



Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter – **Families**

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

January 21, 2022

“Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”
Abraham Lincoln



The past three weeks have certainly been challenging for our entire Lowell Family and we cannot thank everyone enough for their patience, grace, mercy, and care. Keep breathing and know that we really will get through these challenges and storms. It is definitely “all-hands on deck” right now and thank God, the storm has already started to calm down. Lowell Joint will continue to weather the storms because our feet are on solid rock. The State, CDPH and CAL/OSHA continue to update and change their orders every 2-4 days and indeed the past few days have certainly been that: The latest State, CDPH and CAL/OSHA order links are: ([California Department of Public Health Education Health Order](#)) ([CDPH Order](#)).

Some key updates and related information:

- We want to clarify one of the latest changes, which was just last Friday night. LA and Orange County Public Health adjusted that we are to do a form of contact tracing called group tracing where we are to notify “groups” of exposed students such as classmates, teammates, or cohorts. The detailed OC Health Care Agency [issued an updated health order](#) and a similar order came out from LA-CDPH.
- Another question was asked, “why are we not considering closing school?”. The short answer is that there isn’t a Governor Executive Order authorizing school closures other than a “Form J-13A request for a COVID-19 related closure due to LEA staffing shortages” (New: January 7, 2022). LJSD has been so blessed with an incredible staff who are doing everything they can to serve, cover open spots, and do whatever we need to do to support our students. A great THANK YOU to all staff and families.
- Free COVID-19 Testing Resources:
 - You may not have heard that the Federal Government has stated that they will provide all residential households in the U.S. the opportunity to order one set of four free at-home tests from USPS.com. Order here: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>
 - You already know that the State has provided a one-time limited number of free at-home rapid antigen test kits for students. In order to help them last longer, we have been very careful to provide these to all students who: a) show symptoms, b) been sent home ill, or c) were a close contact. Again, our goal is to help make these free resources last as long as possible.
 - The State did not provide any free take-home test for staff; therefore, we purchased a free test kit for every staff member and they have been available through your front school office.
 - We continued partnership with the City of La Habra: This free PCR test resource began beginning last August and remains available for students and staff. However, due to high demand for testing the wait time has increased. The good news is that this rush has slowed down, which makes the wait time much shorter. If you have a chance, please thank the City of La Habra for our continued partnership.
- Up-to-Date Vaccine Status:

Please note that the OCHCA considers individuals to be “up-to-date” with their vaccination status if they have completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine and have either received a booster shot or are not yet recommended to receive a booster dose according to current guidance.

For more information, [click here](#). In consultation with OC Public Health and Orange County Superintendents; as we deal with the most recent surge and most urgent needs, we will wait to receive further direction from OC/LA CPH.

- Please Do Your Part to Help Keep Schools Healthy and Safe:
We know by working together we can limit the spread of COVID-19, and it is going to take a combined effort to continue to keep our schools safe. Here's how you can support our mission to keep students in school:
 - Understand that as more students are tested, it is fully expected that case numbers will increase. Good news is that these numbers have already begun to drop.
 - Continue daily home screenings so that you are informed.
 - Keep students home if they are sick, have COVID-19 symptoms, or if they or a member of their household has tested positive or are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
 - Keep students home, if they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

Additional resources for COVID-19 information include:

- [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Orange County Health Care Agency COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Lowell Joint Resource Page \(includes most current COVID dashboard report\)](#)
- You will also find a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Shortened Quarantine Guidelines at the end of this Newsletter.

General News/Updates:

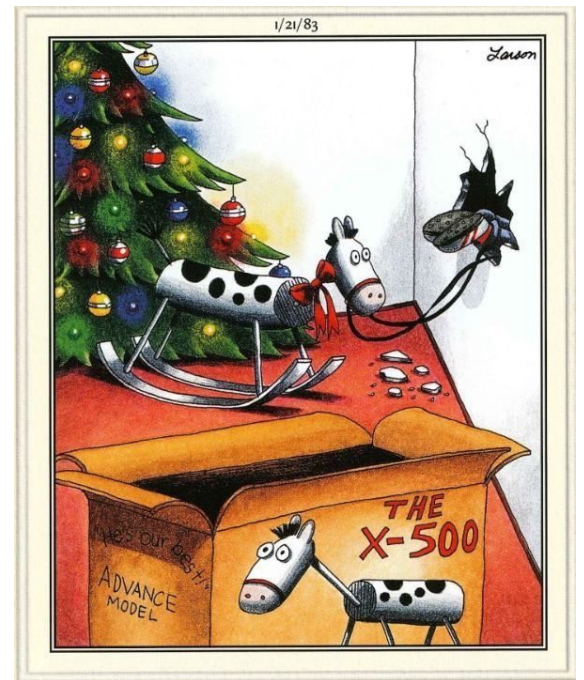
- So proud of the El Portal Quest Team who have already provided workshop presentations at CSBA Conference (San Diego), this weekend at ACSA Region 17 Conference, and anticipate additional opportunities coming in the future. They are doing a great job share the awesome things that the entire El Portal staff are doing through the Golden Bell Quest Program – THANK YOU SO MUCH!
- The Blue Ribbon Special Education Team just present their awesome work at the recent ACSA Every Student Succeed Conference this past Friday. It was so wonderful to be able to see the great effort and accomplishments, which have been done on behalf of our students by our entire LJSD staff; all teachers and classified staff are to be commended. Please recall that this program received one of only three National MAGNA Awards in 2021!
- We just received official notice that the LJSD Arts for All: Let the Music Play (band) will be receiving one of the only four National MAGNA Awards for 2022. Even more impressive, the program will be receiving a second award as one of only three Grand Prize Award Winners from all school districts in the entire USA (no matter what size of district); THIS IS SO INCREDIBLE! They will present and be awarded their recognition at the national conference in April (San Diego). I would also take just a minute to note that a key impressive aspect is that this awesome program was launched by Jeremy Fletcher and continues to build on the success by Cameron Miller. Most often, when there is a transition of leadership things drop, but not in LJSD! 😊

Please remember that a number of families are going through some really rough personal challenges and we simply need be sensitive and give a little extra grace-patience-kindness, which will help make a world of difference. **Please stay connected with your site principal if you have questions, concerns or needs.**

We continue to stand in faith as we are LOWELL JOINT **STRONG** and we will stand strong against the storms that come our way; you are the beacon/lighthouse of educational excellence; **THANK YOU!**

LOWELL JOINT STRONG TOGETHER!!

Definitely, a Christmas toy that was a little stronger than my son could handle...



Some local beach work at it's best...

