

WOLF NEWS

Liberty Pines Academy

Message from Mrs. Hemingway

LPA Families,

- **Food Service** - SJCSD Families, please be reminded that beginning Wednesday, December 1, 2021, Meal Prices will be:
 - Elementary – Breakfast \$1.25 and Lunch \$2.80
 - Middle School – Breakfast \$1.25 and Lunch \$2.95Prepayments into student lunch accounts can be made by using PayPAMS. The link to this service is located at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/paypams/> online and printable Free/Reduced lunch applications can be located at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free/>.
- **Student Health Screening Entry Form** – as flu season approaches, we ask that your child stay home from school if they answer yes to the following symptoms:
 - Fever of 100.4 or higher
 - Uncontrolled cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste
 - Muscle aches
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - Is your child currently awaiting COVID-19 test results?

Your Learning Leader,
Mrs. Hemingway

Turkey Bags –

LPA Giving Back

To Those in Need!

By: Laina Lagoutaris

The Turkey Bags is a student opportunity for this month's character pillar (Citizenship). Teachers volunteered to put bags in their rooms where they "Stuff the Turkeys" with food. The food was then donated to food banks. So far Liberty Pines Academy has donated 33 bags and we only have at least 24 more bags to go. Ms. Heller believes that: "This teaches that it is important to give back, and when you do give back it will make you feel good." It also teaches students the importance of giving back to those in need. Ms. Heller is so happy to help benefit those who are in need this Thanksgiving!

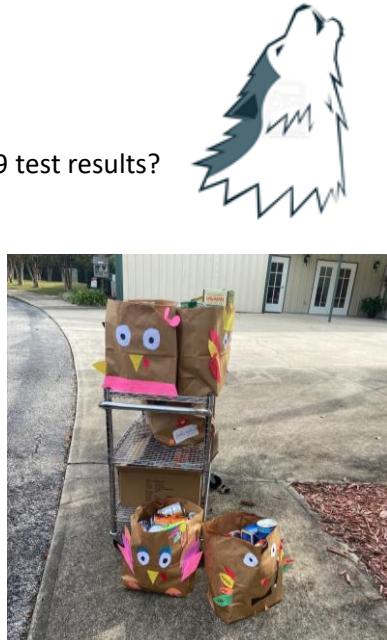


WOLVES

UPCOMING DATES

December-January Calendar

- 12/1 - 12/16- End of Soccer Season Tournament
- 12/2- Boosterthon
- 12/6 - 12/10- Book Fair
- 12/9- PTO Meeting
- 12/15 – District PE Exams
- 12/16 – District Exams for HS Courses – Biology, Physical Science, Geometry, and Algebra 1
- 12/21- Second Quarter/ First Semester Ends
- 12/22 – 1/4- Winter Break (No school)
- 1/5- Teacher Planning Day/ Student Holiday (No school)
- 1/6- Classes Resume for Students & Second Semester/ 3rd Quarter Begins
- 1/13- PTO Meeting
- 1/17- Martin Luther King Day (No school)
- 1/19- Report Cards Issued



Liberty Parade

-Jillian Kapadia and Catherine Wade

The Liberty Parade was a true success due to the hard work and participation of all the students and staff. Ms. Herkel, along with the student council representatives made sure the parade ran smoothly. It has been two years since the last Liberty Parade due to Covid-19, so this year's parade was special in many ways. Thank you to the Bell family for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and thank you Student Council President Norah Russo for your lovely speech. Finally thank you PTO for hosting our guests with a lovely breakfast in the media center before the parade.

The most significant part of this year's parade was perhaps Liberty Pines Academy receiving a Purple Heart for honoring veterans and active military personnel for many years. We are the only K-8 school in the state of Florida and the only school in St. Johns County to receive this honor. After the parade on Friday as well as over the weekend following, administration received many phone calls and emails, from Veteran's wanting to thank LPA staff and students for celebrating the sacrifices these men and women make for our freedom. The Purple Heart plaque will be hung in the front office. We hope next year's parade is just as successful, and we are thankful for all the people who attended.



WOLF NEWS

Drama Corner

By Cayden Coarsey

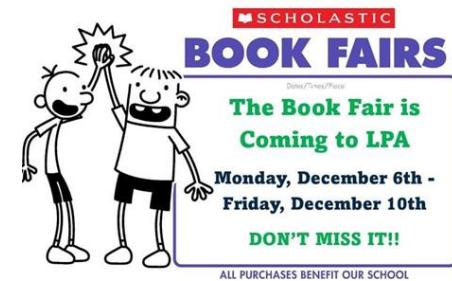
Opening night for "A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas" is drawing near! Tickets for the December 9th and 10th shows will be available online for \$5 each. The doors open at 5:30, and the show itself begins at 6:00. The cast and crew have been working hard, even starting everyday rehearsals last week, to bring you the best show possible!

Media Matters

By Cayden Coarsey

Battle of the Books testing for both the 3-5 and 6-8 teams took place the morning of December 1st. Teams will be announced soon and will begin practicing for the upcoming competition.

The Scholastic Book Fair is December 6th through December 10th, and students should make sure they have their money ready if they're planning on picking anything up! As usual, you must buy at least one book if you want to get any small trinkets. Proceeds from the book fair help us buy more books for our wonderful media center.



Student Council

By: Norah Russo

This past month has been such a rewarding time for Student Council! The representatives and Ms. Herkel contributed to the success of this year's Liberty Parade. According to Monica Posina (8th grade representative) the members helped decorate, hanging streamers and decorations, and escorted veterans to the Veterans Day brunch.

Monica also believes that "This year was definitely more significant" for her since it was the last time she was able to participate in the parade. Also, due to the fact that the parade was unable to happen last year because of Covid-19.

In December, Student Council is planning on selling Carol Grams to raise money for LPA. They will be sold in the main hallway for \$1. Buy a Carol Gram to spread some holiday cheer!

NJHS Pet Food Drive Summary

By: Alyssa Cronin and Heidi Dearling

This month during the week of the 15th-19th National Junior Honor Society hosted a pet food drive.

NJHS collected 809(!) pounds of food during that week, which surpassed 2019's pet food drive by 304 pounds. The pet food that was collected was donated to pets of homeless people or families and will be donated to Home Again St. Johns, the St. Johns Food Pantry, Ayla's Acres Pet Ranch and the St. Augustine Humane Society. This helps NJHS members by giving them hours when they volunteer and gets them helping in the community. NJHS also gets to see all of the LPA families and set a good example for the younger kids. Thank you so much to all the families that participated in the pet food drive! The pets really appreciate it!



New Teacher Spotlight

By Heidi Dearling and Alyssa Cronin

This month's new teacher spotlight is Mrs. Sutaria, one of the amazing 5th grade teachers! Mrs. Sutaria joined the Liberty Pines staff this year and is an amazing addition to the team! She has taught overall for 7 years and enjoys teaching very much. Her motivation for teaching is to connect with the students and engage them into learning.

As a teacher on the fifth grade team, she feels very at home with the particular grade. She has taught various years, such as fourth, fifth, and sixth, and absolutely loves the fifth grade environment. She loves helping the students on their transition to middle school. "It's just my favorite grade to teach," Mrs. Sutaria says. She decided to become a teacher to follow in the footsteps of her family. Her family consists of many teachers, and she believes she couldn't imagine herself in any other occupation.

Her favorite part of her job is to help students with their writing. She enjoys teaching new techniques and ways to add volume and structure into the writing. Her favorite part of teaching is to see the impact her advice has had on the students' writing and how great the writing itself is.

Mrs. Sutaria is a fantastic teacher and loves her students very much! She is an amazing addition to the fifth-grade team and to Liberty Pines!

Veteran Teacher Spotlight

By: Briana Watson and Hannah Geevers

This month's veteran teacher spotlight is kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Ryan! She has been teaching for a total of 26 years and has spent 10 of those years at Liberty Pines. Mrs. Ryan is also the kindergarten team leader at LPA. She's taught grades K-3rd and was a reading specialist when she taught at her old school in Rhode Island.



Mrs. Ryan's favorite part about teaching is the kids and seeing how they grow and develop. She loves "...making them feel happy and safe." What Mrs. Ryan loves most about LPA is her kindergarten team and staff. She believes that some things wouldn't be possible without the help of her team and fellow staff.

Currently, Mrs. Ryan's class is learning social studies and some history of thanksgiving. As well as addition, subtraction, and they read as much as possible. Mrs. Ryan's favorite subject to teach is reading. She enjoys it because she is passionate about getting her students to read books, "...If you can read, you can do anything..."

Mrs. Ryan is glad that we are back to in-school learning rather than virtual learning. Due to her being a simultaneous teacher last year, she had to teach her online and in-school kindergarten students at the same time. It was twice the work and made things much more difficult; but she still made the effort to give her students the best experience she could provide. We are blessed to have had Mrs. Ryan at our school for so long and grateful she's here for another wonderful year at LPA!

More WOLF NEWS...

