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## Weekly Newsletter • January 17, 2023

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

### Upcoming Events



#### Jan 16-20

Jan 16

Jan 18

Jan 19

Jan 20

#### Jan 23-27

Jan 23

Jan 26

#### Week 20

No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Junior Parent Discussion Group, 9am

PTO-Sponsored Author Talk: *Race at the Top*, Cary Library, 7:00pm (register [here](#))

Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades), 9am

Junior Parent Discussion Group, 7pm

Quarter 2 grades close

#### Week 21

PTO Board Mtg

Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades), 9am

#### Save the Date:

Feb 1

Feb 2

Mar 11

Junior Parent Night

Curriculum Night

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

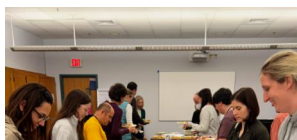
#### PTO News

**How can we help you?** We welcome conversation, questions, and dialogue. Connect with us by email anytime at [president@lhspto.org](mailto:president@lhspto.org).

Thank you!

Kim McCormick & Meg Khanolkar

LHS PTO Co-Presidents

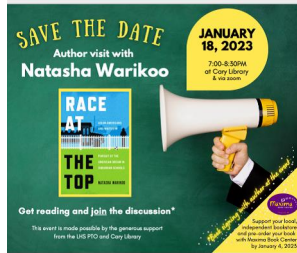


#### What did the PTO do last week?

- Ran the January **Hospitality Event**: Tacos for the staff!



- Prepared for next week's **forum** featuring author Natasha Warikoo



## LHS PTO/Cary Memorial Library Author Talk

Join author Natasha Warikoo as she discusses her book, *Race at the Top: Asian Americans and Whites in Pursuit of the American Dream in Suburban Schools*.

Tensions can sometimes be felt beneath the surface as we all strive for what is best for our children's education and future, but in different ways. Natasha Warikoo, sociology professor at Tufts University, examines one underlying force in "Race At The Top" culminating from case studies at a school she calls "Woodcrest High" which bears similarities to Lexington and other affluent suburbs across the nation. Warikoo paints a vivid portrait of white and Asian American parenting views on academic excellence and success in a highly competitive environment. What can we learn from her insights on what drives these different parenting approaches? And what are the implications for the children living beyond the boundaries of affluent suburban towns?

This event, which will be held both in person and on Zoom, is made possible by the generous support of the LHS PTO and the Cary Memorial Library. A book signing will follow the event. Copies are available for pre-order from Maxima Book Center [online](#) or in person at 1717 Massachusetts Ave in Lexington.

- **When:** Wed, Jan 18, 7:00–8:30pm
- **Where:** Cary Memorial Library
- **Register**[here](#)



## Sarah Ward Presentation on Executive Functioning

Join us right here at LHS to hear Sarah Ward, who will present a seminar on executive function skills for students with speech-language and brain-based learning challenges. Sarah is an internationally recognized expert in the assessment and treatment of executive functioning deficits. She has over twenty-five years of experience in diagnostic evaluations, treatment and case management of children, adolescents and adults with a wide range of developmental brain-based learning difficulties including:

- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Verbal Learning Disabilities
- Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Other Social-Cognitive Learning Disabilities

This event will be in-person only, and is suitable for students and adults ages 12 years and older. This event is co-sponsored by the LHS PTO and the Lexington Special Education Parent Advisory Council (LexSEPAC/SEPTA).

- **When:** Mon, Jan 30, 7–9:00pm (Please arrive promptly)
- **Where:** Lexington High School, Science Lecture Hall ([map](#))
- **RSVP**[here](#)
- **Please email questions**[here](#)

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## 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 the Mid-Year Check-in with the Principals

Did you miss the virtual question and answer "Mid-Year Check-In" with Principal Andrew Stephens back in December? No problem! Both the recording and the slideshow are now available.

- **Recording of this PTO Forum** is [here](#)
- **Slideshow** is [here](#)

### 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.
- **The deadline to submit requests for accommodations for the AP exams is Wed, Jan 18.** If your child is eligible, please fill out [this consent form](#) and return it to [Danielle Ballou](#) by the deadline.

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### New LPS Parent Communication Tool: ParentSquare

Lexington Public Schools will be adopting a new form of school-to-home communication for Lexington Public Schools called ParentSquare. This unified communications platform is designed to keep parents and guardians informed and encourages greater engagement and connection with the district and schools.

The ParentSquare App allows you to get all information for your child/ren in *one place*. Additionally, you can change settings so that communications come in from multiple schools at *just one time* during the day. Additionally, ParentSquare is set up so that it will provide communications in your language spoken at home.

