



Thursday, January 19, 2017

Call for Learning Prep School Board Members

The Learning Prep School Board of Directors is currently seeking up to three new members to serve on the Board beginning in March 2017. These are voluntary positions that require between 5 – 15 hours per month of service, including monthly board meetings, as well as, a charitable commitment to the school. Further details of the position and applicant qualifications are listed below.

Board member position

The Board supports the work of LPS and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by the LPS Executive Director, the Board-Executive Director relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected. Service on the LPS Board of Directors is without remuneration. Specific Board Member responsibilities include:

Leadership, governance and oversight

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the LPS school as s/he develops and implements LPS's strategic plan
- Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by LPS for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics; reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings

Save the Date

January 19

All School Bake Sale

January 20

HS Hat Day

HS Movie & Pizza Night

January 27

End of Term 2

February 6 - 16

HS Student Council Valentine Fundraiser

- Approving LPS' annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contributing to an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director
- Assisting the board in identifying and recruiting other Board Members
- Partnering with the Executive Director and other board members to ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Serving on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments
- Representing LPS to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organization
- Ensuring LPS's commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities LPS serves

Board terms/participation

Learning Prep School Board Members will serve a three-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term. Board meetings will be held monthly and committee meetings will be held as determined by each committee.

Qualifications

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about education, particularly education for students who face significant learning challenges. Selected Board members will bring deep knowledge in either business, education, government, philanthropy, or technology. His/her accomplishments will allow him/her to attract other well-qualified, high-performing Board Members. Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, education, philanthropy, or technology
- A commitment to and understanding the population educated by Learning Prep, preferably based on experience

Detailed Calendar of Events

<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

- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of the students of LPS

The Board is interested in adding new Board members with some specific areas of qualification or experience to ensure the Board has the skill sets to support the LPS' strategic needs. Experience or qualifications in any of the following areas will be greatly valued:

1. Financial Services
2. Information Technology
3. Commercial Real Estate
4. Private school operations/Special Education

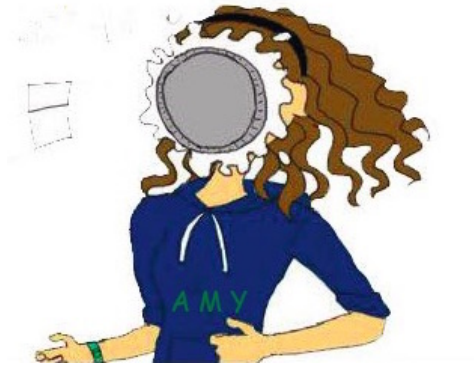
Fundraising

Learning Prep School Board members are expected to consider LPS a charitable priority. In order to ensure that LPS can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, it is essential to have 100 percent of Board members make an annual contribution.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to learningprepboard@gmail.com by **January 31st**.

A Pie in the Face to Run the Race

Amy Davis has issued the challenge. For every gift of \$100 to meet her fundraising goal for the Boston Marathon, your son, daughter or grandchild gets to participate in a bit of classic comedy, by delivering our dear Amy a pie in the face! Watch for our video coming soon showing our first donors offering their "just desserts". You'll be laughing – and for a good cause. All donations to Amy's race goal support the **Family & Friends Fund**. Go to Amy's website today and make your donation. We'll make the pie.

