As Lincoln Middle School prepares our students for the new PARCC assessment, we first had to train our teachers so they would be able to assist our students. The teacher training has been implemented over the past three months with many hours spent to make sure we are prepared to help support our students with the technology platform when they take the assessment.

Our teachers are being trained to understand the technological platform of the PARCC assessment so they can address the students’ questions on how to navigate the test platform. The training includes sample items for teachers to review so that they can support student learning using the same rigor of the PARCC assessment. Teachers were given a PowerPoint on how to use the tutorials offered on the PARCC Pearson website. http://parcc.pearson.com/ This PowerPoint presentation gave step-by-step directions on how to use the navigation tools while taking a practice assessment. Then the teachers had to complete both the literacy and mathematics practice tests. This gave them a chance to see what it will be like for our students when they take the assessment in March. Much time and effort is being spent to give our teachers the experiences necessary to prepare our students for the assessment. It is important that the students also know how to navigate the tools necessary to successfully complete the assessment.

For the literacy portion of the tests, students will have to read at least two passages and watch a video or listen to an audio. The passages will be a combination of fiction and non-fiction writing. The students will then have to answer comprehension questions, as well as write multi-paragraph responses that use textual evidence from all three sources. In mathematics they will also have to use various technology-enhanced questions, including writing equations and drawing diagrams or models to illustrate their mathematical thinking. The curriculum was revised two years ago in literacy and mathematics and is still ongoing today. We anticipate the students will improve on the PARCC assessment each year as they become exposed to more CC curriculum and become more familiar with the testing platform.
Many wonderful things have happened here at Lonsdale Elementary School these past few months, starting with the recognition of some special teachers that work here. First, Mrs. Jan Boucher, our nurse and health educator, was recently recognized for her excellence in education. She was presented with the Crystal Apple award in recognition for always putting the needs of her students first. Not only does she provide medical care when needed, but she delivers our health curriculum in classrooms throughout the week. She instills the importance of staying healthy in an engaging and meaningful way. Congratulations Mrs. B., you are the best! Also recently recognized was Mrs. Marla Barrett, a third grade teacher here at Lonsdale. Mrs. Barrett is an avid Pat’s fan and more importantly, a cancer survivor. She received a surprise visit from former Patriot Joe Andruzzi, a three-time Superbowl Champion and founder of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation. Joe is a cancer survivor himself and recognized Mrs. Barrett for her own positive and “UPBEAT” approach to battling this disease. She truly exemplifies all that patients recovering at the Providence Veteran’s Medical Center. Mrs. Stein then went to the hospital and presented the cards to the patients there. Staff and patients were touched by the kind gesture! Even the doctors agreed it was a very effective medicine and certainly helped to make the patients feel better! These service men and women sacrifice so much for us and it felt good to let them know how much we appreciate them!

With the introduction of Eureka math this year, our students have been showing an increasing awareness of the importance of math in our everyday lives. Math is real and relevant and can be understood in a variety of ways. Our students recently enjoyed a presentation by “Marvelous Marvin” here at Lonsdale. The assembly showed us how much fun math can be! It was an enjoyable presentation and we thank our LPT for providing the funding for this engaging assembly!

Music Appreciation at Lincoln Central Elementary School

One of Central’s artistic parents, Mrs. Marina Relyea, provides before school violin lessons to our students here at Central Elementary. Mrs. Relyea works for the RI Philharmonic and we consider ourselves very fortunate that she is willing to share her considerable talent with our students. The students shared their considerable talent with the rest of the student body during lunch time just before Christmas break. It was an impressive performance!
**Dinner Theatre at the Great Northern**

Numerous years ago, Deb Reddy, Northern’s physical education teacher, started the Dinner Theatre program. Each Friday during lunch, fourth and fifth grade students have the opportunity to entertain their classmates with any talent they would like to showcase. Students have showcased talents such as singing and playing a musical instrument. Students have danced, told jokes and even flown a hovercraft helicopter through a hula-hoop! Students help Mrs. Reddy by assisting with the list of students, helping the participants with props, and making sure everyone on the list has a chance. Students have stated the following about Dinner Theatre: “I can’t wait until it is my turn, I’m playing the violin.” “I was really nervous going up, but when I was done it was great.” “I loved it the first time; me and my friends are going to sing a song from Frozen next time.” Next time you are in the mood for some great entertainment, come to the Great Northern on a Friday during lunch!

