

# Lexington

10 Years Ranked "Excellent"

## Staff Update

### Nov. 22, 2013

From the office of the Treasurer...

#### All Staff

- State **Auditors** are still working in the district reviewing financial records from 2012-13. They may visit buildings or departments as part of the audit.
- **Just a reminder...** If you collect money for any school purpose or activity, please deposit with your building secretary OR bring to the Treasurer's office within 24 hours of receipt.
- If you need a district **warrant check** for a conference registration or special purchase, please give Nichole 2-3 days notice to process a check for you. Thanks in advance!

#### Insurance Information:

- The Board has approved another **premium holiday** for December. This means no medical or dental premiums will be deducted from your December pay checks! ☺

The premium holiday is equivalent to an 8% premium reduction for the year and is a reward for keeping claims low during 2013. The premium holiday **savings is more than what the 2014 increase will be** (see below).

- Due to Affordable Care Act fees and expected increases in medical costs, Lexington's medical premiums will increase 4.73% in 2014 and dental premiums will increase 1.2%. The district's ACA fees in 2014 will cost us roughly \$45,000.
- Employees who wish to add, change, or terminate health coverage may do so by contacting Kathy by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have a child on the insurance that has obtained his/her own insurance coverage or reaches age 26, please contact Kathy.

#### \$\$\$ Financial Information:

Lexington has an operating levy that will expire in 2014. The Board of Education has begun to discuss the renewal of that levy PLUS looking ahead to a second operating levy that will expire in 2016.

Both levies are called "emergency" levies and that means they are tax issues for a specific dollar amount. Each emergency levy collects about \$2.7 million per year. Those revenues are used for general operating expenses.

The first levy was originally passed in 1999, renewed in 2004, and renewed again in 2009. To continue collection, the levy will need to be placed on the ballot and passed by voters during calendar year 2014.

**This levy makes up about 12% of the Lexington School District's general fund income. It is crucial for the levy renewal to pass so the school can continue providing an excellent education to students and remain financially stable.**

The Board is investigating the best way to structure the levy renewal and when to place the issue on the ballot. A special meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the levy. The public is invited to attend.

#### Useful? Information:

Of the three utensils we use to eat – fork, knife, spoon – which was not present at the first Thanksgiving meal?

The fork. Folks ate with a knife, a spoon and their fingers. The fork was not brought by the pilgrims. Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts introduced it 10 years later, but it did not really catch on until the 18th century.



We wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving!