

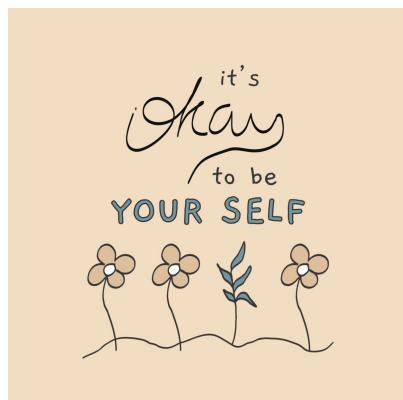
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## Weekly Newsletter for Dec 11, 2023

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

### Upcoming Events



#### **Dec 11–15**

Dec 11  
Dec 12  
Dec 13  
Dec 14

#### **Week 16**

Junior Parent Group mtg  
School Committee mtg, 6pm  
Junior Parent Group mtg, 9am  
Parent Discussion Group, 9am  
Junior Parent Group mtg, 7pm

#### **Dec 11–15**

Dec 18  
  
Dec 19  
  
Dec 20  
  
Dec 21  
Dec 22

#### **Week 17**

Transcript request deadline for college applications due 1/15  
Site Council mtg, 6pm  
PTO *Parenting with Confidence* Forum, 7pm, LHS Library Media Center, rm 149  
Superintendent Parent Q&A with the Principals, 9am, LHS Library Media Center, rm 149  
Parent Discussion Group mtg, 9am  
Half-day

#### **Save the date**

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](mailto:president@lhspto.org).

*Meg Khanolkar and Catherine Telliez, PTO Presidents*

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**We are adding more ways to connect with our LHS educators and parents! You can now follow us on X @LHS\_PTO**

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## What did the LHS PTO do last week?

- **LHS PTO directories** were delivered
- Presidents attended the **PTO Presidents' Council** meeting
- Approved funding for **teacher-sponsored student projects** to improve school building environment
- PTO Forums Team **met with the Principals**
- **Supported** the SHAC Youth Risk Behavior Survey **Community Conversation**



## Engage and Connect: Upcoming Parent Q&A with the Superintendent and Principals

You are cordially invited to a special PTO-sponsored Q&A session with Superintendent Dr. Julie Hackett and Principals Baker and Melia. This forum will provide updates on school initiatives, curriculum, and upcoming events. In addition, this will be a great chance to give your input and feedback on matters that impact your child's educational journey.

To ensure a productive gathering, please submit your questions in advance using [this Google form](#), which will allow us to prepare comprehensive responses that address your concerns.

A complimentary continental breakfast will be served.

- **When:** Wed, Dec 20, 9:00am
- **Where:** LHS Library Media Center, rm 147-149
- **Submit your questions**[here](#)

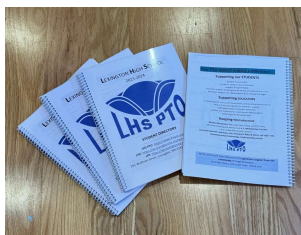
## Upcoming Forum: Parenting with Confidence

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



## Looking for Your LHS PTO Directory?

If you ordered a paper copy of the LHS PTO directory, you should have received it last week. If for some reason you did not, please [contact us](#) so we can assist you.

## LHS and LPS Announcements



## LEF STAR Awards Now Available

Lexington Education Foundation (LEF) just made saying "Thank you!" and "You rock!" so much easier.

Teachers, administrators, aides, and volunteers love receiving the gift of our LEF STAR Awards, and the proceeds go right back into funding the grants they request every year!

Order now through Dec 13 and we will deliver your custom STAR Award right to your recipient before the holiday break! It's an easy and a fun way for you to say thank you!

- For more information and to order, visit our [website](#)

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## Message from the LHS School Nurses

The Lexington High School Nursing Department would like to remind parents of the strategies that fight the spread of respiratory illnesses during winter. In their recent memo, they remind students and parents:

- when a student must stay home
- when a student is allowed to return to school
- to update any contact information in Aspen so caregivers of sick students can be reached immediately to arrange for pick up
- what strategies best prevent illness during the winter months

Please [read their full memo here](#) so you are familiar with their advice, policies and procedures.

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## 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.

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## 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](#)

## 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](#)

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

- **Next meeting:** Thu, Dec 14, 9am
- **Topic:** "Adulting"/Life Skills
- **To join the mailing list and receive meeting Zoom links:** Email your full name and the grade(s) of your LHS child(ren) to [Jen Roney](#).

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### Junior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

We have **THREE online meetings** for junior parents this week! Zoom links will be emailed and posted on our Facebook page.

#### Meeting #1:

- **When:** Mon, Dec 11, 7pm
- **Topic:** Navigating Naviance

#### Meetings #2 and #3:

- **When:** 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)
- **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](#)

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### Senior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next meeting:** Wed, Dec 20, 9am
- **Location:** Online
- **Topic:** Open Discussion/Q&A

- **To join:** email [Julie Liu](#) with your name, email address, and the name of your senior student

## Lexington Community News

### Registration Now Open for Teen Classes

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

- **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.

- Lexington's Annual Christmas Even Caroling

## 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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