Club News

By Avery Webb and Heidi Dearling

Odyssey of the Mind:

The Odyssey of the Mind's competition is in February! Ms. Waggoner, Ms. Applegate, and Ms. Stone are getting the teams ready and are confident the students will do amazing! Our teams are working hard on their skits, and we know they will do wonderful in the competition!

Writing Club:

Liberty Pines has a new club! This writing club is run by two amazing middle school teachers, Ms. Strillchuk and Ms. Woolston. It is the first time this club has ever been offered at LPA! "Mrs. Woolston and I are very excited about all the types of creative writing we will explore. We will spend time workshopping student writing, and then we will practice mostly fiction. We would love to spend some time with poetry, scripts, and even lyrics," says Ms. Strillchuk. Any students who are interested in joining will need to submit a sample writing to either Mrs. Strillchuk or Mrs. Woolston by December 10. The club will begin in January and they will meet on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00. LPA is very excited about this new opportunity for students!

Band and Choir news

By: Laina Lagoutaris

Middle School Band and Chorus held their first concert of the year on November 18th, and it was a great success! We're so proud of our LPA Singers and our band! A lot of parents showed up and Mr. Spilling was very happy with the turnout!

Spelling Bee

By: Ella Berg and Alyssa Cronin

LPA's 14th annual Spelling Bees for 5th grade and middle school occurred Monday, November 15th. The elementary competition ended shortly with George "Hank" Brown as the winner and Saran Nimmagadda as the first runner up. The middle school competition lasted 24 rounds and the participants spelled a total of 196 words. Out of 31 middle school students that were qualified to compete in the Spelling Bee, the winner was Torre Morris, and the first runner up was Grace Taylor. 8th grade winner Torre Morris and 5th grade winner Hank Brown will represent LPA in the District Spelling Bee on December 15th.



Student Spotlight

– Connor Shelton

By Charlotte Gilbert and Ashlyn Heck

Our student spotlight for November is Connor Shelton. Connor is a 2nd grader from Ms. Hoelle's class. Connor describes himself as funny and nice. At school, he likes to learn math. Outside of school, Connor enjoys playing soccer for Florida Elite Soccer Academy. He also likes to play on his iPad and spend time with his family. Connor has two brothers, Brooks and Rhett, a dog named Tracker, and a cat named Socks. Connor told us he looks up to any football players on the Jacksonville Jaguars and Florida Gators. Connor stated that, "they work hard and are very good."



Elementary Music

By: Norah Russo and Catherine Wade

Elementary music is such a great resource activity for our K-5 Wolves! Ms. Snyder is a fabulous teacher and has been teaching for 8 years. She has always loved music and shares the love with her students.

Ms. Snyder taught the elementary students their Liberty Parade songs! These songs say thank you to our brave veterans and those currently serving.

Some upcoming activities that Ms. Snyder is looking forward to are the kindergarten and first grade concert called Holiday Jingles on Tuesday, December 14th at 6:30 PM, and "All Kindergarten through 5th grade will be doing hand bells" for another December activity!

Ms. Snyder believes that music is such an important subject for kids to participate in because it parallels with other subjects. Some of these include songs for math, or the syllables in words. Music is such an important concept for children to learn, we are so blessed to have Ms. Snyder at LPA!



Cross Country Wrap Up

By Avery Webb and Heidi Dearling

The cross-country season is coming to an end! The Wolves had a great year and finished as one of the top teams in the district! Several members also beat their personal records at each meet and were faster in every race.

LPA is sad to lose some amazing 8th graders on the team. The coaches wish them all the best as they go on to run in high school.

Coach Woolston also acknowledges the two team captains. "With Sebastian Stodel and Avery Webb serving as captains this year, the LPA Cross Country team rose to great success."

Congratulations to Coach Woolston and Coach Swift on the amazing year, the team couldn't have had better coaches! You prepared the team so well for races and made the cross-country season fun and exciting!

Finally, congratulations to the entire team for a wonderful year. Coach Woolston says, "This is a team that works together, never quits, and always pushes each other to do their best." LPA could not be prouder of the hard work and determination the team has shown!

Coach Swift and Coach Woolston are sad to see a tremendous season end and are very grateful to the students and parents for helping to make our Wolf Pack so fantastic! Go Wolves!!



LPA Volleyball 2021 Comes to an End

By: Hannah Geevers

Our LPA girls' and boys' volleyball seasons have come to a successful finish! The boys played a great game in their first, and sadly, final playoff game. They fought until the end against Palm Valley Academy in their last game of the season. We are so proud of the boys representing LPA!

