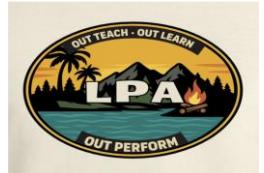


LPA NEWS



NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2026

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!

Liberty Pines Academy wrapped up January with an outstanding, patriotic celebration of literacy during the final week of the month. Students and staff proudly filled our campus with red, white, and blue each day, all leading up to a fantastic **Stop, Drop, and Read** event on Friday. This last week I started incentivizing reading the quote on the marquee in front of the school that will continue through the end of the school year. The first student who could tell me the author (in person, by email, or through their teacher) would earn a prize! As I shared on the news Friday, **reading is power**—the power to learn, the power to understand, and the power to achieve. The more we read, the more opportunities we create for our future!

February brings several exciting events for our LPA families. On **Wednesday, February 4**, we will host **LPA Family Night**. Teachers will not assign homework that evening, and we strongly encourage families to spend quality time together. On **Friday, February 6**, we are excited and grateful to our amazing PTO for hosting the annual **“Soup”er Bowl**, a favorite LPA tradition. Then on **Saturday, February 7**, please join our administration and many teachers as we represent Liberty Pines Academy at the **St. Johns County Schools Character Counts 6K/3K race** at Palencia Elementary School. Mrs. Stanton has already announced she plans to win the whole thing!

Eighth-grade families, please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, February 25**, and plan to attend **Beachside High School’s Eighth Grade Night**. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore your future school, tour the beautiful campus, meet teachers, experience the pep rally, and learn all that Beachside has to offer...don’t miss it! As February is the month of love, we encourage everyone to take time to let those around you know how much they matter. Thank you for continuing to make Liberty Pines Academy such a special place to learn and grow.

Go Wolves!
JP Swope



Students enjoyed “buddy” reading during our Literacy Week Celebration!



Mrs. Small’s Math class enjoyed a “glow day” to make learning math even more fun.

WOLF NEWS



Presenting Principal Swope!

By: Anupama Deshmukh

Mr. Swope is our wonderful new principal. He has been teaching for 20 years, and he enjoys helping people and equipping them with many great qualities! Our principal hopes to get to know all the amazing teachers here at LPA as well as the wonderful students.

Principal Swope wants to bring people together and help them succeed by helping them overcome the obstacles that may stand in their way. He believes that “every single person has a unique purpose and value that they bring to the table” and that using our strengths equally will make us stronger!

Outside of school life, Mr. Swope has many hobbies, such as golf and running. He also enjoys spending time with his family, which also includes his 3 dogs!

February

2026

Sunday	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday
	1		2		3		4		5	9 "Soup"er Bowl for teachers hosted by PTO	7
	8		9	Interims Issued	10		11		12	13 Teacher Inservice Day – Student Holiday	14
	15		16		17			19		20	21
	Presidents' Day – Student / Teacher Holiday				18	6p PTO General Meeting- Evening		Math Count Competition			
	22	Penny Wars	23	Penny Wars	24	Penny Wars	25	Penny Wars	26	Penny Wars	27
								Character Counts	Character Counts		28

Student Council News

By: Spoorthi Sindhaval and Sylvia Thomas

Our Student Council is excited to present Valentine Grams! Students will be gifted with a delicious heart-shaped lollipop and a heartfelt message from one of their friends, as a fun way to celebrate Valentine's Day! Valentine Grams will be sold for \$1 Dollar each in the main hallway from February 6 – 10. Get them before they sell out!

In addition to Valentine's Grams, members of Student Council will also be participating in a Goodwill donation drive. Students are encouraged to bring gently used items, such as clothes and shoes, that they no longer use. Once all donations are collected, the items will be delivered to our local Goodwill to be distributed to help people in our local community. Donations will be collected in the bus and carpool lines on Thursday, April 2nd. Start cleaning out those closets today.



MORE WOLF NEWS

Media Matters!

By: Ellie Thorpe and Brielle Coppola

This year our media center introduced a new engaging game for everyone in LPA to play. It is called "his or That!" This game is set up with two jars in the front of the library, each with a weekly option you would choose. For example: "Would you rather... be a brave knight or a creative inventor?" This activity is an amazing way for "all grades to come in and play our game, and as well as see the books in our school library has to offer," says our librarian Mrs. Rice. The winning option is then announced on the morning news show.

This week was also literacy week at LPA! Literacy week helps promote the importance of reading in fun ways! We took action during literacy week by wearing the assigned colors throughout the week. We also had an author visit that helped encourage reading.

