

LPA NEWS

NEWSLETTER | Volume 1 January 2024

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!



This second semester has started off full steam ahead. Our eighth-grade students experienced all the wonders that our Nation's Capital has to offer, our basketball teams are competing at a high level, we celebrated the 100th day of school, and we had a full week of activities for the Celebrate Literacy Week that included a door decorating contest and for the second year in a row, a packed house for our guest author night!

As we progress into February, our elementary students will take their class pictures, we will celebrate our Teachers and Rookie Teachers of the Year at their banquet, our Student Council sponsoring a Valentine's Gram sale, PTO sponsored Penny Wars fundraiser, our Math Counts Team will compete this month, we will celebrate National School Counselors week, celebrate Black History Month through grade level curriculum, and more. In the spirit of February, we will be challenging our students with random kindness challenges and activities throughout the month.

I want to take a moment to officially welcome all our new families that have joined us since the start of the new year! If you haven't already, please take some time to review our website for information about our school, check-in and sign-out procedures, car line information, our LPA Way, and more! We are so excited that our new families are now part of our Wolf Pack!

Gratefully together,

Donny Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal



The LPA Way



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



Mark your calendars for the events below:

- Feb. 1: Elementary Class Picture Day
- Feb. 5-9: National School Counselors week
- Feb. 6: Interim Reports available on HAC
- Feb. 5-8: Student Council Valentine's Gram Sale
- Feb. 12-16: PTO Penny Wars Fundraiser
- Feb. 13: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm
- Feb. 15: PTO Meeting at 9:00am
- Feb. 19: No School – President's Day

Congratulations to our Teachers of the Year who celebrated this week – Krista Langowski, Autumn Beaver, Zach Wolfe and Diane Owen.





By: Paige Carlson, Lily Misterewicz, and Gia Rodriguez-Millan

The 100th Day of School

By Krista Varghese

January 23rd was the 100th day of school. Every year, elementary students participate in fun events such as dressing up and making cool crafts related to the 100th day.

Mrs. Gallat is one of the kindergarten teachers here at LPA. She said her students dressed up as 100 year old people, made necklaces with 100 fruit loops, made a tower of 100 cups, drew portraits of themselves being 100 years old, and more. Mrs. Gallat said her students enjoyed the activities and had a great time.

Mrs. Raya's first grade class also did some exciting events for the 100th day. They did a fashion show displaying their shirts with 100 things. They also did a math mystery where they had to solve problems. Mrs. Raya's favorite part was the fashion show because the students had a lot of fun participating in it.



Happy
100th
Day
of School!

Early this January, our 8th graders visited our nation's capital, Washington D.C.! A total of 173 people went, 153 of them being students. One of this year's highlights was meeting our very own congressman, John Rutherford! We went to a series of memorials and museums including a walking tour of Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Wall, Korean War Memorial, and the WWII Memorial, as well as the Capitol and national archives. Our Wolves visited many museums while on their wild adventure, such as the Spy Museum, the African American Museum, the Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Museum of American history, and the Smithsonian Museum of Natural history.

This year's trip stuck out from previous years due to the incorporation of blue hoodies instead of the traditional red ones we have had for many years, as well as the number of students that attended this year's trip was one of the biggest groups we have ever had! The Spy Museum was also a new addition to our schedule and was something not done in several years.

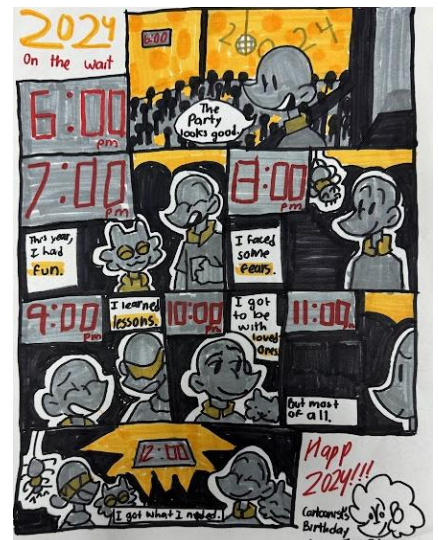
So far, the only thing that we plan to change next year is to swap the African American Museum for the National Museum of the American Indian. A big thanks to Ms. Lutts for all her help working towards this great experience!

