



Weekly Newsletter • February 6, 2023

Your PTO—enhancing education and welfare of LHS students and fostering communication throughout the LHS community

Upcoming Events



Feb 6–10	Week 23
Feb 7	Senior Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group, 9am School Committee Mtg, 6pm
Feb 9	Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades) mtg with principals, 9am (Google Meet link)
Feb 10	Half-day
Feb 13–17	Week 24
Feb 13	PTO Board Mtg, 7pm (Zoom link)
Feb 15	Junior Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group, 9am LHS Science and Engineering Fair, 4–7pm, Commons II Class of 2027 Incoming Student Night, 6pm, LHS Auditorium
Feb 16	Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades), 9am Junior Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group, 7pm
	Save the Date
Feb 20–24	February break: No School
Mar 2	Athletics Spring Pre-Season Mtg, 6pm
Mar 11	Lexington Parent Academy

If you have a gmail account your Weekly Newsletter is being clipped. Please click on the link at the top of the newsletter "To view this email as a web page, click here" to get the full picture. Thank you!

Weekly Announcements

PTO News

How can we help you? We welcome conversation, questions, and dialogue. Connect with us by email anytime at president@lhspto.org.

Thank you!

Kim McCormick & Meg Khanolkar

What did the PTO do last week?

- President attended the monthly PTO Presidents' Council meeting
 - PTO Board met with Dr. Stephens
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Upcoming Forum: Safe Schools — An ally's guide for reducing homophobia & transphobia

Join the LHS PTO & School Health Advisory Council "SHAC" for a presentation by the Greater Boston PFLAG (Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), an organization whose mission is to provide support for families with LGBTQ youth. During this 90-minute presentation, the panel will share their personal experiences, talk about what is and isn't helpful, and discuss easy ways we all can help. This forum will be virtual, with a brief business meeting from 7–7:15pm, followed by the presentation. The forum is suitable for all K–12 parents, educators, students, and community members.

- **When:** Mon, Feb 6, 7–9:00pm
 - **To Join:** Zoom Meeting [Link](#)
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Recording of "Race to the Top" Forum now available

If you missed the Forum with Natasha Warikoo discussing her book *Race to the Top: Asian Americans and Whites in Pursuit of the American Dream in Suburban Schools*, you can still view the recording [here](#).



Save the date: Senior Parent Workshop

In May, Lexington High School social worker Joanne Loomer, along with Scott Schaming, will be co-leading an in-person workshop entitled *Letting Go While Still Holding On: Supporting Your Student (and Yourself) through the Challenging Transition to College*.

This in-person workshop, co-sponsored by the PTO and for senior parents only, will cover various topics including the developmental changes for students and parents, important conversations to have with your student prior to leaving home, the summer of mixed emotions and the countdown to the launch, college resources for a smoother transition, managing homesickness, and what to expect with the first visit home.

When: Tue, May 23, 8:45–10:00am

Where: LHS Library Media Center

LHS and LPS Announcements



Updates from Dr. Stephens

- The [LHS News and Happenings Letter](#) has everything you need to know about what's going on at LHS.
- February is when students should begin thinking about the courses they would like to take next year:
 - The LHS Program of Studies, which lists all the classes and their descriptions, is [here](#)
 - The 2023-2024 Course Request Timeline for current LHS students is [here](#)

LPS Vaccine Clinic

Lexington Public Schools is hosting another vaccine clinic open to all Lexington residents and LPS staff. Both Covid-19 and flu shots will be available. Please take advantage of this offering.

- **When:** Fri, Feb 10, 9am–5pm
- **Where:** Central Office, 146 Maple Street, Lexington
- **Sign-up**[here](#)

LHS Community News

Student Volunteer Opportunity: Teach a class with Helm Learning

All high school students passionate about a subject are invited to teach a free online class to younger students (K–12) through HELM Learning! These student-teachers will be able to express their passion for any subject they are interested in (examples include Java coding, Calligraphy, Psychology, Latin, and more), as well as earn 10–15 community service hours for Lexington High School and the National Honors Society. Classes are 60–90 mins a day for 5 days (Mon–Fri), usually during school break (February vacation, April vacation, and summer break).

- **For more information**, visit the Helm [website](#) or send them an [email](#)
- **Sign up** to volunteer as a teacher [here](#)



New! "My Truth Is..." Essay Writing Competition for Young Lexington Residents

"My Truth Is ..." is an essay writing competition for young students from 3rd grade to high school who study in Lexington. The students can submit a 650 word essay which tells a story about them. It can be about an idea or wish, a unique experience or event, an aspiration or even something very simple as a favorite activity or food. The essay should be authentic and be genuine such that it centers the content in the child's life.

Lexington children's experiences are rich and varied. Their truthful reflections can give a unique perspective on life in our town. Reflecting and writing is a skill that requires much practice and iteration. In order to foster town talent a group of Lexington civic, elected and spiritual leaders are hosting the writing competition. The competition will run from Jan 30 to Mar 1, 2023. Results will be announced Mar 15, 2023, and winners will be celebrated in an

in-person event in Lexington. Please visit the [website](#) for more details.