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**Winter at Saylesville Elementary School**

When the weather is cold or rainy, elementary school students spend their thirty minute recess inside. Students can play board games, draw, build with Legos or find some other way to pass the time. A group of 5th graders have begun to redefine indoor recess and have lots of 2nd and 1st graders wishing for below freezing temperatures or a muddy field! Since December, a group of seven students have been eating their lunch with the Kindergartners, first and second graders and then leading math games during indoor recess. The group includes: Neriah Bernadino, Owen Eltz, Shaun Holley, Sam Vygoder, Paige Williamson, Ashley Stratis and Michael King. The 5th graders wanted to help their younger peers and thought it would be a great way to help other students learn and have fun. Mrs. Whitelaw, a former Saylesville teacher and the current Math Coach, worked with the students to teach them math games. The students learned games such as Multiplication Bingo, Around the World, School-a-hoop, Fraction Pizza Bingo, Quirkle, Top It and more. Shaun Holley has learned a lot about younger students and how much they like “School-a-Hoop.” “They like School-a-Hoop even after playing it week after week!”

A typical session starts with a group of 5th graders coming into indoor recess and announcing what games they are offering that day. They use popsicle sticks labeled with the name of a student on it (also known as “Fair Sticks”) to identify who gets to play. The 5th graders run two 15-minute sessions, so the younger students can still have time to play with their friends or engage in an unstructured activity of their choice during recess. However, most students wish they could play for the entire 30 minutes. The students have been working primarily with grade 2, and occasionally with grade 1, and the group is being lobbied by other grades to offer the games to their classes as well. The opportunity to lead the math games has helped 5th graders gain a deeper appreciation for the younger students. Michael King was astonished at “how well the 1st graders act and follow directions. They are really smart! They can even do questions like 100+90=190.” Owen Eltz has noticed that “All the kids improved on their [math] fact skills the more they played the games.”

In addition to learning math skills, the 5th graders are gaining leadership experience and helping students learn valuable soft skills that support student learning. Neriah Bernadino, a Saylesville 5th grader said, “It was nice to see the kids following directions and behaving better than ever.” Vice President Paige Williamson and Sam Vygoder were very impressed by the great sportsmanship the second graders showed.

Since returning from the December break, more 5th graders have come forward to learn the math games and lead the games. We plan to get these students trained. And we also plan to expand to do more with 1st graders and 3rd graders in the coming weeks. This has truly been a win-win for the 5th graders and the younger students who are discovering every time we have indoor recess that math is fun and that they can make a difference.
Mrs. Kara Kushner, Lincoln Central Elementary, Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Kara Kushner is a classroom teacher assistant in Mrs. Carr’s kindergarten classroom. She began her career at Lincoln Central three years ago in a second grade classroom that had an abundance of students. Two years ago she began working with kindergarteners and very quickly became invaluable to the kindergarten classroom teacher and students. Mrs. Kushner is an art teacher by trade and uses her considerable talent and creativity to enhance the learning of her young charges.

Six weeks ago, Kara stepped in as art teacher at Central to cover Jury Duty for our art teacher. We are very thankful she is so versatile and willing to shift gears from TA to art teacher at a moment’s notice! Mrs. Kushner has been a great addition to our team, quickly fitting into our school culture and forming friendships with students and staff alike.

