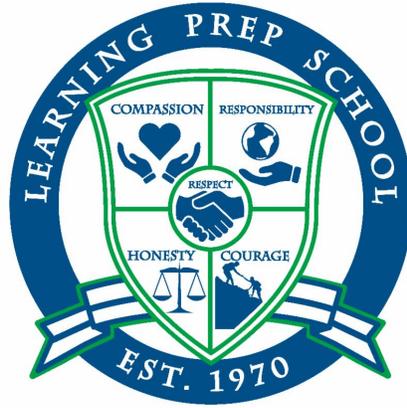


October 10, 2020



Family Newsletter



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

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 12: No School

Monday, October 12: Letter of Interest due for Partners In Education (PIE) Executive Committee Elections

Tuesday, October 13-16: Spirit Week (details below)

Tuesday, October 20: Parent Advisory Group Meeting, 8:00 AM

Thursday, October 22: Virtual Curriculum Night, 6-7:30 PM (details TBA)

Friday, October 23: Early Dismissal, 11:00 AM

Wednesday, October 28: Grandfriends Day, 10:00 AM (details TBA)

Wednesday, November 11: No School, Veteran's Day

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

A note from Kurt

Firstly -- happy 3-day-weekend! Thursday was our one month in-person anniversary. We're doing it! We are so incredibly thankful to our hard-working staff, and amazing community of families to make it all happen for our students.

You may remember about two weeks ago, staff and parents completed separate surveys about our current cohort model. We assembled a committee of 12 faculty and staff, and have since met twice. We received a great deal of feedback and some good ideas out of these meetings. As I have said before, I believe that if we can safely improve the educational experience for our students we must. I have mentioned slight cohort enlargement and reducing class size previously as examples of things we are considering. That said, we have not come to any concrete decisions yet, and we will be checking in with members of the committee next week to go over some final thoughts and ideas. I know I have said this a few times, but I do want you to know that we continue to work on program improvements and we will keep you informed as soon as we have more information.

On a health and safety note, I want to share that starting next week our maintenance crew will be disinfecting the buildings every 45 minutes instead of every hour. This will be a 30% increase in cleaning frequency over the course of the day. Our Covid Response Committee meets every morning, and we review the state of Massachusetts infection rate, check the health status of our own population, look at neighboring towns and schools, consider guidance from DESE, maaps, and the Newton Board of Health, and go over protocols about our responses if we would find that we have a positive case in the community. As a reminder, if there were a member of our community who tested positive, the entire school would shut down and be remote for 5 consecutive days to disinfect and do contract tracing. Any cohorts or close contacts would remain out of school for two weeks. Other groups may return after 5 days if we are given clearance by the board of health. We all know winter is coming. I am thrilled that we have been in-person as long as we have. We need to find ways to stay warm safely if we want to stay in-person and our team will be working to consider all options.

I will end here with a happy staffing note- I am very happy to welcome back Rachel Silva to our community next week continuing her role as Reading Specialist and to welcome Paul Ryan as a new member of the facilities team. Welcome back Rachel, and welcome aboard Paul!

Enjoy your long weekend,
Kurt

Kurt Moellering, PhD
Executive Director

****Check out the new Newsletter Format****
Sections for All School, Middle School and High School
to help you navigate to the announcements most relevant to you!

All School News

General announcements:

Calendar

The Family Calendar that details events and important dates is now available on the website. [You can check it out here.](#)

Daily attestations

Just a friendly reminder to please be sure to fill out the daily forms by 7:00 am each day.

Lunch Menu

To see what's coming up on the menu, [click here!](#)

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is back! While the Fair will be exclusively held online this year, we still plan on making it a fun and joyous experience for our kids.

The Online Fair will include features like: games for kids, virtual store walk-throughs and more. Remember, every dollar you spend will benefit

our school directly (25% back in rewards!).

Save these dates and view our school's Fair site:

Fair Dates: **Monday, October 26 - Sunday, November 8**

Online Store Link : [Learning Prep On-Line Book Fair](#)

We can't wait to "see" you at the Fair!

Marla Jacobs (mjacobs@learningprep.org)

Student Council Spirit Week!

LPS "PANTHER PRIDE" - 'SPIRIT WEEK' will take place next week followed by more news on the start of Student Council Elections & Events!

Let's ALL show school spirit, Panther Pride & let's have some fun!

Tuesday, Oct 13: Superhero Day - wear your favorite Superhero shirt or dress-up

Wednesday, Oct 14: Pajama Day - wear your pajamas to school !

Thursday, Oct 15: Wacky Outfit Day - wear mix-matched clothes, crazy accessories, dress to be different!

