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## Weekly Newsletter for Dec 18, 2023

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

### Upcoming Events

I never lose.  
Either I **win**  
or **learn**.

—Nelson Mandela

#### **Dec 11–15**

- Dec 18 Transcript request deadline for college applications due 1/15  
Site Council mtg, 6pm
- 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 21 Parent Discussion Group mtg, 9am
- Dec 22 Half-day

#### **Week 17**

#### **Dec 25–Jan 1 No School: Winter Break**

#### **Jan 2–5**

- Jan 2 School Committee mtg, 6pm
- Jan 4 Parent Discussion Group: Mtg w/ Principals, 9am ([Google Meet link](#))  
Transcript request deadline for college applications due 2/1
- Jan 5 Parent Discussion Group in-person social gathering, 9am, Lexington Community Ctr, dining room

#### **Save the date**

- Jan 15 No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan 19 Forum on AI and Education, 3:30pm, IDLC in Science Building

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?

- Prepared for this Monday's **Board meeting**
- Requested cookies for **cookie pop-up**
- Prepared for this Tuesday's **forum: Parenting with Confidence**
- Prepared for this Wednesday's **meeting with the the superintendent, principals and parents**



### Parenting with Confidence JOIN THE HEALTH EDUCATION FORUM FOR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE!

Date: Tuesday 19th December, 2023  
Time: 7:00PM  
Where: Lexington High School Library Media Room 149

Calling all parents and caregivers! Join us for our upcoming PTO-sponsored 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.

## Parenting with Confidence Forum is this Tuesday!

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, 7–8:30pm
- **Where:** LHS Library Media Center, rm 149

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

You are cordially invited to a special Q&A session with Superintendent Dr. Julie Hackett and Principals Baker and Melia.

**Why Join Us?**

- Get updates on school initiatives, curriculum, and upcoming events.
- A great chance to give your input and feedback on matters that impact your child's educational journey.

**20 Dec, 9 AM**  
LHS Library Media Center, Room 147-149

We encourage you to submit your questions in advance using the link in the info section.

Complimentary continental breakfast will be served.

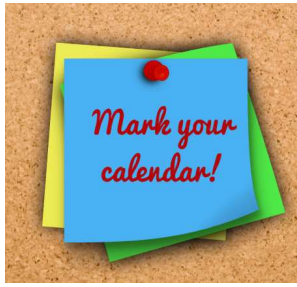
## Engage and Connect: Parent Q&A with Superintendent and Principals

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, 9–10:00am
  - **Where:** LHS Library Media Center, rm 147-149
  - **Submit your questions**[here](#)
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## From Chalkboards to Chatbots: A Dialogue on AI in Education

**Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now everywhere,** and is particularly evident in the field of education. Tools like ChatGPT, Khanmigo, Claude, and BingAI are already widely utilized by students and teachers, revolutionizing the learning and teaching experience. This evolving landscape raises crucial questions:

- **How do we effectively navigate the challenges introduced by these chatbots?**
- **How can we harness their immense potential in the field of education?**

**Join us for our upcoming *AI in Education Panelists Forum*,** where we will explore both the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in education, as well as the associated challenges and risks.

Our featured speaker is Amanda Bickerstaff, a distinguished AI expert and the Founder of AI for Education. Amanda brings over 20 years of experience in the education sector as a former high school biology teacher and EdTech executive. She will share invaluable insights on how AI is shaping the future of learning and pedagogy.

In addition, faculty members and students from LHS will share their perspectives on the use of generative AI in the classroom. Principal Baker will then lead a dynamic panel discussion with questions from our audience of teachers, students and parents.

This event provides a unique opportunity for the Lexington Public School community to exchange ideas, and gain a deeper understanding of how AI can enhance education in our community and how we can manage the associated challenges.

- **When:** Fri, Jan 19, 3:30–5:00pm
- **Where:** Lexington High School – Independent Digital Learning Center IDLC (Science Building)
- **Who:** Open to all Lexington Public School teachers, parents, caregivers, and students.
- **Sign up [here](#)** for in-person attendance or to receive the event recording.

### LHS and LPS Announcements

#### LHS Counseling Department Seeks Backpack Donations

The Counseling Department at the High School organizes community service projects all year long to help our students meet their community service hour requirements for graduation. We sometimes need to use backpacks as part of projects to transport items to and from the school.

