



LPA NEWS



NEWSLETTER | Volume 9 November 2024

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: The wagging tail of a loved one’s pet when they welcome them home from work.

Day 2: Football Saturdays.

Day 3: Sleeping in an extra hour when the time changes.

Day 4: The fresh start of a new week.

Day 5: Exercising our right to vote.

Day 6: Grabbing a satisfying piece of chocolate from Ms. Mo’s office.

Day 7: Warm greetings from smiling students in the morning.

Day 8: A rain-free day for our amazing Liberty Parade.

Day 9: The smell of freshly cut grass on a Saturday morning.

Day 10: A win from your favorite sports team.

Day 11: The men and women who have served, or are currently serving, to protect and maintain our freedoms.

Day 12: The sounds of birds chirping in the morning.

Day 13: No matter how old you are, when a two-year-old hands you a toy phone, you answer it.

Day 14: Knowing that today is Friday-eve.

Day 15: A random smile, greeting, or act of kindness from a stranger.

Day 16: The first sip of coffee on a Saturday morning.

Day 17: Finding cash in your pants pocket.

Day 18: The unconditional support of your spouse or loved one.

Day 19: A surprise tasty treat delivered.

Day 20: Still having the older generation in our families with us to speak to & listen to their stories.

Day 21: Black Friday WEEK deals on Amazon start today.

Day 22: From one of our students: Having a meal on the table ready when she gets home from soccer.

Day 23: Knowing we are on Thanksgiving Break until December 2.

Day 24: Your favorite song on the radio.

Day 25: A safe place to call home.

Day 26: A thankful email, text, phone call, or note.

Day 27: Decorating for the Holidays.

Day 28: Spending quality time with family and friends on Thanksgiving.

Day 29: Cruising the neighborhoods to look at the holiday lights and decorations.

Day 30: Reaching a goal like this to send out a daily reminder of 30 Days of Thankfulness! 😊

Mark your calendars for the events below:

-Dec. 4-13: FAST/STAR Progress Monitoring Round 2

-Dec. 5-6: Drama Christmas Show

-Dec. 10-16: Student Council Carolgrams Sales in the mornings

-Dec. 12: Musical Theater, MS Choir, and Elementary Moonlight Howlers Showcase

-Dec. 16: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm

-Dec. 17: 1st Grade Holiday Show

-Dec. 18: Kindergarten Holiday Show

-Dec. 19: DC Chaperone only meeting

-Dec. 20: End of Quarter 2 – **Early release day at 2:00pm**

-Dec. 21-Jan. 5: No School – Winter Break

-Jan. 5-10: 8th Grade DC Trip

-Jan. 6: Beginning Quarter 3



LPA Faculty and Staff are so thankful for our brilliant PTO!



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 the fifth-grade winner, Isabel Daniel, and to the middle school winner, Hayden Warren. Our students also experienced an amazing bookfair sponsored by our fantastic PTO, our band students performed at their Fall Showcase, we celebrated our School Related Employee of the Year, Mrs. Mo Haugen, we celebrated students for their recognition of the Citizenship Character Counts! Pillar of the month, our girls volleyball team made it to the championship game for the 2nd year in a row, had our first full week off for the Thanksgiving Break, and of course, we honored our Veterans for their service to our country with the 16th 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 have been so fortunate to have welcomed our new students and families from Pacetti Bay and Wards Creek and are proud of the transition they have made to the LPA Way! We are blessed to have all our families’ 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,
Mr. Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal

WOLF NEWS

Elf on a Math Shelf

By: Grace Rapolla

Throughout the month of November, Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 students in Mr. Lynch and Ms. Bridenbaugh's class created mathematical elves. Students were given math problems on the elves to solve. This was to help students review the math skills for the unit that they were studying. Once the students finished solving, they then colored the elves to make them very festive for the holiday season. All the students enjoyed this activity. Addison Fricke thought it was very fun. Her favorite part about making an elf was drawing the face of it. Overall, this magical activity helped students learn in a fun and interesting way!



4th Grade Sound and Energy Project

By: Addie Spradlin and Jaycee Greenmun

Mr. Spilling is our amazing band teacher here at Liberty Pines Academy. He has created a fun project for our fourth-grade students. They are learning about sound energy and how different sounds are created. Mr. Spilling is teaching our students how each vibration is created as well. Our middle school band students are also helping with this project. The fourth graders observe them while they play different instruments. For example, they enjoy watching middle school students play brass. This teaches them about wind instruments that produce sound using the mouth.