Congratulations to our battle of the books teams:

Elementary:

Junayna A. -5th
Austin W. -5th
Karl G. -5th
Manushri D. -5th
Jeremy K. -5th
Zoe F. -5th

Middle School:

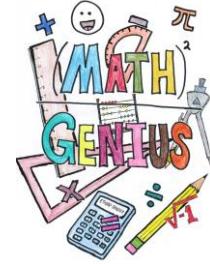
Ariana A. -8th
Akil M. -7th
Ashweja M. -8th
Ilisia P. -6th
Aviva D. -8th
Arjun T. -8th (Alternate #1)
Chathrika M. - 6th (Alternate #2)



Magnificent MathCounts!

By: Spoorthi Sindhaval

Congratulations To All the Members That Made in MathCounts!



Team: Jahnavi Doneparthi, Yiming Jiang, Arjun Tirumalasetti, Kian Zhang

Individual: Alistair Jones, Nick Lagoutaris, Ethan Natanzon, Spoorthi Sindhaval

JV Individual: Cade Commaford, Tyler Hall, Alex Heitke, Thomas Thielemann

Unofficial Individual: Juee Mhadgut

Washington DC Trip Review

By: Gianna Zardetto and Spoorthi Sindhaval

In the beginning of January, LPA's 8th graders got to enjoy a class trip to our nation's capital, Washington D.C. and learned about our nation's history. Students got to visit some of the country's most important memorials, like The Vietnam Memorial, dedicated to the lives fought and lost during the Vietnam War.

Students got to explore several museums in The National Mall including The National Museum of Natural History and The National Spy Museum! They participated in scavenger hunts and interactive experiences throughout the museums, including taking on a new identity and mission as a spy!

Our teachers and chaperones contributed a lot to this trip! They guided the students and helped them with some conflicts they had. The following teachers who helped us with the D.C trip are, Mr. Hoessler, Officer Barnhart, Ms. Lutts, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Wurstner, Mrs. York, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Bragg, Mrs. Montiel, and Mr. Raimondo. Thank you for your support!

Overall, the D.C trip was a huge success! The students enjoyed the trip, and they had the best time exploring the city, seeing the coolest monuments, and making awesome memories with their friends. Everyone was so excited to see the sights in person, and the whole group came home telling everyone about how much fun they had. It was truly a trip they'll never forget!

Thank you, parent chaperones!

Mr. Ali
Mrs. Amato
Mrs. Bhandari
Mr. Bunnell
Mrs. Chang
Mr. Detlefs
Mrs. Felix
Mrs. Fortener
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Huskisson



LPA SPOTLIGHTS!

Teacher Spotlights

By: Ashweja Mechineni & Navya Sadanaveni

This month for the teacher spotlights we chose two very amazing teachers, Mr. Raimondo and Mrs. Balcita!

Mr. Raimondo is a world and U.S history teacher for 6th and 7th graders. He has been teaching for 4 years; he wanted to teach history to make sure history doesn't get forgotten, also, to share his love and passion for history. His favorite part of teaching is when students get that lightbulb moment and when everything starts to click for the students.

Mrs. Balcita is a 7th and 8th grade ELA teacher, and she has been teaching for 6 years. She wanted to teach ELA because of her love of reading literature, which she wants to share with her students. She originally did not think she would be teaching middle school, but she found it a pleasant surprise, and she has grown to love it. Her favorite part of teaching is building relationships with students and watching them grow over the course of the year.



Staff Spotlight

By: Ariana Ali and Sarah Cheng

Mrs. Kidd is the Office Clerk in the front office! She does everything from supervising ISS to helping in the bus line. Mrs. Kidd's office is in the ISS room, and she is responsible for putting in doctor's notes and absent notices. She has worked here since August 2025, and her favorite part is getting to know the kids! Before working at LPA, she worked in the Seminole County school system. Mrs. Kidd is super nice and loves working with kids! Make sure to say hi to her in the hallways!



Mrs. Swartz is the Cafeteria Manager at LPA! She prepares the food and manages everything that goes on in the cafeteria. She has worked at LPA for one year and she enjoys it a lot! Before she was at LPA, she used to be a substitute teacher. Mrs. Swartz has two daughters at LPA and wanted to be more involved at their school, so she decided to start working here! She's a great cafeteria manager and we are so lucky to have her!



