



**LOWELL SCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CHARGER CHRONICLE  
PARENT NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 27, 2018**

[www.westada.org/lsms](http://www.westada.org/lsms) we have a calendar of events and links to teachers, PTA minutes and other relevant news!

**SEPTEMBER Events**

- 3 Labor Day – No School
- 13 PTA Meeting 11am
- 14 Jose Taco Wagon at LSMS
- 21 School Picture Retakes – A.M.
- 28 8<sup>th</sup> Band at CHS Football Band

**OCTOBER Events**

- 3-4-5 No School - District and State IN-SERVICE days
- 11 Orchestra Fall Concert
- 12 Dutch Bros at LSMS
- 18 7/8 Choir Fall Concert
- 24 6<sup>th</sup> Choir Concert; 6<sup>th</sup> Band Concert
- 19 -25 Scholastic Book Fair
- 24-25 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 26 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – No School
- 30 Noon Release – K-12 Collaboration; **MONSTER MASH!**



**Boxtops!** Yes, Lowell Scott collects Boxtops! Boxtops are little pink labels found on a variety of item (too many to list here—but go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)) and are worth 10 cents each. Ask your friends and neighbors to help as well. You can send them in any time.

**Attendance** Calling ahead to dismiss your student is allowed and encouraged. If you know that your student be leaving during the school day, we suggest that you call early in the morning or at least with **an hour** notice. If you call ahead, this will allow us to send a dismissal slip to the classroom with plenty of time, letting the teacher know when to dismiss your student. If you call without an hour notice, we cannot guarantee that your student will be ready for pick up in a timely manner.

**September is College Savings Month:** Idaho’s 529 College Savings Program is working to raise awareness regarding how this program can help families plan ahead and set aside the resources that they or their children will need to go on to college. We share the State Board of Education’s goal of seeing 60% of Idahoans aged 25-34 earn a post-secondary degree by 2020. The IDeal 529 Program is a state-run savings and investment plan that offers families a viable way to prepare for the rising cost of a college education. When a student is ready to attend college, the funds can be withdrawn without tax penalty (if used on qualified expenses) at any accredited post-secondary institution nationwide. [www.idsave.org](http://www.idsave.org)

## Welcome NEW Lowell Scott Faces

**Robin Baker:** Hello Lowell Scott Middle School! My name is Robin Baker and I am incredibly proud to be part of your 7th grade team. I became a teacher after discovering my heart for service through my previous career in landscape architecture. During that time, I was able to collaborate on projects like the West Boise Watershed Environmental Learning Center, Zoo Boise, and Get Up and Get Outside. I have a diverse background in plant sciences and landscape ecology that I'm both passionate about and excited to share with our youth. I hold a Bachelor's of Landscape Architecture from the University of Idaho and a Master's of Curriculum and Instruction from Northwest Nazarene University. Apart from chasing busy family around, I enjoy playing ice hockey and performing with my French horn.

**Kristi Burke:** My name is Kristi Burke and I am new to 6th grade this year! I grew up in Northern California and stayed there until 2001 when I moved to Idaho with my husband, Mike and twin boys, Tyler and Ryan. I enjoy taking photos, watching Dallas Cowboy football and spending time with friends and family. I have taught in the West Ada District for almost 10 years and most of that time has been spent teaching 5th graders and preparing them for Middle School. I am SO excited to be a part of this next step in their education. I have a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a minor in Early Childhood Education and a M.A Degree in Elementary Education K-8. I love the learning process and sharing “ah ha” moments with your kids. I enjoy watching their growth all year and making sure they always feel welcome, safe and successful. I am looking forward to a great year!

**Josi Christensen:** My name is Josi Christensen. I have lived in Utah, the Dominican Republic, Pennsylvania, Germany and Southern Idaho. When I was in Middle School I was a big reader and quite shy. I'm not as shy as I used to be, but I still love books. Insects are a favorite collection of mine, but not spiders. I stay pretty busy with my four children and did a week-long river trip this summer. I enjoy cooking, hiking, and trying to keep flowers in my garden alive. I love being able to talk to Spanish-speaking neighbors and friends and I'm really excited to be a new Spanish teacher at Lowell Scott. Hasta luego!

**Jen deWit:** My name is Jennifer de Wit, not to be confused with Jenny Dewitt, who teaches band here. I am the de Wit with one T and the Music teacher is a Dewitt with 2 T's. I grew up in Huntington Beach, CA and have been a 4th grade teacher in Long Beach for 21 years. I'm married to my high school sweetheart for 20 years now. We have 3 sons ages 16, 13, and 9. I love cooking, gardening, hiking, boating, and many other outdoor activities. I love teaching and working with kids. I look forward to a great year teaching at Lowell Scott Middle School. I'm honored to be a part of such a great team of Educators.

**Diane Grahek:** Hello! I am Diane Grahek, the new Pre-Engineering and Technology teacher. I am excited to explore the ever-changing world of technology and engineering with my students. This is my sixth year in Idaho - we moved here from South Dakota. I have been teaching for 17 years. Middle school students are the best— they are excited to learn, and they love to explore. I look forward to working with you as we strive to bring out the best in your student!

**Amanda Kofoed:** I was born and raised in Boise, Idaho and was actually a Lowell Scott student back in the day. Now, I am a wife and mother to 4 beautiful children who bring me unending joy and challenges. I love spending time with my family and friends in the outdoors, especially the mountains. Recently, I graduated from Northwest Nazarene University with a BA in Education. I love teaching and am excited to get to work with your kids this year.

