



East Longmeadow Public Schools

Our mission in the East Longmeadow Public Schools is to promote Achievement and Accountability in all endeavors as we educate today for the challenges of tomorrow.



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR SCHOOLS

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Five Longtime Teachers Enshrined In The Educators Hall of Fame



Robert Camp

Dave Marden

Jean Finnegan

Phyllis Jurusik

Verna Streeter

On September 1st, as part of East Longmeadow Public Schools annual District Convocation Day, five retired educators were honored as the first inductees into the East Longmeadow Educators Hall of Fame. Robert Camp, Jean Finnegan, Phyllis Jurusik, David Marden and Verna Streeter were nominated by their former colleagues and then selected by a collaborative Screening Committee composed of teachers from each of the town's five schools. In order to be eligible for enshrinement, all nominees must be retired for a minimum of five years and had to have been employed by the district for at least 20 years (10 years for coaches). All teachers and support staff, including School

Committee members, may be nominated. Nomination forms and supporting materials must be submitted between July 1 and December 1 of each year and selections are made by April 15 of each year. The honorees will have their names engraved on a plaque which will be on display for the 2004-2005 school year at Meadow Brook School. The plaque's location will be rotated throughout the district on an annual basis.

During the induction ceremony, representatives of the Screening Committee read the names and described the many accomplishments of the honorees. Robert Camp worked as a

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E.L.P.S. Gifted & Talented Program Activities Enrich Students Learning

The East Longmeadow Public School District is committed to an educational program that recognizes individual student differences, abilities, interests, and needs. Our goal is to enrich the education of all students through events and activities designed to expose them to a variety of challenging and higher-order critical and creative thinking experiences. Embodied in this commitment is a responsibility to academically gifted and artistically talented students to help them maximize their high potential and allow them to thrive, flourish, and create. Our district's grade 1-8 Gifted Education Program is designed to meet these needs.

Here are just a few of the activities de-

signed by our dedicated program team to provide our students in the Gifted & Talented Education Program with enhanced, differentiated instruction which nurtures their diverse talents and abilities.

Students at Meadow brook have started the year with a focus on the fascinating world of Optical Illusions. We've talked about the nature of vision, the structure of the human eye and most importantly, its connection with the brain. We've studied such subsets of illusions as ambiguous figures, kinetoscopes, after images, thaumatropes, zoescopes kaleidoscopes and more. We even examined the technological tricks employed by movies and televi-

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chemistry teacher, coach, sports official, guidance counselor and Director of Guidance for 37 years. Jean Finnegan was a member of the Birchland Park Middle School Mathematics Department for over 30 years. The late Phyllis Jerusik taught sixth grade at Birchland Park Middle School and continued to work in the district as a substitute after her retirement in 1987. The late David Marden taught History and Social Studies and was a basketball coach at East Longmeadow High School. He also served as K-12 Social Studies coordinator. The late Verna Streeter was a special

Mountain View School Receives E. Longmeadow Jaycees Grant

The East Longmeadow Jaycees recently donated \$4,304 to Mountain View School to install new video technology into the third grade classrooms. The staff and students at Mountain View School are very grateful for this very generous donation.

This gift will enable us to install wall mounted 32" TV/VCR/DVD units into each of our third grade classrooms. Recent grants from the East Longmeadow Endowment Fund and the Mountain View PTO, have paid for this technology in our fourth and fifth grade classrooms. Installation in the third grade completes this school wide project.

Each TV is interfaced with an online classroom computer so the computer image is displayed on the television monitor. Together students can visit web sites to view wonders such as the inside of a plant cell or the eruption of a volcano. They can take a virtual tour of the Great Pyramids or the Pilgrim Village of Plymouth Planta-



education teacher at both the Mountain View School and the Birchland Park Middle School.

All the inductees were honored as truly exceptional educators whose actions and dedication touched the lives of many students, colleagues and parents. Through their distinctive service, these inaugural members of the East Longmeadow Public Schools Educators Hall of Fame left their indelible mark as consummate professionals who played an important role in shaping the present and future of the East Longmeadow Public Schools.

tion. The internet possibilities are endless!

This technology is used in a variety of ways. Teachers can display their study guides for science and social studies for all students view on the TV monitor. This assists our students who have difficulty organizing information. The art of note taking and composition can be modeled for students. Frequently students use power point to demonstrate their knowledge of a topic in social studies or science. They then present their power point for all their classmates to view. The TV can also be used to post morning and afternoon announcements and to display messages such as "listen carefully...think critically", "be specific and scientific" or "focus on listening".

Equipping each classroom with this new technology has been a long-range goal of Mt. View School. We are very fortunate that we can finally complete our goal through the generous donation of the East Longmeadow Jaycees.

