



LPA NEWS



NEWSLETTER | Volume 1 January 2025

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!

How are we already in February??? This second semester has certainly started off full steam ahead. In January, our eighth-grade students experienced all the wonders that our Nation’s Capital has to offer in the snow, our basketball teams are competing at a high level, we celebrated the 100th day of school, we smiled big for our class pictures, we had a full week of activities for the Celebrate Literacy Week and celebrated our Teachers of the Year and Rookie Teachers of the Year at their banquet!

As we progress into February, our Student Council will be sponsoring a Valentine’s Gram sale, we will celebrate National School Counselors week, our middle school band will perform their MPA at Creekside High School, we will have the PTO sponsored Penny Wars fundraiser, the Elementary Honor’s Choir will compete at Beachside High School, we will celebrate Black History Month through grade level curriculum, and much 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!

Last but certainly not least. I want to recognize LPA’s nominations for the Volunteer of the Year, Courtney Cicchetti, and Senior Volunteer of the Year, Jeanette Listing. Courtney has been an invaluable volunteer for so many activities over the past couple years and her work taking over the Boosterthon Fundraiser this year was absolutely top notch! We are so thankful for you and the unwavering support that you show LPA! Jeanette has been an ongoing staple for many years here at LPA helping with all the set designs and creations for our middle school drama productions! These productions would not be as successful as they have been without your help

Gratefully together,

Donny Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal



Mark your calendars for the events below:

- Feb. 3-7: National School Counselors week
- Feb. 5: Band MPA at CSHS
- Feb. 10-12: Student Council Valentine’s Gram Sale
- Feb. 10: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm
- Feb. 14: No School – Teacher Planning Day
- Feb. 17: No School – President’s Day
- Feb. 19: PTO Meeting at 6:00pm
- Feb. 24-28: PTO Penny Wars Fundraiser



Congratulations to our Teachers and Rookie Teachers of the Year!!! – Richard Roach, Jill Herkel, Becca Scoggins, and Colby Nicholson

WOLF NEWS



From Egg to Chick

By: Olivia Connell

Mrs. Galat's class is thrilled to have new friends in their class. Can you guess what those new friends are? They are baby chick eggs! Mrs. Galat's class was asked if they had given the chick eggs names, and they said that one was named "Happy Mrs. Chicken Egg!" One of their favorite things they have done with the eggs is see the baby chick under a flashlight. They said the chick was so adorable. When asked what they are using the eggs to learn about, Mrs. Galat responded that they are learning about predictions and observations.

Mrs. Ballowe's class also has chicken eggs! They are all so excited for them to hatch. They have given them all names except number 9. They are using the eggs to learn all about the life cycle from egg to Chick. One student said that they also got to see the chick in the egg under the flashlight.

Mrs. Cassidy is an 8th grade science teacher; she is using the chick eggs to teach her biology class about embryology. Saran Nimmagadda is one of her biology students and he has had fun having the eggs in their class. Having the eggs in his class has helped him get a better understanding on what they have been learning. One part he has liked learning about is how animal and human development stages are close to the same.

Wolf Warehouse Open for Business

By: Tinley Shaw

Here at LPA, we have just launched a new program called 'Wolf Warehouse'! Wolf Warehouse is all about students redeeming Live School points for rewards, thus encouraging good behavior as that's how Live School points are earned.



There is a cart that has volunteers from the NJHS program to visit kindergarten through third grade classes, where the kids can easily redeem their rewards with a QR code.

For our fourth and fifth grade Wolves, they are able to redeem rewards at the lunchroom - also using a QR code they were given by their teacher.

Many rewards students can purchase with points include stickers, pencils, erasers, keychains, rubber ducks, mochis, croc charms, candy, chips, crystal light, sweatband set, backpacks, shoelaces, jump ropes, frisbees, airplane toys, a flying disc launcher, a mini speaker, and even game sets! Which are all worth their respective points.

They did a middle school student survey to ask what items they think should be added and what items they didn't like. Overall, the Wolf Warehouse was a big hit amongst our Wolves! The next time Wolf Warehouse will be open is the week of February 24th, so keep earning those points for rewards, Wolves!

Math Counts Updates

By Thanisha Thavakalsha

Our schools Math Counts Club, led by Ms. Bridenbaugh, has some exciting new updates! The club has finished the school competition to determine who would represent the school in the Chapter Competition. The Chapter Competition takes place on February 21st at the University of North Florida. The members of our school team that will be participating in the teams rounds at the competition are Andy Li, Kian Zhang, Saran Nimmagadda, and Mahathi Raghavendra. Team members participate both as individuals and as a team. The students for the individual competition are Saurav Behera, Rhea Siddi, Arjun Tirumalasetti, Cade Commaford, Janhavi Doneparthi, Ethan Natanzoh, Alex Heithke, and Nicholas Lagoutaris. These students will be doing the target tests, sprints, and countdowns. The people who win the Chapter Competition will qualify for the State Competition and the winners of the State Competition will then move onto the Competition held in Washington D.C. The club is currently working hard, preparing for the Chapter Competition. Good Luck to all the students that have been chosen!

WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

CONGRATS TO THIS MONTH'S CHARACTER COUNT WINNERS

By: Kylee Blood

All of the students pictured below went above and beyond with this month's pillar - Responsibility. These kids were picked by their teachers for showing one or more of the traits of Responsibility listed below.

Responsibility

- Use Self-Control
- Set a good example
- Plan ahead
- Persevere
- Do what you're supposed to do
- Follow the LPA way



Student Council

By: Kylee Blood

Love is in the air with Student Council's Valentines Grams. These Grams are going to be for sale February 10th, 11th, and 12th. This is the perfect time to send your secret crush a piece of candy and a little message. As usual you can send a special friend a sweet little something for only \$1.

Now moving on from all the lovey dovey stuff, Student Council is starting to plan some ideas for what they will use the money they earned from the middle school fall dance and all the grams they have done. They have come up with some great ideas but unfortunately, they have been classified as top secret so we can only imagine what great ideas they have come up with *sigh*.

We have also been informed that there will be a brand-new Gram! This Gram will debut at the end of the school year so stay tuned for more information!

District Spelling Bee Recap

By Thanisha Thavakalsha

The St. Johns County District Spelling Bee took place on January 8, 2025, at the First Coast Technical College. There were many spectators; all the seats were filled. There were 49 participants, and the participants that represented LPA were Isabel Daniel, winner of the 5th grade school spelling bee, and Arjun Tirumalasetti, runner up of the middle spelling bee. There was a total of 11 intense rounds. Arjun Tirumalasetti lasted 4 rounds, and his losing word was "fecund". Arjun said he had been nervous at the districts. He had been confident he could make it to the district spelling bee, and he was proud of himself for making it to Districts. Isabel Daniel also lasted 4 rounds and her losing word was "cognizant". Isabel said she felt nervous going into districts, but she felt happy and proud of herself for making it that far.





LPA SPOTLIGHTS!

LPA's Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Raimondo!

By: Lyla Linton

Mr. Raimondo is a sixth and seventh grade history teacher at LPA. He teaches both world and US history, although he prefers US history. Mr. Raimondo is from Jacksonville, Florida but as a young child he spent time traveling around the world. He even spent a year in Italy!

Growing up, he had mixed feelings about school. He loved learning about history but didn't always love school. His favorite childhood memory was when he was 8 years old and got an R2D2 toy gift. He still has it too this day!

Mr. Raimondo attended Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Florida. He is so passionate about history that he decided to major in it. After graduating, he wasn't sure what to do with his major. People in his life suggested that he would be a good teacher, so he decided to try it.

Now, he is so glad he went into teaching and absolutely loves his job. He wouldn't want his career to be any different. His favorite part about teaching is his students. He loves and cares so much about his students and enjoys talking to them every day.

Mr. Raimondo's favorite topic in history is US history. Specifically, his favorite time period is the American Revolution. He finds the foundation and beginning of early America fascinating. His favorite color is green, and his favorite food is pasta.

If he could go anywhere in the world, then he would want to go to Sicily, Italy. He likes football, and always cheers for the Eagles. His favorite animal is cats, he loves them so much he even has a pet cat named Juniy.

Mr. Raimondo's goal for 2025 is to make sure his students know about history and that they are prepared for next year. He is an amazing teacher at LPA, his room is filled with laughter, learning, and life size cardboard cut outs of the Founding Fathers. We are so happy and grateful to finish the rest of the year with Mr. Raimondo.



LPA's Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Strillchuk!

By: Charlotte Weger

Mrs. Strillchuk is a sixth and seventh grade ELA teacher here at LPA. She is from California. She got her bachelor's degree at National University and master's from Western Governors University, while majoring in English.

Mrs. Strillchuk has always loved creative writing and reading which led to her deciding to teach ELA. Even while in high school she enjoyed ELA, but also discovered a love for art class. Her favorite hobbies include reading, walking her dog, and listening to audio books which she does during her free time. Another fun fact is that Mrs. Strillchuk loves Mexican food and going to Mexican restaurants with friends and family.

Another thing Mrs. Strillchuk looks forward to is summer; summer is her favorite season because of the warm weather, the nice sunny days, and going to the beach or the pool to swim. She also is looking forward to some day in the future, visiting Ms. Woolston in New Zealand.

