

LOWELL 101:

A Handbook for New Families (2017-2018 School Year)

**Brought to you by the
James Russell Lowell Elementary School PTA**

Message from the School Principal

What an exciting time this is for both our kinder students and parents. This is definitely a time that will be remembered by all. These memories show up through the years in pictures and stories that are told by family and friends. I still remember when my son started kinder and gave both my wife and I the “thumbs up” as he went into the class while we all wiped away tears. That day was the beginning to something that supersedes this day, yet defines it in our memories.

I look to all of you and encourage you to walk this path with your child every step of the way, share in their experiences and successes, all the while knowing that there will be times that they'll need your help in getting back up and giving it another try.

Here at Lowell we're a family in every definition of the word. The proverbial “hand-off” of your child that occurs every morning is taken with great care and concern for their safety and education. We have and always will do great things here at Lowell, which has never changed. The Lowell Sea Stars welcome all of our new students and parents as new members of our Sea Star Family.

Enjoy the journey this year, kinder is the first step in many for all of our new students as they learn the building blocks of what is possible.

Warmly,
Lester 'Dow' Lawson
Principal
(562) 433-6757

Message from the PTA President

Welcome to a new school year at Lowell! For our new families, we are so happy to have you join the Lowell family! For our returning families, welcome back for another fun-filled year!

Families, teachers, and staff are the backbone of our strong and supportive community at Lowell. Without this community, we could not organize and hold the wonderful events we enjoy throughout the school year or fund the programs that enrich our children's educational experience.

Luckily, family involvement is a long tradition at our school and one of its greatest strengths. So, I encourage you to look for opportunities this year to volunteer and share your experience and talents. We are always in need of more hands to help and if each of our 610 Lowell families volunteered to help with one PTA activity outside of the classroom, imagine how amazing our year could be! So, whether you can only donate your time (big or small), your money, or your resources, or maybe a little of each – there is a place for you! We need every person in our community to make this year as wonderful as it can be.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the other PTA officers with any questions, suggestions, or to volunteer in any way that you can!

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

Melissa Brower
Lowell PTA President
pres@lowellpta.com

IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE LOWELL FAMILY

Our Principal: *Lester 'Dow' Lawson*

Mr. Lawson is a Long Beach native and attended both Roger's Middle School as well as Wilson High School. He is beginning his 14th year with LBUSD and has worked at the elementary, middle, and high school level. He is approachable and extremely excited to work with our students, parents, staff, and community.

Our Office Staff: *Jackie Scarborough and Diane Eley*

Jackie and Diane are the smiling faces who will greet you in the office, as well as the voices on the telephone when you call Lowell. They are a valuable resource for information about all things school-related. They also can do everything from getting an emergency message to your child during the school day, to helping you fill out forms, to directing you to your destinations. Also, they are the link between the school and the outside world. Please be respectful: remember that they are there to help us, but not to work for us. Their jobs are many and varied, and helping Lowell's parents is only one of their many responsibilities.

Our Counselor: *Ms. Terri Phelps*

Ms. Phelps is Lowell's counselor. She brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise and a passion for supporting the development of all students. She is a wonderful resource for families, teachers and students, including in areas where social, emotional, behavioral and/or academic challenges may benefit from additional support.

Our Teachers and Instructional Staff:

The first "Lowell face" your kindergartener will come to know and love is his/her teacher, who will share with your child abundant knowledge (you will be amazed by the amount your child will learn this year!) and imagination. In addition to your child's kindergarten teacher, your student will also have opportunities throughout the year to work with Mrs. Cho (vocal instruction), Ms. Lucy Renshaw (library media assistant), and coaches on the playground.

PTA

Lowell's PTA is a critical part of the Lowell community. Our PTA funds numerous programs and events at Lowell that enrich your child's education and could not otherwise exist in these times of budget cuts. Some of the many programs our PTA funds and supports include:

- Technology
- On-site Technology Assistant

- Instrumental & Vocal Instruction
- Science Fair
- Meet the Masters Art Program
- Reflections
- Learning Garden
- Earth Day, Recycling, and Green Team Activities
- Authors & Illustrators Night
- Family Programs (Pizza/Movie Night, Pumpkin Carving, Ice Skate Night, Roller Skate Night, Variety Show, Dad's Donut Day, and Mom's Muffin Morning)
- Chess Club
- Teacher Wish Lists
- Parent Education
- Red Ribbon Week and Disability Awareness
- After-school Enrichment Programs
- Field Trips and Assemblies
- After-school Supervision
- Playground Supplies

Please show your support for Lowell by joining our PTA. Membership:

- Benefits your child and Lowell by raising the level of family participation
- Adds your voice to discussions regarding activities and events held throughout the year, fundraisers, how to spend PTA funds, etc.
- Strengthens our voice with the district, as well as on county, state, and national levels, in support of our children and their public education
- Gets you connected
- Increases our volunteer numbers, which is critical to the success of Lowell's programs and events

Join Lowell's PTA ONLINE TODAY. Membership has its rewards...for students, parents and more! Come to the PTA meetings and be an advocate for your child!

