



Every month, we'll share a special edition of the regular Family Newsletter which will bring the regular announcements and updates, but adding fun features to get to know our school and community.

[illegible]

September's Features

Panther Profile

Every month we'll introduce you to one of our amazing Panthers.



Makayla B.
5th grade

Getting to know Makayla who is from Medfield and who joined our LPS community in January 2023.

What subject is your favorite and why?
Everything because I like to learn.

What do you like about LPS?
I love swinging on the swings at recess.

Do you have a favorite memory from LPS?
One time, me, Nadine and Jen K. watched Simon's Cats videos on Youtube.

Describe a friend or teacher who has been especially helpful or kind to you?
Everyone is kind!

Are there any talents or hobbies you're particularly proud of?
I go to Tumbling now every week and I'm learning how to do backflips!

Do you have a favorite animal or a pet at home? Tell us about them.
I have a dog, her name is Ellie and she is an Australian labradoodle. She is about medium sized and we adopted on Thanksgiving Day! She is very friendly, loves people. I help take care of her every day.

What is your favorite season or holiday, and why do you love it?
Christmas! I love it because my birthday is around the same time, and I have two other cousins whose birthdays are also in December so it's fun all being together. The best part of my birthday is making cake - I love strawberry cake with pink frosting. Last year I had a unicorn cake topper!

What is your favorite food or snack to eat?
Pizza crust.

How do you show kindness to others and make friends at school?
Let out your light for other people to see and always "hi" to people in the halls.

Staff Spotlight

Every month we'll get to know a member of our dedicated staff.

William Sheppard

High School ELA/Literature Teacher

Fast Facts:

- I teach 11th grade ELA and Literature.
- This is my 3rd year at LPS and my 29th year teaching.
- I live in Brookline. I'm originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania but I've lived in Massachusetts since 1989. I have a 22 year old daughter named Julia.

If your classroom had a theme song, what would it be, and why did you choose it?

Why So Serious by Alice Merton. I take education seriously, but with a good dose of laughter.

What's the most unusual or interesting item on your desk or in your classroom?

I have a plexiglass cube with a small silver airplane inside of it. It is over 20 years old: my wife used to be a corporate travel agent, and it was a random freebie at some luncheon. I have many students pick it up and I've had a couple put it on their desk. Random fun.

Do you have any quirky classroom traditions or inside jokes with your students?

It's not a tradition but I know wearing a tie 4 days a week and singing somewhat randomly in class is seen as at least mildly quirky. We joke about "phone jail" which was the name a student gave to it last year.

If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be, and how would you use it in the classroom?

[Read more...](#)



Featured Alum

Catching up with LPS graduates to see what they've been doing since graduation.

Cammie Matthews

Class of 2018

What did you do after graduating from Learning Prep?

I joined the ACCEPT Education Collaborative in Natick where they helped me with life skills (budgeting, meal planning and cooking, travel training, job skills). However, when COVID hit, I



graduated early to enroll at Lesley University Threshold Program. Even though that didn't end up happening, in 2020 I joined LifeSTART at my district in Dedham had for individuals ages 18-22. Since graduating from LifeSTART, I work two part-time jobs. Two days a week I'm at WORK, Inc. where I assist a staff member who is blind with his paperwork. I've been working there since early this year and I am also a client there where I join groups and work with a life skills coach. I also work one day a week at HomeGoods.

What is your favorite memory from your time at Learning Prep?

I loved the Halloween dances at the gym! I loved seeing everyone's costumes and dancing with my friends.

How did LPS prepare you for life after graduation?

LPS has helped me grow as a person, and I still keep in touch with my friends that I made through the years there. Yes, we still keep in touch! LPS is a very special school.

What are you up to in your free time? What do you like to do for fun?

With support from my parents, I live with a roommate I've been friends with for over 10 years now! I currently live in Newton for over two years now and I couldn't be any more proud of myself. My hobbies include photography, taking long walks, watching YouTube, movies and tv shows, listening to music, shopping, going out to eat, etc. I'm also involved with two organizations called The Common Room and WORK, Inc.

Fun Fact about yourself?

My birthday is on Valentine's Day.

Announcements

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

LEARNING PREP SCHOOL
AND PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (PIE)
INVITE YOU TO A

FAMILY FALL BBQ

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

12:00 - 2:00PM

AT LEARNING PREP SCHOOL
1507 WASHINGTON ST. NEWTON, MA

ALL LPS STUDENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES ARE INVITED!!
ENJOY TASTY FOOD,
AWESOME GAMES
& LOTS OF FUN!

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

PIE & PAG

Thanks to all who attended our first PIE Meeting last week! All parents and guardians of current LPS students are members of PIE (Partners in Education). PIE organizes non-school related events for students & families (amusements parks, family cookouts), co-sponsors fun in school events (speakers, field trips) and fundraises for LPS.

