From the Desk of the Superintendent...

Greetings,

This is my final edition of the district newsletter. It has been my honor to serve as Superintendent for the past 11 years. I have been fortunate to work with dedicated and talented educators, support staff and administrators who always put students’ needs first. Our town’s leaders also need to be commended for believing in me and I will be forever grateful to them. And, finally, I thank our students because that is what we are all here for. We have talented and versatile students and I have seen it first hand. Whether it’s the band or the chorus, on the stage, on the fields, on the courts, in the pool or in the classrooms, our students make Lincoln proud with their excellence. This is what drove me to put Lincoln on the map and we did. I leave the district in a strong position both academically and financially.

Finally, I thank my family, friends and colleagues for their love and support during my journey in the Lincoln Public Schools. I am eternally grateful.

Please know that I will always be a Lincoln Lion and Lincoln will forever be in my heart. Go Lions!

Best,

Georgia Fortunato
Superintendent of Schools

Like us on Facebook
Follow me on Twitter @ Supfortunato

Congratulations to the Class of 2018 as they embark on their journey to colleges, universities, trade schools, the military and the workforce.

POST SECONDARY SCHOOL
Assumption College
Becker College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bryant University
Clark University
Collin College
Community College of Rhode Island
Curry College
Dean College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fitchberg State University
Florida State University
Harvard College
Hunter College
Johnson and Wales University
Kate Gleason College of Engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology
LaSalle College
Marist College
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Montserrat College of Art
New England Institute of Technology
Newbury College
Ohio State
Pace University
Plymouth State
Providence College
Rhode Island College
Rivier University
Roger Williams University
Saint Joseph’s College
Saint Michaels College
Salve Regina University
State University of NY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Toni and Guy Hairdressing Academy
UMASS Amherst
University of Albany
University of Alabama
University of Maine
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

MILITARY
US Army
US Air National Guard
US Army National Guard
Did you know that entomologists say a huge number of different kinds of insects live on Earth and no one is certain whether the number is 10 million, 15 million, or more? Insects are in the Animalia Kingdom and in the Arthropoda Phylum—the animals with jointed legs and external skeletons. These are just a few of the interesting facts that second graders learn each year as they explore the amazing world of insects. Each spring, students use a science kit which helps them learn to apply scientific practices. Students deepen their understanding about insects, their structures, environments and habitats. Each year, students observe the life cycles of different insects and learn to think critically about how an insect’s environment plays a key role in their survival. Students answer some important questions such as: How do insects depend on their environment? How does an insect respond when basic needs are not met? What makes a habitat healthy? As students progress through the unit, they observe the stages of an insect’s development from egg to adult. Students advance their learning as they collaborate with others and develop scientific explanations for what they observed. A favorite culminating activity is the Second Grade Bug Museum. Students are required to choose an insect they would like to research and then they present their findings. Students create models of their insects and share their newly acquired knowledge. Families are invited to attend the museum where they get to see all students present their findings. It is a great way to showcase all that the students have learned about some amazing creatures that inhabit our earth!

Central Elementary’s Class of 2011 graduated on June 1, 2018, but before they ended their educational career in Lincoln, they returned back to where it all began to reminisce about their elementary years and spend some time wandering through the halls and playground of Central Elementary School. Central’s student body was present lining the halls with banners and signs to congratulate the returning high school seniors. Teachers gave their “all grown up” former students big hugs and messages of congratulations—catching up on the years since they had been students at Central Elementary. It is a wonderful tradition that is loved by all of us! What a great day! Central wishes all the Lincoln High School graduating Class of 2018 much success as they begin their next journey in life. Well done seniors!!

Science Activities at Lonsdale Elementary School
Saylesville Elementary School is in its third year of implementing the Best Buddies Program. Saylesville is one of only a few elementary level programs in the country. Under the leadership of Patti Hien and Paula Bowen, the program has grown. This year we had approximately 50 Buddies and Peers.

The Best Buddy program at Saylesville helps connect 4th and 5th graders with students in any grade, in particular but not limited to, students with special needs. The Peers, our 4th and 5th grade mentors, meet every other week with Mrs. Hien and Mrs. Bowen to learn about empathy, various disabilities and discuss challenges and questions. One Peer said it best when he said, "Best Buddies gave me a chance to make a difference in school." The students are paired up and participate in weekly activities and quarterly special events. The students attend one recess a week and do things like play tag, build snowmen in the winter and fairy houses, swing or walk the track. The Peers and Buddies also eat lunch together. Recently the Saylesville PTO supported a Best Buddies Meet Up where students from our school got to meet students from another Best Buddies program at the Roger Williams Zoo. The Best Buddies students designed and created a quilt to help teach others about Autism during Autism Awareness Month. During the June 1st Town Hall Meeting, the students in the program were recognized in front of the school and given certificates of participation.

