



Family News - Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, April 12: Post High School Fair, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM

Friday, April 13: Full School Day; Silly String Your Principal event

Monday, April 16-20: Spring Recess Week

Monday, April 23: School reopens

Tuesday, April 24: Admissions Open House, 10:00 AM

Wednesday, April 25- Thursday, April 26: Book Fair

Thursday, April 26: Elementary/Middle School Family Night, 6:00-8:00 PM

Friday, April 27: No school for students, Professional Development

Friday, April 27: High School Prom, 7:00 PM

Social Thinking

Social Thinking really is all day long...

By: Amy Davis, Elementary & Middle School Principal

It is an easy thing to say "Social Thinking is incorporated into all aspects of the Learning Prep day" but what does that really look like?

Social Thinking is a concept developed by Michelle Garcia Winner. She recognized that for some people it is hard, if not impossible, to pick up on the "unwritten social rules of society" just by watching. She knew that for some people these skills needed to be explicitly taught and this teaching should not occur in isolation but should be everywhere. That is why in 2012 LPS took on the mission of training every staff member in Social Thinking. Michelle Garcia Winner believes that there is a social component to every aspect of a student's academic day and the best way to target these skill deficits is in the moment.

Social Thinking shows up in all sorts of ways at LPS. While all students are learning the "why" behind the social behaviors we are trying to coach, the manner in which we teach to the different grade levels shows up in different ways and is tailored to their developmental level. All students are learning that there are behaviors/actions that are "expected" and "unexpected" and that people around us have thoughts about what we do and how we act. Some examples of everyday activities where Social Thinking skills come into play at LPS are:

- Basic ready-learner classroom skills involve listening with your eyes, ears, brain, body and heart.
- In Reading Comprehension class character and plot predictions require you to “think about how someone else might be feeling” or put yourself in their shoes.
- Bake sales provide wonderful social thinking opportunities to practice being aware of how much time one typically should take when standing in front of several long tables of wonderful treats trying to make your selections (making swift selections is not an easy task.) Making eye contact with your server when you have made your choice is a signal that you are ready to order. Additionally, students practice money management skills and need to manage asking how much they owe, paying for their treats and knowing when they need to wait for change.
- Fun days such as “Silly Sting your Principal push the students to the limit of flexible thinking to help all the students understand that while this might be a situation where someone might be mad (if you surprised them by silly stinging them in the face) this is not one of those times as we agreed to do it, it was for a good cause, and we were not going to be mad. Teaching the concepts of good-natured fun is a challenge as the definition changes depending on the situation and the age.
- Fun Days such as PJ day, hat day, Red Sox Opening Day, crazy hair day, etc. help our students develop more flexible thinking, as well as challenge their social thinking skills. “Is it expected that I would wear this today?” “Yes, because that is the plan but it would not be expected to go to work or a meeting on a different day dressed this way.”
- In all classes we may ask students to “make a smart guess” when we want to encourage them to take a chance and use the information they know to answer question.
- In the cafeteria, where all tasks are unstructured, we ask students to think socially the entire time - finding a seat - seeing that someone has their backpack on a seat to save it, turning their body towards another student, so the other person knows you are interested and using the “social fake” when you are not interested!
- Being a “Social Detective”, as Michelle Garcia Winner calls it - “reading the room” - having students figure out what is expected of them by looking at what other people in the room are doing and then doing the same.
- We make “smart” and “wacky” guesses all day long, because MOST social situations don’t have written rules to follow - we need to try and understand another person’s perspective in order to interact with them and have them have good feelings about being around us. It is NOT good enough to simply memorize social rules and follow them - we need to understand WHY we are acting a certain way in one social situation and why we are doing something different in the same situation - for example it is “expected” to wear a swimsuit at the beach, but very “unexpected” to show up in school in a swimsuit.
- We ask students to use their Social Thinking skills in classes to monitor their talk time, “read the room” and know when it is time to get to work, or hold their “bubble thoughts” when others are talking.

The fact that Social Thinking is addressed by every staff member creates many opportunities for students to learn as they go in a non-judgmental manner. Having the common language Michelle Garcia Winner provides

with Social Thinking allows students to learn these skills throughout their day in every class and with every staff and student. This learning/teaching carries over into the less structured parts of their day which is where we see the greatest need for support. Simply teaching social skills is not effective. We need to prepare our students for life, just as our motto says. We need to teach students to THINK socially in order to have positive interactions with others. That's what we do, all day long!

Post High School Fair



You are cordially invited to attend Learning
Prep School's
Post High School Fair

Thursday, April 12, 2018
9:00–12:15

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 8th-12th grade parents, Junior, and Senior level students.