NJHS: The Pet Food Drive

By: Ava Turner

The recent National Junior Honor Society's Pet Food Drive was a huge success. We matched if not surpassed last year's collection of donated goods. This year our generous student body donated a full carload's worth of beds, toys, leashes and food to support our local shelters. The donated items will be going to two main shelters. Items specifically for cats will be donated to Murphy's Kittens, a non-profit shelter in Saint Augustine that helps rehabilitate strays and abandoned cats. All other collected items will be brought to the local Humane society. A huge thank you to all students and parents who donated what they could!

Some upcoming fundraisers for NJHS will be our elementary school spring fling which will be celebrated in April along with our spring Book Fair! For all 6th and 7th graders who intend on joining NJHS next year applications will be available in the spring. More information will be provided as these events approach.

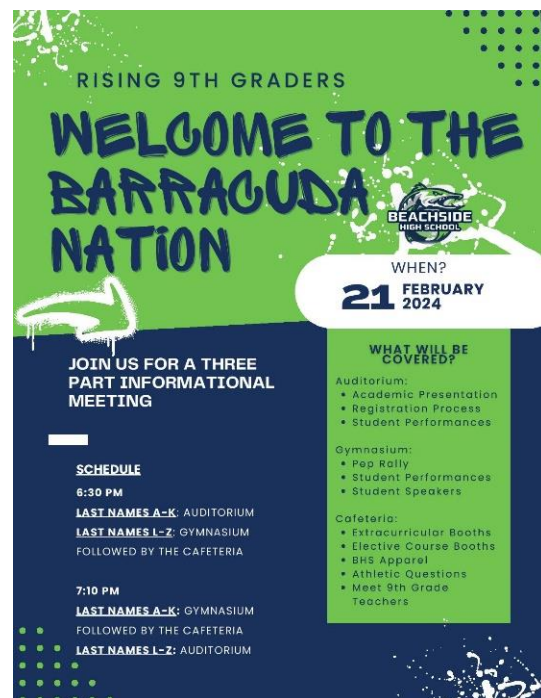


WHAT ELSE IS NEW ...

8th Grade High School Prep

By: Sofia Figueroa

High school is just around the corner for our eighth graders, about four more months until the school year ends. Until then, eighth graders need to make sure they are prepared for what's to come next year! Mrs. Cox is our eighth-grade counselor who is helping with everything that they need to know. For students who are going to Beachside Highschool, on February 21st there will be an 8th grade welcoming night. Please see the picture attached for more information. Also, on February 29th and March 1st there will be counselors from Beachside coming to LPA to help 8th graders pick out their seven classes for next year. If you are an 8th grader who is choosing not to go to Beachside Highschool or got accepted to an academy that is at a different school, please inform Mrs. Cox.



Valentine Grams

By: Reagan Heller

"Valentine Grams are a fundraiser that Student Council does to raise money for school necessities. You can write a message to a friend and give them a sweet valentine treat, and all for just one dollar!" says Erik Windness, our Student Council Vice President.

Valentine Grams are being sold February 5-8 and will then be delivered on Valentine's Day. This is Ms. Herkel's fourth year doing Valentine Grams, and every second raising money has been worth it.

The money will be donated for anything the school may need: a new podium, and perhaps water fountain filters, and anything else the school might need to not only help the students but all the staff members as well.

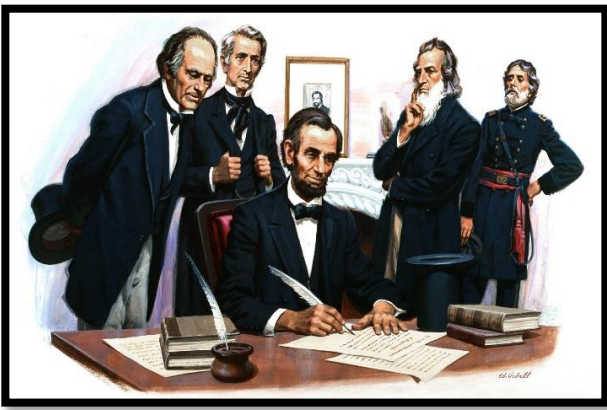
Mighty Math Counts – The Competitive Math Team

By: Priya Reddy

Math Counts is an ambitious math club team that works with different types of math problems for an expanse of knowledge and tournaments. Math Counts works with level sixth grade math to geometry problems! Their upcoming tournament is Friday, on February 19th at UNF.

