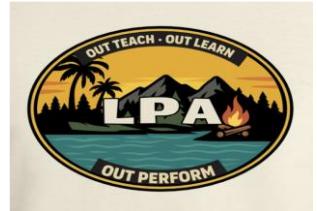


# LPA NEWS



NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 10 DECEMBER/JANUARY 2025/26 LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY



Hello LPA Families!!!

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see our campus come alive again this week with smiling faces, eager energy, and yes—maybe a few sleepy eyes too (and not just from the students!). No matter how those first mornings felt, there was a shared excitement about being back together and beginning a new year!

We have many exciting happenings around campus this month! We are looking forward to another great Spring Musical, with tryouts for Shrek on January 20th and 22nd. I am also excited to celebrate my first 100th Day of School at LPA on January 23rd. In addition, I would love to see our Wolf Pack show up in force for the Character Counts 6K/3K on February 7th at Palencia Elementary School at 9:00 AM—be on the lookout for registration information on ParentSquare.

I want to thank everyone for welcoming me into the pack. It has been a joy meeting so many of the incredible teachers and staff who helped build LPA from the ground up. This school is rich in knowledge, experience, and vision—much of it shaped by parents from our inaugural classes who volunteered their time, invested their hearts, and ultimately became educators here. That history matters, and it shows in the pride, care, and commitment found in every classroom.

It has also been amazing meeting so many of your babies! After spending most of the last twenty years in a high school, it is refreshing to see the pure light and excitement in all the young Wolves at LPA. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Principal of this great school, and I look forward to partnering with you as we continue building on the strong foundation at LPA.

JP Swope



## Important Dates:

- January 12: SAC Mtg., 4:00
- January 15: LPA Team/Club Picture Day, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Class Picture
- January 15: PTO Mtg., 9:00
- January 15: TOY/RTOY Banquet, 5:00 at the Renaissance
- January 19: MLK Day, No school
- January 20 and 22: Auditions for *Shrek, the Musical*
- January 20-23: Wolf Warehouse
- January 23: 100th Day of School at LPA
- January 29-30: Character Counts Celebrations
- February 5: Kindergarten Field Trip
- February 7: Character Counts 6K/3K
- February 13: Teacher Inservice Day, No school for students
- February 16: Presidents Day, No school

# WOLF NEWS



## LPA SCIENCE FAIR

### LPA's Science Fair Winners

Honorable Mention: Maddie Wellschlager

• "Will Different Types of Knots Hold for at Least 1200 Seconds"

3rd Place: Jake Lifsey

• "Which Environmental Factor Makes a Baseball Bounce Highest"

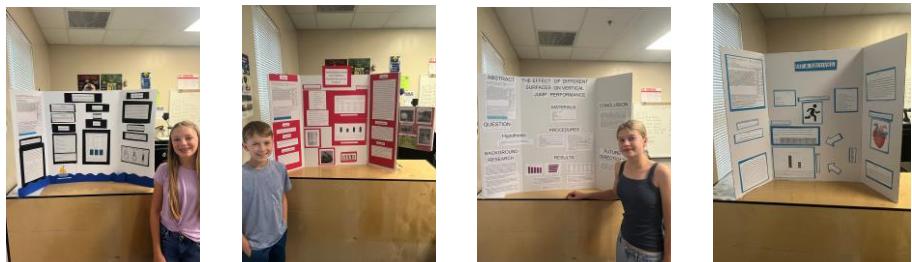
2nd Place: Lila Gorski

• "Effect of Different Surfaces on Vertical Jump Height"

1st Place: Lily Klipa

• "Sip & Recover"

\*\*1st, 2nd and 3rd place are invited to represent LPA at the Regional Science Fair\*\*



## Marvelous MathCounts!

By: Ashweja Mechineni

The MathCounts team gathered on the last day of school before winter break to celebrate their dedication and hard work in preparing for the February MathCounts competition. During the celebration, the four students selected to represent LPA as the official team were announced, along with the twelve students who will compete individually. Selection was based on Target Round Test Scores. The team and individuals will be announced on the morning show soon!