Mr. Spilling enjoys teaching younger students because they are very brave, independent, and they are not afraid to ask questions. His goals with this project are to keep the students interested and to help other music/band teachers understand sound energy. Taking band at LPA is an excellent way to prepare you for your musical future. Mr. Spilling will make sure to develop you into amazing musicians.



Thanksgiving Kindergarten festivities

By: Jaycee Greenmun and Maggie O'Leary

Recently at LPA Our kindergarteners have been doing many Thanksgiving themed activities including a Thanksgiving play, feast, and crafts. The students loved celebrating Thanksgiving and learning about the history behind it. It's important to spotlight Thanksgiving and cherish this time of kindness and thankfulness, and our Wolves have been doing that and so much more.

We interviewed kindergarteners Joey Lake, Zeniyah Ford, and Isabella Lako from Ms. Rhodus's class about what they were thankful for. Joey told us she was thankful for her mom, Zeniyah told us she was thankful for her pet rabbit, and Isabella told us she was thankful for her friends. The rest of Ms. Rhodus's class was busy making paper teepees and learning about all the history behind them.



WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

Buzz! Oink! Neigh! Kindergarten Field Trip!

By: Olivia Connell

The Kindergarteners went on a fun trip to the Wesley Wells Farm on November 14. They are learning about living and non-living things in school and incorporated it into their farm trip. The Kindergarteners rode a bus to the farm which was super fun for some who have never been on a bus. At the farm they got to go on a hayride, learn about bees and more. Learning about bees was definitely a fan favorite.

Kindergartener Micah Guin had a blast at the farm. He loved tasting the honey, he said it was salty but also super sweet. He and his classmates got to see animals like Horses, Donkeys, Pigs, Bulls, and more. He also got to climb a Rockwall.



Mock Election in History

By: Olivia Pappas and Anna Russo

In all middle school history classes students participated in a mock election. It took place on election day, November 5th. The election was based on popular count and students elected Donald J. Trump as their preferred president.

When interviewed, one of our civics teachers, Mrs. Wurstner talked about the school's mock election and its importance. Mrs. Wurstner says mock elections help students to understand more about voting. She says, "Mock elections show the kids that it takes time, money, planning, strategizing, and a great deal of knowledge on how to listen to people." She says "We, the people, have come an exceptionally long way to earn the right to vote and have our voices heard. Voting is our way of feeling like we are a part of the country's decision-making process." In conclusion, Mrs. Wurstner loves to teach students to learn about what's important to them and how that will affect their future.

One of LPA's 7th grade students, Nicolas Bejarano was asked his experience voting in the mock election. Nicolas said it was an enjoyable event because he got to contribute his vote to the good of the school. In U.S. history he learned how electoral votes work and the history between both political parties.

One of LPA's 8th grade students, Molly Cebulko was interviewed on what she thought about voting in the mock election. Molly said she felt like a real citizen when voting, and she was happy to support her school. In civics she learned about the difference between both political parties and how to be a well-informed citizen when voting.

FALL FUN AT LPA!



Math Counts

By: Molly Cebulko and Erienne Scales

Math Counts is just one of many educational clubs we offer at LPA. The leader of Math Counts, Mrs. Bridenbaugh, describes it as, "A way to give students the opportunity to compete with other schools in very prestigious math questions". Meetings for Math Counts are held on Thursdays, where they estimate problems in a variety of different math branches. Coming up, Math Counts has their mockup test in December for the competition held in February at the University of North Florida. Until then, the members will keep working on different math subjects such as algebra, geometry, statistics and more! Good luck to our Math Count team in February, Go Wolves!

The members of Math Counts include the following students:

- Abigail Pfalzer
- Jahnvi Daneparthi
- Arjun Tirumalasetti
- Kian Zhang
- Alex Heitke
- Cade Commarford
- Ethan Hatahzoh
- Brianna Motycka
- Tristan Stinson
- Saurav Behera
- Saran Nimmigadda
- Mahathi Roghuedra
- Rhea Siddi
- Meenakshu Karlhikeyan
- Andy Li

Student Council

By: Kylee Blood & Talitha Kalapala

"Deck the halls with bows of holly Fa la, la, la, la."

Student Council is getting ready for Carol Grams! They have been working hard to get the carol part of the gram ready. This year they decided to try something new for carol grams. Instead of student council singing to you during lunch or in the morning they are prerecording a video and putting a QR code parents and students can scan to watch the video! Carolgrams will be on sale – 12/10-13, 12/16 and delivered 12/18.

Furthermore, student council is discussing what to buy with the money from the dance long with all the fun grams they do. They are also talking about doing a book drive for one of the local shelters or a charity.