Friday, Oct 16: Blue/Green Day or LPS Gear Day - Wear your Green & Blue shorts or any LPS gear. The team with the most shirts will win a homework pass!

Please remember school rules, be appropriate, wear your masks, & be safe! Any questions, please check with your counselor, staff in your cohort, principal or Susan Smith Powers.

See everyone in their school spirit next week!

Grandfriends Day

As the fall air begins to chill, LPS prepares for our Annual LPS Grand Friends Day, which will be **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:00 am**. This year our event will be held virtually on ZOOM due to COVID-19.

This day is set aside each fall to honor our grandparents and grandfriends who positively impact our students' lives. If you register for the event, LPS will send you a ZOOM link the day before the event.



Our new Head of School, Kurt Moellering, will welcome our guests, and they will have the opportunity to hear from Kurt and other LPS administrators to see what's new at LPS. This school year has been a memorable one for obvious reasons. We are so proud of our entire community for coming together to make this school year possible. We look forward to sharing some of our stories and thoughts with you so you can see some of the fantastic things happening on campus this fall. Guests will also get to watch a recently produced video about LPS and our community and enjoy a slideshow with images from the fall semester.

For questions about this event, contact **Alex Magay**, Director of Development at amagay@learningprep.org.

Link to register for Grandfriends Day:

<https://learningprepschool.wildapricot.org/sys/website/system-pages/?pageId=1075141>

And if your Grandfriend needs help with Zoom...

Here is a link to a 1 minute YouTube video explaining how to create a ZOOM account that could be helpful to Grandparents that need to set one up:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y_puMRsjTQ

STAR 360 Testing

Learning Prep School utilizes the Star 360 Assessment in combination with student work to assess student achievement in the areas of Reading and Math. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to administer this test in the spring of the 2019-2020 school year, however, administration of the Star 360 Assessment will begin next week. Students will participate during their English and Math classes. Our testing window is from October 13th through October 23rd to allow teachers the ability to choose a day within that time period that best suits their class schedule.

To learn more about the test and how it will be administered, [click here](#).

How to get involved

This week we held our first Partner's in Education (P.I.E.) Meeting in conjunction with a Parent Connect. If you were unable to attend, you can find the meeting's minutes on our website [here](#).

There are numerous ways for parents to get involved here at LPS. Partners In Education (PIE) and the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) are parent groups which each meet every other month and welcome your involvement. Below are descriptions and meeting times for each:

Partners In Education (PIE) is an association that includes parents and staff of Learning Prep School. The day your child joins Learning Prep School, and/or the day that you became a member of the school staff, you become a member of Partners In Education (PIE) at LPS. The rationale for The Partners In Education (PIE) organization is to provide support for the students and teachers by providing a range of activities and events each year designed to bring the various constituencies of the school together to advance and to celebrate the LPS community. Meeting days and times the 2020-2021 school year:

November 19th – 8:00am to 9:00am
January 20th – 8:00am to 9:00am
March 25th – 8:00am to 9:00am
May 19th – 8:00am to 9:00am

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meetings are designed to focus on the state of the school and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the salient and timely focus points of the school, including the health, education, and safety of our students. Meeting days and times the 2020-2021 school year:

October 20th – 8:00am to 9:00am
December 9th – 8:00am to 9:00am
February 23rd – 8:00am to 9:00am
April 29th – 8:00am to 9:00am

Letters of Interest Due Monday!

The Partners In Education (PIE) Committee will be holding Executive Committee Elections.

If you are interested in running, a letter of interest is due this ***Monday, October 12.***

Learn more about the [election process here](#) and check out the [election timeline here](#).

West Nile Virus

Newton's Health & Human Services Department recently announced that Newton is a high risk area for the West Nile Virus. While we are monitoring having students outside very early in the morning (peak mosquito time) you may want to send your child in with repellent or apply repellent themselves in the morning prior to coming to school. The Newton HHS Department advises to use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. They also advise that wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Flu vaccine mandate

Nancy Ishkanian, School Nurse

The flu vaccine is now required for all children attending Massachusetts schools ages 6 months and up. The deadline to receive the vaccine is 12/31/2020. This new requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic. If not

already included in your child's immunization records already submitted, please submit your child's proof of vaccination to the school nurses via fax (Fax: 617-527-1514), email (nishkanian@learningprep.org) or provide us with a hard copy. Thank you!



An easy way to raise money for LPS!

