

# HOT News

Lincoln Middle  
School

Higher Order Thinking

## What's HOT at Lincoln...

Welcome Back Everyone!

Wow, we had a fantastic first day back at school. Everyone was friendly and cooperative as students moved into their new homerooms, passed to their first classes of the year, found their lockers, learned their new locker combinations, etc, etc, etc.

Parents are reminded to mark their calendars for a few important upcoming events at Lincoln.

On September 14-18 Lincoln is having its bi-annual book-fair. All students will be

brought to the fair with their ILA classes. In addition, parents can come in before or after school to purchase books.

On September 16th at 7:00pm Lincoln is hosting its annual Open House. We welcome all parents to attend this evening to meet the faculty and staff at Lincoln and learn about their student's school program.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!



September 15 ,  
2009

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## LMS Welcomes New Music Teacher Ms. Laura Boates!

Lincoln Middle School warmly welcomes Ms. Laura Boates to our teaching staff. Ms. Boates teaches choral and general music to our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. She has been teaching for 8 years and has taught in Orange, New Haven, and Guilford prior to coming to Meriden. In addition to her love for music, she enjoys reading and dancing and was a member, choreographer and leader of the swing dance group, The Rhythm Rousers, for 8 years. Welcome to Lincoln!



### Please Mark Your Calendar

- Sept. 8-15 Meriden District Testing
- Sept. 16 Parent Night 7pm
- Sept. 21-25 DRP testing
- October 9 **NO SCHOOL** Professional Development Day
- October 12 **NO SCHOOL** Columbus Day
- October 13 PTSL meeting

## Destination Book Fair Hours!

Monday 9/14 8:00am-2:30pm

Tuesday 9/15 8:00am-2:30pm

Wednesday 9/16 8:00am-2:30pm & 5:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday 9/17 8:00am-2:30pm

Friday 9/18 8:00am-noon



“Joy is not in things; it is in us.”

- Benjamin Franklin

## News from ILA...

“There are many sorts of books; but good ones are the sort for the young to read”

*Mark Twain*

Welcome back to another year of Accelerated Reader, The Collins Writing Program, ReadAbout and many more Language Arts initiatives that make our students successful. Your child will be exposed to many new and exciting pieces of literature this year. Encourage your child to read **daily** and set aside that all important reading time.

Motivating young adults to read can be challenging, reading along with your child and asking questions about their reading is a great way to engage and to enjoy a book together. All students this year will set an AR goal as part of their Language Arts class, every book they read can go toward attaining that goal.

## Teacher Spotlight!



At a recent staff meeting we recognized Mrs. Dawn Martorelli as the LMS Teacher of the Month for September. She is one of the outstanding teachers who make up the faculty. Mrs. Martorelli is an 8th grade ILA teacher on team 8-1.

## News from Math...

Congratulations to Lincoln students on making significant improvements on the 2009 Connecticut Mastery Tests in mathematics! The entire school showed increased mastery in place value, models for operations and classification and logical reasoning. Grade 6 also made increases in analyzing data through tables, graphs, charts and statistics such as mean, median and mode. Both grades 7 and 8 showed increased mastery in computation with fractions and integers, work with percents, ratios, and proportions, probability, geometric shapes and properties, spatial relationships and measurements. Overall school data and district data may be found on the web at [www.ctreports.com](http://www.ctreports.com).

As the teachers and students work to improve in mathematics, parents may help, too. Parents, encourage your children to continuously practice their multiplication and division facts. Knowledge of these facts will help students through every aspect of mathematics and will make problem solving and estimating an easier task.

## HOT TOPIC for September

Help for Homework

- Set the mood: provide a study area that is well lit, organized, and quiet
- Stock up on supplies: provide pencils/pens, highlighters, crayons/colored pencils, paper, tape, scissors, calculator, ruler, dictionary and/or thesaurus
- Make it routine: have your child study in the same area each day
- Be available to help: help your child keep track of assignments or answer questions
- Be positive: talk about the importance of homework and encourage your child to take pride in his or her accomplishments
- Check your child's work: it's important to be sure the homework is complete and that your child's handwriting is legible
- Ask for assistance: if your child is struggling, get assistance from his or her teacher, guidance counselor or even a homework resource on the internet

## Meriden Food Service Info

- Food Service staff is available and can assist with the filling out of lunch applications
- A new lunch application needs to be filled out each year
- Free or reduced meals may be applied for any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but experience a change such as a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, become unemployed or get SNAP (new name for food stamps) or TFA, you may fill out an application at that time.
- If a student is eligible for free or reduced lunch, they are also eligible for free or reduced breakfast.
- Information is available about Meal Pay Plus, our online prepay-

ment system, where parents can check their child's balances and food services account histories on line at no charge.



## Parent Teacher Support Line News

Next PTSL Meeting

October 13, 2009

7:00pm

Find out about all upcoming events at Lincoln!

**Become a Volunteer!**

**Contact the PTSL and become a volunteer at Lincoln!**

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Lincoln Middle School will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. We will be welcoming some of our Hispanic Leaders from within the community on Friday, September 18 who will speak with our students during a panel discussion. During this month we will be providing our students with enrichment activities involving the different Hispanic cultures. There will be a daily PowerPoint presentation in Times Square showing some of the different faces of the nations Hispanic community. Please join us for our final event on October 15th from 6:30-8:00pm. There will be display tables, food, desserts, fun facts and a treasure hunt!

## Positive Behavior Program

The Positive Behavior Program (PBS) Committee would like to remind students and parents about the PBS system. Students are encouraged to demonstrate: self-respect, positive attitude, outstanding effort, teamwork and success. The committee would like all students to receive monthly rewards by earning SPOTS stamps for demonstrating the above behaviors. If students achieve 8 or more points per term, they will receive a special reward. If students receive three or more term rewards, they will be invited to a special field trip at the end of the year. Students who follow the PBS system usually achieve at a higher rate than students who do not follow the system.

When we all work together, our school becomes a home of learning. Students receive term points for academics, behavior and attendance. Please refer to the chart in their planner on page 17.

Please remember to use your planner each day. Parents are encouraged to check your child's planner. All PBS information is located on pages 17 and 18. Spots pages are on page 19 and 20.

The committee's goal is to double the number of students who receive their PBS rewards.

**Together we can make a difference!**



## 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!!! A reminder that all electronics must be turned off and kept in lockers during the school day.***

## *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.

