From the Desk of the Superintendent…

Greetings,

Mid-term exams are over, second quarter report cards are out, and the 100th day of school is today, February 7th. The year is flying by and we still have so much more to do!

The second edition of my newsletter is loaded with all of the great things happening in the Lincoln Public Schools.

Happy reading and kudos to the students and staff!

Breaking news…. The Lincoln Public School’s District Spelling Bee took place last night, and I am extremely proud to announce that eighth grade student Lohith Chatragadda is the winner for the second year in a row! We wish Lohith well as he continues on to compete in the State Spelling Bee which will take place on Saturday, March 17th at 10 AM at Lincoln Middle School.

Best,
Georgia Fortunato
Superintendent of Schools

Lincoln Public Schools Hosts Kindergarten Events

Lincoln Public Schools is holding kindergarten orientations and conducting registration for kindergarten students and first grade students new to the school district for the 2018-2019 school year. There will also be a district-wide kindergarten information night.

“Our kindergarten program is a stepping stone that starts children on the right educational path,” said Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools. “The information night will show parents how closely our teachers and administrators work with them to prepare their children for success in future grades.”

Lincoln’s kindergarten events will give parents an introduction to the high-quality education they can expect from the kindergarten program. The tours will give parents and students an opportunity to see classrooms up close. The district information night will showcase the program and share how it integrates with the rest of the Lincoln Public Schools educational offerings.

- Lincoln Public Schools Kindergarten Information Night at Lincoln Middle School Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 PM.
- Central Elementary School Kindergarten Tour Friday, May 4 from 9:30—10:30 AM
- Saylesville Elementary School Kindergarten Tour Friday, May 4 from 10:00-11:00
- Northern Elementary School Kindergarten Tour Friday, May 4 from 10:00 —11:00 AM
- Lonsdale Elementary School Kindergarten Tour Friday, May 11 from 9:00—10:00 AM

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- Saylesville Elementary School
- Northern Elementary School
- Lonsdale Elementary School

Kindergarten registration will be
held on the following dates, by
appointment only. Please call the
school to schedule an appointment.

- Saturday, March 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lincoln High School for children who reside in the Central and Northern Elementary School regions

Continued on the next page
Parents became students and students became teachers during ‘An Hour of Code’ in the Central Elementary library. Parents were invited into their child’s library class where they learned about coding and saw how accomplished their child is when it comes to using technology for a variety of purposes. Mrs. Ouellette uses multiple methods and modalities of learning to keep students engaged and current in the world of technology.

In addition to parents, teachers and students also share their instructional acumen and learning skills with teachers and administrators from around the state. Through working with the Highlander Institute, teachers and students at Central have become adept at station rotations, blended and personalized learning opportunities, and peer coaching through feedback techniques that exemplify current best practices in the educational world.

Students at Central share their learning with other students (as well as their parents) .... Here, students in grade 3 share their love of reading and show off their geometric skills with their ‘book buddies’ in grade 1. After reading their books, grade 3 students work with their grade 1 partners in a culminating activity that brings it all together.

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Registration packets are available online at www.lincolnps.org or you may call one of the schools listed below to obtain a registration packet.

Central Elementary School: 401-334-2800
Lonsdale Elementary School: 401-725-4200
Northern Elementary School: 401-769-0261
Saylesville Elementary School: 401-723-5240

Enrollment is based on space availability. Therefore, a student’s school assignment may be subject to change.
Third grade students recently had the opportunity to connect with scientists aboard the Exploration Vessel Nautilus. The scientists aboard this vessel explore the ocean in geographic regions where little is known, and therefore, a high potential for discovery exists. This vessel is operated by Dr. Robert Ballard and the Ocean Exploration Trust through the University of Rhode Island. These types of educational opportunities bring scientists, students, educators and interns aboard the ship to learn along with the Corps of Exploration during every exploration season. For the past two years, students have had the pleasure of having Kelly Moran, a Science Communication Fellow, conduct a live stream, telepresence-enabled broadcast into their classroom. This year, the scientists were positioned off the Baja California Peninsula searching for potential undersea volcanoes and exploring their impact on the biological communities. Prior to the live broadcast, students viewed several live explorations to learn about the area being studied. Students then had time to think about important questions they had for the scientists conducting the research. Finally, the big day arrived when our students would be able to interact with scientists aboard the vessel in real time! Everyone enjoyed spending time together and learning all about this magnificent undersea exploration. Students asked some wonderful questions and enjoyed interacting with the scientists during this live ship to shore broadcast. There is much to learn about our oceans and offering students this type of hands-on experience in ocean exploration, research, and communications is a great way to share important findings.

