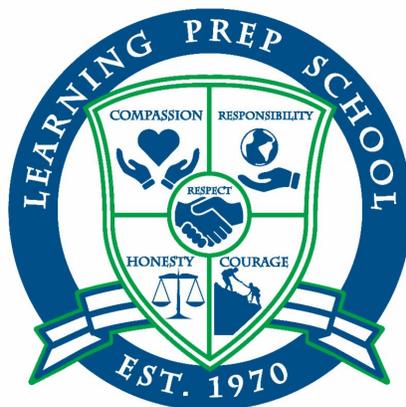


December 11, 2020



Family Newsletter



Check out our **now weekly** newsletter to stay informed about what is going on at LPS!

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1 : No School, Winter Break

Monday, January 4: Classes resume, ALL SCHOOL REMOTE

Monday, January 11: In person classes resume

Monday, January 18: No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 20: Partners in Education meeting, 8:00 AM

To see the full School Year Calendar, [click here](#)

A message from Kurt

Dear parents,

I enjoyed seeing some of you in our Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meeting on Wednesday. A reminder for those of you who could not make it: PAG meets every other month this year. The format is a presentation to parents on what is happening at the school and then we take questions from parents on anything that is on your mind. I'd love to see you there.

I just have a couple of updates this week.

New hires:

I am very pleased to let you know that we have hired 2 new teachers for open positions. Please join me in welcoming Jim Temple (Computer Teacher) and Chris Quaye (Transition Instructor) to the LPS community.

Chris got his M.Ed. at Lesley. For the past two years, Chris has worked at the West End House Boys and Girls Club as a College Pathways Coordinator. Prior to that, he worked as a Therapeutic Mentor helping kids develop their social-emotional skills.

Jim studied Computer Information Systems and Tech Education at Illinois State. He has taught computer science and technology education and coached football at several schools in Illinois, Georgia, and Florida.

Snow day policy:

The following announcement applies for this year only. For any weather-related school closure such as a snow day, Learning Prep will be having classes even when campus is officially closed:

- Day 1 of any close will be asynchronous. This means that work will be supplied to all students through Google classroom. Additionally, each teacher will set up an office hour, also through Google Classroom, when they will be available for extra help. Attendance will be taken based on work completion, but students may complete work at whatever time is best for them that day.
- If the closure extends beyond one day, day 2 and all subsequent days will be normal "remote" days. These days will be exactly the same as the fully remote days we have had previously. Students will be zooming into their classes for a full day of instruction.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes,

Kurt

Kurt Moellering, PhD
Executive Director

All School News

General announcements:

Flu Vaccine deadline
12/31

The flu vaccine is now required for all children attending Massachusetts schools ages 6 months+. The deadline to receive the vaccine is 12/31/2020. Please send a record to the Nursing office by 12/31.

Lunch Menu

To see this week's menu [click here](#).

Amazon Smile

With holiday shopping in full swing, be sure to shop from your AmazonSmile account after selecting LPS as your non-profit organization (which gives LPS .5%!). To sign up go to smile.amazon.com, Account, Other Programs, and Change Your AmazonSmile Charity to "Little People's School" (LPS's legal name).

Let's celebrate the holidays together - LPS style!

While we cannot be together to celebrate the holidays in person, we still can have fun and share the spirit of the holidays. Show off your holiday & school spirit in this fun activity that will strengthen our community and bring us closer together:

- Please send us your favorite holiday recipe and tell us the family story behind it, when you make it, who started using it in your family first, when you eat it, and maybe a picture of your LPS student helping to make it.
- Send us pictures of your family's holiday decorations like your family menorah or your holiday tree, your stockings on the mantel, or lights on the outside of your home with your LPS student in the picture. Send us photos of your holiday traditions and activities that are so important to all of us.
- Make a creative LPS holiday decoration for your home and share a picture of it with your child.

We will share your pictures, stories, and recipes with the community on social media so we can all have a little fun and spread the holiday spirit within the LPS community! You can send your pictures, stories, and recipes to lpalumni@learningprep.org.



Holiday gift drive

'Tis the season for helping others! This year Learning Prep School is partnering with The Village Bank to support the Newton Holiday Gift Drive for deserving children and families here in Newton, MA.

You can donate by dropping off new, unwrapped toys or gift cards to our Donation Gift Box that will be located in the lobby of the High School Building near the elevator on Monday, December 14 & Tuesday, December 15.