## Congratulations Jahnavi!!!

On Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Jahnavi Doneparthi competed in the St. Johns County District Spelling bee – we are proud to announce that she won the District Bee and will now be heading to the Regional Spelling Bee! Her winning word was “katana” and she successfully navigated through 16 rounds before winning! The field of competitors consisted of representatives of St. Johns County School 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in addition to representatives from local private schools.



This year the Regional Bee will take place on Friday, February 27th at LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville. Congratulations Jahnavi and best of luck as you prepare for the next level of competition!

## Marvelous Media Center News

By: Navya Sadanaveni and Anupama Deshmukh

If you are a 3-8 grader, and want to join LPA's Battle of the Book's club, please meet us in the Media Center at 7:50a.m. on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to take the quiz to determine our school's two teams. Now it's time for our warm welcome to the new K-2 Para teacher, Mrs. Hynes! She has moved into our school from a public library and is already fitting right in with the team.

Literacy week is January 26- January 30, 2026. This week will focus on the importance of reading. Coming to LPA to join the K-2 kids, is Kentrell Martin, author of the *Shelly's Adventure* series! He will be here on January 29<sup>th</sup>.



# MORE WOLF NEWS

## Band News

By: Ava Harper and Sarah Cheng

This month LPA's band had their winter concert, which was on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>! All five bands played including Beginning Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and the two Jazz Bands.

The Beginning Band performed songs from their practice book, like *Jingle Bells*. Concert Band played *Confidence, Soundscape, and Groovy Tuesday*. Symphonic Band performed *Epaulette of Gold, Emerald Sky, and Firebirds*. Jazz Lab played *Scaled Blues, Moondance, Thriller, and El Carnival*. Finally, Jazz Band performed *Charlie Rides Again, Use Your Inside, Bad Apple, and Bossa Corrente*.

During Nights of Lights in St. Augustine, our very own Jazz Band played many popular Christmas songs, including ones like *Feliz Navidad, Let it Snow, Sleigh Ride, and Jazzy Merry Christmas*.

All the bands played so well, and everyone worked so hard. Mr. Spilling did a great job preparing us and choosing the pieces to ensure a splendid performance.

## NJHS News

By: Sarah Cheng and Ashweja Mechineni

NJHS organized the food drive, *Stuff Santa's Sleigh* from December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>! Students donated food which was distributed to these 3 charities: Saint John's School's Blessings in a Backpack, Saint John's Food Bank, and Saint Francis in the Storm (a teen homeless shelter). The classes who donated the most food got a Pizza Party! In Middle school Mrs. Lutt's homeroom donated the most food and in Elementary, 2 classes donated the most. In total, we collected 1650 items! Mrs. Cassidy even had to make two trips to drop all the food! Well done LPA community!

## How to Access the Family Portal



The Family Portal provides a central location for your student's assessment results.

### The Family Portal can be used to

- access your student's results for FAST Progress Monitoring testing.
- access prior statewide assessment results.
- print score reports.

### How can I access the Family Portal?

- At the Florida Statewide Assessments Portal: <https://flfast.org>
- Or at the direct link: <https://fl-familyportal.cambiumast.com/>

### What information do I need to log in to the Family Portal?

- Your student's unique 6-digit access code (found in HAC under the Registration tab).
- Your student's date of birth.
- Your student's first name as it appears on their official school record.

### What information can I find on the Family Portal?

- Your student's results from Fall 2020 through present
- Your student's Individual Student Reports with interpretative guides.
- Glossary
- FAQs
- Performance Levels

### Where do I get the Access Code?

The code can be found in the Home Access Center (HAC) under the Registration tab. The code will be located on the right side of the page under Additional Information.



## January – Happy New Year

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Winter Break – Student / Teacher Holiday					Teacher Planning Day – Student Holiday	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Classes Resume for Students / Second Semester Begins					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Report cards issued 9 AM PTO general meeting LPA team & club picture day			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Student / Teacher Holiday					100 <sup>th</sup> day of school	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			Character Counts Presentations		Character Counts Presentations	

# NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

# ELEMENTARY MUSIC



**MONTHLY SNAPSHOT**

January will bring many exciting musical experiences for our students.

