

# Lowell Lowdown

**FEBRUARY 2012**

James Russell Lowell School is a  
community of learners.

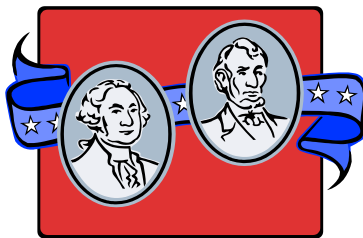
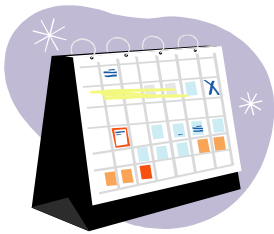
As a caring and responsible community:

We care about ourselves, others, and our learning environment,  
We share our thoughts and feelings in kind and respectful ways,  
We dare to try our best, be creative and explore new ideas.  
We care, share, and dare.



LOWELL SCHOOL WEBSITE:

<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/lowell/index.html>



## FEBRUARY

- ◆ Feb 7 Tues PTO Meeting 7:00 pm
- ◆ Feb 13 Wed Silent Auction for Fundraiser Opens!  
▪ <http://www.32auctions.com/organizations/2546/auctions/2804>
- ◆ Feb 14 Tues Spirit Day - make & bring in a heart to display
- ◆ Feb 16 Thur Site Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- ◆ Feb 17 Fri **Last Day** to submit Box Tops for classroom contest!
- ◆ Feb 20-24 February vacation week
- ◆ Feb 27 Mon Original Art Work packets go home
- ◆ Feb 29 Wed Early Release 12:15 pm
- ◆ Feb 29 Wed Miller Ale House Fundraiser

## MARCH

- ◆ Mar 1 Thur Kindergarten Parent Coffee 8:30 am
- ◆ Mar 5 Mon Kindergarten Registration begins
- ◆ Mar 6 Tues Original Art Work Order Packets due back
- ◆ Mar 7 Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Milk Awareness Day at the Lowell Lunch
- ◆ Mar 9 Fri Donahue's Adult Fundraiser 7:00 pm
- ◆ Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Early Release-Parent Conferences 12:15 pm
- ◆ Mar 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Evening Parent Conferences
- ◆ Mar 13 Tues PTO Meeting 7:00 pm
- ◆ Mar 15 Thur Site Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- ◆ Mar 30 Fri Spirit Day

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is hard to believe - yet wonderful - that February is here and we have had no snow days! January was another exciting month at the Lowell.



Students began term 2 MAP testing and all grade levels were re-grouped for "IC block". Kindergarten through grade 2 participated in "Brain Day", where scientists from MIT and Children's Hospital engaged students in learning about brain science. See photo's from the event on page 3. The school newspaper club that produces the Lowell Times, started up again and will be producing another issue at the end of the term. The Lowell Community Volunteer Program began matching volunteers to various areas of the school. Some volunteers have been working with students to play some new games at recess! If you are interested in volunteering, email [lowellvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:lowellvolunteers@gmail.com).

The PTO sponsored a great family Bingo night and the WEF's Spelling Bee was an amazing event. The Lowell had many winning teams in the Bee! The Lowell School winners are on page 4.

Looking ahead, my last grade level parent coffee is coming up. I would like to continue having these morning meetings through the end of the school year. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or topics you would like to see covered at a parent coffee.

There will be no school from February 20<sup>th</sup> through February 24<sup>th</sup> for vacation.

Thank you for your support!

Ms. Kaplan

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Where can you find Ms Kaplan's weekly message? [Here!](http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownMiddle/Kaplan/newsflash1.aspx)

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Monthly Parent coffee with the Principal  
**Kindergarten parents** are invited to coffee with Elizabeth Kaplan, Principal on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 am in the Lowell lounge. Topics to be covered are curriculum, homework, and Caring School Community.

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# BRAIN SCIENCE DAY AT THE LOWELL SCHOOL!



