

PAG Meeting 12/21/2023

LPS Attendees: Kurt, Cate, Amy D, Vanessa, Lisa, Dawn

Parent Attendees: Wynne Meyer, Meredith Lopez, Melissa Isabelle, Tim Flood, Roslyn Michelson, Rachel Combs, Ginger McGill, Rachel Noonan

What is PAG?

Mini-State of the School presentation to parents

Meets four times each year on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 9:00am-10:00am

Upcoming PAG meetings:

- 2/15/2024
- 4/25/2024

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

Winter Fair

This year's winter fair was a day full of fun! Students enjoyed cotton candy, popcorn, games, taking photos at our photo booth, shopping at the white elephant table.

It is not typically a huge fundraiser, but made about \$350 to be split between the MS and HS student council groups.

Middle School Play

This year the Middle School students from the after school drama group performed The Monsters of Hodge Podge Forest- a play that is accessible to all learners. Middle School students enjoyed watching their friends in the show, led by Marianne.

Upcoming Dates

2/12: Parent Conferences

3/1: Financial Literacy Fair

4/5: Post High School Fair

4/11: All School Family Night

5/1-5/15 Plant Sale

5/4: Pizza and Pickleball (rain date 5/11)

Senior Dates

5/23: Senior Parent/Guardian Night

5/24: Senior Clap Out

Week of 5/28: Senior Week

5/31: Commencement

Grade Level Parents

Middle School		High School	
4/5	Rachel Noonan	9	Jessie Brauer
6	Christie Ward	10	Meredith Lopez
	Amy Domow	11	Kristen Koehler
7	Lauren Timmons	12	Laurel Hollinden
8	Katherine Munz		

Speaker Series

Feb 8, 2024 06:00 PM

Learning Prep School Speaker Series: Preparing your student for an independent life
Michelle Cuddy will provide information on the transition process and how to prepare students for Life after LPS.

Other Ways LPS Shares Info

- LPS Newsletter
- Monthly Updates from Teachers
- Action Plans for Improvement/MTSS Tier II Info
- Team Meetings and Progress Meetings
- Our faculty are always happy to discuss your student with you. Email your student's teachers and counselors any time you have questions.

Inclement Weather

We tested our Emergency Notification system ahead of any winter storms on 11/3/2023. You should have received a text and an email. Please email Dawn Hurley to report any issues
In the event of closures due to inclement weather, we'll announce closures on our website and via our Emergency Notification system. Closures will also be listed on the major Boston area news stations: WBZ/Channel 4, WCVB/Channel 5, WHDH/Channel 7, WFXT/Fox25, NECN/Channel 10.

MCAS Testing

- HS MCAS Testing Dates
 - February: HS Biology retest* 2/6 & 7
 - March: HS ELA retest* 3/4 & 6
HS Math retest* 3/7 & 8
HS Grade 10 ELA 3/26 & 27
 - May: HS Grade 10 Math 5/21 & 22
 - June: HS Biology 6/4 & 5

* Retests are only for HS students who have not passed MCAS

- MS MCAS Testing Dates
 - April: MS ELA Grades 4-6 4/8 & 9
MS ELA Grades 7&8 4/10 & 11
 - May: MS Math Grades 4-6 5/1 & 2
MS Math Grades 7&8 5/3 & 6
MS Grades 5&8 Science 5/16 & 17

DESE Review

- DESE reviews 766 schools on a 6 year review cycle
 - 2023-2024 is LPS's review year (end of cycle)
 - Self-assessment submitted in August
 - On-site audit was the week of December 11, 2023. DESE representatives came to LPS to review:
 - Program Documentation
 - File Reviews
 - Staff Interviews
 - Classroom Observations
 - Exit Meeting Yesterday/Formal Report in 45 days
 - Exit meeting was very positive. No findings are anticipated. Staff feel that kids are supported, and feel safe here. DESE Appreciates our collaboration between teachers and administrators. DESE feedback from observing classes- highlighted our language rich classes and noted that they were impressed with the individual supports provided for students.
 - DESE reported that our Parent Feedback was great, responses indicated that we're supportive and families are grateful for our impact on their students.