Mrs. Strillchuk has two dogs named Duke and Maxie that she loves so much. Two years ago, she had more than five puppies! Eventually, all the puppies found loving homes. She has four sons, one is a senior, the other graduated, and the other two are students here at LPA.

Overall, Mrs. Strillchuk is a super fun and loving ELA teacher! Her fun stories and lightened mood make every student smile, I know for a fact that every sixth and seventh grade student will miss having her as their teacher, because she makes learning fun and interesting. LPA cannot wait to finish off 2025 with our amazing Mrs. Strillchuk!



Isabel Daniel and Brendan Doucette

5th Grade Student Spotlights

By Sophia Serena

Isabel Daniel is a 5th grade student here at LPA. Isabel was born in Dallas Texas but has been going to LPA since she was in kindergarten. Isabel has one brother named Jacob and he is 6 years old. Isabel enjoys school, her favorite subject is social studies, and her favorite resource is art. She loves movies, her favorite being Avengers Endgame. Isabel doesn't do any sports after school, but she does choir.

Brendan Doucette is a 5th student at LPA. Brendan was born in Jacksonville and has been going to LPA since kindergarten. He does not have any siblings, but he has a dog named Jasmine. His favorite animal is a manta ray and his favorite place he has ever been to has been Washington DC. Brendon's favorite school subject is social studies, and his favorite resource is PE. Out of school, Brendon plays baseball; it's his favorite sport. His favorite baseball team is the Miami Marlins.



The 100th Day of School

By Sophia Serena

The 100th day of school was on January 31st; it is a special day where kindergarten got to dress up as if they were 100 years old. They also got to do special activities to celebrate the day. The kindergarten teachers all had plans for the day that they did in their classrooms including fun centers, snacks, music and more.

For the centers Ms. Peryam said that she had a lot of different math activities that all have something to do with the number 100. This includes cup stacking, adding up 100 cubes, coloring sheets, and dancing to old songs. Ms. Peryam also said that they had 10 different snacks, and the kids can get 10 of each to have 100 snack pieces.

Although kindergarten was the only grade dressing up, they were not the only grade doing fun activities in the classroom, 1st grade did too. Each 1st grade teacher did mostly different things, but they all did mystery bags with 100 different things in them. The job of the classmates was to listen to the three clues and guess what was in the bag then the person who did the bag got to share with the class what was in it.

Ms. Raya's class had additional fun activities to do for the rest of the day including 100 different exercises, 100 stamps, a spin and trace, I-spy, pattern blocks, making hats, 100 gumballs color sheets, a class book if they were 100, and they got to read fun books. On top of that the class had no idea about all the activities they were doing other than the mystery bags; it was all a major surprise for Ms. Rayas's class. In Ms. Gray's class on top of all those activities they did a classroom mystery as to who stole the 100th day bottle. The kids went around the classroom collections to figure out who took it and why.



NJHS News

By: Molly Cebulko and Mia Dahana Ellis

In the month of January, NJHS volunteered to give out prizes to students who have earned Live school points. Live School is an app that all LPA teachers use, to give points to kids with exceptionally good behavior and grades. Prizes ranged from stickers, bracelets and chips, to gadgets, Boosterthon toys and merch for our middle school students!

One of our efficient NJHS volunteers who worked at the Live School store is Olivia Torrence. This is Olivia's first year in NJHS, and she loves getting to participate in volunteering opportunities at our school. Olivia enjoyed participating in the Live School store, and describes it as, "A fun way to volunteer and give prizes to students who deserve them for their behavior".



MORE WOLF NEWS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY PAW PAT WINNERS!!!

Middle School:

Rudy Antolin – 6th
Jahnvi Doneparthi – 6th
Shreenidhi Kumar – 6th
Clara Fontana – 8th
Kiril Sierov – 8th
Olivia Torrence – 8th
Hunter Hight – 6th
Ashton Furukawa – 6th
James Kelly – 6th
Stella DiBenedetto – 6th
Koa Anderson – 6th

Elementary School:

Brayden Bruns – 2nd
Caleb Witthoef – 3rd
Grady Andenora – 4th
Leah Galat – 4th
Randolph Island – 4th
Brendan Doucette – 5th
James Domas – 4th
Conlin Haseley – 4th
Zakhi Hurt – 4th
Arin Baddam – 3rd
Kyler Harrilal – 3rd
Jeshua Kandikatla – 3rd
Elle Mickler – 3rd
Luke Stephenson – 1st
Elle Mickler – 3rd

8th Grade Washington D.C. Recap



By: Grace Rapolla

On January 5th our 8th graders were on their way to our nation's capital, Washington DC. While they were in DC, they got to see snow! For some 8th graders this was their first-time seeing snow. They were able to play in the snow and have a snowball fight. This was a fun experience for them. Unfortunately, they were unable to see everything they were supposed to see due to the snow. But they were able to see all the amazing monuments and memorials.

