

HOT News

Lincoln Middle
School

Higher Order Thinking



November 15, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 3

What's HOT at Lincoln...

Working Together Making Success Happen at Lincoln

Thank you for your continued efforts to help our students achieve success here at Lincoln. We could not achieve the successes we are achieving without the combined efforts of our faculty and our family members of the school community! Here are some recent highlights of the great work we are doing!

Through our training in differentiated instruction and under the guidance of David Cormier, we are implementing more tiered lessons and more inquiry-based cooperative group learning throughout the school. Differentiated instruction is "educationese" for teaching to the individual needs of each student in a classroom.

We have also adopted our first round of Spencer Henry Strategies school-wide and they are beginning to have an impact and referrals to the office are diminishing. Spencer Henry, a noted professional in the field of classroom management and de-escalation techniques, worked with the Lincoln staff at our October professional development. He gave us a large set of tools teachers can use in their classrooms to help students remain engaged and on-task.

In addition, we have received training last week on creating Performance Assessments, the third leg of our three legged stool (***Student Behavior: Spencer Henry – Differentiated Instruction: David Cormier– Rigorous Curriculum: Performance Assessments***). A performance Assessment is a series of performance tasks focused on one central theme or idea and is based on the state standards. Performance Assessments are designed to be interdisciplinary and spur the imagination and creativity among students, provide extra support or enrichment for those needing a faster or slower pace, and make connections between subjects.

(continued on page 2)

LMS Welcomes New Staff!

Lincoln Middle School warmly welcomes Evelyn Chaparro to our staff. Ms. Chaparro has been with the Meriden Board of Education for a year. She began as a 3 hour sub clerk at Hanover Elementary School. She enjoys the summer months so that she can go boating and jet skiing. Her favorite thing to do is being creative in whatever she is involved in, whether it is in the kitchen cooking, planting flowers, or interior design which is one of her favorite things to do. She has a wonderful 16 year old son and his passion is baseball and dreams of becoming a pro. For Ms. Chaparro, watching him play is priceless.



Inside this issue:

HOT Happenings	2
Congratulations Mr. Moore!	2
Teacher Spotlight	2
Working Together continued	2
Ornaments for the White House	2
Physical Education News	3
HOT Topic	3
Hot Schools Info	4

Please Mark Your Calendar

- Nov. 24 Shortened Day
- Nov. 24 Town Meeting
- Nov. 25-26 **NO SCHOOL** Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 6-20 Meriden District Assessments
- Dec. 24-31 **NO SCHOOL** Winter Vacation
- January 3 **SCHOOL RESUMES**

HOT Happenings....

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 8th @ 7:00pm

LMS Choral Holiday Concert

**6th grade choir, 7th grade choir,
8th grade choir and The Silver City Singers.**



December 16th @ 7:00pm

LMS Instrumental Winter Concert

6-8 Band and 7-8 Strings



(from page 1) **Working Together Making Success Happen at Lincoln continued...**

Finally, for students needing additional time or support to reach success, our tier two and tier three support classes (strategies) are moving forward and students are receiving targeted instruction based on their greatest areas of need. Lincoln's Strategies classes are based on the belief that; (1) becoming proficient in reading and mathematics is a priority for each child's success; (2) each child is fully capable of becoming proficient in reading or in mathematics, and; (3) each child will continuously work towards becoming proficient in reading and mathematics.

These four areas are tremendously important for our students' success. The administrative team is very proud of this work you, our students, parents and teachers, are accomplishing in partnership here at Lincoln!

Together, we are making the success for every child at Lincoln our number one priority!

Teacher Spotlight—November



At a recent staff meeting we recognized Mrs. Laurie Galacia as the LMS Teacher of the Month for November. Mrs. Galacia is a social worker here at LMS. She is one of the outstanding members of LMS who make up the faculty.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Mr. Moore! Mr. Moore was the recipient of the Ronald McDonald House Local Heroes Award. Thank you Mr. Moore for all your hard work!



“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.”

Ornaments for the White House

Twenty five Lincoln Middle School students and their art teacher Christine Webster worked with resident artist Mark Patnode to paint ornaments for the Connecticut tree at the annual National Tree Lighting at the White House December 9, 2010. It is to commemorate Connecticut's 375th birthday. The students began studying the Charter Oak

Tree and sketching and painting in advance before Patnode came to work with the group last week. The ornaments were 6" acrylic globes. The students painting of the Charter Oak Tree are on one side, the other side featuring a 375th anniversary sticker designed and donated by Barker Advertising.



Physical Education News

This is the first school year Health Education is being implemented into the middle and elementary schools. At Lincoln, all students will have Health Education during term 1 and two terms of Physical Education. Our curriculum this year will focus on an introduction to Health Education and Wellness. Next school year the units will be expanded for grade 7 and 8 respectively. Unit topics included Physical Health and Wellness, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Tobacco, Alcohol and Marijuana, Puberty, HIV/AIDS and STD'S. Grade 8 will be presented with a separate class on Sexuality. Students will receive a letter grade for the class and a folder with articles and information discussed during the term.

All clothes worn for Physical Education class need to follow the Meriden Board of Education dress code found in our student planners. Concerns regarding your child's medical restrictions and/or injuries should be discussed with our school nurse. Specific class expectations will be discussed with students during the first week of Physical Education class.

All Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessments will be administered during terms two and/or three this year due to the implementation of Health Education during term one.

Our enrichment Physical Education Plus class will focus on a variety of activities within the Physical Education curriculum with emphasis on lifetime/leisure skills and activities, cooperative group based challenges and lead-up games. In addition, students will also be instructed on advanced skills for units presented in the regular scheduled Physical Education class. Class will meet twice within the schedule and for all four terms. Students will receive a pass/fail grade.

On Monday October 25, the Girls Volleyball Team organized a "Breast Cancer Awareness Day" in support of October Breast Cancer Month. Team members made Breast Cancer Awareness and "Think Pink" signs and posted them around the school. Over 50% of the Lincoln students and staff wore pink outfits in a unified sign of support. During the DePaulo Volleyball game the gymnasium was filled with a large crowd including parents, family members, faculty and students. A background of pink clad fans cheered on both teams. Before the start of the game the Lincoln girls gave pink hair bows to the DePaulo team. Additional, fundraising included a pink bake sale, bracelets, key chains and bookmarks to raise donations for the CT Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. A total of \$200.00 was raised.

Fall sports teams also participated in a food drive for the Meriden Food Pantry.

HOT TOPIC for November

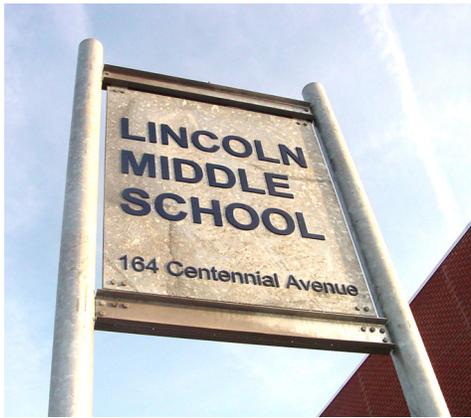


Students in middle school have a lot to think about. Most can tell you all the lyrics to their favorite songs and their friends telephone numbers. But can they remember what they have for homework? Helping students organize is a challenge, but here are some ways you can help:

- **Have a regular place for homework.** Students can become easily distracted. Studying in the same place will help your child understand that it's time to get to work.
- **Find the best place to study.** Some kids have to sit at a desk. Others like to lie on the floor. The homework spot should be: well lit, quiet, well supplied (pens/paper/pencils/etc...)
- **Get in a homework routine.** When your child walks in from school, have him/her put their backpack in the

same place and have a regular time to do homework.

- **Set goals.** Have your child look through their planner and make a "To Do" list. If there are long term assignments, have your child write them on a large calendar. Then check off everything as your child completes it. At the end of the homework time, have your child place everything back into their backpack which should be set near the door for the morning.
- Finally, **check their planner daily! Homework every day—no exceptions!** You can make a rule that if nothing is due, your child can review concepts previously learned. AR reading is ALWAYS for homework too.



Lincoln Middle School

Learning in and through the arts!

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The Lincoln Middle School Mission

Lincoln Middle School supports the mission of the Meriden Public Schools: success for all students. The LMS community places a special focus and emphasis upon the arts and media curriculum. We believe each child should have a well-rounded educational experience that will allow learning through the exploration of arts and media. The arts and media curriculum offers special opportunities to fulfill the human need for self-expression.

Students are motivated and challenged through an academic program that engages their imaginations in dance, dramatic arts, musical arts, visual arts, broadcasting and video, and creative writing. Incorporating the arts in education promotes the learning of life skills and develops critical thinking. The arts generate the excitement that motivates student involvement in the school community. Participation in the arts, with its multicultural foundation, offers a wide range of human experiences fostering respect for others, building self-confidence, nurturing self-esteem, and developing self-discipline.

FLASH!!! *The following television and radio stations will broadcast any delays or cancellations due to weather or other unforeseen events:*

Channel 3, Channel 8, Channel 30

840AM, 960AM, 1080AM, 1360AM, 1470AM

92.5FM, 95.7FM, 96.5FM, 93.7FM, 100.5FM, 101.3FM, 102.9FM

H.O.T. Schools Philosophy

Strong Arts—In H.O.T. Schools, the arts are rigorous academic subjects, each with its own sequential curriculum conveying knowledge not learned through other academic disciplines.

Arts integration—H.O.T. Schools integrate the arts across disciplines, creating arts-rich environments that motivate students to make connections between and among subject areas and ideas.

Democratic Practice—H.O.T. Schools cultivate a democratic school culture that emphasizes individual leadership and encourages all members of the school community to contribute.

H.O.T. Schools strategically link learning in the arts to learning across the curriculum. H.O.T. school arts teachers and classroom teachers work collaboratively to structure

interdisciplinary curricula that promote deep learning of subject matter, higher-order thinking, creativity, adaptability, and teamwork.

The H.O.T. Approach to teaching and learning is comprehensive. It considers the whole child, teacher, artist, administrator, and school community. Professional development supports teacher growth and parental involvement, and leads to personal renewal. The strong presence of teaching artists and parents is a distinctive feature of the H.O.T. Approach.

H.O.T. Schools has developed its whole-school change approach by weaving best practices in arts in education with the needs and experiences of urban, suburban, and rural school communities. Through careful planning, application, reflection, and redirection, the H.O.T. Approach to teaching and

learning has emerged to enhance the growth and development of each participating school.