Kindergarten will continue exploring percussion instruments while adding movement and listening activities that help match music to different moods and stories. First grade will expand their drumming skills by creating sound effects to help bring familiar stories and poems to life through music.

Second and third grade will continue learning about instrument families through interactive games, listening activities, and hands-on identification practice.

Fourth grade will build on their recorder skills by learning new notes and songs, while strengthening rhythm reading through engaging percussion activities.

Fifth grade will further develop their bucket drumming skills by learning routines that focus on coordination, dynamics, and teamwork. January is shaping up to be a month full of creativity, rhythm, and musical growth for all grade levels.

Musically Yours,  
Mrs. Snyder



**SPOTLIGHT**

Great job to Moonlight Howlers for their fun and festive performance of "Mrs. Claus and the Great Elf Rebellion"! Applause as well to Kindergarten for their joyful "Polar Express Singalong" and to 1st Grade for their energetic "Dashing Through December" performance. A heartfelt thank you to the Kindergarten and 1st Grade teachers for their hard work and dedication in making these performances a success!

**UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS**

5/7 Moonlight Howlers Spring Musical  
5/21 Third Grade Spring Musical



## Elementary Holiday Performances

By: Ava Harper

On Wednesday, December 17th, kindergarten performed their *Polar Express Sing-Along*. From five to six was Group A. Group A consisted of Galat, Martin-Jones, Randle-Hayes, Pallai, Ballowe's classes. From six to seven was Group B which contained Ryan, Rhodus, Martin, and Sciarratta's classes.

First grade performed their *Dashing Through December* performance on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Group A was from 5-6 and included Pate, Veale, Shepherd, and Elie's classes. From 6-7 was Group B's performance and consisted of Gray, Floyd, Raya, Quimby, and Herrin's classes.

All the donations collected go to helping the elementary music program here at LPA! All the students did amazing and put lots of energy and excitement into the shows.

**LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY**  
**DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

**SHReK**  
**THE**  
**MUSICAL Jr.**

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig  
 Book and Lyrics by: David Lindsay-Abaire  
 Music by: Jeanine Tesori  
 Originally Produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatre Entertainment and Neural Street Productions  
 Shrek The Musical Jr. Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford  
 "I'm a Believer" by Neil Diamond

**DIRECTED BY:  
JILL B. HERKEL**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Tickets \$10**

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI), [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

Auditions for Shrek Jr.! are January 20th and 22nd"

Students interested in auditioning or applying for a backstage Crew position can see Ms. Herkel for an audition packet."



# SPORTS NEWS!!!



## LPA Basketball!

By: Navya Sadanaveni & Ashweja Mechineni

LPA's girls' and boys' basketball teams have been chosen! Girls games start at 5:30, and boys start at 6:30. Below are the team rosters, dates, and locations for each game.

### Girls Team Roster

Alessandra Bobbitt  
Dior Rivera  
Molly Bragg  
Allie McFadzean  
Lily Davies  
Brianna Motycka  
Walker Adams  
Olivia Shook  
Charlie Watson  
Skyler Rippen  
Kilyn Austin  
Emma Natanzon  
Mia Duarte

### Boys Team Roster

Sean Spicer  
Michael Obrien-Kassa  
Maximus Falko  
Nico Farnstrom  
AJ Messina  
Lincoln Herring  
Henry Vineyard  
John Dorney  
Jack Mcinerney  
Rudy Antolin  
Lucas Hall

### JV Team

Brantley Shepherd  
Connor Riley  
Cade Commarford  
Brandon Tatterie  
Connor Mcleod  
Eamon McCracken  
Jax Dunsky  
Carter Greathouse  
Bobby Cowan  
James Reid  
Beau Spicer  
Patrick Spillane  
Tyler Hall



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.



