ELA content specialist, Gwen Blumberg, completed a literacy needs assessment that illuminated a need for a more comprehensive and supportive curriculum to help us meet our rich and rigorous state standards, as well as one that reflected our core values as a district. We needed something that would help us build bridges from grade to grade, as well as allow students to build on knowledge from year to year and have common tools, expectations, and language for teachers to support this work. We also wanted something that would help our students develop rich and meaningful reading and writing lives, something they could carry with them long after leaving the Lincoln Public Schools--be it after a K-8 career or a briefer one-year stay. After careful consideration, we selected the Units of Study (UoS) in Reading and Writing curriculums from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) out of Columbia University. Each of these curriculums embraces a "workshop" approach to teaching and learning, where each day follows a predictable structure: a minilesson, time for independent and guided practice while teachers work with individuals, partnerships and small groups, and brought to a close by a share.

The 2018-19 school year was the first year of our initiative. To support our teachers, we hired outside consultants to facilitate professional learning that would undergird and support the units with professional development, as well as site visits where they would go into classrooms and model various aspects of the workshop. To provide our students with richer, more relevant and updated texts to support their development as lifelong readers, we purchased large quantities of books for each campus that were available for teachers and students at the beginning of this school year.

This year, our work continues. We added more units to our curriculum map, enhanced our literacy centers with beautiful new books, and have made plans to further enrich our classroom libraries with books that represent a wider variety of genres that honor diversity and student choice. Additionally, we have continued our partnership with one of our outside consultants and the model of providing professional learning and in-class site visits to help our teachers continue to deepen their understanding of not only the Units of Study but of student literacy development. Lastly, we partnered with the Lincoln School Foundation to send the district's three literacy coaches to a four-day literacy coaching institute in NYC where they attended workshops and were pushed to try on professional practices in New York City schools that they can help replicate in our own classrooms. All of this work is exciting and challenging. And, in year two, we believe now more than ever that this is the right choice for all of our students.

In a recent conversation about the district's literacy work with Gwen Blumberg about the units after her return from the coaching institute, she shared, "The big idea behind the units is volume! Our kids need to read and write a LOT about what they know and care about as well as new ideas and things about which they are curious. The units are about teaching kids to set their own goals related to the steps we are teaching and providing feedback on along a developmental continuum and to celebrate their progress... and then set a *new* or revised goal. So many of the skills we want for our students, and that are a part

Superintendent's Letter, Continued

of Lincoln's Core Values—critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration *as well as* compassion, curiosity, and students' agency over their own learning—are the foundation of the units." She also shared thoughts about how innovative the units are, "The units are not stagnant—they are not '[w]e published this and now they are done'—researchers at TCRWP are doing this work on a daily basis in schools in NYC and around the world. They are continually asking new questions and revising their thinking, which is the very definition of an innovative curriculum. Similarly, for kids—we want them to not only be able to talk about WHAT they are learning but WHY they are learning it. When our kids do this type of deep learning, they are more likely to transfer and extend their learning. Nothing in the units should be a 'check the box/one and done'... the units are designed to foster 'today and everyday' learning where skills develop and grow over time."

Parents can support this exciting work at home with their children. Ask your child what they are working on during reading and writing workshop, what they are proud of, and how this will help them as a reader and writer as they continue to grow.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of the literacy specialists/coaches, faculty, principals, and Jess Rose for this work. It is a big endeavor that has required a great deal of time and dedication to learning and trying on new approaches to teaching and learning. It is not easy, but we are already seeing the positive impact for students.

