



Rebecca McFall, Ed. D., Superintendent

Lincoln Public Schools
Ballfield Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

19-20:12
November 13, 2019

Core Values

- Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning
- Respect for Every Individual
- Collaboration and Community

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 mini-lesson, 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

NOVEMBER

is

"Month

of

the

Military

Family"

(MOMF)

- Thursday, November 14 ... School Building Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room
- ... Lincoln School Drama Department Presents
Trap – 7:00 p.m. – Donaldson Auditorium
(See flyer on page 7.)
- ... PTO/METCO Open Forum on Cultural Identity
6:00-7:30 p.m. – Codman Square, Dorchester, MA
(See page 5 for more details.)
- Friday, November 15 ... SBC, Outreach Subcommittee Meeting
10:00 a.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room
- ... Lincoln School Drama Department Presents
Trap – 7:00 p.m. – Donaldson Auditorium
(See flyer on page 7.)
- 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
- Thursday, November 28 & ... Thanksgiving Recess – No School
Friday, November, 29
- Monday, December 2 ... Institute Day for Teachers
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- Thursday, December 5 ... SBC, Outreach Subcommittee Meeting
10:00 a.m. – Hartwell Multipurpose Room
- ... 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 – ... Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, January 1 Central Office Half Day only on December 24th
Closed on December 25, 2019 and January 1, 2020

News and Information

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

Great Learning

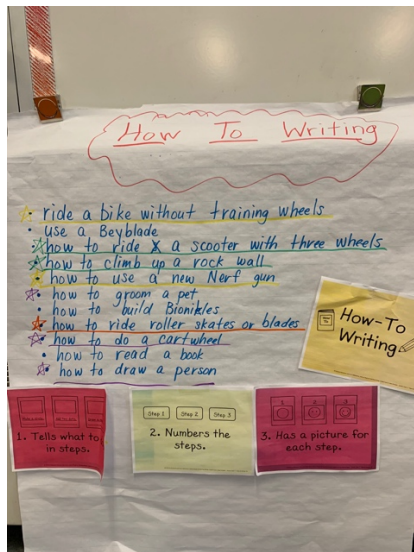
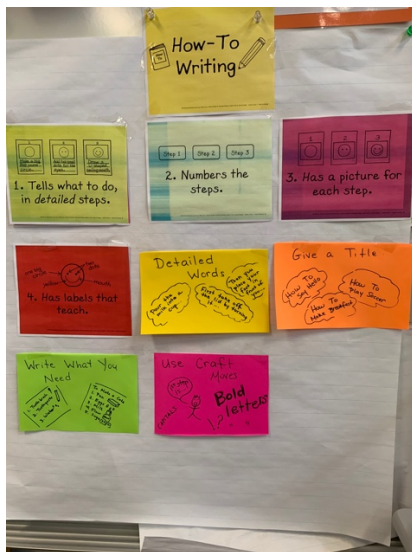
Sarah Collmer, Lincoln School K-4 Principal

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](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) 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 micro-aggressions. 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-IKSxlrKTczX5OKFeRug/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: |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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/yuorqxd9udssn9/AABRjx8q3LvEMyir9jCe_4eXa?dl=0