Alpha Delta Kappa is a women’s educator sorority that promotes educational excellence, altruism and world understanding. Lincoln's Alpha Chapter has 21 members, having just lost our sister, Joanne Ridge, who had been a member since 1976. Nationally and internationally, we have donated more than $2.7 million to St Jude’s Research Hospital and $54,000 to Haiti to build 6 classrooms at an orphanage. Locally, our chapter has donated to the Family Literacy Center in Manville, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the RI Veterans’ Hospital. We are currently preparing for the North East Regional Conference to be held in Providence this coming July 22-25, 2018. Women educators from Maine, Ohio, Delaware, and every state in between, will participate in leadership and enrichment workshops as well as joining in the comradery of our fellow teachers. It will be a great chance to participate in professional development and to further personal growth. It will also shine a light on our state and the many wonderful things that RI has to offer.

ADK also offers a $500 scholarship to a LHS female senior who is planning a career in teaching or a health-related field. There are applications available in the guidance office. They will be due on March 1, 2018 so now is a good time to start the process. Last year, Tess Walker was the recipient of the ADK scholarship.

Our membership chairperson is preparing binders for each elementary school. We hope that the teachers take a look, especially at the scholarships that are offered to members and non-members. “Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come.” (Tennyson)

Our hope is for a wonderful and enriching 2018 for all students, parents, faculty and staff in the Lincoln Public Schools.
One of Northern’s goals this year is to increase our Title 1 Nights for parents. Recently, Northern hosted Literacy Night for grades two through five. Students and parents were ushered through three stations; Imitation Reading, Cootie Catchers and Giant Boggle. The first station was Imitation Reading. At this station, participants were challenged to read a line from a favorite book in numerous ways such as, reading the passage in a robot voice, reading with a spooky voice and reading with an accent. It was wonderful to see parents and children laughing and giggling as they read familiar lines to stories! Their next challenge was to make a Cootie Catcher. With each fold of the cootie catcher, students needed to explain a part of a story they have just read. The last station was the giant game of Boggle. With giant lettered dice, students and parents connected letters to make words. Students and families thoroughly enjoyed the events of the night! One other way that we are furthering literacy for Northern students is by continuing our lending library in the lobby of the school. This library consists of extra books that students are allowed to borrow any time they pass by the lobby. Our hope is to increase the number of books each student has the opportunity to read. To assist students with their literacy skills, they must read more and have more books in their home library. For this reason, we are not concerned if books do not make it back onto the shelves. Currently, the books which stock our lending library in the lobby have been donated by teachers and the literacy center. We are constantly looking for donations of gently used books that are looking for a good home. We appreciate your support!

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Kindness Week at Saylesville Elementary School

Saylesville Elementary School hosted a Kindness Week during the week of December 10th. Saylesville is on a multi-year effort to build a culture of collaboration and to promote a more positive culture and climate for all of its members. The idea of Kindness Week came from the District Anti-bullying Committee and Saylesville PBIS team. The structure of the week built on past initiatives like the Saylesville Student Council’s Anti-bullying Week and Reading Week, which feature activities like reading a common book, using student leaders, creating an original artistic piece and family engagement. As a Feinstein school, we commit to do kind deeds - our Kindness Week featured activities that promote kindness in our classes and throughout our community.

Superintendent Fortunato attended the kick off meeting, and our students showed their excitement about building a kinder school and helping others. Kindness Week started with Principal Sarkarati reading one of the newest books in the Bucket Filler Series: “Bucket Filling A-Z” by Carol McCloud and Caryn Butzke, and giving an overview of the week. On Monday, in addition to a guest author, all classes had a 5th grader read “What Does It Mean to Be Kind?” by Rana DiOrio. On Tuesday, each teacher read “The Kindness Quilt” by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. Each student then depicted an act of kindness on a square. The squares will be woven together to form a quilt that will be unveiled at the Town Hall Meeting. To promote acts of kindness, each class and each family has been asked to complete a Kindness Project Template. All of these acts of kindness will be displayed throughout the school. Members of the Student Council are collecting candy and other treats to put into care packages for community helpers and making “thinking of you” and “thank you” cards. We will collect and donate pop top tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Providence. Our week also included a trip to see the Lincoln High School Holiday Concert and a special floor performance from the CDL/Traveling Theater.
Extracurricular activities are an important extension of our school day here at Lincoln Middle School. Participation in these activities further support the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students. Additionally, they provide our students the opportunity to explore a variety of interests and to develop their talents in different fields. They also provide opportunities for students to establish meaningful relationships with caring adults. Furthermore, they provide an opportunity for our teachers to share their talents and skills with students aside from what they typically focus on during the school day. Students are welcome to participate in one or more of these offerings. Most activities are run from 2:35-3:35 PM at LMS. A “Late Bus” provides transportation home. The bus leaves the Middle School at 3:45 PM.