Also, our girls played against Patriot Oaks Academy in the quarter finals and won! Therefore, they moved on to the semi-finals against Palm Valley Academy. Unfortunately, putting up a strong fight, they lost in two sets. The first set, 11-25, and second set, 22-25. LPA is incredibly proud of both teams for putting everything they have on the court. Special thanks to Mrs. Wurstner, Mrs. Lutts, and Mrs. Campbell for coaching. We also would like to recognize our 8th graders who are moving on to high school volleyball! Great season Wolves!



Soccer

By: Ella Berg and Ashlyn Heck

Regular soccer season has ended for the boys and girls and the concluding games went great! The boys lost a hard-fought game 2-0 and the girls won 5-2. Good job Wolves! The boys ended 6th in their standings and the girls ended 5th.

Although the season has ended, there is an end of the year tournament scheduled from 11/29-12/12. The first game for the boys is against Fruit Cove on December 3rd and the girls is against Landrum on December 8th; the rest of the dates have yet to be finalized. Do your best Wolves!

Football Champions!

By Charlotte Gilbert and Kennedy Thomson

The 2021 Football season has come to an end, and the Wolves finished 9-0. On November 3rd, the boys won the championship against Valley Ridge with a score of 46-0. This incredible win included touchdowns by Brendan Trujillo, Drew Watson, Marco Lanza, Jaden Weatherly, Cody Boshell, and Chad Spencer. Jakob Bell also scored a Pic Six. This is the first championship that the Wolves have won! According to duvalsports.com, the Wolves football team will be honored at a Jacksonville Jaguars game, along with other middle school champions. Congratulations to all player and coaches on this outstanding season!



NOVEMBER PAW PATS

November 5, 2021

2nd Grade

Kyler Valentine

3rd Grade

Keira Wilcox

Nikhil Praveen

Preston Bunnell

Walker Adams

5th Grade

Aidan Walker

Caitlyn Crawford

Gabriel Thompson

Gianna DiBenedetto

Mattia Hall

6th Grade

Blythe Duff

Brileigh Reese

Christian Capling

8th Grade

Alyssa Cronin

Avery Webb

Elain Borsellino

Elijah Moroz

Luca Hall

Pierce Widrich

Samerica Maciel

November 12, 2021

2nd Grade

Anthony Hoben

Benjamin Young

3rd Grade

Brianna Motycka

Charlie Carlton

Peyton Harrover

Rhys Bergstrom

5th Grade

Grady Myers

Hudson Wallace

Jacob Osborn

Louis Lyons

6th Grade

Capra Whitman

Juliette Sweet

Nicholas Sharpe

Regan Fortener

7th Grade

Daryn Phillips

Gavin Littlejohn

Hannah Fitzgerald

Ivy Chen

Samuel Hines

Taylor Shaw

November 26, 2021

1st Grade

Reagan McGraw

2nd Grade

Charlotte Russo

Henry Abbott

Josslyn Kelly

Mazie Williams (2)

4th Grade

Cobe Grant

5th Grade

Anderson Arnold

Brayden Highsmith

Jamila Perez

6th Grade

Christian Capling

Lily Jurgens

Paisley Sparrow

7th Grade

Ashlyn Crawford

Chloe O'Leary

Edward Khalafyan

Emma Bradberry

Jed Vitell

8th Grade

Asher Canino

Charlotte Gilbert

Character Chains at LPA

By Avery Webb

Our National Junior Honor Society has started a Character Chain in LPA! They have handed out strips of paper to every grade, where every student will write their answer for a question related to Character Counts.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: How can you show love and kindness to others?

3rd- 5th Grade: How can you be a better student?

6th-8th Grade: How can you be a better person?

Each grade has gotten a different color paper to add to the chain. They are currently hanging in the main hallway of the school and in the front office. Ms. Willim, who oversees NJHS, hopes that this will show students and parents how important Character Counts is to our school! She is very pleased with the answers that students have come up with. This Character Chain is a wonderful symbol of what character means to Liberty Pines and we are so grateful that NJHS has worked hard to put this together for our school!

LPA PTO News

By Heidi Dearling and Charlotte Gilbert

This school year, our amazing Liberty Pines Academy PTO team has been working hard to improve our school and support our students, teachers, and staff. The PTO team has been working together this year to raise money from fundraisers to benefit the school. The money is going towards an outdoor marquee sign at the front of the school and to allow the school to have electronics such as I-pads and computers.

The Boosterthon is coming up! After being postponed due to weather, it is now taking place on Thursday, December 2nd. The PTO also made the Liberty Parade and breakfast possible! In addition, the winter Book Fair is scheduled for December 6th through December 10th.

