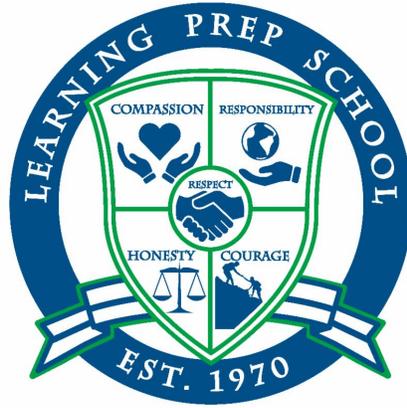


February 12, 2021



## Family Newsletter



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

Visit our Website

## Important Dates

**Monday, February 15 - Friday, February 19** : February Break

**Monday, February 22-26**: ALL SCHOOL REMOTE WEEK

**Tuesday, February 23**: Parent Advisory Group meeting, 8:00 AM

**Wednesday, March 10**: Speaker Series event: "The Homework Battle", 6:00 PM

**Wednesday, March 17**: Early Release, 11:00 AM

**Thursday, March 25**: Partners in Education meeting, 8:00 AM

**Friday, April 2** : No School, Good Friday

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

A message from Kurt

Dear parents,

Welcome to the Friday of February break! I hope you and your families have a fun, restful, and safe vacation.

Thanks again to those of you who filled out our survey. As I said last week, it is critically important for us to be in communication this year. Jen, Amy, Gretchen, Korina, and I have looked at all of the results and your feedback. We are reaching out to some of you individually based on what you shared.

Overall, the survey results are really important; however, they were not completely surprising. On the whole, you are incredibly grateful for LPS, and we thank you for the support and the kudos. However, we also are aware of the challenges of this year. We hear you, and we share many of your frustrations, especially around things like the desire for more in-person learning and more social opportunities for the students. Our seniors have been especially hard hit.

I will share the overall results in more detail in our PAG meeting after break. But there are a few telling statistics:

We received the most positive feedback for our safety protocols. That makes sense and is as it must be, especially this year.

- 91% of you ranked your confidence in our safety plan at a 4/5 or 5/5.
- 80% rated us at 4/5 or 5/5 for the support we are providing your student.
- But when we ask, more broadly, how the year is going for your student, only 69% say it is at a 4/5 or 5/5. 20% of you give it a 3/5. 10% are at a 1/5 or a 2/5.

This is a hard year. I am thrilled that we remain in-person as much as we do, and I am thrilled to have your support. But I know that our LPS students, like all students, are being impacted negatively by this year. We will continue to communicate and work with you to make this year at LPS positive and rewarding. The resilience of our students is amazing. They make gains despite these drawbacks. Thank you for trusting us with them.

Happy Friday, and happy February break.

Sincerely,  
*Kurt*

**Kurt Moellering, PhD**  
Head of School

## Leadership Blog

**We are thrilled to bring back our Leadership Blog - articles brought to you by our own LPS administrators!**

### Flexible Thinking

*Amy Davis, Middle School Principal*

On March 4, 2020 I wrote [the last LPS newsletter leadership blog](#) post on "Flexible Thinking." In it I referenced what a necessary skill it is to possess and gave examples of how we approach teaching our students to be flexible thinkers at LPS. On March 4, 2020, I did not know what I know now. I did not know what was so soon to come and I sure could not have imagined how vital this skill would be for the future. At the time, I talked about using flexible thinking to manage when "Friday Pizza Day" was unexpectedly changed to "Friday Hot Dog Day," that seemed like a big deal at the time. Throughout this past year everyone has had to become flexible thinkers, we had no choice. For some things it is easier than others, like having to hand sanitize upon entering a public space, we never used to do that before. Some things have been harder to adapt to like going through your mental checklist of the necessary things that one needs before leaving the house. Other situations have been very challenging to wrap our flexible brains' around like our return to school with our cohort model. Staff, students and families had to have flexible, open minds as to how this was all going to work. For staff, we told them that this year would be like no other and even if you had worked here for 15 years, this would feel like your first year of teaching at COVID LPS. For students we have asked them to be flexible with their mindset regarding almost everything they once knew of Learning Prep. While all of the supports are still in place, they look and feel different and it is often hard for our students to be flexible with change. What has been the most amazing thing to me is to see the students, staff and families rise to the occasion of this flexible thinking scale. We are all doing it every day and we sure have been thrown a lot of curve



balls.

Finally, with flexible thinking comes learning. For some of the situations that we have been forced to re-think, we have actually created better systems that hopefully we will utilize once COVID is not a thing. For example, the great learning and growth regarding technology usage has been immeasurable for both staff and students and will be skills and tools that we can build on for the future. Teaching flexible thinking is in the fabric of all that we do at LPS; everyone plays a role in this job. Utilizing flexible thinking skills every day has been put to the test by all of us this past year and we passed!

