

# LPA NEWS

NEWSLETTER | Volume 9 November 2023

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!

## 30 Days of Thankfulness

In the season of giving thanks, each day this month, we started our day with a small thing that made us reflect upon and be thankful for. This “30 Days of Thankfulness” allowed us to stop and remember how the little things in life add up to make a huge difference in our lives. Here is the full list of our “30 Days of Thankfulness”:

### 30 Days of Thankfulness:

Day 1: Waking up to the cool air outside this morning.  
Day 2: A well timed hug from a family member, friend, or colleague in a time of need.  
Day 3: The first sip of coffee in the morning.  
Day 4: The smell of freshly cut grass on a Saturday morning.  
Day 5: Sleeping in an extra hour when the time changes.  
Day 6: The sounds of birds chirping.  
Day 7: An unexpected, no-strings attached, sign of gratitude from your child (i.e. hug, thank you, I love you, etc.).  
Day 8: The unconditional support of your spouse and/or loved one.  
Day 9: Knowing a long weekend is on the horizon.  
Day 10: The men and women who have served, or are currently serving, to protect and maintain our freedoms.  
Day 11: Repeating something silly to make a child continue their belly laugh.  
Day 12: Sunday supper around the dinner table with family.  
Day 13: A text from a colleague that makes you smile or just lets you know you are doing a great job.

Day 14: A random smile, greeting, or act of kindness from a stranger.  
Day 15: A pet who loves unconditionally.  
Day 16: Dismissing all students before the heavy rain starts.  
Day 17: Having a door held open for you.  
Day 18: Finding money in your pants pocket.  
Day 19: A win from your favorite sports team.  
Day 20: A two-day work week.  
Day 21: A tasty treat.  
Day 22: The sunrise in the morning signifying a fresh new start each day.  
Day 23: Spending quality time with family and friends on Thanksgiving.  
Day 24: Taking advantage of the Black Friday deals.  
Day 25: Movie night with the family.  
Day 26: Decorating for the Holidays.  
Day 27: Our students celebrating each other during the Character Counts! Celebrations.  
Day 28: The crackling sounds of a campfire.  
Day 29: Cruising the neighborhood to look at the holiday lights and decorations.  
Day 30: Reaching a goal, maybe even this challenge of 30 Days of Thankfulness!

During this past month of November, our students experienced many exciting events. Kindergarten students experienced their Thanksgiving Feasts, our Spelling Bee contestants from fifth grade and middle school battled it out to see who will represent LPA at the district competition. Congratulations to fifth grader, Zayden Brahmabhatt, and to sixth grader, Yashas Narumanchi, as they will represent LPA at the district Spelling Bee. Our students also experienced a record breaking bookfair sponsored by our fantastic PTO, they were able to see their favorite staff members get “Pied in the Face” as a Boosterthon reward, our middle school students earned their entry into the middle school Pep Rally by earning a minimum number of Live School points and no referrals, we celebrated our School Related Employee of the Year, Mrs. Kristy Ruiz, we celebrated students for their recognition of the Citizenship Character Counts! Pillar of the month, and of course, we honored our Veterans for their service to our country with the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Liberty Parade! I’m so proud of how our students celebrated and performed for our Veterans!

As we progress into December and near the end of the first semester, I want to thank all our families for a wonderful first half of the school year! We are blessed to have your continued support. May your holiday season be bright, full of love and laughter from family and friends, and offer plenty of opportunities for relaxation! From our Wolf family to yours, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Gratefully together,  
Donny Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal

## DECEMBER

### Mark your calendars for the events below:

-Dec. 4-18: FAST/STAR Progress Monitoring Round 2  
-Dec. 4-5: KG, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Health Screenings  
-Dec. 5: Band Concert at Beachside HS at 6:00pm  
-Dec. 7-8: Drama Christmas Show  
-Dec. 12: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm  
-Dec. 13: District Spelling Bee  
-Dec. 14: PTO Meeting at 9:00am  
-Dec. 14: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Holiday Show – Group A at 5:30pm, Group B at 6:30pm  
-Dec. 19: Elementary Moonlight Howlers & Middle School Musical Theater Performance at 6:00pm  
-Dec. 21: End of Quarter 2  
-Dec. 22-Jan. 7: No School – Winter Break

### Required Screenings for St. Johns County:

- Vision screening is mandated for students in grades kindergarten, 1, 3 and 6 and students entering Florida schools for the first time in grades kindergarten through 5.
- Hearing screening is mandated to students in grades kindergarten, 1 and 6 and to students entering Florida schools for the first time in grades kindergarten through 5.
- Growth and development screening is mandated to students in grades 1, 3 and 6.
- Scoliosis screening is mandated to students in grade 6.

# WOLF NEWS



## Thanksgiving Feast

By: Mary Catherine Adams and Abbi Cooper

All of our kindergarten classes got to have a Thanksgiving feast this past month. They celebrated Thanksgiving by singing songs, performing a play, and having a feast with a bunch of delicious food including turkey, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, and cookies.

Before the feast the teachers taught all the students the meaning to Thanksgiving and why to be thankful for what they have. All their parents were able to come and watch their play and celebrate with them. After their feast the kindergarteners got to teach their parents about the meaning of Thanksgiving and got to enjoy their feast with them.



## NJHS Stuff the Turkey Drive

By Krista Varghese

NJHS held the Stuff the Turkey drive Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Students brought in canned goods and non-perishable foods to support our local food pantry, Christ's Cupboard. Christ's Cupboard serves underprivileged families in St. Johns County. Mrs. York, one of the sponsors of NJHS, said "the drive was extremely successful, and we received more food than last year." Last year, we got 2 car loads full of food to donate. Changes NJHS can make to the drive to be even more successful are to set a goal number and the NJHS members can hold signs outside at the car loop to advertise.

Coming up, the Pet Food Drive is in January to support Gobi. Help out NJHS by donating food and supplies to unfortunate pets at our local animal shelter. Students that would like to participate in NJHS next year will receive a packet to apply from your homeroom teacher in March.

## Liberty Parade

By: Lily Misterewicz

Our school celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Liberty Parade this year. We hold the Liberty Parade every November to celebrate all the veterans that have served or serve in the military to protect not just us but our whole country.



In our Liberty Parade this year the LPA Singers opened up the parade by singing "Thank you Soldiers" by Michael and Angela Souders. After that we had the Welcome and Introductions made by our principal which is Mr. Donny Hoessler, Sherriff Robert A. Hardwick, and lastly our proud Student Council President here at LPA, Phineas Barnhart. Then we had the "Presentation of Colors" done by St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.

After those events we said The Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Sofia and Viviana Ruiz who are the daughters of CWO2 Roger Ruiz, US NAVY and his wife Kristy, who works in our front office. After this event LPA's Musical Theatre preformed "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key. Then we took a break for a moment of reflection and Taps was performed by Christopher Hudgins (MUI, US NAVY).

Next the LPA Symphonic Band performed "Marches of the Armed Forces" by Michael Sweeny. After all these events we started bringing the grades down and each grade sang a song they had been rehearsing. Kindergarten was escorted by 8<sup>th</sup> grade and sang "Thank you to our Veterans". 1<sup>st</sup> grade was escorted by 7<sup>th</sup> grade and sang "Eleven, Eleven". 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is escorted by 6<sup>th</sup> grade and sang "The Heart of America". The rest of the elementary grades are not escorted by the middle school grades. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sang "A grateful Nation". 4<sup>th</sup> grade sang "The Brave". 5<sup>th</sup> grade sang "50 states that Rhyme". Closing off the parade, all the LPA students from K-8 continued our annual tradition singing "God Bless The USA" by Lee Greenwood.

Special Thanks: Jill Herkel and The LPA Liberty Parade Committee

LPA PTO for the Veteran Breakfast,  
SJCSO Honor Guard,

Sound System- Cassie Harris

Student Council and Student  
Ambassadors

LPA Custodians



# WHAT ELSE IS NEW ...

## Media Matters

By: Ava Turner

This past month the semiannual scholastic Book Fair has graced our grounds once again bringing fun and fantasy to all LPA students.

The Book Fair is our media programs major source of funds and continuously helps to expand the reading selection within our school library. This sparks children's love for reading and literature at an early age increasing their vocabulary and stimulating their imagination. This why we are happy to report a very successful and brilliant Book Fair.

This year the Book Fair managed to raise over \$28,000 through selling books and trinkets to all grades K-8. We surpassed last year's total by almost \$2,000 making this one of the most successful Book Fair's we have had to date. For this success we must thank our wonderful and helpful PTO volunteers, and a very special thanks to Mrs. Robyn Cebulko and Mrs. Erin Bragg.

Though there was a wide variety of books ranging from fantasy to non-fiction the best sellers this year share crystal clear themes of adventure and exploration of both the world and themselves. The best sellers include the adventure story Search and Rescue Pentagon, Nugley, and No Brainer. The trinkets were another big attraction for lots of the more hesitant children. The most popular items this year were the classic smelly erasers and the new addition Taylor Swift bracelets.

Though a great and inclusive fundraiser, there are still some ways that our librarian Mrs. Barnett thinks we can improve. "I wish to expand the middle school section so that more of the older students can enjoy the fair just as much as the younger kids." The media center is always striving to improve our selection and make reading more fun for students.

## Carol Grams Are Coming to Town!

By: Reagan Heller

Carol: an old round dance with singing. This year Student Council is doing Carol Grams! We have been doing Carol Grams for a long time now and it has been a long-lasting fundraiser! If you are unaware of what a Carol Gram is, Ms. Herkel the Student Council Sponsor can explain. "It is a piece of paper with a handwritten holiday message that the students write. And we also give the receiver of the message a candy cane."

Student Council not only delivers the message but also used to sing to the song that the giver picked out for the person that should receive the message. This year though, LPA is changing it up. Instead of singing on the stage during lunch, they will be singing on the way to deliver the Carol Grams.

This new change has brought an exciting buzz among the members. Ashley Windness, one of our sixth grade Student Council members, has been waiting to be part of the excitement. As Ashley put it, "My brother [Erik Windness, our Student Council Vice President] talks all about and it sounds so cool. I can't wait to be part of it!"

The new members are ecstatic to begin, and so are our Student Council veterans. Emmie Daniels and Quinn Earley are ready to come into this new era of Carol Grams. Quinn just, "Loves to put a smile on the little kids faces as they come up to buy a Carol Gram!" And Emmie cannot agree more! Setting up for Carol Grams I one of her favorite times of the year. Carol Grams are coming to town!



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentors

By Ty Hayes

Middle school is so different from elementary, and it requires different skills; that is why Mrs. Cox hired a team of 8<sup>th</sup> graders to help mentor the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. According to Reagan Heller, one of the mentors, "We taught the 6<sup>th</sup> graders personal responsibilities and how to be better individuals." She also said that she enjoyed mentoring the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Due to the impact of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders help, the new middle schoolers have become better individuals and students. This shows that when help is needed, there is always someone to help, whether they are in the same grade or not.





# Nourishing Nurses: Helpful Health Screening

By: Priya Reddy

It's that time of year again! There is magic in the air and there are health screenings everywhere! Health screening's time has come again. LPA's mass health screenings have been scheduled on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> by the district. Health screening is made to check up on how well the student is. Health screening catches trouble in a student vision, hearing, etc.

Vision screening is mandatory for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids entering Florida school for the first time will be also screened for their vision in grades K-5. Hearing screening is made for students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids in grades K-5 entering Florida schools will be also screened for their hearing. Growth and development will be screened for students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be screened for scoliosis.