Mrs. Elizabeth Forde-Proffitt, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Speech Language Pathologist

Central Elementary School is fortunate to have a cadre of exceptional staff members. One example of our talented and dedicated staff is Mrs. Elizabeth Forde-Proffitt who has been a valuable member of the Central Elementary School team for 18 years! After graduating college, she began her career as a speech language pathologist at Sargent Rehabilitation Center, rising to a clinical director position after thirteen years treating pediatric head injuries, neurological impairments, and providing various speech/language services.

After working as the Director of Out Patient Programs, Liz left Sargent and began working for the Lincoln Public Schools where she channeled her considerable expertise into becoming an extraordinary speech/language teacher. As one of her colleagues indicates, “she is our go to person – she gets the whole child picture.” Mrs. Proffitt is very much a team player, reveling in collegial dialogue and working cooperatively with fellow teachers. Any IEP or RTI team that Liz is part of is innovative and accomplished. Her astute analytic ability coupled with her diagnostic expertise makes her a valuable member of our professional staff.

Liz has been married for ten years to Al Proffitt. Liz has been married for ten years to Al Proffitt. As a private pilot, Al relies on Liz to be his co-pilot, navigating their route for him using GPS. They frequently take off in their 4 seater airplane into the wild blue yonder. We are very appreciative of the time and energy Mrs. Proffitt devotes to the students of Central Elementary School. She is a wonderful example of the professional expertise here at Central.

Mrs. Jennifer Murray, Lonsdale Elementary School, Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Jennifer Murray is one of the newest members to Lonsdale Elementary’s Teacher Assistant team. She currently works with Mrs. Linda Guarino in her first grade classroom and absolutely loves her job! Jenn is not new to the school however. All four of her children have attended Lonsdale. Two of her children, Riley and Jacob, are currently enrolled at Lonsdale School. Jenn notes how much she enjoys being at Lonsdale. She feels it is an amazing school full of great teachers and students.

Jenn feels that the best part of her job is coming in everyday to the bright, smiling faces of the students she serves. She particularly enjoys watching them learn and seeing the excitement in their eyes when they have mastered something new. She has been a positive influence in the students’ lives and is a wonderful asset to our school.

Prior to coming to Lonsdale, she was a stay-at-home mom for 11 wonderful years and before that, had worked in the mortgage industry. She has been married to her husband John for 17 years. In her spare time, Jenn likes to stay healthy by visiting the gym. She has an active family life and particularly enjoys spending family time together at the beach during the summer. They also like fishing and camping. We are so happy that Jenn is a member of our Lonsdale family!

Ms. Stephanie Long, Lonsdale Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Stephanie Long is a first year teacher here at Lonsdale Elementary School. She is a Special Education teacher with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication Disorders and a Master’s Degree in Special Education and Elementary Education. Stephanie completed her student teaching last year at Central Elementary School. In addition to that work experience, she also worked in the Extended School Year program at Northern Elementary this past summer and was a substitute teacher in Warwick while obtaining her Master’s Degree.

Stephanie is a very dedicated professional. She works hard because she cares so much about the students she serves. She notes that the best part of her job is watching her students reflect on their successes in the classroom. She also enjoys seeing their progress and the sense of accomplishment they feel when they have mastered important concepts. Stephanie’s students enjoy having her as their teacher. They recently created a beautiful bridal basket to present her upon recognition of her recent marriage to her husband Walli.

Stephanie and Walli recently purchased a home in Attleboro, MA. In her spare time, she enjoys decorating their new home, shopping and traveling. She also loves spending time with the newest member of their family, Marquis, their Cavalier King Charles puppy.
Ms. Linda Snodgrass, Northern Elementary School, Teacher Assistant

Linda Snodgrass is a former business woman, with a background in financial software. After taking time off from the business world to raise a family, she began volunteering in her child’s school. Linda decided to return to part time work and liked the idea of working with young children in an academic environment. In December of 2013, Linda joined the Northern Elementary team as a part time teacher assistant in Ms. Andrews’ kindergarten classroom. She enjoys working with children and seeing their growth throughout the year. “The difference from the beginning of the year to the end of the year is amazing!” Reading with her students is one of her favorite activities. While not at school, Linda enjoys spending time with her family which includes her husband, three sons, and two dogs. Her outside of school hobbies include tennis, skiing and reading. She is an asset to Northern and we are fortunate to have her on our staff!