1. Go to **www.lowellpta.com**
2. Find the PTA logo and "**Click here to Join the PTA**"
3. You will be redirected to the **Lowell Sea Star Store**
4. Click on **My Account**
5. **Sign in** or **Register for an account**

6. Click on **My Family** to continue setting up your account and **Add Family** - children, spouse, grandparents, and any others.

7. Return to **Home page**

8. Start adding **Student PTA Memberships, Adult PTA Memberships**, and any other items to your cart. (Make sure to select your child/children's teachers in order for your child to receive credit towards membership drive rewards.)

9. **View Cart** when you are ready to check out, double check that the various PTA Memberships you have selected are "FOR" the correct members of your family

10. **Check out**

For more information, contact: membership@lowellpta.com

PTA Meeting Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for the PTA meetings during the 2017-2018 school year. All meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the library, except as noted. Dates are expected to be approved along with the PTA calendar during the first PTA meeting of the year. Dates may change during the year; however, plenty of notice will be given. Keep an eye out on your Lowell Log or weekly Room Rep blast (see below for more information) for any date change announcements. ***Free babysitting is provided by the PTA to school age children for all PTA meetings.***

- September 27, 2017
- October 24, 2017
- November 28, 2017
- **December: No Meeting**
- January 23, 2018
- February 27, 2018
- March 27, 2018
- April 24, 2018
- **May: No Meeting**
- June 5, 2018

Lowell PTA's 2017-2018 Executive Board

Elected and appointed to serve for the 2017-2018, here are your PTA Executive Board members, along with their contact information. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or ideas you may have, and introduce yourself at one of the PTA meetings this year!

President:	Melissa Brower	pres@lowellpta.com
Vice President:	Taryn Bagwell	vp@lowellpta.com
Executive Secretary:	Kara Camper	secretary@lowellpta.com
Treasurer:	Sandee Paige	treasurer@lowellpta.com
Financial Secretary:	Holly Torpey	financial@lowellpta.com
Ways & Means:	Anne Smith and Tracy Kollin	ways@lowellpta.com
Communications:	Michael Hale and Leeanna Izuel	comm@lowellpta.com
Membership:	Liz Barnett and Macy Jelinowicz	membership@lowellpta.com
Head Room Rep:	Nathalie Soussan	roomrep@lowellpta.com
Technology Use Committee:	Lisa Kooi	techuse@lowellpta.com
Historian:	Kristie Kaiser	historian@lowellpta.com
Parliamentarian:	Melissa Sipowicz	rules@lowellpta.com
Auditor:	Becky Matta	auditor@lowellpta.com
Teacher Rep:	Edina Wade	ewade@lbschools.net
Principal:	Lester 'Dow' Lawson	llawson@lbschools.net

School Site Council

This committee is a school governance body comprised of several teachers, parents and classified staff. The school site council's duties involve making decisions about school curriculum, instruction, safety, school culture, and the school vision ... basically, anything that occurs on the school's campus between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Parent representatives are elected each year for two-year terms, with both the lower grades (kinder through 2nd) and the upper grades (3rd through 5th) represented. If you wish to hear more about the school site council, please feel free to attend a meeting or speak with Mr. Lawson.

This year, the school site council meetings are scheduled to take place in the library from 8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m. on the following dates:

- October 17, 2017
- November 14, 2017
- December 12, 2017
- January 9, 2018
- February 13, 2018
- March 13, 2018
- April 17, 2018
- May 15, 2018

PARENT VUE

Parent VUE is a website that allows parents to view their children's current and historical information, including ***classroom assignment***, daily attendance, grades, report cards, test scores, discipline, and more. It is also a one-stop location for links to other parent services including School Loop and MySchoolBucks (school meal accounts).

With one simple activation, parents can view information on all of their children, from elementary school to high school. Parents also can update emergency card information electronically. It is extremely important to set up your account as soon as possible. Go to the main office for information on setting up your account.