Memberships are available all year long. For more information on the PTO, visit www.lppto.com or join the LPA PTO Facebook page for upcoming events. Thank you so much to the amazing PTO team!



Cheer Season Begins

By Lucia Cruzado

The LPA Wolves Cheerleading team has recently competed in the Warrior Warm Up Competition. The team came in 3rd place, and we couldn't be prouder of all these girls for doing so well. They went out there for the first time as a new team and gave it their all. This was a great start off to the new competition season and a perfect practice competition to improve and do even better at the next one. The girls have greatly improved as a team with communication skills and being there for each other. We just know that the cheer team will do great this season.

LPA PTO NEWS



MEMBERSHIP

"THANK YOU" to everyone who has joined the PTO this year. It's never too late, you can join anytime on our website lppto.com.

"Volunteer of the month"

Congratulations! Student volunteers Parker & Sophia Harnitcek who raised money during their neighborhood garage sale for Blessings in a backpack. Student volunteers Ella M & William M sold Aussie ice to raise \$127 for Blessing in a backpack. Parent volunteers Jamie Daughtry and Cassie Steele who opened their home to store and organize all the Boosterthon t-shirts and prizes. Congratulations to Robyn Cebulko who has been nominated for Volunteer of the year.

Know a person who goes above and beyond at LPA? The PTO wants to hear about them. They can be a student, teacher/staff member or a family member. Please email your nomination, telling us why you chose them, to stephcross13@yahoo.com (please put volunteer in subject line). The voting will take place every month and three winners are chosen. Each winner will receive a sweet treat! If students would like to vote, please have them submit to their teacher and they can drop it in the box located in the mailroom. Volunteering will look different this year, but just because you don't see them, does not mean they are not there.

SPIRIT WEAR

PTO will unveil select winter designs soon that will be available for preorder only. Stay tuned to our website for more details.

FUNDRAISERS

Boosterthon fun run has been postponed until December 2. However, we raised more than our goal and will be purchasing a digital sign for the school. Great job Wolves!!

Book Fair is December 6-10 Check out the website www.scholastic.com/bf/libertypinesacademy1 to set up e-wallet, see a schedule of when classes will be attending and shop online!

AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop on Amazon? If so go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Liberty Pines Academy Parent Teacher Organization as your charity. A % of your purchases will go towards our LPA PTO

BOX TOPS

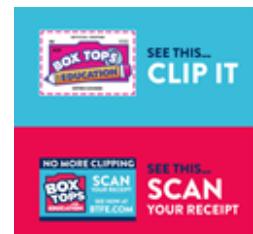
Box Tops for Education has changed to a mostly digital program. Download the Box Tops App and you can scan your receipt and it will find the qualifying items, no more cutting! (However, if you come across the old clip out box tops that are not expired, please send them in.) Even if you shop online check out how to submit your receipts at BTFE.com/DigitalReceipts. This is a simple way to help out our school with purchases you are already making.

STAY CONNECTED

In addition to our website, check out our Liberty Pines Academy PTO Facebook page to learn about upcoming events and stay current with happenings at LPA. You must be an approved volunteer to join. To become an approved volunteer, fill out the school access form on the lppto.com website. Click "Volunteer" then "Become an Approved Volunteer".

UPCOMING DATES

PTO Meeting 12/16 8:45 am in the cafeteria
JAX Icemen 1/22 Tickets available soon



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A limited number of yearbooks have been ordered and may not be available later, so please reserve your copy today.

Se ha pedido una cantidad limitada de anuarios y es posible que no estén disponibles más adelante, así que reserve su copia hoy.

No cash, checks, or money orders will be accepted at the school. / *Pedidos en línea solamente! No se aceptarán efectivo, cheques ni giros postales en la escuela.*

Online options available

Opciones online disponibles



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Deadline: 2/14/2022

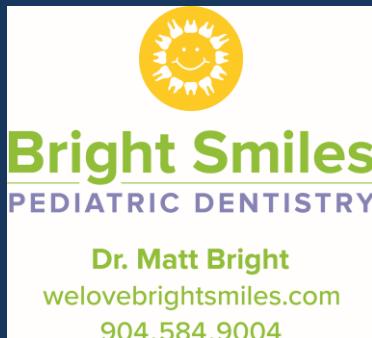
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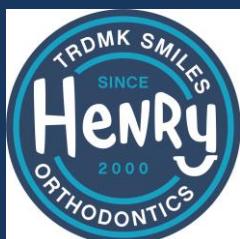
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