



A Newsletter for the Parents of Silver Lake Regional High School Students

THE LAKER BEACON

www.slrsd.org

January/February 2009

I hope that you are enjoying the holidays with your families. With the beginning of the second semester approaching, students should be fully acclimated to the workings of the high school and in synch with the building. Faculty and staff continue to provide quality instruction and to deliver curriculum that is best for each child.

Mid-Year exams will be administered January 16 through January 23. Please look for the schedule in this newsletter. Mid-Year exams comprise 10% of the final grade of the class. It is important that students take the exams seriously and do their best to prepare for them. Classroom teachers will provide students with study methods specific to each class. On January 20, 2009, all staff members take part in a Professional Development Day. Our representative from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will address the faculty about our upcoming 2010 accreditation visit. Faculty and staff have already begun the two and a half year self-study process.

February marks the halfway point of the school year. I encourage students to continue to approach their studies with vigor and determination. There is still plenty of room for improvement as we have two full terms ahead of us. Freshmen will be taking science MCAS and sophomores will be taking ELA and Mathematics MCAS this spring. Upperclassmen will have an MCAS retesting opportunity in March. Juniors should anticipate taking the SAT's this spring and students enrolled in Advanced Placement Classes will take the AP exams in May. I strongly encourage members of the junior and sophomore classes to avail themselves of the free practice SAT exam being administered on January 10, 2009.

Shortly after February vacation, students will be asked to make course selections for the 2009-2010 school year. The Program of Studies reflects our mission to improve instruction, maintain currency in the curriculum, and continue to have high expectations of all of our students. Students and parents should choose classes carefully and discuss an academic plan with teachers and counselors.

Believe it or not, we are already beginning to plan for the Commencement Exercises for the class of 2009. Graduation Day 1

is May 30, 2009 at 11:00 AM on Anthony F. Serrico Field. A committee comprised of students, teachers, administrators, and the principal's secretary, Mrs. Lewis, is currently being formed. If you are interested in serving on this ad hoc committee, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Our first meeting will be held on January 6, 2009 at 7:30 AM.

Please continue to stay involved in your child's education and feel free to ask questions and make recommendations to the school at any time. Check our web site, www.slrsd.org/slrhs, for current information, read the mailings that are sent home, check our sign out front, and pay attention to our newsletters. In closing, I ask that parents be involved in our school, attend parent nights, PTO meetings, school council meetings and booster club meetings. If you are unclear about something, feel free to ask directly via phone call, email, or in person. I look forward to a great second half of the year.

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The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires schools that receive Title I grant funds to notify all parents that they can ask for and receive specific information about teacher qualifications.

As a parent of a student, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Massachusetts Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Massachusetts Department of Education has granted a waiver so that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact Principal Richard Kelley.

New from Career & Technical Education

OPEN HOUSE - Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 PM

The CTE Department is excited to host its annual Open House for prospective students and parents. All 8th grade families from Kingston, Halifax, Plympton, and surrounding communities are encouraged to attend. The evening will begin with a short presentation at 7:00 PM in the high school auditorium, followed by an open house in the CTE wing of the building. Questions about the program or the application process can be answered that evening or by calling the CTE office at 781-585-3844 ext. 2005.

As the first semester of school comes to an end in January, first year CTE students in the Exploratory Program will narrow down their interests to be placed in a program major. Part of

the process will include career exploration through the Career Cruising software program with the CTE guidance counselor, Ms. Weeks. Initially students will complete a career interest survey, which provides individual specific feedback on jobs and careers that match a student's interests, likes, and skills. During the second semester, students will begin work through Career Cruising and develop an individual career plan that will be reviewed annually through the guidance department.

Automotive Students Earn Certification:

The Senior Automotive Technology students recently completed training necessary to make them eligible for the Mobile Air Conditioning Society's (MACS) Technician Licensing Exam. A passing score on this exam is required for the federal license needed to legally service automobile air conditioning systems in the United States. Our students completed the exam in November and we are proud to report that all Automotive Seniors have passed their exam and are now fully MACS licensed. This lifetime certification and license marks a milestone for our students and school as we are one of the first high schools in Massachusetts to make this training and certification available to our Automotive Technology students. The MACS License and additional certifications such as OSHA, put our graduates at an advantage in the job market.

