

SU 69 Superintendent's Winter Update 2022 Kate Clark, Superintendent kate.clark@fivetowns.net

Winter has finally arrived! After a beautiful and warm fall, it looks like we might be in for some winter weather in the coming weeks, finally! But, before you head out the door for some fun in the winter weather, take a moment to read through all that we have been up to! I have been quiet this year so far, but we have been busy;)

PERFORMING ARTS ARE BACK!!

One of the most difficult sacrifices we had to make during the pandemic was to minimize our usual performing arts programming. But, we held on tight and slowly we were able to revitalize these programs and provide even more fabulous opportunities for our students! Last year, we had low-key caroling, a small, but engaging student performance at Lincolnville and then, as illnesses subsided and the weather cooperated, a full concert and art show on the lawn in Appleton.

This year, all three schools, led by our terrific music teachers, are alive with music and drama! So far, Appleton has put on a full production of Elf Jr., and Hope held beautiful evening concerts full joy and showcasing student talents! Lincolnville's concerts will be held in January and in March LCS will put on Frozen Jr. In addition to our talented music teachers at each school, we AVS and LCS are lucky enough to work with Kim Murphy, of CRHS fame!

Keep your calendars near you when you read your school's newsletter so you don't miss any of these wonderful performances!





HAL COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the first time in a long time, all HAL teachers and administrators met together for professional development on August 30th and November 21st. We were able to have some deep and meaningful discussions about teaching and learning, expected learning outcomes and strategies for student engagement and assessment. This may not sound all that exciting, but we have gotten a great deal of positive feedback from these PD days! Our teachers and staff are dedicated, talented professionals and they made the most of the opportunities to dig into their own practice, share ideas and problem solve. This is the incredibly important work that we all show up to do every day!



CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS:

As you may or may not know, we lost a valued member of our finance team this summer when Jodi Davis, an LCS mom and our beloved AP clerk, moved her family down South to be closer to her parents. Those of you who knew Jodi can attest to her warm, open disposition. She is missed by our whole team!



Since Jodi left, we have been able to hire a Finance Assistant, Samantha Hilt-Coleman, who works remotely from Biddeford and LCS grandparent, Leda Stoutenberg, who will help us with payroll for a few hours each month! Building this new team has taken considerable time and effort, but we have a terrific new team, and it will be worth it!

HEALTH and WELLNESS

As you all know, staff and students alike have been hit hard by illnesses this Fall, Covid is still among them, but this year we, like many other districts in the state, have seen an uptick in RSV, Influenza, Norovirus, to name a few. The nurses in each school have been on top of the situation and have sent home pointers for staying healthy.

Wishing you all a restful, relaxing Winter Break, see you in the New Year!!