## Spelling Bee

By: Layla Doyle

The winner of the middle school spelling bee was Yashas Narumenchi, and the runner up was Harrison Koch. There were 47 rounds and 338 words spelled in the middle school spelling bee and the winning word was "Assam". Yashas is going to Districts to compete against many other students to try to win the District Spelling Bee on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the FCTC Character Counts Conference Center. He felt very accomplished when he won and was extremely happy. During the spelling bee he started to get nervous because there were fewer people every round. He also felt excited as more people started to get out because he started to think he could win.

The winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bee was Zayden Brahmabhatt, and the runner up was Suria Shaa. There were 20 rounds and 153 words spelled in this bee, and the winning word was "thorax". Zayden is also going to districts to compete to win the district spelling bee. He felt accomplished and excited when he won. He was confident in most of the words he spelled but confused on a few. He is very excited to go to districts and really hopes he can win.



## Better Ways Better Days

By Zoe Lathan

The title explains it all. Ms. Herkel gave Peer Counseling a unique opportunity to spread kindness in a new way. A book way! The 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Peer Counseling's assignment this month was to create an either fictional or nonfictional story representing human kindness. Ms. Herkel stated that she wants to mold the leaders of tomorrow; writing and reading this story teaches compassion and how to be kind to all ages.

The book itself wasn't a grade, but the process was. If you were to purchase this book (which was in fact published!) You would see illustrations depicting the acts of kindness described in the stories. There's always something new to learn about how to be kind and all the different ways to display it. Who knows, maybe a group of 6<sup>th</sup> graders could be the ones to teach it.



## Next Stop, Minnesota!

by: Zoe Lathan and Olivia Detlefs

Mrs. Clark and her long-time close friend, Ms. Christianson have started up a new and interesting way for their students to communicate, by having a pen pal. If you did not already know Ms. Christianson used to teach at LPA just a few years ago alongside Mrs. Clark. Since then, Ms. Christianson has moved to Minnesota to teach fifth grade at Thomas Lake Elementary. But they have not struggled to keep in touch.

Mrs. Christianson's purpose for starting this is clear as she exclaims in her letter, "I want to connect with LPA and keep in touch, I thought it would be fun!" Purely fun. Mrs. Clark talked about how this is an "enrichment" activity and not for a grade. They both explained how this will teach their students about grammar, letter format, and communication skills. There are many different topics that these fourth and fifth graders could talk about but the main things they will be writing about right now are getting to know you and comparing school life.

Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Christianson hope to keep this up all year round and maybe even continue to next year. Having a pen pal is a great way to build relationships outside of your personal life, even outside your state. So, what's the next stop?

# LPA SPOTLIGHTS

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Student Spotlight

By Abbi Cooper and Mary Catherine Adams

Eight-year-old Connor Pollark is this month's student spotlight for third grade. Connor loves his teacher Mrs. Lewis because she's nice. So far this school year his favorite thing they've done is their gummy bear experiment in science, which is also his favorite subject because they do lots of experiments. Connor's preferred resource is PE. His favorite thing about school besides science experiments and PE, is to play and hang with his friends in and outside of school.

Outside of school Connor, plays his favorite sport - football. He also read the book Lion on Mars which is currently his preferred book. Like his favorite color, red, Mars is the color red. Connor is looking forward to an amazing rest of the year.

Fiona Kern is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student in Mrs. Lewis's class. Fiona's favorite thing about school is seeing all her friends. Math is her favorite subject, and she loves to do multiplication. Along with math she also loves to read. Her favorite book is Jessie's Secret Language. She loves resource, and computers is her favorite. Mrs. Lewis is Fiona's teacher and her favorite thing about her is she makes learning fun. Her favorite thing that Mrs. Lewis has taught her was to divide.

Outside of school Fiona loves to do her favorite sport, dance, which is why one of her favorites parts of the day is teacher led P.E. She also loves the color teal. Fiona is looking forward to an amazing rest of the year in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and all the awesome things they get to learn about the rest of the year.

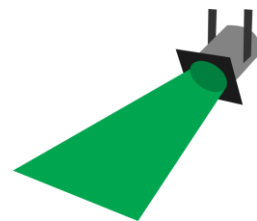
## Ms. Peryam - Our Passionate Teacher Spotlight

By: Paige Carlson and Gia Rodriguez-Millan

Ms. Peryam is a brand-new kindergarten teacher here at LPA! She has been teaching for 10 years and loves building relationships and getting to know her students. Before becoming a teacher, she worked the gift shop, and took pictures of visitors at an alligator farm.

Ms. Peryam started teaching because of a very supportive 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher who made her feel very welcomed and appreciated. To kick off her LPA journey, she wants to support her kindergarten team and help new teachers. Along with this, she is super excited to get to know LPA traditions. So far, she really enjoyed the liberty parade here at our school.

She says "It's almost like I teach them how to be little people." Ms. Peryam prefers to teach with hands on activities and small groups with her class. Her favorite subject to teach is teaching them to read because watching their little lightbulbs go off makes her feel great inside.



## Teacher Spotlight

### Mrs. Owen – MS

**ELA** By: Olivia Detlefs and Lakshmi O'Connor

Mrs. Owen is one of our amazing LPA teachers. This is her second-year teaching, and she was a stay-at-home mom before she decided to teach. She chose to teach because she wanted to make a difference in her students' lives. "I hated middle school, but I remember my teachers that got me through it. I want to be that teacher for my students."

One of her goals for this year is to finish her ESOL certification to be able to better accommodate her students that speak English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language. She is looking forward to Gradventure, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to teach her favorite unit, argument and debate. She loves this because it is engaging and keeps the kids entertained. Last year she had Officer Barnhart be the judge for a mock trial on the Big Bad Wolf.

Her favorite part of teaching is getting to know her students and making sure they know that they are loved. Teaching is her true passion, and she can't wait for the rest of the year and all the years to come!