The Best Buddies program has had a positive influence on the culture and climate of school. Students in the program recently reflected and shared how much the program has changed their lives. "Me and my Buddy aren’t forced to be friends; we choose to be friends," wrote one 5th grader. Another Buddy shared, "Best Buddies helps the Buddies and the Peers create a great friendship. I love Best Buddies." The students look forward to weekly opportunities to play and eat together. One student noticed Best Buddies has helped him to be more aware of students who are alone at recess and has inspired him to reach out so "they can have fun and not feel lonely." And the Buddies feel the same way. "I love my Buddy!" and "Best Buddies makes my days better."

Given the success of Saylesville’s program, Best Buddies is looking to expand next year into more schools, and Saylesville is looking to network and partner with these budding programs. One 5th grader moving up to Lincoln Middle School is hoping to connect with former Peers and help establish a Best Buddies Program at LMS. Best Buddies has made a large impact on lots of students and continuing on lots of students and continuing on with it would be wonderful.

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**RECOGNITION OF OUR INVALUABLE PROFESSIONALS**

We wish the following administrators, teachers and support staff all the best in their retirement, and we thank them for their dedicated years of service to the students of the Lincoln Public Schools!

- **Georgia Fortunato**, Superintendent of Schools – 37 Years
- **Lori Miller**, Business Administrator – 18.5 Years
- **Lori Jean Ciosek**, Grade One Teacher – 28 Years
- **Mary Anne Mignacca**, School Nurse Teacher – 23 Years
- **Kimberly McGowan**, Grade Six Teacher – 21 Years
- **Linda Valentine**, Lead Custodian – 39.5 Years
- **Robert Wilmarth**, Maintenance – 21.5 Years
- **Jo-ann Perry**, Teacher Assistant – 20 Years
- **Sally Mellor**, Library Secretary – 16 Years

Thank you!
During the month of May, Northern Elementary School celebrated 17 Days of Kindness. Each day of May there was a new activity for the students and staff to participate in. The 17 days started off with Mix it Up at Lunch. This was an activity where students are given a new table to sit at during lunch. Each table had conversation starters on strips of paper. The idea is for students to meet new friends and start a conversation with someone they may never have spoken to. The 17 days continued with name-tag day, in which everyone in the building wore their name on a name tag. This encouraged staff and students to address everyone by their name. During the month classes also wrote a friendly message on a sticky-note, and left it mysteriously in another classroom. Towards the end of the 17 days, classes were charged with finding and decorating a quote regarding kindness. The event ended with our Kindness chain. We encourage local businesses near Northern to host a kindness bucket. In the bucket were strips of colored paper and markers. Customers were asked to write something kind on the strips and we created a chain of kindness in the school’s lobby. The students, staff and community at-large enjoyed and benefited from our 17 Days of Kindness.

### Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day – Administration Building and All Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>VJ Day – Administration Building and All Schools Closed</td>
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<td>August 23</td>
<td>LHS Freshman Roar 6-7:30 PM</td>
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<td>August 26</td>
<td>LMS Back to School Ice Cream Social (Times TBD)</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td>Professional Development Day</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation for All Elementary Schools 5-6 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Back to School Socials for All Elementary Schools 6-7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Professional Development Day</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
<td>First Day of School Grades PK – 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>ALL Students PK-12 Report to School</td>
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The last two months have been packed with exciting events as we close out the 2017-2018 school year!

Congratulations to all the Chorus members on an outstanding Spring Concert! Both the 6th/7th Grade Chorus and the 8th Grade/Advanced Chorus sang amazingly to a standing room audience on May 9th. On May 25th the Advanced Chorus traveled to the Great East Festival chorus competition at 6th Flags. Our Chorus received a GOLD MEDAL!

Congratulations to approximately 100 students who were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on May 16th. The NJHS celebrates the success of our hardest working students. Induction criteria considers grade point average, leadership, citizenship and service over a student's three years of Middle School.

On May 24th the 8th grade Celebration took place at Twin River. On this night parents, family, friends, teachers, and Administration celebrated the many contributions and achievements of our 8th grade students.

The week of May 29th concluded the year-long Spirit Contest sponsored by the LMS Student Council. Team 6 won the contest with an amazing showing on “Twin Day”? The entire team dressed alike! Way to go Team 6! They have been awarded a special lunch in June!

On June 5th, 165 students were recognized at the “Straight A Breakfast”! Students received certificates for their success and were treated to a pancake breakfast.

June 8th the LMS Olympic events were held on the back field. Students participated against their grade level peers in 6 different events. Awards were given out in a formal assembly on Tuesday June 12th.

Thank you to all the LMS students! Getting involved makes you grow and connects you to your peers and school in a positive and productive way.

