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January Family Newsletter

January 26, 2024

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.

Wired for wagging



(Above left) MS Student Council met with Buddy Dog Humane Society ahead of their Pet Supply Drive to learn about the organization and their needs (Above

January's Features

Panther Profile

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



Reese F. *8th grade*

Getting to know Reese from Natick who started LPS this past August 2023.

What subject is your favorite and why?

PE - I like exercising, running around and having fun.

Can you share a time that something was really hard but you overcame it?

Transitioning from my old school to LPS, specifically because I had a very close relationship with my psychologist and it was hard not being able to see her.

Can you share a story that you love? What do you like about it?

My favorite personal stories are my family New York Yankee trips - I get to talk to our family friend on the team, who is the pitching coach. Because of those trips, I like watching baseball now.

What do you want to be when you grow up, or what are your big dreams for the future?

I want to be a preschool or kindergarten teacher because I've always liked being around and working with kids, specifically little kids.

[Read more](#)

Staff Spotlight

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

Marla Jacobs

*Middle School Social Studies
Teacher*

FAST FACTS:

- I am a Middle School Social Studies Teacher, the LPS Thinking

Map Coordinator, Middle School Student Council Advisor & History Department Head.

- I've worked at LPS for 34 years. I was an Elementary Reading Teacher for my first 10 years, and have been in the Middle School ever since.
- Both of my children went to the LPS Childcare when they were little. My son and his wife live on the coast of Maine. He works as a boat mechanic which allows him to spend time a lot of time out on the water, which he loves. After my daughter earned her bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State University, she was employed at LPS for a while as a substitute teacher and substituted quite a bit in the LPS Childcare- talk about life coming full circle! She is now a third year law student at Suffolk University and I couldn't be more proud. I also have a stepdaughter who has blessed my husband and I with 2 beautiful grandchildren who we both adore.



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

I have a Wally Red Sox Mascot sitting in an adirondack chair on my desk. He hasn't brought the Sox much luck the past few years, but "there's always next year"!

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

Thinking Maps are a staple in my classroom. We use them for everything -- taking notes from the text, organizing content information, studying for tests, pre-writing organization -- and they are constantly displayed in my classroom. My students would probably say my theme song would be the "Thinking Maps Song" that one of our students found on YouTube a few years ago.

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would you go, and why?

I would love to take the 7th graders on a field trip to Greece and Rome to experience the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Roman Forum, The Coliseum, and everything in between that they learn about in 7th grade. Google Earth is great, but it would be fantastic to be able to experience it in real life.

[Read more](#)

Featured Alum

Checking in on our graduates to see what they have been up to.



Molly Perlmutter *Class of 2020*

Congratulations to alum Molly Perlmutter, whose incredible photographs were featured at the **Boston Waterworks Museum!** Molly is a wildlife photographer and artist whose focus is on animals (particularly birds). Check out her work [@mollyperlphotography](#)



Announcements

Midyear Family Survey

Earlier this week, a request to complete a short, midyear Family Survey was sent via email. If you haven't already, we ask if you could spend 5 minutes providing feedback about how the year is going so far.

The last day to complete the survey will be **Wednesday, January 31**.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

Family/Teacher Conferences

Please note a slight change in the dates for our upcoming Family/Teacher Conferences. They will now be held only on **Monday, February 12 from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM**. All meetings will still be held on Zoom. More information, including sign ups, will be sent next week.

Volunteers needed

We are getting very excited about our 'Sky Full of Stars' Spring Celebration & Night of Giving on April 25th, where all the proceeds will go directly to our students! We are currently looking for volunteers.

Below are a few areas where help is needed. Please reach out if you have any additional ideas, or suggestions!

- Join committee for general help with planning
- Create, solicit or donate items for silent auction
- Create, solicit or donate gift baskets for silent auction
- Help generate interest and sell tickets
- Help setting up on day of the event
- Printing program books

Email, call or text Lisa at **lkalfopoulos@learningprep.org** or 781-572-7198.

Lisa Kalfopoulos



Learning Prep School presents

Sky Full of Stars

Celebration & Night of Giving

Thursday, April 25, 2024

6:00-9:00 PM

Marriott Hotel, Newton MA

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Pet Supply Drive

The MS Student Council is partnering with the [Buddy Dog Humane Society](#) in Sudbury, MA to organize a pet supply drive. Please consider donating from now until **Friday, February 2**.



