

# A Look Into Lexington City Schools

**A DIVISION NEWSLETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT - OCTOBER 2023**

## **HAPPY FALL!**

The leaves are changing, cooler weather is on the way, and we are already at the end of the first quarter of the school year. We have had a very busy nine weeks, and I am excited to share with you many of the wonderful things happening at Waddell and Lylburn Downing. Students and faculty have settled into routines, and there is evidence of great learning and fun happening everywhere you look. This first quarter newsletter will showcase many of the exciting things happening on our campuses, as well as within our greater school community.



Wishing each of you a happy, healthy fall!

Best,  
Rebecca Walters  
Division Superintendent



## LDMS VOLLEYBALL FINISHES WITH A WINNING SEASON!

Congratulations to our girls volleyball team, head coach Joanna Hamilton and volunteer coach, Carolee Taylor for a great volleyball season at LDMS! The team competed in both home and away matches this fall, finishing 9-4 on the season. We are proud of how much the players have grown this fall, and we look forward to next year!



## SCHOOL SECURITY UPDATES FOR 2023-2024

The school division is now using a new emergency alert app for faculty and staff. The new app is used for all drills so that staff can practice and feel comfortable using the app in the event of an emergency.

Safety is one of our top priorities!



## JANICE BLACK NOMINATED FOR AREA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to HWES first grade teacher, Janice Black, who has been nominated for the Chamber of Commerce 2023 People's Choice Awards as *Educator of the Year!* Janice has taught first grade at HWES for 30 years and is an amazing teacher. Winners will be announced November 15th. We are very proud of Janice for her excellent work as a teacher for Lexington City Schools.



## SCHOOL NUTRITION HAPPENINGS

THANKS to our wonderful school nutrition staff for all they do to keep our students and staff fed each day! This fall, our schools have enjoyed several new programs:

- Students and staff at Lylburn Downing are enjoying a new salad bar as a lunch option this school year. The salad bar offers fresh vegetables, meats, cheeses, and toppings daily. The salad bar was built by our city public works department with support from Jason White, Director of Operations for Lexington City Schools. A HUGE thank you to our school nutrition manager, Mary Poe, and our

wonderful school nutrition staff for maintaining the salad bar with new weekly items.

- LCS students and staff participated in the "Crunch Heard 'Round the Commonwealth" on October 5th. All across Virginia, schools enjoyed sharing fresh local apples in celebration of "Farm to School Week". Thanks to Mrs. Poe for working with a Virginia orchard to bring fresh apples to our schools.
- Lunch menus during October 2-6 included themed food in recognition of "Hispanic Heritage Month". Students and staff enjoyed empanadas, tamales, quesadillas, and tacos.

## OCTOBER IS BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

Each year in October, school divisions across Virginia emphasize the importance of anti-bullying measures and focus on kindness.

Bullying can contribute to increases in school absenteeism, mental and physical stress, poor school performance, low self-esteem, and in some cases, school violence. Statistics show that children who experience bullying are at an increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school (Centers for Disease Control 2021).

Throughout the month of October, our schools will provide several special activities including classroom lessons on bullying, morning announcements about bullying, a class poster contest, a "Bulldogs Aren't Bullies" banner, a compliment contest, "Wear Blue" spirit day, team-building activities, and a student "Be An Upstander" contest at the middle school. Our goal is to help bring a focus on treating others with kindness and respect. A special THANK YOU to our school counselors, Maggie Wilson at HWES and Sarah Leonard at LDMS, for leading these programs.



We encourage you to take time this month to talk with your child about the importance of being kind and standing up to bullying. Thank you!



## CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 15

LCS is pleased to welcome Rachel Braun to our school community as our new teacher of English Language students. Mrs. Braun has been instrumental in helping our school community recognize and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout the month, students and staff have enjoyed learning Spanish words and phrases through special morning announcements provided in Spanish and English, seeing these words and phrases on display, and seeing multilingual labels

around the public spaces in our schools. Each school also has a large world map on display where students and families can help to build a visual collection of photographs and words that celebrate Hispanic culture around the world.

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' MONTH

National Principals' Month is a tribute to the important role principals play in leading our schools and shaping the future of our students. This month, we recognize and celebrate Ms.

