# DANEWS thankful



**NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 8 OCTOBER 2025** 

### LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

#### Hello LPA Families!

In the season of giving thanks, I would be remiss if I didn't start by saying THANK YOU to all the families for your generous donations and support during our Boosterthon Fundraiser! We were able to raise over \$65,000!!! These donations will help with many school improvements including covering of our elementary PE court. Thank you again to all students, families, and staff that contributed to this total.

Our students experienced many exciting events during this past month. We kicked off the month of October with our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Rock Your School Day! This year's theme was "Making Learning Sweet!" Students experienced room transformations, highly engaging lessons, and more to increase a love of learning, get excited about school, and increase our school culture through a sense of togetherness! We even kicked it off with elementary pep rallies in which students that were the highest PBIS points earners for their class thus far competed in a fun hula-hoop toss race! We are already making plans for next year! Kindergarten students learned about fire safety with a visit from the SJCFD, the middle school cross country and volleyball teams continued competing at high levels, and we recognized Charlotte Russo, Brianna Motycka, and Ashley Windness at the St. Johns County Middle School Character in Action Awards ceremony. Our students united to wear orange for World Unity Day, elementary students had a blast running at the Boosterthon Fun Run, and our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students participated in their musical performance! We closed out the month by celebrating our students for their recognition of the Responsibility Character Counts! Pillar of the month; students participated in the Red Ribbon Week activities, the kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students enjoyed parading around the bus loop in their costumes, and they got to see their Proud Principal work on the roof as a reward for surpassing a fundraising amount! There may have been a few dance parties that broke out with the kiddos that day too!

One thing that we have focused on this school year has been spreading kindness through our words and actions. Each week, I have read a new kindness quote for our students to process and put into action for that week. I wanted to share with the families the quotes we have discussed thus far. This will continue to be our practice throughout the school year!

Week of 9/15: "Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates: 1. Is it true? 2. Is it necessary? 3. Is it kind?" If you answer "no" to any of these, then we should keep our words to ourselves.

Week of 9/22: "Taste your words before you speak them." – meaning process what you are going to say before you say it. Think about their impact before speaking. If your words are not kind, and do not taste good, then don't say them.

Week of 9/29: "The smallest acts of kindness are worth more than the greatest of intentions."

Week of 10/6: "A positive mindset discovers the kindness and good in others."

### Mark your calendars for the events below:

-Nov. 5: "Family Night!" - This is a night where we will not assign any homework, studying requirements, reading logs, etc. This night will be dedicated to our students just spending time with their families doing family things that do not involve anything school related! 😊

-Nov. 7: 17th Annual Liberty Parade celebration to honor our Veterans

-Nov. 11: No School - Veteran's Day

-Nov. 13: World Kindness Day – Wear School Spirit Attire

-Nov. 17: In-house Spelling Bee Finalist Contest

-Nov. 17: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm

-Nov. 17-21: Fall Book Fair

-Nov. 17-21: Wolf Warehouse (aka PBIS Store, please consider volunteering to help run this for students)

-Nov. 19: Winter Band Concert

-Nov. 24-28: No School -Thanksgiving Break

Week of 10/13: "Sometimes the quietest kindness changes everything for someone."

Week of 10/20: "Be kind whenever possible. Guess what? It is always possible."

Week of 10/27: "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."

As we progress into November, we have many things to be thankful for here at LPA. I am thankful for the many successful events that are students were able to take part in this past month. I am thankful for the continuous and generous support of our families. Most importantly, I am extremely thankful to be blessed with the opportunity to work with the most caring, dedicated, and committed staff in the county!

Thank you again for your continued support!

Gratefully together, Mr. Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal

# WOLF NEWS

### Kindergarten Fire Truck Visit By: Gianna Zardetto

In October, LPA set up a Fire truck visit from Station 17, giving LPA's littles a chance to meet our local firemen. This doubles as an exciting activity for LPA's kindergarteners, where they get to learn about what our firemen do, and how they help keep us safe.

