

December Newsletter

The monthly newsletter that celebrates our community.



Important Dates

Thursday, December 15: Parent Advisory Group (PAG), 9:00-10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Friday, December 16: Winter Fair

Friday, December 23: Early Release - Start of December Vacation, 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 3: School Reopens

Friday, January 6: Blue/Green Spirit Day

Monday, January 9: After School Program Winter Session Begins

Thursday, January 12: All-School Bake Sale

Friday, January 13: Early Release - Report Writing, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 16: NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

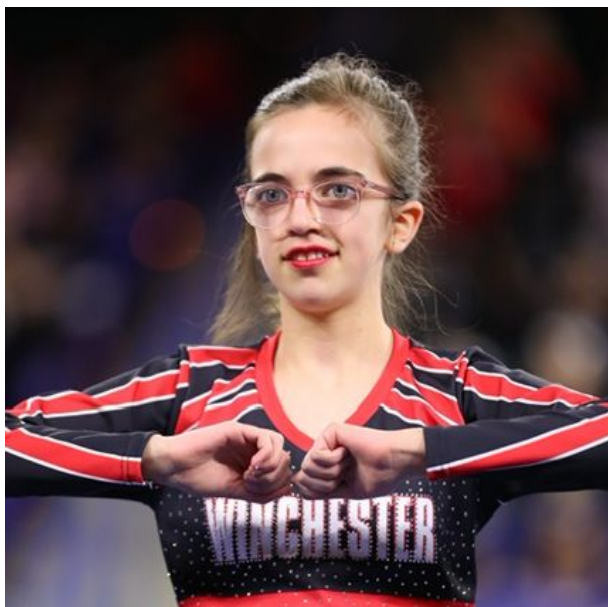
Thursday, January 19: Partners in Education (PIE), 9:00-10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Friday, January 20: End of Term 2

Monthly Features

** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT **

Emmy Cawthorne: Grade 7



Emmerson "Emmy" Cawthorne is a 13 year old 7th grader at Learning Prep. Emmy joined our school community in August 2021 and travels from her hometown of Winchester to West Newton every day. Emmy is very friendly and creative and she loves baking.

Emmy has a variety of extracurricular activities that she pursues outside of school. In addition to participating in LPS drama last year, she acted in plays as a student in Winchester elementary school, including *Giants in the Sky* and *Horton Hears a Who*. She is currently in a community program called Spotlight where she will be in an upcoming performance of *Annie*. Emmy is also an ice skater and a cheerleader! In addition to cheering her brothers on at their weekend hockey games, she was part of a cheerleading squad for the Winchester/Woburn Pop Warner Football team.

[Read More](#)

** STAFF SPOTLIGHT **

Gail Hamm

Horticulture Teacher

** LEADERSHIP BLOG **

Development Updates

By: Kerri Cullen, Director of Annual Fund and Special Events



I recently had the opportunity to meet with several of Learning Prep's alumni at a fun trivia night out in Newton. This was our first in-person alumni event since before COVID and it was so exciting for me to put faces to the names I had been emailing with for months. Some were recent graduates and some had graduated from LPS decades ago. I loved learning about their lives and each person I spoke to had the same thing to say about why they decided to come that night; they liked being in a room with people like them.

I reflect on that night now as we enter the holiday season. This time of year is marked by giving and generosity of spirit. It's a time when people give thanks for what they have and who they have in their lives. After the past few years of social distancing and isolation, I am thankful that we were able to gather together for a night of fun, celebrating the LPS alumni and all they have accomplished.

[Read More](#)

** PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT **

Mindful Minute

By: Susan Smith Powers, Dean of Students - Middle School



Where were you before you came to LPS?

I was a Horticultural Specialist at Seven Hills Foundation in Worcester for 8 years. In this role, I taught horticultural activities to adults with intellectual, sensory, and physical challenges. Prior to that employment, I taught Horticulture for 20 years to students in public schools.

What made you want to be a teacher?