Math

Math Counts is sponsored by Sandra D’Angelo an 8th grade Science teacher. This is a great club to challenge your mathematical thinking and stretch your mind by working on difficult problem-solving questions. Students solve interesting and challenging problems and compete in the spring against other schools.

Yearbook

Yearbook is sponsored by Yvette Manning a reading specialist. Students play an integral part in the planning of the LMS Yearbook. Students organize and sponsor a Yearbook Cover Design Contest. They are responsible for documenting team and grade level activities and uploading photos into the online yearbook program.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is sponsored by Mr. Casale our Band teacher. Students in jazz band learn a variety of styles associated with jazz music. They play music from “Swing” to “Latin” and “Rock” to “Funk”. The music is generally at a slightly higher level of difficulty than concert band music and players must audition to belong. The jazz band performs at several concerts and at the Six Flags Festival.

Advanced Band

Advanced Band is also sponsored by Mr. Casale. Students in the advanced band are eager to play more challenging music than what is presented in band class. This group also performs concerts and at the Six Flags Festival.

After School Band

After School Band is also available to all band students. Mr. Casale and other band students provide a little extra help for those seeking some extra practice or are just looking for somewhere to practice.

Student Council

Student Council is sponsored by Mr. Ryan, a 6th grade Social Studies teacher. Students plan activities to generate school spirit, fundraise for community endeavors, and work on creative projects. Student Council also provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills. This year’s focus has been to offer monthly challenges to increase involvement and to support our P.R.I. D. E! This month, teams will be decorating their hallways with examples of kindness, i.e., poems, emojis, etc. Previous contests between teams were sock and canned food collections. They have also organized several dress-up spirit days. New ideas are always welcomed in this group!

Best Buddies

Best Buddies is sponsored by JoAnn Perry, an 8th grade Teacher Assistant. Best Buddies is an international organization and fosters friends for students with disabilities and promotes inclusion of all types of students. They provide many fun activities focusing on teambuilding and friendship development. Activities include arts and crafts, games and holiday parties. Many of the students involved in Best Buddies also participate in our Unified Sports basketball program coached by Mr. Bedrossian, Mr. Morris, and Miss Hayter.

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad is sponsored by Mrs. Carlson, a 7th grade Science teacher. Students prepare for a state competition in April. It is science to an “Olympic” degree! The 23 events of Science Olympiad range from Bottle Rocket to Wheeler Vehicle. Reach for the Stars to Anatomy, Crime Busters to Experimental Design. Students practice lab skills, prepare for specific content tests and solve engineering problems.

Chess Club

Chess Club is also sponsored by Mrs. Carlson. This clubs welcomes beginners and experienced chess players alike. Interclub tournaments provide opportunities for skill building and problem solving.

Trading Card Club

The Trading Card Club is sponsored by Mrs. Doherty, a 7th grade English teacher. Students share or trade their latest collectables. A wide range of trading cards are exchanged within the group from the traditional baseball cards to Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh. What cards do you collect? Come and share with the Trading Card Club!

Tutor Club

The Tutor Club is sponsored by Christine Clarke, a 6th grade Social Studies teacher. This is a peer tutoring group where students help students. Bring your homework!

In addition we have an afterschool “Park and Rec” Program that meets four days a week. This program is supervised by two LHS seniors, Charles Morin and Jordan Leahy. They provide homework assistance and a variety of cooperative game activities.

Lincoln Middle School also offers a full complement of athletic sports. In the fall we offer boys and girls cross country, boys and girls soccer and girls field hockey. In the winter we offer boys and girls basketball and boys and girls wrestling. In the spring we offer boys and girls track, boys baseball and girls softball. Afterschool programs can offer multiple benefits to help our middle school students navigate the adolescent years. We hope all students will join in!
Mrs. Erin Prochet, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Special Education Teacher

Central Elementary is fortunate to have a cadre of exceptional staff members who go above and beyond for all the members of our learning community. Erin Prochet is one such member who joined our staff in August of 2013. Erin holds a special place in our hearts because we have watched her grow from a newly graduated college student in her first public school job into a self-confident teacher who can handle almost anything. It has been a pleasure to watch her grow as an educator and wife and mother. In April of 2015, Erin married Brian Prochet. Their daughter, Amelia, was born in May of 2016.