Two-thirds of Americans purchase items on Amazon, do you? If yes, please consider using AmazonSmile for future online shopping. AmazonSmile is a separate website operated by Amazon that has the same products and prices as their regular website. The only difference is when you purchase on AmazonSmile .5% of your purchase goes to your favorite nonprofit of choice. That may not seem like much, but it can add up over time when an entire community like Learning Prep School takes advantage of the offer.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), go to Account, Other Programs, and Change Your AmazonSmile Charity to "Little People's School" (LPS's legal name) to sign up!

Family Directory

The Family Directory is available by student grade, student last name, and by town. As indicated in the "Information to Review" in your Annual Registration Paperwork, all families are included in the Family Directory unless otherwise specified. If you would like to be removed from the Family Directory, please contact Admissions.

To access the LPS Family Directory:

1. Login with your email address and self-created password to your Parent Portal account [Here](#).
2. Under the "Optional" checklist items, you will see the Family Directory with a link that will open a PDF that you can print or download.

Updated versions are made to the Family Directory quarterly. Continue to use the same link on your Parent Portal account as it will always bring you to the most updated version.

Middle School News

Middle School Yearbook

The Middle School intends to publish a yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. Given the variety of learning environments this year, the yearbook committee would love students to send photos from home. Please email Emily at edaddario@learningprep.org with photos at any time! In addition to sending photos, we would love to hear one thing each student is looking forward to about their school year. Please email edaddario@learningprep.org with something you're excited about! Thank you for helping to create memories and make the yearbook special!

Stay tuned for more information coming on the High School Yearbook.

Daily Goal Sheets

Daily Goals sheets are coming back starting next week! This past week in counseling your child's counselor explained goal sheets and the purpose they serve. Each student will have one goal which they will work on while in school live. Daily goals sheets are meant to be a means of communication to the student, parent and counselor as to how the student is doing in each class. Students will bring these home each day for parent/guardian review and bring them back to school signed the next morning. Daily Goal sheets are not meant to be a means for consequences. If parents/guardians have concerns about patterns they are observing on the goal sheet or have questions, please reach out to your student's assigned counselor for clarification and problem solving when necessary. Thanks for partnering with us!

Good Citizen Slips

Also restarting on Tuesday of next week, will be "Good Citizen Slips". Students can earn a Good Citizen Slip for just about anything...being a ready learner, asking great questions, being respectful and kind, great participation, advocating for themselves... Keep an eye out for these colorful slips that let your student know all the great things they are doing. We will have raffle assemblies every few weeks to pull names and students can pick a contactless prize. Staff will be able to give Good Citizen Slips for remote students as well and they will also be added to the raffle.

R.A.P.P. Grades

R.A.P.P. grades will also be starting next week in academic classes. If you are not familiar, R.A.P.P. stands for (Responsibility, Attitude, Participation & Progress). This is weekly feedback that academic staff will be completing at the end of each week. The R.A.P.P. grades will be electronic this year, via Google Docs. Counselors will be sharing your student's R.A.P.P. grade Google folder with you for you to review. They will also be reviewing weekly R.A.P.P. grades with their students in counseling to applaud successes and problem solve challenges. Feel free to regularly check your student's R.A.P.P. grades. We are shooting for teachers to complete these on Friday or as late as Monday for the previous week - this new format is a learning curve for us. Please reach out to your student's counselor with questions.

Note for 5th & 6th Grades only

Starting on Tuesday we will be disabling the students' ability to email. This will not affect anything with their google classrooms or other google functionality. Students can chat questions in the zoom or send a message via Google Classroom to their teachers. We will be teaching 5th and 6th graders the appropriate way to email as well as how to manage an email account over the course of this year.

High School News

High School Book Club

The High School is starting a Book Club for any students in grades 9-12 who would like to participate! Our goal is to meet once every three weeks during an Enrichment period. We would discuss a book that we had each individually read or listened to over the last 3 weeks. The LPS Book Club will be led by Michelle Cuddy and Leah Manzella. Michelle and Leah will choose a book, with student input. Students will independently read the book over the 3 weeks between Book Club meetings.

The goal of the LPS Book Club is to:

- Encourage reading/listening to books. This can improve students' academic performance (improved comprehension, vocabulary, inferencing, etc.).
- Help expand a student's world view.
- Help develop social skills, like empathy and perspective-taking.
- Develop social skills in context (i.e., being a member of a group, turn-taking during conversation, respecting other people's opinions, etc.).
- Have fun!

For more information on how the Book Club will run and how to get involved, [click here](#). Deadline to sign up is **Thursday October 15**.

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



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!

like Learning Prep for their child, please encourage them to attend one of our weekly, Virtual Information Sessions!

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

Wednesday, 10/14

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

Thank you to our sponsors!