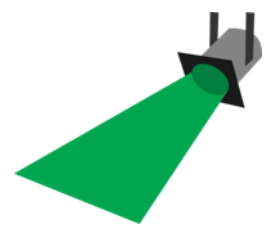
# LPA Spotlights continued ...

## Ms. Gloster: Staff Spotlight

By: Chloe Chang

Ms. Gloster is our EOC middle school Paraprofessional here at LPA. When she was asked “What’s the easiest and hardest thing about your job?” she said “My job isn’t exactly easy, but its more enjoyable. Supporting, guiding, and helping students when they need help makes me so happy.” Ms. Gloster helps students by encouraging them while helping them with reading, math, and so much more!

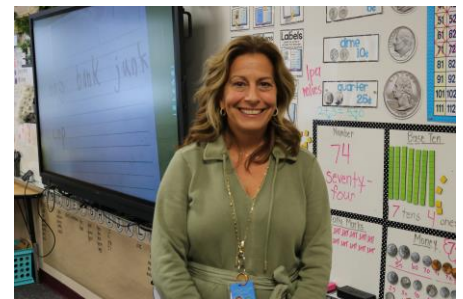
Ms. Gloster’s passion for helping students overcome challenges is obvious. The reason she became a paraprofessional is because every day is a new adventure and challenge. She always aims to smile and keep things positive for students. Ms. Gloster was born and raised in Florida, then went to college at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She then came back to Florida and she’s one of the key reasons LPA is so amazing!



## Staff Spotlight – Mrs. Quimby

By: Sofia Figueroa

Mrs. Quimby is an assistant teacher here at LPA. This is her second year back; she was originally here when the school first opened but moved. We are so happy to have her back! Mrs. Quimby was born in New Jersey but went to the University of Delaware and has lived here in Florida for twenty years. The easiest part of her job is making connections with teachers and students! She loves working alongside another first-grade teacher, Mrs. Herrin. In Mrs. Quimby’s free time she likes to read, draw or even collect seashells!



## The Madellys: Collecting Donations for “Blessings in a Backpack”

By Gabe Chapman

Ella Madelly is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader here at LPA and her brother William is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader . On Halloween as kids across the neighborhoods set out to collect as much candy as they could, they set up an Aussie-ice stand outside her house. But it wasn’t an everyday Aussie-ice stand; it also collected donations for “Blessings in a Backpack”.

Blessings in a backpack is a non-profit organization that feeds children that are on the free lunch program. These children may have food during the school week but may go hungry on the weekends. That’s where Blessings in a Backpack comes in, the organization feeds the kids on the weekends.

Ella said she wanted to do the fundraiser because she wanted to help the school and do something fun. She chose Blessings in a Backpack because she saw it was a problem in school that kids did not have food or school supplies. She also wanted to donate to Blessings in a Backpack because most people don’t give to them. She said doing the fundraiser was much more beneficial than going trick or treating.



Jamila’s Cartoon Corner!!!

# NEWS FROM THE ART WORLD

## The Art Corner

By Krista Varghese

Mrs. Scoggins is the amazing elementary art teacher at LPA. We are very grateful to have Mrs. Scoggins here. Art is very crucial to Mrs. Scoggins. She considers that art “gives students the chance to be creative and unplug from stress.” For the fall and winter season, Mrs. Scoggins prefers a specific color pallet. For fall, she uses warm colors such as red, orange, and yellow. For winter, she uses cool colors such as blue, green, and purple.

Currently, the elementary students are working on wrapping up fall projects. After winter break, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will start their clay projects. Coming up, there is an art show in April after the 1<sup>st</sup> grades’ musical performance.



Mr. Wolfe is the awesome middle school art teacher at LPA. He has been teaching art at LPA for 3 years. He believes that “creativity is a part of everybody’s life, and that everyone needs creativity.” Mr. Wolfe’s favorite art to teach is monochromatic art.

Recently, his students have been working on their still life drawings. They are autobiographies to help him learn about his students. In the next month, they will also be working on self-reflections. There are no art events coming up for middle school but stay tuned for more information.

## Silent Night: A Night for Everyone

By: Reagan Heller

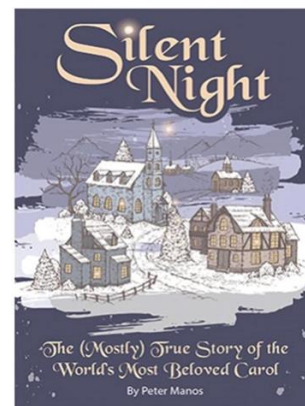
ATTENTION! This concerns everyone at Liberty Pines Academy. On December 7th and 8th something will happen. Something big, you can’t miss it. That Thursday and Friday is... LPA’s Winter Play, “Silent Night”!

Ty Hayes plays Franz Gruber, the creator of the well-known carol “Silent Night.” Everyone loves the play so far, and Ty is no exception. The play can be described as “A heartwarming story about how the most wonderful Christmas carol was made. About how family and friends came together, celebrated Christmas, spread joy through their town, and the world.”

Truly devoted actors and crew mates came together to make this wonderful play happen. It would be a shame to waste this raw talent and memorable experience by not coming. If you want to support the school community and drama program, coming to the play can make both dreams come true! Ms. Herkel guarantees that not a penny will be wasted from the fundraising from this event.

“The actors always help the other actors out with their lines. Teamwork makes the dream work!” Cassie Harris says that this is why she loves the play. Everyone always helps each other out. Cassie has been part of many plays, and the joy from has always been a constant.

Everyone should come see “Silent Night” because it will help the drama program, they will enjoy a wonderful event, and see teamwork at play. Come see “Silent Night”: A Night For Everyone!



## Cookies the Musical

By: Sofia Figueroa

Mrs. Snyder is the elementary music teacher here at LPA. This year she is hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> grade musical! On December 14<sup>th</sup> the first graders here at LPA will be performing a mini musical for parents!