All the best,

Becky

District Calendar of Upcoming Events

			1 3		
Thursday, November 14			School Building Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room		
NOVEMBER			Lincoln School Drama Department Presents Trap – 7:00 p.m. – Donaldson Auditorium (See flyer on page 7.)		
ls			PTO/METCO Open Forum on Cultural Identity 6:00-7:30 p.m. – Codman Square, Dorchester, MA (See page 5 for more details.)		
"Month	Friday, November 15		SBC, Outreach Subcommittee Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room		
of		•••	Lincoln School Drama Department Presents <i>Trap</i> – 7:00 p.m. – Donaldson Auditorium (<i>See flyer on page 7</i> .)		
the	Monday, November 18		Superintendent's Office Hours 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.		
	Thursday, November 21		School Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room		
Military	Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November, 29		Thanksgiving Recess – No School		
Family"	Monday, December 2		Institute Day for Teachers NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS		
(MOMF)	Thursday, December 5		SBC, Outreach Subcommittee Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room		
(W.C.VIII)			School Committee Meeting to be held in BOSTON 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Codman Square Health Center Great Hall, 637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124		
	Thursday, December 19		School Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room		
	Monday December 23 – Wednesday, January 1		Winter Break – NO SCHOOL Central Office Half Day only on December 24 th Closed on December 25, 2019 and January 1, 2020		

News and Information

To share news with your colleagues, email Janice Gross at <u>jgross@lincnet.org</u>.

Great Learning

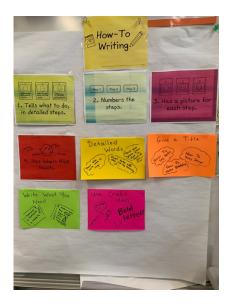
Sarah Collmer, Lincoln School K-4 Principal

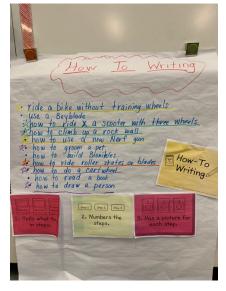
First Grade Authors Write "How To" Non-Fiction Books!

First graders know how to do many things, and they are teaching others by writing non-fiction "how to" books! This is an exciting Units of Study that is part of the K-5 Literacy Professional Development. According to Lucy Calkins, founder of the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project and editor of the Units of Study in reading and writing, "children will invest themselves in their writing if they write about subjects that are important to them."

Lincoln School first graders brainstormed and wrote about how to get a snack, hug, carve a pumpkin, tie shoes, and draw a cat – important topics for first graders! Calkins believes that students deserve to "write for real" – writing "texts they see in the world and writing for an audience of readers, not just for the teacher's red pen." First graders drew pictures and used words such as first, next, then. Tools such as alphabet charts, word walls and anchor charts helped students write their books. They practiced reading fluently, so they can read their books aloud to kindergartners. Superintendent McFall learned how to make pancakes with a first grade author who also shared how to practice writing by acting it out first! "Pour the flour in the bowl. Mix it up – gently! More cinnamon sugar."

We can learn a lot from first graders!







News and Information, Continued

PTO/METCO-Sponsored Open Forum Thursday November 14, 2019

The PTO is joining forces with the METCO team to host an important conversation about cultural identity. The Open Forum will take place at the Codman Square Health Center, 637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA. For directions, click here 637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA or here https://www.google.com/maps/place/637+Washington+St,+Boston,+MA+02124/@42.289369,-71.0741578,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89e37b92c1f5ebaf:0xee4abcf07570acbc!8m2!3d42.289369!4d-71.0719691.

The PTO will open the forum with a concise update on Fall and Winter activities. The main topic of conversation will be facilitated by METCO Director, Marika Hamilton, in collaboration with the Student Support Team from METCO Headquarters (Director of Student Support Services – Deborah Ward; Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Kathy Lopes; METCO Social Worker – Lerato Vilakazi-Jackson).

Facilitators will lead the group in a conversation about how to best support all students in feeling safe and welcomed in their school community. We will spend time discussing cultural identity and why it matters, mindfulness, and how to give your children a voice when having conversations about microaggressions. Additionally, we will work on building stronger relationships between parents from both communities (Lincoln and Boston).

This conversation is scheduled for the evening after the Debby Irving presentation about systemic racism, sponsored by the LSF. Though both presentations will have common threads, either presentation/discussion is a stand-alone event. However, we encourage families to attend both, as there are sure to be powerful synergies. The PTO is working with school technology specialists to livestream the Debby Irving presentation on Nov 13th for those who cannot attend.