Mrs. Margret Rock, Northern Lincoln Elementary School, Grade 5 Teacher

Margret is one of Northern’s superb fifth grade teachers. She has been teaching in Lincoln since 1989. During her tenure she has taught in a special needs resource room and in regular education grades kindergarten through six. She is someone who is ready for a challenge and wants to try new things in education. In the 1990’s, she worked with colleagues to implement inclusion of special needs students utilizing various models. In fact, one group of lucky students had Mrs. Rock for grade four and then she looped with the class to grade five. She not only developed and implemented flexible grouping within her team, she implemented Shared Teaching in grade 5.

Margret extended her expertise to an after school programs throughout the years. She also worked on curriculum committees in all subjects: ELA, math, social studies, and science. She has assisted on the Northern School Improvement Team, Curriculum Advisory Council, the Student Support Team and the PBIS team. She was the Rhode Island finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching in 2009. She considers Northern her home away from home. She has had the privilege to work with, and be inspired by, so many wonderful, talented colleagues throughout the years. Working with them has made her a better teacher. She believes that every child should feel happy and safe at school. Margret feels that it is OK to make mistakes. Every day is a new opportunity to shine. She has been married for 22 years, and has two wonderful children.

Mrs. Jennifer Ruest, Saylesville Elementary School, Teacher Assistant

Jennifer Ruest is one of Saylesville Elementary school’s newest staff members. Mrs. Ruest has been with Saylesville since the start of the 2014 -2015 school year. You might have even met her at the Ice Cream Social. Mrs. Ruest serves as a Kindergarten part-time teacher assistant in Mrs. Crowell’s classroom. This Jen’s first year with the Lincoln Public Schools, but she has experience in other schools. Mrs. Ruest began working in a school when her son, Matthew, started elementary school. Working in her son’s school gave her the opportunity to support his learning and earn some money. After just a couple of days, Jen was hooked and realized she not only enjoyed working with children, she loved kindergartners. “It’s great to make such a difference getting them started in such a positive place.” When the opportunity came up to work in the same school district she attended throughout childhood, she went for it. Mrs. Ruest has found Saylesville to be a very positive environment. She is excited to come to work and feeds off of the children’s enthusiasm for learning. “It’s amazing to see them on the first day and then to see what they know now. You can see how they grow and learn. Some don’t know the alphabet and by the end of the year, they are reading on their own. It’s amazing.”

Jennifer grew up in Lincoln and attended Lonsdale School. She now resides in Cumberland. Jen loves the color purple and her cats. In her spare time, she enjoys doing crafts and traveling. We’re all very excited to have Mrs. Ruest on our team. She truly does make a difference!
**RECOGNITION OF OUR INVALUABLE PROFESSIONALS**

**Mrs. Ann Whitelaw, Saylesville Elementary School, Math Coach**

After 25 years in the classrooms of the Lincoln Public Schools, Ann Whitelaw has stepped out of the classroom and taken on the position of Elementary Math Coach for Grades 3-5. Her passion for math, commitment to her colleagues and her desire to see that all students succeed in math has helped her make an immediate impact in helping teachers learn the new math curriculum as well as continue to help students.

Ann Whitelaw grew up in Seekonk, Massachusetts and attended Bridgewater State University and Providence College. Ann has taught grades 4-6 at Central and Saylesville Elementary Schools. In addition to her work in the classroom, Mrs. Whitelaw has made contributions outside of the classroom. Ann was a PBIS Coach at Central; she participated extensively in the curriculum development work with the Dana Center, and she is a nationally trained AFT Trainer of "Strategies for Effective Teaching." Throughout her career, she has always tried to make the experiences of students meaningful. In fact, Mrs. Whitelaw, along with Barbara McCleary, was one of the founders of the Grade 6 Bournedale camping trip, which has become a rite of passage for countless Lincoln students.