Sophie Norcia attended the DC trip; her favorite part of the trip was visiting the memorials because she enjoyed the stories each one told. They also went to the Spy Museum where they were able to receive a spy card. Throughout the museum there were many interactive activities, that helped establish if the students were good "spies". The students also got to visit the Smithsonian Museum of American History as well as the heartbreaking Holocaust Museum. They also went to the National Archives where they saw the Constitution, The Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, and The Magna Carta.

Even though they were unable to go into the Capital, they were able to see the outside of it. On their last night they got to enjoy a boating cruise on the Potomac River with a DJ, where they danced their hearts out and had a blast. On their last day they were able to visit George Washington's Mt. Vernon. They were able to tour George Washington's Mansion and property. Their very last stop of the trip was the Arlington National Cemetery. They visited John F. Kennedy's gravesite, and his families graves as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While they were at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, they were able to see the changing of the guards. During the months of October through March the guards change at the top of every hour. All together the 8th graders had a fun and memorable time!



NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Art Corner

By: Maggie O'Leary and Addie Spradlin

Now that its 2025, Art has only gotten better and more creative! Our Wolves are learning new things every day from Mrs. Scoggins and Mr. Wolfe. Currently our middle schoolers are learning facial portraits, graffiti, and more.

In Elementary, students are making artwork based on Chinese New Year. We interviewed 3rd grader, Chloe Butler from Mrs. Kemnitz about how much she enjoys art class. She told us how art is her favorite class and how she's always learning new things.



Chorus News

By: Talitha Kalapala and Grace Rapolla

Ms. Herkel teaches many classes and among them is chorus. The Spring Concert is coming up in May. All of LPA's amazing choir participants are working hard on their songs to

make the concert the best it can possibly be. Two songs that Ms. Herkel loves that will be part of Spring Concert are "A Folk Song" and "Both Sides Now". There are also many other songs that Ms. Herkel thinks you will enjoy during the Spring Concert. The song genres range from Pop all the way to Old Classic and they're even singing some South African music. Ava is a 7th grader who is in our LPA chorus class; she finds learning all the new songs super fun. Ava's favorite song out of the songs they are currently practicing is "The Clouds". Overall, Ms. Herkel loves how a group of singers can come together and make such a beautiful sound with their voices.



Howlers and Elementary Music Updates!

By Erienne Scales

Currently, elementary music students in all grades are working on numerous exciting things! In Kindergarten and 1st grade, they're learning the story of Peter and the Wolf with instruments, and each instrument is assigned their own character! 2nd and 3rd grade are learning about the Lunar New Year and Chinese culture with fan dances and playing various percussion instruments to music from this genre. 4th grade is working on their recorder skills, specifically working hard on their high C and high D note! The 5th graders have started their drumming unit, where they are learning how to play three-part harmonies.

The Moonlight Howlers are currently taking a short break until Thursday, February 6th where they'll have their first rehearsal for their spring musical, "Making the Band"! Make sure to come out and watch it on Thursday, May 1st!

Drama in January!

By Katie Bonday and Gianna DiBenedetto

As school has started back up after winter break, the Drama department is back in action. Auditions were held for the spring musical Newsies, Jr. and everybody did a wonderful job! The cast and crew were selected and are filled with many talented students.

Ms. Herkel is thrilled to start rehearsals! She is looking forward to putting on a musical that is not well known and loves that this can be someone's introduction to the show. One thing she thinks may be a learning curve for the cast is that "the music is not as well known as some of our previous shows."

Jaxon Moreland, who is cast as Davey, has always wanted to be in a musical. He's excited to meet new people through the show and is thrilled to be playing a main role!

Chief of the backstage crew, Aubrey Goodman, is also excited to start working on the show. She loves being able to hang out with her favorite people at rehearsals. Aubrey decided to audition for the show since she participated in Frozen last year and had a great time.

Cardio Wall of Fame

By: Anna Russo and Olivia Pappas

Each quarter middle school P.E. does a “cardio run”. It is half a mile around the track and your goal is to get the fastest time. If you succeed, your name is written on the “Cardio Wall of Fame”. The Cardio Wall of Fame consists of the fastest runners in middle school P.E.



