Hello LPA Families!

It's hard to imagine that we are in the final month of the school year. We tell the students to start strong and to finish stronger, and that is what we intend to do as well! Although we are in the last days of school are upon us, we will continue our strong academic focus during the final weeks of the school year.

The month of April was filled with great experiences and activities for our students and staff. We began the month by welcoming new families that will be rezoned to LPA next school year, we survived the Solar Eclipse, hosted district representatives while they presented at our SAC meeting, we had a successful "Purple Up" day in honor of our military children, our elementary students danced the night away at their Spring Fling dance, and our kindergarten and 2nd grade students experienced their field day. We also had a wonderful bookfair sponsored by our PTO, an amazing Night of the Arts event, our elementary and middle school students put on three chilling nights of performances for the Frozen Jr. show, our 3rd graders put on an amazing show at the Spring performance, our elementary students danced their hearts out at our Positive Behavior Reward Pep Rallies, the middle school basketball teams competed against the staff in a basketball game, we began the state testing assessments, we celebrated the LPA Sports teams (Cross Country, Volleyball, and Basketball) at the LPA Sports Banquet, and we finished the month off celebrating our incredible staff with our amazing PTO who sponsored the Staff Appreciation Week! It was a very busy month!

As we begin the final month of the school year, we have many more exciting events to look forward to in May. We start the month off with our Elementary Moonlight Howlers Spring Concert, followed by the middle school Musical Theater Showcase, and the Goodwill Bag it Up drive. The middle school band will perform their Spring Concert, end of the year grade level activities will take place, and our 8th graders will visit Universal Studios for the Gradventure field trip. The last week of school will allow for the 8th graders to participate in their end of the year dance, and we will look forward to hosting promotion ceremonies for our 5th grade and 8th grade students. Due to the capacity of the gym, there will be a limit of two tickets per student for the promotion ceremonies. I will send out a virtual link the day before for additional family members to view the ceremony.

*Please note that although the last day of school is a Friday, it will be an early release day with dismissal starting at 2:00pm. Also, note that students will not be permitted to bring backpacks during the last week of school.

As we commence the close of the school year, I want to thank all of you for your continued support of LPA! It is an honor and a privilege to continue to serve this amazing community!

The LPA Wav

L: Learning is our focus

P: Positive relationships are what we

A: Always respectful and responsible

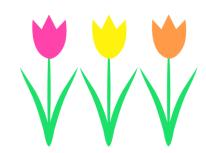
Gratefully together,

Donny Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal



Mark your calendars for the events below:

- -April 29-May 3: Staff Appreciation Week
- -May 2: Elementary Moonlight Howlers Spring Concert at 6:00pm
- -May 9: Musical Theater Showcase at 6:00pm
- -May 14: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm
- -May 15: Goodwill Bag it Up Donation drop off drive
- -May 15: Spring Band Concert at 6:00pm at Beachside HS
- -May 15-17: Middle School Locker Cleanouts
- -May 16: PTO Meeting
- -May 17: 8th grade Gradventure
- -May 20-24: No Backpacks the last week of school
- -May 21: 8th grade Dance at 6:00pm-8:00pm
- -May 22: 8th grade Promotion Ceremony at 9:15am (limited to two tickets per student due to capacity)
- -May 22: 5th grade Promotion Ceremony at 11:00am (limited to two tickets per student due to capacity)
- -May 24: Last Day of School Early Release at 2:00pm





NJHS Spring Fling

By: Lakshmi O'Connor

Another fun Spring Fling has successfully come and gone. This year's Spring Fling was held on Wednesday April 17th at the LPA cafeteria. It was such a hit last year with the kids that they brought it back and the families enjoyed it even more this year.

Members of NJHS participated by volunteering to be hype crew, concession stand workers, handing out leis and checking in all the guests. After interviewing one of our NJHS members, Mahveez, she said she had a blast. Her job at the dance was to hand out leis and to help usher in the guests. Mahveez was really looking forward to this because she loved to see the students jump up and down while dancing with a constant smile on their faces. A suggestion she had for the theme next year was Fortnite, so the hype crew had even more dances to do with the crowd.