Kimberly Troise, HWES principal, and Dr. Abbott Keese, LDMS principal, for their dedication to making our schools the very best that they can be. We invite you to join us in recognizing our principals by saying "thank you" or sending them a note of thanks for all they do for our students, staff, and families. Thank you!



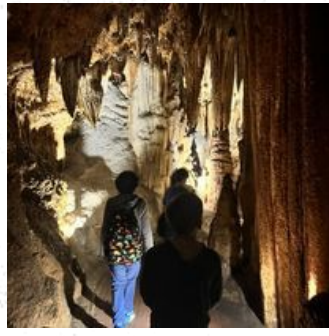
## WADDELL PTA OFF TO A GREAT START TO THE NEW YEAR

The Waddell Elementary School PTA is off to a great start this school year with fun activities for our families and school community. The PTA hosted "Popsicles on the Playground" on the first Friday of the new school year and "Bingo Night" at the pavilion in September. Both events were well attended, and everyone had a really fun time! The "Trunk or Treat" at Hull's Drive-In has been planned for this Thursday, October 19th with a movie and lots of Halloween fun! Thank you to our great PTA for all you do to support our school!



## **K CLASSES EXPLORE SIGNS OF FALL**

Kindergartners from HWES recently enjoyed a walking trip to explore to Woods Creek Park to search for signs of "fall".



## **WADDELL FIFTH GRADERS EXPLORE LURAY CAVERNS**

Fifth graders from Waddell Elementary School enjoyed their annual field trip to Luray Caverns.



## **LDMS SIXTH GRADERS WALK TO JORDAN'S POINT**

Sixth grade classes at LDMS enjoyed a walking trip down the Woods' Creek Trail to test waters samples and then to Jordan's Point to learn about the history of Jordan's Point.



## **ROOTS AND SHOOTS GARDEN ACTIVITIES**

The Roots and Shoots Garden at Harrington Waddell Elementary School is a beautiful outdoor learning classroom for our students and community partners. This fall, our third graders harvested the potatoes they planted last year as second graders. The third grade classes will enjoy a potato bake soon! Our first and second graders have spend time exploring the garden and learning about seeds! Be sure to stop by and enjoy some time in our garden soon!

## **LCS JOINS IN THE FUN FOR RCHS HOMECOMING SPIRIT WEEK**

For the second year in a row, students and staff at HWES and LDMS have enjoyed taking part in spirit week for RCHS Homecoming. This year, students and staff enjoyed including: Neon Day, Sunglasses Day, Hippie or CEO Day, and more!



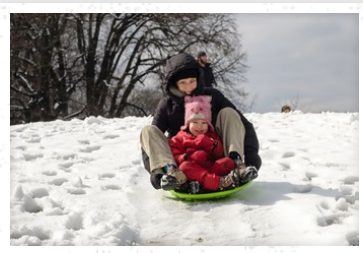


## LDMS STUDENT EVENTS BRING STRONG CROWDS!

Lylburn Downing Middle School hosted its first dance/social of the school year in August with over 90 students in attendance. The second school dance is scheduled for this Friday, October 20th and will be a Halloween themed event. On September 15th, the volleyball team hosted an "outdoor movie night" where students enjoyed watching "Rio" under the stars with snacks and glow items. It was a great time!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lexington City Schools is currently seeking applicants for substitute teachers and a Paraprofessional at Lylburn Downing Middle School. We are also seeking applicants to fill our part-time shuttle bus driver position for next school year. If you or someone you know may be interested, please visit our school website to apply.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we approach winter weather months, please make sure your contact information is current with your child's school office so that you receive important **SwiftK12** alerts via phone, text, and/or email. In the event of inclement weather, we announce updates via **SwiftK12**, local news channels, and the district website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 23rd** - Report Cards go home today
- October 26th** - Two-Hour Early Release Day; Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00-7:00PM
- October 27th** - **NO SCHOOL** for students; Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00AM-Noon
- October 31st** - HWES Annual Halloween Parade and Celebration
- November 7th** - Public Hearing on the FY25 School Division Budget and School Board Meeting 5:30PM
- November 10th** - LDMS Veteran's Day Tea
- November 13th** - World Kindness Day
- November 13th-17th** - American Education Week



November 22nd-24th - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

December 5th - School Board Meeting 5:30PM

December 13th - LDMS Winter Concert

December 19th - Two-Hour Early Release Day

December 20th-January 2nd - WINTER BREAK



## ABOUT US

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