

# A Look Into Lexington City Schools

*A Division Newsletter from the Superintendent - January 2024*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's amazing to think that we are already half-way through the school year and 2024 is here! I hope each of you had an enjoyable winter break. All of us at Lexington City Schools are excited to have our students and staff back from break this week, and we are looking forward to a productive third quarter of the school year.

Thank you to the many parents and volunteers who have greatly contributed to our school programs helping with special events, presenting in our classes, reading to students, and much more. We are so grateful for your partnership and gift of time!

I hope you will enjoy reading about all of the great things happening in our schools and district. Please stay well, and I hope to see you soon.

Best,  
Rebecca Walters  
Division Superintendent



### Free COVID Testing Kits Available at School

Our nurses' clinics are stocked with free COVID testing kits for staff and student families. If you are in need of a testing kit,



**LDMS Science Students Tour Barger's Quarry**  
Lylburn Downing Middle School eighth graders toured Barger's

## **Waddell Fourth Graders Visit Monticello**

Waddell Elementary School fourth grade classes visited Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, in November. Students had a great day learning about this historical home.

please stop by the school office or ask for a kit to be sent home with your child. Please stay healthy!

Quarry in Lexington to learn about the economics of quarries and to look for pyrite (fool's gold). Thank you to Chuck Barger and to LDMS teacher, Anna Swenty, for this great opportunity!



## **ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

As you know, strong school attendance is so important for your student and for our schools. While we have seen some improvements in overall attendance this fall, we still have room to grow, and we need everyone's support.

Regular and on-time student attendance allows your student to get the most out of the school experience. The elementary school day begins at 8:00AM, and the middle school school day begins at 8:15AM. As a reminder, a doctor's note or court note is required

after a student accumulates 15 unexcused absences. A student is considered "chronically absent" when they are absent 10% of the school year (missing 17 days). Our schools' state accreditation is tied to chronic absenteeism, and we are required by the State to follow up regularly with families regarding any school attendance concerns. If you have any questions about attendance requirements, please reach out to your child's principal or to Jason White, Director of Operations and Student Services. THANK YOU for your support!

## **JANUARY IS POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH**

January is POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH. Join us in sending in food donations for the Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA) during the week of January 16-19. HWES will be collecting canned meats, soups, and fruits. LDMS will be collecting boxes of cereal. Please be on the outlook for a flyer coming home about this community service project. We appreciate your contributions!



## **WADDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAMILIES ENJOY CODING NIGHT**

Lexington City Schools' instructional technology resource teacher, Jen Hall, and students from the LDMS Coding Club shared coding programs and activities with K-5 students and their families during the school's "Family Coding Night" this fall.

## **LDMS VETERANS' DAY TEA RETURNS FOR SIXTH GRADERS**

The LDMS annual Veterans' Day Tea returned in November with a large number of community veterans sharing their personal experiences as veterans with our sixth graders. Students learned about Veterans' Day as part of their history and English classes and wrote interview questions to ask veterans during the tea. Thank you to our veterans, PTA volunteers, teachers and staff for a great event honoring the service of our veterans!



## **ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE CELEBRATED AT WADDELL**

Families and neighbors enjoyed the annual Waddell Halloween Parade on October 31st as students and staff paraded down the streets near the school. Members of the VMI Glee Club entertained students and guests, and the VMI drummers led by John Brodie kicked off this annual event. It was a GREAT day!



### **Seventh graders visit Cocoa Mill Chocolate Company**

LDMS 7th graders took a fall field trip to Cocoa Mill in Lexington to learn about the chemistry involved in making chocolate. Thank you to the Mayo family for hosting our students!



### **LDMS Basketball and Cheerleading Underway**

Lylburn Downing girls and boys basketball and cheerleading is underway with winter sports programming. We welcomed our new boys' coach, Scott Rogers, to LDMS. The season will continue this month. Go, Trojans!

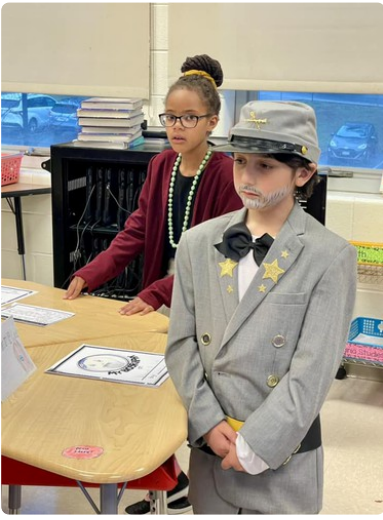


### **Marching Trojans Perform in Lexington Parade**

Congratulations to band director, Karen Doyle, and our Marching Trojans on a wonderful performance in the downtown Lexington Christmas parade on December 1st.

## **Waddell Elementary Fourth Graders Present Famous Person Wax Museum**

Fourth grade students at HWES hosted a "famous person wax museum" event this fall where each student researched and learned about a famous individual. Students then dressed in character and shared what they had learned with families and friends. We are very proud of our students for their great work learning and presenting to visitors!



## National Junior Honor Society Members Volunteer with Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program

Middle school student members of the NJHS club along with Maury River NJHS members volunteered at the Rockbridge Christmas Baskets program on December 8th. Students helped to prepare boxes, food, and toys for the annual packing day supported by many community volunteers. This program benefits local families for the holidays.



## LDMS Seventh Graders Attend "A Christmas Carol" at Blackfriar's Theater in Staunton

Seventh grade students attended a live performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Blackfriar's Theatre in Staunton as part of their English studies in Spencer Golladay's classes. Students were able to meet some of the main performers after the show.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lexington City Schools is currently seeking applicants for SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS. We are also seeking applicants to fill the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year: special education teacher, P.E. teacher, school nurse, and part-time shuttle bus driver. If you or someone you know may be interested in any of these openings, please visit our school website to apply.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter weather is upon us! 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:

**January 9** - School Board meeting at 5:30PM at SBO

**January 12** - LDMS Dance 6:00PM

**January 15** - NO SCHOOL; HOLIDAY

**January 16-18** - Districtwide Food Drive for PAPA

**January 25** - Family AI (Artificial Intelligence) Night at HWES

6:00PM

**February 3** - School Crossing Guard Day

**February 5-9** - School Counselors' Week

**February 6** - School Board Meeting 5:30PM at SBO

**February 7** - LDMS Academic Showcase 5:30PM

**February 9** - LDMS Dance 6:00PM

**February 14** - Valentine's Day

**February 15** - School Resource Officer Day

**February 16** - NO SCHOOL; Teacher Workday

**February 19** - NO SCHOOL; Professional Development Day for Staff

**March 1** - LDMS Family Fun Night 5:30PM



## About Us

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**Rebecca Walters**

Rebecca is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters