



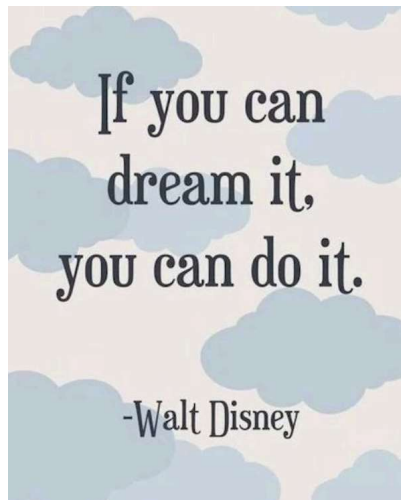
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## Weekly Newsletter for Apr 22, 2024

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

### Upcoming Events



#### **Apr 22–26**

#### **Week 32**

- Apr 23 School Committee mtg, 6pm
- Apr 24 Senior Parent Group mtg, 9am
- Apr 25 Parent Discussion Group, 9am
- Apr 26 Deadline to apply to LHS Site Council

#### **Apr 29–May 3** **Week 33**

- Apr 29 LHS Site Council mtg, 6pm  
Senior Prom tickets go on sale
- Apr 30 Forum: Youth Substance Use Prevention, 7pm, LHS Library Media Ctr, rm 149
- May 2 Parent Discussion Group mtg w/ principals, 9am ([Google Meet link](#))  
LHS Bldg Project Community Forum #4, 6:30pm, Cary Hall and online
- May 3 Parent Discussion Group social meet-up, 9am, Community Center  
Half-day

#### **Save the Date:**

- May 8 PTO Principal's coffee talk #3

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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## What did the LHS PTO do the week before April break?

- Held Forum: *Practical AI for Education*
  - Held April LHS PTO Board Meeting
  - Voted on last round of Mini-Grants
  - Commenced elections for School Site Council
  - Prepared and served lunch for the custodians
  - Prepared for the year's most anticipated Hospitality event: Faculty/Staff Potluck, provided by parents
  - Began PTO Board search for 2024-2025
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## Join the LHS PTO Board or Volunteer as a Committee Member

The LHS PTO is recruiting for Board Positions and Committee Members for the upcoming school year and we would love to see new members from the community!

### What is the LHS PTO?

LHS PTO is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization representing parents and caregivers of students at LHS. Our mission is to enhance the education and welfare of students, and to foster communication throughout the community. We organize forums and educational events, distribute grants for projects that benefit LHS students, organize teachers appreciation events and much more!

### Why should I consider joining?

Join us to make new connections, facilitate community improvements and apply your creativity and organizational skills, among several other benefits. Plus, LHS staff are incredibly thankful for the PTO's support, and parents benefit from resources such as forum events on hot topics such as *AI in Education* and our highly informative weekly newsletter.

Also, studies have shown that students with engaged parents/caregivers often have enhanced experiences at school and are shown the value of contributing to their community at an impressionable time in their lives.

### Is it a big time commitment?

We realize that this is a volunteer-run organization. We work as a team, fully realizing that life 'happens'. If you have questions about any specific role, do reach out to the VP of recruitment (contact info below) to find out what the role it entails.

### Ready to get involved?

That's great! We look forward to [hearing about your interest](#) for the various Board Positions or Committee membership roles in the PTO by **Friday, April 26**.

Come join us and be a part of your child's developmental journey at LHS.

- **Let us know you're interested**[here](#)
  - **Questions about specific roles?** Email [Jobina](#), VP of Recruitment
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## LHS Teacher & Staff Appreciation Potluck—We Need Your Help!

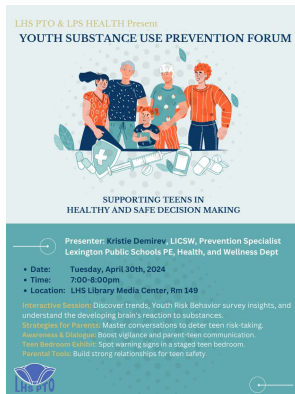
Parents, we need your help! It's the staff and teachers' favorite time of the year—the annual LHS Teacher and Staff Appreciation Potluck.

Every year, we celebrate the amazing LHS faculty and staff with a BIG potluck luncheon donated by the LHS parents.

### We need your help to make it a success!

- **For more information, and to sign up, click**[here](#).

The teachers and staff really enjoy the wonderful food parents take the time to prepare for them. Not a cook? No problem! There are sign-up slots to bring drinks, desserts, flowers and prepared items. Donations are welcome to purchase appetizers from local restaurants.



## Forum: Youth Substance Use Prevention

Parents and Adult Caregivers—Come join this interaction session to learn about current trends in youth substance use, review the Lexington Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, and understand the science behind the developing brain and the impact of substance use. We'll focus on providing strategies parents can use to prevent risky behaviors and to talk with their children.

We'll also feature the **“Hidden in Plain Sight” Teen Mockup Bedroom**, featuring items that could be signs a teen is engaging in substance use, as well as a display of the current devices we are seeing amongst our youth.

**Presenter Kristie Demirev** is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and the Prevention Specialist for Lexington Public Schools' PE, Health and Wellness Dept.

- **When:** Tue, Apr 30, 7–8:00pm
- **Where:** LHS Library Media Center, rm 149



## Volunteer at the LHS Credit for Life Fair

Join us in empowering the next generation with the financial literacy skills essential for their success. We invite passionate volunteers to the *Credit for Life* fair at LHS, where you'll play a key role in teaching students about financial management through engaging simulations.