Thank you to all the teachers who have helped run and organize these events and continue the great traditions at Lincoln Middle School. Happy Summer!
Ms. Dan Pedro, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Music Teacher

Dan Pedro teaches music appreciation at Central and Lonsdale Schools. He began his career in Lincoln as a Before the Bell teacher preparing elementary students for the middle school band program. Mr. Pedro obtained a degree in music from the University of Rhode Island with saxophone and voice as his main instruments.

In 2015 Dan was hired full time as our music teacher at Central Elementary, and we couldn’t be happier! Dan brings a vibrancy and life to music that really engages his young musicians. He teaches a range of musical genres from classical to jazz to rock and roll and everything in between in an effort to show his students the range of all that music offers them. Dan interviews popular musicians using questions from his fifth graders -- these questions have resulted in some very unique and engaging interviews! One of his favorites was interviewing Connie Francis and getting a copy of her book signed for the students in his music class.

Mr. Pedro has been playing with the American Band, the oldest wind band in the United States, for the past 16 years. He is currently pursuing a masters degree in conducting this summer from American Band College in Oregon. Dan also teaches saxophone and clarinet privately. We feel very fortunate to have this talented musician on our staff!

Mrs. Kelly Marini Lonsdale Elementary School, Grade 1 Teacher

Mrs. Kelly Marini started teaching in Lincoln as a student teacher back in 1998. She has been with the district ever since. Before she became a first grade teacher at Lonsdale Elementary School, she was a special education teacher at Fairlawn Elementary. Although she enjoyed being a special educator, Mrs. Marini just loves begin a first grade teacher. She thoroughly enjoys working with her students and seeing how their skills develop during the course of the school year. The growth they make is amazing. She also notes that they make her laugh each and every day. She is a National Board certified teacher and a member of Lonsdale’s Behavior Support Team. Mrs. Marini has worked with the Highlander Institute this past year and brought blended learning to her teaching practice. She was also recently chosen to become a FUSE fellow and will now assist other teachers in the state to implement the use of personalized learning in their classrooms. She loves Lonsdale because everyone gets along so well and has so much fun together. When she is not at school, she likes to spend time with her husband Kevin, and her children Ava and Ian. She loves to cook, read, and go to the beach. She is a big Disney fan, and her favorite place to vacation is Disney World!

Ms. Gianna Gendler, Northern Lincoln Elementary School, Grade 2 Teacher

Miss Gianna Gendler is a second grade substitute teacher in a first grade classroom and a third grade classroom. In each of these positions she has picked up techniques of skillful teaching to making her an excellent teacher. When not teaching, her favorite vacation spot is Capri, Italy. She studied abroad in Italy during the summer of 2013. She lived with five other students; many, who she still keeps in contact with. When Miss Gendler was in school, her favorite book was The Giver by Lois Lowry. She loved the message and the writing Style of Lowry. Miss Gendler lives in Cranston. In her free time, she enjoys the company of her friends and family, as well as relaxing on the beach.
Mrs. Amy Fanning, Saylesville Elementary School, Grade 3 Teacher

Amy Fanning has been a teacher in the Lincoln Public School system for 25 years. Mrs. Fanning grew up in Lincoln and attended Saylesville, the school where she currently teaches. After graduating from LHS, she attended RIC and PC. She earned her Master’s Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. Amy started her teaching career at Northern and is currently one of Saylesville’s Third Grade Teachers. Mrs. Fanning works hard to make a difference in the lives of her students and colleagues. In the classroom she draws from her special education background to meet students where they are, sets high expectations and pushes all of her students to excel. Mrs. Fanning also challenges and supports her colleagues who describe her as a collaborative and team player. Mrs. Fanning is constantly pushing herself to grow and learn. Throughout her career, she has served as a leader in learning on multiple initiatives. As a member of the ELA Curriculum Committee, she piloted the Journey’s program and has helped to develop units and lessons in the current ELA curriculum. Amy was a member of the Formative Assessment Professional Development Team through the Rhode Island Department of Education and taught teachers ways to analyze and use data to inform instruction. Mrs. Fanning participated in National Institute of School Leadership (NISL) teacher leadership training and co-led several professional development sessions. Mrs. Fanning participated in our Blended Learning initiative and implemented a station-rotation model that transformed teaching and learning in her classroom. Next year she will pursue her Lighthouse Classroom endorsement through the Highlander Institute. Mrs. Fanning is happily married and has two children. She is a big Boston Celtics and New England Patriots fan. She enjoys the beach, spending time with friends and cheering on her children. We are lucky to have a teacher as solid and reliable as Mrs. Fanning on our team!