COMING TO CAMPUS

Signing in at the School Office

Any time you enter the Lowell campus, it is important that you come to the main office and sign your name in the visitor's log, which is located at the front desk in the lobby. Whether you are stopping by to help in your child's classroom, doing volunteer work at the school, or attending an event with your child's class, please make sure you sign in and get a visitor's badge or wear your VIPS badge. This procedure is in place to help maintain the safety and security of the students and our school. Also, please make sure to indicate the number of hours you will be volunteering that day (which helps the PTA support its non-profit status).

Parking: Green, White, and Red Curbs

When you come to campus, pay attention to where you park. Some of the curbs on the streets around campus are painted green, white, or red. Here's a guide to what that means. **White:** Located on Monrovia, this zone is for pick-up and drop-off only. Do not leave your car in the white zone, or you will get a ticket. **Green:** These curbs are more forgiving. They give you a thirty-minute window to walk in and visit with your child, talk with a teacher, or take care of some paperwork or PTA-related projects. **Red:** Never, ever park in the bus zones or the red curbs adjacent to the Nieto entrance to the school (by kindergarten drop-off/pick-up). You WILL get ticketed – the zones are patrolled regularly, and even if you are lucky to avoid getting ticketed, you will incur the wrath of bus drivers, school staff, and other parents. **Most importantly, our school is a part of a neighborhood, and we want to be considerate neighbors. Please be aware of your surroundings and be respectful of how and where you park. Blocking driveways and neighborhood cars is not OK. Thank you!**

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL DAY

The start of the school day: Kindergarten starts at 9:00 a.m. or 10:40 a.m., depending on your child's assigned schedule. For 1st through 5th graders, school begins at 9:00 a.m. Each morning before the bell rings, students line up in their classroom's designated spot. Students in 1st through 5th grades may not be unattended in the schoolyard until 8:40 a.m., after which your child may be dropped off to be supervised by the school staff until the warning bell rings at 8:58 a.m. Kindergartners may not be left on the playground.

The end of the school day: Kindergartners will be dismissed as follows: Early Sea Stars at 12:40 p.m. with pick up at the cafeteria door, Late Sea Stars at 2:40 p.m. with pick up at the designated classroom area. Kinders must be picked up promptly (unless going to Kids' Club) – they are not allowed on the playground and there is no supervision. You are best advised to arrive a few minutes early – just in case your watch is slightly off from the school's time, or traffic or parking are difficult. If you do arrive early, it will give you a chance to check in with other parents. Grades 1-3 are dismissed at 3:05 p.m. and grades 4-5, at 3:10 p.m. Supervision is provided on the playground for grades 1-5 until 4 p.m., at which time they must be picked up.

ABSENCES, TARDIES, OR EARLY DEPARTURES: If your child will be absent from school due to an illness, be sure to notify the school by emailing our attendance clerk, Diane Eley, at deley@lbschools.net or calling the office at (562) 433-6757, ext. 222. If the office is closed when you call you may leave a phone message. Another method is to send a written note to the classroom via your student. Also, if your child arrives at school 30 minutes after the bell has rung, or if you need to pick up your child before he or she is released from class for the day, proceed directly to the front office to obtain a tardy slip or to sign your child out!

Valet Drop-Off

Valet drop-off service is available every morning from 8:45 a.m.- 8:58 a.m. for grades 1-5. Located on Monrovia, just past the playground gate, the valet service is manned by designated 5th grade students. You may pull your car up through the cones and let your student out to be escorted onto the playground. There is always a staff member on site as well just to ensure things run smoothly. This system is very helpful due to the shortage of parking close to the school, and it certainly helps when you are in a time crunch!

Special Days on Campus

Popsicle Day - Every Thursday after school, the 5th grade class sells popsicles to fund its end-of-the-year promotion activities. Bring your child, along with money to buy a Popsicle, to the lunch benches on the main playground after school. Your child will enjoy the treat, and you will have a chance to meet and talk with other Lowell parents.

Miscellaneous Special Days – Additional special events occur throughout the school year: Pumpkin Carving, and different color shirt days (e.g., orange or black for Halloween,

green on St. Patrick's Day, etc.). You'll find there's always something fun happening on campus, to help celebrate special days during the school year. Read your Lowell Log for announcements of such dates or check the weekly Room Rep blast.

Spirit Wear

In addition to wearing the traditional school uniform, students may wear School Spirit clothing (Lowell Logo Wear, Jog-a-thon, Earth Day, Carnival, etc.) Monday through Friday. These shirts may be purchased at school events, or they may be ordered online on the PTA website at www.lowellpta.com or through the Logo Wear Committee Chair at logowear@lowellpta.com. Otherwise, white or navy blue collared shirts must be worn at all times.

