

LPA NEWS

NEWSLETTER | Volume 10 December 2023

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to spend quality time with family and loved ones, created memorable experiences, and found opportunities for much needed relaxation over the winter break. As the second semester commences, we will continue our strong academic focus.

During this past month of December, LPA had a strong showing at the district Spelling Bee competition fifth grader, Zayden Brahmhatt, and to sixth grader, Yashas Narumanchi. Our middle school drama students performed a couple of great shows for the audiences, our first-grade students put on a great performance during their holiday show, the Elementary Moonlight Howlers and our middle school Musical Theater groups teamed up for a great performance, we celebrated students for their recognition of the Citizenship Character Counts! Pillar of the month, we had our first elementary pep rallies that focused on rewarding consistent positive behaviors, and our middle school students had a blast attending a staff verse student volleyball game the last week before the break.

As a staff, we were able to celebrate and have fun all month long with themed festive days as well as enjoy each other's company at our staff holiday celebration. We are truly blessed to have the best staff in the district!

As we progress into January and begin 2024, we look forward to our eighth-grade students experiencing their Washington DC field trip, the middle school basketball teams will begin to compete, and celebrating Literacy Week the week of January 22-26.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2024!

Gratefully,

Donny Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal



JANUARY

Mark your calendars for the events below:

- Jan. 8: Third Quarter begins
- Jan. 9: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm
- Jan. 11-25: FAST/STAR Progress Monitoring Round 2 continues
- Jan. 15: No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 18: Club/Team Picture Day
- Jan. 18: PTO meeting at 9:00am
- Jan. 22-26: Literacy Week
- Feb. 1: Class pictures



Congratulations to our Girl's Soccer Champs!

The LPA Way



- L:** Learning is our focus
- P:** Positive relationships are what we value
- A:** Always respectful and responsible



Cookies the Musical

By: Abbi Cooper

Cookies the Musical was directed by Mrs. Snyder, the elementary music teacher, on Thursday, December 14th. The musical was put on by our first graders. There were so many kids, there had to be two separate groups, one at 5:30 and the other at 6:30 and there were about one hundred kids in each group. The first graders put on a wonderful show.

Cookies the Musical was about the importance of friendship, helping and respecting others in need, no matter what. The show included a cast of cookies, bakers and puppies. This helped show the kids a very important lesson about friendship and kindness. Even though the point of the musical was to teach the kids a lesson, it also was a very fun experience for them.



Light Up LPA With Kindness

By: Lily Misterewicz and Krista Varghese

The holiday décor definitely brightened up LPA halls this month. The idea of "Light Up LPA With Kindness" was to promote kindness during this holiday season and how simple acts of kindness can go a long way. "Light Up LPA with Kindness" is when a teacher notices an act of kindness from their student, they could write the student's name on a Christmas light and add it to the poster. The poster is now filled with many lights, representing all the acts of kindness that the students show. Mrs. Heller said a school had shared the idea online and she loved it! We are proud of our LPA family for being so kind.



Holiday Door Decorating Contest

By: Olivia Detlefs and Lakshmi O'Connor

All of LPA's teachers were encouraged to decorate their door for a holiday door decorating contest! Congratulations to our winners!

First place Mrs. Small, second place The Nurses, and third place Mrs. Ryan (with a little help from Mr. Ryan)!



5th Grade Celebration

By Jamila Jones

On the final week before the school break, our teachers of 5th grade hosted a celebration for 5th grade. They participated in activities like decorating doors, doing arts and crafts with parent volunteers. They also hosted a picnic outside with a main dish of pizza. Lastly, they exchanged gorgeous mugs to one another. This celebration shows our 5th grade teachers' hard work and dedication to ensuring our 5th grade students learn while having a fun time. All of LPA is grateful for the work our 5th grade teachers do to ensure our younger Wolves have wonderful times throughout their school year.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW ...

The Student vs. Staff Volleyball Game

By: Ava Turner and Zoe Lathan

Our undefeated 8th grade girls and awesome 8th boys' teams went up against the LPA staff in a head-to-head match of volleyball on Tuesday, December 19th. The first set ended quickly with a score of 25-3 with the students far in the lead. The second set wasn't much better with the students winning once again with a landslide score of 25-9. In a surprising twist many students cheered on their favorite teachers the greatest example being Mrs. Woolston's 6th grade class. Though lacking suspense, the student versus staff volleyball game was a fun passion packed event that included all the grades of middle school and most the staff. We are so excited to see our rising 8th graders take on the teachers next year in a glorious rematch.



Elementary Pep Rally!

