
Weekly Newsletter for Dec 4, 2023

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

Upcoming Events

Dec 4-8 Week 15

- Dec 4 Transcript request deadline for college applications due Jan 1
- Dec 6 SHAC mtg: Youth Risk Behavior Assessment, 7pm, LHS Library Media Center, rm 147-149
Senior Parent Group mtg, 9am
Community Center Dining Room
- Dec 7 Parent Discussion Group mtg w/ Principals, 9am ([Google Meet Link](#))
- Dec 8 Parent Discussion Group in-person social mtg, 9am, Community Center, rm 237

Dec 11-15 Week 16

- Dec 12 School Committee mtg, 6pm
- Dec 13 Junior Parent Group mtg, 9am
- Dec 14 Parent Discussion Group, 9am
Junior Parent Group Mtg, 7pm

Save the date:

- Dec 19 PTO *Parenting with Confidence* Forum, 7pm, LHS Library Media Center, rm 149
- Dec 20 Superintendent Parent Q&A with the Principals, 9am, LHS Library Media Center, rm 149
- Dec 22 Half-day
- Dec 25–Jan 1 No School: Winter Break

See the [2023–2024 School Calendar](#) for all of this year's holidays and half-days.

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

We welcome conversation, questions, and dialogue. Connect with us by email anytime at president@lhspto.org.

Meg Khanolkar and Catherine Telliez, PTO Presidents

What did the LHS PTO do last week?

- Continued **fundraiser**
- PTO board **met with principal**
- PTO Membership team delivered **LHS PTO directory** to the printers, Lexington Graphics
- **LHS PTO directories** were printed and mailed out



Upcoming Forum: Parenting with Confidence

Calling all parents and caregivers! Join us at our upcoming PTO-sponsored forum *Parenting with Confidence*. Now that results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) are in, come learn how to gain the confidence and knowledge needed to navigate important health education conversations with your student.

Led by Julie Fenn, this forum aims to empower parents and provide support and guidance in discussing topics like health education, health literacy and sexual relationships. Julie will share practical tips, tools and strategies to create an open and supportive environment at home.

This event is open to all high school and middle school parents and caregivers.

- **When:** Tue, Dec 19, 7:00pm
- **Where:** LHS Library Media Center, rm 149

Thank You for Helping the LHS PTO Help Students!

Our thanks go out to you, the parents, for helping us fund mini-grants that enable teachers to enhance learning in ways not supported by the school's budget. We recently heard from LHS physics teacher Valya Sountsova:

"I would like to express our warm gratitude to the LHS PTO for funding and helping to purchase a large set of equipment for our physics labs and demonstrations. We now have several large and small metal buckets for our Bungee Jump lab and circular motion demonstrations, a set of new metal chains for our Heavy Rope Atwood machine lab, twenty-two new Nerf guns with extra refill darts for the Muzzle Velocity lab, and several additional balancing birds for center of mass demonstrations."

The PTO is thrilled to enhance the educational experience of our students in ways like this! To help us meet our fundraising goal so we can continue doing so, [click here to donate](#). We still have a few thousand dollars left to raise in order to fully fund mini-grant requests such as these.

LHS and LPS Announcements

LHS Building Committee: Updates and Opportunities to Get Involved

Did you miss the Building Committee's Nov 21 Community Forum #2? During this meeting, community stakeholders were given valuable updates, and the architects

for the new LHS building shared some modeling that included several possible designs for a new or renovated Lexington High School.

- **For updates** on the project, click [here](#)
- **See the full recording** of the meeting [here](#)

Are you interested in the project, but short on time?

- **Read the preliminary [LHS Ed Plan](#)** and offer feedback on [this form](#).
- **Check out the new [LHS project website](#)** or watch video recordings of School Building Committee meetings and/or Community Forums.

Interested in getting involved? Join the LHS Visioning Team!

Lexington Residents and LPS School Community Members, including interested LPS students, staff, parents/caregivers and Lexington residents, are welcome to apply to the 60-person LHS Visioning Team. Approximately two-thirds of our Visioning Team (40 members) will include students and staff, and one-third (20 members) will be community representatives. All meetings will be videotaped and shared with the entire school community.

- **For further details** on the LHS Visioning Team, see Dr. Hackett's [ParentSquare email](#)
- **To apply**, click [here](#)

SHAC to discuss LPS Youth Risk Behavior Survey

SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) will have a discussion and Q&A on the 2023 Lexington Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results. LHS students will participate with the adults in discussing the impacts of the YRBS findings and programming to support Lexington youth.