Ann Whitelaw is a leader of learning. She is a member of NCTM, an international society of mathematics educators. She researches best practices, watches countless hours of webinars, networks with other schools, and participates in regional conferences to deepen her understanding of the standards and shares all that she learns with her colleagues. She is infectiously positive about the direction the Lincoln Public Schools are heading when it comes to math education. "I'm amazed at how great the teachers have been. They have been giving it their all in implementing this new curriculum. They really give 100%. This is going to transform math. There is so much great thinking going on. Lincoln is in a position to achieve excellent results."

Ann Whitelaw is a mother of two daughters. Her husband runs a family-owned diner in their hometown of Seekonk. When Ann is not teaching, she loves to spend time on the island of Martha Vineyard.

**Mrs. Kimberly Dorocz, Lincoln Middle School, Teacher Assistant**

Having spent fourteen years working for the Lincoln Public School Department at the elementary level, Kimberly has finally moved up this year to the Lincoln Middle School. For most of her career, she was a classroom assistant at Saylesville Elementary School and for the past three years as a one-on-one assistant to a special needs child. A former hair stylist and retail manager, Kimberly brings an infectious, positive personality that makes her a valuable member of the Lincoln Middle School staff and a perfect fit for the student with whom she works.

A life-long Lincoln Lion, she attended to Saylesville Elementary School, Lincoln Junior High School, and Lincoln Senior High School. She still calls the Saylesville district her home. She is a proud mother of a son Braeden, a 2013 Lincoln High School graduate, who followed in his mother’s footsteps by attending the same schools she did.

Kim was a bit apprehensive at first when she moved to the middle school. She knew that there was a new teacher in the program and she didn’t know what to expect out of this young, recent college graduate. Kim quickly learned that Ms. Kali Hayter is a dynamic and high-energy educator who expects her students to maximize their potential and she runs a well-organized classroom filled with opportunities for her students. Kim quickly realized that Ms. Hayter’s class would allow her students all the access and opportunities that were available. Kim states, “Miss Hayter is fantastic!” “She is always out in front of the children and engaging them in excellent lessons that are tailor made to their needs. Quite frankly, she is one of the best teachers I have ever worked with.” Kim states that she “loves working at the middle school because everyone is so positive and kid centered.”

A professed girly-girl and reality television fan, she attended a party at Dave and Buster's where she is one of the best teachers I have ever worked with. The party was for family, friends and fans of Derrick Levassour, a contestant from Johnston, who was revealed to be the winner. She calls it one the most memorable moments of her life.

Kim is a self-proclaimed wordsmith who says she likes to expand her vocabulary and invent new words that she hopes will become part of the English language. She is an avid swimmer and loves the gym. Her other hobbies include, reading, museums (The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History is her favorite), pop culture and reading books by Jodi Picoult. She also likes to travel around New England. Kim is a welcome addition to the Lincoln Middle School community!

**Mr. Richard Anterni, Lincoln Middle School, Social Studies**

After twenty-six years of teaching, Richard Anterni is calling this year his last. A valuable member of the Lincoln Middle School teaching staff, Richard is fortunate to have many more years to enjoy with his wife, Bernadette and son, Joseph. Richard looks forward to spending more time on his hobbies; baseball, music, reading non-fiction, traveling, cooking and Bernadette’s “honey-do list.”