1. Each gift should cost no more than \$25.
3. The Drive is to benefit children between the ages of newborn through 10, but the need is greatest for toys designed for kids aged 7 -10.
4. Perennial favorites: Legos, craft kits, board games, STEM-related items.
5. Please steer away from things like books (hard to tell reading levels from the age of the recipient as skill levels vary widely), sporting equipment (even footballs and basketballs; hard to gauge interest from the info that we have), and jewelry.

LPS will bring the donated toys to The Village Bank, 307 Auburn Street, Auburndale after school on Tuesday, December 15th. The Village Bank will wrap then distribute the gifts to children in need with a little help from the Rotary Club of Newton.

Thank you very much for your consideration!

Face Mask & Food Drive

For many years now we have donated our extra baked goods from our bake sales to the Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen and Single Men's and Women's Shelter. Cam Connolly, one of our newly elected 8th grade Student Council representatives, approached us with an idea that he and his other 8th grade cohort members had of collecting and donating face masks to the homeless, and we immediately thought of Bristol Lodge. Upon contacting them, we learned that not only can they use masks, but they are also in need of many single serving food items as they give out free meals every weekday. Some suggested items are single serving bags of chips, cookies, snack foods, granola/fruit bars, and beverages like bottles of water, ice tea, soda, and Gatorade.

Student Council from both the High School and Middle School will be collecting these items from **Monday, December 14 to Friday, December 18**, and they will be delivered to the Bristol Lodge. If you would like to

donate masks or any food items, send them in with your student. If you are a remote student, please reach out in your own community and donate these items to your local shelter or food bank.

Please contact Marla, Bob, or Laura with any questions!

Marla Jacobs, Bob Owens, and Laura Nicholson
MS and HS Student Council Advisors

Middle School News

No news to report!

High School News

Student Council

In order to get more participation on student council, we are making some changes this year. It is more important than ever for students to participate. This year's student council will be made up of COHORT Representatives (rather than President, VP, etc).

A paper copy of the application will be distributed to each cohort but you can also [find a copy here](#). Students need to fill out and get 1 signature from a staff person in their cohort. No speeches, no elections, just students who want to make a difference. We are looking for students who embody LPS' core values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Courage and Compassion.

All applications should be turned into a teacher in your cohort or Counselor Bob Owens (rowens@learningprep.org) by **Wednesday, December 16**.

MCAS Update

Updates to MCAS and ACCESS Testing Schedules and Participation Requirements

In September, DESE announced the initial testing schedule for MCAS and ACCESS tests for the 2020-2021 school year, including a special administration of the high school ELA and mathematics tests in January-February 2021 for students in grades 11 and 12, as well as for adults who need to earn their competency determination (CD) in one or both subjects.

At that time, we acknowledged that we would update our plans as needed. I am writing to you today to inform you that, in recognition of the scheduling and logistical challenges that schools and districts are experiencing, we have decided to adjust the schedules and expectations for MCAS high school testing and ACCESS testing as follows:

January-February High School MCAS ELA and Mathematics Tests

- Students in grade 11 (class of 2022) will no longer participate in testing during the January/February window. Testing for this class in ELA and mathematics is being postponed until later in the year.
- Students in grade 12 (class of 2021), as well as adult test-takers, will remain eligible to participate in one or both tests beginning in January to earn their CD. Please note that currently enrolled 12th grade students who were previously on track to graduate during the 2019-2020 school year do not need to take the tests, as they remain eligible for the modified CD.
- The testing window for eligible students is extended through February 12, giving schools an additional week to complete testing. The full testing window will be January 14 through February 12, 2021.

Therefore, the testing opportunity in January will take place only for those seniors who have not yet passed the ELA and/or Math MCAS tests. Dates for this testing session are as follows and families will receive an email letter with more specific information:

ELA – January 19th, 20th and 21st
Math – January 25th and 26th

Other information



Admissions Virtual Information Sessions

The best way to grow our wonderful community is by telling others! If you know someone who may be looking for a place like Learning Prep for their child, please encourage them to attend one of our weekly, Virtual Information Sessions!

Friday, 12/18 - 9:30 AM

RSVPs can be sent to **Korina Martin**,
Director of Admissions at
kmartin@learningprep.org



Show your school spirit!

Here's a great way to show your Panther Pride! Check out the School Store to buy shirts, jackets, hoodies, hats AND MASKS!

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