Coming from a fifth grader, Emma Irby's perspective, she loved it and had so much fun. She liked this year's dance even more because everyone danced when last year nobody really did. Emma's favorite part of the dance was getting silly photos with her friends in the photobooth. She loved how everybody could get a drink and a cookie at the end because she danced so much that she was starving. Make sure to keep a look out for this event next year. It's an evening where you can let all your boogies out and have the best time with your friends and family!



End of Year Activities!

By: Krista Varghese

Each grade is doing something fun as a celebration to end the year. Below are the activities and dates.

- **Kindergarten** is doing a Mother's Day spa on May 10th to pamper the mothers. They are doing some stations such as making friendship bracelets, hair salon, manicures, and massages in each classroom.
- **1**st grade is doing a luau which they are rotating among different classrooms. Parents are providing fun and engaging activities such as relay races, glow stick dance party, crafts, Jeremiah's Ice Cream, and bingo.
- **2nd grade** is doing an eight-day countdown starting on the last two weeks of school. May 14th is Market Day, May 15th is Olympic Day, May 16th is Throwback Day, May 17th is Camping, May 20th is Circus, May 21st is Beach Bash, May 22nd is Glow Day, and May 23rd is Board Game Day.
- **3rd Grade** is doing carnival games, having ice cream sundaes, and watching movies through other classrooms on May 23rd.
- 4th grade is doing a kickball tournament on May 20th and 21st.
- **5**th **grade** is having an end of the year ice cream luau. May 22nd is the 5th grade promotion ceremony.
- 6th grade is doing different stations after lunch during 6th and 7th period.
 They are participating in a movie room, art room, kickball, or computer room.
- **8**th **grade** has some fun end of year activities such as Gradventure, 8th grade dance, and graduation. May 17-18th is Gradventure, May 21st is the 8th grade dance, and May 22nd is graduation.



LPA loved having the football players from Beachside High School come help out the Safety Patrol in the carline.

5th grade SeaWorld field trip

By Gabe Chapman

On April 24th last week all of 5th grade got to take a field trip to SeaWorld for a full day where they got to explore the rides, animals, and shows. We interviewed Sam Chapman, a 5th grader, from Ms. Hefters class. He said what he enjoyed about SeaWorld was having fun with his friends. His favorite part of SeaWorld was the water rides. He said if he went back to SeaWorld, he would bring an extra pair of cloths because he got soaked. Lucy Davenport, a 5th grader from Ms. Whitley's class was also interviewed. She enjoyed watching the orca show at SeaWorld. Her favorite part was going on the rollercoasters and going to Sesame Street Land. Her advice to future 5th graders that go to SeaWorld is to have a plan of where you want to go and bring a poncho.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW \dots

Put Some Pep in Your Step!

By: Ava Turner

This past week on April 25th LPA hosted our 2nd pep rally of the year getting every grade pumped for the final stretch of this school year! K-2 had their pep rally first early in the morning getting them ready and excited for the day! All of them participated in a thrilling lip synch battle. Kindergarten started off strong with an incredible performance of "YMCA" exciting the crowd. Then, second grade followed up with another stellar show of "Whip and nae nae". Finally, first grade had amazing closing act of "We Will Rock You"! All the performances were spectacular but in the end first grade came out on top!

Right after K-2 had their exciting event it was the older elementary kids turn to have some fun! The lip synch battles had begun once again. As the reigning champions 3rd grade went first giving an amazing light show while their teachers sang "Champion". Next up was the 4th graders with an awesome dance routine to "Party in the USA"! Last but certainly not least the 5th grade teachers formed their own dance group and showed off some outstanding choreography to the classic song "I Want It That Way". In the end 5th grade won the battle!

After the elementary pep rallies in the morning, middle school students still had the rest of the day until their event. After hours of anticipation the 7^{th} period bell rang and 6^{th} , 7^{th} , and 8^{th} graders rushed to the gym for their much-anticipated pep rally.

The students were treated to an exciting game of Basketball between their school team and the staff members! Everyone was cheering for their favorite teachers and friends to win the heated competition. Both sides fought hard but, in the end, students came out on top! Overall, the pep rally was a huge success giving students a chance to relax before the quickly approaching testing season. Thank you to all parents, teachers and staff that made these fun events possible.