### Why Volunteer?

- **Impact Lives:** Guide students through the complexities of personal finance.
- **Share Your Passion:** Connect with students on crucial topics like budgeting and credit use.
- **Flexible Involvement:** We provide materials; you bring your interest or expertise. No deep financial knowledge required!

**We need 25–35 volunteers** for various booths, including Education and Training, Health and Wellness, and Transportation, among others.

- **When:** Fri, Jun 7, 8:00–11:30am
- **Where:** LHS Field House
- **Sign-up** [here](#)
- **Snacks, drinks, and lunch provided!**

Together, let's prepare our students to confidently manage their finances!

## Senior Lawn Sign Update

We have worked with the local business Lexington Graphics again this year to help make it easy for you to order a lawn sign to celebrate your graduating senior. If you would like to order, you may find these resources helpful:

- [Lexington Graphics](#): local business that offers customization, with a link especially for LHS families
- [Vistaprint](#): offers customization and is located in MA
- [Signs On the Cheap](#): offers customization

## LHS and LPS Announcements

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

"My Truth Is ..." is an essay writing competition started in 2023 for young students from 3rd grade to high school who study in Lexington. It's returning this year! 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, centering on the content in the child's life. The prompt "My Truth Is ..." needs to be included in the poem or essay.

- **When:** The competition runs from Apr 15–May 10
- **Results will be announced** May 24
- **For more information or to submit an essay,** visit our [website](#)
- **The in-person award ceremony** will be May 29, 7pm. The awards, like last year, will be a mix of gift cards and writing implements (in age appropriate amounts and quality!)

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### LHS Site Council Election

The Lexington High School Site Council is seeking two high school parent candidates to serve a three-year term starting in the 2024–2025 school year.

The purpose of the School Site Council is to work collaboratively with the principal to develop school improvement plans consistent with system-wide goals and student performance standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education. Council members help plan ways to meet the diverse learning needs of students; establish a school climate of tolerance and respect for every individual; involve parents in the life of the school; impact safety and discipline; enhance extracurricular activities, and more. The Council is composed of five LHS parents, five faculty, two community representatives, three students, and the principal.

For more information, you can check out the Site Council [webpage](#). Please note the role of the parent representative on the school council is to serve and support the high school and it is not a position associated with the PTO.

- **Candidate Eligibility:** Parents and guardians who will have a child/children enrolled at LHS continuously from 2024–2027 are eligible to apply (this includes parents of current 8th grade students).
- **Deadline to apply** is end of the day Fri, Apr 26
- **Questions? Want to apply?** [Email us](#) and include the following information:
  - Your first and last name
  - Your child/children's name, grade, and school (we won't post this information, but will use this to help verify that you will be eligible for the full 3 year term). [example: John Doe, gr 10, LHS; Jane Doe, gr 8, Clarke]
  - Brief description on why you are interested in the role and any experience(s) you feel is relevant to the role (limit of 200 words). This description will be used in the event an election is triggered.

**Will there be an election?** If three or more candidates apply, the PTO will facilitate an election and results will be released after votes are tabulated and verified. All rising 9–12th grade LHS parents will be eligible to vote.

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### LPS Updated Respiratory Illness Guidelines

Lexington Public Schools has released an updated document with guidance for students with respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Click [here](#) to review the document

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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:** Fri, Apr 26, 3–5pm
- **Where:** LPS Central Offices, 146 Maple St
- **Sign up**[here](#)

## LHS Community News



### FOLMADS Parent and Student Volunteer Opportunity

FOLMADS, the parent volunteer organization supporting LPS performing and visual arts, needs your help at upcoming performing arts events. We're in search of parent volunteers for ticket sales and ushering. High school students can also be ushers.

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

### Flowers for LHS Performing Arts Seniors

FOLMADS is honoring LHS performing arts seniors at this year's Pops concerts, and you can help with a small donation to help defray the expense of the flowers and support LSP Performing Arts in grades K–12.

- **Donate**[here](#)

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

- **Next meeting:** Thu, Apr 25, 9am
- **Topic:** Q&A and Open Discussion
- **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, Apr 24, 9am
- **Location:** Community Center, rm 240
- **Topic:** *College Admissions Questions* featuring a parent panel
- **To join the junior parent group,** [email us](#)

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## Senior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next meeting:** Wed, Apr 24, 9am
- **Location:** Online
- **Topic:** *Thriving in the College Years: Supporting our Children for Success, Health, and Well-being after High School* with guest speaker Julie Fenn
- **To join:** email [Julie Liu](#) with your name, email address, and the name of your senior student

Lexington Community News

**Lexington Recreation Dept Looking for Leaders-in-Training**

Build leadership skills in Lexington's Department of Recreation and Community Programs two-week "Leaders-in-Training" program. The goal of the program is to provide high school students of all abilities with the education, experience and confidence to be a leader in the community whether that is through a job, volunteering or another avenue.

During the program participants will create meaningful relationships, learn new skills, participate in leadership opportunities, and gain hands-on experience in a summer camp setting. The morning portion of the day will be classroom-based leadership development and will transition into the camp setting where they can engage in a variety of jobs, tasks and activities. Participants will learn how to put these real work experiences into a resume and cover letter, and are then encouraged to apply for jobs in the Lexington Recreation Department in subsequent seasons!

Interested applicants must be entering at least 9th grade. Our program is inclusive: applicants of all abilities are encouraged to apply.

- **For more information**, visit our [website](#)
- **Questions?** Email [Kate](#)

## 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 learn more about these upcoming opportunities.

## 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

- Lexington High 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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