By Paige Carlson and Gia Rodriguez

On December 19th, the elementary pep rally was awarded to many elementary students who earned 35 live school points during the month of December. The teachers and administrators participated in the many games played, such as racing and popping balloons. This pep rally was a fun and exciting way to end the first semester! This brought a smile to so many students' faces, and it was a great way to share student and staff appreciation for everyone's hard work. The teachers, staff, and students all enjoyed this amazing experience.



Grinch Day Comes to LPA

By Chloe Chang

On December 20th Kindergarten and 1st grade had their Grinch day where they got to dress up in Grinch clothing. They also got to meet the Grinch who gave them sweet treats! Students were so excited and happy to see the Grinch.



2023-2024 Science Instructional Materials Adoption

The St. Johns County School District has begun the review process for the Science Instructional Materials Adoption. Once available, the digital resources will be posted on the [Instructional Materials Adoption](#) web page and available for review. The core resources that have been submitted for evaluation were selected from the state adoption consideration lists when available. Additional resources for advanced programs may be reviewed from materials listed as appropriate for the program indicated.

Some print materials may be available for review. If you would like access to the available printed materials or require assistance reviewing the online resources, please call the Front office. Materials are available for review from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM when the school office is open.

We encourage parent and community participation in our adoption process. If you would like to serve on a school committee and formally review the resources as a part of the school review team, please contact Courtney Cassidy (Courtney.cassidy@stjohns.k12.fl.us) by **February 1, 2024**. Committee membership is limited. School administrators will select the appropriate number of reviewers from the list of interested participants.

Student Council

Carol-grams

By Gabe Chapman

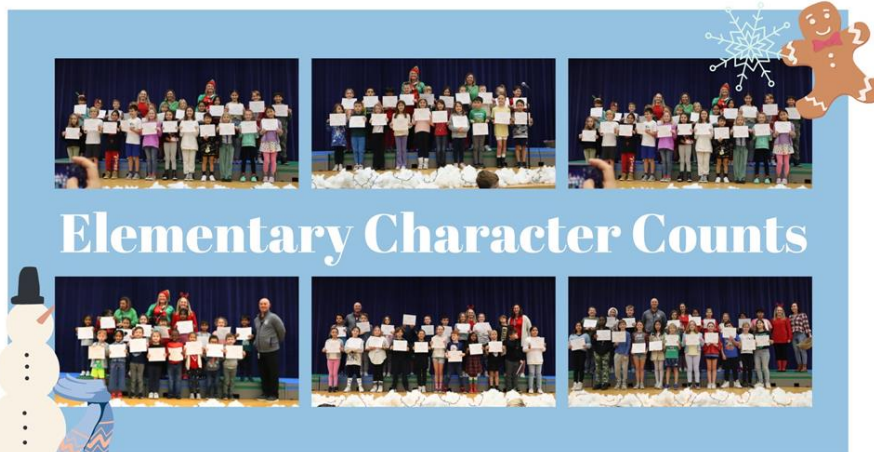
Every December from the 11th to the 14th Student Council has a Carol-gram stand in the main hallway. They cost \$1 and the funds raised go to support Student Council and the school. Carol-grams are messages that you can send to anyone in school, like friends or siblings. You can write a message on it and when they get it, it comes with the candy cane. When talking with Emmy Daniels, an 8th grade student Council member, she said "the money from carol-grams goes toward the school and Student Council. This year we were fundraising for a new podium for the liberty parade." Emmy also said that they are called Carol-grams because when we deliver them to the classes, we sing carols to the people. Carol-grams is one of the many fundraisers our awesome Student Council does each year.

Character Counts Awards!

By: Juliette Sweet

Congratulations to all winners of the character counts award this month! This month's representatives represent all pillars. Representing all pillars is very important because it shows a well-rounded, amazing person. These awards were given out on Monday, December 18th, at our amazing ceremonies. Again, congrats to all winners and here are the characteristics of our representatives.

- I am kind to others
- I respect my teachers, staff, and administrators.
- I play by the rules, take turns and share.
- I am considerate of other's feelings.
- I set a good example for my peers.
- I have the courage to do the right thing.



Congratulations to October –

November – December Super Wolves!

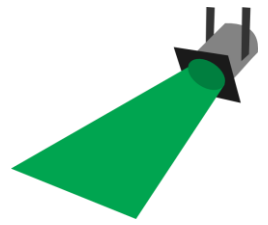
Katie Heller
Jamie Flood
Chris Kessell
Jacqui Konecny
Mary Penwell
Amber Veniard
Christina Roman
Maureen Haugan
Lynn Dudley

Serah Kamau
Kim Rhodus
Kaitlyn Goyette
Jillian Gallat
Staci Raya
Ethan Arnold
Maggie Kusiak
Katlyn Gray
Haley Floyd

Kelsey Peryam
Stephanie Shepherd
Erik Oldrup
Elmer Hernandez-Cuevos
Chelsea Martin-Jones
Katie Verlsteffen
Shannon Donahue
Lori McGinnis
Christine Pallai



LPA SPOTLIGHTS



Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Sutaria – Elementary Teacher

By: Priya Reddy

Mrs. Sutaria is one of our remarkable elementary teachers here in LPA. She teaches fifth grade and claims she loves teaching this grade because they are getting ready for middle school. Mrs. Sutaria's favorite school subject is English because she loves teaching her students to express themselves with words. Mrs. Sutaria was also LPA's 2022-23 Elementary teacher of the Year and one of the district's finalists last year.



