



## Family News - Tuesday, May 22, 2018

### *Upcoming Dates*

**Thursday, May 24:** Graduate Parent Recognition event, 6:00-7:30 PM

**Monday, May 28:** No School, Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 29:** Parent Orientation for students in 5th going into 6th grade, 8:30-10:00 AM

**Thursday, May 31:** Last Day of After School Program: Spring Session

**Thursday, May 31:** 5th and 8th grade 'Step Up Day'

**Friday, June 1:** Commencement, 6:30 PM

**Friday, June 1:** E/MS Bake Sale

**Tuesday, June 5:** Admissions Open House, 10:00 AM

**Wednesday, June 6:** E/MS Field Trip

**Tuesday, June 12:** 8th Grade 'Moving On Ceremony', 10:00 AM

**Friday, June 15:** Elementary/Middle School Field Day

**Tuesday, June 19:** High School Beach Day

**Thursday, June 21:** Last Day of School, Early Release 11:30 AM

### *School Finances*

By: Dave Morrissette, Chief Financial Officer

I thought it would be beneficial to give a small introduction to school finances. I think it is useful and timely in understanding the financial challenges faced by private schools and especially Chapter 766 schools.

Tuition receipts for private schools leave little room for discretionary spending. Eighty-five percent of operating costs are typically used for salaries, taxes, and fringe benefits; twelve percent of operating costs are used for contractual and facilities related expenses such as audit fees, legal fees, rent, utilities, maintenance and property and liability insurance. This leaves about three percent of operating expenses for discretionary spending like program supplies, staff training, and other operating expenses. This breakdown of expenses is true for most private schools, including Chapter 766 schools like Learning Prep.

Unlike truly private schools, Chapter 766 schools do not have the option to raise tuition annually, except by the state adjusted Cost of Living Allowance. Furthermore, they are not allowed to significantly modify how

they spend their funding. Tuition, staffing levels by position, average salaries, and operating expenses are set and monitored by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Operational Services Division (OSD). Tuition and spending levels are reset every six years by going through a process with DESE and OSD called Program Reconstruction. Learning Prep has applied for Program Reconstruction effective with the 2018/2019 school year. This will allow us to adjust staffing to better meet the needs of our student population.

In order to be able to invest in the welfare of staff and students and add new initiatives, private schools, Chapter 766 schools, colleges, and universities engage in fundraising. In addition, many public schools have Education Foundations and other groups actively engaged in raising funds for initiatives that public tax dollars do not meet. As a parent of two children who went through the Arlington Public Schools, I saw how the Arlington Education Foundation and the Performing Arts Parent Association were very active in raising additional funds for the benefit of students and faculty.

Due to the generosity of the Learning Prep community we have been able to make many improvements to our program, including adding a state-of-the-art library media center, a Makerspace classroom, iPads and Chromebooks for students, computers for faculty, a digital math program (Redbird) for the Elementary and Middle Schools, and provided technical training to faculty for iPads and Chromebooks. We are also the recipient of a \$100,000 grant to renovate our greenhouse facility and renew our horticulture program.

The combination of Program Reconstruction and continued fundraising will allow us to continue to address the needs of our students and faculty and invest in our future and continue to improve our infrastructure.

### *Attention parents of Seniors*

Graduation is quickly approaching. Have you RSVP'd yet? If not, please notify **Dawn Hurley** at [dhurley@learningprep.org](mailto:dhurley@learningprep.org) or 617-965-0764.

Has your child passed in their permission slip for senior week activities? Please have them do so ASAP! Permission slips were passed out to students May 11th and [can also be found here](#). Additional copies can be found at reception in the HS and have been emailed as well.

### *2018-19 School Year Calendar*

The 2018-19 School Year Calendar is now available. Find it on the LPS website under *Calendar* or [download a copy here](#).

### *Elementary/Middle School Yearbook*

Get your EMS 2017-2018 yearbook for only \$5.00. Let your child's homeroom teacher know if you need another order form.

### *Conflict vs. Bullying*

Conflict is a natural part of life as people grow and change. If you are in relationships with another human being, whether it's a friend or just

someone who sits next to you in math class, the chances are pretty good that you will be in conflict with that person at some point or have already had one. However, even though it can cause us stress and can hurt, conflict is not bullying.