Student Spotlight

By: Mallori York and Brielle Coppola

Brooks Shelton is in seventh grade, he's most excited for DC in 8th grade. The main tip he has for incoming 7th graders is to take electives that you actually want to take so you don't waste your classes. His favorite part of seventh grade is gym class with his friends. Brooks has mixed feelings because next year will be his last year at LPA.



Edan Halilovic is a fourth grader at LPA. He is excited that it's his last year of elementary next year because he's excited for middle school. He plays soccer and wants to try out for the school's team. Edan's favorite memory is playing soccer at recess.



PBIS Rewards

By: Brielle Coppola and Stella Alexander

This month, Ms. Walton introduced a new reward system for elementary classes. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention Supports. Classes get chosen at the end of each quarter and earn wolf paws. Whichever class has the most wolf paws at the end of the quarter gets a lunch reward. Last quarter, Wolfie came and enjoyed lunch with the students. Texas Roadhouse also gave kids a voucher for a free kid's meal! Keep up the good work!!



Congratulations to our January Character Counts Winners!

By: Collins Haney

This month the Character Count pillar of the month is Respect!

The students that got picked this month demonstrate these qualities:

- ★ The Golden rule
- ★ Courteous
- ★ Polite
- ★ Considerate of other people and their feelings
- ★ Dealing with conflicts peacefully and in a non-violent way



Safety Patrol Merit Award recipients for January

Spelling Bee News



By: Ashweja Mechineni and Sarah Cheng

Jahnavi Doneparthi has won the district spelling bee! Her winning word was Katana, and she was very surprised but happy when she won. She is now moving on to represent our district at the regional spelling bee! She has been practicing using the word list that she got, and with an app called Word Club made to help with spelling. We are all rooting for Jahnavi and hoping she wins the Regional Spelling Bee! The Regional Bee will be held February 27th, at La Villa School of the Arts.



100th Day of School

By Alice Poynton, Elena Heavener, and Lucy Collins

LPA just had their 100th day of school! Let's see what fun everyone had. Starting off with Mrs. Galats class we have Emmerson Miller and Matthew Adams! Emmerson dressed up as a granny. She wore a dress with beautiful red flowers all over. Her mom put her hair up in a high bun that was a shimmering silver. She says her favorite activity on the 100th day was, " drawing old people"

Moving on to Matthew, he dressed up as an old man. He wore a black suit with glasses and a fake mustache. Just like Emmerson, his favorite thing that they did that day was drawing old grandmas and grandpas.

After we asked the kids about their fun time, we asked the teacher about some other exciting things they did as a class. Their schedule was fully packed with fun activities! Including stacking 100 red cups, making a fruit loop necklace with 100 pieces, making their 100-year-old self-portraits, licking a tootsie pop 100 times, 100 gumballs, and they named 100 stories.

This year's 100th day of school was a blast! We hope that next year we can have just the same fun!



Literacy Week was a huge success, complete with an author visit by Kentrell Martin who created *The Shelley Adventure series* and lots of buddy reads!

⚠️ LPA Reading Olympics is Feb. 6th-20th!

- Go Team USA in the 2026 Winter Olympics! We want our wolves to feel like they can be Olympians too with reading.
- **Help us spread the word to K-8 students** about our latest library program made for them.
- **View our flier** for details about participation: [**LPA Reading Olympics**](#)
- Prizes will start being distributed in the Media Center on Monday, Feb. 9th.

NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Dynamic Drama!

By: Navya Sadanaveni and Spoorthi Sindhaval

Drama will be performing Shrek Jr. in April! The crew and cast are listed below.

Cast:

Shrek – Brenden McCann
Fiona – Clara Wayne
Donkey – Ella Madelly
Lord Farquaad – Jaxon Moreland
Storyteller 1 – Lauren Cuaycong*
Storyteller 2 – Annelyse Bond*
Storyteller 3 – Melina Jones*
Mama Ogre – Rylee Harris
Papa Ogre – Joshua Wayne
Little Ogre – Zachary Wayne
Captain of the Guards – Davis Templeton
Pinocchio – Ezra Navarro
Big Bad Wolf – Tyler Willman
Pig 1 – Mila Wilhelmy
Pig 2 – Courtney Hayes
Pig 3 – Manasa Satish
Wicked Witch – Layla Demnati
Peter Pan – Mackenzie Delaney
Mama Bear - Piper Willison
Papa Bear – Keegan Bunnell
Baby Bear – Ava Gibson-Rijo
Gingy – Grace Osborne
Young Fiona – Kiera Dhima
Teen Fiona – Evie Hurckes (**Plus rat/tap soloist)
Puss in Boots – Rhett Fortner
Dragon - Maddie Wellschlager
Knight 1 – Bella Bye*
Knight 2 – Chloe Wang*
Knight 3 – Aviva Donahuevillani*
Knight 3 – Emily Rapolla*
Pied Piper – Fiona Nimmaggadda
Bishop – Caleb Milne
Dwarf – Akil Meda
*Duloc Performers