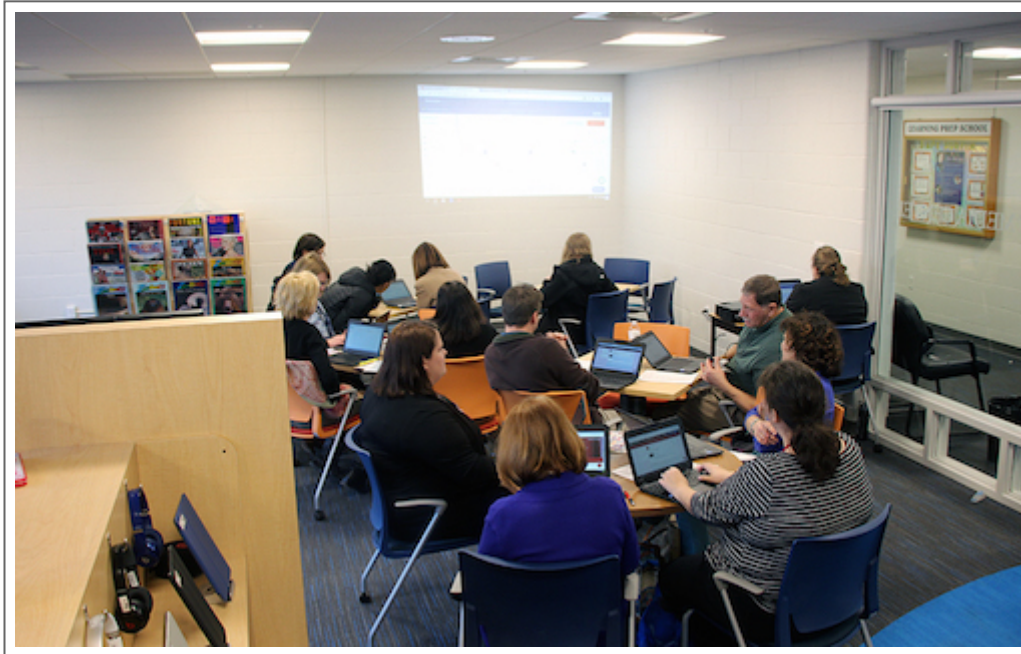


<https://www.crowdrise.com/learningprepschoolboston2017/fundraiser/amydavis4>

Chromebook 1:1 Initiative Update

We are excited to announce that on January 10th, Lenovo Google Chromebooks (GCBs) were distributed to all 9th and 10th grade students. In the coming weeks, every 11th and 12th grader will be receiving GCBs as well. All High School students will have their own device for use during the day and which is sent home with them at night for homework completion.

In preparation for this new technology initiative, all high school staff have received initial training in Google's G Suite for Education. This powerful collection of tools includes the following Google apps: Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, Classroom, etc. Since starting this initiative, students and staff have been utilizing Drive for storage, collaboration, and sharing digital content. The GCBs have been extremely well received so far; students are reporting that the devices are easy to use, and staff report that we have had a successful transition from iPads. Meanwhile, the iPads that are no longer needed in the High School will be distributed in the Elementary/Middle School. Teachers will have continued professional development throughout the year.



We look forward to the integration of digital curricula and technology instruction in our classrooms as we continue to prepare our students for success. Students will learn technology skills through regular use in their classrooms. This model, also known as a “classroom integration” model, is used in many high schools today. Designed to help students generalize technology skills into all areas, this model allows every teacher to reinforce skills on a daily basis.

This initiative comes to us after mixed success with last year’s 9th grade iPad initiative. Several months ago, High School staff visited six schools to study the use of technology in the classroom. Their collaborative work was a deciding factor in our selection of GCBs. While the iPads have been instrumental in helping students receive digital curricula and develop technology skills, the GCBs will better prepare students for the post-high school transition because they are most similar to the devices used in post-secondary environments. Another significant benefit for choosing GCBs is their cloud-based storage, meaning that students can access all materials and documents from any computer or mobile device. The durability of the device, the integrated keyboard and camera, built-in security, and the ease of management, coupled with the use of Google Suite products and Chrome Store apps/extensions, were other deciding factors in our choice of device.

As with all other school technology, our Acceptable Use Policy applies to Google Chromebooks. Students receive guidance in following this policy successfully through the support of our counseling staff and teachers. A monitoring system called "GoGuardian" is in place, allowing staff to view student activity on the GCB, while filtering specific, identified content. For families with concern over appropriate student access to the Internet through school devices, we recommend the use of the devices in a visible area of the home. Please contact your child's counselor and/or consult the Acceptable Use Policy found in our handbook for more information.

A Note to Elementary/Middle School Parents

Please be reminded that any forms that need to be completed by outside providers, summer schools or evaluators need to be given to **Clara Caruso (ext. 411)**, ccaruso@learningprep.org rather than going directly to the teacher. Clara will take care of distributing and collecting all forms and returning them to the appropriate person. Please also be reminded that Learning Prep cannot complete any online forms or surveys about students. We would be happy to complete paper forms of all surveys.

9th Grade Overview for Current 8th Grade Parents

All parents/guardians of current 8th grade students are invited to attend an informational session about the High School. This presentation is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 8th, from 8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. in the cafeteria**. During the overview, we will provide you with information, which will facilitate your child's transition into 9th grade, and afterwards you will take a tour of the classrooms.

We are excited about helping our 8th graders move into the high school next year, and we look forward to meeting them and making them feel more comfortable with this important rite of passage. The support provided for this transition makes it very successful for most students.