Fun Field Day Part 2!

By: Juliette Sweet

On April 10th Kindergarten, First and second grade, finally got to do field day. After weather issues on the original date field day was postponed. Ruby, a second grader in Mrs. Spence's class said that she was sad when they cancelled field day. All the stations stayed the same from last time and the popsicles were a hit! Ruby said that her favorite station was the hula hoop relay because she loved rolling the hoop. Everyone had a blast and all the kiddos are looking forward to next year's Field Day!

Solar Smores

By Zoe Lathan

Ms. Hoekstra's class did a fun hands-on experiment last month involving smores. The purpose of this experiment was to demonstrate how heat from the sun creates heat energy and can affect the smores. They conducted this experiment with the following steps: Assemble the smores, place in a tin box, and let sit outside for over a day. Their results were a tasty gooey treat!

A student in the class, Robin Lee, talked about how he enjoyed the experiment but wished he were more involved; he explained how he learned that the heat from the sun melted the smores, and from what he said, it was pretty tasty. In fact, this is Ms. Hoekstra's 7th year doing this! She explained how it's definitely worth it; she and the kids had an awesome time.

Teacher Spotlight

By: Lakshmi O'Connor & Olivia Detlefs

This week's teacher spotlight is Mrs. McGinnis. Mrs. McGinnis is one of our wonderful 8th grade ELA teachers. She has been teaching for ten years and of those

ten years she has been teaching at LPA for five of them. Mrs. McGinnis went to Texas Tech University and Majored in Journalism.

Before Mrs. McGinnis started teaching, she owned and operated a Wendy's franchise. Then, she started getting involved with LPA by being Vice President of PTO when the school opened. After this she started her journey of teaching of becoming a teacher at LPA. What inspired Mrs. McGinnis to become a teacher is because she loved seeing the light bulb go off in a student. The reason why she became a teacher is due to her children because she wanted to be able to spend lots of time with them.

Some of Mrs. McGinnis's teaching goals are to have all her students live up to their potential and to walk out of her class at the end of the year a better writer. Also, some of her personal goals are to publish another novel and be healthier. One of her favorite memories as a teacher was when she came back from covid and could interact with her students in person.

McGinnis's family consists of five people. Those people are her husband Brian, her oldest daughter Jordan, and her triplets Julia, Natalie, and Nathan. Mrs. McGinnis and her husband have been married for 25 years. Something that Mrs. McGinnis and Mr. McGinnis do together is walk/run 5k's. LPA is so lucky to have her as a teacher here! If you see her in the hallways make sure to say hi!

LPA SPOTLIGHTS



Student Spotlight

By: Abbi Coper and Mary Catherine Adams

This month's student spotlight is an eighth-grade student, Capra Whitman. Capra is fourteen years old. Her homeroom teacher is ELA with Mrs. Hale. Her favorite elective is Intern. Capra only take one elective because she leaves early from school. She leaves early from school because she does competitive gymnastics that takes up most of her day. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Lutts who teaches civics; Capra likes her because she always has the materials needed for a test and she makes class fun. Capra's favorite thing about school is to be around her friends. She says that she is excited for high school and she's looking forward to new opportunities. At Home Capra lives with her mom, dad and sister. Capra has a dog and a cat. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her friends. Congrats to Capra!

Teacher spotlight

By: Olivia Detlefs and Lakshmi O'Connor

Mr. Ryan is one of our outstanding LPA teachers. He teaches Civics and U.S History, but civics is his favorite to teach because it applies to everyday life. This is his 2nd year at LPA after teaching 9 years at Landrum Middle School, and many more before that at East Providence in Rhode Island.

Before teaching he was a pitcher for the Dodgers and made it to the AAA level which is right below the highest level. Then he worked at the NY stock exchange and soon lost interest for this job. After running a baseball summer camp, he discovered his passion for working with kids and decided he wanted a job that did that. His goal is to inspire his students to care about their education and success, and to have kids enjoy his class. "My favorite thing is seeing the kids laugh and interact with the class."