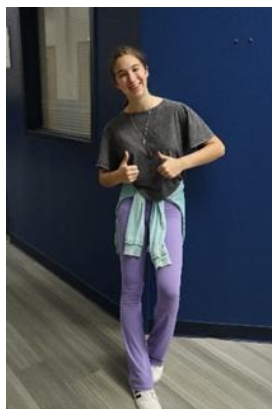
We asked 3 Student Council member do you enjoy student council and why? Here are their amazing answers.

Kylee Blood 8th grade – Yes, I love being a part of Student Council! I enjoy helping deliver and sell all the fun grams we do. I really enjoyed helping run the dance and decorating for it.

Rhett Fortner 7th grade- I love it! I really enjoy helping out at school.

Brantley Shepherd 6th grade- I enjoy the fun activities we do and helping out.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Kindergarten Literacy FAST STAR No early release	5 Middle School FAST Group A LPA's "Christmas Bus" play - 6:00pm	6 Middle School FAST Group B LPA's "Christmas Bus" play - 6:00pm	7
8	9 4th Grade FAST Reading	10 5th Grade FAST Reading	11 1st Grade Literacy FAST STAR No early release	12 3rd Grade FAST Reading	13 2nd Grade Literacy FAST STAR	14
15	16	17	18 No early release	19	20 End of second quarter / first semester	21
22	23 Winter break - No school	24 Winter break - No school	25 Winter break - No school	26 Winter break - No school	27 Winter break - No school	28
29	30 Winter break - No school	31 Winter break - No school				



MORE WOLF NEWS!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OCTOBER PAW PAT WINNERS!!!

Middle School:

Shane Jones – 8th
Chace Minnicks – 8th
Alex Strodel – 8th
Luke Swartz – 8th
Lane Therrian – 8th

Elementary School:

Ainhoa Perez Cardozo – 1st
Emerson Jenkins – 2nd
Betul Dogan – 3rd
Brandon Sciarratta – 3rd
Zion Mitchell – 4th
Collen Holt – 5th



Spelling Bee 2024

By Thanisha Thavakalsha

On Monday November 18th, LPA had our annual school spelling bee. In the Middle School Spelling Bee there were a total of 39 rounds with a total of 29 participants. The winner was Hayden Warren (8th grade) and the winning word was “pâté”. The first runner up was Arjun Tirumalesetti (7th grade). Due to the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip, Hayden will not be able to attend the District Spelling Bee. Arjun Tirumalesetti will be representing LPA at the District Spelling Bee.

In the 5th grade Spelling Bee, there were a total of 29 rounds with a total of 19 participants. The winner was Isabel Daniel, and the winning word was “Naughty”. Isabel will be attending the District Spelling Bee, representing LPA. The 1st runner up for 5th grade was Joshua Wayne.

The District Spelling Bee will be on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025. Arjun Tirumalesetti will be representing LPA for Middle School and Isabel Daniel will be representing LPA for 5th grade. Congratulations to the winners and runner ups, and good luck at the District Spelling Bee!



November in NJHS

by Katie Bonday

National Junior Honor Society values leadership, citizenship, and good character, helping to teach the members how to bring out these wonderful traits in themselves. This month, NJHS members were presented with many volunteering opportunities at our school.

8th grade member Neora Varghese has been in NJHS for two years and enjoys volunteering at fun activities such as the middle school dance or the book fair. Neora also volunteers for events outside of school. “For outside of school hours, I mostly get them from volunteering at my church, which is super awesome to be able to do.” She also took the opportunity to volunteer at the girls volleyball game this month. She explained, “It was definitely a different experience, but I loved learning how the flags work and seeing our girls volleyball team crush it!”

Another 8th grader, Namah Pavaskar, has been a part of NJHS since the beginning of this school year. He enjoys that many of his friends are also part of it. This month, Namah volunteered at the book fair, and he enjoyed watching what each student decided to buy.





LPA SPOTLIGHTS!



LPA's Teacher Spotlight:

Mrs. Kemmitz

By: Lyla Linton

Mrs. Kemmitz is a second-grade teacher at LPA. She has been teaching for eight years and her favorite grade to teach is second. She is from Naperville, Illinois and went to the University of Wisconsin; she graduates with a major of Elementary Education. Her favorite memory from her childhood was when she met Micheal Jordan at a basketball game that he was playing in.

Mrs. Kemmitz has 3 kids, their ages ranging from 12-16 years old. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite sport to play is golf. Although she enjoys playing golf, her favorite sport to watch is basketball. In her free time, she likes to go on runs and spend time with her family. Her favorite animal is a dog because they are playful and cute, and her dream vacation is to travel to Europe.

