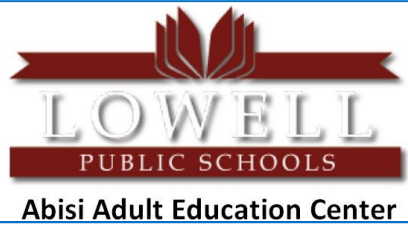


# THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center  
408 Merrimack St, Lowell, MA 01854  
[www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted](http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted) - (978) 937-8989

Elizabeth McKiernan, Director

January 2024



The mornings  
are getting  
colder.  
The building  
doors do not  
open until  
8:30am.  
Please plan  
your arrival  
accordingly.

## UMASS LOWELL COLLABORATION

UMass Lowell students worked with Carrie and Jen's ESOL classes to teach them digital literacy skills. Throughout the 12 week program, students were introduced to many new computer skills including beginner basics, internet browsing, and word processing. UMass will return in the Spring to work with different ESOL classes.



### Inside this Issue:

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## REMINDER

No School Monday, January 15th  
Civil Rights / Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## STUDENT SUCCESS CELEBRATION

In November, we held our first Student Success Celebration of the year! We gathered together to recognize students who achieved goals in September, October, and November and students who obtained outstanding attendance in October.

Thank you Superintendent Liam Skinner for joining in our celebration, sharing your own experiences, and handing out certificates.

### CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Goal	# of Students
Outstanding Attendance	63
Got a job	6
Met a New Job Requirement	5
Increased Earnings	1
Opened a Bank Account	3
Obtained a Learner's Permit	6

Goal	# of Students
Obtained a Driver's License	7
Voted in an Election	3
Took a School Leadership Role	27
Started a Business	1
Volunteered at a Community Organization	5
<b>Special recognition to Ana Rivera &amp; Maria Lopez for their outstanding recycling job.</b>	

*Everyone was excited and happily cheered to share in each other's achievements*

*After the awards were handed out, cake and coffee were served.*





## SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS

If there is **NO SCHOOL** in the Lowell Public Schools, **ALL** AAEC Morning and Evening classes are **cancelled**. This includes remote classes.

If there is a **one-hour delay**, Morning ESOL classes will begin at 10:00 am and HSE classes will begin at 11:00 am. Evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

School cancellation or delay information can be found by:

- Visiting our website, <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted>
- Looking on our Facebook Page—*Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center*
- Watching the local news
- Listening to WCAP (980AM) or WBZ (1030AM)



## AAEC REWARDS PROGRAM



### Reward Center Hours:

- Tuesday, January 16th for Liz, Meg (M-W), Martha, and HSE classes
- Thursday, January 18th for Carrie, Jen, and Meg's

## STUDENT ADVISORY MEETING (SAC)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

10:00 -11:00 am



## ATTENDANCE

You are expected to be in class everyday and be on time. If you miss too many classes, you risk giving your space to someone who is on our wait list.

If you know in advance you will be out, let your teacher (s) know. You can also email:

- Sochitra: [sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us) (ESOL students)
- Sarah: [swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us) (HSE students).

Make sure to include your full name and teacher or group.

**BUILDING DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 AM**  
**CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:00 AM**

## HISET & GED TESTING INFORMATION

Residents of Massachusetts who desire to earn a High School Equivalency credential have the choice of two exams: the GED® or the HiSET®. Candidates must pass all subject tests in: the GED® exam, the HiSET® exam, *or a combination of both exams. These exams are comparable in terms of passing rates and complexity, but they do vary in some ways. For example, the GED is only computer based, but the HiSET can be taken on computer or paper.*

In 2022-2023, the DESE made a number of policy changes to assist candidates:

- Candidates have the option to take any subject test in English or Spanish. All credentials will be issued in English.
- HiSET/GED Testing is FREE! The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will pay for a candidate's first HiSET® or GED® test in each subject, plus two retakes per subject. Enter the correct voucher code at checkout.

