Family Newsletter

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

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

**Monday, September 28:** No School, Yom Kippur

**Tuesday, September 29 - Wednesday, September 30:** School pictures (outdoors, with options for remote students, details TBA)

**Thursday, October 1:** PIE Meeting & Parent Connect, 8:30 AM (details below)

To see the full School Year Calendar, click here

A note from Kurt

Wrapping up our first full week
Kurt Moellering, PhD, Executive Director

Each day I open the paper or listen to the news, I hear of another school beginning remotely or shutting
down before students even arrive. I feel so fortunate that students who have chosen to are here with us in-person. And for those at home, I am glad that they are able to receive their full schedule of their classes. Every day with our students is a good day. There have certainly been some challenges, and many remain. Technology and staffing have been issues that we continue to work through, and these challenges have affected some cohorts more than others. But we love having the kids back, and we appreciate your patience with us as we address all these details. We will be sending another survey out soon -- early next week -- just to see how the year has started for you, whether you are in person or remote. I look forward to hearing from you.

One final announcement: Next week we will also be asking all families to fill out a daily health screening before sending your student to school. Watch for directions early in the week.

Enjoy the beautiful weekend,
Kurt

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Principal's Update

**Jen Thorell, High School Principal:**

Our first full week is officially in the books! It has been a long week for all of us and I am sure that the students are exhausted getting back into the full-school routine. Hopefully you and they can take this beautiful fall-feeling weekend to rest and refresh!

I want to commend your children. They have demonstrated such amazing citizenship skills this week. They have had compassion for each other and their teachers as we navigate a new way of doing things; Courage in embarking in the unknown and unfamiliar that has defined this new school year; Responsibility in doing their work and trying their best; Honesty when needing support or when things are going really well; and respect for the rules and new procedures. It truly has been a testament to the great children they are!

I also want to thank you for all of your patience during this time as we work through this process. You have been patient with our amazing staff who are, in some ways, re-learning how to teach in a new way. The students have been so patient with technology and other hurdles and they have learned that from you all! Thank you.

Be well, be safe, and enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,
Jen

**Amy Davis, Middle School Principal:**

We did it! First full week and we have had many small wins. As I am sitting here right now I can hear some MS students outside my window who are outside during enrichment laughing and doing a socially distanced movement activity. I didn’t even get up to go to the window..I just paused and sat and listened to the laughter. It was FANTASTIC! Students and staff are adapting (they really are sponges) and you can see how happy everyone is to be back.

This week, the cohorts each did a team building event which gave students and staff the opportunity to build relationships within their cohort, get to know each other better and help to develop a safe (and fun) learning environment. A team name was chosen and a fantastic bulletin board was created - be sure to ask your student about it! I’ve seen all the boards and It is going to be hard to judge a winner! A couple of updates:

Thank you again (you can never “thank” enough) for all of your patience as we work through this process. You have been patient with our amazing staff who are, in some ways, re-learning how to teach in a new way. The students have been so patient with technology and other hurdles and they have learned that from you all! Thank you.

Be sure to enjoy this weekend! It is supposed to be gorgeous!!! Stay safe and healthy,

Fondly,
Amy

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**General Announcements:**

**Headsets**

Please make sure the headsets are coming in everyday. We do not have

**Water bottles**

Just a friendly reminder that we encourage all students to bring a water

**Remote learners**

If your remote learner is having an issue with Zoom links, please reach
extras with microphones, only disposable earbuds.

bottle with them to school each day.

dress out your principal or your child’s counselor.

Charged Chromebooks

Please remind your student to charge their Chromebook every night. Although students have the chargers with them at school, they do not all have desks near an outlet. This should be their homework every night.

LPS device use

The LPS issued chromebook is for use at school and at home in order to complete homework (which is on hold at the moment till things settle). We ask that if students want to Zoom or socialize they do not use the LPS chromebook but instead use their own device or phone.

Dress for success

Please note that students will be outside very frequently and our windows will be open well into the winter, so students should dress appropriately in layers to remain comfortable.