Mr. Ryans wife (Mrs. Ryan) also works at LPA. This is one of the reasons Mr. Ryan chose to teach here. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan have 2 children. One is an adopted daughter from China named Jenny. Their son is Liam who is an air force pilot. Mr. Ryan is excited to end this year on a positive and hopes to see his students meet their goals and succeed!



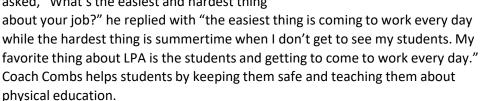




Staff Spotlight: Coach Combs

By Chloe Chang

Coach Combs is our P.E. Paraprofessional here at LPA. He has been here for 15 amazing years and has been here since day one! When he was asked, "What's the easiest and hardest thing



Coach Combs decided to become a P.E. paraprofessional because Mr. Kelly (LPA's first principal) chose him for the job. He loves dogs and loves Veterans' Day. His favorite grade to help with is 5th grade. We're so glad Coach Combs is a part of our LPA family, and we wouldn't have it any other way!



Character Counts Awards

By: Juliette Sweet

Our ceremony this month was very exciting. Our representatives this month are some of our most pristine who show promise in all pillars! Like previous months our stage is decorated with fun props. To no surprise the ceremonies were very exciting. This article is very exciting for me to write this month because I had the honor to be nominated as well! Great job to all our representatives and keep up the good work! Here are the characteristics of our nominees:

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

The Magical Media Center and Brilliant Book Fair!

By: Priya Reddy

Recently, the media center welcomed a new librarian, and her name is Mrs. Keane! She says that she loves it here and there is a lot of fun that's involved. When asked what she enjoys in the media center she states that she likes everything, but what she likes the most are the kids! Mrs. Keane cherishes the smiling faces and sweetness that welcomes LPA.

Another event that occurred recently was the Scholastic Book Fair! Erin, a chaperone for the Book Fair stated that there were a ton of purchases and she believes that this book fair will be 100% successful. The most popular item was stated to be the chocolate calculator and the most popular books were **Guts** and **Dog-man**! With a new staff member let's make her feel welcomed to LPA!

NEWS FROM THE ART WORLD



Astonishing Art Show

By Paige Carlson and Lily Misterewicz

This past week, on Tuesday the 23rd of April, we had an art show to raise money for our art department. In total, we raised close to \$2000. During this event, students could enter various give aways including the chance to win art drawn by your art teacher, an art basket, and if you guessed the correct number of items in the jar, a prize. There was also a glow room with many fun and interactive activities for students.

Elementary students chose their 2 favorite artworks from a series of 2d artworks, paintings, and clay masterpieces. Students in middle school art chose song lyrics that meant something to them and used it as the background to a self-portrait drawn using handheld mirrors.

The art show was a huge success – Mr. Wolfe even said, "everybody had a good time." Apart from this, Mrs. Scoggins said, "Mr. Wolfe and I are very appreciative for all the support from all the families that came." Congratulations and good work to all who participated!

Giveaway winners:

Art of Your Choice - Avery Corpe and Clara Wayne

Art Basket - Elise Joslyn

Guess the number – Julia 4th grade



Frozen Adventure Comes to an End

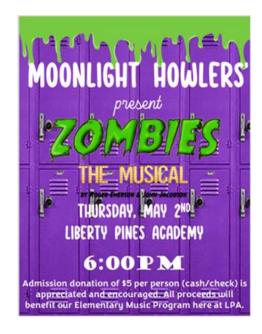
By: Reagan Heller

On April 11th, 12th, and 13th LPA produced their tenth Spring Musical under Ms. Herkel's Directorship, "Frozen Jr."! Everyone who came and participated loved it. Cris Coss even said, "I was pleasantly surprised by the dedication and time that was put into the performance... it was really good..." And everyone can agree!

Our Light and Sound heads Cassie Harris and Emmie Daniels, both eighth graders, were so happy about the play. This was the first ever play that sold out! The pride was overwhelming as the cast and crew realized that all these people were here to see them shine. This being Emmie and Cassie's last LPA performance, they were sad that the fun had to come to end, but excited to continue in high school.