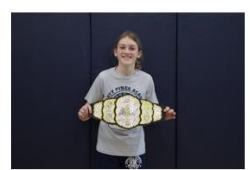
6th grade,
Brooks Shelton: 2:45



6th grade,
Brianna Motycka: 2:38



8th grade,
Louis Lyons: 2:14



8th grade,
Hayden Warren: 2:36

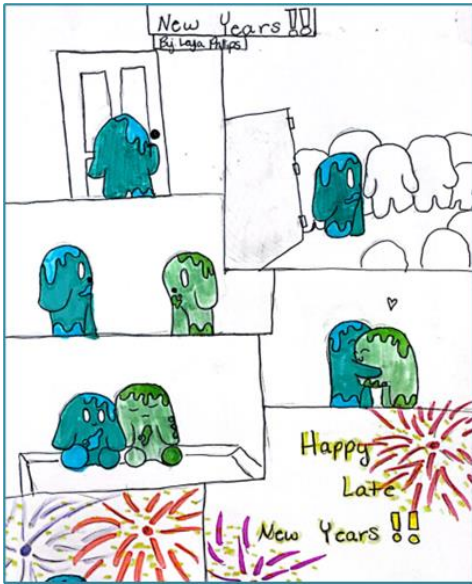


7th grade,
Harrison Detlefs: 2:42



7th grade,
Bella Edwards: 2:55

Cardio Wall of Fame



February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	No Early Release Schedule	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Interims Issued	Regular Early Release Schedule Resumes	Valentines Day - Student/Teacher Holiday	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Presidents Day - Student/Teacher Holiday	Character Counts—Caring	IMS Character Counts—Caring				



Middle School Band!

By Ava Rosey and Brooke Russell

This year’s band members are flying through their rehearsals! All of our players have been practicing hard every day to master their instruments. They all have an incredible passion to play. One of our band members in particular, Elizabeth Jones, has been doing exceptionally well! Elizabeth, or Lizzie, has been playing the French horn for years. Her older sister, who plays the tuba, inspired her to join our band. She loves to play for people and is hoping to join the marching band in high school. Her favorite experiences in band have been the MPA concerts; she loves displaying how hard she and her peers have worked throughout the year. Lizzie also enjoys playing music for our veterans, especially the song “Marches of The Armed Forces”.

Honors band performed incredibly during their concert on February 1st. Our bands will also be performing at MPA at Beachside High School on February 5th. Make sure to tune in!

SPORTS NEWS!!!



Girl's Basketball Begins the Season on a High Note!

By: Anna Russo and Olivia Pappas

LPA's girls' basketball team is off to a great start! So far, they are undefeated and dominating their opponents. They are 6-0 and their winning streak includes beating Palm Valley Academy, Freedom Crossing Academy, Valley Ridge Academy, Patriot Oaks Academy, and Lakeside Academy. Come out and support our Wolves this February when they play against Mill Creek Academy 2/4 (away), Trout Creek Academy 2/6 (home), Lakeside Academy 2/11 (home), Pine Island Academy 2/18 (away), Valley Ridge Academy 2/25 (home), Patriot Oaks Academy 2/27 (home). All girls' games start at 5:30pm.

Our girls' team consists of Ariella Bostic, Hayden Warren, Molly Tromba, Tessa Nguyen, Kinley Herring, Ayana Grubbs, Aliyah Sorensen, Sloan Kennedy, Alessandra Bobbitt, Allie McFadzean, Lily Davies, and Brianna Motycka.

8th grader Kinley Herring was interviewed on how the season is going so far. Her favorite part of being on the team is being able to voice her opinion and help out. This is Kinley's first year playing basketball for LPA; however, she's been playing basketball since 4th grade. Kinley said the girls' basketball season is going pretty well considering they are 6-0 and she predicts LPA girls will finish their season off as undefeated champions.



LPA's Boys Basketball Team Starts Off Strong

Adhiyan Balaji and Bradley Willman

The boys' basketball team here at LPA has started their season strong with a win-loss record of 2-4. The boys' team has played against Palm Valley Academy, Freedom Crossing Academy, Patriot Oaks Academy, Valley Ridge Academy, and Lakeside Academy.

The boys had a close game against Valley Ridge, losing by only five points; the final score was 45-40. In one of their more recent games, LPA beat Lakeside Academy by more than 50 points; there were only 3 turnovers during the entirety of the game. Gabriels Blaubuks and Crus Figueroa led the team with 10 points. Also, Miles Watson led the team with 100% from the free throw line. In the most recent game, the boys' basketball team lost a close game to Palm Valley. The team had already played Palm Valley and lost by 24 and couple of weeks later only losing by 11 is great improvement. The team is ready for the next game and the rest of the season.