Endowment Grant Opens Opportunities For E.L.H.S. Business Students

The East Longmeadow Educational Endowment Trust recently awarded the East Longmeadow High School Business Department \$10,000 to invest on its behalf. The money will be used to establish a student managed stock portfolio with UBS Financial Services Inc. All profits realized by the portfolio transactions will return to the Educational Endowment Trust. Nine years ago the Trust was established and funded by parents and local businesses as a non-profit private foundation whose sole purpose is to improve the quality of public education in our town. Each year, the Endowment makes grants to district educators for the purpose of enriching the educational experiences of East Longmeadow Public School students.

Students in the Stock Market I Class, Business Club, Finance Class, Excel and Entrepreneurship classes will use the money to make public stock trading recommendations to a Stock Board, consisting of student representatives from each business class. The student board will then make the final decision as to which companies to invest in. By participating in this real world investment project, students will acquire and maintain a thorough knowledge of the marketplace, and will develop the necessary research skills to recommend solid stock picks. Throughout the year, student representatives will be chosen to make quarterly

presentations on the stock portfolio's performance to the Endowment Trust.

The student managed stock portfolio project goals are as follows:



- To teach the benefits of long term investing to East Longmeadow High School students by creating a portfolio with that exact objective.
- To reduce fear and obstacles in stock investing by having students participate in the investing process by making recommendations and monitoring the market.
- To make learning real and apply this knowledge in the real world.
- To teach students the skills to making money grow—a critical component to creating wealth in one's life.

- To teach the benefits of continual monitoring of the marketplace as a result of having to manage an actual stock portfolio.

Today's marketplace requires sophisticated financial skills and, clearly, this unique and remarkable opportunity will help to ensure the future financial health of our students. The East Longmeadow Public Schools also wishes to express its gratitude to the East Longmeadow Endowment Trust for both its continuing support and its confidence in our business students.

E.L.P.S. 2004 MCAS Scores Above The Massachusetts State Average

		2004 MCAS RESULTS		
		Quick Summary		9/23/04
		E.L.P.S. Students		
	Curriculum Area	Percent Passing* (top 3 quartiles)	E.L.P.S. Compared to State	State %
GRADE 3				
206 STUDENTS	Reading	98 % Passing	4 + % pts Above State Average	94%
GRADE 4				
191 STUDENTS	English Language Arts	98 % Passing	7 + % pts Above State Average	91%
191 STUDENTS	Math	96 % Passing	10+ % pts Above State Average	86%
GRADE 5				
216 STUDENTS	Science & Technology	97 % Passing	10+ % pts Above State Average	87%
GRADE 6				
222 STUDENTS	Math	88 % Passing	13+ % pts Above State Average	75%
GRADE 7				
215 STUDENTS	English Language Arts	98 % Passing	5 + % pts Above State Average	93%
GRADE 8				
218 STUDENTS	Math	81 % Passing	10+ % pts Above State Average	71%
218 STUDENTS	Science & Technology	88 % Passing	19+ % pts Above State Average	69%
GRADE 10				
201 STUDENTS	English Language Arts	99 % Passing	9 + % pts Above State Average	90%
201 STUDENTS	Math	96 % Passing	11+ % pts Above State Average	85%
		Passing score determined by State Board of Education	*all scores include in-house special education students	

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sion to underscore the fact that seeing isn't always believing, after all! Our first graders are now investigating some of the major forces that govern the motion of objects such as gravity, centrifugal force and friction. We've even scheduled a visit with a talking portrait of Sir Isaac Newton, the guy who first figured out the nature of these forces. We're seeing the ways in which they effect not only us and the things around us here at home, but also the moon, our planet, and even rockets which we'll be launching in mid-November. Second graders have moved on to an investigation of mountains, starting with a review of plate tectonics via last year's hit disco tune, "Shake It Up Earthy" followed by an IMAX movie about Mt. Everest. They will be exploring artifacts from mountain cultures around the world, with a new exhibition on that theme opening soon at the Sullivan Wing of the G&T Museum here at Meadow Brook School.

At Mountain View School, third graders began a unit on building models by participating in open-ended and inviting activities, which allow for creative and practical learning about mathematics through hands-on experiences. They are learning geometric definitions, architectural design, patterns, symmetry, congruence and tessellations. Fourth Graders are using problem solving processes to solve a variety of mathematical challenges.