HISET	GED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create your account at <a href="https://hiset.org">hiset.org</a>.</li> <li>• If you created a HiSET account with ETS prior to October 2022, you will need to create a new myHiset account. Be sure to use the same last name and email address, to ensure that your test scores are transferred.</li> <li>• When scheduling any HiSET test, use promo code: <b>MAHISET</b> at checkout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create your account at <a href="https://ged.com">ged.com</a></li> <li>• When scheduling any subject test for the first time, use promo code: <b>MAFREEGED1</b></li> <li>• Those who opt to take the GED remotely, must first pass the GED Ready subject test. GED Ready tests can be purchased in your GED account.</li> <li>• To retest at a Test Center, use the promo code: <b>MARETAKE</b></li> </ul>

Abisi Adult Education Center is an official Test Center for both exams. GED appointments will be released 30 days prior to the scheduled test date.

### Upcoming Testing Dates at AAEC

Appointments are scheduled through your Vendor account at [GED.com](https://ged.com) or [HiSET.org](https://hiset.org).

GED Computer-Based Testing Thursdays at 12:30 pm	Weekend Testing <i>HiSET Paper-based testing will not be offered until February due to a printing issue of new books.</i>	HiSET Computer-Based Testing Thursdays at 12:30 pm
<b>January 18th</b> <b>February 8th</b> One subject test may be scheduled and limited to Math, Science, or Social Studies tests only	<b>Friday, January 19th &amp; February 9th</b> (Beginning at 5:00 pm) <b>Saturday, January 20th &amp; February 10th</b> (Beginning at 8:00 am)	<b>January 4th</b> <b>February 15th</b> One subject test may be scheduled.



## AAEC ACTIVITIES & INFORMATION

### NOVEMBER'S MASSHIRE JOB FAIR



The Lowell Senior Center was the location for MassHire's most recent job fair. Representatives from 20 companies were there with information about their companies and what jobs were available. Career Advisor Margie Miller from Abisi Adult Education accompanied 6 students attended this job fair. Close to 100 other job seekers were also there looking for work.

The Abisi students chose to go to specific companies that were of interest to them. The students brought prepared resumes and gave them to the company representatives. The students commented that the atmosphere was very positive. It was a very helpful experience to engage with the employers and to discuss available job openings. The students were glad they attended.

The MassHire staff was impressed with the students. They had resumes prepared to pass out and had dressed for success. They made a great impression! It was a worthwhile day. Check with your AAEC Advisor about other upcoming hiring events.

Contact your Career and Educational Advisors for more information on upcoming events, job fairs, and trainings available or if you are interested in becoming a MassHire member.

<b>Margie Miller</b>	<b>Cindy Taft</b>	<b>Martha McQuaide</b>
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm	Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
<i>mmiller@lowell.k12.ma.us</i> Her office is the back of Room 5	<i>ctaft@lowell.k12.ma.us</i> Her office is the back of Room 6	<i>mmcquaide@lowell.k12.ma.us</i> Her office is the back of Room 6

## CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS TOGETHER

### THANKSGIVING

ESOL and HSE students had a busy month learning all about Thanksgiving and its history. Teachers led several different lessons and hands-on activities which allowed students to expand their knowledge about this national holiday.

Students shared how Thanksgiving, or similar holidays, are celebrated in their native countries. They created slideshows on family traditions, learned about the history of the cranberry, made table centerpieces, crafted some cute turkey, and shared a feast..





## HOLIDAY PARTIES

Everyone had a good time at our Holiday celebration. Students played games, sang carols, and made crafts,. Delicious food, sweet treats, and hot chocolate topped off the celebration.



### Plenty of food from many countries

Christmas excitement was in the air at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA). On Wednesday, Kathy and Martha's classes joined together for Christmas bingo and songs while enjoying cupcakes and cookies. The "Yankee Swap" brought a lot of laughter. Later, students provided a buffet of food from their many countries. It was an American Christmas party!





## SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you goes out to the students who helped make our building making our building festive and brought in food to share; as well as teachers and staff who helped make this event successful.