- **Watch this 3-minute video** on how the app works
  - **Make an account** to make sure you don't miss info coming from the school! Parents and guardians should have received an email or text with information on how to join. If you can't find that communication, [here](#) are alternative instructions for signing up.
  - **Learn how download the app**[here](#)
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**New LHS Building Website is now live!**

Last March, the MA School Building Authority (the "MSBA") Board of Directors voted to invite the Statement of Interest (the "SOI") for Lexington High School into the MSBA's Eligibility Period. Why is this such a big deal? If the district successfully navigates all of the MSBA's requirements during the Eligibility Period, it will have an opportunity to be invited into the "capital pipeline," which will position Lexington for a substantial grant to offset the costs of a new or renovated high school. Are you wondering how you can get the most up-to-date information on this new Lexington High School construction project? Check out the new [LHS Building Project Website!](#)

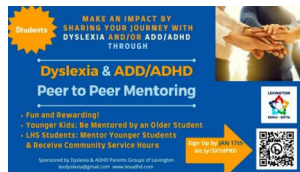
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## LPS Vaccine Clinic

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, Jan 27, 9:00am–5:00pm
- **Where:** Central Office, 146 Maple Street, Lexington
- **Sign-up**[here](#)

## LHS Community News



### Community Service Opportunity: Dyslexia & ADHD Peer-to-Peer Mentors

Peer to Peer Mentoring is a fun and rewarding experience for both high school mentors and their younger mentees! It's an opportunity for both young and older students with learning differences to connect, and for the younger students to realize that they are not alone, and to hear about the experiences and journey of older students. The Peer-to-Peer Mentors in middle school and at LHS can make a positive impact in the lives of these younger students, and *LHS students can receive Community Service Hours for their mentoring*. We welcome Lexington students no matter where they are on their journey—from just starting to realize they learn differently, to having a diagnosis of dyslexia/language-based learning disability and/or ADD/ADHD. Students do not need to be receiving support services in order to become a Mentor or Mentee.

**Our next meeting is this Saturday!** All Mentors and Mentees must fill out a [questionnaire](#) by Tue, Jan 17. Mentors must also participate in a short Zoom training and submit an agreement form prior to their first meeting.

- **When:** Sat, Jan 21, 10–11:30am
- **Deadline to submit questionnaire:** Tue, Jan 17
- **For more information and to fill out the questionnaire** click [here](#)



### Parent Volunteer Opportunity—FOLMADS

Parents and caregivers, we need your help at the LHS performing arts events for the second half of the school year. If you're interested, please sign-up through this [FOLMADS sign-up genius link](#).

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## LEXINGTON



### Autism Support Group Meeting

Please join us for another Autism Support Group meeting at Il Casale in Lexington. This is a support group for parents and caregivers of children with autism. It is an informal group where you can meet other parents and caregivers and share concerns, experiences and resources. All are welcome and we hope to see you there! If you know of new parents to the district or school system, please share this with them!

- **When:** Jan 17, 7:30pm
- **Where:** Il Casale, 1727 Massachusetts Ave
- **RSVP:** [autism@lexsepta.org](mailto:autism@lexsepta.org)



### Dyslexia Parents Group Morning Coffee Meeting

The Dyslexia Parents Group is a subgroup of SEPTA (Lexington Special Education Parent Teacher Association), and we're here to support Lexington parents who have a child struggling to read and/or write, who need more information on how to support them and who want to join an amazing and supportive group of parents. Join us this week for coffee, conversation, and encouragement!

- **When:** Thu, Jan 19, 9:30–11:30am
- **Where:** Via Lago Restaurant
- **RSVP:** [Lexdyslexia@gmail.com](mailto:Lexdyslexia@gmail.com)

### LHS Parent/Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades)

- **Next Meeting:** Thu, Jan 19, 9:00am (virtual)
- **To Join:** Email [Jen Roney](mailto:Jen.Roney) with your full name, and the grade(s) of your LHS student(s)

### Junior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next Meeting:** Wed, Jan 18, 9am *and* Thu, Jan 19, 7pm (both sessions cover the same material)
- **Topic:** Guest speaker Aaram Ladd will host a Q&A on the topic of "Building a College List."
- **To Join:** Sign up for the mailing list and meeting links [here](#)

## Lexington Community News

### Register your team now!

The Trivia Bee is a unique Lexington Education Foundation tradition—a fun evening that brings the Lexington community together for a friendly battle of wits while raising funds to enhance educational excellence in the Lexington Public Schools through teacher-initiated grants.

Teams of teachers, students, town employees, and citizens come ready to compete in this trivia contest, while hundreds of Lexingtonians cheer them on. Bring a friend, bring your family, and bring your trivial best!

Join us at the Bee, whether as a team member, team sponsor, audience member, or volunteer.

**Date:** Thu, Jan 19, 7pm (this week!!)

**Location:** LHS Auditorium





## New Art Classes for Winter Session!

Registration for Winter Semester programs at Munroe Center for the Arts is now open!

Join us for our new addition: *Let's Create with ProCreate* (grades 6 and up), or for returning favorites such as *In Your Hands* (our teen visual arts studio on Wednesdays or Fridays), *Teen Theatre* (now on Mondays) and *Exploring Ceramics* for adults (now on Thursdays)!

- **When:** The Winter Semester runs Jan 9 to Mar 19
- **Find classes and register** [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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