***Important:** Parents of senior students who would like their child to attend must RSVP to Brigid Flynn (Bflynn@learningprep.org) by Friday April 6.

Schedule:

Parents: The fair is open to parents from 9:00 -10:15

Juniors: Will attend the fair from 10:15 - 11:15

Seniors: Will attend the fair from 11:15-12:15

The Boston Marathon is just 12 days away!

Please join us at the LPS water table, Marathon Monday on April 16th at 12:00 PM!

If you're not going away for vacation week, come cheer on **Amy Davis**, and her co-runner **Claudine Nicholas** as they start the long trek up Commonwealth Avenue toward Heartbreak Hill. Claudine is coming all the way from Texas to run and raise funds for LPS, so let's give her a big Boston welcome too.

Park at LPS and follow the map below. You will find us across the street from the Commonwealth Avenue entrance to the Brae Burn Country Club. Road closures on the race route portion of Comm. Ave. begin early (8:00 a.m.). Take either Route 30 or the Mass. Pike to LPS for parking. To find us:

1. Cross Washington Street, follow Prospect Street to the top of the hill.

2. Turn right on Temple Street and follow it to the end and we're on the left.
3. Look for our tent on the median strip.

We are at about mile 18.5, so our runners will need encouragement!

If you can't cheer them on at our LPS table, please consider helping them reach their fundraising goals. You can help them and help Learning Prep School with your support by donating here:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/team/learningprepschoolboston2018>

All proceeds benefit our students, faculty and our many programs at Learning Prep School. Thank You!

Silly String Your Principal update

We had a tremendous amount of support for this marathon fundraiser. It generated over \$9,000 in funds raised for Principal Amy Davis' marathon run and Learning Prep School! That translates into a lot of students being able to have a 'No Homework' night, a 'Hat/Pajama Day', an opportunity to work a Bake Sale, announce Student of the Week, pull raffle tickets or blue slips, but most exciting of all... SILLY STRING THEIR PRINCIPAL!

There were many extra donations which will afford even more students to get in on the action. Students will be notified if they have been chosen by raffle for one of these fun events next week. We plan to have the Silly String festivities on **Friday, April 13th**.

Family directory

The family directory is a tool to support family communication. The information published in the directory is general address and contact information. Our policy is to obtain express approval to publish your contact information in the directory. If your family is not visible in the directory and you would like it be visible only to other LPS parents, please send us approval.

To access the Directory:

1. Visit www.learningprep.org
2. Click the blue box that says "Log In" in the upper right corner.
3. If you have never logged in or have forgotten your password, click the "Forgot Password" link under the login and follow the directions.
4. Login with the primary e-mail address provided to LPS during registration and your password.
5. Once you are logged in, click "Parents" in the blue navigation bar and then "Parent Resources." When you are logged in you will see the directories and the newsletters listed here.

Prom 2018

The theme for this year's prom is 1920's Evening in Paris! We are excited to have the Sheraton in Needham host us. We will have a buffet dinner, sundae bar, and unlimited soda bar. As always, we will have a wonderful DJ playing all the favorites. All students grade 9-12 are invited to attend.

Friday, April 27, 2018 7:00 -11:00 pm

Sheraton Needham, [100 Cabot Street Needham, MA](#)

Please have students return their [permission slip](#) by **Wednesday, April 11th** to Bob Owens, Jeff Manzella, Meredith Sullivan or Jen Thorell.

Cyber-bullying workshop

Please note that due to lack of interest and the approach of the end of the school year, The *Navigating the Cyber World* workshop by Middlesex Partnership for Youth, will not be rescheduled. We plan to offer it again next year.

Term date changes

Due to multiple snow days, we are changing the end dates for terms 3 and 4. Term 3 will end on **April 13th** and term 4 will end on the last day of school, which has not yet been determined. Please contact **Gretchen Petersen** at gpetersen@learningprep.org with any questions.

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:

April – ELA

- Grades 3,4 & 5 – April 3 & 4
- Grades 6 & 7 – April 5 & 6
- Grade 8 – April 10 & 11

May- Math

- Grade 3, 4 & 5 – May 1 & 2
- Grade 6 & 7 – May 3 & 4
- Grade 8: May 8 & 9
- Grade 10: May 23 & 24

May- Science

- Grade 5 & 8 – May 21 & 22

June- Science

- HS: June 6 & 7

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 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.

Yearbook orders

2017-2018 High School Yearbooks are on sale now! Order forms already went home with students or you can order online and add special features!

Two ways to order:

1. [Download the order form](#) and return to **Kaitlin Scorzella**
2. [Order a yearbook online](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Kaitlin Scorzella** at kscorzella@learningprep.org.



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FADE AWAY

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YEARBOOK

Jestens

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, April 24, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Monday, May 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, June 5, 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

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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