The CTE Department would like to thank Bobcat of Boston/South and Mike Rapas for bringing to Silver Lake a Bobcat Skid Steer Loader for demonstration purposes. Students were allowed to operate the equipment under his supervision, which was in preparation for an FFA skills competition on the safe use of equipment. Students **Tage Thomas, Pat Hamilton, Brian Neumeier, and Chad Luque** represented Silver Lake's Horticulture program at Bristol Agricultural School in November and are eagerly awaiting the results.

News from the School Store

The school store now has a wide selection of beautifully embroidered Laker apparel for sale. If you are interested in ordering something, go to the Silver Lake High School website at www.slrsd.org and then click on high school, click on activities, then school store. There are pictures of available items, a price list and an order form. Our store is open from 10:35 AM until 11:50 AM, six out of seven days of our rotation; we are closed on Day 7.

News From The Nurse's Office

All students in grade eleven are required by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to have a complete physical examination. The deadline for fulfilling this requirement and filing the appropriate forms with the school nurse is January 23, 2009. If you fail to meet this requirement, your student will not be allowed to attend school until the appropriate measures have been taken.

Cold and flu season is upon us; please remind your child to wash hands frequently and not share drinks with others.



Student Parking

January 26 is the beginning of second semester. Any senior who did not register to park in the senior lot first semester is guaranteed a spot second semester. Any senior who had a parking permit first semester and would like to park second semester must submit their name to Mrs. Lewis in the main office. Permits will be issued on a first come-first served basis. The cost is \$25, payable in cash at time of registration. If students owe discipline, they will not be issued a parking permit and will not be allowed to park on school grounds. Permits will be issued beginning January 21 for second semester parking.

News from the Key Club

Happy New Year from Silver Lake Key Club! In November, we teamed up with National Honor Society for our Food Drive. It was a huge success! Our room was overflowing with food! We would like to thank the students and staff who helped us accomplish this! We also have some ongoing events in which we are asking for your help. We are collecting snap tops for burn victims to receive free treatment, bottle caps for medical bills for children with cancer, Shaw's receipts to raise money for multiple organizations, and dresses for Rebecca's Closet for girls who cannot afford prom dresses. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to our advisor, Ms. McMillan, in room 1310. Our meetings are held every Thursday directly after school in the Large Group Room, so come and join us! New members are always welcome!

News from the Music Department

The Silver Lake Regional High School Music Department will be very well represented at the 2008-2009 Southeast District Music Festivals. The following students have been

accepted to the Senior District Music Festival to be held on January 9 and 10 at Brockton High School. Students marked with an ** scored in the top percentage of auditioning students and have earned a recommendation to audition for the MA All-State Music Festival at the end of the month.

Senior District

Kristyn Belcher	Grade 12	Soprano
Samantha Creighton**	Grade 11	Soprano
Allyson Lynch**	Grade 10	Soprano
Alexandra Harvey**	Grade 12	Alto
Leah Campbell	Grade 10	Alto
Michael Bullock**	Grade 10	Tenor
Collin Fahey**	Grade 11	Tenor
Marcus Ford	Grade 11	Tenor
Daniel Felix**	Grade 9	Tenor/Saxophone
Carla Mason	Grade 12	Violin

The following students have been accepted the 2008-2009 Junior District Music Festival, for students in grades 7-9, which will be held March 7 and 8 in Attleboro. Ten students from Silver Lake Regional Middle School were also accepted to this festival.

Junior District

Meghan Dawe	Grade 9	Chorus Alto
Rebecca Finney	Grade 9	Chorus Alto
Lauren Hunt	Grade 9	Chorus Alto
Kaelin Jenkins-Brown	Grade 9	Chorus Soprano
Emily O'Dette	Grade 9	Chorus Soprano
Ryan Quinn	Grade 9	Chorus Bass
Taylor Young	Grade 9	Chorus Alto

Ms. DePasqua, Mr. Lay, and Mr. Dube are proud of all of the students who auditioned for these competitive festivals and especially congratulate the accepted students who will represent the Silver Lake Regional High School Music Department this spring.

In addition to participation at the various music festivals, the music department has begun preparations for March's Instrumental and Choral Concerts, which help to celebrate March and Music In Our Schools month. Mark your calendars

now for the Solo and Ensemble Concert featuring various high school vocal soloists, the high school choirs, and the 8th grade Honors Chorus on Tuesday, March 10. Additionally, a district-wide instrumental concert will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM in which the high school bands will be joined by all instrumental students in grades 6, 7 and 8, and will feature the first performance of the Silver Lake High School guitar ensemble. Both of these concerts will be held in the auditorium at SLRHS.