Lunch and Cafeteria Protocol

Important Note: Kindergartners may either bring a lunch to school or purchase one from the cafeteria. Kindergartners may not use cash; their families will need to deposit money into the child's District account (see below for details on how to do this) if your child participates in the school lunch program.

Students may either bring their own lunch to school, or they may purchase lunch in the cafeteria. If your child will be eating in the cafeteria, you may send \$2.00 for lunch each time (Grades 1-5 only) or you can put money onto a "credit card" which is kept in the cafeteria. To add money to their account, go to the school cafeteria anytime during the day. The cafeteria supervisor will be there to help. You can also add money online through a link from your Parent VUE account. Some kids love the chance to eat at the cafeteria. Before you commit to a sizable cafeteria credit, feel free to let your child try a few meals first. The cafeteria menu is available online at the LBUSD website, or you can call the cafeteria hotline number (427-7923).

Lunch times are staggered according to grade level. The kids are usually so anxious to get out to play that they often forgo the best parts of the lunch. Make sure to provide quick (but nutritious) choices that are easy for them to inhale within minutes! If your child forgets his/her lunch at home, you may bring the lunch to the office. Please make sure your child's name and room number are clearly written on the lunch. Your child's teacher will excuse him/her to pick up the lunch at lunchtime (you may want to call the office first to confirm the correct time that your child will be heading to lunch). Please do not just walk to the classroom to drop it off, however, as those visits cause major classroom disruptions and score you no points with your teacher. Don't worry - the office is on top of it!

Finally, we are a Zero Waste lunch school! In addition to minimizing our impact on the environment, this program helped to earn Lowell recognition as a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School – one of only a handful of public schools in the nation to receive this award! Thank you for packing your child's lunch in a reusable container, as

well as utilizing reusable containers, such as Tupperware and cloth bags for snacks (rather than plastic bags). Thanks to our staff, families, and students, we have gone from 10 bags of lunchtime trash down to one bag each day – amazing!

Lost and Found

A common question from new Lowell families is, “Where is the Lost and Found?” If your child has lost or misplaced his or her sweatshirt, lunch bag, or anything else, you should first check your child’s classroom (or nearby areas where they leave their bags). If you strike out there, the Lost and Found is located in a room between the cafeteria and the auditorium, on the playground side, closest to the stage. Several times a year, the Lost and Found is brought out to the playground for a final opportunity for parents to check for their kids’ belongings, before unclaimed items are donated. One helpful tip: mark your child’s name (and, perhaps, classroom) on his or her bags, sweatshirts, sweaters, outerwear, or anything else that may be left behind, with a Sharpie (silver Sharpies work well on that navy blue!).

Emergency Preparedness

In case of an emergency, know that your child is in good hands. The school maintains an up-to-date plan for emergency action in the case of an earthquake, disaster, or large-scale emergency. The plan is updated regularly and includes keeping a cache of emergency supplies and portable toilets on campus. The emergency plan is available from the principal, Mr. Lawson, in the school office. Please note that emergency cards are no longer being used. All emergency contact information must be entered into your District ParentVUE account. The school’s emergency plans work best when telephone numbers and other contact information are current. Please be sure to keep your information current on this account.

“INFORMATION PLEASE!”

As a Lowell parent, you will want to know what is going on, what events are coming up, and news about your child’s elementary school. Here are a few ways for you to get the information you need:

The Lowell Log

The **Lowell Log** is the PTA’s monthly newsletter. It is “published” on the first of each new month. The Lowell Log contains a monthly calendar of events and detailed information regarding all school and PTA activities. Our Log is available to you via e-mail (from your home or office, you can print out the monthly school calendar and any other pages you might need). Please sign up for the Log in order to stay informed! Once you subscribe, you will receive an updated news link by e-mail each month, allowing you to view the

latest Lowell news from your phone or computer. Don't be out of the loop! Make reading the Log your homework each month. You can subscribe by visiting the Lowell PTA website at www.lowellpta.com.

Lowell PTA's Website

Our website address is www.lowellpta.com. Visit it frequently throughout the year for news, contacts, links, our Lowell Log, and information about the goings-on at Lowell.

Weekly E-Mails from Your Class Room Rep.

