

# LEXINGTON

LEARNING CENTER, INC.

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January-  
March  
2006

## CAROL'S COMMENTS



Welcome to the New Year 2006. As with most new years, many adults and students are having a good, long, reflective look at the past year. What were the features of last year? What things did I excel at and where were my shortcomings? How can I use the lessons learned in 2005 to plan for a better 2006?

As one of my business friends used to say, "Hope is not a plan." If we really want 2006 to be even better than 2005, we must take steps to plan for it.

Has the student in your family met all of his/her goals? Are there areas that could use a boost? Are improved study habits needed? Would a close look at the daily schedule be in order and perhaps a reworking of priorities?

What are both the short term and long term plans that your student has? What can you as a family, parent, educator do to help make those plans a reality?

Wishing you and yours a most successful and wonderful 2006!

## TUTORING TIPS

Testing is here to stay. The December 14, 2005 "Education Week" reported that 49 of the 50 states are now adding new tests this academic year. Additionally, by the 2007-2008 school year, all states will be required by federal law to have science tests in place.

Many students are anxious about tests. Teachers and school districts are also anxious. There is a delicate balance between learning material and being test ready. Too often teachers are criticized for "teaching to the test". Yet, when students do poorly on tests, both the teachers and the school districts are "under the gun".

Learning test taking strategies and being comfortable with study techniques can help to put students at ease. Knowing when to guess on a multiple-choice test and how to construct an essay are necessary skills that can result in better scores. Knowing the key words to watch for in a True-False test and how to eliminate answer possibilities in matching tests can also make the process smoother.

Testing may be seen as a necessary evil. However, it is a part of education that we all need to live with. Being more at ease with testing can relieve anxiety and make the total educational experience a much more pleasant one.

## CALENDAR

### January

- 1 CLOSED New Year's Day
- 12 Achieving Student Success Sudbury 6-8 PM
- 16 CLOSED Martin Luther King Day
- 17 MCAS Writing begins Sudbury. Grade 10
- 18 MCAS Writing in Sudbury Grades 4 + 7
- 19 MCAS Writing Lexington Grade 10
- 22 Summer Fair Lexington High School 2-4 PM
- 22 MCAS Writing Prep Grade 7, Lexington
- 29 Social Skills Class begins in Lexington.
- 30 Achieving Student Success Lexington 6-8 PM

### February

- 20 CLOSED President's Day
- 21 Munsey's Magic Show Lexington 11 AM

### March

- 9 Achieving Student Success in Lexington
- 11 SAT Cram Class Lexington
- 18 SAT Cram Class Sudbury



## TUTOR PROFILE

Barbara Hantman knew she wanted to teach when she was in the first grade, but it wasn't until she entered the Bronx High School of Science that she knew the subject would be chemistry. She received her Bachelor of Science degree cum laude from the City College of New York, double majoring in Chemistry and Education, in three years. She joined the faculty of Bronx Science, at the same time completing her Master's Degree. Later she relocated with her family to MA and taught at Waltham HS with certification in Chemistry and Biology.

Upon retirement in 2000, Barbara began tutoring chemistry at Lexington Learning Center. She also works at Middlesex Community College where she tutors Chemistry, Biology and Anatomy and Physiology.

## TUTOR PROFILE

Sarah Fennelly has been a tutor at Lexington Learning Center for the past two years. In addition, when her oldest daughter was an infant, she worked at LLC for a year while pursuing her Master's Degree. Sarah is currently working as a Special Ed / Reading teacher in Stoneham and tutors at LLC on Sundays. Sarah says, "Working one to one with a student is such fun for me because I really get to know the student on a more personal level. I get to know strengths, weaknesses, how the student learns best. I can use the information to reach the student in a way that is much more difficult to do in a room full of students. I enjoy working at LLC because the curriculum is what I think would work best for every individual student."

## QUOTES OF NOTE

"Good teaching is interactive. It engages the child individually. It uses all the senses. It responds to the child."

Malcolm Gladwell  
in The Tipping Point

"Good intentions are simply not enough. Our character is defined and our lives are determined not by what we want, say or think, but by what we do."

Michael Josephson

"Better keep yourself clean and bright. You are the window through which you see the world."

George Bernard Shaw