The members of the Math Counts team are Luca Fortini, Sofia Fortini, Valentina Fortini, Sienna Karp, Andy Li, Saran Nimmagadda, and Eeshaan Rao. When describing this tournaments, Mrs. Brun says, "People who are scared of these tournaments don't sign up for it, people who like the tournaments would like to participate to solve challenging problems."

To prepare for this tournament, Math Counts members meet on Tuesdays before school to practice. As the tournaments get closer Math Counts join together on both Tuesdays and Thursdays to solve harder math problems. If Math Counts wins this tournament, they get to participate in the state tournament! Come support Math Counts in their upcoming tournament!



History Reflection: Emancipation Proclamation

By Sebastian Robinson and Gabriel Chapman

On January 1st, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued outlawing all slavery in states that had seceded. However, when it was issued, it **only** applied to the states that had seceded, leaving border states with their slaves. This proclamation would lead to the 13th and 14th amendments after the war, the 13th amendment outlawing all slavery and the 14th amendment defining citizenship for all free men. This was written by Abraham Lincoln when the Union was midway through its fight with the Confederacy.

The Union had issued this proclamation not just to free the slaves, but to deal a blow to the Confederacy and bring up freed men as manpower to the Union during the Civil War. However, the border states that remained in the Union were not affected by the Emancipation Proclamation as it strictly only affected the rebellious states in order not to push the 5 remaining slave states out of the Union.

Music Tech Club

Written by: Zoe Lathan

Have you ever imagined that music and technology could be combined? Well, Ms. Snyder and Mrs. Dudley have made it possible! If you're confused, the music tech club is a grant funded club given to our school that teaches 5th graders how to make their own music using technology.

So far only 8 kids have been chosen out of dozens of 5th graders, who all had very convincing applications. Selections were made through a "lottery" sort of pick due to not having enough tech for more kids. They had patiently been waiting since the beginning of the year to start this club, but only just recently received the funding and supplies.

The club is still fairly new and has not started yet, but soon, meetings will be every Tuesday until 4. It's exciting that 8 kids will be making the music of the future.

Character Counts awards

By: Juliette Sweet

Congratulations to all our representatives of Respect this month who strived greatly to win their prestigious award. Some highlights from this ceremony were Braxton Fleming who won his second award and Mrs. Sutaria's Class who had 4 nominees! Like always every ceremony was extremely lively and fun and everyone had a blast! Here are some characteristics of our outstanding representatives.

- I am polite and courteous to others.
- I follow the Golden Rule.
- I am considerate of other's feelings.
- I apologize for my harmful words or actions.
- I deal with disagreements peacefully.





Student Spotlight



By Mary Catherine Adams and Abbi Cooper

This month's student spotlight is Ashton Furukawa in Mrs. Morton's 5th grade class. Ashton's favorite thing about school is recess and P.E because he loves seeing his friends. His favorite subject is math, and his favorite resource is P.E. Ashton loves his teacher Mrs. Morton because she is very nice. His favorite thing he has done in 5th grade is their kickball game his class earned through live school points. Along with math Ashton also loves to learn about sports and read sports books, especially baseball books. Ashton is enjoying 5th grade and looking forward to 6th grade. (student spotlight continued on p.7)

Staff Spotlight: Nurse Penwell & Nurse Carter

By: Chloe Chang

Ms. Penwell says her favorite thing about LPA is the students and staff. This is her first year working as one of our nurses here at LPA! Ms. Penwell's job is to make sure that all students are healthy and feeling their best. When she was asked "What are the easiest and hardest things about your job?" she said, "The easiest thing is taking care of everyone, and the hardest thing is always being busy." Ms. Penwell chose to be a school nurse because she loves taking care of people and she knows how important education is and wants all students to feel their best in school.

Ms. Penwell helps students by comforting them when anxious, feeling down, and so much more. Her favorite grades to help with are kindergarten through 2nd grade. Ms. Penwell graduated from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. She also loves dogs and has a golden doodle of her own. Ms. Penwell has two daughters, one in 1st and the other in 4th. Even though being a school nurse is very challenging, Ms. Penwell always has a smile on her face no matter the day and we're so happy that she's here at LPA!