## January

13 – vs Lakeside Academy (home game)  
15 – vs Palm Valley Academy (home game)  
20 – vs Valley Ridge Academy (home game)  
29 – vs Lakeside Academy (away game)

## February

3 – vs Trout Creek Academy (away game)  
5 – vs Hallowes Cove Academy (home game)  
10 – vs Pine Island Academy (home game)  
12 – vs Palm Valley Academy (away game)  
17 – vs Mill Creek Academy (home game)  
19 – vs Pine Island Academy (away game)  
24 – vs Patriot Oaks Academy (away game)  
26 – vs Valley Ridge Academy (away game)

## March

10 - TBA – Championship Rd 1 (TBA)  
11 – TBA – Championship Rd 2 (TBA)  
13 – TBA – Championship Final (TBA)

# BHS

NEW

# Barracuda

Night

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026**



6:00 pm- 7:50pm

6:00-6:30	Courses & Clubs in the BHS Courtyard
6:40-7:10	Rotation 1 (Last names A-K, Auditorium) (Last names L-Z, Gymnasium)
7:20-7:50	Rotation 2 (Last names A-K, Gymnasium) (Last names L-Z, Auditorium)

*We are excited to  
meet our New  
Barracudas*

Join us to learn  
about the exciting  
courses and  
opportunities we  
offer at Beachside  
High School!



Don't forget to purchase your amazing 2025 – 2026 yearbook today!! Yearbooks would make a great gift to give yourself in the spring, but you should order them now while supplies last, so you don't forget. The LPA Code is #381802 😊 at

[www.buytheyearbook.com](http://www.buytheyearbook.com)

Just \$40 – we are one of the few schools that has never raised our prices!

13TH ANNUAL

# CHARACTER COUNTS!

In St. Johns  
County

# 6K 3K

## RUN • WALK

Saturday, February 7, 2026  
9 A.M.

Palencia Elementary School



Register by December 31, 2025, to receive a race t-shirt  
and other give-aways from sponsoring businesses  
and community organizations!