Date	Opponent	Location	
January			
14	Palm Valley Academy	Palm Valley Academy	Loss 30-54
16	Freedom Crossing Academy	Liberty Pines Academy	Win 54-39
21	Valley Ridge Academy	Valley Ridge Academy	Loss 40-45
23	Patriot Oaks Academy	Patriot Oaks Academy	Loss 36-69
28	Lakeside Academy	Lakeside Academy	Win 62-12
30	Palm Valley Academy	Liberty Pines Academy	Loss 36-47
February			
4	Mill Creek Academy	Mill Creek Academy	JV @ 4:30
6	Trout Creek Academy	Liberty Pines Academy	
11	Lakeside Academy	Liberty Pines Academy	* 8 th grade night
18	Pine Island Academy	Pine Island Academy	JV @ 4:30
25	Valley Ridge Academy	Liberty Pines Academy	JV @ 4:30
27	Patriot Oaks Academy	Liberty Pines Academy	JV @ 4:30
March			
6	Freedom Crossing Academy	Freedom Crossing Academy	
	TBA – Championship Rd 1	TBA	
	TBA – Championship Rd 2	TBA	
	TBA – Championship Final	TBA	

History Reflection: Lunar New Year

By: Ava Smith



It's the first month of the new year 2025! Many people celebrate the beginning of the new year with parades, parties, fireworks, and the countdown to January 1st. There are many variations of the celebration of the New Year, all around the world, such as the Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year. It is a centuries-old New Year celebration typically celebrated in China and other Asian countries. It begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar, and ends 15 days later, on the first full moon. This calendar is based on cycles of the moon, so sometimes the dates change slightly each year, but it usually begins around January 21st to February 20th.

Lunar New Year's exact beginning date isn't recorded, but it's commonly believed to have begun in the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC), when people held sacrificial ceremonies at the beginning and end of the year in honor of gods and ancestors. The date of the festival, the first day of the first month in the Chinese lunar calendar was fixed in the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD). In the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420 AD), people began to have celebrations during the New Year, such as a family gathering to clean their house, have dinner, and staying up late on New Year's Eve. More festivals began during the Tang, Song, and Qing dynasties; setting off firecrackers and fireworks, visiting friends and family, watching dragon and lion dances, and enjoying lantern shows.

Among the festivities of the Lunar New Year, there's a legend about 12 animals, known as the Chinese zodiac animals. Each year in a 12-year cycle is assigned one of these animals, in this order: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. This year is the year of the snake. The reason for these animals is decided by a legend, where the Jade Emperor, the most popular of the Daoist deities, began a race with the 12 animals as participants. Although there are many different versions of the legend, they do have the same outcome. According to the legend, the race was to create the zodiacs.

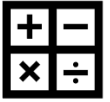
Spring Sports Updates

By Jackson Greathouse and Owen Reach

- Spring sports are just getting underway with recent tryouts taking place and practices beginning.
- This year's golf team is a combination of 3 schools: Liberty Pines Academy, Valley Ridge Academy, and Lakeside Academy.
- The registration for the 2025 spring season tackle football is now open. The practices will start in mid-April and the games will start in May.
- The 2025 spring cheer evaluations are on March 29th. The practices are March through May.
- A new version of basketball is coming this spring. 3 on 3 basketball evaluations were held at the end of January and the season will be February and March.
- The NFL season is coming to an end - the Super Bowl is on February 9th. Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles are taking on Patrick Mahomes and Kansas City Chiefs. The Buffalo Bills lost to Kansas City Chiefs 29-32, and the Washington Commanders lost to the Philadelphia Eagles 23-55 in the playoffs.



Extended Day News

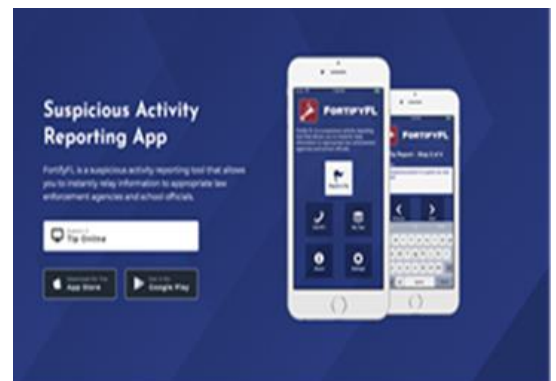


By: Tinley Shaw and Lucy Crawford

Hello LPA, Extended day here! So, we are excited to present to you our 2nd grade kiddos! At the start of the school year, we put them on track to learn multiplication facts with the help of Ms. Gloucester. Just as there are levels of advancement in karate, each student can earn six different colored belts for knowing their multiplication facts. The last belt in progression is black.

Cooper Johnson is the first to earn his black belt. Congratulations to all our boys and girls as they continue fighting, kicking, and chopping their way to the multiplication finish line!

Good luck to all our second-grade wolves, keep learning that math and earning those belts- and congratulations to Cooper Johnson for being the first to earn a black belt!



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.

Liberty Pines Academy
Drama Department
~Presents~

Disney

NEWSIES JR.