(Spotlight continued on page 9)



Teacher Spotlight

By: Olivia Detlefs and Lakshmi O'Connor

Mrs. Whitley is one of our amazing 5th grade teachers at LPA. She teaches science and math but her favorite to teach is math. "It's black and white and you learn fun strategies. I can teach interactive lessons."



She attended FSU for education and graduated in 2010 with a Master's degree in leadership. She started teaching that same year starting in Duval county but applying in St. Johns County and started working at LPA shortly after that. She has been a part of the LPA family for 12 years.

She has loved being a part of the LPA family but has also dreamed of having her own family. She was recently blessed with a son who is now 14 months old. She looks forward to watching her son grow and learn through the years.

Her biggest goal as a teacher is to "change a child's outlook to make them love school and want to come to school so that they can be excited about their future education." Mrs. Raiford loves the saying "the grass is not greener on the other side; the grass is greener where you grow it." She is planted at LPA and can't wait to keep growing her grass.

Teacher Spotlight

By: Lakshmi O'Connor and Olivia Detlefs

This week's teacher spotlight is our amazing middle school computer teacher, Mrs. Grubbs.



Mrs. Grubbs is a graduate from UNF with a master's in computer science. Mrs. Grubbs was not always a teacher; after finishing college she went to work for a company called Sear. Following this she went to work for a bank, in human resources. Her teaching career began soon after at Terry Parker High School in Duval County. She has been teaching for twenty-one years, eight of those years she has taught at LPA.

The reason Mrs. Grubbs became a teacher was to help and teach kids about computers for their future jobs and education. Some of her goals for this year are to teach her students to retain the information they learn so that they can apply it to their everyday life. Her favorite memory of not only this year but many other years is seeing her students come into school in the morning and leaving her class at the end of the day. Something Mrs. Grubbs is very excited for this year is the 8th graders Gradventure field trip. Also, she is excited to see her 8th graders graduate and move on to high school.

Outside of her LPA family she has been married for 18 years to her husband and has a daughter and two sons. One thing everybody in the family has in common is they really like island style food. We are lucky to have Mrs. Grubbs on our LPA team. Her experience will keep helping the students thrive with their computer skills.

By: Juliette Sweet

Elementary Music & Upcoming Musicals!

By: Gia Rodriguez Millan

Music is a resource that all students K-5 will take! Mrs. Snyder is the wonderful teacher who takes responsibility in teaching this resource. According to Mrs. Snyder, the students learn best with hands-on activities and moving around the room! The activities each grade are working on currently are listed below:

K: How heart beats interact with music and incorporating instruments.

1st: Peter and the Wolf – how the characters represent instruments.

2nd: Partner dancing and supporting each other.

3rd: Working on spring musical, “It’s a Hit!”.

4th: Experimenting with recorders and learning new notes.

5th: Bucket drumming and practicing fun rhythm patterns.

One of the events coming up in the elementary music field is the 3rd grade spring musical, “It’s a Hit!” which is a baseball musical about teamwork and coming together as one. This musical takes place on Thursday April 18 with two different groups. Group A starts at 5:30 and group B starts at 6:30!

Moonlight Howlers also has a musical this year on May 2nd called “Zombie the Musical” and it starts at 6:00pm. It is a free event and donations are greatly appreciated at the door. We encourage you to come and leave a donation and help our school grow and watch as the 5th graders take on a wild adventure!

Earlier in this month students in Mrs. Scoggins’s art class won the Golden Doodle Award! The Golden Doodle Award is an award given to the class in each grade with the most points for their grade. In every art class students have an opportunity to win 6 points, one for coming in quietly, one for good clean up and one for staying quiet at the door. There are 3 other ART points students get when they come in and can lose throughout the class if they do not follow the rules of the art room. Every class who won the Golden Doodle gets a special art day where they can do activities that no one else in their grade gets to do. Mrs. J. Veale’s first grade class did a fun slime project that they got to take home to play with. The classes who won include Mrs. MJ’s kindergarten class, Mrs. Aranada’s 2nd grade class, Mrs. Moree and Mrs. Lewis’s (B group) classes, Ms. Lovett and Mrs. Martin (A group) classes and finally, Mrs. Whitley and Mrs. Sutaria’s (A group) classes. Everyone in this group had lots of fun with their activity of choice. Look forward to more Golden Doodles later this year!



