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DAY OF POETRY INSPIRES STUDENTS

(Mass-LEAP artist Ricky Orng presenting to Ms. Carvalho’s class in 9GA.) Friday, October 23, marked the fourth annual Day of Poetry at Lawrence High School. During the morning, guest artists from Massachusetts LEAP (Literacy Education and Performance) Collective conducted workshops in eight English classes across campus, serving 160 students. In the afternoon, 220 students attended an event in the PAC that included a performance by the Mass LEAP artists, and an open mic by Lawrence High School students and faculty. The event was funded by a grant from the Robert Frost Foundation. “I was impressed with how engaged my students were” said PFA teacher Molly McGravey, who hosted a workshop in her English 3 class, and also took a class to the afternoon assembly. Several of McGravey’s students read poems at the afternoon open mic. “They got to see the professional poets go before them, and they felt validated and respected” said McGravey. English Department Chair Richard Gorham was impressed with the afternoon assembly. “We had 220 students in an urban high school listening intently to poetry at 2:40pm on a Friday, five minutes before dismissal for the weekend. The respect they showed their peers was amazing.” Dena Brown, who hosted a workshop in her class in 9GA, reported, “My students were able to see true passion burning within the walls of our classroom, in the form of real, live poets! It was so beneficial for my kids to see that people love words and have dedicated their lives to sharing their own words with others.”
Charlie Brown a Success!

The LHS Drama Guild’s production of the musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” played to sell-out crowds in the black-box theater during its six-show run, October 15-24. “This has been our most successful fall musical ever” asserted drama director Matt Evangelista. “It was good because I got to express my talent” said PFA’s Alex Llanos, who played Charlie Brown. The show was remarkable because the cast had just three weeks of rehearsal before opening night. “It was a good working environment – we had some rough patches but we all worked really hard and it was fun. To get a show ready in less than a month is an amazing thing” said Alfonso Amador, who played Shroeder. “It was a difficult process but it was worth it” added Carolin Duran, who played Lucy van Pelt. “I like having people laugh at my lines and the songs.” The show featured well-loved songs such as “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” and “Suppertime.” The production was such a hit, a seventh show was added on October 29 during the school day for the benefit of certain special needs classrooms.

The Drama Guild is already hard at work on their next shows. They will perform Macbeth on Friday, November 13 at 9:45am in a performance open to the entire campus, starring senior Yasmine Gomez as Macbeth and junior Genesis Toledo as Lady Macbeth. The Guild will also perform “Shrek: The Musical” from April 7-16, 2016, with a cast drawn from the entire campus.
GEAR UP STUDENTS VISIT NECC

By Ester Peralta

On October 23, 2015 the GEAR UP program took 73 students, comprising of seniors and juniors from the BMF, PFA, HHS, INT, MST, and HLD high schools to the Northern Essex Community College event, “College for a Day.” Students visited workshops on Financial Aid, Computer Science, Math, Radiology, Criminal Justice, and the Students Success Center. During these workshops students met professors and gathered information on careers and information of the type of jobs they can seek after completing a degree at NECC. They also met with LHS Alumni, who were currently enrolled in their first semester at NECC and are active participants of the Student Success Center. Students were excited about college and are eager to learn more about the college application process.

Youth Tech Entrepreneurs

MST and in particular Youth Tech Entrepreneur (YTE) students, Mimi Phan, Menchy Herrera and Paris Brooks have been assisting SLES 4th grade students in learning the MIT coding program SCRATCH. The students visit the computer lab of Meg Lieberman on Fridays and help Mr. Kreg in programing the SPRITE as it moves its way around the computer screen. Both mentors and students are enjoying the experience.
by Laurie Hartwick
and Nicole St. Clair

VOCABULARY TIERS:

Our English Language Learners are dually challenged by trying to learn the content of a class and acquire more English at the same time. Often, ELL students struggle in content classes because they lack the necessary vocabulary to express the concepts they are learning. Teachers of ELLs can help with this issue by identifying key vocabulary that are essential to master the lesson and explicitly teaching those words. When choosing which words to focus on, it can be helpful to identify vocabulary as one falling under one of three categories:

TIER 1- BASIC VOCABULARY; these are often referred to in early education as ‘sight words’. These words generally don’t require direct instruction and can be quickly clarified during class using a synonym, gestures, or visuals.

Examples: book, short, cat, number, boy

TIER 2- HIGH FREQUENCY VOCABULARY; these are words that are seen across content areas and may have multiple meanings. These are the priority for direct instruction, since they will be used most and may be confusing while acquiring a language.

Examples: season, salary, measure, source, flammable

TIER 3- CONTENT-SPECIFIC vocabulary; these are words that are used in a specific domain and are low-frequency. These words may be important in the content class, but could be displayed on a word wall or captured in a personal dictionary to be used in that class. These are words that usually everyone is learning for the first time.

Examples: prokaryotic, permutation, histogram, feminist

STRATEGY TO TRY: THE 7-STEP VOCAB APPROACH

Rationale: Internalization of anything in a new language requires immediate rehearsal within 3-5 seconds to connect meaning and phonology with a mental image, the grapheme, or graph. In other words, if I immediately can Hear It, See It, Say It, and Write It, I have a better chance of moving it from working memory to short term then long term memory for future retrieval. The “long term” part of this evolves through recycling vocabulary through multiple opportunities to practice new vocabulary in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

This is the 7 Step Approach strategy – it should take NO LONGER than 3-5 minutes per word!

