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# February Family Newsletter

*February 23, 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.*

## February's Features

### Panther Profile

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

**Jez D.**  
*10th grade*

Getting to know Jez from Brookline who started LPS in December of 2020.

**What is your favorite class or subject and why?**

My favorite class is P.E. because I love playing sports and being active.

**Who is your favorite teacher**



**and why?**

My favorite teacher is Jon W. because we're reading interesting books and because we also read one of my favorite stories, The Tell Tale Heart by Edgar Allen Poe.

**Do you have a favorite memory from LPS?**

My favorite memory from LPS was when I was in the middle school drama club and I had a solo for my part.

**Tell us about an accomplishment you are proud of.**

An accomplishment I'm proud of is making it half way through High School.

**What do you like about LPS?**

I love the LPS community, my friends, the after school programs and the subjects.

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

Something that was hard for me was when my pet bunny Fezzik passed, he was like my best friend and part of my family and it was hard to move on from it but knowing that he's still watching over me gave me faith to move on.

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

My favorite story is called The Goose Story, it's about teamwork and helping others when they need it.

**What advice would you give to younger students about school?**

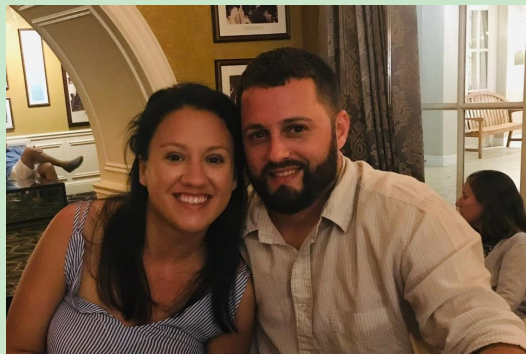
Advice I would give to younger students is to not give up, as you go through Middle School to High School the work may be hard but to complete it feels like an accomplishment.

[Read more](#)

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## Staff Spotlight

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



**Ayanna Pearson**  
*Middle School Math &  
Reading Teacher*

This month, we're getting to know Ayanna Pearson, an LPS Middle School Math Teacher.

**What made you want to be a teacher?**

As someone who struggled in school and had an IEP since 2nd grade. I knew I always wanted to work with children- especially children who had learning disabilities.

**What is your favorite part of being an educator?**

I love seeing the growth students have within the classroom. However, what my favorite part of being an educator, is seeing the students be "kids" during after school activities, or during field day. You can really see their personalities.

**What is your most memorable student experience or favorite teaching moment?**

It was my first year at Learning Prep, I was a substitute, still trying to figure out what I wanted to get my Masters in. It was the Friday before April vacation, the

Elementary and Middle school were all in the gym, having a pep rally for Amy Davis as she was running the Boston Marathon that Monday. There was a slideshow and music playing. All the students ( and some staff) were up dancing, laughing. There were no labels, just simply kids being kids. At that very moment, I realized Learning Prep School is where I wanted to be. That afternoon, I enrolled myself into a Master Program for the following Fall.

**What were you like as a student?**

I struggled in school with academics. I was quiet but “popular” (whatever that means!)

**What is your very favorite place?**

Ok, so I have 2. The beach (especially Cape Cod!) and my backyard. Bonus if my family and friends are there :)

**What is one food you wish had zero calories?**

Cheese.

**What is something you’re especially proud of?**

Not to be vain but I am proud of myself. I remember sitting at the team meeting with my parents at my high school. The principal and guidance counselor told me I should look for alternative post high school plans and that college is not an option for me. 17 years later, I have my masters degree and I am teaching at a wonderful school.

[Read more](#)

## Announcements

### *MS Book Fair volunteers*

The Middle School Student Council will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair the week before April vacation starting **Wednesday, April 10 - Friday April 12** . We will be looking for family volunteers to help out during the school day to help run the Book Fair.

We will send out a Family Volunteer sign up form as we get closer to the Book Fair itself, but in order to volunteer you will need to fill out a CORI form, which can take a few weeks to be processed. If this is something you may be interested in doing, please email Marla ([mjacobs@learningprep.org](mailto:mjacobs@learningprep.org)) or Bobby ([bbritt@learningprep.org](mailto:bbritt@learningprep.org)) and we will send you the paperwork to get started.

Please reach out to Marla or Bobby if you have any questions. Thank you!

### *Seeking volunteers & donations*

We are looking for volunteers for our 'Sky Full of Stars' Spring Celebration & Night of Giving on **April 25**, where all the proceeds will go directly to our students!

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

We are also looking for donations for the silent auction. If you have anything to donate or have contacts that can help, please reach out to Lisa. All donations are welcomed and appreciated. All proceeds go directly to our students at LPS.

Email, call or text Lisa at [lkalfopoulos@learningprep.org](mailto:lkalfopoulos@learningprep.org) or 781-572-7198.

Lisa Kalfopoulos  
LPS Facilities Manager  
Spring Celebration Event Committee Chair



*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

## *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:

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

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

## *Post High School Fair*

The annual fair will be on **Friday, April 5** from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Our unique fair focuses primarily on post high school programming for students with language based learning disabilities, and a variety of social communication challenges. The fair is open to all LPS high school parents, and LPS 10th and 11th grade students.

The following programs scheduled to attend are (subject to change):

- Beacon College
- Chapel Haven
- College Living Experience
- College Internship Program
- Curry College
- Dean College
- Johnson and Wales
- Lesley Threshold
- Mansfield Hall
- Maplebrook
- Mass Bay Transitional Scholars
- Middlebridge
- SOAR/Embark
- Job Corps
- Lynn University
- Riverview Grow
- Beyond Akeela
- Ramapo
- Easter Seals College Navigator
- Lasell University
- Toni & Guy Hairdressing
- Bridgewater EXCEL
- New England Institute of Technology

To RSVP, contact **Michelle Cuddy** at [mcuddy@learningprep.org](mailto:mcuddy@learningprep.org) by March 15.

## *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

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

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

## Important Dates

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Monday      No School, February Break

2/19

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Friday

2/23

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Friday      Blue/Green Shirt Day

3/1

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Friday      Middle School Student Council Zoom Family Scavenger Hunt

3/8

*Time & details TBA*

High School Student Council Early Spring Fling Dance

*7:00-9:00 PM*

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Friday      All school Wear Green Day

3/15

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Thursday      Partners in Education (PIE) meeting

3/21

*9:00-10:00 AM, [Zoom](#)*

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

## Contacts

Main:

Amy Davis,

Kurt Moellering,

1507 Washington Street  
West Newton, MA 02465  
Phone: (617) 965-0764  
Main Fax: (617) 527-1514

**Nursing:**

Jenna (Wilson) DiBiase  
[jdibiase@learningprep.org](mailto:jdibiase@learningprep.org)  
617-965-0764 ext. x 1014  
Nurses Fax: (617) 244-1921

**Transportation:**

All transportation changes  
and early dismissals to:

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

[swilliamson@learningprep.org](mailto:swilliamson@learningprep.org)

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

[ccarus@learningprep.org](mailto:ccarus@learningprep.org)

**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*

**Executive Director**

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**Cate Wilson,  
Chief Operating Officer**

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**Korina Martin,  
Director of Admissions**

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617-965-0764 ext. x 1202

## 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!

**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**

Learning Prep School  
1507 Washington Street  
West Newton, MA 02465  
[learningprep.org](http://learningprep.org)

*Stay connected!*



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