

# HOT News

Lincoln Middle School

Higher Order Thinking

## What's HOT at Lincoln...

### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!

*What's New For This Year?*

#### New Schedule

This year students will be following a new schedule that will rotate over a seven day cycle. Students will continue to have fire core-academic classes and two classes of unified arts each day of the rotation. The changes to the schedule were made to allow students who need additional time and support or enrichment to receive it and to allow all students to be at their subjects.

#### Unified Arts Schedule

As in past years the core unified arts program at Lincoln includes study in Music, Visual Arts, Technology Education, Library Media, Physical Education and Spanish. Some students who need additional time and support in reading or mathematics will be assigned a strategies class in addition to their full course load of unified arts. Students who do not need this additional time and support are provided unified arts plus classes. Unified arts plus classes are designed to further enrich the student's experience in one of the arts areas.

#### Advisory Period

Lincoln had adopted a new Advisory Program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. We are the last of the four secondary schools to adopt this type of program. The purpose of an advisory is (1) to give each student an adult advisor that stays with him or her for the entire three years while at Lincoln; and (2) to have students explore social and behavioral issues in a safe school setting with a small group of peers (10-12) and a caring adult. The advisory meets for 40 minutes on C day.

#### Health and Wellness

This year in Meriden there is a new Health curriculum being taught at the middle level. At Lincoln all students will be receiving health classes for one quarter each year. The course will be taught by Lincoln's two PE/Health teachers, Mr. DeMatteo and Mrs. Carabetta.

## LMS Welcomes New Staff!

*Each edition a new staff member to Lincoln will be highlighted here.*

Lincoln Middle School warmly welcomes Ellen Pate to our staff. Ms. Pate grew up in West Hartford and graduated from Hall High School. She lived in Indialantic, FL for 23 years. She has been back in CT for a little over 5 years and has worked for the BOE. She began at Nathan Hale, front office, then to MHS, Guidance Dept., PHS front office and finally reached the Central Office in Research and Evaluation. Turned out she REALLY MISSED working in the school with the students, faculty and parents....she missed the Guidance Dept.!!! She is totally thrilled to be here at LMS in the Guidance Department and hopes to stay for a long time! She has two wonderful children (adults now) who both graduated from The University of Central Fl and continue to live and work in FL. A favorite hobby of hers is counted cross stitching. She also loves to thrift shop and "treasure hunt" in addition to enjoying the gym and her wonderful little Italian Greyhound named Miles. She truly enjoy helping others and tries to be a bright, positive influence on those she is around.



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#### Please Mark Your Calendar

- September Meriden District Assessment Testing
- Sept. 13-17 Book Fair
- September 15 Kick off to Hispanic Heritage Month
- October 1 The Beatles performed by Number Nine 6:30
- October 8 **NO SCHOOL** Teacher Professional Development
- October 11 **NO SCHOOL** Columbus Day
- October 12 PTSL Meeting 7:00pm
- October 15th Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- October 18-November 1 Writing Assessments



*Check out the inserts for more exciting information from Lincoln Middle School!*

**Locker Practice!** Students had the opportunity to learn how to open and close their new combination lockers.



## Sixth Grade Orientation

Prior to the beginning of the school year, Lincoln held a sixth grade orientation for the incoming new students. Last year's sixth graders willingly gave up some of their vacation time to be tour guides for the incoming sixth graders and their families. Thanks to all staff, parents and students for making the orientation a success!

**“Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.”**

**- Ralph Waldo Emerson**



Former 6th grade students who led the tour



Parents and children taking the LMS tour.

## Field Trip Opportunity—Spring Break April 14-22

Have you heard it said that *“knowledge of concepts and information from history and social studies is necessary to promote understanding of our nation and the world?”*

What better way is there to meet Connecticut's social studies framework for middle school than to take a trip and gain this knowledge from real life travel. That's what this opportunity is all about!

LMS students and families may join an extended 8-day group tour to Italy organized by the seventh grade social studies department. Students will travel to Venice, Verona, Florence, Rome and Pompeii. Sites such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the Pantheon are only a few of the highlights on the tour.

At the Open House on September 15<sup>th</sup>, informational packets were distributed to those parents interested in having their children attend. Parents are also welcome to join in on this adventure of a lifetime. If you did not receive the Italy packet showing the cost and itinerary, additional copies are available in the school office. Also please see the informational flyer posted on **LMS homepage website** under “Upcoming Events and Notices” announcing this field trip.

**This opportunity is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents. All participants must comply with school policies and follow the group's itinerary. In order to be a participant on the trip, an enrollment form must be completed along with a \$250 deposit by October 1, 2010.**

## Teacher Spotlight—September



At a recent staff meeting we recognized Ms. Patricia Gazda as the LMS Teacher of the Month for September. She is one of the outstanding teachers who make up the faculty. Ms. Gazda is a 6th grade ILA teacher here at LMS. She will be featured in an upcoming newsletter under our new hire cover page article.