After twenty-one years of working in his family’s business, Anco Tool and Die in East Providence, where he started sweeping floors at the age of ten, Richard decided he wanted a new career and decided to become an elementary teacher. Richard was a Magna Cum Laude and the recipient of the Claiborne Pell for Excellence in American History Award when he graduated Rhode Island College.
He taught in East Providence for one year before coming to Lincoln. His years as a teacher have made him realize that he “liked interacting with students and helping them reach their potential every day”. He also states, “something exciting happens every day” and “I love coming to work!” Richard states, “I really enjoy watching children finally get it and realize what they can accomplish.” Students enjoy his jovial personality and his bombastic laugh that can be heard frequently throughout the building. Richard has many passions from 60’s and 70’s rock ‘n roll, reading and traveling to Europe, especially Germany and England. However, all who know him will tell you that his favorite pastime is rooting for the New York Yankees. He believes that Mickey Mantle is the best player of all time. Also, Derek Jeter’s recent retirement, after an illustrious career, made him think about his own retirement. Richard has been the subject of some good-natured ribbing. Rumor has it that Richard had to retire when Jeter retired so the two could spend time together talking about baseball. Richard is a valuable member of the Lincoln Middle School community, who will be missed as he spends time, “Relaxing and enjoying life that will allow me to do all those things that I have been putting off for so many years!” All we know is that as long as the Yankees are in playoff contention, Richard’s retirement will be as enjoyable as it can be.

Mrs. Kerrie Carbone, Lincoln High School, Teacher Assistant

Kerrie Carbone is a very important part of Mr. Christopher Jones’ special education program. Mrs. Carbone has worked in the Lincoln Public Schools for over 15 years, serving primarily students at the middle and high school levels. Each day brings new challenges as she supports the students in achieving their academic, social and civic goals. Her job is very rewarding as the students are very appreciative of her efforts. ‘Kerrie’s positive attitude and ‘can do’ spirit are appreciated by all staff members, stated Administrative Liaison Charlotte Tavares. Mrs. Carbone enjoys being part of the school community and looks forward to school events such as spirit week and athletic events. Mrs. Carbone’s love of her students and athletics blended together when she was able to help begin the Unified Sports program at LHS. Due to family obligations, she hasn’t been able to help with that program currently, but looks forward to helping out again in the future. For now, her three grandchildren keep her very active and busy cheering on the sidelines. She loves being there for them as they begin to learn and grow.

Mr. Peter Prendergast, Lincoln High School, Math Teacher

Mr. Peter Prendergast has served as a math teacher at LHS for many years. Prior to coming to the high school, Mr. Prendergast taught at Lincoln Middle School. Known for his exuberance about mathematics, Mr. Prendergast comes to school each day with a smile on his face. He supports his students through his positive attitude and willingness to go the extra-mile to ensure their success. He teaches primarily freshmen and sophomore classes focusing on Algebra and Geometry. This year he has been working very hard to get his students ready the upcoming PARCC assessments. Mr. Prendergast also contributes to the LHS community in variety of significant ways. He co-chairs the Personalization Committee which helps to guide the direction of the advisory program. In the past few years, he has helped to develop programs and activities to help build a positive school climate through advisory. Each year, he leads LHS in its efforts to assist in Operation Holiday Cheer. This program supports members of the Armed Forces serving overseas. Personal items, letters and cards are collected and sent to our brave servicemen and women. This year, Mr. Prendergast reached out to include Lincoln Middle School in the collection. Once the items are gathered, he transports them directly to the collection point. Mr. Prendergast and his wife enjoy traveling to Disney World and Maine with their two children. Mr. Prendergast's love for anything Disney is reflected in his choice of ties, shirts and knock knacks around his classroom. LHS and its students are certainly lucky to have such an enthusiastic and positive teacher!
Career Fair at Lincoln High School

Lincoln High School has earned a place on the prestigious AP District Honor Roll for the second year in a row. Only 547 school districts from the U.S. and Canada are being honored by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll. These districts were selected for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Seventy New England districts are included on the Honor Roll for their sustained commitment of student access to AP coursework.