She was inspired to start teaching because of her grandmother. Her grandmother was a 2nd grade teacher, which sparked Mrs. Kemmitz's love for teaching. She especially enjoys teaching the kids how to read and helping them learn. She believes one of the most magical parts of teaching is watching the kids that struggle the most start to understand and grow.

Mrs. Kemmitz is a wonderful teacher at LPA and is loved by all her students. Her positive energy always seems to light up the room and brings a smile to all. We are so grateful to have such an amazing teacher here at LPA!

Q & A With Mrs. Lorensen

By Mia Dahana-Ellis

What does your job entail?

As a school counselor I work with all of my grade level students. I provide individual and group counseling. I also go into classrooms and do classroom lessons. I sit in meetings, and I also am in contact with teachers and parents.

How does your day usually go?

My days vary from day to day. There is usually a meeting in the morning and then I head out to greet the students in the morning. Throughout my day I am meeting with students, catching up with teachers and collaborating with administration.

How long have you worked here at LPA?

I have worked at LPA for 3 years.

Have you always been our 3rd and 4th grade school counselor? Yes, for the past three years I have been the 3rd and 4th grade counselor. I really enjoy this age its fun to watch my students grow and mature throughout the year.

If you didn't always work at LPA, what did you do before coming here?

Before I started working at LPA, I was a stay home mom for 10 years.

Teacher Spotlight – Ms. Higgs

By: Charlotte Weger

Ms. Higgs is an amazing 2nd grade teacher; she teaches all subjects but loves teaching ELA and reading because of all the growth and progress students make through it. Ms. Higgs went to college at Texas State University where she majored in journalism and broadcasting.

She was originally born in Germany but moved to San Antonio Texas and later on to Florida. Ms. Higgs has two younger sisters and one older brother that she grew up with throughout her life. She is also interested in going on vacation to Europe or Italy because of how scenic and beautiful they both are.

Ms. Higgs is also a big animal person. She has four cats and one very old, but cute hermit crab. You can probably assume cats are her favorite animals. Some of Ms. Higgs favorite hobbies include reading and jogging. She also loves the sports, basketball and swimming.

Lastly, Ms. Higgs was inspired to start teaching by volunteering with kids and feeling like she could make a big difference. Overall, Ms. Higgs is an amazing teacher with a bright personality and big smile, always willing to help no matter what. LPA is proud to have her as a teacher here.



Student Spotlights – 3rd grade

By: Caroline Linder and Sophia Serena

Ryatt McPhee is a third-grade student in Ms. Hickey's class. He was born in Las Vegas and moved here when he was in 1st grade. Ryatt likes LPA and especially likes math class and the resource PE because he gets to do a lot of fun games. Ryatt has 3 siblings and has a leopard gecko named Donald, and a golden doodle named Mellow.

Ryatt likes to play basketball outside of school and it's his favorite sport. Ryatt loves Mac and cheese, skittles, and ice cream cake. When asked what character pillar is the most important, he said all of them because you need all of them to be a good person. When Ryatt gets older, he wants to be a police officer because he wants to help people.

Bellamy Duff is in 3rd grade in Ms. Kramer's class. She is 8 years old and has one older sister. She was born here in Florida and has been at LPA since Kindergarten. She loves her dogs, Buba and Duncan. She also has one cat named Mittens. Her favorite animal is a fox, and she strives to be a vet when she is older.

During school she loves to hang out with her friends Maria Rasul and Ellis Marinelli. She enjoys math and gets extra excited when she sees PE or art on the board for the resource of the day. Bellamy thinks that respect is the most important pillar of character because of the many ways to express it whether that is towards your teacher, family, or friends.

Outside of school Bellamy is very fond of watching Stranger Things along with going to the gym to tumble. She loves to eat spaghetti for dinner followed by chocolate chip cookies for dessert.



Joke of the month

By: Kylee Blood

Why did the cranberry turn red?

It saw the turkey dressing!

Riddle of the month

By: Kylee Blood

It's a flower but doesn't bloom it sounds like a month but floats on the water. What am I?

The Mayflower!

Thanksgiving Trivia

By: Kylee Blood

What US president declared Thanksgiving a national holiday?

What big sale is the day after Thanksgiving?

What is the big parade that takes place every year for Thanksgiving and where is it held?

Colchester, Connecticut postponed their Thanksgiving in 1705 due to what?