There will be two separate groups and times for the musical. Group A will perform at 5:30 p.m. and Group B at 6:30 p.m.! Parents, please check with your first graders teacher to see what group and what time your kid will be performing!



# Band and Chorus November

Gabriella Bear

Get ready for a musical extravaganza as Mr. Spilling, the talented director of Liberty Pines Academy Middle School band and choir, takes the spotlight in a spectacular concert at Beachside High School. The much-anticipated event is set to commence at 6:00 PM, promising an evening filled with tuneful melodies and enthralling performances by the budding musicians and vocalists under Mr. Spilling's counsel. Attendees are in for a treat as the Liberty Pines Academy ensemble showcases their musical skill and dedication to the art where everyone is welcome to participate with us and join in our community!



In other news, despite the excitement buzzing around, the lockers that are anticipated to be installed in the band room are still a work in progress. Even though they have been purchased, the approval process is still yet pending, reminding everyone to exercise patience as the finishing touches are put in place. As mentioned before, these lockers are a key element of the school's improvement plan, and their completion will undoubtedly enhance the overall experience for students.

In the foreseeable future, the school community is hopeful about the next project on the horizon: the redesign and addition of new shelves in the percussion room. This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment to providing a conducive and enriching environment for students interested in percussion instruments. As Liberty Pines Academy continues to invest in its musical and academic facilities, the future looks bright for fostering a thriving and dynamic experience in regard to our band!

## History Reflection

By Sam Willis and Gabe Chapman

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese fighter planes just before 8:00 in the morning. The Japanese destroyed 20 U.S. naval vessels and 300 airplanes. 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,000 were wounded, this includes U.S. citizens. The next day president Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Japan, pulling the U.S. into World War II. Pearl Harbor is in Hawaii, near Honolulu. No one believed Japan would attack Hawaii with how far it is from the American mainland. The U.S. left Pearl Harbor relatively undefended, which prompted the immense disaster.



When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor their main goal was to destroy the Pacific Fleet. The Pacific Fleet contained 9 battleships, 3 aircraft carriers, 12 heavy cruisers, 8 light cruisers, 50 destroyers, 33 submarines, and 100 patrol bombers. They wanted to do this to ensure the U.S. couldn't fight back in the South Pacific. Finally, after months of planning, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the Pacific Fleet. At 8:10 that morning, an 1,800-pound bomb was dropped from the Japanese. The bomb hit the USS Arizona and the ship sank with 1,000 men trapped inside. After 2 hours, the attack was done, every battleship in Pearl harbor was damaged.



The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave a speech with the war declaration against Japan. The famous words "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy". Later that week, the U.S. declared war on Germany. In 1945, Germany surrendered to the allied powers. Japan would not surrender, so the U.S. were still focused on ending the war against Japan. On August 6, 1945, the atomic bomb was dropped on Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This finally forced the surrender of Japan and the official end of World War II.





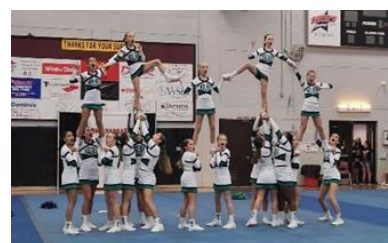
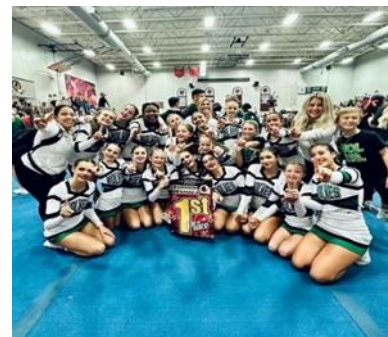
## LPA Cheer Claims 1<sup>st</sup> Win!

By: Layla Doyle

The LPA cheer team had their first competition on November 18<sup>th</sup>. They competed in West Nassau and were competing against 6 other teams. They won first place and were very excited because it was the first time the cheer team has won a competition.

They scored a 78 and had one of the highest cheer scores of the day. We talked to a few of the athletes about their experience at the competition. Their favorite part was hitting their routine and winning first place. They felt great about winning because it showed how hard the team had worked to earn first place, also because they competed against many other teams. These athletes shared that the team needs to build more trust in each other and work harder every day to keep getting better.

The cheer team has many more competitions and events to perform at and all the athletes are extremely excited. They can't wait for their next performance and are ready to improve as a team.



## Soccer Season Finishing Strong!

By: Lakshmi O'Connor



It's that time of year, where the boys and girls LPA soccer teams go head-to-head with other soccer teams to see who the overall champion in the district for the 2023 season is. It's Playoff time! The boys' soccer team has high hopes from the coaches and players that they will be number one this year because they are undefeated right now. Getting ready for the upcoming games one of the players, Jack Konecny a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, feels the team is prepared because they have great stamina, and everyone has a winning mindset. Jack feels the result of the playoffs this year is going to be great and is excited to see what happens. Also, Toni Borovnica, another 7<sup>th</sup> grader on the team has expressed that he feels they are going to win because they're prepared and are ready to play smart and work hard. This is the most important time to come out and support our team. It's the most exciting part of the season, wishing the boys the best of luck.