Erin serves as our early childhood self-contained teacher for grades kindergarten through second grade. Students in Mrs. Prochet’s classroom thrive under her guidance and support. She has a natural warmth that puts her students at ease, allowing them to grow academically and socially. Erin also shares her expertise as a member of our ‘crisis response team’ and as a member of our PBIS team. In her spare time, Erin enjoys summers on Cape Cod and traveling to ‘cool’ places. Erin embodies all the qualities of a true professional – dedication to her students, their families and her colleagues -- and we are thrilled she is on our team!

Mrs. Jen Felicio, Lonsdale Elementary School, Teacher Assistant

After many years of working in her children’s classrooms, Jen Felicio has joined the kindergarten family at Lonsdale. She currently works as a teaching assistant in one of our kindergarten classrooms. Jen has a strong passion for working with children, and truly enjoys coming to work every day. If asked, she’ll tell you the best part of her job is helping the kids to succeed and watching as they accomplish new things. Having grown up in Lincoln and attending Lonsdale herself as a child, Jen is a familiar face to many. She is happily married to her husband, Joe, and together they run Titan Home Improvement, a local business. They have two daughters who both attend Lincoln schools. When they are not working, Jen and Joe love spending time with their daughters. They enjoy hiking, soccer, amusement parks, and can be found at the beach almost any time of the year. Jen also has a love for reading and traveling and has been as far away as Japan and South Korea. Her family’s favorite place to visit, however, is Disneyworld! We are very happy that Jen joined our Lonsdale School family.

Mrs. Jaclyn Pringle, Northern Lincoln Elementary School, Grade 5 Teacher

Northern Elementary School is fortunate this year to welcome a new fifth grade teacher, Ms. Jaclyn Pringle. After graduating from North Providence High School in 2013, Ms. Pringle attended Rhode Island College for her undergrad. While pursuing her teaching degree, she was a swim instructor for levels preschool-5 at the North Providence Pool and Fitness Center & later became the lead swim instructor. Ms. Pringle later taught at AlphaBEST Education in Cumberland, where she was a Zone Lead Teacher. Jaclyn was responsible for maintaining program quality, student safety, homework help and supervision as well as teaching from the various enrichment curriculum, fitness, arts, technology and language.

At RIC she was accepted into the teaching program, and in the spring semester of 2017, she began her student teaching placement in Smithfield, RI. Ms. Pringle taught in a third grade classroom for 16 weeks. She graduated in May 2017, with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and began working in Lincoln at the beginning of this school year. Working at Northern has truly been incredible for her. “Since day one I have felt welcomed by all the faculty, staff and students. I have a class of 25 students this year, and they are a fantastic group. My first year teaching thus far has been an exciting journey!”

If you were to walk into her classroom you would find her students working in stations. These stations include an independent station, a collaboration station and a teacher-led station. The students enjoy rotating through each station and accomplishing different goals. She implements blended learning strategies in her class more and more as the year goes by. Ms. Pringle said, “I am constantly learning and always try to apply what I have learned to help my students grow. I come to work every day and look forward to teaching my 5th graders and working with my team!”

When she is not teaching she loves running, reading, and shopping. If she has spare time you can find her painting. Welcome to the Great Northern Ms. Pringle!
Ms. Michaela Marcoux, Saylesville Elementary School, Teacher Assistant

Saylesville is proud to recognize one of the newest members of our team, Mrs. Michaela Marcoux. Mrs. Marcoux is a 1:1 Teacher Assistant in the 4th grade. Since the first day Mrs. Marcoux met her student, they have hit it off. We couldn’t be more pleased with Michaela and her dedication, respect, compassion and willingness to do whatever it takes to help her student learn, grow and succeed. Mrs. Marcoux moved to Lincoln when she was 14. She is a graduate of St. Raphael Academy. When she joined the workforce, Mrs. Marcoux worked in banking. As a lending officer, she helped lots of people make their dreams of buying a car or home come true. She enjoyed her work but gave it up to be a stay-at-home mom. Family is very important to Michaela and her husband and she feels fortunate to have had the time to be with her children. However, as her children grew older, she decided she wanted to go back to work. She eased back into the working world by getting a job with Aramark. After a year, she decided her talents could be better used in the classroom and pursued teacher assistant positions. “I wanted something more rewarding. Working as a 1:1 teacher assistant is very rewarding.” Although the path that led her to Saylesville was unconventional, Michaela’s professionalism, rapid growth and responsiveness earned her the position. “As a parent of two children who attended Saylesville, I’ve always respected all that the teachers do. Now that I work at Saylesville, I see how much everyone does.” Mrs. Marcoux notes that everyone from the teachers to the principal are closely involved with the students. “It’s really important. Everybody cares about the students and it shows.” Mrs. Marcoux is the proud mother of two children. Her daughter is a 7th grade honors student at LMS and plays softball. Her son is a 5th grader at Saylesville who plays guitar and serves as a recess helper. Michaela’s husband is a Lieutenant with the Lincoln Police Department. When Michaela isn’t working, she plays outfield in a ladies slow pitch softball league. Welcome to Saylesville Mrs. Marcoux!