Band and Chorus News

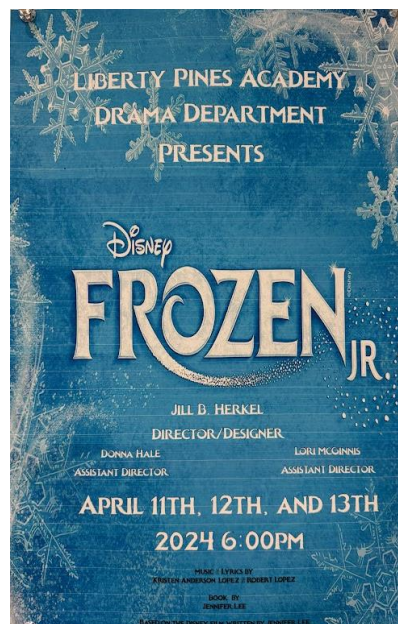
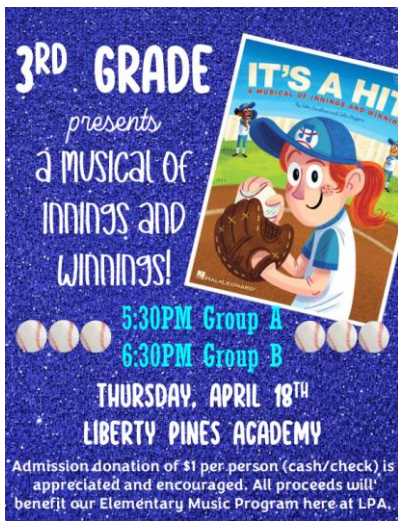
By Gabriella Bear

In recent news, the Symphonic Band, under the direction of Mr. Spilling, visited fifth-grade students to showcase their musical talents and introduce the younger students to their various instruments, aiming to inspire interest in joining the band as they progress to middle school; an engaging experience that will lead to harbor a sense of enthusiasm for musical education.

Succeeding that, the Honor Band is preparing for an upcoming concert scheduled for February 3rd, the anticipation is high as students exhibit their skills to the crowd. The concert promises an evening of extraordinary musical performances, showcasing the dedication and talent of the middle school honor band members. Congratulations to Erik Windness, Harrison Koch, Harrison Warren, Ezra Jones, Claudia Herbert, Jonathan Marquette, Caden Buck, and Phineas Barnhart for being in the Honor Band.

In addition to the Honor Band concert, the Jazz Band is also getting ready for a special performance tailored for elementary students in the following weeks! This enterprise seeks to expose younger students to the vibrant and dynamic world of jazz music, enriching their interests in music and melody!

Meanwhile, the Symphonic Band is preparing for their own concert scheduled for either March 5th or 6th, which will be sure to highlight their hard work, showcasing the progress and dedication of these committed middle school musicians. The district has recently purchased band lockers, a significant step in providing proper storage for instruments and comfortability for the students! Although the official date for the locker distribution has yet to be confirmed, the expansion displays the district's commitment to supporting the musical pursuit of the students of LPA.



More Student Spotlight 5th grade

By: Abbi Cooper and Mary Catherine Adams

Walker Adams is also one of the 5th student spotlight students. Walker is 11 years old and her teacher is Mrs. Whitley. She said her favorite thing about Mrs. Whitley is “she’s a nice teacher.” Her favorite subject and resource are math and PE. If Walker had to choose one thing about 5th grade that she enjoyed the most it would be recess and free time. Her closest friends at school consist of Emma, Ashton, Leah and Lily.



At the end of the day Walker goes home to her mom, her dad, her sister Mary Catherine, her dog Presley, and her cat Carl. Walker plays two sports, soccer and tennis. She likes to play sports so much that she practices in her free time because it makes her happy. This month’s student spotlight goes to Walker Adams.

FROZEN!

By: Reagan Heller

“You know, this is a really funny story. As you may know, nine years ago we put on ‘The Little Mermaid’, and I turned to Mrs. Hale and Mrs. McGinnis and said, ‘Sometime in the next ten years, we are going to put on ‘Frozen’.” Well, nine years later, Ms. Herkel had accomplished her goal set out years ago.

