



SCHOOL IS OPEN! 2009-2010

I am pleased to welcome you back to the Lanesborough Elementary School. We opened our doors to students on Wednesday, September 2nd. Classrooms were ready and inviting! New and returning students and families were warmly greeted by our teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff.

Our enrollment as of September is 274 students with a faculty and staff of 51 employees. Our average class size is 18:1 in grades pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Our students are acclimating to their new classrooms, new teachers and friends and we anticipate a successful year of learning and growing together.

Thursday, September 17th, LES hosted its annual **OPEN HOUSE** --a wonderful opportunity for students and families to meet their new teachers and connect with neighbors and friends. The classrooms were inviting and busy with activity. The *Reading Café* was a huge success as students and parents chose books from a “menu” of choices. Thank you Prudy Barton, Donna Beguin, Marsha Vinette and our capable sixth grade “wait staff” for promoting and organizing this wonderful idea!

In this opening web newsletter, I'd like to highlight two efforts to reach out to our school community:

- *Hosting a September Administrative Coffee and Conversation*
- *Initiating Long-Range/Strategic Planning at LES*

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



This year in an effort to become better acquainted with parents and families, I will be hosting a series of five informal forums *every other month* called, **Coffee and Conversation**, and Mrs. Boshe will join me. We will discuss relevant educational topics and “happenings” at LES.

Mrs. Boshe and I held our first **Coffee and Conversation** on **Thursday, September 24th at 8:45 am** in the cafeteria dining room. The agenda included Long-

Range Planning, H1N1 Protocols and a preview of this year's MCAS scores. Please join us for our next Coffee in *November*. We will announce the date shortly. This is an opportunity to meet with the administration and participate in an informal discussion on educational day to day issues at LES.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION FUTURE at LES?

If the answer is “yes” then please join us in our **Long-Range/Strategic Planning (LRP)** effort. We will host two Long-Range Planning (LRP) Focus Group evenings. LRP is a collaborative process whereby we plan our future as a school district by determining important educational priorities. With representatives from among the parents, the administration, the teachers/staff and the community we will focus our energies and revenues on accomplishing these priorities.

Here's How the Process Will Work: *Mark your calendars:*

1. CONDUCT FOCUS GROUPS:

Monday, October 19 or Tuesday, October 20 at 7pm (Choose just one night to attend).

We will open the school to parents, staff and community members to participate in focus groups that will gather perceptions and reflections of the preferred future direction of LES. **ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE on one of the two evenings.**

2. FORM A LONG-RANGE PLANNING (LRP) COMMITTEE: We will formulate a representative committee of parents, staff and community members who will review the data provided by the focus groups. This Committee of stakeholders can number between 20 and 30. Please contact me or Ellen Boshe at rellis@lanesboroughschool.org or eboshe@lanesboroughschool.org to sign up.

3. TRAIN THE LRP COMMITTEE:

Thursday and Friday, November 5 and 6th from 8:30am to 3:30 pm.

Members of the LRP Committee will participate in a two-day workshop conducted by an experienced LRP trainer. This Committee will develop a mission statement, a vision, a set of beliefs for our school based on the input from the FOCUS GROUPS.

We will publicize the PLAN and solicit feedback.

4. APPROVAL OF THE LRP BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

The School Committee must vote on the LONG-RANGE PLAN. Then we will implement the PLAN'S educational goals and objectives over the next three years. The LONG-RANGE PLAN is reviewed annually by the LRP Committee.

I wholeheartedly invite you to participate in the LRP dialogue that will begin on the nights of October 19th and 20th. It is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to planning the direction of education at the Lanesborough Elementary School.

Please feel free to contact me at rellis@williamstownelementary.org or you can call me on a Tuesday or Thursday at my Office in Lanesborough Elementary at 442-2229.

Dr. Rose Ellis
Superintendent