Mrs. Alexandra Pepin, Lincoln Middle School, Grade 8 Teacher

Lincoln Middle School is pleased to welcome Mrs. Alexandra Pepin to our staff as a long-term substitute math teacher. When this position became available, we were very fortunate that Mrs. Pepin stepped up to the plate! Mrs. Pepin comes to us with nine years of teaching experience, having taught at Attleboro High School for seven years and at Lincoln High School for two years before deciding to stay home with her family. We are excited that she was ready to return to teaching and to join the staff at Lincoln Middle School. Alex believes math is magical! She says, “It is chaos and order. It is music and art, and it all comes together in such a beautiful way. Think of MC Escher, Mozart, and Frank Lloyd Wright. When you are learning to read, letters can be dry and boring, but put them together and they form anything from poetry to a text message to a political speech. Math is the same way. It can seem dry, but it is all about what you do with it that becomes beautiful.” When teaching math, Alex loves seeing the face of a student the moment they understand a concept for the first time. She says it is the “Ohhhh I get it!” moment that is so exciting. Alex attended Ponagansett High School and then graduated from Rhode Island College where she received her undergraduate degree in mathematics and her Master’s Degree in mathematics. She has been married to her husband for over 22 years and they have two sons, Jack and Neil, as well as a pet dog. When she is not busy with school work, Alex enjoys quilting, jigsaw puzzles, Sudoku, and Word Brain. Something that you may not know about Mrs. Pepin is in addition to being a fabulous teacher, she is also a master seamstress! Welcome to Lincoln Middle School Mrs. Pepin!

Mrs. Nancy Plummer, Lincoln High School, School Nurse Teacher

Lincoln High School was very fortunate to welcome back a familiar face to its campus this fall. For many years, Mrs. Nancy Plummer was the school nurse at Lincoln Middle School during the time the middle school shared a campus with Lincoln High School. Mrs. Plummer graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Health & Physical Education. She student taught at Lincoln Jr. High School. Mrs. Plummer went back to school with hopes of being a school nurse once her children were older. She worked in various settings as a registered nurse before returning in 1997 to work as the middle school nurse. Mrs. Plummer is enjoying working with the older students and seeing how they have changed since she knew them in middle school. Her knowledge and experience have been a great asset to Lincoln High School. Mrs. Plummer is known for her unflappable demeanor and sense of humor. In her time away from school, Mrs. Plummer enjoys traveling and spending time with her three children Katie (32), Josh (30), and Shannon (27). She also is an avid jogger and biker. A film buff, Mrs. Plummer is a whiz at movie trivia! And, most importantly, Mrs. Plummer is expecting her first grandchild this summer! Lincoln High School certainly is very lucky to have a talented professional like Mrs. Plummer taking care of our students needs every day!
In December some very talented musicians of Lincoln High School were named to the All State Band. These students auditioned for the ensemble and were competitively ranked against their peers. Adjudicators are music educators from across the state and score each musician using a performance rubric. Students are then ranked by instrument according to their scores. The All-State ensembles are then filled according to rank. Lincoln High School’s representatives are: Junior Jason Huang, Flute, ranked 11th in the state; Junior David Motta, Trumpet, ranked 8th in the state; Junior Yiru Li, Clarinet, ranked 4th in the state; and Junior Matthew Ricard, Clarinet, ranked 2nd in the state.

In January, three Lincoln High School students earned Scholastic Art Awards! The projects and awards are as follows: Running To A New Home by Senior Troy Zab - a digitally produced image earned a Silver Key Award; Cherry Blossom by Sophomore Madison DeSanto - a mixed media piece earned a Silver Key Award; and Rhode Island Red by Junior Emma Naughton - an acrylic painting earned a Gold Key Award and is an American Vision Nominee.

On January 12, 2018, students enrolled in Exhibition courses presented their projects. Exhibition is a graduation requirement and focuses students on solving a problem and applying a solution. Some of the projects included: Restoring A Classic Grady-White Fishing Boat; Closing the Gender Gap: The Recruitment of Girls to STEM; A Children’s Book for Equality; and In Home Hydroponic Garden. Many community members joined the LHS faculty to judge the exhibitions. This project is one of the most important learning experiences for the students of LHS.