Ms. Kimberly McGowan, Lincoln Middle School, Grade 6 Teacher

Although we are sharing in the excitement of Kim’s retirement, we know that we are saying goodbye to someone whose presence in our school community will never be replaced. Kim has taught sixth grade in Lincoln for 21 years, beginning at Northern and then finishing her career at Lincoln Middle school on Team One. Throughout her years of teaching, she always provided her students with quality instruction and of course those weekly vocabulary packets! Despite the endless changes and challenges that have come to education, Kim never wavered from her dedication to her students and her profession. Kim will certainly be missed by her colleagues. Kim was always willing to listen and assist in working out problem situations. They will especially miss her fabulous sense of humor! Kim always had a unique ability to weave humor into conversations and brighten everyone’s day. Kim will be missed by all the staff in the upcoming school years, but her positive impact on the L M S community will be fondly remembered. Kim will now be able to join her husband in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and do “absolutely nothing”, although we know she will begin to make new memories with her children and grandchildren when they visit! Best wishes Ms. McGowan—enjoy your retirement!

Mrs. Doreen Picozzi, Lincoln High School, English Teacher

On Wednesday, May 16, Superintendent Georgia Fortunato announced that Mrs. Doreen Picozzi, an English teacher at Lincoln High School, was chosen as the 2018-19 Lincoln Public Schools’ Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Picozzi has worked for the Lincoln Public Schools since 2002 and in that time, she has distinguished herself as an outstanding educator. She also serves as the co-chair of Lincoln High School’s NEASC Steering Committee, a PBIS team member, a culture and climate committee member as well as serving on the district anti-bullying task force for many years. Under Mrs. Picozzi’s highly skilled guidance and exemplary instructional practices, the LHS journalism program has grown from a one section class responsible for producing the school’s newspaper, The Lion’s Roar to a thriving program consisting of four courses: Introduction to Journalism, Advanced Journalism, Topics in Journalism and Broadcast Journalism. The students in the courses produce The Lion’s Roar and the daily news broadcast on Lincoln High School’s television station, WLHS and many other forms of digital productions. The Journalism and Broadcasting Academy achieved RIDE approved CTE status in 2016, a tremendous accomplishment. The program has garnered local, regional and national awards for its excellent productions. Mrs. Picozzi has also attained the highly prestigious distinction of being a Master Journalism Educator. What she is most proud of, though, is that her students have gone on to careers in journalism at ESPN, 98.5 The Sports Hub and WHDH in Boston. Congratulations Mrs. Picozzi!
At a breakfast reception held in the Lincoln High School library on Wednesday, Principal McNamara announced the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2018. The Valedictorian is Daniel Hasegawa and the Salutatorian is Alexa Labossiere. Principal McNamara also announced the top 10 academic ranking seniors. Citations of congratulations were presented by School Committee Chairwoman Mrs. Kristine Donabedian and Superintendent of Schools Ms. Georgia Fortunato. Town Administrator Mr. Joseph Almond also presented the students with congratulatory citations from the Town of Lincoln.

“Being recognized as one of the top ten academic seniors is the culmination of a great deal of hard work,” said Principal McNamara. “We’re very proud of our senior class and everything they’ve accomplished over the course of their high school careers. We offer our congratulations to our graduates and their families.”

On May 31, 2018, LHS seniors participated in the third annual Senior Walk through the elementary schools. Seniors traveled from graduation practice in their caps and gowns to each elementary school to walk the halls and serve as role models to the elementary students. It also provides a wonderful opportunity for the seniors to thank their former teachers.

On June 1, 2018 at CCRI in Lincoln, LHS graduated the Class of 2018. 173 students crossed the bridge and moved on ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century. School Committee Chair Kristine Donabedian and Superintendent Georgia Fortunato, as well as Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond, addressed the assembled graduates and their families along with faculty and staff. Superintendent Fortunato, speaking at her final graduation, advised the graduates to spread kindness no matter where they went or what they encountered in the world.

Student speakers included Student Council President Hailey Joyce, Senior Class President Sam Chiacchia as well as Salutatorian Alexa Labossiere. Valedictorian Daniel Hasegawa, who is headed to Harvard College in the fall, exhorted graduates to “…pause, breathe fresh air, relax, and count every beautiful thing we can see.”

Lincoln High School—Top Ten

**Valedictorian**
Daniel Hasegawa
*Harvard College*

**Salutatorian**
Alexa Labossiere
*State University of New York*

3. Corinne Stimson, *University of Maine Farmington*
4. Angelo Landry, *UMASS Amherst*
5. Rachelle Bousquet, *Rhode Island College*
6. Mackenzie Barakat, *Florida State University*
7. Camryn Thompson, *Stonehill College*
8. Casimiro Cosme, *Dartmouth College*
9. Samuel Chiacchia, *University of Richmond*
10. Ryan Tougas, *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*