When asked about who Mrs. Sutaria looks up to, she says that the entire team helps each other out when needed. Someone Mrs. Sutaria would like to give a shoutout to Mrs. Velez. Since her classroom has a ton of students Mrs. Velez helps. "She helps keep me sane," states Mrs. Sutaria.

Mrs. Sutaria is a wonderful teacher and spreads kindness and joy everywhere she goes!

Student Spotlight

By: Layla Doyle and Mary Catherine Adams

Abhinaya Manjusha is a 4th grade student in Mrs. Hardy's class. Abhi's favorite thing about school is being with her friends and her teachers. ELA is her favorite subject; she loves to read. Her favorite book to read is "The Babysitters Club". She loves resource, and music is her favorite. Mrs. Hardy is Abhi's teacher, and she loves that she is very nice and kind. She loves bringing happiness and joy to others in her class. Abhi's favorite Christmas movie is The Grinch. Her favorite Christmas tradition is getting and giving presents, and her favorite Christmas song is "Jingle Bell Rock".



8th grade Washington D.C. Trip



By Gabe Chapman and Ty Hayes

On Wednesday the 20th of December, 8th grade students had a meeting concerning the trip to Washington D.C. in January. They discussed things like how it is a top priority for students to be on best behavior not only while in DC but on the bus and at school this week. There are certain parts of museums where you can't take pictures or have gum or headphones in. And in places like war memorials or the Holocaust Museum you are to be quiet and no loud noises.

The Itinerary of the trip goes as follows: on January 7th at 5AM they leave for DC and get there by 7PM. The next day January 8th they go to the Spy Museum, Museum of African American History, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, the Korean War Memorial, and the WWII Memorial. On January the 9th, the 8th graders go to the National Archives, U.S. Holocaust Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, Air Force Memorial, and have Night Tours of FDR, MLK, and Thomas Jefferson Memorials.

The next day, January 10th, they go to U.S. Capitol Building, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Museum of American History, and have a chance to take photos at the White House. The last day in DC, Jan. 11th the group goes to Mt. Vernon, and Arlington National Cemetery. That evening they get on the bus and drive through the night. They arrive at LPA the next morning at 6AM. The 8th graders are excused from school that day. 8th grade can't wait to have a great time in Washington D.C.



NEWS FROM THE ART WORLD

LPA's Musical Concert

By Sebastian Robinson

Liberty Pines Academy recently put on a grand and musical display of talent at Beachside Highschool. Mr. Spilling talentedly directed and lead the musical display, through Chorus and Band. It started with Chorus, singing recognizable and jolly Christmas jingles alongside some patriotic lyrics. As Chorus' enchanting and charming singing was over, it was beginning band's turn to show what they have learned. Mr. Spilling explained to the audience that the beginning band was learning how to use their instruments. He had them play simple yet charming tunes to display their quick learning and understanding of their musical tools.

After beginning band came, concert band, and symphonic followed. During the switch to the symphonic band, Mr. Spilling made a comment about the advanced nature of the class, and about how typically they required more help than the other bands. Regardless, they put on a delightful display that lit up the room with their talent. Finally, as jazz band came to fill the room, they too exhaustively and effectively displayed their musical ability. As jazz was underway, a series of solos occurred where individuals came up to the front and played on their own. Amazingly, each solo was magnificent and showed the talent that Mr. Spilling and his students could display. This concert was held on the fifth of December where hundreds of students and adults alike made their appearance to take part in the long, though worthwhile concert to watch.



Silent Night Production is A Big Hit

By. Reagan Heller

In the village of Oberndorf, Austria in 1818, magical things happen, just like the magical event of our school play, "Silent Night," written by Peter Manos and directed by Jill Herkel. A two-day event that everyone wished could've lasted forever, "Silent Night" was truly memorable.



Jill Herkel knew this play was meant to be played when, "...I came across this 'mostly true' story of how 'Silent Night' came to be, I was immediately drawn to it. 'Silent Night' is a truly quintessential Christmas song. Hearing the story of how it came to be was not only interesting, but also heartwarming."