## AAEC HOLIDAY TREE RAFFLE



In keeping with our tradition, the AAEC Holiday Tree Raffle successfully raised **\$685**. This money will be donated to ***It's All About the Kids Foundation INC.*** They are a local non-profit organization that helps Greater Lowell families and children with food, clothing, and gifts during the holiday season, and provides emergency assistance year-round. They work with social workers and guidance counselors in the Lowell Public Schools and other local agencies, serving over 300 families.

***Thank you to those who helped to sell the raffle tickets and to everyone who bought the tickets to help make this fundraiser so successful.***

Congratulations to Sreyleak Yang, an ESOL student in Liz's class, who won the Holiday Money Tree.

## ELIZABETH K. TSAPATSARIS

Elizabeth Tsapatsaris was a dedicated teacher at our adult education center for many years. In 1988, a memorial scholarship was founded to honor her passion for teaching adults.

In addition to three scholarships offered at graduation each year, the Tsapatsaris family donated 25 Market Basket gift cards to be awarded to AAEC students at our holiday celebration.

A special thank you goes to Alexis Tsapatsaris and the Curtis Family, generous benefactors of the Abisi Adult Education Center, for their continued support.



## VISIT TO CITY HALL

On November 14, students from Carrie and Jen's classes went on a field trip to City Hall in Lowell. In their social studies classes, the students had learned about the City of Lowell's government. Now they got to see where their city leaders work in person.

First, the students were given a tour of City Hall by the mayor's assistant, Erastus Mwangi. Students visited the Mayor's Office and the Mayor's Reception Room. They also saw the City Council Chamber. This is where the City Council holds its meetings each week.

The students then had the opportunity to meet City Manager Tom Golden. The City Manager is the head of all the people that work for the city. It's his job to make sure that what the City Council wants is put into action. Mr. Golden gave the students more information about Lowell's government and answered their questions. He was very welcoming and friendly.

Thank you Mr. Golden and Mr. Mwangi for making the students' visit to City Hall both enjoyable and educational.



## AAEC CITIZENSHIP CLASS—NEW SESSION

### Frederick Abisi Adult Education Citizenship Course

This 10 Week Citizenship Course covers the naturalization process and prepares students for the citizenship interview.



Choose **ONE** class to attend:

<b>In-Person:</b> AAEC Room 12	Thursdays—9-30 to 11:30 am starting February 1, 2021
<b>Remote:</b> Via Zoom	Tuesdays—6:00 to 7:00 pm starting January 30, 2024 <b>OR</b> Wednesdays—6:00 to 7:00 pm starting January 31, 2024

For more information or to enroll in a class, please email Gail at [gforman@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:gforman@lowell.k12.ma.us). You may also call or text Gail at (978) 918-3519

## CITIZENSHIP CORNER

### A Helpful Tool to Use: USCIS Early Filing Calculator

As a lawful permanent resident, or Green Card holder, you may apply for naturalization when you meet **all** the requirements to become a U.S. citizen. Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, is the form used to apply for U.S. citizenship. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) allows early filing of the N-400 form.

You may file the N-400 application **90 calendar days** before you complete your continuous residence requirement if your eligibility for naturalization is based upon being a:

- Permanent resident for at least 5 years; **or**
- Permanent resident for at least 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen

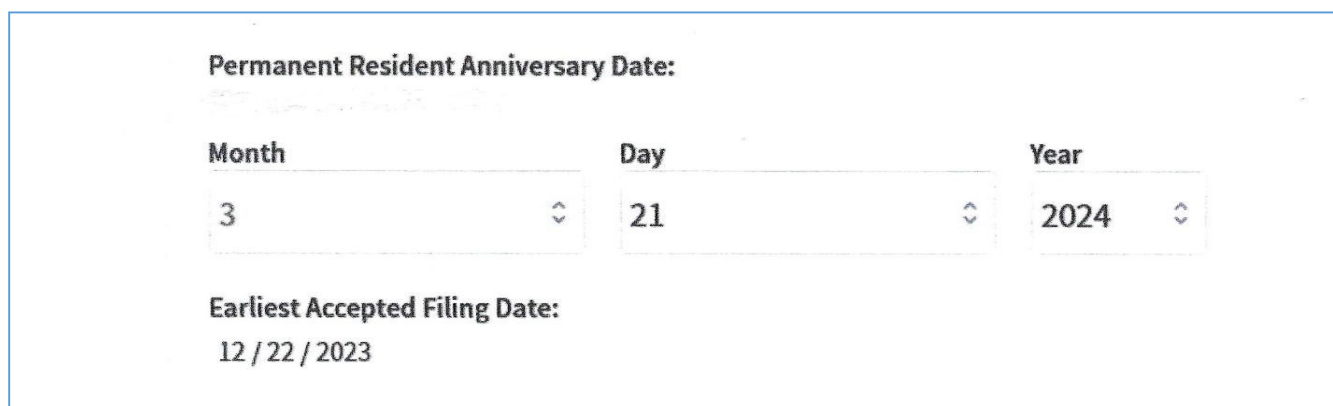
On its website, USCIS provides a free tool called the **USCIS Early Filing Calculator**. This tool helps you determine your 90-day early filing date. This date is important because if you apply earlier than 90 days before you are eligible, USCIS will return your N-400 application.

To use the Early Filing Calculator, you will need your Green Card and the date you became a lawful permanent resident. You can find this date on your Green Card at "Resident Since."

Here is an example on how to use the USCIS Early Filing Calculator:

Permanent Resident Since: 03/21/2019. Add 5 years to the date; if married to a U.S. citizen, add 3 years. This gives you your Permanent Resident Anniversary Date.

Permanent Resident Anniversary Date: 03/21/2024. Enter this date into the calculator.



Permanent Resident Anniversary Date:

Month	Day	Year
3	21	2024

Earliest Accepted Filing Date:  
12 / 22 / 2023

As long as this permanent resident has met all other eligibility requirements, the earliest date she can apply for naturalization would be on December 22, 2023.

The USCIS Early Filing Calculator, along with the instructions on how to use it, can be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/uscis-early-filing-calculator>

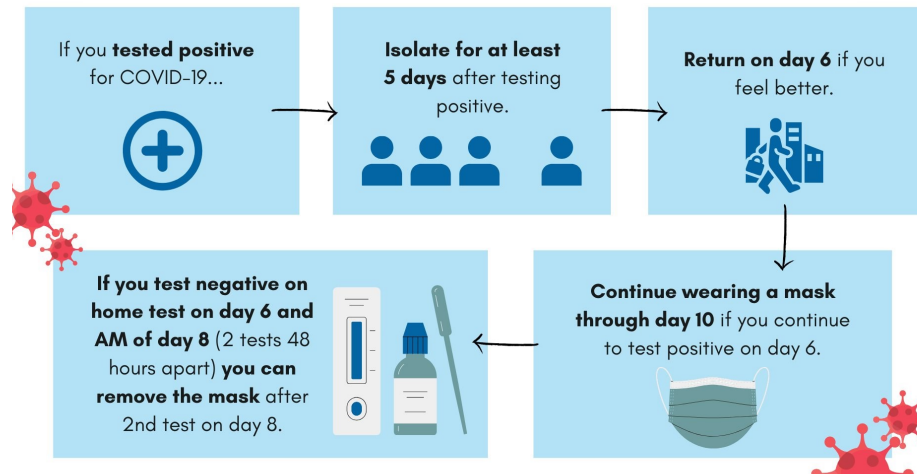
(If you have any questions about how to use the Early Filing Calculator, please ask Adriana or Gail.)