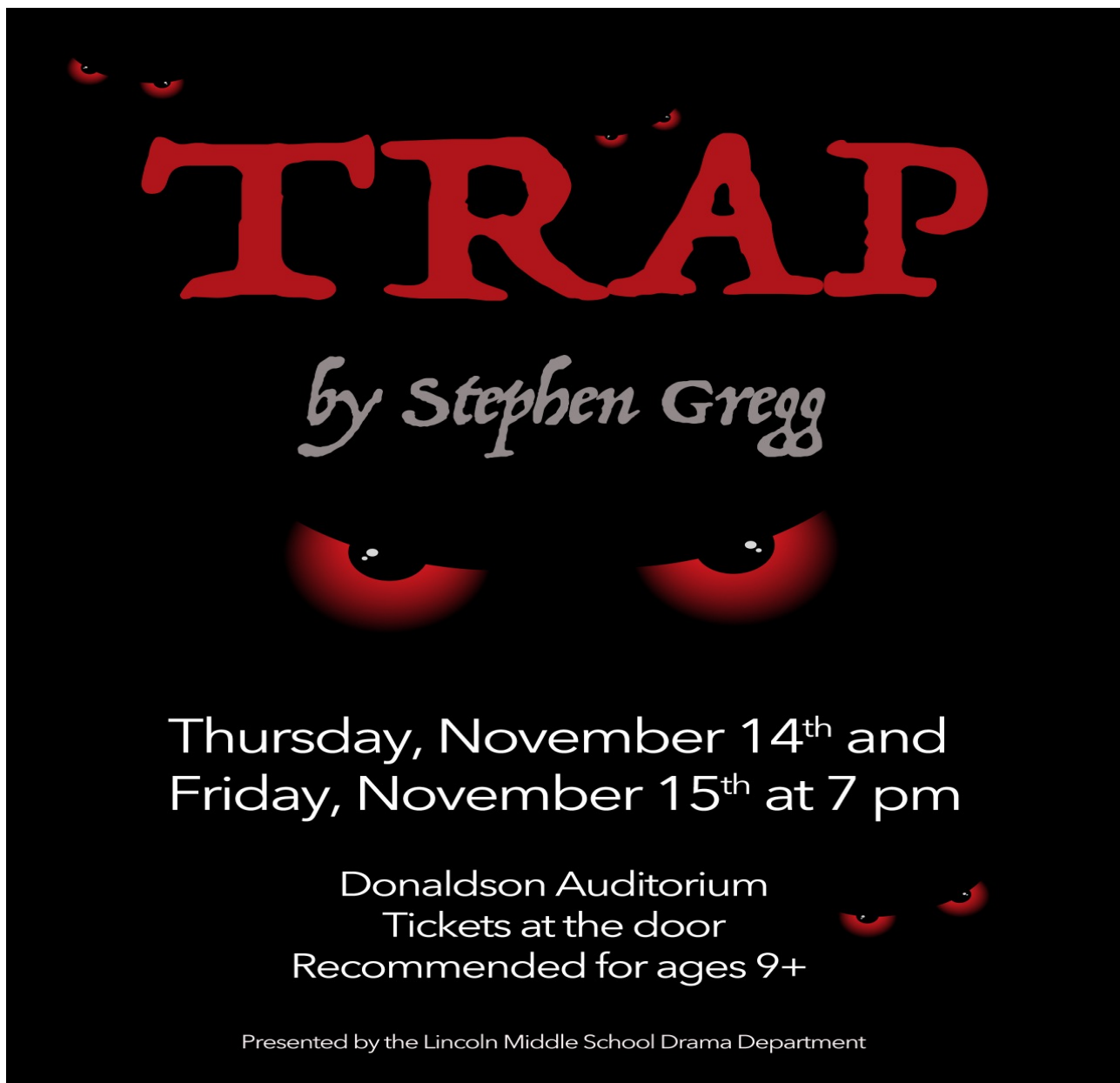
For questions, please contact:

Jennifer L. Burney
Director of Planning and Land Use
Town of Lincoln, MA
Ph: 781-259-2610, X8124
Email: burneyj@lincolntown.org
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+.



Thursday, November 14th and
Friday, November 15th at 7 pm

Donaldson Auditorium
Tickets at the door
Recommended for ages 9+

Presented by the Lincoln Middle School Drama Department

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 are not 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."

| School | Position | Starting Date | Hours/Week (If applicable) | Compensation | Contact Information |
|------------------------|---|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Preschool at Hanscom | • SPED Tutor | Immediately | 20 hrs/wk | \$24.61/hour | Lynn Fagan Preschool Coordinator 781-259-9889 lfagan@lincnet.org |
| Hanscom Primary School | • Instructional Assistant | 11/13/2019 | 25 hrs/wk | \$18.77/hour | Julie Vincentsen, Principal Hanscom Primary School 781-274-7721, X6300 vincentsenj@lincnet.org |
| | • Crossing Guard | Immediately | 2.5 hrs/wk | \$18.77/hour | |
| 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@lincnet.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 Certification 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 |