Carpooling

If you are a Lincoln-based parent and would like to carpool to the Open Forum on November 14th, please fill out the quick google form shown below, and we will coordinate a carpool.

Carpool Google Form

OR

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0MTJfTf7gD3Sz-Ox3Hn9BhbK9Gr-lKSxlrKTczX5OKFeRug/viewform

News and Information, Continued

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE - PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TODAY!

Drop off boxes can be found in the lobby of the Brooks and Smith Schools.

The Lincoln School Student Council is sponsoring a food and winter clothing drive from Monday, October 21 to Friday, November 15. [These donations will benefit The Lazarus House, a homeless shelter and food pantry, in Lawrence.]

For the food drive, we ask that you donate:	For the winter clothes drive, we ask for you to donate gently used items such as:
 Canned goods/boxed goods Cake mix/frosting Other non-perishable goods (gluten and dairy free are good for people with allergies) Toiletries Baby goods (diapers, formula, baby food) 	 Coats Snow Pants Hats Boots Scarves Sweaters Fleece pants/sweatshirts

Thank you parents! Student Council '19-'20

Town of Lincoln Lottery for Oriole Landing

Oriole Landing is a 60-unit rental development currently under construction. Fifteen of the units are affordable. The Town has a local preference for residents and employees of the town and businesses. An informational meeting is being held on November 14th 2019 at 6:00pm at the Lincoln Library. Completed applications are due by 2:00pm on December 11, 2019. A lottery will be held on January 9, 2020 at 6:00pm at the library. Applications are available at: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yuorqxxd9udssn9/AABRjx8q3LvEMyir9jCe_4eXa?dl=0

For questions, please contact:

Jennifer L. Burney Director of Planning and Land Use Town of Lincoln, MA Ph: 781-259-2610, X8124

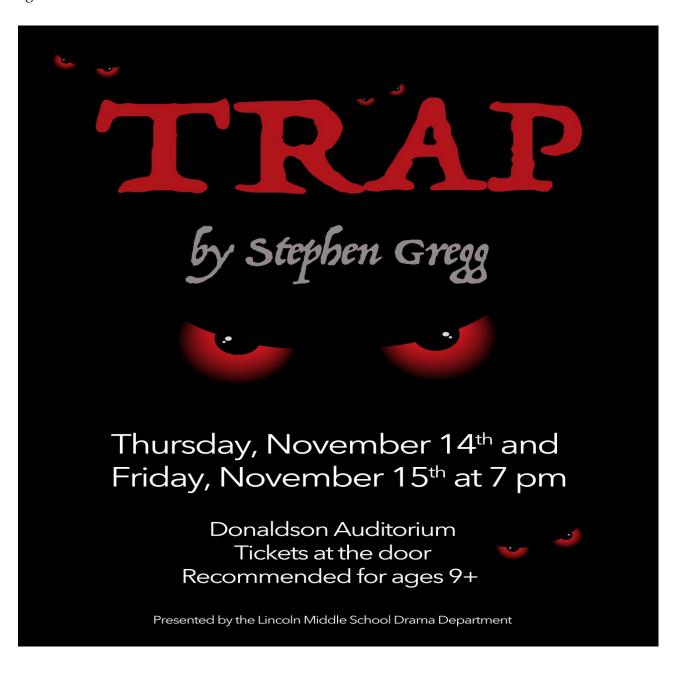
Email: <u>burneyj@lincolntown.org</u>

Town website: http://www.lincolntown.org

News and Information, Continued

Trap

Picture this: an incomprehensible event during which every person in the audience of a middle school play falls unconscious - every person but one. Using interviews with witnesses, loved ones, first responders, and the investigators pursuing the case, a theatre ensemble brings the story of the strange event to life, documentary-style. But as the strands weave together, it looks like this phenomenon might not be entirely in the past. You've never walked into anything quite like *Trap*. Presented by Lincoln Middle School's Drama Department on Thursday, November 14th and Friday, November 15th at 7 pm in the Donaldson Auditorium. Tickets at the door. Suitable for ages 9+.