## Core Value of the Month - COURAGE

Here are some celebrations of staff and students exhibiting the Core Value of the Month - Courage!

- Two of my HS students showed courage in speech. When an activity was hard, they both asked for help and took learning risks, even if their answers weren't correct. Neither gave up and they both finished the assignment. *Jen K, SPL*
- One of my favorite books that captures courage is in the book: "[Thank you, Mr. Falker](#)" by Patricia Polacco. A lot of my students can relate to the main character, Trisha. She can't read, but is a good artist. They made connections from the text to their real life. They liked it when she was brave enough to take learning risks and stay after school to practice with a wet sponge to write letters on the board that didn't make sense and how that took courage, said one of my students (Ryan). Another student (Luke) said, "I liked the book, she grew up to write books and become an artist and that took courage. She was brave." *Susan S, ELA*
- One of my students shows courage each day meeting the challenges of her classes and giving it her all even when she doubts that she can. *Meredith, Counseling*
- I wanted to share the work we did with both the theme of "Courage" and Black History Month. At the beginning of class we read an "Article -A Day", with this week's articles focused on Important African American Figures. After they read an article they are learning to create well written paragraphs including information from the text with 2-3 things that they learned from the article. They worked together and we all created a Thinking Map to share what was learned. We discussed the courage of all the individuals on the tree maps and also talked about others throughout the week. These readings inspired a great deal of conversation filled with compassion and respect. We talk daily about everyone, "taking learning risks" which takes a great deal of courage. I try to acknowledge throughout the day and week how much I appreciate all the courage it takes for them to communicate in a different format and how they even are collaborating as a group, even though we are not all in one place. It takes courage to do this. We have all stepped out of our comfort zone and I am very proud of them. *Elaine, ELA*

## All School News

### Curriculum Review

After a curriculum review, our new ELA and math curriculum can be found [here](#). Once the history and science review is complete, we will post it here as well.

### High School Yearbook

Order your yearbook today! [JostensYearbooks.com](https://www.jostensyearbooks.com)

**Remote HS Parents:** Please email any pictures of your student from this school year for the high school yearbook!  
[jdibenedetto@learningprep.org](mailto:jdibenedetto@learningprep.org)

### Travel Reminder

A reminder for February break:

According to the Massachusetts travel guidelines, anyone traveling outside of Massachusetts must follow a 10-day quarantine and continue to monitor for full 14 days once they return to the state.

Alternatively, you could obtain a test using the non-rapid, PCR COVID test done no earlier than 72 hours upon return to MA. Please note that our LPS policy is slightly different from the general Massachusetts travel guidelines in this regard.

Additionally, please keep the school informed of any illnesses, symptoms, or travel so that we can work with you to keep our community safe. Any questions can be directed to the school nurse, **Nancy**

## Blue/Green every Friday!

Starting **Friday, March 5th** and every first Friday of the month for the rest of the year we are going to have green shirt vs blue shirt day!

We want as many students & staff to participate as possible!

There is a lot of new members to the LPS family this year, so if your not sure what team you are on, if you need a shirt or if you just need a new one, let Gretchen Petersen know as soon as possible with the size you need.

## Free Speaker Series event

The Homework Battle: Understanding the breakdown and supporting your child's independence

By: Heather Ahern & Phil Newman, Next Step Academics

Event via Zoom

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**6:00 - 7:15 PM**

Children with complex learning profiles often struggle with independent work, and homework can be where that struggle is the most obvious. During independent work like homework, social-emotional needs can impact students' academic skill level. What students have done in class, cannot always be done independently. This creates avoidant behavior, frustration, and even anger. For others it means what takes 10 minutes at school can take an hour at night... with constant check-ins from parents. It can seem impossible for parents and educators to identify the barriers to success when they see it happening. During remote learning, these challenges are amplified. Everything can seem like homework.

We will present on the underlying causes of the daily homework struggle that can result in conflict and heartache. We will share our philosophy and model for helping students develop the skills and metacognition necessary to become successful independent learners. At the end of this presentation, you will better understand the emotional and academic barriers students face when approaching homework as well as some strategies to help students become successful independent learners.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

## 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!

Tuesday, 2/23 - 12:30 PM

Thursday, 3/4 - 8:30 AM

Wednesday, 3/10 - 10:00 AM

RSVPs can be sent to **Korina Martin**,



### 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!

[SHOP NOW](#) and enter code PLAY10 at checkout for 10% OFF!

Thank you to our sponsors!