The following is from our research based, anti-bully curricula named Bully-Proofing Your School:

Normal Conflict	Bullying
❖ Equal power or friends	❖ Imbalance of power or not friends
❖ Happens occasionally	❖ Repeated negative actions
❖ Accidental	❖ Purposeful
❖ Not serious	❖ Serious with threats; physical or emotional harm
❖ Not seeking power, attention or material things	❖ Attempt to gain power, attention, or material things
❖ Takes responsibility and tries to solve the problem; feels remorse	❖ Blames the victim and makes no effort to solve the problem; thinks the person deserves it

In conflict, when things are equal between 2 people, both sides usually want the issue to be resolved. They don't want the conflict to keep going on. With typical conflict, children self-monitor their behavior. They read cues to know if lines are crossed, and then modify their behavior in response. For students with learning, language and/or social challenges this is complicated and difficult. Many of our students don't have the self-awareness or skills to recognize when someone is offended or upset. Students may also lack problem solving skills and emotional regulation skills. They may snap at a peer or be rude because they are worried about something not related or because they misinterpreted the interaction. They may also assume malintent when there is none and react in an inappropriate way (rude tone or insult) instead of checking for clarification ("Are you laughing at me?").

As children reach grades 5-7, social interactions/relationships become more important as well as more complicated. Students who rarely had difficulty with peer interactions may begin to struggle in this area due to typical adolescent issues, especially students with learning and language challenges. We encourage students to work together with their counselor to solve problems that may occur in school or via technology. If your child/adolescent comes home and says they're being bullied, take it seriously and leave a message for your child's counselor. With an older child (Grades 6 and above), encourage your child to ask to check in with their counselor the next day (then leave a voice mail for the counselor after your child goes to bed if you feel your child may not follow through). Whether it's bullying or a normal conflict it should be addressed. All LPS counselors work with students to become independent problem solvers. However, the time frame for learning this skill differs for each child. Ask your child's counselor how you can support your child with becoming more independent in this area and with understanding the difference between conflict and bullying.

*-Susan Smith Powers, E/MS Dean of Students*

### *State of the School*

A State of the School update went out to the LPS Community on Monday morning. If you missed it, [you can find the full update here](#).

## *MCAS News*

Yes, it is that time of year again, Spring MCAS is upon us! The EMS students testing is organized so that each grade is tested on the same days. As you plan doctor visits, please keep this in mind. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent during any testing sessions, please let Gretchen Petersen know at x 617-965-0764 ext. 310. It is also important for students to eat a healthy breakfast before coming to school and to bring snacks to eat when they take a break. The schedule is as follows:

### **May- Math**

- Grade 10: May 23 & 24

### **May- Science**

- Grade 5 & 8 – May 21 & 22

### **June- Science**

- Grade 9, Biology: June 6 & 7
- Retests: June 6 & 7, only for students who have not yet passed Science MCAS.

The students will be tested 1:1 or in small groups and provided with MCAS accommodations listed in their current, signed IEP.

Students in Grades 6 and above will be reviewing and signing a letter of personal responsibility regarding MCAS testing, per DESE. All test administrators also review and sign a non-disclosure security contract. We use the DESE suggested form and will send home a copy of the student letter.

If you have questions regarding MCAS, please contact **Gretchen Petersen** through email at [gpetersen@learningprep.org](mailto:gpetersen@learningprep.org) or at 617-965-0764 ext. 310.

## *Summer program (Extended Year Program)*

Learning Prep School Summer Program (Extended Year Program referred to as EYP) is a 4-week program beginning **Monday, July 9th and ending Thursday, August 2nd**. The program will operate Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The EYP is designed to maintain progress and prevent substantial regression through structured educational and social experiences. The program is modeled after the regular Learning Prep School program but includes activities to help provide a "camp-like" feel. The EYP is open to any student who is enrolled at Learning Prep School.

Elementary/Middle School (entering grades 3-8):

Program components consist of academic classes, social skills groups, arts/crafts, organizational support, interactive games and structured field trips. The academic areas will include reading, math, writing, and social communication.

High School (entering grades 9-12):

Program components consist of functional academic classes, social and transitional/pre-vocational skills development as well as travel training through local educational trips. The functional academic areas will include reading, math, and writing. All students entering 12th grade will be participating in a work experience, 2 days per week.

Enrollment Information:

The Summer Program (EYP) is not approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). A school district seeking placement in the LPS Summer Program may submit the Notification of Intent to Seek Approval for Individual Student Program (form 28M/3) to DESE. Parents may choose to enroll independently.

The tuition for Summer Program (EYP) is \$3,300. Please contact **Maria Fitzpatrick**, Summer Program secretary, for enrollment forms at 617-965-0764 ext. 125 or at [mfitzpatrick@learningprep.org](mailto:mfitzpatrick@learningprep.org).

### *Spread the word about Learning Prep School*

If you know someone who may be interested in Learning Prep for their child, please encourage them to attend one of our Open House events:

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018** at 10:00 AM

*\*just added\** **Wednesday, July 11, 2018** at 10:00 AM

RSVP's appreciated to:

**Korina Martin**, Director of Admissions

[617-965-0764 ext 226](tel:617-965-0764) or [kmartin@learningprep.org](mailto:kmartin@learningprep.org)