The drama family's heart grew three sizes that day, and so did everyone else's. Now that "Silent Night" has ended, "Frozen Jr." can begin! Middle school students only, January 23rd and 25th. There is also an opportunity for 5th grade girls to audition on January 11th. Positions for onstage as well as backstage will be available. All audition and backstage crew forms can be picked up in Ms. Herkel's room.

Holly Jolly Musical Theater Celebration

By: Reagan Heller

Elementary and Middle School students banded together to create a magical event that everyone loved. Moonlight Howlers and Middle School Musical Theater Directed by Mrs. Snyder and Ms. Herkel were truly incredible. All who came were immensely impressed with how much these students were involved in music.

Middle School Musical Theater students performed "Christmas on Broadway," "Swinging Christmas" and finally, "A Jolly Celebration" along with the elementary Midnight Howlers, while the Midnight Howlers performed a selection of numbers, celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, and winter.



SPORTS NEWS!!!

Soccer Champs

By: Lakshmi O'Connor

LPA's soccer 2023 season is officially over! This year has been a great year for our girls' and boys' soccer teams. The school is so excited to say that the girls team won the championship game and has won another trophy for LPA. This has happened for the first time in five years! The boys were undefeated the whole season and played a very close game in the playoffs but unfortunately lost 2-1. It was a great game to watch but some of the players thought that there wasn't enough talking between the team on the field and there was just no finishing. Although they lost, the team thought the playoff game was a great experience and they had a lot of fun.

The girls played an equally matched opponent in the playoff game. They were doing very well in communicating and passing on the field. No one scored during the game or during overtime, which lead us into penalties. This part was very intense for the teams and parents. Conner took the first penalty and unfortunately missed but that did not bring the team down. After that Lakshmi O'Connor, Kate Bachman, Abbi Cooper, and Sophia Serena made their PK's and Blythe Duff made two wonderful saves. This led to LPA's victory in the Championship Game. LPA is glad to have another win to celebrate. The Eighth graders wish the teams the best of luck for next year.



Boys and Girls Basketball

By Sam Willis

Congrats to the newly selected LPA basketball teams. After a series of intense try outs the following students made the teams.

Girls Team: Caitlyn Boshell, Madden Lutze, Kate Bachman, Ayanna Turner, Abbi Cooper, Lyla Watts, Lakshmi O'Connor, Molly Tromba, Ariella Bostic, Hayden Warren, Tessa Nguyen, Madison White, Sloan Kennedy.

Boys Team: Ty Hayes, Kurt Valentine, Christian Capling, Mattox Jones, Sam Willis, Arturo Hicks, Colton Baldwin, Baylor Riley, Wesley Hall, Palmer Styduhar, Erik Windness, Gabriels Blaubuks, and Max Blasy.

Boys Practice Team: Aiden Arjoon, Bradley Willman, Miles Watson, Jackson Daughtry, and Eli Clark.

2024 Schedule: (Girl's games start at 5:30 - Boy's games start at 6:30)

Date	Opponent	Location
January		
16	Freedom Crossing Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
18	Pine Island Academy	Pine Island Academy
23	Palm Valley Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
25	Mill Creek Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
30	Valley Ridge Academy	Valley Ridge Academy
February		
1	Patriot Oaks Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
8	Freedom Crossing Academy	Freedom Crossing Academy
13	Pine Island Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
15	Palm Valley Academy	Palm Valley Academy
20	Valley Ridge Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
27	Patriot Oaks Academy	Liberty Pines Academy
29	Mill Creek Academy	Mill Creek Academy
March		
5	TBA – Championship Rd 1	TBA
6	TBA – Championship Rd 2	TBA
7	TBA – Championship Final	TBA



11TH ANNUAL

CHARACTER COUNTS!

In St. Johns
County

6K 3K

RUN • WALK

Saturday, February 3, 2024
9 A.M.

Palencia Elementary School



Register by January 5, 2024, to receive a race t-shirt and other goodies from sponsoring businesses and community organizations!



PRESENTING
SPONSOR

REGISTER AT
[RACESMITH.COM](https://www.racesmith.com)



PTO NEWS



MEMBERSHIP

Hello LPA Families! If you haven't joined the PTO yet, you can sign up on LPAPTO.COM or in person at the PTO meeting. If you have any questions, contact Abigail Lake at .

Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 18th 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

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 (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 signup genius link on the Liberty Pines Academy PTO Facebook page. Please feel free to contact secretary@lpapto.com for more information!

STAY CONNECTED

In addition to our website at 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

1/18 PTO meeting 9am in Cafeteria

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

Fortify FL FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at <https://getfortifyfl.com> or <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/fortifyfl-app/>, individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.

Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Submit a Tip Online

Download On The App Store

Get It On Google Play



PLATINUM WOLF SPONSORS - \$2000 Donation



GOLDEN WOLF SPONSORS - \$1000 Donation