Jill B. Herkel
Director/Designer

Donna Hale
Assistant Director

Lori McGinnis
Assistant Director

Music By: Alan Menken
Lyrics By: Jack Feldman
Book By : Harvey
Fierstein
Based on the Disney Film
by Bob Tzudiker
and Noni White

April
10th, 11th,
and 12th
2025
6:00 p.m.
Tickets
\$10

Disney's Newsies Jr.! Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIshows.com

**Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the
CyberSecurity Certification Exam in Mr. Roach's ICT 1 Classes:**

Rhys Bergstrom
Paxton Broglie
Isabella Bruns
Jackson Clever
Olivia Costa
Farah Hassanein
Alexandra Heitke
Lily Helgath
Dallas Hoover
Shreenidhi Kumar
Nicholas Lagoutaris
Brenden McCann
Connor McLeod
Juee Mhadgut
Lillian Mitchell
Deeksha Mukidi
Abriana Nilaj
Amy Petrova
Emir Yusuf Rasulzoda
Brooks Shelton
Charles Williams
Elhanan Amarlapudi
Rudy Antolin
Olivia Ashley
Elijah Bays
Jordan Burkes
Clare Byman
Violet Chihuahua
Aviva Cohen
Kylie Ford
Quinn Frazee
Ashton Furukawa
Parker Harnitchek
Peyton Harrover
Liam Hellstrom
Fabian Hernandez
Acuna
Hollyn Hough
Sofia Jordanov
Zayd Kuchkarov
Emmalyn Landry
Austen Lin
Langley Lutze
Bristol Masters
Henry McAlee
Allie McPadzean

Ethan Mordechai
Natanzon
Ian Osborn
Lily OShea
Oliver Oxner
Piper Plaien
Bryce Reed
Micah Rittenhouse
Jacob San Jose
Luciana Santoro
Julia Stanland
Girona Suma
Nolan Williams
Tyler Willman
Nolan York
Michael Zmetnyy
Whitney Adam
Caleb Aiello
Gavin Andrews
Jack Bartlett
Jacobi Boykin
Hayden Brown
Rylee Brown
Ariana Cricco
Lucy Davenport
Aliyah Denmark
Jahnvi Doneparthi
Calloway Edwards
Anthony Falko
Tatum Geriak
Jae Gould
Parthiv Gummadi
Courtney Hayes
Rylee Hoekstra
Nicholas Hutchins
Aarav Jethanandani
Elizabeth Klipa
Daniella Martin
Dayja Mayo
Mackenzie McCarron
Ryder McGraw
Rahul Siddharth
Medikonda
Grace Osborne
Sahana Raidu
Sloane Ross
Beau Spicer

Riley Stafford
Brandon Tattrie
Thomas Thielemann
Valerye Walden
Kamryn White
Marcus Ivan Ydia
Xuan Zheng
Emily Bone
Cade Commarford
Ellen Damas
Declan DeRonde
Blake Dodson
Santiago Gonzalez-
Leal
Liliana Gorski
Tyler Hall
Isaiah Jackson
Jamie Isabel Juan
James Kelly
Liam Lemieux
Jake Lifsey
Ezra Navarro
Brady O'Connell
Ella Palacios
Olivia Shook
Patrick Spillane
Troy Stettner
Graeme Veale
Adrian Vukelic
Caroline Walston
Chloe Wang
Madeleine
Wellschlager
Dhanyasai Balaji
Annelyse Bond
Caroline Brian
Harper Buck
Myalee Caban
Bianca Castro
Brynn Clark
Michaela Cookson
Kiera Dhima
Tyler Gamble
Guiliana Gangemi
Olivia Grant
Carter Greathouse
Hunter Hight

Tanaya Jaiswal
Easton Jennings
Gavin Kight
Nuohan Lin
Akil Meda
Edward Mei
Edison Ongley
Mercy Powers
Skyler Rippen
Sayge Salsberry
Hailey Schaefer
Isla Sero
Brantley Shepherd
Madison Smith
Harold Ware
Keira Wilcox
Ava Williams -Farias
Abel Wouldtsadik
Jeremiah Youngblood
Walker Adams
Sophia Bickford
Preston Bunnell
Corbin Cavanaugh
Lauren Cuaycong
Lily Davies
Hazel Deemer
Audrey Ducker
Cameron Jones
Sellene Jones
Liam Kern
Acen Lam
Nathaniel Lesiak
Brianna Motycka
Sahasra Penmethsa
Noah Phillips
Leo Reisenger
Manasa Satish
Suria Shah
Henry Thay
Brynn Walker
Chase Watts
Harrison Welch

Congratulations to the following students who took and passed the Web Design Essential Certification Test in Computer Science Discovery in Mrs. Grubbs classes.