**Second Grade Winners**

*THE SOCCER BEES*  
 Robert Rizzo, Lowell  
 Moses Davis, Lowell  
 Gleb Partensky, Lowell

**Third Grade Winners**

*BRONCOS*  
 Nick Dagostino, Lowell  
 Jeremy Herrera, Lowell  
 Ameer Alhady, Lowell  
*SPELLTASTIC*  
 Leah Bailey  
 Sara Spiers  
 Asenal Rodriguez, Lowell

**THE SUPER SPELLERS**

Lana Taffel, Lowell  
 Haley Wolff, Lowell  
 Sana Rafic, Lowell

**Fourth Grade Winners**

*The B-BOYS*  
 Artemy Ivanov, Lowell  
 Gabe McGeough, Lowell  
 Cormac Kennelly, Lowell  
*THE BUZZING B'S*  
 Susan Howard, Lowell  
 Hannah McDonald, Lowell  
 Rachael Stokes, Lowell

**Fifth Grade Winners**

*QUEEN BEES*  
 Catherine Holt, Lowell  
 Julia Greim, Lowell  
 Lauren Cole, Lowell



**Winning  
 Teams  
 From the  
 Lowell  
 School!**



**2012 CUSTOMER CHOICE AWARD WINNERS**

Listed below are the 35 winning organizations that received at least one percent of the total number of Customer Choice votes. We divided \$50,000 by the percentage of votes received, with \$2,500 as the maximum amount.

<b>Organization</b>	
Sacred Heart St. Vincent DePaul, Watertown	\$ 2,500
Waltham Boys and Girls Club	\$ 2,500
Cat Connection, Waltham	\$ 2,500
Hosmer Elementary School, Watertown	\$ 2,500
Armenian Relief Society, Watertown	\$ 2,327
★ <u>Lowell Elementary School, Watertown</u> ★	\$ 2,178 ★
Saint Jude's School, Waltham	\$ 2,029
Watertown Boys and Girls Club	\$ 1,879

**THANK YOU LOWELL COMMUNITY FOR HELPING US TO BE A 2012 WATERTOWN SAVINGS BANK CUSTOMER CHOICE AWARD WINNER!**

# Valentine's SPIRIT Day

*This is a Lowell School PTO Sponsored Event*



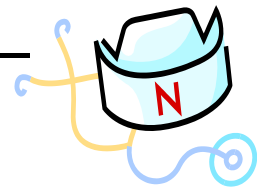
## Tuesday February 14th, 2012

- ♥ We invite students, teachers & staff to WEAR RED or PINK!!!
- ♥ Decorate a paper heart. Use your imagination, simple, fancy, big or small. Perhaps include a thoughtful sentiment.
- ♥ Bring your decorated heart to school on Tuesday February 14
- ♥ Hearts will be collected inside the front entrance that morning.
- ♥ We will display all hearts by the entrance to the Cafeteria.
- ♥ We will be collecting donations for the American Heart Association. If you prefer a check, please make payable to American Heart Assoc.

Thank you for your Support  
Lowell School PTO

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## FROM THE LOWELL SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE



### FREE HEALTH CENTER

A free health center operates in the basement of Immanuel United Methodist Church, located at 545 Moody Street, Waltham MA. Their telephone number is [781-893-7250](tel:781-893-7250)

The clinic is open each Monday night, except for holiday weeks, in the church basement.

Hours of operation are from 6-8pm. No appt needed.

The center is open to the uninsured and under insured. Interpreters for Spanish are available.

Physicals are done by M.D.'s. They **Do Not** give immunizations. They will fill in school health forms.

### 24 HOURS IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

**Fever** - Fevers are generally signs of infection. Any child with a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above must stay home from school. The child must stay home until the fever is normal for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer. No child should be sent to school with a fever. Do not treat fever with medication and then send child to school. If your child gets a fever at school of 100 degrees or higher, they will be sent home from school.

**Cold, Sore Throat, Cough** - Children average 6-8 colds per year. If your child has a cold and cough with a fever or they do not seem to get better, call your doctor. A sore throat, along with a fever and swollen glands, may be signs of strep throat. Children diagnosed with strep throat are still contagious the first 24 hours on antibiotics and must remain home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.