Sierra Thomas, a kindergartner that was at the Fire truck visit, enjoyed watching Firefighter Morgan demonstrate the gear that firefighters need to wear before going into a fire. She also enjoyed looking at the tools they use for various situations.

The firefighters also loved showing the kids the importance of fire duty, and other first responders. They were happy to participate in one of LPA's fun traditions.





### Raising Funds with the Fun Run

By Sylvia Thomas and Spoorthi Sindhaval

The time for our annual Fun Run has arrived! Each year here at LPA, we open a fundraiser to raise money for our school! These donations help us make our school greater by providing funds for things like new lunch monitors, computers, and fun school events! Throughout the two weeks, our principal gives rewards to students as they reach certain fundraiser goals. The rewards this year consisted of:

- Sunglasses Day- \$10,000
- Tourist Day- \$20,000
- Hat Day- \$30,000
- PJ Day- \$40,000
- Mr. Hoessler on the Roof- \$50,000
- Character costumes on Halloween- \$60,000

In the end, everyone in our school contributed and raised \$67,000! The class that donated the most money was Ms. Lovett's class, earning a well-deserved ice cream and pizza party!





After two weeks of raising money ended, the time for the Fun Run began. Each class designed their own, unique posters to hold as they ran into the event field. Family members and friends gathered outside to cheer on the students as they ran laps around the field. Teachers and volunteers helped by passing out water and keeping the energy high!

### **Wondrous Wolf Warehouse**

By: Ashweja Mechineni & Navya Sadanaveni

Welcome to our wondrous Wolf Warehouse! Here, the students can buy rewards with their PBIS points. They earn PBIS points by being good and following the LPA way. Once a student has a lot of points, they can cash them in for fun rewards! Students can buy candy, toys, and many more fun and exciting rewards for their great behavior! Middle school's best seller was the snacks. As for elementary, mini resin ducks were the best sellers.



Upcoming dates: 11/17 - 11/21, 12/15 - 12/19, and 1/20 - 1/23

### **MORE WOLF NEWS**



### **Media Matters**

By Ariana Ali and Sarah Cheng

Media is one of the resources for elementary. Mrs. Rice is focusing on different things with different grade levels. Currently, K-2 are working on reading SSYRA (Sunshine State Young Readers Award) junior books. After they finish reading them, they will be able to vote for their favorites in February. Both Third and Fourth grade are reading books celebrating November themes of Native American Heritage and being thankful. Third grade is reading the book A Turkey for Thanksgiving (by Eve Bunting), while fourth grade is listening to Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story (by Kevin Noble Maillard). Fifth grade had the chance to create "Book Joy" display signs. They used AI to generate a poster advertising reading, and they set up display shelves to go with it.

Mrs. Rice is also the person who manages the Battle of the Books teams. She says that they are "doing great," and that there is a lot of interest this year. So far, over thirty people are trying out for the elementary team and fifteen for middle school! The competition to determine who will be on the teams will be on January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:50 a.m.

The Media center is very popular this year! The most checked out books in elementary are <u>The Baby-Sitters Club</u>, <u>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</u>, and <u>Dog Man</u>. For middle school, they are <u>The Hunger Games</u> and the 6-8 SSYRA books.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders Present "Pajama Party the Musical"

Alice Poynton and Elena Heavener

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders performed "Pajama Party – The Musical" on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and they had the play the day we had pajama day for the school! How convenient! All second graders met in the cafeteria after school and sang many pajama/sleep themed songs! They all wore pajamas to add to the theme!



To start off with interviews, we've got Gracie Ford, a second grader in Mrs. Verlsteffen's class. She attended the 2nd grade pajama party play. She told us that she wasn't very nervous because she had lots of time to practice. Although, she said the hardest part of the play was "The parts when you have to sing really fast." All 2nd graders did an amazing job singing all the songs, and Gracie's favorite that she sang was a song called "Under my Bed". We asked her how she prepared for the show, and she replied with practicing at home in her free time. We all know the amazing pajamas that the 2nd graders wore on the big night. Specifically, Gracie wore pink and white Barbie pjs when she performed.