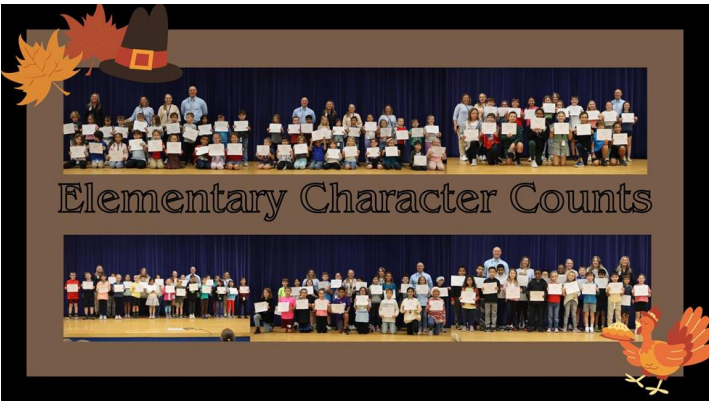


Although the season is going by fast, the girls' team is growing stronger just in time for the playoffs. The girls have had a really good season, no matter winning or losing. The girls are equally positioned with their competition; all they need to do is go out there with the right mindset and they will have a great chance of achieving that victory. When talking to Bella Edwards, one of the new members to the team this year, she feels excited for these playoffs because it's her first time being in the middle school playoffs, but she is also nervous because if the team loses, they're out. Although she is nervous about losing and getting out, she thinks that the team is prepared for this because they have been improving all year and the team works well together. The parents, coaches, and teams are looking for an exciting end of the season. Let's go cheer and support our wolves all the way to the win!

# Testing Tips!

By: Juliette Sweet

Soon in December students will have testing and being prepared is a key step into getting the grade that is wanted. The upcoming tests are the F.A.S.T test, The PM-2 test and the S.T.A.R assessment. Mrs. York says the best way to be prepared for upcoming tests is by paying attention in class and getting a good night's sleep the day before. One thing to remember when testing is that everything you learn in class is preparing you for the test, so pay attention and know that slacking off will show in your grades. Students have very mixed opinions when it comes to testing. Some say that they are excited and know that they will get good scores because their teachers prepare them well. In conclusion, students make sure you are preparing in the best way **you** can for these upcoming tests, and know that feeling nervous is normal.



December 2023		LIBERTY PINES WOLVES ACADEMY		LPA PM2 Testing Calendar	
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3
KG, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , and 6 <sup>th</sup> Health Screenings December 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>					
4	5	6	7	8	9
4 <sup>th</sup> grade FAST Reading (adjusted resource schedule)	5 <sup>th</sup> grade FAST Reading	Kindergarten STAR Early Literacy	Middle Grades Group A FAST Reading (adjusted bell schedule)	Middle Grades Group B FAST Reading (adjusted bell schedule)	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade FAST Reading	Middle Grades Group C FAST Reading (adjusted bell schedule)	FAST Makeups	1 <sup>st</sup> grade STAR Early Literacy	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade STAR Reading	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
Middle Grades Groups B & C FAST Math (adjusted bell schedule)	K-2 <sup>nd</sup> STAR Makeups	FAST Makeups	End of Quarter 2	Winter Break Begins	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
					31

January 2024		LIBERTY PINES WOLVES ACADEMY		LPA PM2 Testing Calendar	
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
Happy New Year! 2024			Teacher Planning Day	Inservice Day	7
8	9	10	11	12	13
	Middle Grades Group A FAST Math (adjusted bell schedule)	5 <sup>th</sup> grade FAST Math	4 <sup>th</sup> grade FAST Math (adjusted resource schedule)	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade FAST Math	14
15	16	17	18	19	20
No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade STAR Math	Kindergarten STAR Math	Club Pictures	1 <sup>st</sup> grade STAR Math	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
Makeups →				6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Character Chat	28
				Winter PM2 FAST Testing Window Closes	
29	30	31	28	29	30

## Character Counts!

By: Juliette Sweet

This month's character counts awards were given out to students on Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> to represent citizenship. This month's representatives show many qualities of a good citizen. Good citizens have various good qualities such as taking care of their property, volunteering and being informed. The ceremonies were just as lively as usual with loud cheers and amazing support for their peers! This month's representatives have the following traits.

- I help to make my school and community better.
- I am a cooperative student.
- I obey by the rules.
- I respect my teachers, staff, and administrators.
- I help protect the environment.





# NOVEMBER FUN!!!



Students have enjoyed Thanksgiving Feasts, Fall Centers, Safety Patrol Recognitions, and Field Trips this past month!!!

# LOVE



## Pep Rally and Pie in The Face!

By: Juliette Sweet

On November 21<sup>st</sup> students got to participate in some fun activities! In the morning, elementary students got to watch Ms. Raya, Ms. Shepard, Ms. Dougherty, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Applegate, Dr. Jacobs, Mrs. Whitley, Mr. Buckley, Ms. Lovette, Ms. Barnhart, and Ms. Lorensen get pied in the face and had a blast. The students earned this fun activity because of their successful Boosterthon Fundraising!

Middle school students had fun too later that afternoon at their first pep rally in a few years. Dean Cromwell says the reason we reintroduced pep rally was a way to reward students for good behavior. This year we didn't have a theme, but we did have fun teacher- student activities and of course the wave. Also, at the pep rally we honored our volleyball team for their championship and our cross-country team for completing their season! Lastly, of course middle school students got to watch their teachers get pied as well! Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. McGinnis, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Herkel, Ms. Lutts, Ms. Olsen, Mrs. Woolsten, Dean Cromwell, and of course Principal Hoessler. Overall, it was a very exciting day and students had so much fun!



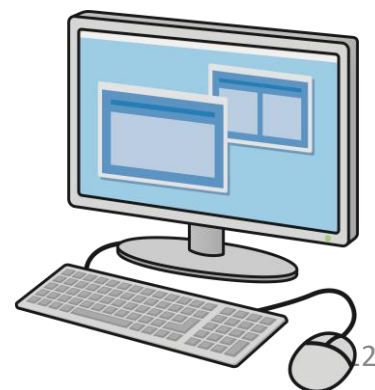


**Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the Cybersecurity Essentials Certification in Mrs. Grubbs' ICT 1 class.**

