

January Newsletter

The monthly newsletter that celebrates our community.



Important Dates

Thursday, January 12: All-School Bake Sale

Friday, January 13: Early Release - 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

Wednesday, January 25: Speaker Series - *Autism Diagnosis in the Context of Neuropsychological Evaluation: What to Expect from a Thorough Evaluation and Interpreting Results*, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. (virtual)

Wednesday-Friday, January 25-27: Mid Terms (High School)

Thursday, January 26: All-School Bake Sale

Friday, January 27: High School Spirit Day - Career Dress Up Day

Monday, February 6: NO SCHOOL - Parent Conferences (*more information to come!*)

Friday, February 10: All School Red Day

Thursday, February 16: Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting, 9:00-10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Monthly Features

** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT **

Tessa Brauer, 8th Grade



Tesfanesh "Tessa" Brauer is a 14 year old 8th grader at Learning Prep. Tessa joined our school community in August of 2019 and travels from her hometown of Holliston to West Newton every day.

Tessa is not simply a wonderful student, she also has a deep love for and talent in the performing arts. Tessa is a multi-talented performer: she has participated in the LPS Drama Club, takes singing lessons, and has been taking dance lessons since the age of 6.

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** STAFF SPOTLIGHT **

Kelley Foley
Childcare Director

** LEADERSHIP BLOG **

Psychological Safety at Learning Prep
By: Pat Pingeton, Admissions



Hello Learning Prep Community - for those who have not yet met me, I'm Pat Pingeton. Since September, I've been filling in for Korina Martin, our stellar Director of Admissions, who welcomed a new child to her family in September. I arrived at Learning Prep after seven years of teaching English in a trauma-informed alternative high school in Amesbury. Last year, I completed a full-time Master's program at Harvard University in Educational Leadership, Organizations, and Entrepreneurship. As this is my last week in this role, I have found myself reflecting on what I will take away from this experience.

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** PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT **

Social Thinking at Leaning Prep
By: Meredith Sullivan, Katrina Keenan and
Alyssa Carle



Where were you before you came to LPS?

Before Learning Prep, I worked in Boston at an Insurance company for 13 years. Once I had my children, I wanted to be home with them, so I opened a small childcare program in my home. After about 3 years, I took the position at Learning Prep via a friend's recommendation. I quickly realized my passion for Early Education. The added benefit of working with H.S. students has made this a very rewarding career for me at LPS.

What is your favorite part of being an educator?

Every day is a new experience. Morning greetings and hugs from the children are always a wonderful way to start the day, but seeing a smile on a H.S. student's face when interacting with the children is priceless!

[Read More](#)



At the start of the 2022-2023 school year, LPS sent three staff members to the Boston Headquarters for a three-day intensive Social Thinking® Clinical Training Program. Alyssa Carle, Katrina Keenan and Meredith Sullivan all have experience implementing Social Thinking® concepts in their therapy areas, and this training allowed them to learn about the latest developments in the Social Thinking® Methodology and prepare them to share this new knowledge with LPS staff and students.

Social Thinking® is a set of evidence-based strategies that was developed by California-based Speech Language Pathologist Michelle Garcia Winner in the 1990s. Winner's approach to social skills instruction is centered on developing social competencies, flexible thinking, and social problem-solving

[Read More](#)

Announcements & Reminders

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

Speaker Series Coming up - Wednesday, January 25

Don't miss our next virtual speaker series event, coming up *Wednesday, January 25 from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.*, featuring Dr. Natalie Noonan:

Autism Diagnosis in the Context of Neuropsychological Evaluation: What to Expect from a Thorough Evaluation and Interpreting Results.

Children on the Autism spectrum often have complex neurodevelopmental profiles. This may include a wide range of strengths and weaknesses, as well as additional diagnoses such as ADHD or Learning Disabilities. A comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation is an important step in characterizing each child's unique neurodiversity so their environment is optimized for them, and intervention can be individualized. Neuropsychological reports can be long and

dense. In this talk you will learn what to expect and look for in a thorough neuropsychological evaluation when Autism is a component of the referral question and how to interpret the results from the report.

To register, [click here](#) or visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-isqDgsG9DAUfnwbIBzH8ko0dd1KOi8>

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

Upcoming MCAS Dates

MCAS testing is right around the corner! MCAS testing will occur during the following months:

February: Grade 9 Biology Retests

March: ELA and Math Retests, Grade 10 ELA

April: Grades 4-8 ELA and Grades 4-6 Math

May: Grade 7 & 8 Math, Grades 5 & 8 Science, Grade 10 Math

June: Grade 9 Biology

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, February 16 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89453990390>

Please click here for the minutes from the last PAG meeting.

Family Directory

Is available via DIRECTORYSPOT. To access:

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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