Every week (and sometimes more frequently), your classroom's room parent representative will receive an e-mail from the Head Room Rep (a position on the PTA's Executive Board) with announcements and reminders for the coming week(s), and that e-mail will be forwarded along to the rest of the class. Because communication is key, the PTA makes every effort to get information out to Lowell's parents, and these weekly e-mails are an important way to get that information to you without sending numerous flyers home. **It is very important to read the weekly emails in their entirety as they provide the most up-to-date information regarding upcoming school activities/events and other significant dates.** Please be patient with your room rep as you will receive numerous e-mails from her/him, and **please do read those e-mails!**

Bulletin Boards

Throughout campus are bulletin boards that are updated regularly during the school year with information about your PTA and upcoming school events. One is located in the main hallway entrance of the school; another is near the kindergarten entrance on Nieto. If you need information posted on one of the boards, contact the PTA's Communications Chair, Michael Hale, at comm@lowellpta.com.

PTA/School Calendar

The monthly PTA/school calendar contains a comprehensive calendar of events: PTA meetings, School site meetings, early dismissal days and other school holidays, school events, state testing dates, and other special activities. Each month, you can find this important calendar in your Lowell Log, posted on the PTA bulletin boards, and on the website. A helpful hint: incorporate those key school dates into your family calendar each month!

GETTING INVOLVED

VIPS

"VIPS" are **V**olunteers In **P**ublic **S**chools. Any parent or guardian may apply to become one, and you have to be one in order to volunteer in your child's classroom. Turn in an

application as early in the school year as possible to the front office. (It takes several weeks to process your application and get your VIPS badge, so the sooner you get the paperwork in, the sooner you can volunteer in your child's classroom.) A current, negative tuberculosis test result must be provided along with your application (the test result is good for 4 years). For more information about the VIPS program, please contact Jackie Scarborough in the front office. Please note: defer to your child's teacher for any available VIPS opportunities – some teachers utilize them often, and others not as frequently. Once you receive your VIPS schedule, please try to keep the date(s) assigned to you, or find an eligible replacement if you are unable to make it! Lowell's teachers are very grateful to have lots of involved parents, and they will make use of your helping hands whenever they can.

Room Representatives

Each class has a Room Representative (some classrooms have more than one). The Room Representative is an important link throughout the year between the parents of the class and the teacher/PTA/school administration. Room Reps should be e-mail proficient, as sending/receiving e-mails is a critical part of their job. Room Reps work throughout the year with the Head Room Rep, Nathalie Soussan, roomrep@lowellpta.com, by passing along information each week (generally, by way of weekly e-mails) to the rest of the classroom's families regarding school and PTA events. The Room Rep also serves as a liaison between the teacher and the families when classroom needs arise. Room Reps not only keep teachers and parents informed and involved, but also help drive attendance and participation in a number of school activities. More information regarding Room Rep responsibilities will be clarified at:

- **Back to School Night on Thursday, September 7th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
- **Room Representative Meetings: Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. or Friday, September 15th at 9:15 a.m..** Since we know we have many busy working parents, there will be 2 meeting times available for the Head Room Rep Meeting. The morning meeting will be in the Cafeteria, the evening meeting will be in the Library.

NOTE: First-time Lowell families are welcome to be Room Reps! You will get plenty of help from your Head Room Rep., as well as from "veteran" Room Reps. in other grades!

PTA Membership

The best way to become involved in your child's education at Lowell is to join the PTA. Attend the monthly PTA meetings to hear what is going on and to have your voice heard. Having an active, involved, and caring PTA organization is one of the things that make Lowell such a special place for your child's education! Please see the earlier section on the PTA for more information on how to join.

Technology Use Committee

Our Technology Use Committee (TUC) is a group of technology-enthusiastic parents and teachers who help plan, recommend, research, and implement Lowell's technology. One of the group's goals is to bring technology to the Lowell community in a thoughtful and informed manner, being mindful of curriculum and costs. The TUC meets regularly, and meetings will be announced in the Lowell Log and weekly Room Rep blasts. If you have any questions regarding the TUC or wish to join the TUC, please contact Lisa Kooi at techuse@lowellpta.com.

Lowell Friends of Technology Foundation

In January 2011, the Lowell Friends of Technology Foundation, or "Lowell Friends", was formed through the partnership of Lowell parents and supporters, Lowell administrators, and the Long Beach Education Foundation in order to provide and sustain technology tools that will enhance education at Lowell. In just six months the Foundation, funded by Lowell families, corporations, and local businesses, created an amazing computer lab with 40 iMacs, 21.5 inch monitors, ergonomically and ADA compliant desks, and new white boards. The donors created a vibrant learning atmosphere complete with artwork representing some of the most important thinkers in history. The technology lab was in place for the 2011-2012 school year, and every Lowell student was thrilled to spend time learning there.

