

R.H. Conwell Elementary Community Newsletter January 10, 2025

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Dear Community:

Happy Friday! This week we had extraordinarily unusual COLD and WINDY weather conditions which prevented us from being outside, but the forecast looks good for next week! Please make sure to send your child to school with warm layers, boots, mittens, and hats for outdoor recess.

Data Breach Update:  **Data Breach Update: January 10, 2025**

Bus Update: The Lecrenski Bus company has hired Shawn Bliss to take Elodi's elementary, middle and high school bus routes. He plans to **practice** those routes **WITHOUT** kids on Monday, and then the bus company will contact me later that same day to give me his start date. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Chorus Families: Good news! We have had enough interest to go ahead with the performance at UMASS! Here are the important details:

- The performance is Saturday February 15 at 12:00pm at the Mullins Center.
- Tickets are \$10 each through this [link](#).
- Students should arrive no later than 11:15am to meet as a group at the sales table directly inside the main entrance.
- Free parking is available in lot 12 and 25 next to the Mullins Center.
- After the performance, we will sit together in our assigned section to enjoy the game.

Feel free to email me with any questions. JCain@rhconwell.org

JOIN THE R.H. CONWELL TEAM:

- **Custodian Position:** We are currently accepting applications for the Conwell Custodian position. Per the Collins Salary Schedule the custodian position

is a Grade B and the hourly ranges from \$ 18.15 - \$26.46. Please contact louellet@rhconwell.org if you are interested!

- **School Nurse:** We will be hiring a **FULL TIME** school nurse for the 2025 -2026 School Year. The job will be posted in School Spring by the end January. Please contact gmorsedobosz@rhconwell.org if you are interested.
- **BUS DRIVER:** Lecrenski Bus company is looking for temporary bus drivers. If you are interested in joining their team, please call the bus manager, Beth at (413) 862-8080.

Betsy's Bookshelf January 9, 2025: You and your child/ren may be curious to know who influenced their teacher's reading interests. It may be a surprise that not all of us had an adult reading 'influencer'. However, many of us did, and here's what the Conwell faculty have to share. Perhaps you will have a similar sentiment or find an inspirational recollection. Enjoy!

I remember seeing my grandpa everyday reading the newspaper, and his favorite magazines Time and USNews and World Report. He and my grandma also kept a small library in their living room. I think I am like him, as I enjoy hearing about news from around the world. My first grade teacher encouraged me in every way, especially to read. I still love to read, and spend an hour reading each night before bed.

Both of my parents were avid readers. They always had a book in their hand.

My parents and my older sister are all readers, and we had plenty of books.

Yes, my dad would read every night to me and my brother before bed. My older cousin was a fan of the Harry Potter series and would always read that. My dad read the Lord of the Rings. My mom would read before bed as well. When we would lose power in the winter after playing outside, we would read by the fire / candle light.

My mother has a love for books. Every night as a child I was read a bedtime story, as well as story time during the day.

My parents read a lot.

My mother loves to read and loved reading to us as kids. She likes to tell stories of her falling asleep while reading with us at night. My father was also an avid reader and gifted poet and loved singing silly songs with us on long car rides. And now I love reading and singing silly songs with my own daughter and students!

Yes, We were read to a lot and I often saw my parents sitting and reading. Also had two big sisters who were avid readers.

My parents both were readers throughout my childhood. Reading before bed was a nightly occurrence. When I was younger I remember always looking forward to having special "Mommy" or "Daddy" time because I had a younger brother so sometimes we would read all together or sometimes they divided and conquered for more age specific reading. Chapter books always made me feel like a big kid and now I love listening to my mom read to my son. Brings me right back.

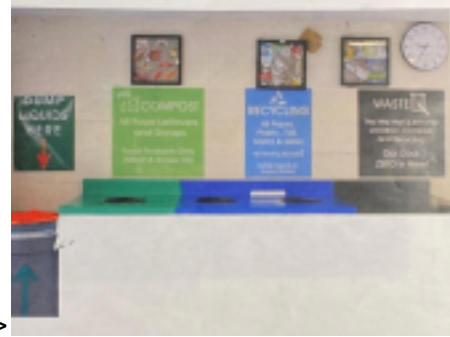
My grandmother was a librarian and always made reading so much fun and would say a book can bring you anywhere.

Update on Recycling Project ⁵/₆ from Ms. Todd: Last year's sixth graders identified our lunchtime recycling as a problem to be solved. This fall, some of the ⁵/₆ graders worked each week on this project. They identified two goals and met with Ms. Thompkins and Mr. Wolf as part of re-designing the system in the cafeteria. They also created informational posters, and scripted educational slideshows for K-2 and 3-6 students. We are left with just one thing— we are in need of a table size frame that will fit over our existing containers for food bucket, recycling and trash. As the students walk up to clear their trays, we envision there will be room for them to slide their tray along as they put items in each place.

We are looking for someone with a little time and the tools on hand, to meet with us and help by building the frame that we need. Once this is ready- we will paint it, finish it and then, We are ready to Recycle at Conwell! Here are some illustrative photos-

• Educate kids so that we know w how to sort trash /recycles/ compost stop

• Cafeteria set-up re-design color? object? picture and a word on each bin



goals all mixed up a table top size frame clearly labeled

Upcoming Events:

- January 16, 2025: PTO Meeting - [PTO LINK](#)
- January 17, 2025: Walk to School
- January 21, 2025: PD
- January 24, 2025: Family Breakfast
 - January 24, 2025: All School Meeting 5/6th grade

From the Cafeteria: Harvest of the month is Apples!

www.massfarmtoschool.org. This week for the FFVP the students got to sample [ZUCCHINI](#) , and cantaloupe. We usually eat the fruit or veggie raw, try cooking up some zucchini at home to see if your child likes it better raw or cooked! Have a great weekend!

Please find the January menu [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Cheers,

Gretchen Morse-Dobosz
Superintendent/Principal