Alexander, Stella	Davenport, Alexander	Kumbamu, Akshara	Olenio Canedo Da
Anwar, Sadit	Detura, Madison	Lika, Arvin	Costa, Gianna
Blood, Barrett	Edwards, Isabella	Lisena, Raina	Potts, Katelyn
Bowers, Zooey	Farnstrom, Luciana	Lohkamp, Avery	Poynton, Alice
Cassidy, Emily	Fortener, Rhett	Long, Aubrey	Rapolla, Emily
Cerveney, Rylie	Glover, Michael	MacDonell, Jackson	Veniard, Amelia
Chaparro, Melina	Grove, Vanessa	Madaleno, Logan	Vineyard, Henry
Christiansen, Ashlynn	Heavener, Elena	Madelly, Adelaide	Wilhelmy, Mila
Christianson, James	Howard, Justin	McFadzean, Hannah	
Cruz-Sobalvarro, Luca	Kemmitz, Grant	Narumanchi, Yashas	

**Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the Communications Essentials Certification in Mrs. Grubbs' ICT 2 classes.**

Andronovich, Vlad	Stoever, Jake	Mascovitz, Ella	Gines, Drake
Baker, Hayleigh	Sureda, Cade	Mell, Haley	Greathouse, Jackson
Blasy, Max	Swartz, Luke	Munro, Aurora	Griggs, Aiden
Brown, Griffin	Thompson, Gabriel	Phillips, Kalina	Griggs, Caleb
Crawford, Lucy	Weger, Charlotte	Saunders, Kevin	Grubbs, Ayana
Denmark, Adrian	Weiss, Rey	Shook, William	Hazel, Colin
Encabo, Brent	Wilson, Janiya	Sorensen, Landon	Jenkins, Madison
Encaoua, Ariel	Aguirre, Jacob	Spivey, Cason	Jones, Shane
Gomez, Jacob	Allen, Aiden	Stodel, Alex	Karp, Sienna
Hall, Wesley	Bannon, Shaelie	Thiagarajan, Anya	Lingam Santosh, Disha
Hutchins, Alexander	Barilla, Anthony	Vedvick, Archer	Love, Donovan
Jennings, Jaxon	Bentz, Sienna	Weber, Olivia	Michel, Grayson
Jimenez, Vincenzo	Camacho, Lucas	Willman, Bradley	Nimmagadda, Saran
Jones, Elizabeth	Castello, Aneva	Adkins, William	Pavaskar, Namah
Kamau, Jayden	Choi, Kelly	Antonelli, Hanna	Rapolla, Grace
Kamireddy, Sreehas	Colca, Lucas	Arnold, Anderson	Roberts, Blake
LeNeave, Jason	Connell, Olivia	Banapur, Ahan	Russell, Brooke
Li, Andy	Coss, Christopher	Bernier, Mariah	Russo, Anna
Macarages, Luke	Crandall, Callan	Brown, George	Shepherd, Liam
Magarao Guimaraes, Luca	Evans, Emma	Campbell, Kyleigh	Singh, Aarya
Mascovitz, Lela	Fortini, Luca	Cebulko, Molly	Steinhouse, Adam
Nelson, Kyle	Garge, Sanika	Chesney, Evan	Therrian, Layne
Nowroozi, Caroline	Greer, Christopher	Crawford, Caitlyn	Turner, Ariana
Nunamaker, Alex	Harrison, Kevin	Daughtry, Jackson	Vukelic, Luka
Owen, Liam	Hodzic, Alen	Duff, Blythe	Walker, Aidan
Pfalzer, Abigail	Hultquist, Wyatt	Duplantier, Landon	Williams, Dalton
Powers, Mason	Kellom, David	Friedman, Justin	
Rivkin, Skyler	Lagoutaris, George	Gibbens, Kyla	



**Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the Cybersecurity Essentials Certification in Mr. Roach's ICT 1 class.**

Aguiar, Sebastian  
 Ahmetaj, Vessa  
 Allman, Nash  
 Amato, Brooklyn  
 Anderson, Cianne  
 Anderson, Ronald  
 Assad, Jonathan  
 Batiste, Adeyja  
 Beers, Isaac  
 Bejarano, Nicolas  
 Belland, Elliot  
 Belony, Ashley  
 Bentz, Chloe  
 Bermudez, Liam  
 Bicknell, Drew  
 Bocharova, Arina  
 Bolton, Abigail  
 Bone, Hayden  
 Boshell, Courtney  
 Bowers, Paul  
 Brand, Dylan  
 Buffington, Peyton  
 Cassidy, Noah  
 Casterline, Avery  
 Catbagan, Owen  
 Cestaro, Anthony  
 Chang, Lilly  
 Chapman, Brady  
 Chase, Lucas  
 Cheng, Sarah  
 Childers, Juliana  
 Clark, Eli  
 Clark, Wyatt  
 Collins, Lucy  
 Coppola, Brielle  
 Cornett, Aaralinn  
 Cox, Carson  
 Cuellar, Jaxon  
 Curry, Akacia  
 Dean, Caleb  
 Darling, Lara  
 Detlefs, Harrison  
 DeVero, Kaitlyn  
 Diaz, Emily  
 Dice, Aaliyah  
 Dice, Miracle  
 Dodwell, Joseph  
 Dogan, Azra  
 Doligosa, Philip Jase  
 Donahuevillani, Aviva  
 Dorney, John  
 Duplantier, Hunter  
 Ellison, Royalty

Estrada, Jonathan  
 Falko, Maximus  
 Fallon, William  
 Farnstrom, Nico  
 Felix, Jake  
 Ferlanti, Dominick  
 Fleming, Zoe  
 Gaines, Henry  
 Gentilozzi, Max  
 Ghim, Tiffany  
 Gibson-Rijo, Ava  
 Gines, Oakley  
 Gonzalez, Lucas  
 Grass, Emilee  
 Graunke, Erika  
 Griffin, Lucas  
 Gronski, Liam  
 Grossman Ruiz, Patrick  
 Guzman, Gianna  
 Guzman Cadena, Daniel  
 Hall, Lucas  
 Haney, Collins  
 Harper, Ava  
 Harper, Hayden  
 Helgath, Lily  
 Henry, Maddox  
 Herbert, Jonah  
 Hirsch, Sean  
 Holt, Devon  
 Hough, Lillian  
 Hurckes, Jenevieve  
 Huskisson, Hunter  
 James, Adeline  
 Jano, Arsi  
 Jiang, Yiming  
 Johnson, Hailey  
 Johnson, Jayden  
 Johnson, Aramis  
 Jones, Alistair  
 Jordan, Tyson  
 Josil, Bernisah  
 Josil, Berkenley  
 Juengel, James  
 Karabut, Inessa  
 Kellom, Enoch  
 Kennedy, Sloan  
 Kormann, Alice  
 Koury, Cooper  
 Lajara, Luciana  
 Langhorne Holch, Ethan