Crew:

Stage Manager – Gianna Olenio De Costa
Assistant Stage Manager – Bryce Weinstein
Sound – Lucie Norcia
Lights – Hollyn Hough
Follow Spot Operator
Backstage Crew Chief/Props Master – Gianna Guzman
Backstage Crew Hailey Johnson
Caleb Milne
Ava Caballero
Emma Irby
Vera Lee
Props Crew Faith Laster
Dylan Olson
Aj Hinskey
Hair/Makeup/ Charlotte Russo
Costume Crew Juee Mhadgut
Addisyn Smith
Aliyah Denmark
Avery Grigoryev
Zooey Bowers
Publicity/ Jenson James
House Crew Emily Worthington
Esperanza Recinos

Liberty Pines Art Corner

By: Julia Radecki and Bree Coppola

Liberty Pines is always filled with artwork from elementary and middle school! Our amazing art teachers, Mrs. Scoggins and Mr. Wolfe, always strive to help our students express their full creativity.

Mr. Wolfe is our middle school art teacher. He has eighth through sixth graders stretching their creativity every day. Eighth grade is working on painting graffiti, seventh grade is working on advanced one point perspective, and sixth grade is working on the basics of one-point perspective. Mr. Wolfe's favorite unit to teach is painting because that was his focus in college and he finds it very enjoyable.

Mrs. Scoggins is our elementary art teacher. She has kindergarten through fifth grade learning how to express their creativity! Mrs. Scoggins' favorite part of teaching is seeing the kids grow in life skills and being able to teach in such a fun environment. Her favorite artwork out of all the grades right now is the moose project in second grade.

Liberty Pines Academy's art corner is loved by many. Mr. Wolfe and Mrs. Scoggins do an amazing job keeping it alive and colorful every day!

Band News

By Sadit Anwar

LPA performed at the SJC Honor Band on January 24. Some of the best middle school musicians from around the county got together and performed a concert after only 3 rehearsals. Eight eighth grade students were chosen to present LPA. Next week, band has their Jazz MPA and Mr. Spilling is very excited about it!



The jazz bands go to a school that changes every year for their Jazz MPA. Jazz band chooses 2 to 3 songs to play in front of judges with the best rating being superior and the worst being poor. The new Jazz Lab doesn't go to the Jazz MPA because Jazz Lab is more about getting into the feel of jazz instruments. This is also the first year that concert band goes to perform at an MPA but it is a separate date than the Jazz MPA.

NJHS News

By Hannah McFadzean and Nora Maas

NJHS gives students the opportunity to volunteer and help their community. NJHS is only open to handpicked 7th and 8th graders, and not only do they help the community, but they also help with the school and athletic events. Now that basketball is in season, NJHS volunteers to work the concessions and do the scoreboards. Members of NJHS also work at the Wolfie Warehouse, where students' kindergarten through eighth grade can use their hard-earned points to get prizes, and cool gadgets. However, we could not have made all these things happen without our amazing Mrs. Cassidy and Mr. Raimondo who lead the whole organization that helps our school. Also our amazing President Julia Radecki and Vice President Mallori York. NJHS has helped our school in many ways and will never stop helping.

Wolf Warehouse

Dear Families,
We are in need of
items for our new
school store!
Please scan this
code to donate to
our store.
Thank you!



Fun Stuff

by Ariana Ali



Jokes:

Q: Why were they called the Dark Ages?

A: There were lots of Knights.

Q: What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

A: They have the same middle name.

Riddle

Last month's riddle was: What word has kst in the middle, in the beginning, and the end?

The answer: Inkstand.

This month's riddle: What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat, and 1/2 goat?

Answer will be given in next month's newsletter!

Trivia:

Q: How many folds does a traditional chef's hat have?

A: 100 (It represents the number of ways a skilled chef can cook an egg)

Q: What is the # symbol actually called?