Professional Development

To register for PD offerings, please complete an LPS Conference/Workshop Request Form available at: http://goo.gl/dlRDxZ



INITIATIVES for DEVELOPING EQUITY and ACHIEVEMENT for STUDENTS

invites your participation in the MAALANA Affinity Group



INVITATION TO AFFINITY GROUP FOR EDUCATORS OF COLOR 2019-2020

(updated 8/28/2019, please ignore any other flyers for this school year)

The IDEAS MAALANA affinity group provides a safe space for educators of color to network, support, and brainstorm on school-related issues of social justice. MAALANA also provides an opportunity to share each other's company and enjoy light refreshments. We meet eight times over the school year. An email reminder is sent out each month to remind folks to RSVP and a summary is sent after each meeting with links to articles on related topics. You only need to reply if you plan to attend. There is no commitment to attend all meetings. Meeting time is from 3:30-5:30 on Fridays. We will meet in the Copper House Tavern of the Best Western Plus Hotel, which is located at 380 Winter Street, Waltham MA. You can enter up the stairs from the parking lot and go through the patio.

MAALANA is an affinity group designed to provide opportunities for educators of color from various communities in Massachusetts to share school experiences regarding topics, such as: race, culture, ethnicity, power/ privilege, culturally responsive teaching practices, and systemic social change to create educational equity. Strategies for addressing the academic achievement of children from diverse cultures, preparing all students to successfully navigate a culturally diverse society, and collaboration techniques among colleagues are reviewed and discussed.

MAALANA educators are Multiracial, Asian, Arab, African Descent, Latino/a, and/or Native American teachers, advisors, counselors, administrators, staff, consultants, tutors, and retired educators who are the "only" or "one of few" of their racial/ ethnic "affinity group" in their building or school system. Claudia A. Fox Tree has facilitated the monthly meetings since the 2006-2007 school year.

MAALANA is sponsored by IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students) through EDCO (Educational Collaborative located in Bedford, MA). Two (2) Contact hours will be awarded for attendance per meeting These may be combined with the IDEAS Book Group for a "bundle" of 10.

DATES: Please "pencil in" our 8 Dates for 2019-2020 School Year (Fridays, unless otherwise noted from 3:30-5:30): 9/13, 10/18, 11/15, Skip Dec., 1/10, 2/7, 3/13, 4/3, and 5/8 (Bring White Ally), with 6/12 as a potential Make-Up Day in case we have snow or something that causes a canceled date.

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2 P.D.P.'s will be awarded per meeting. Please RSVP cfoxtree@gmail.com, if you are attending. If you wish to receive these reminders, announcements, and summaries, please email cfoxtree@gmail.com and request to JOIN the email list! <>:<>:<>:<>:<>:<>:<>:<>:<>:<>:<>:

EDCO Collaborative, 36 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730 Tel: 617 738-5600 Fax: 781 290-4923 Professional Development, Continued



INITIATIVES for DEVELOPING EQUITY and ACHIEVEMENT for STUDENTS

invites your participation in the... IDEAS Book Group



All Meetings will be held at the Brooks School Library in Lincoln from 3:45-5:45 2 Contact hours will be awarded for attendance per each meeting.

The IDEAS Book group provides an opportunity for educators from IDEAS and EDCO districts to meet and share thoughts on the selected books and to discuss how they relate to educational practices and current events.

The book group meets eight times over the school year. An email is sent out each month to remind book group members of the upcoming meeting. You only need to reply if you can attend. **There is no commitment to attend all meetings.**

2019-20 IDEAS Book Selections and Dates of Meetings

Becoming by Michelle Obama on October 10 With unerring honesty and lively wit, Michelle Obama describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens on November 14 For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood by Christopher Emdin on December 12

This book offers a new lens on an approach to teaching and learning in urban schools. It is is the much-needed antidote to traditional top-down pedagogy and promises to radically reframe the landscape of urban education for the better.