Next up we interviewed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Hope Adams and Matthew Shook from Ms. Wilsons class. The most challenging part for Matthew was the hand movements they did, and Hope said there wasn't really a "challenging" part for her! There were many songs that the kids sang but their two favorite songs were "A Lullaby For Me" for Hope, and for Matthew, his favorite was the song "PJ Party!" They were kind of nervous, but they reviewed their songs with their class, so they were okay! They both had the cutest pajamas on- Hope was wearing cheetah print pajamas while Matthew was wearing Buc-ees Christmas pajamas!



November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Liberty Parade Practice for students	7 Liberty Parade	8
9	10	Veterans Day- Student / Teacher Holiday	12	13 Interims Issued	14	15
16	Fall Bookfair til 10/21/2025 Spelling Bees	18	19	9 am PTO General Meeting CC Celebration	CC Celebration	22
23	24 Thanksgiving Break- Student Teacher Holiday	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### **Student Council Update**

By Gianna Zardetto and Sylvia Thomas

Student Council is an organization that works to raise money to give back to the school and enhance the learning experience for all students. Each year, they put together holiday themed events, including Boo Grams, Carol Grams, Valentine's Grams, and Bunny Grams





This month, Student Council members are working on preparing and selling Boo Grams. Every day for a week before class starts, they stand out in the main hallway selling them. Boo Grams are slips of paper that people can buy for their friends that come with a note and a sweet treat attached. Selling these Boo Grams once a year not only encourages students to take part in fundraising for the school but also offers them a reward in return. Once the week is over, Student Council gathers all the papers and delivers them to the assigned classes. In the end, there were a total of 430 Boo Grams sold!

### **NJHS Update**

By: Julia Radecki and Nora Maas

There are so many opportunities for NJHS these next few months! One of our big ones is Wolfie Warehouse. Every student of LPA gets to spend their live school points that they earn every day at the Wolfie Warehouse store. It comes every month! But coming up very soon is the Christmas Food Drive! All of December our people will be working very hard to get everything ready to help those in need. We will make bags, posters, and pick up nonperishable foods the last 2 weeks before Christmas break. All of NJHS has to make 20 hours in, and out of school by the end of the year. It is a big responsibility, but all of them are more than capable of getting it done! We hope to see you help all of NJHS by donating; one donation truly makes a difference!







### **Rock Your School Day Wrapped Up**

By: Collins Haney

Rock Your School Day this year was celebrated by having fun in the classroom learning with a sweet, themed twist. The sweet-filled day ended with an elementary Pep Rally where most of the staff dressed up as something that resembles a sweet treat. The elementary students had a fun time during the Pep Rally playing fun games and cheering on their teachers and competing against their friends.

This year there was a friendly competition between the teachers where they all decorated their doors. There were some really good submissions, but everyone voted on Mrs. Patty's extended day Sesame Street door. Her door featured Cookie Monster eating a ton of cookies and sharing them with the wall.









### Teacher Spotlight

Lucy Collins and Spoorthi Sindhaval

This month we have two teacher spotlights!
Starting off with LPA's first grade teacher,

Mrs. Floyd! She has been teaching for twenty years,
fifteen at LPA. She has taught 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>
graders. Her favorite hobby to do out of school is



traveling; she loves getting the chance to explore and see new things. The favorite place she has been to is Arizona; she said, "The mountains were so gorgeous, and the wildlife was out of this world!" Mrs. Floyd's favorite part of the day is reading block because she can read fun stories and incorporate them into her classroom! Her favorite subject to teach is math. She always struggled with the subject and loves watching her students come up with different innovative strategies and tactics. Teaching 1st grade has been such a fun time for Mrs. Floyd. Throughout the year, she likes to see her students grow and she admires them because they work super hard. She loves her 1st grade faculty members and is so happy she has the opportunity to work with them every day.