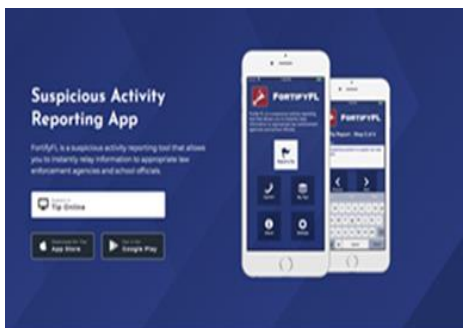
Carolgrams

Sponsored By:
Student Council

\$1.00

On sale December 10th-16th

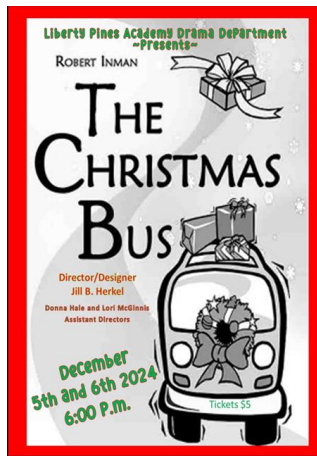
Main Hallway before school



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://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.

NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Drama in December!



By: Gianna DiBenedetto and Katie Bonday

The LPA Drama department is buzzing!

Coming up in December is LPA's production of "The Christmas Bus". This is LPA's first time doing a winter comedy! Come support LPA Drama on December 5th and 6th at 6:00pm. Tickets are five dollars and are available on SchoolPay. They will also be sold at the door. Meanwhile, Musical Theatre has their "Sounds of the Season" performance on December 12th at 6:00pm. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Our Drama department teacher and director Ms. Herkel is excited to direct LPA's first winter comedy. She thinks that "comedies are difficult and it's fun to watch middle schoolers learn the skills to perform one". Ms. Herkel is excited to see her student's choreography on stage during Musical Theatre's performance.

Let's make December a great month for our LPA Drama department, Wolves!

Elementary Music and Howlers!

By Erienne Scales

Parents, get ready for the upcoming performances! On December 12th at 5PM here at LPA on the cafeteria stage, the Moonlight Howlers will be performing "Jingle Bell Jukebox"! A recommended donation of \$5 per person is requested. (There will be a specific donation box at the night of the performance!)

Other than practicing for their performance, elementary music students have currently been working on how to use their voice as an instrument to create music. Their focus is vowel techniques, breath support, diction of proper sounds and tone clarity, and so much more! They've also been incorporating choreography and acting into their performances.

November Art Corner

By: Kylee Blood

Middle school art is making superheroes! They are learning all about proper proportions. Just in case you don't know what that means, using proper proportional techniques ensures you don't end up with a perfect body but too small head. Once they finish their superheroes, they will be moving on to the one-point perspective to make a city scape for their superheroes to live in!

Elementary is wrapping up fall and sledding into winter. Kindergarten is already working on their Polar bears! They are hoping to finish them in time for their winter play where their polar bears will be hanging on the wall for parents to see and take home. 4th and 5th graders will also start using clay soon - how fun! Mrs. Scoggins is very excited to start clay with them.

Band News

Ava Rosey

This year's band members are acing their rehearsals and zooming through their practices. They have had one concert so far this year on Wednesday the 20th of November; they were spectacular! They had amazing synchronization and played all their parts perfectly! The soloists were fabulous. When interviewed (pre-concert) soloist Jamila Perez expressed, "I feel a mixture of excitement and nervousness, but more on the nervous side". Aditi Banakar (band member) stated "I'm very nervous but we're going to do great!". There are several songs that were played, including "Banana Boat", "Pure Imagination", and much more. Come support our band members at their concerts throughout the year.





Extended Day



By: Tinley Shaw and Lucy Crawford

Over in Extended Day, the students are celebrating fall! There are many fun activities going on within the program including a free day.

One current sixth grade student in extended day named Declan DeRonde was interviewed. His favorite part of extended day is going to the gym and playing with his friends inside, which is also a reason why he enjoys going to extended day since he loves hanging out with his friends. In his group, which is the middle school group they aren't doing many activities for fall but they are getting a free day to do whatever games they'd like.

A current staff member who helps in extended day and doubles as an ESE teacher is Ms. Makayla. She's been working in extended day since September of this year. She loves helping and she says that the energy in extended day is fun. She's going to be giving her group a free day for a fall activity.

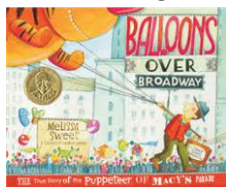
As the next months come up, there will be plenty more fun activities for winter holidays too, in the meantime, our Wolves keep having fun in extended day!