- Teacher identifies one to three high leverage Tier 2 words to pre-teach
- Teacher prepares all 7 Steps of the 7 Step Approach for each word

THESE ARE THE 7 STEPS:

- Step 1: The teacher introduces the word, shows the word and says the word three times, asking students to repeat after each time

  - Step 2: The teacher reads and shows the word in a sentence (context) from the text that the students will see in the lesson that day
  - Step 3: The teacher gives the dictionary or glossary definition
  - Step 4: The teacher explains the meaning with student-friendly definitions or gives an example that students can relate to
  - Step 5: The teacher highlights an aspect of the words that might create difficulty: spelling, multiple meanings, false cognates, prefixes, suffixes, base words, synonyms, antonyms, homophones, grammatical variations, etc.
  - Step 6: The teacher engages in a quick activity (like a 30 second Turn and Talk) to orally use or own the word and concept
  - Step 7: The teacher advises that students will see the word again through the lesson and will need to recognize it and use it in lesson activities (like writing a summary, using it in a TWPS, etc.)
Highlights from November 3
Professional Development

Grade 11 and 12 English teachers reviewed SAT and Accuplacer writing expectations to better understand the implications for providing our students with classroom experiences that will prepare them for success in college and the workplace. Junior and senior English teachers from the campus will be partnering with UMass Lowell this year to learn ways to address the gap between high school and college level writing.

Teachers from the International High School conducted a gallery walk in content areas to review and provide feedback to each other on content and language objectives.

Tom O’Toole, the Writing With Colors guru, led a workshop with LHS campus ELA teachers to review the latest round of Interim Assessments. Teachers had a chance to calibrate their scoring together to ensure consistency and uniformity in grading practices.
On November 5th, ELACE 9th Grade Academy students performed in the first ever ENLACE Storytellers' Café at El Taller on Essex Street! They had an amazing time showcasing their immigration stories and their talents to their families, teachers, and administrators.

BRYAN GERMOSEN (HHS) SPEAKS WITH JESSY M. ABRAMSON FROM VALLEYWORKS CAREER CENTER.
COMING UP SOON!

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 4 - FRIDAY 6
MCAS ELA re-test

SATURDAY 7
SAT test for some students

MONDAY 9 & TUESDAY 10
MCAS Math Re-test

MONDAY 9
Data meetings after school

WEDNESDAY 11
No School – Veteran’s Day

FRIDAY 13
Drama Guild production of Macbeth in the PAC at 9:45am

WEDNESDAY 25
Half Day

THURSDAY 26 & FRIDAY 27
No School, Thanksgiving

MONDAY 30
Fall sports tryouts begin
HLD Parents Get Involved

Lawrence High School was busy place last Friday evening, October 30. Students finished up sports practices and extra-curricular activities and caught the late bus home. The cheer squad held practice in the lower cafeteria. The football team prepared for their showdown game against Central Catholic, as fans streamed into the stadium. Meanwhile, up in H-305, a group of HLD parents assembled for a workshop on how to understand their child’s MCAS scores. Who would expect to see nearly 50 parents and guardians gathered in a classroom on a Friday evening for a parent workshop? Principal Ted Lombardi said, “I’d love anyone who says that Lawrence parents don’t care to some and see what Belen Tournas and our PTO has done. Their sessions are incredibly well attended and informative for parents, and more importantly are a fun and caring environment for parents to share concerns and successes.” Requested by the parents of the PTO and conducted in Spanish and English, the session proved informative and engaging for the parents. Edward Vasquez, father of HLD student Angelique, said “It’s great to see so many involved parents taking time out of a Friday night to support their students. It’s really great for me since we’re new to the school system to see that kind of involvement.”
Students from Ms. Power’s ELA class in INT and Ms. DeFelice’s AP English class in PFA collaborated on a parody of The Great Gatsby. As part of a new initiative, the students, whose classes meet across the hall from each other on the 2nd floor of “E” building, will continue to meet, plan and present projects based on campus curriculum. Pictured are PFA and INT students with Gatsby character celebrity dopplegangers. The goals are to encourage cooperative learning environment, form new friendships, enhance learning, and have some fun!
LHS CAMPUS CLUB
ADVISORS 2015-2016

Art Club
John Travlos, PFA
Room E306
Wednesday @ 3:00 - 4:00p.m.

Book Club
Stacy Sanzo, ALA
Learning Commons ALA
Wednesday @ 3:00 - 4:00p.m.

Chess Club
Michael Bocchichio, HHS
Room G302
Wednesday @ 3:00 - 4:00p.m.

Dance Club
Maria Morgan, PFA
Room B115
Monday- Friday @ 2:45 - 5:00p.m.

Gay Straight Alliance
Kathleen Cetin, PFA
HHS Room G404
Thursdays @ 2:50p.m.

Lawrencian Newspaper
John Fichera, MST
BMF Room F305
Tuesday & Wednesday @ 3:00p.m.

Literary Magazine – The Bulletin
Richard Gorham, Campus
Room B222, Ext. 39415

Mock Trial
Mary DeFelice, PFA
PFA Room E201
Wednesday /Thursday 3:00-5:00p.m.

National Honor Society/L-Pin
Richard Gorham, Campus
Room B222, Ext. 39415

Recycling Club
Joanne Peters, PFA
Campus
Room A123
Mondays 3:00p.m.

Robotics Club
Linette Heredia, MST
Room F106
Wednesday @ 5:30 – 7:45p.m.

Student Leadership Council
Tracy Baillargeon, MST
Library @ Thursdays 3:00p.m.

Writers’ Club
Molly McGravey, HHS
Room E207
@Thursdays 3:00p.m.

YTE Advisor
David Toto, MST
This edition of the LHS campus newsletter was made possible by:

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Vanessa Noesi – Graphic Design

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