Next up, we have **Mrs. Brun!** She is a middle school math teacher. Mrs. Brun has been teaching for twenty-three years, fifteen at LPA. Her favorite hobbies outside of school are hiking and camping with her family. The most enjoyable hike was the Appalachian Trail! The students are currently

learning Scientific Notation. Her favorite math formula of all time is The Pythagorean Theorem. If Mrs. Brun could teach any other subject, it would be science. She finds the subject fun, and she likes to do science experiments. The reason why Mrs. Brun loves math so much is because she finds the problems as a puzzle and if you get the equation correct, it feels like a reward.

### **Student Spotlight**

By: Julia Radecki and Mallori York

Our next student spotlight is Christan Riva. He is a second grader this year in Mrs. Wilsons class! Christian loves going to school each and every day! Right now, he really likes learning addition. Recess is also a great part of the day for him. When Christian grows up, he wants to be a racecar driver. He also hopes to have a private jet!



In eighth grade, we have Amelie Amelinckx. She has been at LPA for 2 years now, and her favorite subject is science. She loves her science teacher and all the interesting things she gets to learn. She is most excited this year for the D.C trip or Gradventure! She likes eighth grade because she gets to go to high school next year. Some of her goals in life are to get into a good college and become a cosmetologist! In Amelies' free time she likes to scroll on TikTok or bake.

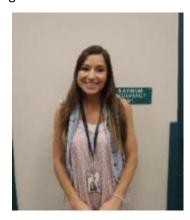
# Spectacular Staff Spotlight!

By: Navya Sadanaveni & Ashweja Mechineni

For this month's staff spotlight, we have chosen two amazing, hard-working ladies. Mrs. York is our district test coordinator. She helps plan statewide testing such as FAST testing and CSAs. You can also find her in our car loop, or at lunch with our amazing students. This is her 9th year at LPA, and her favorite thing about our school is the students.



Mrs. Scarpa is one of our media specialists for kindergarten through second grade. She helps kids with navigating their way through the library and the media technology system. It is her second year here at LPA, and her favorite thing is helping the students and watching them grow.



### Fun Stuff by Ariana Ali

Jokes:

Q: What are the strongest days of the week?

A: Saturday and Sunday, because the rest are weak days.

Q: Why is Peter Pan always flying?

A: Because he Neverlands.

Riddle:

Q: What is the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space, the beginning of every end, and the end of every race?

A: The answer will be given in next month's newsletter!

Trivia:

Q: What was the last letter added to the English alphabet?

A: "J" (Before that, the letter "I" was used for both I and J)

Q: What is the tallest mountain on the planet (when measuring from base to peak)?

A: It's actually not Everest! When measuring from base to peak, Mauna Kea (in Hawaii) is taller, with about 19,700 ft (approx. 6,000 meters) below sea level.

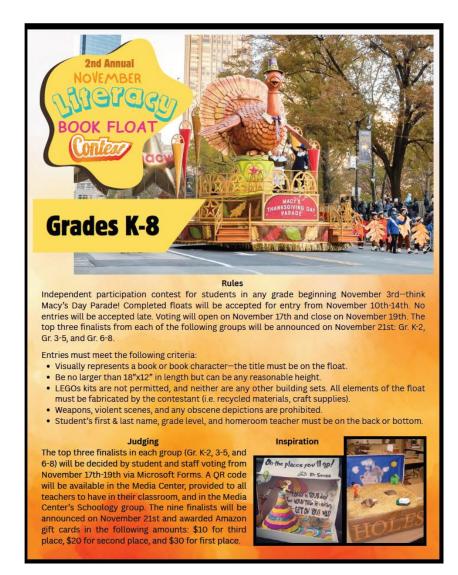
### Weird Fact:

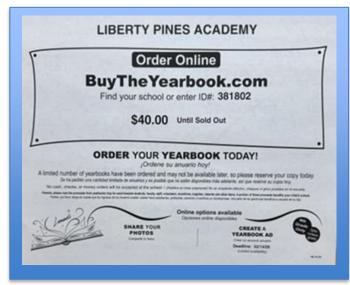
There are more possible chess games than atoms in the observable universe! The number of atoms in the observable universe is estimated to be around  $10^{88}$ , while the number of chess games is estimated to be around  $10^{120}$ .