One of the fan favorite Disney characters is %100 Olaf. Olaf is funny, lovable, and loves warm hugs. Lucky for us, our very own Ella Dunson has happily accepted that challenging role. She is extremely funny and, Ella believes that this will make it easier because [their] personalities are very similar. Ella also says she might need a bit of practice, but we have Olaf in the bag!

Noah Cassidy, a sixth grader at LPA, has been awarded a minor role as butler. Very excited for ‘Frozen’, Noah says he is, “a little nervous, a little excited, but I know it’s going to be so much fun!” Another actor, Abby Callaway, plays the part of Anna. Abby knew Anna was meant for her to play. Not only do they look alike, but Abby can relate to Anna on many levels.

Don’t forget to come and see “Frozen” on April 11, 12, and 13. Congratulations to the cast and crew listed below:

Snow/summer chorus

Mila Wilhelmy, Brinley Baadsgaard, Stephanie Valdes, Aubrey Long, Lily Moroz, Mallory Pappas, Ava Gibson Rijo, Lily Abbott Emily Rapolla, Abigail Pfalzer

Oaken’s family/Hidden folk /Townspople

Neoarah Varghese, Josephine Hurkes Ruby Grace Kight, Bella Baez, Esme Dornbos, Aubrey Goodman, Norah Plants, Ella Madelly Jenevieve Hurckes, Grace Rapolla Hannah Tilton, Akshara Kumbamu

Young Anna
Middle Anna
Anna
Young Elsa
Middle Elsa
Elsa
King Agnaar
Queen Iduna
Pabbie
Bulda
Bishop
Kristoff
Sven
Hans
Weselton
Olaf
Oaken
Housekeeper
Butler
Handmaiden
Cook
Lead Snow Ice

Courtney Hayes
Caroline Nowroozie
Abby Callaway
Madeleine Wellschlager
Clara Wayne
Alexandra Stafford
Mattia Hall
Katie McGrath
Ruby Grace Kight
Olivia Torrence
Davis Templeton
Luka Klipa
Rasleen Singh
Quinn Earley
Ty Hayes
Ella Dunson
Alan Esteves
Jamila Jones
Noah Cassidy
Bella Gonzalez
Erienne Scales
Gianna DiBenedetto

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Lights
Sound
Light/Sound Assistant
Follow Spot operator
Backstage Crew head
Backstage crew

Prop Mistress
Props Crew

Special FX Crew
Costume/Make up Crew

House/Publicity crew

Reagan Heller
Francesca Calabria
Tinley Shaw
Cassie Harris
Emmy Daniels
Katie Bonday
Jacob Osborn
Sadessa Masters
Olivia Pappas
Aubrey Goodman
Emily Bowles
Emma Olsen
Caitlin Croly
Claudia Herbert
Abigail Campbell
Areej Maqsood
Nic Roza
Jonah Herbert

SPORTS NEWS!!!

Boys Basketball

By Ty Hayes and Sam Willis

The Boys Basketball team had a rough start to the year. They won their first game but proceeded to lose the next 4. These games weren't a total loss. They taught the boys what is needed to become a great team. Boys Basketball hopes to turn their season around. Here is the rest of their schedule:

(Girls start at 5:30/Boys start at 6:30)

February 1st @ Patriot Oaks Academy

February 8th @ Freedom Crossing Academy

February 13th Vs Pine Island Academy

February 15th @ Palm Valley Academy

February 20th Vs Valley Ridge Academy

February 27th Vs Patriot Oaks Academy

February 29th @ Mill Creek Academy

March 5th Championship Round 1

March 6th Championship Round 2

March 7th Championship Final



Girls Basketball

By: Lakshmi O'Connor

Basketball season has officially started! This year's team consists of 12 players. Our girls' basketball team is off to a great start, they have won three games and only lost two. They won against Valley Ridge, Palm Valley, Pine Island, and lost to Mill Creek and Freedom Crossing. This year's team captain is Caitlyn Boshell. As one of the leaders of the team she wants to set a good example for her teammates by playing her hardest and being a good teammate. Also, as an existing member of the team from last year she's seen an improvement of communication and defense. The team is hoping to take it all the way to the end, winning the whole thing. Come out and cheer our wolves on, on Tuesday and Thursday at their games! Go Wolves!