Do you have a gently used backpack, or are you able to donate a new backpack that a high school student could use? (Both [this backpack](#) or [this one](#) from Amazon would be welcome!) We need only a few, no more than 5 or 10; and they would be greatly appreciated! Donations can be sent to the LHS Counseling Department, at 251 Waltham Street, Lexington MA 02421.

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



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## Calling all PTO Bakers!

Hello PTO bakers! We need you again!

Martha Queenin and her Peer Leaders and Mentors are planning a surprise Cookie Pop-Up Event for the LHS Community once again.

We are hoping to have the same as last time: **cut-out sugar cookies (holiday themed or simple round ones)** for students and staff to decorate. (Store-bought is ok!)

We will have a location set up where staff, kids and classes can take a break, pop by and grab and decorate a treat.

This has historically been a fun event that has brought smiles and joy to LHS. We realize it is a busy time of year—anything you can provide will add to the fun!!!

- **When:** The morning of Wed, Dec 20
- **Where:** On Wednesday morning, drop off your cookies, frosting or decorations in the main office or in room 156A (Martha Queenan's office)
- **Sign up**[here](#)

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## LHS Honors Chorus "Rock Your Socks" Fundraiser

In April, **the LHS Honors Chorus is heading to Florida** to compete in the Festival Disney Choral Competition, where they'll receive coaching and participate in a choral clinic with a nationally respected conductor.

**To make the trip possible for students with limited means, they are selling 3-packs of fun, designer socks.** For every 3-pack of socks sold, a bonus pair is donated to a homeless shelter in need. The sale will remain open until Fri, Dec 22. Click [here](#) to purchase your designer socks for a cause!



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## Join the LEF Trivia Bee!

Teams of three (ages 15+) are invited to participate in the **annual LEF Trivia Bee**—a fun evening that brings the Lexington community together for a friendly battle of wits, all while raising funds to enhance educational excellence in Lexington Public Schools.

**When:** Thu, Jan 11, 7pm

**Where:** LHS Auditorium

**For more information,** click [here](#)

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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](#)

## 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](#)

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

- **Next meeting:** Thu, Dec 21, 9am
- **Topic:** Quarter 2 Check-in; Holiday and Family Time with Teens
- **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

- **Next meeting:** Wed, Jan 3, 9am
- **Topic:** Navigating Naviance
- **Where:** Online. Zoom link will be emailed before the meeting and posted on our Facebook page.
- **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



## Adult and Teen Job Opportunities with Lexington Recreation Department

The Lexington Recreation and Community Programs Department is seeking to hire adults and high school students to chaperone their upcoming middle school trips held on district-wide Friday half days.

Responsibilities include: Being in the Clarke or Diamond classrooms by 11:35 to hang out with the kids until they board the bus at 12:30pm (high school students can come immediately after their 12:00 dismissal); riding the bus to the activity; watching over the middle school students to ensure they are safe, well-behaved and having fun; riding the bus back with them.

- **When:** Half-day Fridays from 11:30am–3:30/4:00pm.
- **Trips:**
  - [Nashoba Valley Tubing](#): Jan 19
  - [Altitude Trampoline Park](#): Feb 9
  - [Archery Tag](#): Mar 8
  - [Project PUTT](#): Apr 5
  - [Kimball Farm](#): May 3
  - [Treetop Adventures](#): Jun 7
- **To apply,** download the application [here](#) and send it to [Thomas Romano](#)
- **For more information,** contact [Thomas Romano](#)



## Community Service Opportunity: Safe Routes to School

Lexington High School and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) are looking for LHS students interested in becoming Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Ambassadors. Help younger students and their families access safe, healthy, and equitable transportation options. By becoming an SRTS Ambassador, you can:

- Get Expert Safe Travel Training
- Gain Real-World Experience in the Transportation Planning Field
- Earn Community Service Hours Certified by SRTS

**For more information** on how to get involved, email Lexington's SRTS Liaison [Susan Barrett](#), or call her at 781-698-4821.

## 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.

- **The Lexington Recreation and Community Programs Department** is seeking to hire a supervisor and an assistant supervisor to oversee its Friday night ski programs at Nashoba Valley this winter.
- Learn more about joining the **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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