### Chicken Follow-Up Report

By: Anupama Deshmukh

The chickens are living happily in their new homes! Around 20 chickens were hatched, and they are currently being raised in farms or wonderful homes. When they all grow up, they participate in fairs and in chicken competitions. When they retire out of show business, the chickens go to farms and help the farmers by laying eggs. Overall, the chickens live a good life after retiring from show business.







### **NEWS FROM THE** ARTS DEPARTMENT

Drama Corner By: Ava Harper and Ella Madelly

Drama 1 is an elective you can take in middle school. Drama 2 however, is only for 8th graders. Ms. Herkel teaches both classes, as well as Choir and Musical Theatre.

In Drama 1, Ms. Herkel is looking forward to the unit on puppetry and inviting the elementary students into her classroom. In Drama 2, she is looking forward to their end of the year project, a video students create entitled "My LPA Drama Journey." It is a collection of photos and videos documenting their time in drama.

Ms. Herkel's favorite unit to teach is Theatre History. "I love to see the surprised look on students' faces when they learn the progression of how theatre came to be and then evolved into what it is today."

The two most important events of the year are "The Big Reveal" in August where Ms. Herkel announces the shows for the year. Also, the closing night of the Spring musical where "we bid farewell to our outgoing 8th graders."

Drama 1 has been working on a unit called "Taking the Stage" students are learning about the different types of stages, parts of the stage, and the components used to block a play. Drama 2 is currently working on a Christmas project where they turn a Christmas song into a 10-minute play!

### **Elementary Music & Moonlight Howlers**

By: Anupama Deshmukh and Sarah Cheng

Mrs. Synder loves to work with her students in order to create perfect performances. She says, "I love that I get to work with these students weekly and work hard together on putting on musicals for our community." One of Mrs. Synder's favorite activities to introduce to her students is songs that help portray emotions. She is teaching her students that music can portray emotions. They are learning this using Edvard Grieg's song, "In the Hall of the Mountain King". Her students from K-5 are currently learning diverse subjects. Kindergarten is learning how to use rhythm sticks and 1st and 2nd grade is performing with percussion instruments! 4th grade, however, is learning some fun new notes in their recorders! Lastly, 5th grade continues with their xylophones and learns how to become an ensemble that performs!

Want to support our LPA Band program and wear some awesome LPA Band gear? We got you! Our spirit wear store is now open! This is one of the bands biggest fund raisers of the year and we would appreciate your support. We are selling shirts, hoodies, collared shirts, hats, and stickers. Please use the link below to start your shopping!

https://libertypinesband.itemorder.com/shop /home/.

### **Art Corner**

By Ella Madelly and Ava Harper

Art is an elementary resource instructed by Ms. Scoggins. It is also a middle school elective, taught by Mr. Wolfe. Both classes are working on very exciting projects this month!

In middle school, 6th grade is currently working on color. 7th grade is working on mapping movement. 8th grade is learning how to do Tim Burton styled portraits. A few years ago, Mr. Wolfe researched how to create Tim Burton inspired portraits. The first video that popped up was made by Ms. Scoggins! He didn't realize this until about halfway through. He loved the idea and decided to teach it himself!

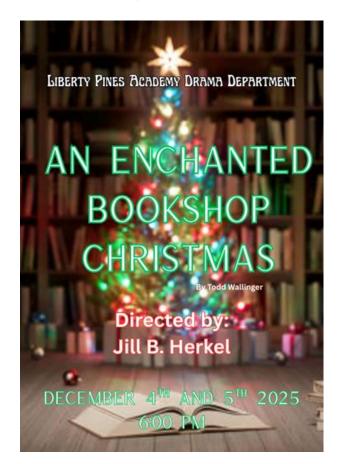
In elementary school, the projects they are currently working on are inspired by the fall season. Artworks range from fall animals, desserts, to a fun fall collage. "I like to take what the kids are interested in and add a fall twist!"

There is also a contest for the cover of the Liberty Parade program! You can submit your patriotic artwork to Ms. Scoggins or Mr. Wolfe no later than October 31st. The winner will be announced on November 1st!