News from Driver Education

Registration for the Spring Session of Silver Lake Driver Education will begin Monday, February 2, 2009, with classes starting on Thursday, March 4, 2009. Students can pick up and return registration forms at the Attendance Kiosk. The class size will be limited to the first twenty-five students.

News from Silver Lake Night School

Silver Lake Night School will be offered during the spring. Classes are tentatively scheduled to start on February 12, 2009. Registration for these courses will begin after Christmas vacation. Information and registration materials will be available from your student's guidance counselor at that time.

News From Best Buddies

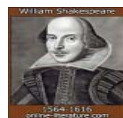
The SLRHS Best Buddies Chapter had a successful holiday gala in the month of December. Members participated in a gift exchange and took time to write New Year wishes to troops overseas. Also in the month of December, members participated in a social and "movie night."

We are currently planning a 50-50 fundraiser to raise money to send next year's president to Indiana for leadership training. We will also be selling tickets for our annual Valentine's Day basket. Tickets for both fundraisers will be \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Thank you for your continued support. All members please speak with **Julie Felts** if you are interested in the upcoming tie dye t-shirt craft activity.

News from the Math Team

Congratulations to **Brett Roche** and **Justin Barbas**. They earned Silver Lake's top scores at the December math meet, which helped us place 3rd out of 5 schools. Brett earned the additional honor of being the second highest scoring

sophomore out of all 5 schools. All the participants did a great job including **Sean Doherty**, **Melanie Lund**, **Nolan Lantieri**, **Nick Gravel** and **Jacqueline Neves**. Our next meet will be on Thursday January 8 2009. To find out more information about the math team, contact Mrs. White. New members are always welcome.



News from the English Department

"The Play's The Thing!"

Shakespeare For Everyone students had the exciting opportunity to attend a professional production of The Merchant of Venice, by one of New England's premiere theater companies, the Actor's Shakespeare Project. On December 4, 55 students, accompanied by English teacher Mrs. Bates and ELA Coordinator Mrs. Afanasiw, traveled to Midway Studios in Boston to enjoy the much-acclaimed show. This fast-moving and powerful tale challenges audiences to consider this question: What might motivate a person to risk all even when the odds are most specifically against him? Mrs. Bates organizes live theater trips each semester to provide Shakespeare For Everyone students with an unique and thought-provoking theatrical experience.

News from the Art Department

ART ALL-STATE NOMINATIONS

Seven of our art students have been selected for nomination in this year's ART ALL-STATE program. Mrs. Napolitano will review nomination papers from juniors **Erika Larson**, **Heather Haynes**, **Michaela Merrill**, **Claire Fenwick**, **Fjoreta Russini**, **Christina Warton** and **Shannon Warton** and select the two art students who will best represent Silver Lake at Art All-State 2009 in May.

The two students nominated will submit artwork, letters of recommendation, transcripts and personal statement essays to the AAS nomination committee. Then they will be interviewed by a panel of art teachers in March for a place in this year's program. The students will find out in April if they have been chosen to participate in the workshop in May.

The ART ALL-STATE program is designed to further the students' experience in art. Students will work with their peers and professional artists to create artwork during the workshop. The workshop sessions encourage discussions about creating work in a variety of media, evaluating art, and possible careers

in the arts. Silver Lake art students have participated in the Art All State program for many years. Good luck!

School-Wide Athletic Boosters

The Silver Lake Regional High School Athletic department is exploring the possibility of forming a school-wide booster organization. This group would include representation from individual booster clubs associated with all sports. A discussion was held with some booster groups in early December to launch the idea. Preliminary thoughts include choosing a capital project to compliment the comfort for patrons attending events in our outdoor athletic facilities. We encourage one member from each individual booster club to attend the first meeting of the School-Wide Athletic Boosters on January 7, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the principal's conference room.

News from the Guidance Department

SAT Preparation

Kaplan Test Prep will again be offering a SAT test preparation course here at Silver Lake. Parents of juniors should be receiving a direct mailing from Kaplan on the details. The classes will be held on Thursday nights and select Saturdays from February 2 through April 30. For further information please contact Kaplan at 1-800-KAP-TEST or their website: www.kaptest.com/college.

Kaplan will also offer a FREE Practice SAT on January 10 here at Silver Lake from 8:00 AM to approximately 12:45 PM for 11th grade students. Be sure to sign up for this important exam in guidance. For additional information, please contact Mr. Garofalo.

