



## Family News - Tuesday, August 28, 2018

*For updated information, remember to periodically check the LPS website*

### *Upcoming Dates*

**Friday, August 31:** No School, Labor Day Weekend

**Monday, September 3:** No School, Labor Day

**Wednesday, September 5:** All School Cookout, during school lunch

**Monday, September 10:** No School, Rosh Hashana

**Wednesday, September 12:** After School Program registration due

**Thursday, September 13:** Admissions Open House, 10:00 AM

**Tuesday, September 18:** High School Picture Day

**Wednesday, September 19:** No School, Yom Kippur

**Thursday, September 20:** Partners in Education Meeting, 8:00 AM

**Monday, September 24:** After School Program Begins- Session 1

**Tuesday, September 25:** Elementary/Middle School Picture Day

**Wednesday, September 26:** All school picture make-up day

**Wednesday, October 3:** Parent Breakfast, 8:00 AM

**Wednesday, October 3- Friday, October 5:** Book Fair

**Thursday, October 4:** Curriculum Night (Parents only), 6:00 PM

### *Welcome back!*

By: Ted Sharp, Executive Director

As you may imagine, this has been a busy and an exciting summer at LPS! We recently concluded a successful summer school program with seventy-six students in attendance. New staff orientation was held August 20th and 21st, followed by full staff orientation August 22nd-24th

and yesterday, August 27th was the first day of classes for students. We have restored the position in the high school of Dean/Assistant Principal and we are pleased to welcome Jen Kramer, formerly of the Newton Public Schools, who has assumed the responsibilities of that office. It is always great fun to exchange greetings with our returning students and staff and to welcome new students and new staff to our school community.

We continue to improve the school facilities, both buildings and grounds, the intention being to provide an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. The woodwork and doors in the EMS building have been refinished and many of the classrooms have been painted. In the High School there have been a few classrooms that did not have direct access from the hallway. This summer we constructed doorways to those classrooms that enable direct access from the corridors. Work continues on lowering ceilings and replacing older carpeting. The cafeteria has new tables and chairs that will enable family style meals, as well as providing a more welcoming space for a variety of meetings. The renovation of the greenhouse is nearly complete and provides a wonderful facility for the horticulture program. We continue to improve the grounds with extensive landscaping of the lawns and gardens, including new plantings of shrubs and trees. Sadly, the three pear trees behind the church had to be taken down as they had rotted from within.

This year the staff will be engaged in the initial year of our Curriculum Review & Development program, designed to codify our educational program across the grade levels, thus refining the articulation and the alignment of each content area (core content & essential skills), grades two-twelve. The focus of that work for the next two years will be on ELA (English Language Arts) and math. We are also focusing on our Student Citizenship initiative designed to advance the core principles articulated in our LPS Code of Conduct (Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Courage, & Compassion). This year our theme is Respect & Responsibility and to that end, the students and staff will engage in common readings and discussions nuanced to their grade/age level about the importance of being a person of integrity and contributing to the common good.

We are expanding our opportunities for students to engage in athletics and other extracurricular activities. Alyson Humphreys, Director of Athletics & Activities will keep you informed about these opportunities during the course of the year. We are also pleased that the Special Olympics Program will continue to provide opportunities for LPS students to participate in athletic competitions.

The Partners In Education (PIE) Executive Committee will hold its first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year on Thursday, September 20th from 8:00-9:00 am in the Community Room in the high school building. Gretchen Petersen, Chief Operation Officer and Genie Peterson, a parent, are serving as Co-Chairs of PIE for this year. The first of four Parent Advisory meetings for 2018-19 is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th from 8:00-9:00 am in the Community Room located in the high

school. The focus for that meeting is an update on the school's programs and initiatives as we begin the current school year.

As I draft this letter we are still awaiting approval of our LPS Reconstruction Plan, a plan required of Chapter 766 Special Education Schools for submission every six years. The approval process has been delayed given the fact that the Massachusetts legislature did not pass the state budget until late July and the governor then had ten days to review it before signing it. Subsequently, The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) submits each school's plan to the Commissioner of Education and to Operational Services Division (OSD) for program and financial approval, respectively. Once those protocols have been completed, schools like LPS are informed as to the status of their Reconstruction Plan. We have been informed that the target for completing this process is no later than October 1st.

We are most appreciative that you have entrusted the education and well-being of your son/daughter to us. We are confident that the educational program and the highly competent and dedicated staff at LPS will enable each student to flourish!