## Teacher Spotlight—September



At a recent staff meeting we recognized Mr. Richard Sorensen as the LMS Teacher of the Month for September. He is one of the outstanding teachers who make up the faculty. Mr. Sorensen is a Computer Technology teacher here at LMS. He will be featured in an upcoming newsletter under our new hire cover page article.

## The Accelerated Reader Program keeps LMS students reading!

All Lincoln students will be participating in the Accelerated Reader Program (AR). AR is a computer program that helps Language Arts teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child chooses a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished your child takes a short quiz on the computer. AR gives both students and Language Arts teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set reading goals and direct ongoing reading practice. At our open house on September 15 your child's ILA teacher will have a parent guide to Accelerated Reader to answer your questions concerning the program. To learn more about this important part of your child's Language Arts class log onto: <http://www.renlearn.com/lp/AROpenHouse/default.html>



## The Summer Reading Challenge

Every summer Lincoln students are encouraged to read, read and read some more! Over the past few years the number of Lincoln students who have participated in the Summer Reading Challenge has increased greatly. We are hoping the number of students who completed their summer reading this year is even greater than the 252 students who read last year. All students were asked to hand in their summer reading work to their Language Arts teacher by Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Once the numbers are totaled we will be celebrating our summer readers' success!

## HOT TOPIC for September

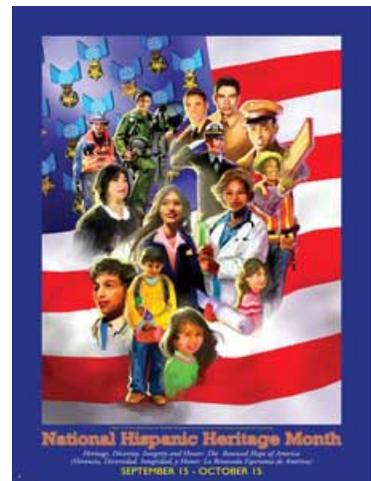
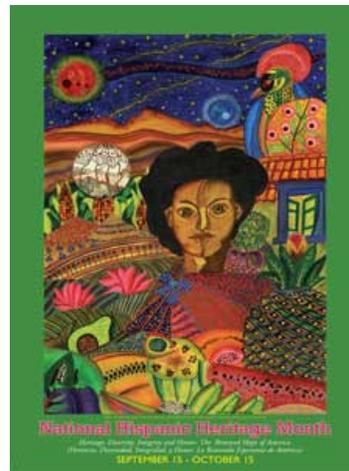
### *Why Your Attendance Matters*

You're doing word problems in math class tomorrow. Sounds like the perfect day to suddenly come down with a cold! Not so fast! Learning builds day by day. You can't stay on top of your classwork if you're not there to listen and take notes. It is crucial that you attend class every day. Parents and teachers want you to attend and here's why:

- You're likely to get better grades
- You're likely to get a better job
- You're more likely to stay out of trouble
- You'll be more likely to graduate

## Hispanic Heritage Month

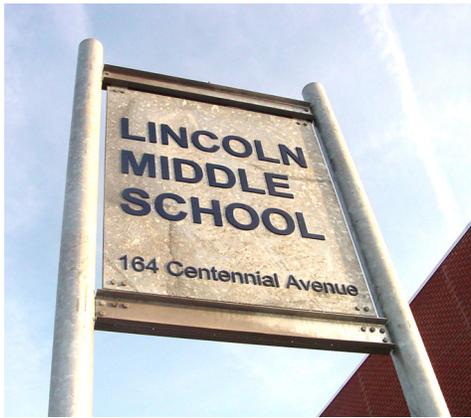
The HHM committee has been hard at work this summer planning this year's exciting events! To kick off the month on September 15th, Lincoln will have a Panel Presentation of leaders who will describe their experiences growing up and working. On October 1st, there will be a school wide concert from 9:45-10:45 from the musical group Surcari. In addition, Lincoln will host the Frida Kahlo Art Display in Times Square from October 11-15th. This year's culminating celebration theme is *Carnival*. Please join us for a wonderful family night with food, fun and entertainment on October 15th. Look for more information to come home with the students. You will not want to miss this!



So.... Don't let morning drag you down!

The better you are prepared in the morning, the less likely you'll be to run late, miss the bus or (even worse) miss school altogether. To keep your mornings hassle free and your attendance record spotless try these hints:

- **Prep the night before.** Lay out your clothes, pack your lunch and load up your backpack.
- **Know how you'll get to school.** Don't wait until the morning to make arrangements.
- **Get enough sleep.** Having a regular time to go to bed.
- **Don't squeeze in too much.** Wake up, get ready, and go!



## 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!!! Welcome Back! Please remember to turn off and put away all electronics before entering the school building.***

## *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.