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS—COVID-19 GUIDELINES

### COVID-19 Guidelines



With an increase in COVID-19 cases, this is a good time to remind you all of the current COVID protocol for public schools, which can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-exposure-guidance-for-children-and-staff-in-child-care-k-12-out-of-school-time-ost-and-recreational-camp-program-settings>

#### Guidance for Children and Staff in Child Care, K-12, OST, and Recreational Camp Settings:

- Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended for children or staff in these settings, regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until Day 10, and it is recommended that they test on Day 6 of exposure. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic individuals, below.
- Students and staff who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5 and should wear a high-quality mask through Day 10:
  - If the individual is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10.
  - If the individual has a negative test on Day 5 or later, they do not need to mask.
  - If the individual is unable to mask, they may return to programming with a negative test on Day 5 or later.
- Symptomatic individuals can remain in their school or program if they have mild symptoms, are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved. For symptomatic individuals, DPH recommends a second test within 48 hours if the initial test is negative.
- If the symptomatic individual cannot be tested immediately, they should be sent home and allowed to return to their program or school if symptoms remain mild and they test negative, or they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is strongly recommended for return.

Additionally, FREE at-home COVID tests are again available. To claim yours, visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits> or call 1-800-232-0233.

**COALITION FOR A BETTER ACRE**

# JOB FAIR 2024

**DATE**  
January 16, 2024

**TIME**  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Location**  
Lowell Senior Center  
276 Broadway St.  
Lowell MA 01854

**More Information:**  
978-935-3302  
liam.skinner@cbacre.org

**Lowell Community Health Center**  
**Covid-19 & Flu Vaccine Clinic**

**No Appointment Needed**

**Who:** All existing patients 6 month and older

**What:** &

**THIS IS A WALK IN CLINIC FOR LOWELL CHC PATIENTS ONLY**

**When:** Monday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM

**Where:** Lowell CommunityHealth Center 161 Jackson Street, 1st Floor

**WINTER CAR EMERGENCY KIT**

**massDOT**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

- JUMPER CABLES
- FIRST AID KIT
- WATERS & SNACKS
- BLANKET
- PHONE CHARGER
- FLASHLIGHT
- SHOVEL & ICE SCRAPER
- FULL TANK OF GAS

**FREE VACCINE CLINIC**

**Tuesdays 4pm-7pm**  
**107 Merrimack Street**

**Lowell Health Department**  
Prevent • Promote • Protect

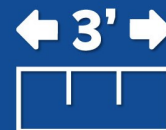
- No insurance or identification needed!
- Vaccines offered: Flu, COVID-19, Hepatitis A
- Appointments encouraged; walk-ins welcome
- Visit our webpage or call to register, and to confirm eligibility and vaccines available

Visit [lowellma.gov/VaccineClinic](http://lowellma.gov/VaccineClinic)  
Call 978-674-4308

## Space heater safety tips



Plug heater directly into a wall outlet



Keep things that can burn 3 feet away



Shut off when you leave

Visit [www.likelowell.com](http://www.likelowell.com), for more activities and events happening through the City of Lowell.