The purpose of the Honor Roll is to commend expanding access to AP courses while improving performance. LHS is committed to this concept. LHS offers AP courses in: English, Calculus, Statistics, Physics, Biology, Psychology, US History, Government and Politics, and Spanish. Students also prepare Studio Art portfolio to be judged according to AP criteria. For the first time this year, the Social Studies Department offers AP Human Geography to interested ninth graders. For 2015-16, new AP offerings will include: Chemistry; Comparative Government and Politics; World History and English Language and Composition.

The Fourth Annual Lincoln High School Career Fair was held on December 3, 2014 and was once again a huge success! The purpose of Lincoln High School’s annual career fair is to expose students, primarily juniors, to post-secondary career opportunities. The career fair provides an essential opportunity for students to meet professionals working in a variety of vocations representing the sixteen career clusters.

The fair provided students with the opportunity to speak to over 50 professional volunteers representing 40 vocations from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Of those volunteers, 14 professionals held lectures with small clusters of students. Each student was assigned to two lectures based on his/her interest obtained from a survey taken early in the school year. All students also attended a large forum in which 40 professionals each had a booth. Students were able to ask questions of the professionals and learn about their vocations through information and, in many cases, interactive and hands on opportunities over a two hour period.

The theme for this year’s career fair was “Interpersonal Communication on the Job.” Following an introduction to the day by Ms. Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Kevin McNamara, Principal, Mrs. Jill Harris from AAA Southern New England, spoke to the students about the importance of appropriate communication on an interview. Her presentation included the importance of appropriate verbal interactions, appearance and social media communication history. In addition, Lincoln High School’s Broadcast and Journalism students created a video on “The Do’s and Don’ts of Interviewing” which was presented as well.

The career fair would not be possible without the amazing professional volunteers from the community, the volunteers from PACT, the assistance from the LHS student Council, the Perkins Academy teachers, and the support of the LHS faculty, staff, and administration. Many thanks to the career fair team who worked tirelessly to plan the event: Mr. Kevin Callahan, School Based Coordinator; Mrs. Pattie Kilsey, Transition Coordinator; Mrs. Maryann Mitchell, Guidance Counselor and Mrs. Heidi Godowski, Assistant Principal.

On Friday, January 9, 2015, over 147 students presented their Exhibition projects. This is most students ever to present on a single day! As part of the Rhode Island Board of Regents regulations, all students must demonstrate proficiency in two of three ways to earn a high school diploma. Since the Class of 2008, LHS students have been completing Exhibition projects and compiling portfolios. The judging panels are made up of teachers and community members. Again, LHS welcomed judges from surrounding businesses and community organizations, including Amica and CVS/Caremark. Some topics from this day’s presentations included: Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness; The Importance of Physical Health while on Medication; Animal Shelter Overcrowding and The Fine Arts Aren’t Just for Show.

Food Gleaning at Lincoln Middle School

What is Food Gleaning? Food Gleaning is a food recovery program that reduces food waste. Every day healthy edible food is discarded in school trash cans all over the country! With enthusiastic support from our Superintendent, Ms. Georgia Fortunato, and our Director of Food Services, Mr. Andrew Viveiros, Lincoln Middle School has established its own food gleaning program.

We are so fortunate to have Ms. Hayter’s class actively involved in the program. After items are collected during breakfast each morning, a student and teacher assistant from Ms. Hayter’s class come to the guidance office to count the day’s inventory and complete the itemized inventory sheet. We only recover manufacturer sealed items. Next, all items are placed in the program’s mini-refrigerator. During lunch period, students are allowed to pick one item from Mrs. Dyer’s food gleaning box, which she offers at randomly selected tables. The students truly appreciate the extra food. There are never any leftovers!

Our next program goal is to educate and assist Ms. Hayter’s students in generating a graph of the item category totals and then use that data to bring awareness of the food gleaning movement to our LMS community.

Between 8/28/14 and 12/1/14, we have gleaned 1,095 items! It’s amazing how one small program like this can make a BIG difference!