Seventh and sixth grade students involved in the plays are so excited for next year. They can't wait to see what comes next. Josephine Hurkes, one of our beloved townspeople, loved every minute of Frozen. She made so many new friends and is sad to see all the eighth graders leave. Frozen was a huge success and we all can't wait to see what is to come!

Don't forget our Musical theater spring performance entitled, "A Tribute to Broadway". Performing incredible Broadway songs, it is completely student choreographed. Come on May 10th to see them shine, free of charge!



Melodic Elementary Musicals

By: Gia Rodriguez-Millan

Elementary music has been an exciting adventure with many tunes and melodies in the air! The musical "It's a hit" was this past week on April 18th. It was a mesmerizing play and a fun experience for these students involved! A 3rd grade student Carl, who had a role in the play expressed, "It was a good play if I do say so myself". The storyline talks about a girl named Fiona who has a passion for pitching. Most of the students think she doesn't have the skills. Soon enough she surprises everyone with an amazing pitch and proves herself! The lesson of this story is to treat others fairly and to be passionate.

LPA has another upcoming musical entitled, "Zombies the Musical" next Thursday May 2nd, which only consists of our Moonlight Howlers. Mrs. Snyder has set some goals for this musical which is to spread the message during this play: To be respectful and to not bully others. This event starts at 6:00pm and its \$3 per person. That money will be used to benefit our music department, so donations at the door will be greatly appreciated! We are so excited to see what our Moonlight Howlers bring out together! Go Wolves!

SPORTS NEWS!!!











LPA enjoyed hosting the sports banquet to honor the Liberty Pines Academy2023 - 2024 volleyball, basketball, and cross-country teams on Tuesday, April 30th in the cafeteria.



Spring Football

By Ty Hayes

We are in the middle of spring, for the football team it is the beginning of training for the fall football season. The hot and humid afternoon air is filled with players donned in helmets and shoulder pads, eager to tackle and break their friends' ankles. Under the watchful guidance of Head Coach Mike Watson, the players engage in drills and conditioning exercises designed to prepare them for the season to come. Miles Watson, son of Coach Watson, and a wide receiver for the team describes the practices as "hard conditioning but very fun." Miles also believes the football team will do very well this upcoming fall season. With all the hard work the team is putting in, we can be sure the football team will do well this upcoming fall season.

Pickleball at LPA

By: Layla Doyle

Believe it or not, LPA has added pickleball to the list of sports at school this year. The LPA pickleball team consists of 12 players. They have played one match and won 11-1. Their next match is on May 1st. Rylee Hoekstra is on the team, and this is her first year trying pickleball. She really enjoys it, and her favorite part is practices. The team calls themselves the "Gnarly Pickleballers". Come out and support our team on May 1st.









Congratulations to Henry Bailey, Adrian Denmark, and Mason Powers who were recently recognized as middle school baseball players of the week.





Testing

By: Lily Misterewicz

Make sure to get a good night's rest before, eat a healthy breakfast and study for your tests to get the best results!!

by Jamila Jones

5/2/24- 3rd grade FAST Reading and Middle Grades Group B FAST Reading

5/3/24- 4th grade FAST Reading

5/6/24- Middle Grades Group A FAST Reading

5/7/24-5th grade FAST Reading

5/8/24- Middle Grades Group C FAST Reading

5/9/24- 4th grade FAST Math

5/10/24-5th grade FAST Math

5/13/24- 3rd grade FAST Math and Middle Grades Group B FAST Math/Algebra EOC



May History Reflection

By Sebastian Robinson and Sam Willis

On May 26th, 1940, the evacuation of Dunkirk began. The evacuation of Dunkirk was an emergency operation that took place just after the German army in the second World War had encircled some 300,000 Allied troops. For the British and French, the situation was dire.

When the German army punched through countries like Belgium to get to France, the French military initially thought that they could hold against the encroaching Nazi menace. This was simply not the case. When the Germans got past Belgium, they immediately pushed thousands of Allied troops into a port city and cut their escape off, leaving them all stranded in the city and incapable of breaking through.

The United Kingdom immediately began a mass evacuation-but there was a large issue. There were vastly many more people than could be fit on whatever transports the British had. Because of this issue, the United Kingdom ordered every ship in the country that could hold a man be ordered to the French city of Dunkirk to evacuate as many as possible-up to 8,000 being evacuated on just the first day.