The mission of Lowell Friends continues, and they welcome any financial contributions you can make to the Foundation. One hundred percent of donations will be used to sustain and refresh the tools that parents, teachers, and Lowell's Technology Use Committee feel will enhance the educational goals of Lowell.

For further information, or if you have any questions or ideas regarding the Foundation, please contact: Michele Sullivan at michele.sullivan@icloud.com or 714-315-8860.

Lowell Friends appreciates the community's tremendous support for Lowell's children!

Volunteer Opportunities

Throughout the year, numerous other volunteer opportunities arise: accompanying students on a field trip (requiring VIP approval); helping with recycling; pitching in at the Learning Garden; helping with one of the PTA's fundraisers/school events (Jog-A-Thon, Spring Auction, and the end-of-the-year Carnival), and many others. These opportunities will be publicized in the Lowell Log and through your weekly Room Rep blasts, so stay tuned! We invite you to pitch in, in as many ways as you are able. Contact our Ways & Means Co-Chairs, Anne Smith and Tracy Kollins, at ways@lowellpta.com, to get involved. You are an important and valued part of the Lowell community!

When you do volunteer, please keep track of your volunteer time and report it to the PTA Historian, Mrs. Kaiser at historian@lowellpta.com. Volunteer hours are important to our

organization for many reasons. They help preserve the PTA's non-profit charitable status by ensuring that at least one-third of its support comes from the general public. Volunteer hours raise the public awareness of the organization. Also, foundation grantors request the number of volunteer hours when considering apportionment of grant funds.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME SCHOOL EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Attendance Awards

By law, the school is required to maintain records of student attendance. Twice a year, those students with perfect attendance are recognized in class. Children receiving a perfect attendance award are particularly proud of being recognized for their achievement in front of their peers.

Authors & Illustrators Night

This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to get to work with authors and illustrators of children's books. Each author/illustrator leads a workshop with a group of children where they work on an activity. This is a very fun evening. Reservations are required, space is limited and they fill up fast! Look for more info as the event approaches.

For more information, contact: authorsnight@lowellpta.com

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is an evening during which parents and guardians are invited to come to school and hear from their children's teachers what is in store for the coming school year. Please plan to attend, and secure a babysitter early, as this is an evening just for the adults. This year, as last, in order to get a jump-start on building the school/home relationship, Lowell's Back to School Night is earlier in the year than usual – Thursday, September 7th. It is intended as a meet-and-greet informational session and should not be used for private conferences with your child's teacher. School-wide Parent /Teacher conferences are scheduled for mid-November, but if you need to meet with your child's teacher earlier, coordinate that with the individual teacher. Also during Back to School Night, teachers will be soliciting volunteers for their classrooms. All teachers' requirements and procedures are a bit different. This is the time to ask your questions and figure out how you can best support your child's education.

Book Fair

Book Fair is a week long event that takes place twice a year — once in the fall and once in the spring — and is fantastic event that benefits students and teachers. The cafeteria is transformed into a mini book store and students can browse and shop for their favorite books, titles, and authors. During the Book Fair week, each class will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair to “privately” as a class look around and purchase any books of

interest. Best part of all is proceeds from the Book Fair go right back to the classroom and teachers!

For more information: please contact: bookfair@lowellpta.com

Box Tops

Lowell PTA continues to raise funds by collecting and redeeming Box Tops For Education that are found on hundreds of your favorite products – from groceries to school supplies to underwear! During the 2015-16 school year, we earned over \$3,000 with Box Tops. With over 750 students at Lowell, we certainly can earn more this year!

Each Box Top is worth 10 cents to our school, so check all boxes and wrappers before you put them in the recycling bin. New products are constantly being added and as of press time include: Avery, Hefty, Betty Crocker, Yoplait, Scott, Hamburger Helper, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, Ziploc, Hanes and more!! Cut out the Box Tops *with the expiration date intact*, and send them in to your child's teacher. (Keeping a snack size baggie and scissors in a kitchen drawer makes it easy to collect them!) Please check expiration dates before turning in the Box Tops – those dates really do matter. **Ask neighbors and relatives to save box tops for our school, too!**

A way to earn Box Tops for Lowell before actually clipping any of them is to register your Ralphs Loyalty Card at www.rewardyourschool.com. That way, our PTA earns Bonus Box Tops electronically when eligible products are purchased, **and** then we earn 10 cents **again** when the actual Box Top is turned in! Are you thinking that a 10 cent Box Top isn't worth finding, cutting out and turning in? Think again: Lowell PTA has earned more than \$10,000 since 2004 – one 10-cent Box Top at a time!