The summer after my senior year of high school, I taught vegetable gardening to young children at Camp Middlesex, in Ashby, MA. This was a positive experience and I shared this with my former high school horticulture teachers. After I graduated from college, the high school horticulture program that I had attended was being phased out. One teacher retired, so my first year of teaching was with my other former horticulture teacher. The next year, he retired and I taught the last class of horticulture students at Assabet Valley Regional Technical H.S. by myself. This is how I got started in teaching.

[Read More](#)



In September, we reintroduced our Mindful Minute (MM) strategies to all our classrooms after it had been put on hold due to COVID. A

Mindful Minute Area is a place in each classroom where students can take a few minutes (2-5 minutes) to assist them with being ready learners in the classroom without the need to leave the teaching space. Each teaching space has: a motivational stress ball, a glitter bottle, and a MM area packet.

The MM packet is divided into 3 areas: breathing exercises, movement exercises and positive thoughts. All of our students were introduced to and taught the MM strategies in their health classes in early September. Our mindful minute area helps students who are a little tired, bored, stressed/anxious or struggling with transitioning into class (such as from lunch/recess). In addition, it also helps students who would benefit from movement.

[Read More](#)

Announcements & Reminders

[Click here for the weekly lunch menu](#)

Annual Student Winter Fair

LPS is excited to announce our Annual Student Winter Fair will be held during the school day on Friday, December 16th! **In order to make this a successful event, we are collecting donations** - please see the attached flyer for more details.

The Winter Fair is an event held in the gym for where students have the opportunity to play games and/or purchase items for themselves or family members for the holidays. The donated items will be sold at a large white elephant table for students to buy, with prices ranging from \$0.50 to \$3.00.

Time for Coats!

The days are getting colder and students will be going outside for fresh air during recess if it is not raining and the recess area is clear of snow. Please make sure your student brings a coat to school. Students need coats for walking to PE as well as recess. If they are warm, they can take it off. Unfortunately, there is no option for a few students to stay inside when the group is going out.

Thank you for reminding your student to bring a coat to school every day.

Partners in Education Meeting - Thursday, January 19

Please join us for our next Partners In Education (PIE) meeting on Thursday, January 19 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

The day your child joins Learning Prep School, or the day that you became a member of the school staff, you become a member of PIE at LPS. PIE is an association that includes parents and staff of Learning Prep School.

PIE provides support for students, families, 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. Fundraising is a significant part of PIE activities. With the funds raised through these activities, PIE supports various school initiatives to foster fun and a sense of community.

Participating and volunteering in PIE activities is a great way to make new friends, share experiences, and learn more about the extended school community. Keep an eye on the school calendar and Family Newsletter for upcoming meetings and events!

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81148299301>

[Click here for notes](#) from the last PIE meeting

Snack Bar Now Open

The OT department recently opened the student-run Snack Bar! Students can buy snacks once a week during their regular lunch period for \$0.75. Limit of 2 snacks per student. Snacks are made by OT/Work Center students.

All proceeds benefit students' job and life skills development. All snacks are nut-free. Current available snacks include: trail mix, granola bars, muddy buddies, cookies, chocolate covered pretzels, and mini muffins.

Any questions, please reach out to Mandy Nardone atanardone@learningprep.org

2022-2023 Calendar

The [2022-2023 School Year Calendar](#) is now available (updated 5/12/22)

Get Involved

The next Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meeting is: **Thursday, December 15 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

Family Directory

Is available via [DIRECTORYSPOT](#). To access:

To join, [click here for the zoom link](#) or go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83315988150>

Please [click here](#) for the minutes from the last PAG meeting.

Download [DirectorySpot](#) from the app store.

Enter your email address as the username.

Click RESET PASSWORD

Know someone who would benefit from LPS?

If you know someone who may be looking for a place like LPS, please encourage them to attend one of our weekly, Virtual Information Sessions - encourage them to reach out to [Pat Pingeton!](#)

School Store

Show off your Panther Pride over the summer by shopping at our [school store!](#)



Parent Facebook Group

Join our private Facebook group just parents and guardians called: *LPS Panther Parents & Families Group.*

Click this link to join!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/803852983897093>

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