

# Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter

August 2011  
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Back to school edition



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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 8/15-8/25 – SMART Board trainings for staff
- ◆ 8/24 – Kindergarten Playdate 9:30 AM
- ◆ 8/25 – New student visit/tour at 9:00 AM
- ◆ 8/29 – Teacher work day – no students allowed in building
- ◆ 8/30 – First Day of School for Gr. 1-5 (K Screenings by appt.)
- ◆ 8/31 – K Screenings day 2 by appt.
- ◆ 9/1 – Boo-Hoo Breakfast – all parents 8:15 AM
- ◆ 9/1 - ½ day for K
- ◆ 9/2 - No School
- ◆ 9/5 – Labor Day – No School
- ◆ 9/6 – 1<sup>st</sup> Full Day for K
- ◆ 9/7 – Back to School Open House
- ◆ 9/8 – School Store
- ◆ 9/9 – School Pictures
- ◆ 9/15 – School Site Council mtg. 7:30 AM
- ◆ 9/20 – PTO Meeting 7PM
- ◆ 9/20 – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. parent meeting 6:30 PM

## Principal's News

Brent Conway, Principal

What an outstanding summer it has been. As I write this, the Sox are in line for the playoffs, the weather has been stellar and we have accomplished so much at school in just a few short weeks.

All summer mailings with teacher assignments were mailed on August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have yet to receive yours, please call the school. Along with the mailing were detailed instructions on how to update all your necessary personal contact information for our database. It can all be done through our district website at [www.melroseschools.com](http://www.melroseschools.com). We have a new integrated student database which will provide parents with portal access to information. It is called Aspen X2 and I'll be sharing much more about this with you in the coming weeks.

Of course we cannot completely eliminate all forms and information from the first day. Each year your child receives a Parent/Student Handbook. This handbook outlines all of the rules, procedures and policies that are in place for the Melrose Elementary Schools. **Each student and parent MUST sign and return the final page in the book that acknowledges you have received, read, and discussed the handbook.**

All families are also provided a Free and Reduced Lunch Application and important Health forms for our nurse.

Principal's Newsletters will be sent through email attachment. I encourage all families to sign-up for Principal's Email Updates which include these newsletters and other occasional tidbits. You can do this by following the directions on the front page of the school website. If you registered last year and received this newsletter through email, there is no need to register again. I also encourage you to subscribe to my blog, where I will post short, more frequent pieces about the teaching and learning in the building. This can also be accessed on the Lincoln website.

If you do not have regular access to email please notify the office and we will make accommodations.

All this technology is exciting and your children will be getting in on it too. For two weeks before school opening, elementary staff members across the district have been coming to Lincoln for SMART Board training being conducted by our new Technology Integration Specialist, Mark

Kelsey. With all classrooms having a SMART Board next year, the trainings were so popular Mark had to add additional days. Clearly the teachers are looking forward to using them to engage students and find new ways to present information. In conjunction with our fully implemented FOSS Science units and a revised math curriculum that aligns to the National Common Core standards, we will have a big focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) Of course, we will always focus on developing literacy skills too. In fact, strong literacy skills are one of the cornerstones of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, which you will hear more about from me on my blog and at meetings and events.

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> when parents are invited to Lincoln for our Back to School Open House. A detailed schedule will be sent home during the first week of school.

It is important for parents to remember that **all classroom snacks must be nut free**. Food containing nuts may still be brought in for lunch. Additionally, the district's Wellness Policy does not allow distribution of food for birthdays. Please consider a non-food item for birthday recognitions.

I would like to remind our parents of our drop off procedures. No parents are allowed to drive into either parking lot during drop off or pick-up, unless accessing the handicap parking spaces. Students and parents should use the crosswalk with the Crossing Guard on W. Wyoming and parents using the drop-off loop are not allowed to remain in the loop preventing others access. Parents are allowed to park on the opposite side of W. Wyoming and on Pleasant St. Please follow the parking signs on Crescent and Everett Streets if you drop off in the back of the building. These procedures are for the safety of our students and for the respect of our neighbors, both important lessons to demonstrate for our children.

We are looking forward to the start of school. We can't wait to see all the kids and build on our success from last year as we move ahead with many new adventures this year.

## Welcome to our new staff members

- **Ms. Ellen Rice – Paraprofessional:** Ms. Rice is a retired Elementary school teacher from various Catholic schools in the area. She brings great experience and insight in how to help children reach their fullest potential.
- **Ms. Jessica Giuffrida – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher:** Ms. Giuffrida is not new to Lincoln. Ms. G has been a paraprofessional at Lincoln for the past two years. She will complete her M.Ed. in Special Education this fall from Salem State. She is a highly talented individual and we look forward to her creativity and enthusiasm.
- **Ms. Andrea Barker – Paraprofessional:** Ms. Barker began working at Lincoln in the middle of last year on a temporary basis. Ms. Barker, a very supportive and skilled individual, will be a fulltime paraprofessional working in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- **We will also be welcoming a new ½ Day Kindergarten Teacher and a METCO Aide**



## New Leadership in the District

Last spring, Superintendent Casey made two excellent hires. Mary Alise Herrera is now the new Principal at Winthrop and Dan Richards is the new Principal at Melrose High School. I have known Ms. Herrera for many years as we both worked together in Tyngsborough. Mr. Richards, formerly the Assistant Principal at Belmont High School, was the MA Assistant Principal of the Year in 2010.

