

August 2018

Dear Lower Mills Families,

It seems like just yesterday I was sending out my final Lower Mills Newsletter for the end of the school year! I hope you and your family were able to enjoy some time together...reading, going to the beach, praying at Church, and of course completing your Summer Math and ELA Packets! The 2017-2018 school year was one of many school wide accomplishments. I would like to take the time to personally thank each and every one of you, as we each play a critical role as partners in educating our students.

I encourage you to join our Parent Corps family organization. It is a great way to meet other families and get involved! We have many events over the school year to celebrate our school community. You will find the form enclosed in your Summer Mailing Packet to join Parent Corps. It is a \$25 donation per school year.

I am proud to share Lower Mills Campus Student Achievement & Growth Data!

Lower Mills students placed Above Average in all three areas on our MAP testing!

- Lower Mills students scored *Above Average Growth and Above Average Achievement in Math*
- Lower Mills students scored *Above Average Growth and Above Average Achievement in Reading*
- Lower Mills students scored *Above Average Growth and Above Average Achievement in Language Usage*

The Lower Mills team has been very busy this summer! We know we will continue excelling in not only our academic data, but also faith formation and social-emotional growth. Our teachers have spent countless hours at Professional Development workshops, trainings, and certificate programs this summer. I thought it would be helpful to name a few as we continue to model to our students the true spirit and mindset of a lifelong learner!

- Faith and Religion Standards
- Orton Gillingham Certification
- STEAM Training
- Lively Letters Training

- New Teacher Boot Camp
- Reading Street Professional Development
- Envisions Math Professional Development
- Lynch Early Childhood Program Professional Development
- Building Trauma Sensitive Schools
- Teacher Coaching and Mentoring
- Social-Emotional Practices in the classroom
- Leadership and Principal Training
- Google Classroom
- Bridges Math Curriculum Training

Teachers who have transitioned as seasoned educators from the Mattapan Campus:

- Mrs. Karen Burk, K1 Lead Teacher
- Mrs. Rusy Lopez, K1 Aide
- Mrs. Jeanne Carrara, K2 Lead Teacher
- Mrs. Jacki Barden, K2 Lead Teacher
- Ms. Emily Gaylord, K2 Aide
- Mrs. Beth Sheehan, Grade 2 Teacher
- Mrs. Mary Beth Nelson, Grade 4 Teacher
- Mrs. Michelle McCourt, Chorus for grades 3 & 4
- Ms. Tricia Gately, Art for grades K2, 1, and 2
- Mrs. Marie Frejuste, Lunch Support
- Coach Jordan, Gym Teacher

We are excited to welcome some new faces to the Lower Mills school community! #GoTeamLowerMills

- Father Jack Ahern, Pastor of Saint Gregory's Parish
 - We are so blessed to have Father Jack join our school community as the Pastor of Saint Gregory's. Father Jack has a long history in the City of Boston and has done amazing work in the community. Please join us to celebrate at Father Jack's Installation Mass on Sunday, August 26th at 10am, followed by a reception in the gymnasium.
- Ms. Kathryn Bois, Assistant Principal
 - Ms. Bois graduated Valedictorian from Saint Joseph's College in Maine with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Ms. Bois continued her education at Boston College as a member of the Urban Catholic Teachers Corps at the Lynch School of Education where she earned a Masters in Education-Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Bois has been teaching middle school and high school ELA at Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree, where

she also served as the Girls Varsity Tennis Coach for three years as well. Ms. Bois has been a teacher leader, mentor, and has completed work with Boston College and UCTC to hone in on her leadership skills. Through this mentoring and coaching teachers, she felt a strong calling toward leadership. She is excited to join the Lower Mills school community and support teachers, students, and families.

- Mrs. Laura Lyle, PreK Aide
 - Mrs. Lyle has been working as a substitute teacher and in our after-school program for the past four years. She is a wonderful Lower Mill parent of three students at our school...with one more who will be joining us soon!
- Mrs. Shelly Benjamin, K1 Aide
 - *"I believe in quality education and the demonstration of kindness to all, and I've seen evidence of both demonstrated at the Lower Mills Campus. I am happy to be a part of a community who cares about its greatest asset, children, families, and quality education."*
 - Mrs. Benjamin taught for over 35 years in the Boston Public Schools in the Advanced Work Class. She has worked extensively in curriculum, instruction, and child development. We are excited for Mrs. Benjamin to share her love and joy for teaching with our K1 scholars!
- Ms. Kristen Millar, Grade One
 - *One quote that I love is the phrase, "where you invest your love, you invest your life," by Mumford and Sons. I particularly like this quote because I think it speaks to my passion as an educator and where I choose to invest my life and love and is in the classroom.*
 - Ms. Millar is a graduate Boston College Urban Catholic Teacher Corps. She holds a Masters Degree in Education-Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College and has taught for the past two years at Trinity Catholic Academy in Brockton. Ms. Millar has been a facilitator at Boston College this summer for new teachers to expand their knowledge on social-emotional development and curriculum in the classroom. Ms. Millar is passionate about Catholic Social Teachings and Whole Brain educational philosophies.
- Mrs. Stephanie Lopes, Grade Five
 - *"A teacher is a compass that activate the magnets of CURIOSITY, KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM in the pupils" - Ever Garrison*
 - Mrs. Lopes joins the Lower Mills school community after working as a grade 4 teacher for Brockton Public Schools. Mrs. Lopes is a proud Kindergarten to college graduate of Catholic Education! She is passionate about equitable and effective instruction for all and is fluent in Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- Mrs. Penny Winn, Middle School ELA
 - *"Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others." H. Jackson Browne, Jr.*
 - Mrs. Winn's passion for education was sparked when she served as a volunteer in Botswana, teaching English to students. She has also taught as a copy editor and writing coach for an international IT

company. Last year, Mrs. Wynn taught ELA to middle school students in the Quincy Public Schools. Mrs. Wynn enjoys volunteering at Rosie's Place and is an active member of her church.

- Mrs. Kathleen Haley, Middle School Math
 - *"Kind is the new cool" which closely resembles "love thy neighbor", a principle she strives to live by and impart to her own children.*
 - Mrs. Hanley holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master of Education in Technology in Education. Mrs. Haley has worked as a middle school math teacher and math instructional coach in Canton Public Schools, Milton Public Schools, and Southborough Public Schools. Mrs. Haley is a mom of four children and is passionate about high quality education, grounded in the Massachusetts Frameworks and Mathematics Common Core Standards of Practice.

Lower Mills staff who have transitioned into new positions:

- Mrs. Sarah Hockey, grade 4
- Mrs. Rhonda Eaton, grade 5

All of the Back to School Information is posted on the Lower Mills webpage. We look forward to seeing you on August 28th from 4:30pm to 6pm at our Meet the Teacher Night! You will be able to find out who your classroom teacher is as well as drop off any supplies and completed forms.

In partnership,



Ms. Warshafsky, Principal

Together as Lower Mills students, families, teachers, staff, and administration, we are:

- Embracing a Growth Mindset
- Facilitating Thinking
- Engaging Minds
- Listening to Questions
- Encouraging Risks
- Cultivating Dreams
- Supporting struggle
- Learning Everyday
- Living the Gospel