"All the Real Indians Died Off": And 20 Other Myths of Native Americans by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker on January 9

In this enlightening book, scholars and activists Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker tackle a wide range of myths about Native American culture and history that have misinformed generations.

No Ashes in the Fire by Darnell Moore on February 13 When Darnell Moore was fourteen, three boys from his neighborhood tried to set him on fire because they thought he was gay. In No Ashes in the Fire, he shares the journey taken by that scared, bullied teenager who not only survived, but found his calling.

Heavy: An American Memoir by Kiese Laymon on March 12 In Laymon's essays, personal stories combine with piercing intellect to reflect both on the state of American society and on his experiences with abuse, which conjure conflicted feelings of shame, joy, confusion and humiliation. Laymon invites us to consider the consequences of growing up in a nation wholly obsessed with progress yet wholly disinterested in the messy work of reckoning with where we've been.

How to Be Less Stupid About Race by Crystal M. Fleming on April 16

This is your essential guide to breaking through the halftruths and ridiculous misconceptions that have thoroughly corrupted the way race is represented in the classroom, pop culture, media, and politics.

Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster by Stephen J. Carter on May 14

She was black and a woman and a prosecutor, a graduate of Smith College and the granddaughter of slaves, as dazzlingly unlikely a combination as one could imagine in New York of the 1930s—and without the strategy she devised, Lucky Luciano, the most powerful Mafia boss in history, would never have been convicted. When special prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey selected twenty lawyers to help him clean up the city's underworld, she was the only member of his team who was not a white male.

For more information about the IDEAS Book Group please contact me at <u>ellistern123@gmail.com</u>

EDCO Collaborative, 36 Middlesex Turnpike , Bedford, MA 01730

Tel: 617 738-5600 Fax: 781 290-4923

Employment Opportunities

The Lincoln Public Schools is committed to maintaining a work and learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of age, color, covered veteran status, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or housing status.

Personnel presently employed by the Lincoln Public Schools <u>are not</u> required to submit a resume or letters of recommendation. Please submit applications online via the District's secure online system at http://www.lincnet.org under "Employment Opportunities."

			Hours/Week		Contact
School	Position	Starting Date	(If applicable)	Compensation	Information
Preschool at Hanscom	• SPED Tutor	Immediately	20 hrs/wk	\$24.61/hour	Lynn Fagan Preschool Coordinator 781-259-9889 Ifagan@lincnet.org
Hanscom Primary School	Instructional AssistantCrossing Guard	11/13/2019 Immediately	25 hrs/wk 2.5 hrs/wk	\$18.77/hour \$18.77/hour	Julie Vincentsen, Principal Hanscom Primary School 781-274-7721, X6300 vincentsenj@lincnet.org
Hanscom Middle School	ASL Interpreter	Immediately	31-33 hrs/wk (After-school hours may be required)	TBD	Denise Oldham Coordinator for Student Services Hanscom Campus, K-8 781-274-6178, X6403 oldhamd@lincent.org
Brooks School	• .4 Special Education Teacher	Immediately		Based on Education and Experience	Naomi Konikoff Coordinator for Student Services Lincoln School K-8 781-257-0987 nkonikoff@lincnet.org
Lincoln School	Custodian	Immediately	40 hrs/wk 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	\$20.94/hr (Step 1)	Michael Haines Facilities Coordinator 781-259-9400, X4305 mhaines@lincnet.org
District	• Substitute School Nurse RN or LPN Cerfification Required	As Needed	TBD	\$180 Full Day \$90 Half Day	Mary Emmons Adm. For Student Services 781-259-9403, X4401 memmons@lincnet.org
District	• Day-to-Day Substitute	As Needed	TBD	\$100 Full Day \$60 Half Day	Suzette Brydie Substitute Coordinator 781-259-9402 sbrydie@lincnet.org
District	• Cafeteria Worker Substitute	As Needed	TBD	\$14.45/hour	Cathleen Higgins Food Services Coordinator 781-259-9400 chiggins@lincnet.org