Here are some of the points we will be covering during the presentation:

- Transition to the High School

- Student Orientation in June
- Behavioral Expectations
- Homework
- Notebooks
- Testing Schedule
- Grading
- Scheduling
- Work Study

We hope you will be able to join us on the morning of **Wednesday, February 8th**. We look forward to working with you and getting to know your sons and daughters!

Sincerely,

The High School Administrative Team

Elementary/Middle School MCAS Update

The Massachusetts DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) has issued a formal notification of the MCAS testing dates for spring, 2017. **In past years**, the MCAS testing began in March. However, this school year, the testing period for grade 3 - 8 students is from **April 3 - May 26, 2017**.

Please be aware of the testing period when you are scheduling family vacations, medical appointments, etc. Thank you for your help in this matter. It is very important that students attend school.

The LPS spring vacation (**April 13 - April 24, 2017**) does fall within the MCAS testing timeframe. The students in grade 3 - 8 will take MCAS tests in **ELA** (English Language Arts) and **Math**. Only students in Grades 5 and 8 will take tests in **Science**.

During those weeks of testing, each grade will be involved in testing for a number of days, depending on the pace at which students complete the tests. Later in the school year, you will be notified of the **approximate** testing dates for each grade level. As required, the accommodations included in each student's current signed IEP will be provided.

Dear Parents/Guardians of Graduating Seniors

With January upon us, it is only a short five months to graduation! The yearbook staff, with your help, would like to have a section in the yearbook this year to honor your children, the graduating students of 2017. We want to give you an opportunity to send a special and lasting message to your child in his or her yearbook.

Please send us a picture of your student as a young child AND a picture when in middle/high school. Also, send a message or poem, in 50 words or less, expressing your wishes for them, your love, how proud you are of your child, or simple congratulations. Please make sure it is legible, but do not feel that it must be typed. We will be happy to type your messages for you, as we have to format them for the book anyway. All pictures will be returned to you at the end of the school year, in the condition in which they were received. (Please do not send with staples or paper clips!)

As we have done this in the past, the graduating students know that this is happening, but please try to keep the actual pictures and messages a surprise! These are often the first things they look at when they receive the books, as they are a truly meaningful gift from you to them.

Please send this into school with your child (in a sealed envelope, of course!), mail it to the following address, or email it to kscorzella@learningprep.org no later than **January 30th**, so we have time to prepare it for inclusion in the book. If you have any questions, call **Kaitlin Scorzella** at **(617) 965-0764, ext. 213**. We anticipate an exciting second half of the year with your children and we look forward to seeing you at graduation! With your help, we can make it very special for the class of 2017!!!!

Kaitlin Scorzella c/o LPS

1507 Washington St.

West Newton, MA 02465

PS – If you have not purchased a yearbook yet, they are still available to order for \$40. Just get your order to **Kaitlin Scorzella**, ASAP.

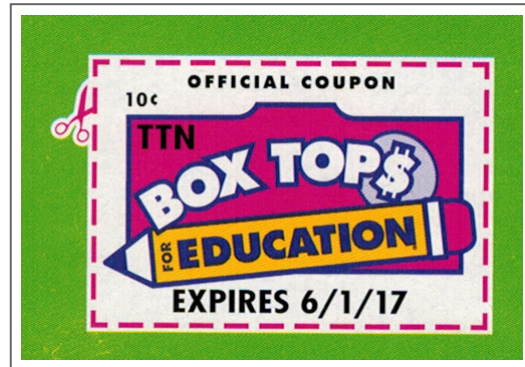
Sincerely,

The 2017 Yearbook Staff

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 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!



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.

Young Adult Leaders Fellowship Application

Massachusetts Advocates for Children invites young adults 18 - 26 with intellectual disabilities and/or autism to apply for an innovative Young Adult Leaders Fellowship, which provides opportunities to learn the professional skills needed to advocate on behalf of other youth with disabilities. The Young Adult Leaders Fellowship consists of one year part-time advocacy training under the supervision of the Autism Public Information Specialist and senior attorney. A small stipend is provided.

MAC is currently accepting Fellowship applications until January 31, 2017.

For more information and an application, click here:

<http://massadvocates.org/apply-young-adult-leaders-fellowship/>



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.

1507 Washington Street | West Newton, MA 02465 | (617) 965-0764 | info@learningprep.org