For more information, contact: boxtops@lowellpta.com

Carnival

The Lowell Carnival is a school event that draws in the entire community. In true Carnival style, there are games, bounce houses, fun contests, food and of course, a prize booth. Each class sponsors and hosts a carnival game booth. Traditionally taking place in May, Carnival is a great way to wind down the school year, have fun together and raise some money for our school. See you at the Lowell Carnival!

For more information, contact: carnival@lowellpta.com

Chess Club

The Lowell Chess Club is open to all Lowell students in grades 1 – 5 regardless of their level of experience. The most advanced students will form the Chess Team. The club meets before school on days of the week that will be announced.

For more information, please contact: chess@lowellpta.com

Dad's Donut Day

Dad's Donut Day is one of the best ways to start off the morning! Kids gather in the cafeteria with their dad or grandfather or uncle and have a donut to kick off the day. There's coffee for the dads and juice for the kids too. It's a great chance for the dads to get together and catch up while hanging with their kids. Come join us for Dad's Donut Day!!

For more information: please contact: donuts@lowellpta.com

Dining for Dollars

Dining for Dollars events are held once each month. When you dine (eat in or take out) at the participating restaurant on the specified day, the restaurant donates a percentage of the proceeds of your meal back to Lowell. The donation is typically 20% but can be as much as 50%. You dine, they donate – it's the easiest way to give to Lowell!

For more information: please contact: dining@lowellpta.com

Green Team

Growing, Conserving, and Learning-by-Doing

We are so proud to be a nationally recognized Green Ribbon Award winning school. Lowell's Green Team supports many important eco-activities, including the Learning Garden and a kid-powered recycling program.

The Lowell Learning Garden

Over the past ten years, the Learning Garden has become an integral part of the Lowell community, the result of efforts by Lowell parents to create a hands-on, science-based learning environment that teaches students about plants, environmentalism, and healthy eating. All students come to the Garden with their classrooms for an academic curriculum that combines fun and enrichment.

The award winning Learning Garden features several raised beds in front of the school and along Monrovia (adjacent to the cafeteria) as well as a full outdoor classroom with raised beds, a solar powered bench and other "classroom" attributes. The Learning Garden's outdoor classroom is located next to Kids Club and the bungalow classrooms.

There are many exciting green adventures planned for this year, with garden and recycling lessons for every grade level. This year's highlights include:

- Garden lessons linked to Health, Social Studies, Science, and Math lessons (even field trips to the Farmers Market and the Colorado Lagoon)
- A Zero Waste Lunch initiative where we have reduced our lunch waste by about 90% (we used to throw away an average of 175 pounds a day at lunch...yikes!)

- Car-free days and weeks where we work to reduce our carbon footprint, promote physical fitness, and reduce traffic jams at drop-off
- A Schoolyard Habitat Project on the slope along Nieto, where students and volunteers are working to re-introduce native plant species to support local wildlife and provide a landscape that reflects our native ecology

For more information: please contact: greenteam@lowellpta.com

Ice Skate Night

Come out and ice skate with your friends. Whether your style is hockey, figure or just making it around the rink in one piece, it's a fun night for everyone! Pre-sale tickets are available.

For more information, contact: iceskate@lowellpta.com

Jog-a-thon

Jog-a-thon is an annual fundraiser that encourages kids to move and exercise. while raising money for our school. During Jog-a-thon, the school is transformed into a running track and each grade will run laps to raise money. Jog-a-thon has grown to be one of Lowell's strongest fundraisers; and earning pledges can be done via an online automated program. Start training for Jog-a-thon and get in shape to raise money for your school!

For more information: please contact: jog@lowellpta.com

Meet the Masters

Meet the Masters (MTM) is a wonderful classroom art program funded by the PTA. Volunteers teach MTM lessons in the classroom - usually parents, which makes it a great way to be active in your child's classroom. Throughout the year, students learn about five different artists during school-wide assemblies (four artists for kinders). The volunteer "teachers" also attend this assembly as well as a short workshop, during which they learn about an artist-inspired art project that will be utilized in the classroom. Projects are varied in order to be grade-appropriate. Your child will create four or five wonderful "works of art" that will help them learn not only about famous artists but also about various art techniques. During the school year, Meet the Masters projects are displayed on a bulletin board inside the front hallway – so stop by to admire the talents of Lowell's artists! Sign-up sheets to help with this program will be in your child's classroom on Back to School Night.