**Stomach ache, Vomiting, Diarrhea** - A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept home until symptoms have resolved for approximately 24 hours and the child is able to keep down liquids and food. Consult your doctor if fever and stomach pains do not go away or your child is not eating well and appears dehydrated (dry mouth, no tears, sunken eyes, urinates less than 4 times in 24 hours). Remember to wash your hands frequently.

**Earache Pain** - Consult your doctor. If there is no fever with an ear infection they may attend school. -

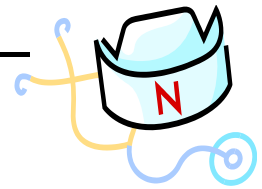
**Headache** - A child should be kept at home if headache is severe and is not relieved with medication. Call your doctor if the headache continues.

**Red Eyes** - When the white part of the eye looks red and there is a yellow or green discharge - Call your doctor. Your child may have conjunctivitis, a common but troublesome condition that may be a contagious infection. Your child may need an antibiotic eye ointment. Children are still contagious while on antibiotic ointment and must remain home until they have completed their first 24 hours of antibiotics.

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## FROM THE LOWELL SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE

(Continued)



**Rash** - A rash is usually a sign of an illness. It also may be a reaction to a medication or chemical (Plants, detergents). If your child has an unusual rash, contact your doctor. Do not send your child to school with a rash. Consult your doctor for clearance to attend school.

*Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent germs and infections from being passed around.*

***WHEN IN DOUBT REMEMBER THE 24 HOUR RULE- KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME THE EXTRA 24 HOURS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESSES TO THE OTHER CHILDREN.***

This information is not intended as medical advice but as a guideline to follow until you can contact your doctor. Any questions please contact: Katherine Taverna, R.N., B.S.N., 617-923-6475, Lowell School Nurse rev. 2/2010

As always, please visit my office with any problems or questions.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Taverna



LOWELL

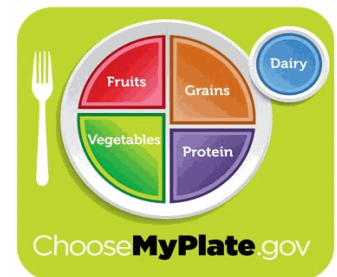
CLASSROOM

HAPPENINGS!



### Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we are currently learning about nutrition. Kathy Taverna is doing 3 mini lessons with the kindergarten classes to teach them all about healthy food choices. She showed the classes how to sort food into food groups and appropriate serving sizes. Thanks!  
The K Team



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## Lowell School PTO Announcements

Please be sure to visit the Parent Portal for up to the minute information on PTO events and activities. When changes are made, we update everyone using the following methods:

- Facebook-Please join! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lowell-School-PTO/101654219909103>
- PTO website: <http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownLowellElementary/ParentPortal/apt4.aspx>
- PTO email blasts-please contact a member of the PTO if you are not receiving these. You can sign up on the Newsflash Announcements page on the Parent Portal by clicking on the "Subscribe to this newsflash" button.
- Ms Kaplan's Monday messages <http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownMiddle/Kaplan/newsflash1.aspx>

If you have any questions about or for the PTO, please feel free to contact any of the current PTO Board members - we would be happy to speak to you! You can find a list of the current PTO Board members on the PTO website at:

<http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownLowellElementary/ParentPortal/apt4.aspx>

## Lowell School PTO Announcements (continued)

**Spirit Day is Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>!** Wear **RED** or **PINK** to school! Make and decorate your own hearts at home and then bring them into school on Valentine's Day. We will display all the hearts in the corridor leading to the cafeteria for all to admire!

**March Adult PTO Fundraiser Night!** Join us at Donahue's Bar & Grille on Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for an enjoyable evening. See the flier and details in this Lowell Lowdown.

**Family Dues!** Your donation helps to fund activities, events and other school needs. Thank you for the wonderful response so far!

**Lowell Leopard T-shirts and Watertown Sweatshirts/T-shirts available!** The Lowell School PTO has our own student designed Lowell Leopard t-shirts available for sale, as well as Watertown sweatshirts. Contact a PTO Board member or visit the PTO table at PTO sponsored events.