HOBY Ambassadors

Sophomores **Rachael Webby** and **Brett Roche** have been selected to represent Silver Lake at the 2009 Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar to be held June 12-14, 2008 at Bentley University in Waltham. The HOBY award is a unique and highly interactive weekend program. The purpose is to introduce high school sophomores to distinguished leaders of the community from various sectors, such as business, technology, education, government, arts, science, media, and nonprofit. Through intense, but informal panel discussions, HOBY participants get a realistic look at their nation, its people, and their own role in the world community. Our ambassadors will enhance their leadership skills and discover that they are not alone in their desire to lead and to make

their schools and communities a better place.

Scheduling for 2008-2009 courses

Now that the new year is upon us, we are beginning the process of scheduling for next year's courses. On February 25-27, guidance counselors will be in classes to distribute the Program of Studies booklets and explain course offerings for the 2009-2010 school year. Please examine the classes chosen by your student and make sure they are appropriate, using the Program of Studies as your guide. Course selection forms must be returned to the guidance office by March 6. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the course selection process, please do not hesitate to contact your student's counselor at 585-3844 ext. 1022.

News from the Library

Looking for information on basketball player Ray Allen or colonist Priscilla Alden? The online source to go to for biographical information is The Biography Resource Center. Found within the Infotrac link, this comprehensive database contains full-text biographical information on over 300,000 people throughout history. This easy to use resource is just one of the many databases found at www.slrdsd.org/slrhs/library.

News from the National Honor Society

The National Honor Society would like to extend its thanks to Mr. Dave McCarthy for speaking to us at our induction ceremony in November. NHS members will be gathering in Halifax from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, December 13 to carol at the Holidays in Halifax celebration. Members: if you cannot participate, keep in mind that the year is nearly half over, and the service requirement needs to be met! Upcoming service projects include feeding the homeless, and the polar plunge; both activities really require everyone to get involved.

Graduation Planning Committee

We are in the process of forming our graduation planning committee for the Class of 2009. The Commencement Exercises (May 30, 2009), are the highlight of the school year and celebrate thirteen years of your student's achievements. We feel it is important that parents and students have a role in planning this dignified ceremony. Please join us as a member of the planning committee. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday January 6, 2009 at 7:30 AM in the Principal's Conference Room. Parents of underclassmen are welcome to be part of the committee as well.

To: Silver Lake Regional High School Students, Parents and Staff

From: Mr. Richard J. Kelley, Principal

Re: Mid-Year Examination Schedule

Students and parents should carefully read this schedule.

1. Between January 16 and January 23, 2009, **final examinations** will be administered to students in all **semester long** classes and **mid-year exams** in all **year long** classes.

Friday - January 16	Period 5 (full day of school)
Wednesday - January 21	Periods 1 & 2
Thursday - January 22	Periods 3 & 4
Friday - January 23	Periods 6 & 7

2. **Student attendance** is mandatory for all review periods, and examination periods.

3. Students must remain in their examination room for the entire period.

4. **Final examination grades for semester classes are worth 20% of the total average.**

Mid-Year grades are worth 10% of the total average.

5. **Students absent** from a regularly scheduled exam must obtain proper authorization from their housemaster before they will be allowed to make it up.

6. **Students late** to an examination must obtain a tardy slip from the attendance office prior to entering their class. Students who are tardy will not be allowed additional time to complete the exam or activity. If students are **more than ten minutes late**, they must see their housemaster to reschedule the make-up of the exam.

7. In the event of **school cancellation**, all exams will be held according to schedule but moved ahead one day.

EXAMPLE: No school on Wednesday, Wednesday's exams will be held on Thursday, Thursday's exams will be held Friday, etc.

8. Mid-Year and final exams must be administered during the scheduled exam time.

The Freshman English Final Exam Schedule differs slightly; parents and students will receive details in a letter mailed home.