Lansford, Carlos  
 Lanza, Eliza  
 Lathan, Calvin  
 Lei, Alyssa  
 Lowd, Kaleb  
 Lutze, Kashton  
 Lynch, Madison  
 Maas, Nora  
 Madadi, Abhilash  
 Madire, Akshith  
 Malik, Platon  
 Marcheski, Christina  
 Martin, Landon  
 Martinez, Olivia  
 McGill, Max  
 McInerney, John  
 McKinney, Jake  
 McLaughlin, Leah  
 Messina, Anthony  
 Milne, Caleb  
 Molina Escalante, Angelina  
 Moreland, Jaxon  
 Morris, Ellie  
 Mueller, Ross  
 Munro, Mackenzie  
 Nicholes Jr., Terriss  
 Nixon, Elizabeth  
 OBrien-Kassa, Michael  
 ONeal, Kevin  
 Oum, Lydia  
 Pappas, Emmitt  
 Parra, Eliza  
 Patil, Anarghya  
 Pereira, Matthew  
 Perrin, Jacob  
 Pfeifer, Ralph  
 Provenza, Vittoria  
 Quinones, Emry  
 Radecki, Julia  
 Ratliff, Reddin  
 Rayapati Chinvarshith, Reddy  
 Riley, Connor  
 Rivera, Dior  
 Robinson, Sophia  
 Rojas, Jadan  
 Rossi, Luca  
 Rotlender, Yevhenii  
 Russell, Chyanne  
 Rutland, Emma  
 Santiago, Jediaiah

Sarine, Adela  
 Scalia – Trejo, Angelina  
 Scott, Ayla  
 Shaik, Samiha  
 Simanic, Nina  
 Simmons, Amaya  
 Sindhaval, Spoorthi  
 Smith, Calleigh  
 Smith, Xander  
 Soles, Noah  
 Sorensen, Zane  
 Stodel, Angel  
 Strillchuk, Ian  
 Tejada, Ethan  
 Templeton, Davis  
 Terrada, Gabriel  
 Thomas, Sylvia  
 Thomas, Lyla  
 Thorpe, Elizabeth  
 Tillman, Blake  
 Tinsley, Brody  
 Tirumalasetti, Arjun  
 Tkachenko, Apollinariia  
 Torres, Ivan  
 Valdes, Steven  
 Vigil, Selinas  
 Vrbensky, William  
 Wang, Colina  
 Wayne, Clara  
 White, Lucas  
 White, Madison  
 Whitman, Gavin  
 Windness, Ashley  
 Yockel, Owen  
 York, Mallori  
 Zardetto, Gianna  
 Zhang, Kian  
 Zimmerman, Owen



# PTO NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP

Hello LPA Families! If you haven't joined the PTO yet, you can sign up on [LPAPTO.COM](http://LPAPTO.COM) or in person at the PTO meeting. If you have any questions, contact Abigail Lake at [abigaillake@yahoo.com](mailto:abigaillake@yahoo.com).

Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am in the cafeteria. You must be an approved volunteer to attend the meeting. You can register [Volunteer Services – St. Johns County School District \(stjohns.k12.fl.us\)](http://Volunteer Services – St. Johns County School District (stjohns.k12.fl.us)) Please sign in at the front office and walk outside to the side door of the cafeteria for the meeting. Please see the Liberty Pines Academy PTO Facebook page for updates!

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Robyn Cebulko and Erin Bragg for being nominated for the volunteer of the month for all their efforts in making the book fair such a success! In addition, LPA students: Ella and Will Madelly were also nominated for organizing a Halloween food drive and snow cone sale to donate to the Blessings in a backpack program. A huge shout out to both of them!

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 [eandenora@gmail.com](mailto:eandenora@gmail.com) (please put volunteer in the subject line). The voting will take place every month. If students would like to vote, please have them submit it to their teacher and they can drop it in the box located in the mailroom.

## FUNDRAISERS

We have fun events like “Souperbowl” and Penny Wars coming up in February 2024! More details to be announced soon.

## WHAT'S NEW?

We have recently purchased refrigerator and a snack shelf in the teacher's lounge. We would love it if some families could please help us keep it stocked for the hardworking LPA staff. There is a sign up genius link on the Liberty Pines Academy PTO Facebook page. Please feel free to contact [secretary@lpapto.com](mailto:secretary@lpapto.com) for more information!

## STAY CONNECTED

In addition to our website <http://lpapto.com>, check out our Liberty Pines Academy PTO Facebook page to learn about upcoming events and stay current with happenings at LPA.

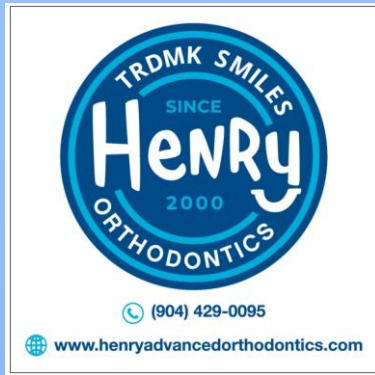
## UPCOMING DATES

12/21 PTO meeting 9am in Cafeteria





## PLATINUM WOLF SPONSORS - \$2000 Donation



## GOLDEN WOLF SPONSORS - \$1000 Donation