A: An octothorpe

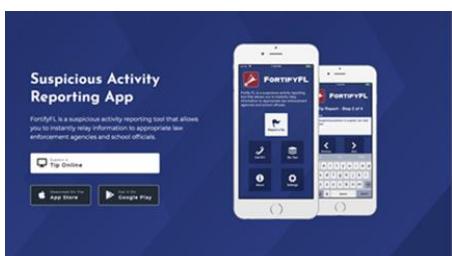
Weird Fact:

You are actually taller in the morning than at night! When you wake up, your spine has had a chance to stretch and decompress, making you taller. However, after you have gone through the day, the cartilage between your bones has compressed slightly, making you shorter.



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

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



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. 9

SPORTS NEWS!!!



Basketball (Boys and Girls)

By Ella Madelly and Ava Harper

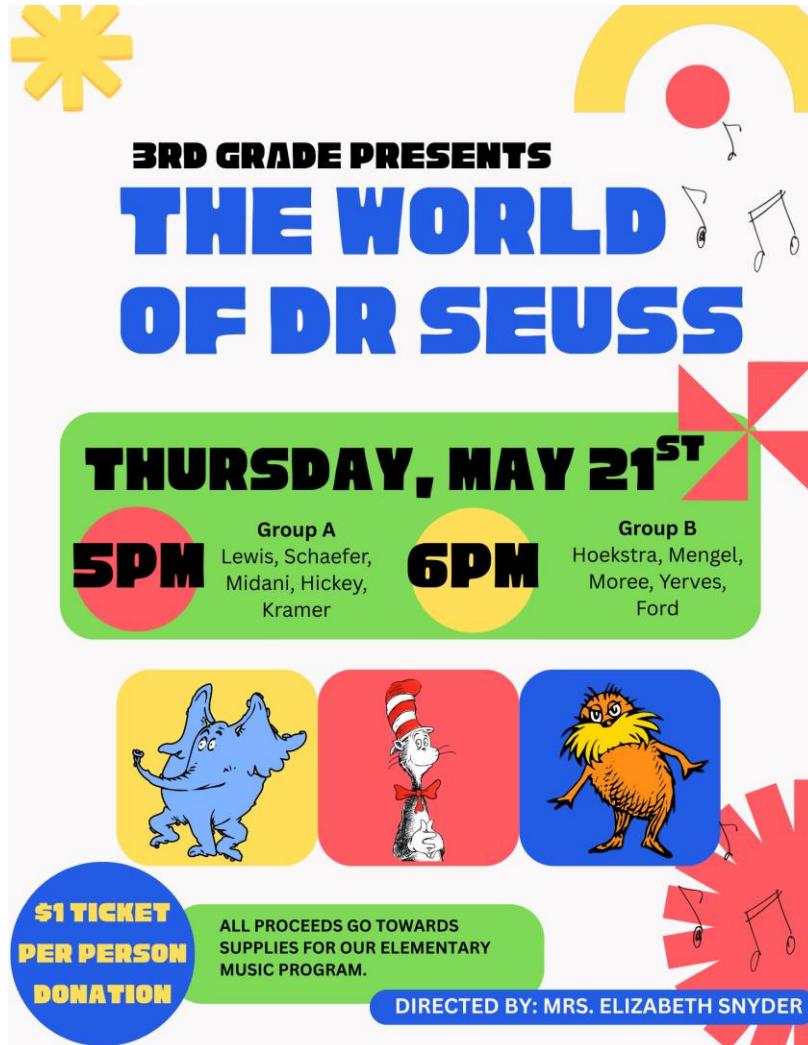
Liberty Pines Academy's basketball team has officially started their 2025-2026 season! Their games are typically on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Girls start at 5:30 and the boys start at 6:30. Tickets are \$5, you can either purchase them on SchoolPay or at the door! So come out and support our Wolves!

The boys' basketball team consists of 11 players, the roster includes the following players: Sean Spicer, Michael Obrien-Kassa, Maximus Falko, Nico Farnstrom, AJ Messina, Lincoln Herring, Henry Vineyard, John Dorney, Jack McInerney, Rudy Antolin, and Lucas Hall.

So far, the boys' basketball team has won no games and lost all four games they've played. But that won't stop them from persevering and giving it their all! The boys' JV basketball team roster includes Brantley Shephard, Connor Riley, Cade Commarford, Brandon Tatterie, Connor Mcleod, Eamon McCracken, Jax Dunsby, Carter Greathouse, Bobby Cowan, James Reid, Beau Spicer, Patrick Spillane, and Tyler Hall.

The girls' basketball team is made up of 13 players, including Alessandra Bobbit, Dior Rivera, Molly Bragg, Allie McFadzean, Lily Davies, Bianna Motycka, Walker Adams, Olivia Shook, Charlie Watson, Skyler Rippen, Kilyn Austin, Emma Natanzon, and Mia Duarte.