Mid-Year/Final Examination Schedule Semester I

Assumes No Snow Days

<u>Thursday, January 15, 2009</u>	Full Day - Review
<u>Friday January 16, 2009</u>	(Full Day)
7:30 - 8:20	Period 3
8:24 - 9:13	Period 2
9:17 - 10:07	Period 1
10:11 - 11:00	Period 7
11:00 - 12:28	Period 6
12:30 - 1:58	Period 5 exam
<u>Wednesday, January 21, 2009</u>	(Exams 7:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.)
7:30 - 9:00	Period 1 exam
9:10 - 10:40	Period 2 exam
10:40	Dismissal to buses
10:45 - 12:15	Make up period
12:28 - 1:58	Make up period
1:58	No buses provided for this dismissal
<u>Thursday, January 22, 2009</u>	(Exams 7:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.)
7:30 - 9:00	Period 3 exam
9:10 - 10:40	Period 4 exam
10:40	Dismissal to buses
10:45 - 12:15	Make up period
12:28 - 1:58	Make up period
1:58	No buses provided for this dismissal
<u>Friday, January 23, 2009</u>	(Exams 7:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.)
7:30 - 9:00	Period 6 exam
9:10 - 10:40	Period 7 exam
10:40	Dismissal to buses
10:45 - 12:15	Make up period
12:28 - 1:58	Make up period
1:58	No buses provided for this dismissal



January 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2	3
4	5 PTO Meeting 7:00 PM Classes Resume	6	7 Faculty Meeting	8 School Committee SLRMS 7:00 PM	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Mid-Year Exams (16-23)	17
18	19  Martin Luther King Day No School	20 Inaguration Day In-Service Day No school for Students	21 Early Dismissal Mid-Year Exams	22 Early Dismissal Mid-Year Exams	23 Early Dismissal Mid-Year Exams Term 2 Ends	24 SATs at Silver Lake
25	26 School Council 4:00 PM Term 3 Begins	27	28	29	30 Senior Dinner Dance - Emmy Night  Term II Report Cards	31



February 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2 MCAS Biology Retest PTO Meeting 7:00 PM	3 MCAS Biology Retest Parent-Teacher Conferences	4 Faculty Meeting	5	6	7
8	9 School Council Meeting 4:00 PM	10 CTE Open House	11	12 School Committee SLRMS 7:00 PM	13	14
15	16  President's Day No School	17 Winter Vacation (17-20)	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Course Selection Night Grade 8	25	26	27	28
March 1	2 MCAS - ELA Retest PTO Meeting 7:00 PM	3 MCAS - ELA/ Lang/Lit Retest	4 MCAS - ELA/ Lang/Lit Retest Faculty Meeting	5 MCAS - Math Retest	6 MCAS - Math Retest Academic Progress Reports	7

SILVER LAKE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
260 Pembroke Street
Kingston, MA 02364

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2009

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Superintendent	John Tuffy	585-4313		
Assistant Superintendent	Joy Blackwood	585-4313		
Director of Special Education	David Kenney	585-4382		
	Fax	585-8992		
Silver Lake Regional High School		585-3844		
Principal Richard Kelley		585-3844	ext. 1005	
Mrs. Maxwell, Housemaster (A-K)		585-3844	ext. 1009	
Mr. Mulcahy, Housemaster (L-Z)			ext. 1007	
Mrs. Lewis, Principal's Secretary	Fax: 585-6544		ext. 1002	
Mrs. Dart, Secretary			ext. 1028	
Guidance Office				
Mrs. Messier, Secretary	585-3844		ext. 1022	
Mr. Garofalo, (All Grades A-B)			ext. 1023	
Mr. Perrone (All Grades C-Gri)			ext. 1027	
Mrs. Cranshaw (All Grades Gu-Ni)			ext. 1025	
Ms. Kaczynski (All Grades No-Z)			ext. 1029	
Ms. Weeks, CTE Counselor			ext. 1026	
Mrs. Richards, Adjustment Counselor			ext. 1024	
Mr. Daly, School Psychologist			ext. 2427	
Nurse		585-3844		ext. 1013
Athletic Office				
Mrs. Armstrong, Secretary		585-3844		ext. 1501
Mr. Johnson, Athletic Director				ext. 1500
Career & Technical Education				
Mrs. Hayhurst, Secretary		585-3844		ext. 2005
Mr. Glass, Director				ext. 2402
7-12 Math Coordinator				
Mr. Sawyer		585-3844		ext. 2413
7-12 ELA Coordinator				
Mrs. Afanasiv		585-3844		ext. 2412
Department Chairs				
Mr. Blette: Social Studies				ext. 2411
Ms. DePasqua: Fine and Practical Arts				ext. 2440
Mrs. Hines: Foreign Language				ext. 2419
Mrs. Poole: Science				ext. 2414
Attendance Office		585-3844		ext. 1001
Bus Company		293-5182		