Students must first understand the problem noting key words, develop a strategy for solving the problem, carry out the plan, and then look back to make sure their answer is reasonable. This process enables students to develop a myriad of strategies while learning how to work out challenges. In Language Arts they will participate in Junior Great Books. Through this curriculum, students will develop their reading, writing, oral communication, and critical thinking skills. Fifth Graders have begun a review of geometric terms. We will build on the understanding of these key terms as we move into a unit on regular and irregular tessellations. In Language Arts students will participate in a Criminal Trial Simulation where students conduct their own, non-scripted trial. The students will go through all phases of a criminal trial from the beginning through the verdict. To stimulate enthusiasm and a love for mathematics and to introduce important mathematical concepts,

Grades 4 and 5 will compete in the Math Olympiad. This math competition is designed to teach major strategies for problem solving, strengthen mathematical intuition and develop mathematical flexibility in solving problems.

Mapleshade students are enjoying their many pathways to finding their gifts and talents. Third graders have been involved in web quests in the computer lab facilitating their bur-

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geoning technology skills as well as helping them find and utilize information in social studies and science. In mathematics they are developing spatial reasoning and geometry skills by working with a variety of manipulatives. Fourth graders are embarking on their study of simple machines using levers, inclined planes, pulley, wheels and gear systems. Math Quest is the focus of the Level III Math students as they work their way through Numberland and become Geomagicians utilizing Problem Solving Strategies. Our fourth grade Level III Reading Group is videotaping Author Study Interviews to share with their classmates. The entire fifth grade class just completed their creative problem solving unit by designing their own restaurants and are now studying the work of R. Buckminster Fuller through a series of building projects and environmental study. Fifth grade mathematics students have delved into the text Famous Problems and Their Mathematicians as they prepare for the Math Olympiad. Fifth Grade reading students are utilizing Junior Great Books as they learn the inquiry method of exploration and discussion of literature. Another group of fifth grade readers are developing a video about the school for third grade orientation and as an archival document celebrating 50 years of Mapleshade History. The entire school has participated in the writing of the Mapleshade Anniversary Edition, "Reflections, Thoughts, and Dreams" which is now on sale for \$10.00 a copy. Proceeds will fund the Mapleshade Publishing House. Sales have been brisk and Maybury Material Handling is now doing a second edition printing for us!! So as anyone can see, the Gifted Education Program is keeping very busy at the primary end of the educational spectrum.

At Birchland Park Middle School, Grade 6 students are entrepreneurs with heart. They have developed a business selling their product called Pennypals, which are characters made from pennies, paperclips, and recycled materials. Proceeds are donated to cancer research in support of our faculty and students who have battled cancer. Competitions Are Us: Middle School students are competing in many local, state and national contests, including Future City Competition, National Scrabble Competition, Space Day Competition, and Outstanding Writers Competition. Their amazing inventions, web sites, PowerPoint presentations, and art work can be seen in Room 122. Eighth Grade students are taking school climate seriously. The research they conducted proved their hypothesis that violent experiences de-sensitize us to bullying. They have created a group called S.A.V.E., which stands for Students Against Violent Experiences, and are campaigning for pledges from students and faculty who will promise to avoid violence on TV, video, computer and other media. Their group has been invited to present to the Springfield Exchange Club in hopes that S.A.V.E. will grow beyond the boundaries of our town.

Reaching Higher Standards At E. L. Elementary Schools

Students and teachers at our district's elementary schools are working harder than ever to meet higher academic standards. Families are important partners in our efforts to encourage our children to reach their full potential. By working together, we can prepare our children for an ever changing and rapidly growing world. There are many ways in which you and

your family can prepare your child for a new, focused and healthy school year. Here are a few tips and suggestions that will help you set the criterion for a successful year of learning:

- Have clear expectations for your child. Emphasize the importance of school and that you believe their schoolwork is important.
- Communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. Ask how you can help at home.
- Praise your child often for the work they are doing at school.
- Turn off your television during homework hours and provide your children a quiet space.
- Ask your child to retell stories that they have heard or read.
- Encourage your child to speak at a family gathering or in a group situation outside of the family, describing special events, books or opinions they may have.
- Have your child cook with you. Allow them to read the recipe or measure the ingredients.
- Play games together to help your children develop reasoning skills and social skills.

Education = \$\$\$
Future Income is dependent on education.
Sample annual incomes for level of education attained:

Less than High School	\$23,329
High School Graduate	\$36,134
Associate Degree	\$50,000
Bachelor Degree	\$64,201
Masters Degree or higher	\$84,438

Source: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Table 10, 2000

East Longmeadow Public Schools

2004/2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 16	NOVEMBER 30
DECEMBER 14	
JANUARY 10	JANUARY 24
FEBRUARY 7	FEBRUARY 28
MARCH 14	MARCH 28
APRIL 11	APRIL 25
MAY 9	MAY 23
JUNE 6	JUNE 20

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