

Thursssday, December 22, 2016

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Learning Prep School Community,

It was only four short months ago that we prepared to open the 2016-2017 School Year. Now, the recent snow, temperatures, and early sunsets tell us that winter has indeed arrived.

As our campus prepares to quiet down for a few weeks, we are mindful that this time provides many families with the first extended opportunity to be together since the summer's end. It is often a time when our students look to those around the home for celebration and for connection.

However you may spend the upcoming break, we encourage all families to continue celebrating the successes of our students. This is a wonderful time to look back on good work accomplished, and to look ahead toward goals for the end of the year. As with so many things in life, a little encouragement goes a long way, and a positive focus can become a very bright light.

It is my privilege to send the warmest of wishes to you and yours, with hopes for an exciting and fulfilling New Year!

David

Update from the LPS Board of Directors

Save the Date

December 22

December Recess Begins

December 23 - January 2

Winter Vacation

January 3

School Reopens

January 11

All School Early Release Day

Detailed Calendar of Events

We wanted to share some updates with the LPS Community. After three years of tireless service, Jean Raymond has stepped down as board chair, but we are very fortunate that she remains a board member. Her service to the school has been extraordinary. Karen Kames was voted unanimously to be the new board chair. Karen has served on the LPS board with distinction since 2013, focusing on education and leadership initiatives. Also, board member Charlie Breslin recently stepped off the board at the end of his second term of service, as will Don Freedman in February. We thank them both for their long-standing dedication to LPS.

In early 2017 we will begin recruiting for three new board members. We will post the openings as well as criteria for selection via this newsletter, as well as the website.

Wishing everyone in the LPS Community a wonderful holiday.

- Learning Prep School Board of Directors

Chromebooks Arrive and Faculty Begin Training

The High School has taken delivery of 70 new Chromebooks of the total 160 to be distributed in the new year. Seventeen teachers met in the new Library Media Center on Wednesday to begin their training on Google Apps for Education, the suite of programs that includes Sheets, Docs, Classroom, and Gmail. "Google Apps for Education provides a very powerful set of tools to students and teachers, for academic use in the classroom and far beyond our walls," explained David Lightfoot.

"The world that awaits our students after their time at Learning Prep School will undoubtedly require capable use of technology. The use of Google Apps, widely embraced by users, schools, and businesses throughout the world, represents a significant step forward for our school. The ultimate goal is to help every student take full advantage of technology that will benefit them now, and in the future."

Following considerable research and discussions with other schools, Learning Prep decided on the Lenovo model which has proven to be a good choice at other schools but also highly durable, as these will be taken home in backpacks.

<http://www.learningprep.org/Calendar>

**Visit the new and improved
Learning Prep Website!**

www.learningprep.org

Contact Us

To submit news, comments, and events, please email
lpsnewsletter@learningprep.org



Follow LPS on Twitter at
[@LearningPrep](https://twitter.com/LearningPrep)

Chromebooks have no hard drive so that all information is stored in the Cloud. This not only makes the devices less expensive but also interchangeable; students can work on any computer with access to Google, and then find their work from a home computer waiting for them when they arrive at school in the morning.

Freshmen and Sophomores are currently establishing school Google accounts and passwords, with the help of teachers and counselors, to begin using their new Chromebooks in classes on **Monday, January 9**. Chromebooks for Juniors and Seniors will arrive later that month.

David added, "We've had our technical team working extra hours to make sure these devices are ready. I'm looking forward with great anticipation to getting the Chromebooks into the hands of our students, and giving them more of the 21st century experiences they need. Technology at Learning Prep is becoming a key part of how 'We Educate Students for Life.' I can't wait to see how much our students will learn. I suspect they will surprise us all!"





Artsonia

Just a reminder that LPS student artwork is uploaded to Artsonia almost every day. If your child is not signed up yet, please contact **Demerice Pallone**, dpallone@learningprep.org

You can find student artwork [here](#).





Boston Herald Illustration Contest

A number of LPS art students in all grades 3rd to 12th have participated in the Boston Herald, "Eyes of a child" publication by creating illustrations based on a winter and holiday theme. Letters have been sent out to parents of the students who chose to participate.

Please remember to purchase a Boston Herald Newspaper on **December 24th** to look and see whom the Herald editorial department chose to include in the publication. Best wishes and good luck to all!

Demerice Pallone, M.Ed.

Public Library Partnership

Newton Free Library has graciously offered to allow LPS students and staff to acquire local library cards to expand our students' access to free library material. Due to differences in public funding, not all public libraries are created equal, and Newton has one of the best-funded libraries in the state. While Newton Free Library cards may be used to access physical books, we see the main benefit to our students as being able to access the wealth of digital resources that the Newton Free Library has to offer. LPS will **not** be taking students to access physical materials from the public library. As parents, you will have the

option of using the library card to check out physical materials, such as books, movies, music and other library materials if you so choose.