**Cindee Hersey:** I have been working in the field of education for the past 14 years and enjoy getting to know students every year and creating lasting relationships. My love for teaching came after spending time in my daughters' classrooms as a parent volunteer. I fell in love with the "magic" that happens in the classroom when students are learning. I decided to put myself through school and earned my bachelor's degree in liberal studies from California State University Channel Islands. I taught 4th, and 5th grades in California for 4 years before moving to Texas. In Texas, I taught 5th grade for two years before moving down to 3rd grade. An opportunity opened up to become the school Library Media Specialist, so I went back to school and earned a master's in library science from Texas Woman's University while working as the librarian for nearly 800 students! In 2016, our family moved to Boise, Idaho to be closer to the nearly 40 Herseys that live here, and I taught 5th grade for three years at Andrus Elementary. This summer, I was honored to be selected as the new librarian at Lowell Scott Middle School! I'm proud to call myself a Charger!

**PTA News** 2018/19 LSMS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Board is excited for our upcoming school year. The LSMS PTA volunteers countless hours and donates thousands of dollars to the school each year. We always welcome parents to volunteer their time to support the school. [Our meetings will be held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 11:00 in conference room #1. Our first meeting will be September 13th at 11:00.](#) Please join us.

We look forward to working with you this next year and would like to have you get involved.

LSMS 2018/19 PTA Board:

Sara Slatter-President

Brandi Bentley-VP

Emily Mgonja-Treasurer

Emily Anderson-Secretary

Denise Kohtz-Fundraising/membership

Micha Kormylo-Legislative

Jennifer Burrup/Debra Turgoose-Spirit Wear

Darcy Hoellwarth-Teacher Appreciation

Tammy Jensen-Honorary Board Member

**Holiday Bazaar** We are excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual Holiday Bazaar again this year. So, please plan to stop by and get into the holiday spirit with live music, local performers, holiday shopping, and delicious treats. There is no entrance fee for the bazaar.

Dates & Times:

Saturday, November 3rd 9:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, November 4th 10:00am – 3:00pm

Other Fun Activities (in addition to GREAT shopping):

- Keep Kids Warm coat drive collection site
- LSMS Student Art Contest (come and vote on your favorite)
- Dutch Brother's Coffee
- And so much more....

Entertainment:

- Elevated Dance Project (EDP)
- LSMS Dance Team
- LSMS music students performing live music

See the school website for more information. If you are interested in being a vendor or if your student is interested in performing live music at the bazaar, please contact Kjirsten Lawton at [lawton.kjirsten@westada.org](mailto:lawton.kjirsten@westada.org).

**Library News** Welcome back to school! I am excited to join the family at Lowell Scott Middle School and work with students and staff as the head librarian. We are so happy to have our library filled with students reading, learning, exploring, and playing again. We are beginning this school year with over 22,000 different titles on our shelves. We have one of the most robust collections of graphic novels in the district, fiction ranging from beloved classics to the hottest new series, and nonfiction on an enormous number of topics. Our collection includes books for developing readers as well as our most advanced readers, with a wide range of topics and audiences. We also have board games, card games, areas to relax and socialize, a computer lab, and more. There is something for everyone in the LSMS library, and we strive to make it a home for every person in our school!

Here are Lowell Scott Library policies:

- \* Students may borrow up to three personal books at a time (textbooks and class sets don't count against this).
- \* Most items can be kept for up to 14 school days and can be renewed unless another patron has them on hold.
- \* After the due date, there is a 5-day grace period to help students remember to return their items without penalty.
- \* Late items accrue a \$0.10 fine per school day, up to a maximum of \$3 per item. Fines may reduce the number of additional items a student may borrow.
- \* If a lost item is paid for and later found, a refund will be mailed to the student's home at the beginning of the following quarter.
- \* Students may access our Destiny card catalog, see what books they have borrowed, check due dates, and place items on hold from any internet-connected device using their school computer login.
- \* The library is usually open from 7:45 AM until 4 PM. Lunch passes, which can be checked out twice a week on a first-come/first-serve basis, are available most days. Special lunch passes for extraordinary circumstances (illness, homework, etc.) are also available; just ask!
- \* Computers are available for students to use to do research, check grades in PowerSchool and to complete school assignments. No gaming is allowed in the library.

We are looking forward to our Scholastic Book Fair on October 19th -25th. There will be more information on our library website about how you can help so please check it often. Happy Reading!

## Nurse News: Guidelines for Accessing the Nurse Services at Lowell Scott

\* Students are expected to use their break and lunch time for minor aches/pains. (stomach ache, headache, minor injuries, previous injuries that need checked out) unless it's an emergency (7B's).

\* The 7B's – These are the emergencies that are anytime visits:

o Bleeding

o Broken bone

o Barfing

o Burning up (appears feverish)

o Breathing difficulty

o Bee Sting

o Big Bump (head bump)

\* The nurse's office is NOT available for visits the first hour of school, if parents sent them they want them to try to make it through the day. Therefore, they need to give it an hour. The exception is the 7B's.

\* The nurse's office is NOT available for an hour immediately following their lunch again the exception is the 7B's. They have plenty of time at lunch to make a visit.

\* Please try to encourage them to drink water, use the bathroom, etc. if they are complaining of some of these things.

\* **All phone calls home (to be picked up) when a student is not feeling well, need to go through the nurse's office. For attendance reasons, Student should not be using cell phones during the day to request their parents pick them up.**

\* These things ***do not apply to students that have health plans*** requiring visits to the nurse.