### **FREE & EASY WAY TO RAISE \$\$ FOR THE LOWELL LEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**This is the easiest thing we've ever asked you to do!**

The James Russell Lowell Elementary School PTO just signed up with [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), and now every time you **SEARCH** the **INTERNET**, our organization gets paid!!! [GoodSearch](http://GoodSearch) is a Yahoo-powered search engine which makes a donation to us each time you do a search.

**Here's how:**

Simply click on this link: [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), download the GoodSearch toolbar( EASY!), select our organization (James Russell Lowell Elementary School PTO) and watch the pennies add up!

Join the rest of our community in using this site to help us easily raise money for our mission. Get started by clicking the "Become a Supporter" button on our profile page at this link:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/james-russell-lowell-elementary-school-pto.aspx>

## BOX TOPS WINTER CONTEST



## ENDS ON FRIDAY FEB 17<sup>th</sup>

RESULTS SO FAR?! Check out the tally board at the front entrance next to the PTO bulletin board. Collection sheets and baggies can be found at the front entrance of the school at the handouts display.

Friday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> is the **last day** to submit your Box Tops to count toward the classroom contest tally!

?? Which classroom will win the pizza party this year ??

Currently Ms **Hudon's** classroom is in the lead with 738, with Mrs Lehmann (516) and Mr Vachon's (488) classrooms close behind!

# 6 Wishes for \$6,000

## Save the Date: March 9, 2012

Join us at Donohue's Bar & Grill function room, Bigelow Avenue in Watertown for our Annual Fundraiser on March 9 at 7 PM. We are planning an enjoyable evening for adults in the community with appetizers, raffle and auction items. Admission is free!

Our 6 wishes for \$6,000 are:

- Over 100 library books
- Document projectors for instruction
- Supplies for our 19 classrooms
- Study guides for MCAS
- Playground equipment
- PTO sponsored family events



Please join us! We appreciate and look forward to your support for our largest fundraising event of the year. If you have questions, or would like to donate a prize, please contact [seta.davidian@comcast.net](mailto:seta.davidian@comcast.net) or [amichelleflanagan@gmail.com](mailto:amichelleflanagan@gmail.com)

Our silent auction opens on February 13 to pre-bid on great items! We already have 40+ items and its growing! Final bids can be made at the live event on March 9. The link is <http://www.32auctions.com/organizations/2546/auctions/2804>

Sample auction items include:

- Weekend night stay at the Liberty Hotel
- American Girl Doll
- Boston Ballet Tickets
- Celtics Tickets
- Spa & Exercise Gift Certificates
- Store gift cards (Target & CVS)
- Restaurant gift certificates (Nubar Restaurant, Henrietta's Table, Union Bar & Grille, Il Capriccio, Redbones)
- Games & Toys
- Family outings including Santa's Village, Storyland, Roger Williams Zoo, SkyZone, Old Sturbridge Village, The Puppet Showplace Theatre
- Keurig Coffee
- Auto services including Express Tire & Randy's Car Wash
- Ski passes at Wachusett

*And much more not listed here!!*

To participate in the silent auction, simply go to our auction link at <http://www.32auctions.com/organizations/2546/auctions/2804> and register. The only information you need to provide is basic contact information. No credit card is required! Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to finalize your registration. It only takes 2 minutes.

Of course, please share our silent auction and event information with your family and friends. Our event is open to all who wish to participate.

Thank you for your support!

*Original Art Works packages will go home with students on Monday February 28<sup>th</sup>. Orders have to be returned to the PTO mailbox by Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>.*

## Original Works

Turning your artwork into professionally made products that you can wear and share!



**2nd Annual  
Milk Awareness Day**  
at the  
**Lowell School**  
-- March 7th --



### Activities:

- \* free plain milk
- \* assembly
- \* milk art
- \* MOO wristband to help kids make healthy choices



Lowell Fundraiser at the  
Miller Ale House on Arsenal  
Street in Watertown.  
Wednesday February 29th