- **When:** Wed, Dec 6, 7pm
- **Where:** LHS Library Media Center, rm 147
- A full presentation of the YRBS occurred at the Nov 14 school committee meeting. If you missed it, we encourage you to **watch the recording** at www.LexMedia.org or [here](#)
- New to SHAC and interested in joining? **Sign up**[here](#)
- **Questions?** Contact [Julie Fenn](#)

LPS Vaccine Clinic

The LPS Vaccine are clinics open to all Lexington residents, along with Lexington Public Schools' students, staff and their families.

- **When:** Wed, Dec 20, 10am–7pm
- **Where:** LPS Central Offices, 146 Maple St
- **Sign up**[here](#)

LHS Community News



Volunteers Needed for Northeast Senior Districts Festival

Folmads, the Friends of Lexington Music, Arts and Drama Students, is pleased to announce that Lexington High School is hosting the MMEA Northeastern Senior Districts Festival in early January 2024, which includes two days of rehearsals followed by a day of performances featuring choirs, an orchestra, concert band and jazz band.

As a fundraiser and a welcome to all the performers from more than 25 school systems within the Northeast District, we will be offering dinner and other concessions for purchase. We are looking for volunteers to help provide some of the items as well as help with the table at the two afternoon rehearsals on January 3 and 5. All money raised will support the Lexington Public Schools K-12 performing and visual arts programs.

- **When:** Jan 3 and 5
- **Where:** LHS
- **Sign up** [here](#)
- **To donate funds** in lieu of items, click [here](#). Please designate "Senior Districts Concession Fund" in the comments section
- **Questions?** [Email us](#) and check out our [website](#)

LHS Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades)

- **Next meeting:** Thu, Dec 7, 9am
- **Topic:** Meeting with the principal ([Google Meet Link](#))

There will be an in-person social meeting the following day. Bring your own coffee and join us!

- **When:** Fri, Dec 8, 9am
- **Where:** Lexington Community Center, rm 237

Junior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next meetings:** Wed, Dec 13, 9am **and** Thu, Dec 14, 7pm. (**Both meetings will cover the same content**—you can pick the one that best fits your schedule)
- **Location:** Online. Zoom link will be emailed, and put on our Facebook page
- **Topic:** Guest speaker Rachel Masson, Associate Director of UMass Amherst's First Year Recruitment, will speak on the topic of *What Colleges Want*
- **To join the junior parent group,** [email us](#)

Senior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next meeting:** Wed, Dec 6, 9am (*Please note this is an **in-person meeting***)
- **Location:** Community Center Dining Room
- **Topic:** Guest speaker Kevin Kozin will speak on the topic of *Emotionally and Psychologically Supporting our Senior Students, and Ourselves, through the College Application Process and the Transitions of Senior Year*
- **To join:** email [Julie Liu](#) with your name, email address, and the name of your senior student

Lexington Community News

Registration Opens Monday for New Classes

Registration will open this Monday for *Teen Drawing* (held on Mondays), *In Your Hands Painting & Drawing* (held on Wednesdays and Fridays) and *Teen Ceramics* (held on Fridays).

- **Registration opens** Mon, Dec 4

- **Sign up**[here](#)

Community Happenings

Although this LHS PTO newsletter only publishes announcements that are directly related to LHS students and their parents, we will share links to other community events that may be of interest to our readers. Click [here](#) to see the new announcements listed below.

- Give the gift of an LEF Star Award to an LHS educator
- Learn about Lexington's Black History Portrait Banners
- Learn how to join Lexington's Girl Scouts

Useful Links and Resources

LHS PTO Links

- [LHS PTO Homepage](#)
 - [Membership Toolkit Registration Link](#)
 - [Volunteer](#)
 - [LHS PTO on Facebook](#)
 - [Who's on the PTO Board this year](#)
 - [Other Useful Links](#)
 - [LPS 2023-2024 School Calendar](#)
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LHS Links

- LHS [School Calendar 2023-2024](#)
 - LPS [School Calendar 2023-2024](#)
 - LHS [Student Absence Form 2023-2024](#)
 - LHS [Block Schedule](#)
 - No Homework [Calendar](#)
 - LHS [Counseling Department webpage](#)
 - 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

- Athletics [games/meets](#)
 - LHS PTO [website](#) and [Facebook](#) group
 - LHS [Performing Arts Calendar](#)
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