



## Family News - Tuesday, September 11, 2018

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

### *Upcoming Dates*

**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, Day Care, and Week II Seniors

**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

**Monday, October 8:** No School, Columbus Day

**Tuesday, October 9:** No School, Professional Development

**Wednesday, October 10:** Parent Advisory Group, 8:00am

### *MCAS News*

By Gretchen Petersen, Chief Operating Officer

As you may or may not know, the state is transitioning to a new statewide assessment called the next-generation MCAS which is a computer-based format for students in grades 3 – 8 as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math. The high school science and high school retests will continue to be paper based at this time. Therefore, this coming spring, all students in grades 3 – 8 and those taking the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math will be participating in the computer-based test unless paper-based testing is specified in their IEP as an accommodation. We will have training and trial runs with the students beforehand, so they are well prepared. Below is an explanation from Jeff Wulfson, Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, regarding MCAS and graduation requirements:

*Massachusetts high school students are required to pass MCAS tests in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science and technology/engineering in order to graduate from high school. For ELA and mathematics, the current state requirements for earning a high school diploma are:*

- a score of at least 240 on the existing grade 10 ELA and mathematics MCAS tests, or*
- a score of between 220 and 238 on those tests and fulfilling the requirements of an Educational*

*Proficiency Plan, which outlines how the student will become proficient in that particular subject.*

*Members of the class of 2021 will fulfill the MCAS part of their graduation requirements in ELA and mathematics by taking the next-generation, computer-based version of the MCAS tests in those subjects in spring 2019. The tests will be similar in design to the tests that they took as eighth graders in spring 2017 if they were in a Massachusetts public school.*

*The next-generation grade 10 MCAS tests will have different achievement levels and scores than the previous versions of the grade 10 tests, but for the class of 2021, I am recommending to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that we require students to reach the score corresponding to 240 (or 220 plus the fulfillment of an Educational Proficiency Plan) on the ELA and mathematics tests in order to qualify for a high school diploma. In other words, I am recommending that the passing standard remain the same for your class as the state introduces the new assessments in those subjects. The standard could rise for future classes, but that is something the Board will discuss at a later date.*

*The transition to a next-generation science MCAS is happening on a different timetable, and the existing science MCAS and requirement will not change for the class of 2021. Students will still have to earn a score of at least 220 on one of the existing high school MCAS science and technology/engineering tests: biology, chemistry, introductory physics, or technology/engineering.*

*Students will continue to have retest opportunities on high school MCAS tests and will have the opportunity to qualify for scholarship programs through the high school MCAS tests.*

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

### ***After School Program Deadline Next Week!***

**Reminder: Registration for the After School Program is due by **Wednesday, September 12th****

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)

*Resource Fair*



**LEARNING  
PREP SCHOOL**  
WE EDUCATE STUDENTS FOR LIFE



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
**RESOURCE FAIR**

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**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**  
**9:00AM – 12:00PM**

LEARNING PREP SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
1524 WASHINGTON ST. WEST NEWTON MA 02465

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Our unique fair will focus primarily on resources available for students with language based learning disabilities. We will have participants from resources such as Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), Transition Leadership Program, Best Buddies, Toward Independent Living and Learning, and The Asperger/Autism Network (AANE). This event is open to all high school parents between the hours of 9AM- 12PM.

*Student Schedule:*  
**Seniors: 3<sup>rd</sup> period**  
**Juniors: 4<sup>th</sup> period**  
**Sophomores: 5<sup>th</sup> period**  
**Freshman: 6<sup>th</sup> period**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: BRIGID FLYNN 617-965-0764 EXT 454 OR  
BFLYNN@LEARNINGPREP.ORG

### *Parent Breakfast*

We would like to invite all parents to our annual parent breakfast on October 3rd at 8:00 in the cafeteria. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other LPS parents as well as our Administrative Team. We hope to see you all there!

### *Partners In Education Meeting*

#### **PIE Meeting Agenda - September 20, 2018**

The day your child joined the school, and/or the day that you became a member of the school staff, you became a member of Partners In Education (PIE) at LPS. Partners in Education is an association that includes parents and staff of Learning Prep School. It is led by an Executive Committee including five LPS administrators and five parents and co-chaired by Gretchen Petersen, COO and Genie Peterson, LPS parent. Our first meeting of this school year will be held on September

20th from 8:00am to 9:00am in the community room. The following agenda items will be discussed:

1. Funds

- How are they spent?
- What are they used for?
- How are they replenished

2. Fundraising

3. Groups and Activities

- Prioritize
- Who's in charge of each?
- Fun group
- Senior Week
- Types of activities to support

### *It's School Picture Time!*

#### **Smile....It's school picture time!**

#### **This year's school picture schedule is as follows:**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>:** Individual and homeroom pictures will be taken for grades 9, 10, 11, and week 1 seniors

**September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Individual and homeroom pictures will be taken for Elementary and Middle School students

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Individual and homeroom pictures will be taken for week 2 seniors and Day Care. Make up pictures will be taken for anyone who was absent on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>

Order forms will be sent home with the students and are due on or before picture day. Please have your child return the form to his/her English teacher. Please contact Gretchen Petersen at 617-965-0764 x 310 or [gpetersen@learningprep.org](mailto:gpetersen@learningprep.org) with any questions.

### *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

### *Facebook*

We have recently relaunched our Facebook page! "Like" us to stay up to date on school happenings and events!

### *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:

[www.learningprep.org/openhouse](http://www.learningprep.org/openhouse)

or call [617-965-0764](tel:617-965-0764) ext 226

**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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