Balloons over LPA

By Adhiyan Balaji and Jackson Greathouse

A 3rd grade class here at LPA recently did something very interesting. After reading the book, Balloons over Broadway, Ms. Ashley's 3rd grade class personalized balloons based of their hobbies and favorite things. Each kid made their own unique balloon, which they all showcased in the picture above. The book is a picture book biography by Melissa Sweet about Tony Sarg, a puppeteer, who invented the giant balloons that you see annually at the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.



Books here and there and everywhere!

By: Kylee Blood

It's been busy in the media center. We've had book fair and our book float contest!

We had lots of fun books for kids to buy at the book fair including Babysitters Club #17, Babysitters Little Sisters books 8&9, fun new Dog Man Adventures, and best of all Bluey Books!

With all the money we raised from the school head librarian Mrs. Rice is planning to buy more books (of course), along with some beanbags to create a fun reading nook to encourage more people to come to the library.

The media center also hosted a book float contest where students designed miniature floats based on their favorite books. We had a lot of good entries in the Book Float Contest but there could only be 3 winners per category and here are those lucky nine!

K-2

1st place- Davis Moree 1st grade

2nd place- Anira Joshi KG

3rd place- Genevieve Rammel 2nd grade

3-5

1st place- Junayna Ali 4th grade

2nd place- Noah Pereira 4th grade

3rd place- Olivia Froess 3rd grade

6-8

1st place- Yefei sun 7th grade

2nd place- Nicolas Rozo 8th grade

3rd place- Clara Wayne 7th grade

Citizenship – Character Counts

By Jackson Greathouse and Owen Reach

Congrats to all the November Character Counts Award Winners. The November Character Counts pillar was citizenship. The teachers pick 2 students from their homeroom that show good citizenship around the school. If you are elected for the citizenship award you get a certificate showing you go above and beyond for LPA and you get a wristband.

Citizenship

- Following the LPA way
- Doing the right thing when no one is watching
- Having a positive attitude towards others.
- Being responsible, respectful, and active in your community
- Being kind and respectful to everyone.
- Helping your classmates
- Making choice that protect the safety of others
- Having a good attitude if you're winning or losing
- Obeying rules



History Reflection: Thanksgiving

By: Ava Smith

Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday that is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. The holiday is associated with football, parades, and feasts. It's often the busiest time of the year because family members gather together. It's generally believed that Thanksgiving originated from a three-day feast shared by the Wampanoag people and the Pilgrims of Plymouth in 1621, to celebrate a successful harvest. In truth, the holiday's origins are not certain and have a wide variety of perspectives and stories.

The story of Thanksgiving is also known as National Mourning Day, a reminder of the oppression and genocide Native Americans went through brought by the settlers who arrived in North America. The purpose of this day is to educate the public about Native American history, dispel myths about Thanksgiving's history, raise awareness about their struggles, and honor Native ancestors.

In 1623, the Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation, Massachusetts, held a day of Thanksgiving. A drought was destroying their crops, so the colonists prayed for rain. It rained a few days later. Not long after that, news that a Dutch supply ship was on its way was received. Because of the good fortune, they held a day of fasting and prayer to give thanks. This is believed to be the true origin of Thanksgiving Day.

Regardless of its complex origins, Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate. It's a time to express gratitude and to come together with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving!



SPORTS NEWS!!!



Race to The Championship – Girls' Volleyball!

By Ava Rosey and Brooke Russell



As the season comes to an end, our ferocious girls' volleyball team has made it to the championship game! They played to the best of their ability and ended up receiving second place. Coach Sullens, our wonderful volleyball coach, led our team to the spotlight. She's taught our team about communication and teamwork, allowing them to charge through their games victoriously.

Our girls' team has overcome their faults by putting in hours of hard work and dedication. They've come a long way and are continuing to get better. They've earned their spot on the podium with their incredible playing throughout the season, Congratulations Wolves!

LPA Boys Volleyball

Adhiyan Balaji & Bradley Willman

LPA's Boys Volleyball season has finally come to a close. Their final Win-Loss record was 5-8 with some notable wins against the returning champions, Patriot Oaks, and a previously undefeated team, Pine Island Academy. All nine of the boys fought hard in their recent playoffs game against Palm Valley, but unfortunately lost in the third set of the game, meaning that they are out for the count.



Quinn Earley, the captain of the team, talked about the performance of the team over the season: "At the beginning of the season we were lacking teamwork and in the latter half of the season we had a comeback and made a huge improvement." The season may have come to an unfortunate end, but the boys gave the team their all and didn't disappoint.

Boys Soccer

By: Caroline Linder and Addie Spradlin

This year the LPA boys' soccer team had a heartbreaking end. They fought so hard through every game but came up short in the first round of playoffs. The coaches were devastated along with each player but sadly their season was cut short. With all the eighth graders leaving, the rest of the team members are ready to step up and welcome the new coming players next year.

Cristiano Serena is one of the many eighth grade team members this year. He was devastated about the loss but hopes that the team can bring the win home next year. He had a great time this season, growing the bond with his friend Grady Myers and Co-Captain, Bryce Reid. He loved playing with his teammates this year and was able to score 3 goals this season as a center mid. If he got the opportunity to play again next season he would "absolutely play if he got the chance".



LPA Girls Soccer Team

By: Sophia Serena

This season the girls' team had many different outcomes, including ties, wins, and losses. Nonetheless the girls fought hard to make it to the playoffs and won their first round. With just a couple of games left in the season and an elimination if they lose the next games the girls are determined to get the winning title just like last year with the returning players: Sophia Serena, Caroline Linder, and Bella Edwards. The girls have been working as hard as ever and the results show all their effort. Even though the season is coming to an end the memories and friendships will last forever.



Liberty Pines

BASKETBALL



BOYS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Monday, 12/2 5-6:30 - 6th & 7th Grades

Tuesday, 12/3 5-6:30 - 8th Grade

Wednesday, 12/4 5-6:30 - Combined Final Cut

Please have your players arrive ready to play, with basketball shoes and water. Players invited to the combined final tryout will be informed by Tuesday night, at the latest.

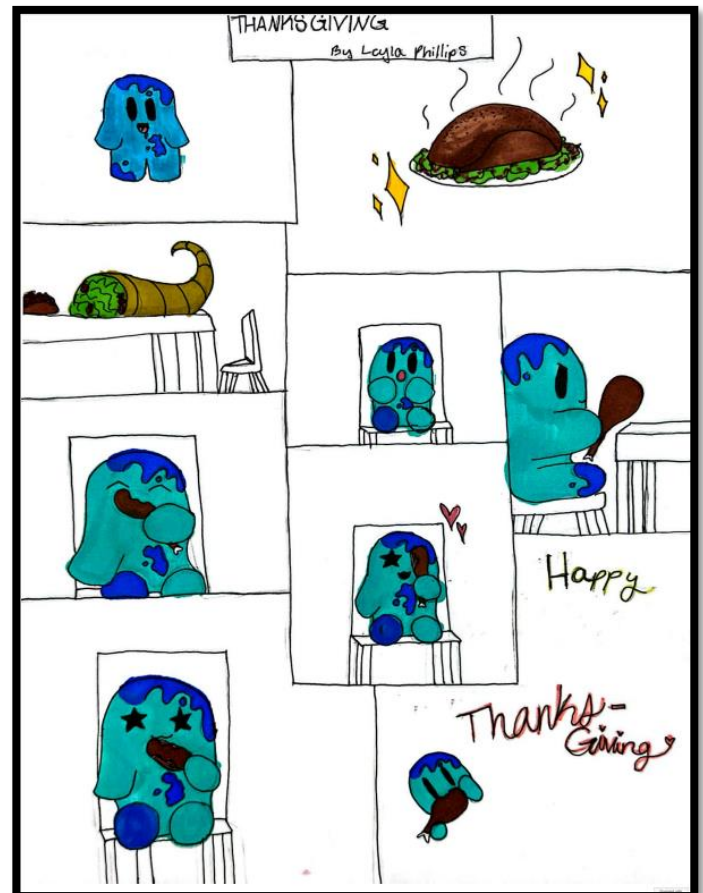
If you have questions - contact Coach Bre bcwillman@gmail.com

Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the Communications Essential Certification Exam in Mrs. Grubbs ICT 2 Classes:

Alexander, Stella
 Amato, Brooklyn
 Barabanov, Anthony
 Bentz, Chloe
 Bicknell, Drew
 Brand, Dylan
 Chaparro, Melina
 Collins, Lucy
 Dorney, John
 Fortener, Rhett
 Heavener, Elena
 Henry, Maddox
 Herring, Lincoln
 Karthikeyan, Meenakshi
 Lin, Yumeng
 Lisena, Raina
 Maas, Nora
 McFadzean, Hannah
 McLaughlin, Leah
 Medina, David
 Mitchell, Landon
 O'Brien-Kassa, Michael
 Pereira, Matthew
 Potts, Katelyn
 Poynton, Alice
 Provenza, Vittoria
 Rapolla, Emily
 Rodnov, Aleksey
 Santiago, Jedidiah
 Scalia - Trejo, Angelina
 Shchekodin, Artem
 Siddi, Rhea
 Spadora, Michael
 Tirumalasetti, Arjun
 Tkachenko, Apollinariia
 York, Mallori
 Amelinckx-Ramirez, Amelie
 Benton, Elijah
 Bostic, Ariella
 Chinnareddy, Praneeth
 Reddy