Benefits:

1. Access to more free material, especially electronic material that doesn't require a trip to the library to access.
2. Access the Minuteman Library Network (MLN), a consortium of 43 libraries with 62 locations and a Central Site staff that work collectively to provide excellent service to its library users.
3. Access to Overdrive for eBooks, audiobooks, and more from their digital collections.
4. Access to Hoopla, a digital media service to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and TV shows that can be streamed immediately, or downloaded for offline enjoyment later.
5. Access to Freading, an eBook subscription service to provide eBook service to users with valid library cards.
6. Students can apply for Newton Free Library cards through Learning Prep School by filling out an application, obtaining a parent signature, returning it to the school library, and then the school librarian will work with the public librarians to obtain the public library card and give it to the student at LPS.

Conditions:

1. Parents are responsible for all materials checked out from and all fines incurred from the Newton Free Library.
2. If the student already has a library card to any of the libraries in the Minuteman Library Network (MLN), they are ineligible for a Newton Free Library Card since they can already access the same resources using any public library card in the Minuteman Library Network.

Please click [here](#) to see the list of local libraries in the Minuteman Library Network and to download a copy of the Public Library Card Survey.

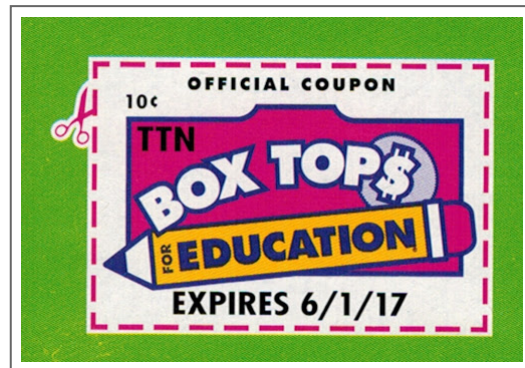
Attention All Senior Families!

Please take note of the calendar for the beginning of January. During the week of **January 2nd** and the week of **January 9th**, the Week 1 seniors will be in school. This means that the Week 2 seniors will be at work for these consecutive weeks. Please be sure your transportation companies are aware to avoid any confusion in pickups.

Box Tops for Education

LPS is collecting Box Tops! Students in the high school were provided with Box Tops collection sheets. Box Tops can be collected and taped or glued on to this sheet. Once the collection sheet is full, it can be returned to school.

Box Tops are an easy, quick, and free way to help the LPS community. Since the Box Tops program began at LPS, the program has raised \$5,897.48 for the school! All the money raised from Box Tops can help create new opportunities for our students. Thank you for your support!



Recipe Contest!

The LPS Food Service Department is holding a recipe contest to incorporate family favorites into school lunches. By **January 6th**, interested families should send in their favorite healthy side dish or snack recipe to **Seth Bernier** at sbernier@learningprep.org. Students in the food service elective will choose which recipes to pilot during school lunch. The entire school will then taste test

and vote on a winner! Please note, recipes should only require a maximum of 90 minutes to prepare and should not include nuts or fish as ingredients. We are looking forward to trying out some family favorites!

Exercise to the Rescue! Moving Your Body Makes You More Resilient

Resilience may be the new relaxation. As lovely as an afternoon of yoga, massage, and meditation might sound, the truth is that a life of nonstop relaxing may get boring. Occasional stress helps us accomplish things large and small, like a work project, a house renovation, or childcare. It's not exactly stress itself that wears us down, but persistent stress, both physical and mental, that takes a toll on our health. The good news is that we can cultivate resilience to chronic, harmful stress with regular exercise. Likely everyone knows how good a long hike, vigorous walk, or energetic bike ride can make you feel for the rest of the day, but a different type of stress reducing phenomenon also emerges. Over time, not only does regular exercise lower our levels of two stress hormones, cortisol and adrenaline, but regular exercise also boosts specific areas of the brain that put the brakes on stress and anxiety. In other words, exercise can help us roll with what life dishes out. When you are not feeling stressed, take a look at the obstacles that may be standing between you and a regular exercise routine, then tackle them. Schedule daily walks, bike rides, dance classes, basketball, Pilates, yoga, or whatever physical activities you enjoy. The next time a wave of stress comes along, you may just find that, instead of being knocked down, you will be able ride the wave and even feel good about it.

Please Don't Forget ...

A reminder for all parents/guardians: please call the absence line and leave a message when your child is out for any reason: **(617) 965-0764 (ext. 111 for HS and ext. 411 for E/MS)**. Thank you!

Stay Connected with LPS!

We continue to update the website with new information about upcoming events, the LPS Newsletter, and our Family and Teacher/Staff Directories. The

Directories are useful communication tools to reach other parents, a teacher or a staff member at Learning Prep. These Directories are accessible by parent login only. The current LPS newsletter and archives are also accessible on the website in the password-protected area.

To login, use the primary parent e-mail address you submitted to LPS during the summer registration process. If you did not provide one, or are not sure which e-mail you provided as the primary, please don't hesitate to call **Peggy at 617-965-0764** or e-mail **Debby Worcester** at dworcester@learningprep.org.

Directions for login:

1. Visit www.learningprep.org
2. Click the blue box in the upper right.
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 sent to LPS during registration, along with 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.

Family Directory:

The Directory is a tool to support communication among families. The information published in the Directory includes the general address and contact information. Our policy is to obtain expressed 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 your approval by email to **Barry Burlingham** at bburlingham@learningprep.org.



Learning Prep School is an innovative school for students with language and learning challenges. 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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