**WINTER FEST LOWELL**

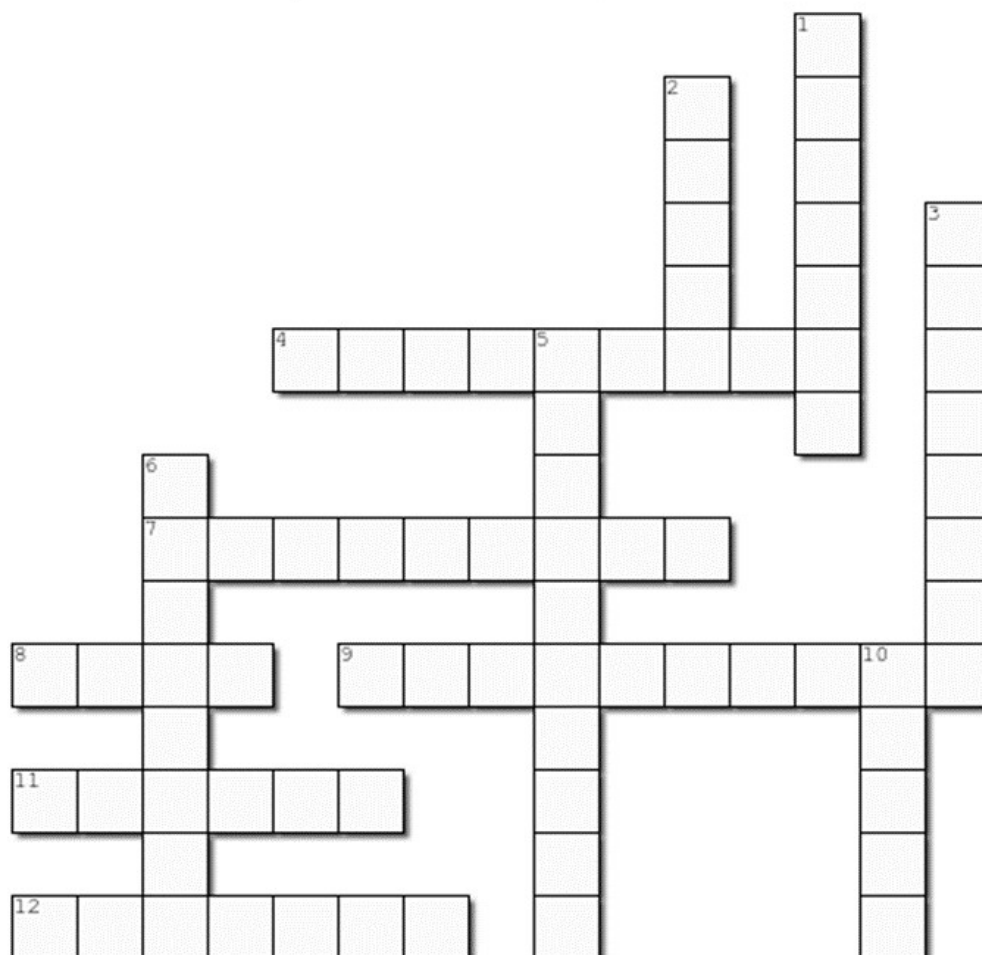
**RETURNING TO DOWNTOWN LOWELL**

**FEBRUARY 16 & 17**  
**LOWELLWINTERFEST.COM**

**#LOWELL**

# People in U.S. History

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Eisenhower   Wilson   Lincoln   Jefferson   Anthony   Obama   Franklin   Roosevelt   King  
Washington   Adams   Hamilton

## Across

4. he wrote the Declaration of Independence, later the 3rd U.S. President, Thomas\_\_\_\_\_
7. U.S. President during the Great Depression and World War 2, Franklin\_\_\_\_\_
8. he fought for civil rights, Martin Luther\_\_\_\_\_, Jr.
9. first U.S. President/the Father of Our Country, George\_\_\_\_\_
11. U.S. President during World War 1, Woodrow\_\_\_\_\_
12. U.S. President who led the U.S. during the Civil War/signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham\_\_\_\_\_

## Down

1. she fought for women's rights, Susan B.\_\_\_\_\_
2. first U.S. Vice President, later 2nd U.S. President, John\_\_\_\_\_
3. one writer of the Federalist Papers, Alexander\_\_\_\_\_
5. a general during World War 2, later a U.S. President, Dwight\_\_\_\_\_
6. U.S. diplomat, also started the first free libraries, Benjamin\_\_\_\_\_
10. the first African American U.S. President, Barack\_\_\_\_\_



# School Activities Calendar

## January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Welcome! New ESOL Students	3	4 Welcome! New ESOL Students	5 Conversation Class 9:30—11:30 am Rm 10	6
7	8 Welcome! New HSE Students	9	10 Student Advisory 10—11am Computer Lab	11  CBT starting @ 12:30pm	12 Conversation Class 9:30—11:30 am Rm 10  Safety Drill Donna, Meg and Kathy's classes	13
14	15	16	17  Reward Center Open	18  Reward Center Open   CBT starting @ 12:30pm	19 Conversation Class 9:30—11:30 am Rm 10   PBT starting @ 5:00pm   CBT starting @ 5:00pm	20   PBT starting @ 8:00am   CBT starting @ 8:00am
21	22	23 Safety Drill	24	25	26 Conversation Class 9:30—11:30 am Rm 10	27
28	29 Welcome! New ESOL Students	30	31			