Edwards, Isabella
 Farnstrom, Nico
 Flowers, Zack
 Gaines, Henry
 Glover, Michael
 Gonsalves, Ethan
 Graunke, Erika
 Grossman Ruiz, Patrick
 Hall, Lucas
 Ham, Carson
 Harper, Hayden
 Herbert, Jonah
 Hinskey, Adalyn
 Holt, Devon
 Huskisson, Hunter
 Jones, Alistair
 Legendre, Logan
 McKinney, Jake
 Montecillo, Olivia
 Moreland, Jaxon
 Nichols, Londyn
 Quinones, Emry
 Rojas, Jadan
 Salnikov, Artyom
 Shaik, Saadiya Firdous
 Shyzade, Sana
 Simanic, Nina
 Soles, Noah
 Torres, Isaias
 Amarlapudi, Eric
 Belland, Elliot
 Bergen, Emery
 Boshell, Courtney
 Bowers, Claudia
 Bowler, Charles
 Bragg, Molly
 Bruno Verguez, Christian
 Christianson, James
 Clyburn, Coco
 Duplantier, Hunter
 Felix, Jake

Ham, Beau
 Herrera, David
 Herring, Kinley
 Highsmith, Brayden
 King, Braydn
 Lanza, Eliza
 Laster, Faith
 Lutze, Kashton
 Rubin, Joshua
 Sablios, Carlos
 Savage, Cameron
 Smith, Xander
 Sorensen, Aliyah
 Stephens, Ashlyn
 Thomas, Lyla
 Vineyard, Henry
 Williams, Maksim
 Zardetto, Gianna



Liberty Pines Academy Choir
and
Musical Theatre Ensemble
~present~

“Sounds
of the
Season”

December 12th
6:00 pm

Cash donations accepted at the door



Kindergarten presents a POLAR EXPRESS SINGALONG

Wednesday, December 18th
at 5:00PM

directed by Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder



SUGGESTED DONATIONS
\$5 per person
includes student artwork,
photo booth, & entry ticket



Trivia Answers

Abe Lincoln, Black Friday, Macy day
parade in New York City, Absence of
pumpkin pie

Moonlight Howlers presents

“Jingle Bell Jukebox”

Thursday, December 12th
at 5:00PM

directed by Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder

**Suggested Donation
\$5 per ticket**

**The First Graders of
Liberty Pines Academy
Proudly Present**

COOKIES

The Musical

By: John Jacobson



**Tuesday,
December 17 in
the LPA
Cafeteria**

The evening will have 2 performances:
5PM - Classes of Ellie, Shepherd, Pate and M. Veale
6PM - Classes of J. Veale, Herrin, Raya, Floyd and Gray

*If you would like to donate to our upcoming musical, please use the link below.
All donations can be turned into Mrs. Snyder in room 200 (elementary music).

[Cookies! The Musical Amazon Wish List](#)

*An admission donation of \$1 per person is appreciated and encouraged. All proceeds will benefit our Elementary Music Department at LPA.

PTO NEWSLETTER

PTO EVENTS



A special thank you to the PTO members and volunteers who went above and beyond to organize a beautiful Veterans Breakfast. Your dedication to making this day meaningful and memorable means so much. From everyone at the school, thank you for helping us come together to honor our veterans in such a heartfelt way.

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers of the month

The Bunnell and Detlefs family for helping with donations, Robyn Cebulko for her efforts with book fair, Courtney Cicchetti for Fun Run coordination and Ellen Won for always being helpful!



Membership

Additional drawings every month for prizes donated by our LPA sponsors. How can you win? Join the PTO and you are automatically in the drawing. This includes teachers and staff!

LIBERTY
PINES
ACADEMY PTO

Snack Cart

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping with the teacher's lounge and middle school snack carts!



REMINDERS



Birthday marquee announcements are now available for purchase at www.lpapto.com.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

WELCOME 2024-25

PTO BUSINESS PARTNERS



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Anderson Realty
Travis Fulton Golf Studio



Dr. Matt Bright
welovebrightsmiles.com
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