So far, the girls' basketball team has won two games and lost two games. Keep up the good work, Wolves!



3RD GRADE PRESENTS
THE WORLD
OF DR SEUSS

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

5PM Group A: Lewis, Schaefer, Midani, Hickey, Kramer
6PM Group B: Hoekstra, Mengel, Moree, Yerves, Ford



\$1 TICKET PER PERSON DONATION

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS SUPPLIES FOR OUR ELEMENTARY MUSIC PROGRAM.

DIRECTED BY: MRS. ELIZABETH SNYDER



Moonlight Howlers' present
LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Bring your popcorn and come join us for a movie style musical performance!

MAY 7TH @ 5:00PM

Ticket recommendation of \$5 per person.

directed by Elizabeth Snyder

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



A MIDNIGHT CAMPFIRE

BY: Sarah Cheng



HAPPY NEW
YEAR
The End



PTO NEWSLETTER



PTO INFORMATION



Welcome back Wolves! We hope everyone had a fun, safe and happy New Year!

We also want to welcome our new principal Mr. Swope to the pack!

We are gearing up for the 2nd half of the year and we have a lot of fun and exciting things coming up so stay tuned!

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Sunshine of the month

We would like to thank Mrs. Rice and Erika Belland for all their hard work and help with the book fair.



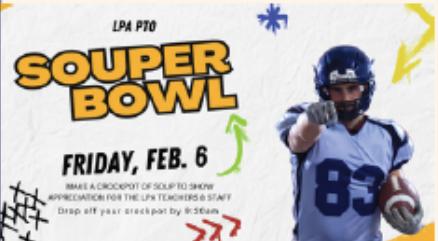
Upcoming PTO events

Souperbowl Feb. 6th

Penny Wars Feb. 23rd- 27th

PTO Meeting Feb. 19th

Family Fun Day- March 7th



Souper Bowl PTO Event – Sign Up Today!

www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4CAFA2AA46-61575959-2026

REMINDERS



[Birthday marquee announcements are now available for purchase at www.lppto.com.](http://www.lppto.com)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

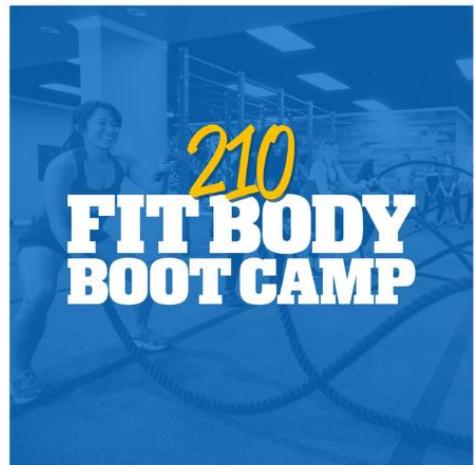
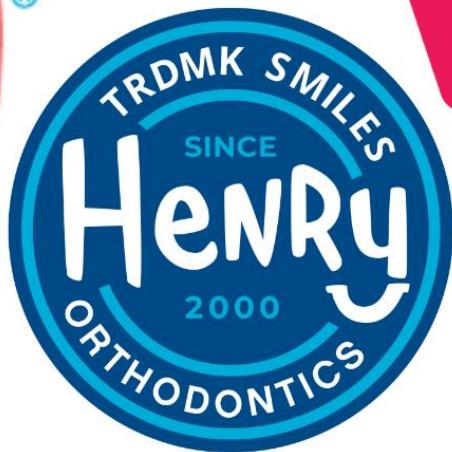
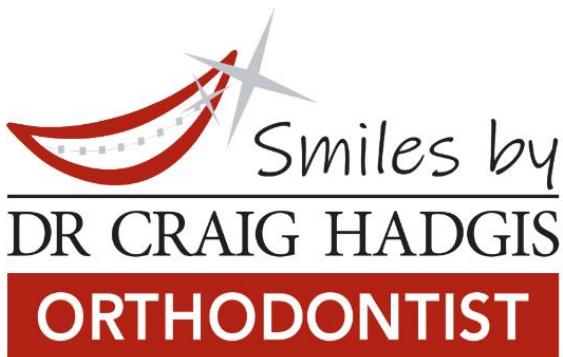
"As we step into another year, may our families be blessed with love that deepens and joy that multiplies."



LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO

Business Partner Spotlight

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.