Tennis Team

By Krista Varghese

The tennis season has finally started, and their first match is coming up. Practices are on Wednesdays at 3:30-4:30pm at Beachwalk. Their first match is going to be a home game against Pacetti Bay Middle School on February 2nd at 4:00 pm. The following people have made the this year's team:

Varsity: Ahan Banapur, Ethan Bedi, Daniel Bray, Kennedy Bunnell, Lu Crews, Luca Fortini, Sofia Fortini, Valentina Fortini, Kaitlyn Hall, Ellie Thorpe, Krista Varghese

Junior Varsity: Lucy Collins, Audrey Fricke, Addison Fricke, Sreehas Kamireddy, Aika Matsuda, Alice Poynton, Emma Rutland, Samiha Shaik

Softball Season Just Starting

By: Layla Doyle

The girls' softball team for this season consists of 10 athletes: Lily Jurgens, Caitlyn Boshell, Clara Fontana, Ellie Morris, Aliyah Denmark, Adalyn Hinskey, Berkleigh Nelson, Mackenzie Bates, Avery Martin, and Anna Lucia Crews. Caitlyn Boshell is excited to be finishing her last year in LPA softball. Also, her favorite thing about this sport is the community. Her position is a pitcher. Lily Jurgens is a short-stop and she is excited to be able to play with her friends and teammates. She also enjoys the community and being around friends and bonding with teammates.

Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the Excel Spreadsheet Essential Certification Exam in Mrs. Grubbs Class:

Baker, Hayleigh
Brown, Griffin
Crawford, Lucy
Denmark, Adrian
Encaoua, Ariel
Fricke, Addison
Gomez, Jacob
Hall, Wesley
Jimenez, Vincenzo
Jones, Elizabeth
Kamau, Jayden
Kamireddy, Sreehas
LeNeave, Jason
Li, Andy
Nowroozi, Caroline
Nunamaker, Alex
Owen, Liam
Pfalzer, Abigail
Powers, Mason
Prather, Caleb
Ratliff, Mason
Reach, Owen
Ruiz, Giancarlo
Sureda, Cade
Swartz, Luke
Thompson, Gabriel
Vela Hatem, Sebastian
Weger, Charlotte
Barilla, Anthony
Bannon, Shaelie
Bridges, Daniel
Castello, Anevay
Colca, Lucas
Connell, Olivia
Coss, Cristopher
Crandall, Callan
De La Cruz, Damian
Fortini, Luca
Garge, Sanika
Greer, Christopher
Harrison, Kevin
Mayor, Omar
Munro, Aurora

Phillips, Kalina
Saunders, Kevin
Shook, William
Stodel, Alex
Thiagarajan, Anya
Vedvick, Archer
Weber, Olivia
Willman, Bradley
Antonelli, Hanna
Banapur, Ahan
Brown, George
Cebulko, Molly
Duff, Blythe
Duplantier, Landon
Friedman, Justin
Gines, Drake
Greathouse, Jackson
Griggs, Aiden
Grubbs, Ayana
Jenkins, Madison
Jones, Shane
Karp, Sienna
Lingam Santosh, Disha
Nimmagadda, Saran
Pavaskar, Namah
Rapolla, Grace
Russell, Brooke
Russell, Hudson
Russo, Anna
Singh, Aarya
Topal, Kerem
Turner, Ariana
Vukelic, Luka
Walker, Aidan
Williams, Dalton

Media Matters, Gobi's Visit, and Literacy Week

By Jamila Jones

On the week of January 22nd, the Media Center celebrated Literacy week along with Gobi and Lara's visit to LPA on January 23rd. Each day, students of the Kindergarten to 5th grade buildings celebrated literacy with fun activities to fill the day. The pet food drive held by NJHS that week added to feelings of celebration that filled the air.

This school year, Gobi returned with a second visit to LPA. This time, Lara the cat came along as well. It was her first public appearance ever, and LPA was able to host her this year. Similarly, to last year, Dion Leonard discussed the story with the audience during the after-school discussion. He told Gobi's story and how he and Gobi met. However, he also brought about the discussion of another story he wrote about his cat, Lara. He discussed the differences between fiction and nonfiction and compared the stories with the audience. Many books of both Gobi's journey and Lara's adventures were purchased and sold by both children and adults who thoroughly enjoyed the books. The stories brought families closer than ever as they read together.