Bowler, Charles
 Brown, Griffin
 Chesney, Evan
 Curtiss, Blake
 Davis, Brady
 DiBenedetto, Gianna
 Dushad, Gul
 Garge, Sanika
 Gorman, Gabriella
 Johnson, Cooper
 Jones, Presley
 Kamireddy, Sreehas
 Le, Thanh
 Michel, Grayson
 Nowroozi, Caroline
 Pfalzer, Abigail
 Powers, Mason
 Rivera, Sean
 Rosey, Ava
 Sandoval Munoz, Isabella
 Terriault, Juliann
 Therrian, Layne
 Thiagarajan, Anya
 Watson, Miles
 Banapur, Ahan
 Behera, Saurav
 Blasy, Max
 Boggarapu, Prathik
 Colca, Lucas
 Denmark, Adrian
 Emrick, Madison
 Fisher, Corbin
 Friedman, Justin
 Gomez, Jacob
 Guerrero, Ethan
 Hurt, Zion
 James, Cole
 Jones, Shane
 Karp, Sienna
 Lagoutaris, George
 Mascovitz, Lela
 Mohammed, Najma

Rajashekhar, Sahasra
 Saunders, Kevin
 Shepherd, Liam
 Singh, Aarya
 Singleton, Aaron
 Stephens, Adyson
 Thay, Jammy
 Toledo, Laila
 Topal, Kerem
 Ventura, Julian
 Williams, Dalton
 Adkins, William
 Allen, Aiden
 Banakar, Aditi
 Bonday, Katie
 Bridges, Daniel
 Fortini, Luca
 Grubbs, Ayana
 Konecny, Jack
 LeNeave, Jason
 Magarao Guimaraes, Luca
 Mohammed, Zayan
 O'Neill, Braedan
 Prather, Caleb
 Russell, Brooke
 Shyzade, Sana
 Smith, Ava
 Sureda, Cade
 Thavakalsha, Thanisha
 Turner, Ariana
 Weger, Charlotte

Joke Of the Month

By: Kylee Blood

How does Jack Frost get to work?

By Icicle!



Riddle of the Month

By: Kylee Blood

I occur twice in January, once each for February, March, April, and May.

But when you get to June I just fade away.

It isn't until August that I reappear.

And that is the last time I appear all year.

What am I?

The Letter A

Trivia of the Month

By: Kylee Blood

How big is the Times Square New Years Ball in diameter?

How many pounds does the Time Square Ball weigh?

What is the most popular New Years Resolution?

Where is the Times Square Ball dropped?

*Answers on page 11



Socratic Seminar

By: Olivia Connell

Last week, each 8th grade advanced ELA class participated in a Socratic Seminar. You may wonder what that is? Well, it basically is a student run discussion where they talk on a specific topic. A Socratic Seminar is an ancient teaching method by Greek philosopher Socrates.

Mrs. Hale is one of the 8th grade teachers at LPA when asked, why they do a Socratic Seminar? She responded, "It helps students show what they have learned and helps them understand more from fellow peers." Mrs. Hale said that this is one of her favorite assignments. She said that they have been doing the Seminar for 6-7 years now.

Lindsey McDaniel is an 8th grade student at LPA; she really enjoyed the seminar. She said that she would love to do it again. She loved seeing others' opinions and thoughts about the book, The Outsiders. Lindsey also said that it helped her better understand the book.

PTO NEWSLETTER

PTO INFORMATION



We are excited to announce that there are openings on the PTO Board for the upcoming school year! We encourage all interested parents and teachers to get involved. If you would like to learn more or express your interest, please reach out to Oana Norman at president@lpapto.com. We look forward to working together to make the next school year a great one!

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers of the month

Jenny Felix, Jana Chang and Lacey Thieleman for their efforts and time in coordinating donations and upkeeping the snack cart for middle school! The teachers appreciated so much!!



Upcoming PTO events

Superbowl - Friday, February 7th. Look for sign-up genius for soups on the PTO Facebook page or scan the QR code below:



Penny Wars - Feb. 24th to Feb. 28th. Details will be posted on the PTO Facebook

Blessings in a backpack

Blessings in a Backpack is back in action and looking for food donations! If you have any, please drop off at 412 Saint Johns Golf Dr. in Saint Johns Golf and County Club.



REMINDERS



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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A well educated mind will always have more questions than answers."

Helen Keller

WELCOME 2024-25

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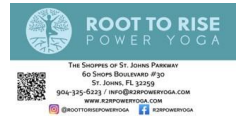


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Sign Gypsies St Johns
St. Johns Pediatric Dentistry
Bright Smiles Pediatric Dentistry
Jacksonville Tongue Tie Center
Code Ninjas Saint Johns
Root to Rise Power Yoga
Ossi Orthodontics
Orangetheory Fitness
Ulich Law Firm
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Dr. Matt Bright
welovebrightsmiles.com
904.584.9004



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