After School Program

- Original timeline was adjusted slightly. Here are the revised dates for upcoming sessions:
 - Winter Session Registration: 12/12 - 1/4
 - Monday Groups: 1/8 - 3/25
 - Tuesday Groups: 1/9 - 3/12
 - Thursday Groups: 1/11 - 3/14
 - Spring Session Registration: 3/18 - 3/28
 - Monday Groups: 4/1 - 6/10
 - Tuesday Groups: 4/2 - 6/4
 - Thursday Groups: 4/4 - 6/6

LPS on Social Media

Follow us @lpspanthers

Student Council Events

- 12/22: Ugly Sweater Spirit Day!
- 1/26: MS Pizza Bingo/HS Monster Mini Golf
- 3/8: HS Spring Fling Social
- 4/5: HS Trivia Dinner
- 5/10: Prom (Grades 10-12)

Blue/Green

- Students and Staff wear their Blue/Green Shirt 1st Friday of each month
- What is the Blue/Green Committee?
 - Staff committee that plans Blue/Green spirit days
- What are Blue/Green Spirit Days?
 - Days dedicated to games, challenges, or other fun activities in mixed groups (MS and HS students, faculty, and other LPS staff)
 - Past events have included scavenger hunt, minute to win it, name that tune
 - Last event was a movie for MS and a choice of movie or flag football for HS.
 - Next Event 1/12 - Name That Tune!

Summer Program

Dates: July 8-July 26th, Monday through Friday 8:00 am-2:00 pm

More Information and Registration details to come!

Development Update

Development position is currently open. We're working with a consultant to help us rethink this position and to help us with our search for the right person to raise funds and celebrate our school. Anticipate the position to be posted in late winter/early spring. Currently a few of us are pitching in to keep fundraising efforts going.

Our Annual Family & Friends Fund supplements LPS programming. Annual Fund email will be going out today. If you haven't already, please consider donating. Thank you to those who have already donated!

Save the Date - Fundraiser

April 25, 2024

There will be a Spring Fundraiser this year! 4/25/2023. Lisa Kalfopoulos will be running this event! Retired from LPS in 2016, but came back last spring. Has worked on many successful LPS events, including the 45th anniversary of LPS. Welcome any parents who want to join the committee. Email Lisa to join or give ideas.

Special Olympics Bball

Katya joins us today to present more information about Special Olympics Basketball at LPS!

11 year partnership with LPS, has serviced over 300 students!

The Special Olympics program has grown a lot over the years. It allows more students to broaden their minds and be physically and socially active. SOMA welcomes students with all skill levels, confidence levels and abilities. Participation in SOMA encourages personal growth, mentorship and teaches students that there's no limit to potential!

SOMA also provides opportunities for parents to start exploring the larger community that they're a part of because of their student.

Would love to grow the team. Currently 9 students are playing, 8th grade and up and SOMA has 1 alumni parent coach and 1 current parent coach. Many of the former team members have aged out and they're trying to regrow the team. Please contact Katya if you would like to sign up your student! katyagard@gmail.com or 617-306-9322

Survey

Please fill out our VERY brief survey when you see it in January!

Each year, a family feedback survey is done mid year and at the end of the year. We value data from these surveys and use it to improve. We encourage more families to respond. Data is shared with staff, our board and families. We read all comments and reach out to families about their responses to find solutions and strengthen the partnership.

Check in . . .

- What do you have questions about that you heard today?
- What do you have questions about that you didn't hear?
- What do you want us to know?

Tim Flood

Question: Are Senior Parents welcome to attend the Senior Clap out?

Answer: It has not been open to parents in the past. Staff and students line the exit from the High School and cheer on the seniors leaving LPS.

Statement about the Speaker Series: Parents often forget that transition starts at age 14- grades 8 and 9. Most parents do not realize how early they need to start thinking about long term futures for their students receiving Special Education.

Statement about the LPS DESE Review- Tim wants to highlight how big of a deal this is. DESE is being investigated by the Federal Government to make sure that all Special Education students are receiving the services and education they are entitled to after recent complaints.

Rachel Combs, agrees with Tim's statement about the results of our review. She has been monitoring the investigation and is impressed that we did so well.

Kurt: LPS is Acutely aware of the scrutiny Massachusetts is under and we're monitoring and we're active members of MAAPS, an organization for 766 schools. Our goal is to make sure that LPS shines. We're committed to doing things right. Cate and Dawn lead the way and made sure everything was meticulously prepared. In 3 years we'll have a much smaller mid cycle review.

Questions?

Kurt Moellering: Head of School
kmoellering@learningprep.org

Cate Wilson: Chief Operating Officer
cwilson@learningprep.org