Over the summer I have had the pleasure of working with both of them very closely. Their leadership and fresh perspective on ideas have already paid off. I look forward to them being part of our district and helping all our students excel.

## School Store – September 8th

Our school store will be open on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Each class will have some time during the day to come down and do some shopping. Many of the items on the back to school lists will be available along with some fun item too.

*Citizenship \* Acceptance  
Respect \* Effort \* Safety*

## Nurses' Notes

- It is important to annually complete the Health Form that is sent home on the first day. The form helps the nurse to know which medications a child takes regularly or may need administered at school.
- Please remember to call the Save-a-Child phone line to report an absence for any reason prior to 8:00am. Leave detailed information such as fever, vomiting (etc.) or Dr.'s appointment. Due to federal and state guidelines, we must monitor students with flu like symptoms.
- Students should NOT return to school until a fever, vomiting or diarrhea has subsided for 24 hours.
- If students have started an antibiotic for infection, they must have taken the medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child borrows clothes from school, please return them washed in a timely manner.
- Please remind your children of the importance of playground safety, especially using the slide one student at a time, and only going in one direction down the slide. Flip Flops are no longer allowed at school either as a safety precaution
- Use proper hand washing and cough etiquette to prevent the spread of germs
- Thank you for your help, and have a safe and healthy new school year.

**Open House is Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. A detailed schedule will come home on the first day of school.**

## We Made AYP!

Over the last several years we have been making many changes to our scheduling, instructional practices, and how our staff works together to meet the needs of all learners. I am proud to inform you that based on preliminary MCAS results from the spring, we have made such strong progress, we have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) according to the federal No Child Left Behind law. This means that in grades 3, 4, and 5 our students improved their scores in both ELA and Math to a level that is on course for 100% proficiency by 2014. While ALL categories or subgroups of students improved scores, of particular note are the large point increases of our subgroups of Special Education students and our Low Income students.

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has estimated that over 70% of U.S. Schools will NOT make AYP this year according to the current NCLB formula. He is also calling on Congress to make significant changes to the law, which most educators deem “terminally flawed.” In fact, in late September waivers to some of the most punitive measures of the law will be developed for states that have adopted better measures of student, school, and staff progress. Massachusetts has been a leader in many of the initiatives that the US Department of Education is encouraging. Melrose has also been a leader within these developments.

I will keep everyone apprised of the developments and the impact they have on Melrose and Lincoln. In the mean time, let’s celebrate the success of our students but remember that we still have hard work ahead and will continue to make improvements so that all children are being challenged and learning to their maximum potential.



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## MUMS for Sale – Fall PTO Fundraiser

"MUM"s The Word! ( PTO Fundraiser)

Get a jump start on your fall decorating by purchasing beautiful potted Mums in assorted colors and sizes. Mums are a purchase most of us typically make each fall, so why not buy some Mums in support of the Lincoln School? These are high quality flowers that are grown locally in the family operated Oak Hill Greenhouses of Spencer, MA. Order forms will be sent home with each child the first week of school. The Mums will be available for pick-up by the end of the week of September 12th. As always, thanks for your support!

## New Student Tours

New students and families to Lincoln School are welcome to join Principal Conway on tours of the building and classrooms on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. We will meet in the foyer of the lobby.

## **Lincoln School School Site Council Elections**

Each public school in Massachusetts is required to have a School Site Council. The Site Council is an advisory group of teachers, administrators, parents and community members whose primary goal is to develop an annual school improvement plan. The 2010-2011 Site Council has completed their work on next year's School Improvement Plan and will meet one more time in September to review the MCAS results and any possible alterations to the School Improvement Plan for '11-'12. The current School Improvement Plan, which was approved by School Committee last spring, can be found online at the Lincoln website.

Parents are elected to positions on the Site Council with an annual election. Each term is a 2-year term. Next year Lincoln School will have three openings on the School Site Council. This year's election for a site council position for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years will be held at our PTO meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Lincoln Library. The members are to include an equal number of staff and parent representatives.. There are no term limits and currently serving parent representatives may seek another 2-year term.

**The 2010-2011 Site council members are listed below. Those who are listed as Year 2 have completed their term and those seats are open for election. Those individuals may run for another 2-year term:**

Brent Conway	Principal/Co-Chair	Mike Oginski	Teacher
Sherryl Breda	Teacher	Ed Keenan	Teacher
Cynthia Santosuosso	Teacher	Jean O'Neil	Teacher
<i>Annalise Conti</i>	<i>Parent – Year 2</i>	Kathleen McGourthy	Parent – Year 1
<i>Linda Apple</i>	<i>Parent – Year 2</i>	Kristin Haggerty	Parent – Year 1
<i>Carol Nadeau</i>	<i>Moved on to M.S.</i>	Gretchen Sinnet	Parent – Year 1
	Dr. Elizabeth Kerouack		Community Representative

If you are interested in seeking a 2-year term with the Lincoln School Site council for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, please contact Principal, Brent Conway by September 12<sup>th</sup> to be placed on the ballot. The election is a paper/pencil secret election by those in attendance at the September 20<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting.

If you would like further information please contact Principal, Brent Conway through email or phone.