Riley Hustis is in Mrs. Hayes's class and is part of the Moonlight Howlers. If Riley had to pick one word to describe the Moonlight Howlers, it would be "Fun!". He enjoys being with his friends in their circle time every Thursday, which is when their practice is. Riley says his favorite part about Moonlight Howlers is," Acting with other people"! One of the many activities in Moonlight Howlers is doing fun choreographing. They are assigned roles and start acting!



# MORE NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT





### **Congrats to our Character Counts Responsibility Winners**

By: Collins Haney

This month the character trait was Responsibility. The teachers felt that all these kids were a great example of responsibility and the following traits:

- **★** Accountability
- **★** Reliability
- **★** Trustworthiness
- ★ Honesty



# SPORTS NEWS!!!





### LPA Volleyball -

### **Our Wonderful Volleyball Girls**

Hannah McFadzean and Nora Maas

Our Girls Volleyball team has an outstanding record of nine wins and only one loss. One of our wonderful players Brooklyn A, says that her favorite part about being a part of the team is "all of the supportive teammates". Brooklyn thinks that her and her team are doing great this season and hopes to keep up the wins. She has improved so much throughout the season. Although she says she has gotten better, especially at serving.



Another one of our wonderful players Angie M, says she enjoys the snacks after the game and getting to see and play with all her friends. She thinks this volleyball season has helped her with her rection time, this skill also helps her in other sports. Overall, the best part of the volleyball team is to bond with their teammates and learn more about volleyball.



# Happy to announce LPA basketball tryouts!!

Girls

Dec 1: 3-4:45 (all grades 6-8)

Dec 2: 3-4:45 (first cut)

Dec 4: 3-4:45 (Final Cut)

Boys

Dec 1: 5:30-7 (6th & 7th grades)

Dec 2 : 5:30-7 (8th grade)

Dec 3 : 5:30-7 (Final Cut)



Cross Country runner Brianna

York. She set the course record

which hadn't been beaten for 18

years and won the race in her age

group.

Motycka recently competed in New

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.

# Sprinting To the Finish Line!

By: Brielle Coppola and Hannah McFadzean

At the most recent meet, the boys and girls raced in the 3000-meter run! They attended the Alice B. Landrum Invitational. Our top 3 boys were Abhilash Madadi (13<sup>th</sup>), Noah Cassidy (15<sup>th</sup>), and Ethan Holch (24<sup>th</sup>). The top 3 girls that ran were Emily Rapolla (54<sup>th</sup>), Savannah Weger (56<sup>th</sup>), and Sophie Harnitchek (70<sup>th</sup>). We are all very proud of our athletes who ran and gave their full effort! Our next meet is November 1<sup>st</sup>, which is our State Meet! Good luck!!

Molly Bragg is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader on the cross-country team. She has been on the LPA team for 2 years. Her favorite part of the LPA cross-country team is that she gets to spend time with her friends while also doing the sport she loves! She was inspired to do cross-country by how fast she is and decided to try! She does gymnastics along with cross-country and likes to have two different activities!