When: Jan 30–Mar 1

Results will be announced Mar 15

For more information, click [here](#)

Questions? If you're a parent with a question about the competition, email [here](#). If you have questions for the PTO outreach organizers, email [here](#).



All Night Graduation Party: Save the Date!

The All-Night Graduation Party for Seniors is coming!

To help the party be a huge success, **we will need parent volunteers and donations from ALL GRADES**, Fri, Jun 3 through Mon, Jun 5.

More details to follow, but **mark your calendars now** to help with this fun event.

- **When:** Sun Jun 4, 10pm through Mon Jun 5, 5am
 - **Where:** LHS Field House
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Dyslexia Parents' Group Meeting

Come join us to check in on how our kids are doing and also to continue our discussion of the podcast *Sold a Story: How Teaching Kids to Read Went So Wrong*.

Our Dyslexia Parents' Group is open to Lexington parents who have a child struggling to read and/or write, who need information on how to support them no matter where they are on their journey, and who want to join an amazing and supportive group of parents. We are a subgroup of the Lexington Special Education Parent Teacher Association, LexSEPTA/SEPAC.

- **When:** Tue, Feb 7, 7–8:45pm
 - **Where:** Lexington Community Center, Room 221
 - **RSVP**[here](#)
 - **Listen to the podcast** we'll be discussing [here](#)
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LHS Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades)

- **Next Meeting:** Thu, Feb 9, 9am (virtual)
 - **Topic:** Meeting with the Principals (Google Meet [link](#))
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Senior Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group

Come join the Senior Parent Group for an informal coffee and chat. Feel free to bring questions, or come to vent or support others as we move into the final few months of the college application process and senior year.

- **When:** Tue, Feb 7, 9am
- **Where:** Starbucks on Bedford St.
- **Contact**[Cynthia Pfeiffer](#) for further details

- **More event information** is available on our [Facebook group](#)
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Junior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next Meeting:** Wed, Feb 15, 9am *and* Thu, Feb 16, 7pm (both sessions cover the same material)
- **Topic:** Guest speaker Elise Rowley from *By Design College Consulting* will speak on the topic of "Designing your Own College Visit Adventure."
- **To Join:** Sign up for the mailing list and meeting links [here](#)

Lexington Community News

Community Conversations Series

In the first of this series of conversations co-sponsored by the Lexington Lyceum Advocates and LexObserver, join panelists Dr. Robert Bellinger, Kerry Dunne, Jane Hundley, Mona Roy, and Dr. Natasha Warikoo in discussing the topic of "*How can our education system foster a sense of racial and social justice in our schools and throughout our communities?*"

This *Community Conversations* session will take place in an interactive format: brief remarks by these experts in the field, followed by a moderator-led Question and Answer discussion with audience members, and culminating in break-out sessions in small groups, led by the panelists.

Come to talk, share, question, listen, and learn!

When: Feb 9, 7–8:45pm

Where: First Parish Lexington

For tickets click [here](#)

Teen Summer Expo

The annual [Teen Summer Expo at Lexington](#) High School is coming soon! Meet with directors of a wide variety of top summer enrichment programs, locally and abroad, for kids ages 12–18. This is free and open to all, with programs for every budget.

- **When:** Tue, Feb 7, 5:30–8pm (Snow date Feb 9)
- **Where:** Lexington High School Cafeteria
- **Preregister**[here](#)

Useful Links and Resources

PTO Links

- [LHS PTO Homepage](#)
 - [Membership Toolkit Registration Link](#)
 - [Volunteer](#)
 - [LHS PTO on Facebook](#)
 - [Who's on the PTO Board this year](#)
 - [Useful Links](#)
 - [LPS 2022–2023 School Calendar](#)
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LHS Links

- This year's [school calendar](#) 2022–2023

- LHS [Student Absence Form 2022–2023](#)
 - LHS [Block Schedule](#) and directions to [add Block Schedule to your Calendar](#)
 - No Homework [Calendar](#)
 - LHS [Counseling Department webpage](#)
 - Superintendent's [reports](#)
 - School Committee [webpage](#)
 - Building Committee [webpage](#)
 - LHS Building Project [webpage](#)
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Community Resources

- Cary Library [teen programs](#)
- Lexington Recreation and Community Programs: [classes for children and teens](#)
- Lexington Community Education: [classes on test prep and college planning](#), and [classes for children and teens](#)
- [Munroe Center for the Arts](#)
- [Youth Counseling Connection](#)

Stay Connected

- Principal Stephens: Follow him on Twitter (@LexingtonHSMa)
 - Athletics [games/meets](#)
 - LHS PTO [website](#) and [Facebook](#) group
 - LHS [Performing Arts Calendar](#)
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