



Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter – **Families**

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

November 12, 2021

“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



We continue to have settled into a slow plateau of COVID cases over the last two months with just a few cases per week, but again please know that there is no intent to minimize the seriousness of the situation, we are just trying to put things into perspective. I also know that many folks are getting weary of the craziness and grind of the day-to-day challenges. Keep breathing and know that we really will get through this challenge. The heart and passion you are putting into our students and each other is AWESOME! **Please** continue to stop and breathe while we take one-step at a time and walk through this ever-changing landscape. We will exceed this challenge, because our feet are planted on solid rock; we are so proud of you ☺! The State, CDPH and CAL/OSHA continue to update and change their orders and the latest State, CPHD and CAL/OSHA order links are: ([California Department of Public Health Education Health Order](#)) ([CDPH Order](#)). Some key aspects are:

- The La Habra City COVID testing center continues to provide free testing for your family if you wish. **HOWEVER**, for students it must be initiated by the parent and only with the parent present.
- Continued additional action and changes for LJSD even though they are not required in the Health Order:
 - All visitors for school business only, will be required to complete the Health/Wellness Screening.
 - Starting December 1st, community volunteers will be allowed to volunteer within classrooms to provide support, **but only after they complete the daily Health/Wellness Screening.**
 - Parents who wish to attend events on campus **during the day** may do so beginning December 1st, but those events must be outside and parents must complete the Health/Wellness Screening. I realize the Health/Wellness Screening could be a serious hassle, but we need to keep that up. Screenings are not required for outdoor evening events, but the events do need to continue to be outside.
 - As of October 11, 2021, LJSD adjusted to allow for Modified Quarantine for students who are a “close contact”. This is in response to the County Public Health Department allowing us to make this crucial adjustment. In short, if a student or staff must quarantine because they were a “close contact”, they are able to return sooner than the typical 10 days if they have had two negative tests at least three days apart. This means that they could return on or after the fifth day if they had those two negative tests. Our nursing staff will explain all of this information in writing; if/when, a quarantine is needed.
- General Family News:
 - Though we are trying to be very careful and slow to open campuses to “lots of folks”, we are still on track to continue our longstanding tradition of Christmas Concerts in December.
 - Lowell Joint is also launching our own Lowell Joint Youth Theater Program that reaches out to each elementary school to do our own musicals every year at each school. This is under the direction of Annie Pagano and helps lead students into our Rancho-Starbuck

program. This has already started at two of our elementary schools and will expand to the rest of the schools during the winter and spring.

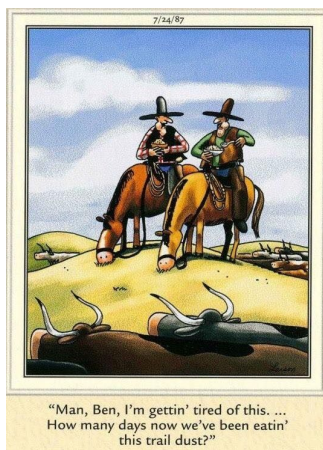
- Worth sharing again - The Special Education Blue Ribbon Action Team has been awarded a 2021 California School Board Association Golden Bell Award and just a week ago were notified they will also receive an award of \$1,000.⁰⁰.
- Worth sharing three times 😊 - Lowell Joint School District ranked #11 in the entire State of California for reading acquisition as measured by 3rd grade reading scores ([California Reading Coalition Link](#)).
- Rumor Control:
 - Rumor - “In light of the Governor’s Executive Order and recent CDC vaccine approval, the District will be requiring all staff and students 5 and older to be vaccinated.” Truth – This continues to be NO.
 - Rumor still – “Lowell Joint has a ton of positive COVID cases.” Truth – No, in actuality we have very few in comparisons to other regional districts. We have about two to four cases per week.
 - Rumor – “This thing is going to last forever.” Truth - No, it will not last forever and LJSD will exceed in spite of the challenge because we are tough enough and know where our faith stands.
 - Rumor – “Jim is most definitely not be the best driver.” Truth – Yes, and Stephanie Coombs would attest to this, she is regularly my “little helper”. 😊

Keep taking time to stop and breathe, make a little time for yourself, find a favorite song and play it really loud in your car 😊, talk to yourself in the car (they will think you are on the phone), keep finding joy, and remember LJSD will continue to stand in faith as we continue to walk one-step at a time. Lowell Joint will continue to be STRONG and we will exceed. You are truly a blessing. **Please stay connected with your school site if you have questions, concerns or needs.** You are **GREATLY APPRECIATED, GREATLY VALUED AND GREATLY LOVED!**

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!!

A little cowboy humor....😊



Definitely a Coombs family photo of home improvement in progress.....