This event in history serves as a reminder that with resolve and a calm head that anything can be done, even dangerous feats such as "Operation Dynamo" (the evacuation of Dunkirk).

5/14/24- Middle Grades Group C FAST Math/Algebra EOC/Geometry EOC

5/15/24- Middle Grades Group A FAST Math

5/16/24-8th grade Science/Biology EOC

5/17/24-5th grade Science

Staff Spotlight

By Sofia Figueroa

Mrs. Kamau has been at LPA for 4 years, left for 2 years, and now she is back! Her job here at school is to assist with any behaviors in kindergarten through first-grade students.

Mrs. Kamau provides support to the younger

students by pulling small groups during the day. She chose this job to help make a difference in young students and she loves watching them grow and change over time.

The easiest part of her job is watching kids figure out things independently and watching them learn. Mrs. Kamau's favorite memory at LPA is meeting all the amazing staff, teachers, and student at our school. Some of her hobbies include traveling, watching movies, and spending time with her children.

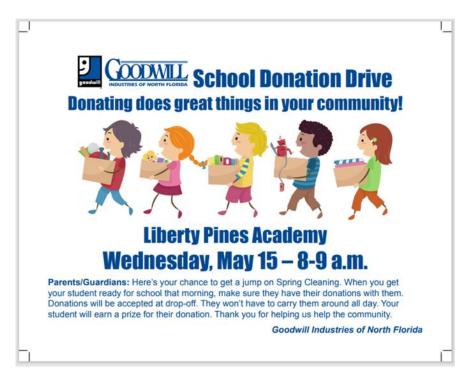


Student Spotlight

By: Mary Catherine Adams and Abbi Cooper

This month's student spotlight is 8th grade student Colton Baldwin. Colton is in Mr. Lynch's homeroom. His favorite class is science with Mrs. Moody; he loves that class because the class is funny, and Mrs. Moody is funny. Along with Mrs. Moody's class he also loves CSD. Next year Colton will attend Beachside High School. He is excited for next year but also a little nervous. He is most exited for his

weightlifting class next year. Outside of school Colton loves to play sports, his favorites are baseball and basketball. He is excited to hopefully play on the Beachside baseball team. Colton is excited to finish 8th grade and looking forward to 9th grade.





Soccer Camps

By Sofia Figueroa

Coach Forrester is helping with the Beachside high school training camps. The girls' soccer team for Beachside and Coach Forrester will be running the camp for rising 8th graders. This is the 2nd year of doing the soccer camps and it was a remarkable success last year! There are already more students signed up than last year. At the camp students will be training and preparing for the season. Some advice from Coach Forrester is to "Sign up early; the spots are limited so get in while you can," and to bring "a lot of water and be prepared to have fun, but be ready for challenging work."



MEMBERSHIP

Hello LPA Families! Our next meeting is on Thursday, May 16th 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 Kerri Hill and Brandi Wagoner for being selected as volunteers of the month! Kerri has helped out tremendously with Spiritwear sales and has setup the spiritwear table by herself in multiple PTO and school events. Brandi has been doing an awesome job with the treasurer duties and also helps out with other events such as the popsicles for the field day and ice cream party for the Penny War winners!

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 secretary@lpapto.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.

PTO NEWS!

LPA hosted a special event last night to welcome families rezoned to our school for the next school year! It was an incredible opportunity to connect, ask questions and tour our beautiful school. As always, our PTO team was there to welcome everyone and show off our awesome spirit wear!



Thank you so much to all the students who submitted designs for our t-shirt contest!

The "top 5" designs were chosen based on printability, originality, and cuteness! (It was HARD to pick!) and there will be a poll on the PTO Facebook page to vote to choose our winner!



Field day was a blast! Kids had fun at the stations and were thrilled to see their parents. PTO provided refreshing popsicles and the volunteers (for all sessions) were amazing! The kids even got a visit from a sweet, turtle friend.

STAY CONNECTED

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



UPCOMING DATES

5/16 - PTO Meeting

5/24- Last Day of School

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://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













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