LEARNING PREP SCHOOL'S

SPEAKER SERIES

PREPARING YOUR STUDENT FOR AN INDEPENDENT LIFE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024
6:00-7:15 PM; VIA ZOOM



This session will provide information to parents, guardians, and educators about the importance of self-determination skills, outside agencies that offer help with employment and independent living skills, and structures that can be put in place at home to support students' growth.

Open to the public!

Michelle Cuddy, M.Ed

Michelle has an undergraduate degree in History, a Master's Degree in Special Education, and has completed a licensure program for Special Education Administration. Joining Learning Prep School in 2009, she is currently the Supervisor of Transition Services and Educational Team Facilitator for grade 12 students, and has previous experience as a special education teacher, MCAS coordinator, tutor, and residential camp director.

For more information go to:
learningprep.org/events

REGISTER NOW

PIE/PAG

PIE (Partners in Education) 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.

PIE (Partners in Education) meetings:

- 3/21/24 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 5/16/24 9-10 AM (virtual)

PAG (Parent Advisory Group) meetings:

- 2/15/24 9-10 AM (virtual)
- 4/25/24 9-10 AM (virtual)

Link for all virtual meetings: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89453990390>

**You are cordially invited to participate in the
Learning Prep School**

Post High School Fair

Friday April 5, 2024

10:00-12:00

Our unique fair focuses primarily on post high school programming for students with language-based learning disabilities and a variety of social communication challenges.

This year's fair is open to all LPS high school parents and Sophomore and Junior level students (seniors at parent request).

RSVP:

Please respond to Michelle Cuddy at mcuddy@learningprep.org

by March 15, 2024

Grade Level Parents

12th grade - Laurel Hollinden
11th grade - Kristen Koehler
10th grade - Meredith Lopez
9th grade - Jessie Brauer
8th grade - Katherine Munz
7th grade - Lauren Timmons
6th grade - Amy Domow
4th/5th grade - Rachael Noonan

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!

Updated: 1/24/2024

Important Dates

Friday
1/26

Middle School Student Council Bingo & Pizza Party
2:45-5:00 PM, LPS Cafeteria

High School Student Council Monster Mini Golf
7:00-8:30 PM, Norwood MA

Friday
2/2

Blue/Green Shirt Day & Blue/Green event, "Name that Tune"

All school Bake sale

Last day for Pet Supply Drive

Thursday
2/8

Free Speaker Series event, "Preparing your student for an independent life"
6:00-7:15 PM, Zoom
[Register here](#)

Friday
2/9

Early Release
11:00 AM

Monday
2/12

No School, Family/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday
2/14

All school Wear Red Day

Thursday
2/15

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meeting
9:00-10:00 AM, [Zoom](#)

Monday
2/19

No School, February Break

-

Friday
2/23

Friday
3/1

Blue/Green Shirt Day

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

Contacts

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Nurses Fax: (617) 244-1921

Transportation:

All transportation changes
and early dismissals to:

HIGH SCHOOL:

swilliamson@learningprep.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

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Amy Davis, Principal

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Amy Plante, Assistant Principal

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Susan Smith Powers, Middle School Dean of Students

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Katrina Keenan, High School Dean of Students

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**Currently on leave*

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Vanessa Mendes, Chief Financial Officer

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Quick Links

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Parent Facebook
Group](#)

[Staff
Directory](#)

[Support LPS](#)

[2023-24 Calendar](#)

[School Store](#)

External Resources



Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY) is pleased to announce its new [MPY Parenting Solutions Library](#). The MPY Parenting Solutions Library is offered at no charge, in partnership with Peace At Home Parenting Solutions, a dynamic hub of trusted knowledge and compassionate support that inspires parents to create positive change for their children, their families and themselves. Through this new partnership, MPY is pleased to offer proven resources to help students' families thrive.



The Boston Ability Center is excited to share several upcoming presentations for parents, educators, SLPs, and students!

Wednesday, January 31st: Faces, Voices, Social Expectations, and First Impressions: Insights from Autism

Join Dr. Ruth Grossman in a conversation about social communication and autism.

**Thursday, Feb 8th:
Childhood Speech Disorders:
Navigating Diagnosis and
Treatment**

Join Dr. Kristen Allison for a presentation on childhood speech disorders, with resources and tips for diagnosis and treatment.

**Thursday, February 22nd:
Let's Talk about Gestalt Language
Processing**

Join Boston Ability Center Speech-Language Pathologists for a discussion of assessment and treatment for gestalt language processors.

You can register to reserve your spot at **Boston Ability Center Upcoming Events - Wellesley Hills, Ma**

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Stay connected!



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