The PIE Executive Committee is made up of 5 parents and 5 LPS administrators. There are 2 parent vacancies on the PIE executive Committee. We are looking for 1 Middle School Parent and 1 Middle School or High School parent. Anyone interested in serving on the PIE Executive Committee should submit a short letter explaining interest to [Dawn Hurley](#) by **Friday, October 6.**

PIE (Partners in Education) meetings:

- 11/16/23 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 1/18/24 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 3/21/24 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 5/16/24 9-10 AM (virtual)

PAG (Parent Advisory Group) meetings:

- 10/19/23 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 12/21/23 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 2/15/24 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 4/25/24 9-10 AM (virtual)

Winter Fair preparations

Words can not express how thankful we are to those that have purchased items from our [Winter Fair Amazon Wish List](#) already We're confident this year's Winter Fair will be the best one yet, thanks to your generous donations!

Our annual Winter Fair will take place on **Friday, December 8**. It is held during the school day to raise money for our Student Council and features games, snacks and an opportunity for students to purchase inexpensive holiday gifts for family and friends.

We'll begin collecting gently used items for our white elephant table in early November. More event details, including the parent volunteer sign up, to come. Please email [Dawn Hurley](#) with any questions. Thank you!

Grade Level Parents

12th grade - Laurel Hollinden

11th grade - Kristen Koehler

10th grade - Meredith Lopez

9th grade - (Vacant, if interested please contact [Amy Davis](#))

8th grade - Katherine Munz

7th grade - Lauren Timmons

6th grade - Christie Ward

4th/5th grade - Amy Domow

Curriculum Night next week!

Our annual event will be held on **Thursday, October 5** from 6:00-8:00 PM. All parents and guardians are welcome! Come visit your student's classrooms and meet their amazing teachers. Curriculum Night is a quick visit to each class on your student's schedule. We will have parent conferences later in the year as well.

Grand Friends Day

Learning Prep School is thrilled to once again celebrate Grand Friends Day - a special day dedicated to the grandparents, families, and special friends of our

students. Join us on **Thursday, November 30** from 10:00-10:45 A.M and learn directly from the students how their lives have been impacted this year by LPS. Show your support on Grand Friends Day and help us raise critical funds to continue our mission of providing a safe and supportive learning environment for every student.

Due to the positive response from previous years and ability for more Grand Friends to join from across the country, we will once again be holding this event via Zoom.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Family Directory

The 2023-24 Family Directory is available!

Please use the links in the most current newsletter to always have access to the most updated directory, as the link does get updated periodically throughout the year. Happy connecting!

[2023-24 Family Directory \(Excel\)](#)

[2023-24 Family Directory \(PDF\)](#)

Contacting the school

Our school administrative assistants are in the office 7:30am-3:15pm each school day. Please contact the main office if your student is absent or if there is anything we need to know that day, including any transportation changes.

Middle School:

Clara Caruso at ccaruso@learningprep.org or (617) 965-0764 ext. 1016

High School:

Sherika Williamson at swilliamson@learningprep.org (617) 965-0764 ext. 1100

Transportation reminders

- Please contact the main office **by 1:30pm** to notify us of any changes to your student's transportation for the day.
- If you are running late to pick up your student please call the main office at (617) 965-0764 to let us know when you will arrive.
- If your student participates in the After School Program and there are any changes to their transportation or participation plans for the day, please contact the Main Office and Marianne Verhaegen, After School Program Coordinator at mverhaegen@learningprep.org **by 1:30pm**.
- Requests to add/change persons authorized to pick up your student must be sent to the main office in writing (swilliamson@learningprep.org for high school or ccaruso@learningprep.org for middle school). This includes if your student is going home with another student for the day.

Important Dates

Thursday
10/5 Curriculum Night (Parents/Guardians only)
6:00-8:00 PM, Middle/High School buildings

Friday
10/6 Blue/Green T-shirt Day

Monday
10/9 No school, Indigenous People's Day

Thursday
10/12 11th Grade Overview
12:00-1:00 PM, [Zoom](#)
For families to learn about junior year at LPS

Thursday
10/19 Parental Advisory Group (PAG) meeting
9:00-10:00 AM, [Zoom](#)
All parents welcome

10th Grade Overview
12:00-1:00 PM, [Zoom](#)
For families to learn about sophomore year at LPS

Wednesday
10/25 Early Release
11:00 AM

Thursday
10/26 9th Grade Overview
12:00-1:00 PM, [Zoom](#)
For families to learn about freshman year at LPS

Friday
10/27 Middle School Halloween Social (grades 6,7,8)
2:45-5:00 PM

High School Costume Party (grades 9-12)
7:00-9:00 PM

Tuesday
10/3 Wear Black & Orange Day

Thursday
11/2 8th Grade Overview
12:00-1:00 PM, [Zoom](#)
For families to learn about the 8th grade year at LPS

Friday
11/3

Blue/Green T-shirt Day

[View All Upcoming Events...](#)

Quick Links

Lunch Menu

Parent Facebook
Group

Staff Directory

Support LPS

2023-24 Calendar

School Store

Learning Prep School
1507 Washington Street
West Newton, MA 02465
learningprep.org

Stay connected!



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Caso precise traduzir esta informação, por favor, copie-a e cole-a no Google Tradutor. O link para o Google Tradutor é <http://translate.google.com/>

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