# A BOO-TIFUL HOME



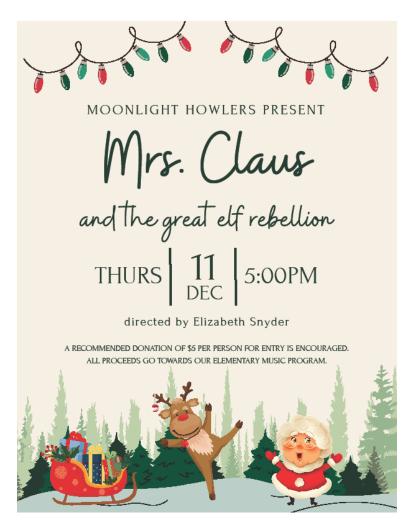






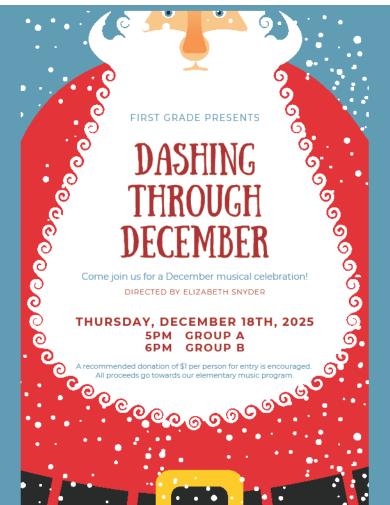


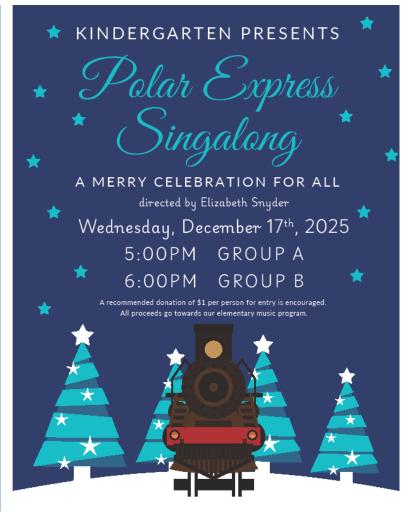






Upcoming Holiday
Performances!!!







# PTO NEWSLETTER





We have many ways to help volunteer! Please sign up via our website if you are interested in helping with the following:

- Boosterthon Fun Run Oct. 24th
- Health Screenings on Oct. 29-31
- Book Fair November 17<sup>th</sup> 20th
  - Working the PBIS cart
- Donating to our Middle School & Elementary teachers lounge snack carts.

### PTO HIGHLIGHTS

### Sunshine of the month

Tyler Jennings is this months Sunshine of the month. She has volunteered every morning and helps pass out prizes earned from the Fun Run. Thank you Tyler!!



### **Upcoming PTO events**

Fun Run Oct. 24th- Please make sure you are an approved volunteer to come watch all the fun!

Liberty Parade- Friday November 7th at 9:00 am

Bookfair- November 17th-20th Next PTO meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am in the Cafeteria



### REMINDERS



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

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."

-Jim Bishop



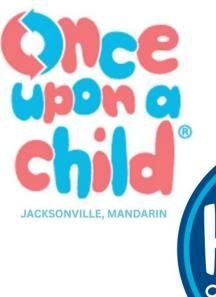
## LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO Business Partner Spotlight

November

### PLATINUM WOLVES



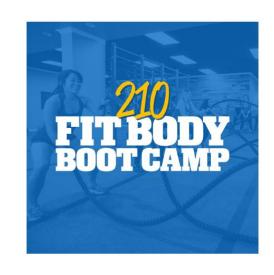














### LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO Business Partner Spotlight

November

### GOLDEN WOLVES



Sushi | Mini Hot Pot | Seafood Boil | Reman Asian Cuisine

Even wolves love a taste of the sea—
Oola Mala serves fresh sushi, ramen, and seafood boils in a lively, welcoming atmosphere. It's the perfect spot for the pack to gather and share a meal worth howling about.

Trinity Restoration & Roofing keeps every den safe and secure with expert roofing and home repair services. Their skilled team provides honest assessments, quality materials, and craftsmanship you can trust.





When wolves search for a new den, Donna
O'Steen is the trusted guide through every
step of the real estate journey. With years of
local experience, she helps families find the
perfect home to settle and thrive.



# LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO Business Partner Spotlight

November

### GOLDEN WOLVES

Every wolf needs a place to connect, grow, and belong, and Access Church offers that through meaningful worship and community. Their programs for kids, teens, and families help strengthen both faith and fellowship.





Wolves sharpen their instincts—and Tutoring Club sharpens young minds through customized learning programs for students from Pre-K through college. Their proven approach in math, reading, and test prep helps every learner lead the pack.

In the Burn Boot Camp den, the pack trains hard with high-intensity workouts designed to build strength, endurance, and community. Expert coaches and supportive teammates help every member unleash their inner alpha.