Lunch Menu

To see what’s coming up on the menu, click here!

Partners in Education (P.I.E.) & Parent Connect

Partners In Education is an association that includes parents and staff of LPS. The aim is to promote and enhance the character, culture, and values of the educational program offered at LPS, and to forge a unified, vibrant, caring community of support for Learning Prep School.

On Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 8:30 AM we will be hosting a Zoom event as a means of connecting families to one another and to discuss opportunities to serve on the PIE Committee. Agenda will be as follows:

1. Welcome & State of the school
2. Explanation of PIE and PAG Committees
3. Introduction of PIE Executive Committee
4. Explanation and timeline of PIE elections
5. Breakout rooms for Middle School and High School families to meet

To RSVP, please contact Korina Martin at kmartin@learningprep.org. See you there!

Middle School Technology Training

Some or all of this technology is all new to the Middle School students. With this in mind some of our amazing staff have created mini video tutorials for the students to help to learn/practice skills with google, gmail, calendar, classroom, and MORE. The students started to watch some of the videos and practice this week. Each group is moving at their own pace. All of these videos have been assigned to students in their Google Classroom entitled “Tech Tips.” If you are a remote student OR if you are someone who really wants to learn more or review with your student, feel free to pop some popcorn and watch some tech videos at home.

Team Building Update

Students had a great time finishing up their team bulletin boards this week! Teams were so into this activity that we needed to give an extra day of enrichment to finish up. We have some great team names such as: Red Pandas (Gr. 10), Silver Surfers (Gr. 12), Tie Dye Tigers (Gr. 11), Black and White Checkers (Gr. 9) and so many more. Teams were so creative and used construction paper, art supplies and even Dunkin’ Donuts cups to decorate! We saw lots of LPS spirit with many students wearing their blue/green t-shirts. Staff and students had fun creating their bulletin boards. Some teams even made their own cheers! Gooooo team LPS!

We will be recognizing teams with the most creative bulletin board, the most team spirit, most creative cheer/dance as well as the team with the most participation.
Announcements to be made by the end of this week - stay tuned!

Parent Pick-up & Drop-off Procedures

General Notes

- First, thank you for your patience with us while we are trying to get the dismissal right for parents!
- **You no longer need to send a text to notify of your arrival!**
- If someone other than the parent/guardian or designated driver will be picking up a student, an email must be sent to either Dawn or Clara (see contact info below) with the pick-up person’s phone number
- No visitors will be allowed in the buildings to use the facilities.

**Drop off:** Students will not be allowed on campus before 7:30am

**Pick Up Procedures:**

- End of day pick up
  - HS parents will line up behind the high school, next to the yellow house
  - MS parents will line up behind the high school, facing Washington street
  - Students will be called down, exit through their building and proceed to their parent’s car
- Early dismissal
  - Parents must inform the appropriate staff ahead of time if a student is to be dismissed
High School students: Dawn at transportation@learningprep.org
Middle School Students: Clara at ccaruso@learningprep.org
- When the parent arrives, call the appropriate staff that you have arrived:
  - High School students: Dawn Hurley at 617-965-0764 ext. 0
  - Middle School Students: Clara Caruso at 617-965-0764 ext. 411
- Parents/guardians should park in a Visitor’s Spot by the greenhouse in front of the white tent, in the main high school lot, and remain in their car.
- Students will be called from their class, exit their building and proceed to their parent’s car.

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**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!

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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](http://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!

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**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.

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**Admissions Virtual Information Sessions**

The best way to grow our wonderful school is by showing your interest in our admissions. These sessions are open to all families and help provide a deeper understanding of Learning Prep School. Join us in person or virtually to learn more about our school community and what it means to be a Panther.

**Show your school spirit!**

Here’s a great way to show your Panther pride! Wear your LPS gear at home, at school, or out and proud. Let your school spirit show for all to see!
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!

Wednesday, 9/23 - 12:00 PM
Thursday, 10/1 - 8:30 AM

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

Pride! Check out the School Store to buy shirts, jackets, hoodies, hats AND MASKS!

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