For more information: please contact: mtm@lowellpta.com

Mom's Muffin Morning

Muffins sound good for the name, but it's actually donuts... Grab one with your coffee in the cafeteria before school starts and enjoy a fun morning with your kids and other moms. Best part is there's no clean up and the dads serve the donuts and coffee! Mark it on your calendar and join us for Mom's Muffin Morning.

For more information, contact: donuts@lowellpta.com

Picture Day

Class pictures and optional individual pictures will be taken, with different package options for purchase.

For more information, contact: schoolphotos@lowellpta.com

Pizza/Movie Night

Come enjoy a night of family fun! Pizza/Movie Night is a community event for our Lowell families to come together and catch up with old friends and meet some new ones while munching on pizza and enjoying a family-friendly movie under the stars. Bring a chair or a blanket and join us on the playground! Popcorn and concessions are offered for \$1 each. This is not a fundraiser, just a fun family event to celebrate friendship.

For more information: please contact: pizzanight@lowellpta.com

Pumpkin Carving

A true Lowell tradition of costumes, fun and family! Kick off the Halloween season with a night at Lowell by carving a pumpkin, wearing a costume and dancing to the tunes of a DJ. Enter your pumpkin creation in the carving contest or enter yourself in the costume contest! Either way, it is a night of fun and festivities. Please bring your own pumpkin and tools to carve.

For more information, please contact: pumpkin@lowellpta.com

Reflections

Reflections is a national PTA arts program designed to honor, recognize and support arts in the schools. Each year, a theme is chosen and students are encouraged to submit an original creation to reflect the year's theme. The original creation can be in the areas of drawing, painting, writing, music, dance, video or other visual arts. All entries will be collected and reviewed and the original work that best reflects the theme will be chosen to represent Lowell at the district, state and national levels. Participation in the Reflections program is purely voluntary and open to all grade levels, including kindergarten.

For more information: please contact: reflections@lowellpta.com

Roller Skate Night

Boogie on down at the roller rink with your wheels on. A fun family event for everyone! Pre-sale tickets are available.

For more information, contact: rollerskate@lowellpta.com

Read A Loud Night

Come to school in your pajamas and listen to stories! The book fair will be open for those wanting to purchase a copy of the books being read. Watch for posters at school, check the Lowell Log and watch the weekly Room Rep emails for more details.

For more information, contact: bookfair@lowellpta.com

Summer Camp Fair

Looking for summer activities for your kids? Can't decide which group or camp to enroll in? Summer Camp Fair is your answer. A free event to the entire community, the Summer Fair gathers organizations and groups that run summer camps and activities for kids. Come gather information or start signing up at the Fair. If you want to make your summer fun, visit the Summer Camp Fair.

For more information, contact: campfair@lowell.com

Variety Show

Calling all acts!! Let the star inside of you shine with a musical act, dance routine, magic show or any other talent you may have. Perform solo or with a group — whatever you choose, the Lowell auditorium will be your stage to shine like a star. Have you always wanted to participate but are unsure of what to do or who to perform with? Contact us and we can help guide you! Don't miss out on the fun! See you on stage.

For more information, contact: varietyshow@lowellpta.com

Lowell's Mission

Lowell Elementary School's mission is to ensure the personal and intellectual success of all students by having high expectations, a commitment to excellence, and a comprehensive school program, confirming the belief that all students can learn and lead responsible, satisfying lives.

Lowell's School Song

(Sung to the tune of "You're a Grand Old Flag")

THE LOWELL STARS

We're the Lowell Sea Stars
and we always aim high
In our homes and at school and at play!
We are helpful, too.
To our friends we're true.
We prove it to them every day!
If you want to know,
We'll be happy to show
That we mean every word we say:
We stand the test
We are the best!
So it's Lowell,
Hip Hip Hooray

NOTES

Lowell Bayside Academy

5201 E. Broadway
Long Beach, CA 90803

Important Phone Numbers:

School Office:	562-433-6757
Kids Club:	562-434-7968
Cafeteria Menu:	562-427-7923
LBUSD Main Phone:	562-997-8000

Internet Resources:

Lowell PTA Website:

www.lowellpta.com

Lowell School Loop Website:

www.lowell-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com

Long Beach Unified Website:

www.lbschools.net

School Accountability Report Card Website:

www.lbschools.net/sarc/sarc0607/LOWELL.pdf

California Dept. of Ed. Website:

www.cde.ca.gov

Ed-Data Website:

www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.asp

California State PTA Website:

www.capta.org