

September 25, 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, September 28: No School, Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 29: School pictures, High School

Wednesday, September 30: School pictures, Middle School

Wednesday, September 30: School pictures, Remote Students 3:00-5:00 PM (Reservation required)

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

Tuesday, October 6: Rain date for School Pictures

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

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

A note from Kurt

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of our 3rd week. It has only been 12 academic days of school, and only 8 full days! But in many ways, it feels like we are deep into the year. But on the other hand, everything is so new for everyone -- new systems, new protocols, new tents! I cannot adequately express to you how well your kids are doing and how appreciative I am for our relentlessly dedicated faculty. Because of the newness of all of this, we are continuing to improve everything as we go. We have lived our in-person model for a few days now and we are learning what we need to address in these new systems. Of course, we keep working on solutions to any technology issues that arise because our students rely so much on this part of the program for their success. Simultaneously, we are working to ensure that our in-person students get the breaks and instruction they need. We have found that too many of them have their headphones on and are interacting with a screen for too much of their day. Of course, we expected this to an extent. We knew that a heavy dose of technology would be a great help this year. But we are also asking ourselves, how much is too much? We are investigating any tweaks we could make to improve this aspect of the program. Although we love what is happening, we always want to get better. Along these lines, I must say how much I appreciate the feedback you gave us in our survey. We learned quite a bit from both our in-person and our remote families. Thank you!

Just last week, I sadly wrote to you about needing to hire a new PE teacher. I am happy to say that we have just hired Peter Scafidi to replace Alyson Humphreys. We are thrilled to welcome Peter to Learning Prep and know he is going to make a great member of our team. Our students will love his energy and enthusiasm. I'll let him introduce himself in his own words:

"My name is Peter Scafidi, I am the new Physical Education teacher here at LPS. I am one of 8 children and a lifelong resident of Waltham. In addition to being a teacher I have also coached baseball and basketball for many years. I am a baseball umpire as well. I knew from a very early age I wanted to be a teacher. I have taught at all grade levels over the past 40 years and I am very excited to share my passion and love of Physical Education with all of my new students at LPS."

Enjoy the beautiful weekend,
Kurt

Kurt Moellering, PhD
Executive Director

Principal's Update

Jen Thorell, High School Principal:

It is hard to believe that we are finishing up another week and staring down the arrival of October. Somehow I missed the first day of Fall! I imagine that some of you feel the same way, that time is flying by and we are running to catch up now that there is more of a routine to our lives with the start of school.

Anyways, not much of an update this week other than being happy that our new tents (a total of four) are being set up as I type this, which will offer more outdoor space for our students during the day. We are settling into our routine more and more each day and the best part is still that we are able to see those smiling eyes getting off the vans in the morning!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and g'mar tov to those who observe Yom Kippur.

Sincerely,
Jen

Amy Davis, Middle School Principal:

WE ARE GETTING THE HANG OF THIS! For as many things as we problem solve, when I get an email from a teacher with this: "TODAY WAS A TOTAL WIN!!! Every class worked and I felt really good with my teaching today," I know we are doing the right thing. Thank you for entrusting your students with us, either in person or remote. I know people have heard me say it before but it is an honor to be a part of something that makes such a difference in student lives.

We have been in school for 14 school days, I can't quite decide if that feels like a lot of days or only a few days. What I do know is that the way things look and feel now/today is different than it felt 7 days ago, and even more different than 14 days ago. This is a work in progress and I compliment the students, families and teachers on their flexibility.

Hope you have a fantastic weekend and can go out and do something that brings you joy. To all that celebrate, wishing you Shana Tova.

Fondly,
Amy

General Announcements:

Student Phones Off During Day

Headsets

Starting next week, teachers will be asking students to power off their cell phones upon arriving to school. This will greatly help Wifi connectivity for classes. If a student needs to be in touch with a parent, we will be happy to assist them.

Please make sure the headsets are coming in everyday. We do not have extras with microphones, only disposable earbuds.

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.

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.

Daily Attestations

Please be sure to fill out the daily forms by 7:00 am each day. A few reminders: Please be sure to fill it out LAST NAME then FIRST NAME. Also be sure to fill out the form using your student's name and not yours. Thank you!

Lunch Menu

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

Remote Learners

If you have a remote learner we are asking that you help them be set up to be a ready learner with a work space (with a table and a chair, versus lying in bed). Also, the best way for teachers to check for comprehension, monitor progress, and know when students are paying attention is for students to have their video on. We ask that you help your student put all other distractions aside (phone, food, toys, etc.) during the zooms. We encourage all students to stand up and stretch when needed, and communicate with teachers via chat if they need to leave the room for something. We also encourage remote learners to eat snacks and lunch during the times that in school learners are eating as it is distracting to them and others when eating remotely during class.

If you are having trouble with Zoom links please contact your building principal.

Lastly, many remote parents have asked, so here is the bell/class schedule!...

Middle School Bell Schedule:

1st period: 7:50-8:33
2nd period: 8:35-9:18
3rd period: 9:20-10:03
4th period: 10:05-10:48
5th period: 10:50-11:33
6th period: 11:35-12:05 (Lunch)
7th period: 12:07-12:50
8th period: 12:52-1:35
9th period: 1:37-2:20

High School Bell Schedule:

1st period: 7:50-8:33
2nd period: 8:35-9:18
3rd period: 9:20-10:03
4th period: 10:05-10:48
5th period: 10:50-11:33
6th period: 11:35-12:18
7th period: 12:20-12:50 (Lunch)
8th period: 12:52-1:35
9th period: 1:37-2:20

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 is also advise that wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

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.

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 Activity Results!

We wanted to acknowledge all of the hard work and great LPS spirit that went into the team building activity last week. Jen, Amy and Susan were amazed at all of the creative bulletin boards and reports of you all working together so well. Here are the results:

The **Blue Team** won with the most T-shirts (only by 2!).

Best Cheer: Shrek and the Green Apples (Gr. 8-1)

Most Creative Bulletin Board: Tie between The Dunkins (Gr. 8-2) and Cohort 5 Hive (Gr. 5)

Best LPS Spirit: Purple Pandas (Gr. 7-2)- All of the remote students sent in pictures PLUS one decorated his wall with his team name and lights!

Best Group Participation: Tie Dye Tigers (Gr. 11-2)

Parent Pick-up & Drop-off Procedures

To review the this year's policies, [please visit our website](#) under the page School Documents.

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!



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.



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



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

weekly, Virtual Information Sessions!

checkout for 10% OFF!

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

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

Thank you to our sponsors!