Best,

Ted

### *After School Program*

The After School Program at Learning Prep school offers our students the opportunity to foster new interests and talents, gain self-confidence, and increase their social/emotional skills in a fun and safe learning environment.

We are excited to announce some wonderful changes to our After School Program. In addition to our previously successful Activities programs such as theatre, and art, we will be introducing Intramural Sports as an opportunity for students to play their peers within the LPS community. "Intramural Sports" and "Activities", will alternate in 6 week sessions, offering students a variety of athletic and non-athletic activities year-round. The exact Activities offerings for each session will be announced several weeks before the session begins.

The 2018-19 schedule will be as follows:

#### Session 1

#### **Intramural Sports: Flag Football**

Monday, 9/24/18- Thursday, 11/1/18

- Mondays & Tuesdays: High School
- Wednesdays & Thursdays: Elementary/Middle School

For more information and for the application, you can visit the [After School Program page](#) on our website.

We look forward to a great year of after school programming!

**Alyson Humphreys**, *Director of Athletics and Activities*

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

## ***Breakfast & Lunch Program***

Our breakfast and lunch program has had some exciting changes. Students will no longer be charged for breakfast and/or lunch. The business office is working on refunding families with positive balances. We will have snack bar sales for families that choose to take advantage of that program. We also are excited to collaborate with the greenhouse program!

Breakfast will be available as a Grab and Go service. EMS students who elect to have breakfast will notify their homeroom teacher. High School students will notify their first period teacher. Any student tardy past 8:15 will need to give Clara or Dawn their order.

Students can get lunch any day they would like. They simply need to go in the lunch line and choose components of the lunch they would like to eat/try. As always, we will be promoting healthy eating and making smart choices.

Some students have food allergies, food sensitivities and restrictions. Our alternative lunches are listed on our menu.

I am certified in Allergen Awareness. Our food service staff is certified in food safety. Within the next few weeks, I will be comprising a binder with food ingredients and nutrition labels for quick access.

Food Service Snack Bar Policy 2018-2019: All students will have an opportunity to buy snack bar items daily, in addition to being offered a breakfast and lunch. All proceeds will go towards student activities for the LPS community. Snack bar sales will be cash only. No exceptions.

E/MS snacks will include items such as:

- Water bottles
- Bags of chips/snacks/cookies
- All items will cost \$1.00 each

High School snacks will include items such as:

- Water bottles/sparkling water
- Bags of chips/snacks/cookies
- Student-made cookies/muffins/baked goods
- Second helpings (i.e. pizza, macaroni and cheese, turkey wraps, salads)

- All items will cost either \$1.00 or \$2.00 based on size/item

All items are subject to change.

I look forward to serving our students and working with families to create a healthy and enjoyable dining experience. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Cunniff

Food Service Director

### *Family Directory*

New in the 2018-19 school year, LPS has made a Family Directory to make it easier for families to connect with one another. The Family Directory will be available by student grade, student last name, and by town. As indicated in the "Information to Review" in your Annual Registration Paperwork, all families are included in the Family Directory unless otherwise specified. If you would like to be removed from the Family Directory, please contact Admissions.

To access the LPS Family Directory, login to your Parent Portal account [Here](#).

Under the "Optional" checklist items, you will see the Family Directory with a link that will open a PDF that you can print or download.

As updates are made to the Family Directory, continue to use the same link on your Parent Portal account as it will always bring you to the most updated version.

We hope this resource will be helpful for our LPS community in connecting with one another. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

### *Absences and changes of transportation*

A reminder to all parents and guardians that absences need to be called in by 8:30 a.m. and changes of transportation need to be communicated in writing. Please understand that your child's safety is our utmost importance.

**Elementary/Middle School:** Clara Caruso, [ccaruso@learningprep.org](mailto:ccaruso@learningprep.org), 617-965-0764 ext. 411

**High School:** Dawn Hurley, [transportation@learningprep.org](mailto:transportation@learningprep.org), 617-965-0764, ext. 0

### *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:

Thursday, September 13, 2018, 10:00 AM

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Friday, April 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 10:00 AM

RSVP's appreciated to:

**Korina Martin**, Director of Admissions

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

**Learning Prep School is an innovative school for students with language and learning disabilities. Understanding that language skills are the basis for all learning, LPS's unique curriculum integrates the teaching of language skills in all subjects.**

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