Literacy week was celebrated with an overflow of fun with activities each day that celebrate our ability to read and write. Literacy Week was celebrated to put emphasis on the powerful force of literacy. Classes in the K-5 had door decoration competitions with Ms. Herrin for K-2, Ms. Ford for 3-5, and Ms. Small for Middle school winning overall. There were students who submitted photos of themselves reading in some amazing places. Literacy week put the spotlight on reading and writing to encourage us to read more and to create more with our words.

During this week, Julie Hayden and Kelly Thigpen came to discuss our character pillar of the month, Responsibility. The Media Center hopes that in the future the middle school grades can be able to visit the library. They are also in the hopes that they may expand the collection of books they have in order to ensure there is a good read for every one of our students.



Staff Spotlight: Nurse Carter – by Chloe Chang

Ms. Carter is also one of our nurses here at LPA. Her job here is to take care of everyone and make sure everyone's feeling healthy! Ms. Carter has been here since August and loves her job and working with students, especially kindergarten and 8th grade. She helps students by caring for them when they're in need. Ms. Carter believes, "The easiest thing [about her job] is working with Nurse Mary and working as a team, but as nurses we're always busy and we get so many students per day that we can't give the best care to everyone."

Ms. Carter graduated from Southeastern University. She chose to be a school nurse because she loves working with kids and it means that her and her kids have the same time off. Ms. Carter has one 8th grader and one 16yr old. She also has two amazing dogs named Piper and Leo. We are all so glad that Ms. Carter is a part of our wolf pack, and she is a big key why LPAs so amazing!!



Be sure to order your yearbook while supplies last!!! Orders will be taken until April 30th or until supplies last.

8th grade ads must be purchased and designed by February 14th in order to be included in the yearbook! Questions? Email Donna Hale – donna.hale@stjohns.k12.fl.us

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 abigaillake@yahoo.com.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 15th 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) 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 all the below who were nominated!

Reagan Veale for doing such an awesome job as safety patrol. Thank you to Ms. Applegate for being such a wonderful homeroom teacher. A huge shout out to Ms. Spence for going above and beyond in putting together boxes for the homeless. Finally, thanks to Ms. Wurstner and Mr. Ryan for making the 8th grade DC trip so much fun and memorable for the kids.

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 need your help in making our next event --the "Souperbowl" a success! Please be on the lookout for information with a sign-up genius for bringing in soup for the lovely staff and teachers of LPA. More details to be announced on the PTO Facebook page.

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 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.

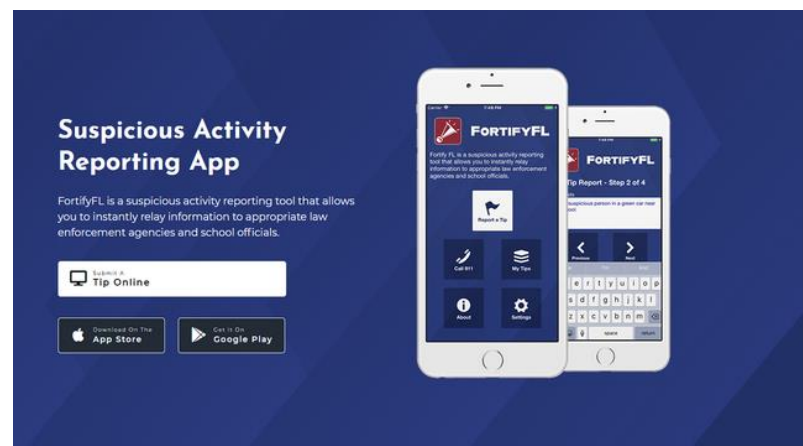
UPCOMING DATES

2/9 – Souperbowl

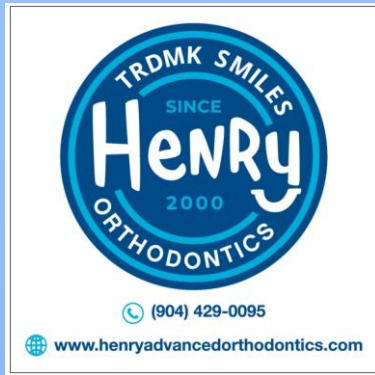
2/15- PTO meeting 9am in Cafeteria

2/26 to 3/1- Penny Wars

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.



PLATINUM WOLF SPONSORS - \$2000 Donation



GOLDEN WOLF SPONSORS - \$1000 Donation