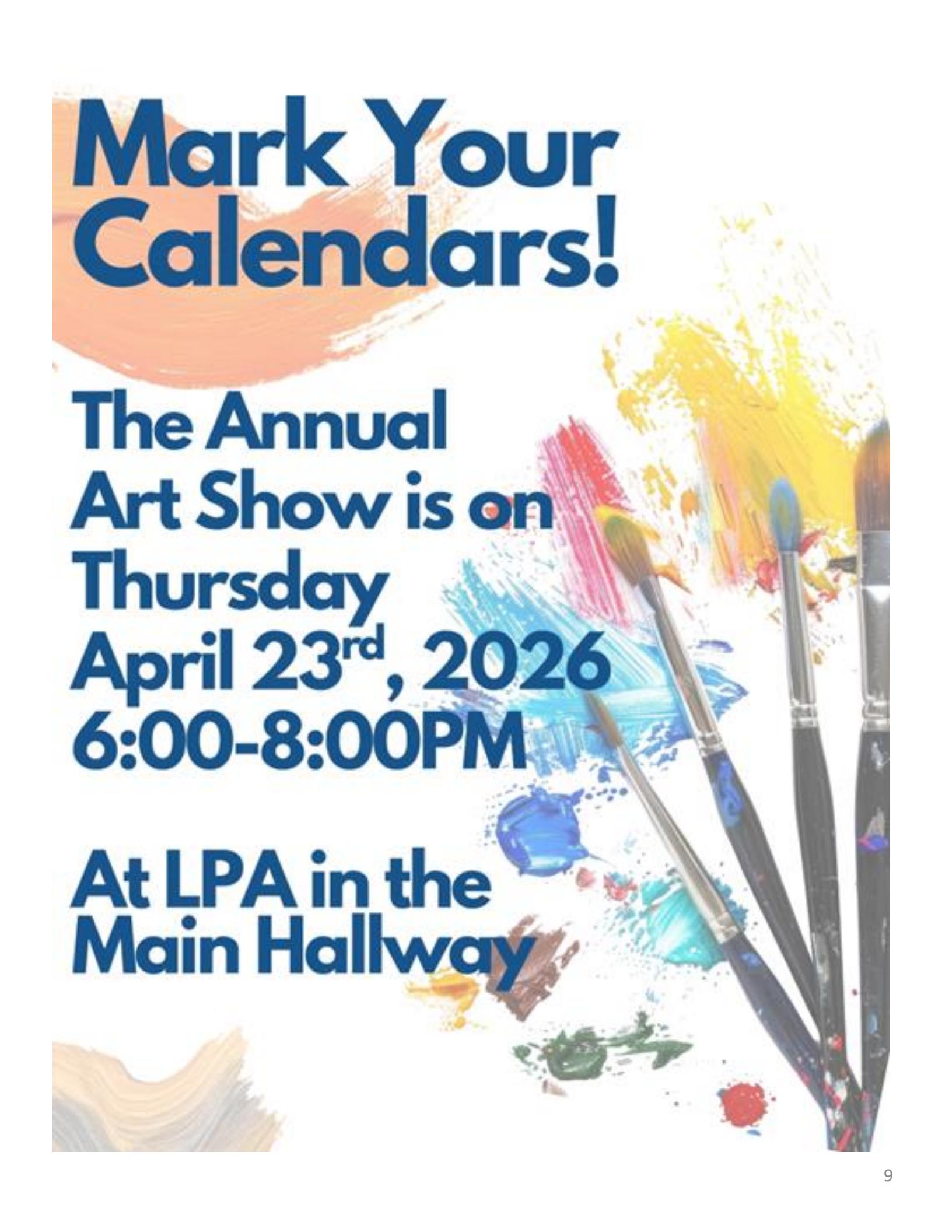


PRESENTING  
SPONSOR

REGISTER AT  
[RACESMITH.COM](http://RACESMITH.COM)



# **Mark Your Calendars!**

A background graphic featuring a white surface with various paint splatters and brushstrokes in orange, yellow, blue, and red. Several paintbrushes of different sizes are scattered across the surface, some with paint on them.

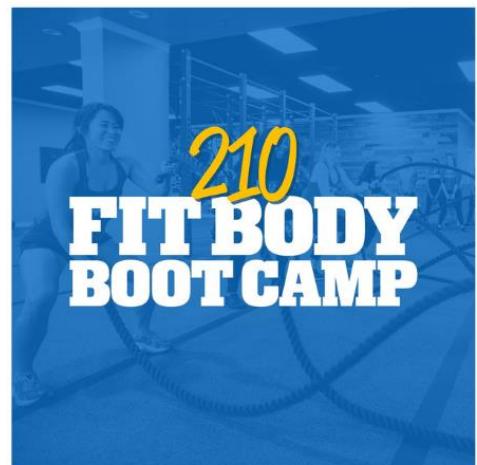
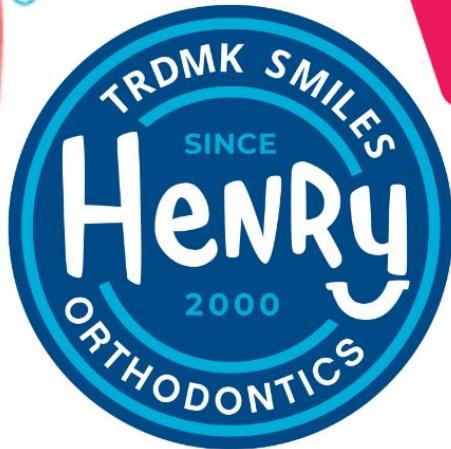
**The Annual  
Art Show is on  
Thursday  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
6:00-8:00PM**

**At LPA in the  
Main Hallway**



LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO  
Business Partner Spotlight  
December

PLATINUM WOLVES





# LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO

## Business Partner Spotlight

### December

## SILVER WOLVES



The youngest members of the pack begin their journey at Primrose School, where learning, play, and character development come together. Their **Balanced Learning®** approach helps little wolves grow curious, confident, and kind.

When the pack comes together to celebrate, Bounce for Love brings the excitement with bounce houses and event rentals for all occasions.

Their family-run business keeps community gatherings fun, safe, and full of laughter.



## SANDERS TEAM

Loyalty and service run deep in this pack, and The Sanders Team proudly supports military families with trusted home financing guidance. Their expertise helps veterans and active-duty members build strong futures in our community.

