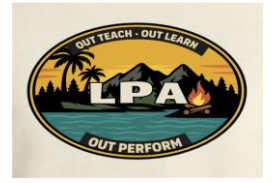


LPA NEWS



NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 3 MARCH 2026

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!

Spring is in the air, and with it comes a season full of growth, excitement, and celebration here at Liberty Pines Academy. As we hop into testing season, our campus remains focused and energized, and our students continue working hard to showcase all they have learned this year. Please be on the lookout for ParentSquare posts that will share important information about upcoming testing dates, along with details about any modified schedules that may be in place when your student is testing.

Families can help their child feel confident and prepared by encouraging a consistent bedtime, making sure students arrive to school on time, and providing a nutritious breakfast on testing days. Most importantly, remind your child to take their time and simply do their best. Our students have been preparing all year, and a calm and positive mindset makes a big difference.

April is shaping up to be an exciting month filled with arts, athletics, and community fun. We have a big weekend coming up from April sixteenth through April eighteenth that you will not want to miss. Beginning on April sixteenth, our talented students will raise the curtain on our spring musical, *Shrek*. Then on April eighteenth, we will enjoy a full LPA celebration day, with our PTO hosting Spring Family Fun Day in the morning and the final performance of *Shrek* in the afternoon. We are looking forward to a great LPA day filled with fun, connection, and school spirit. You will not want to miss either event.

Starting on April twentieth, we will kick off our Spring Book Fair, which is the perfect opportunity to find new favorite titles and continue building a love of reading at home. On April twenty third, we are excited to welcome families to our Night of the Arts, where student creativity will be on full display. Rounding out the month, we will host our All Sports Banquet on April twenty eighth, followed by the Spring Band Concert on April twenty ninth. It will truly be a wonderful month of celebrating all the amazing accomplishments of our Performing and Fine Arts students.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in making Liberty Pines Academy such a vibrant and encouraging community. We are proud of our Wolves and grateful to share these moments with our LPA families.

Go Wolves!
JP Swope



WHAT A GREAT MONTH!

- Character Cup Victories
- Poetry Contest Winners
- Speech Contest Winners
- Battle of the Books Victories

LPA IS SO PROUD OF
THEIR STUDENTS'
ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

WOLF NEWS

Testing

By: Ellie Thorpe and Julia Radecki

This fourth quarter means we are entering into testing season. We are on the home stretch, and our students need to give the end of the year testing all that they have got! Our testing coordinator, Mrs. York, has provided some insight on this subject to help us prepare for these exams.

During April our K-2nd graders will take their Star tests, and our 4th- 8th graders will take the state writing tests. Mrs. York recommends paying attention in class, getting a good night's sleep, and eating a nutritious breakfast, to help in preparation for the testing. Specific dates will be listed below:

- March 30th- Middle Grades Group A B.E.S.T. Writing
- March 31st- Middle Grades Group B B.E.S.T. Writing
- April 2nd- 5th Grade B.E.S.T. Writing
- April 7th- 4th Grade B.E.S.T. Writing
- April 13th- 2nd Grade FAST STAR Reading
- April 15th- Kindergarten FAST STAR Early Literacy
- April 16th-1st Grade FAST STAR Reading
- April 20th- 2nd Grade FAST STAR Math
- April 22nd- Kindergarten FAST STAR Math
- April 23rd- 1st Grade FAST STAR Math
- May 1st- 3rd Grade FAST Reading
- May 4th- Middle Grades Group A FAST Reading
- May 5th- Middle Grades Group B FAST Reading
- May 7th- 4th Grade FAST Reading
- May 8th- 5th Grade FAST Reading
- May 11th- 3rd Grade FAST Math
- May 12th- Civics EOC
- May 13th-5th Grade FAST Math
- May 14th- 8th Grade Science and Biology EOC
- May 15th- 4th Grade FAST Math
- May 18th-Middle Grades Group A FAST Math, Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC
- May 19th-Middle Grades Group B FAST Math, Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC
- May 21st- 5th Grade Science

*Please take note the EOC is 30% of that subject's grade. Your first semester and second semester averages will be weighed with your EOC grade.

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY							LPA PM3 Testing Calendar	
April 2026							March 30 th - April 10 th B.E.S.T. Writing (grades 4 th - 8 th)	
							April 13 th - May 29 th FAST STAR (grades K-2 nd)	
							How to Access Family Portal	
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN		
March 30	March 31	April 1	2	3	4	5		
Middle Grades Group A B.E.S.T. Writing (m/s adjusted bell schedule)	Middle Grades Group B B.E.S.T. Writing (m/s adjusted bell schedule)		5 th grade B.E.S.T. Writing (adjusted resource)	No School				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
	4 th grade B.E.S.T. Writing (adjusted resource)	B.E.S.T. Writing makeups can take place anytime 3/31 - 4/10						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
2 nd grade FAST STAR Reading		Kindergarten FAST STAR Early Literacy	1 st grade FAST STAR Reading	Makeups: K-2 nd STAR				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
2 nd grade FAST STAR Math		Kindergarten FAST STAR Math	1 st grade FAST STAR Math	Makeups: K-2 nd STAR				
27	28	29	30	See page 3 for Middle School Group A and Group B teacher names. Students will test with their 1 st period/homeroom teacher.				

Character Cup Champs!

By: Spoothi Sindhaval and Gianna Zardetto

The Character Cup is a friendly athletic competition between other 5th grade students from our district. The Character Cup is designed to promote Physical Education, celebrate the six pillars of character, and bring students together through fun athletic activities! The nominees for the Character Cup are Joshua Chang, James Pappas, Addison Harper, Safiye Uylukcu, Cade Carroll, Connor Pollack, Julianna Melancon, Jeffrey Felix, Maya San Jose, Nel Gorski, Weston Reaves, and Reagan McGraw.

These students participated in several events and brought back a 3rd place win for LPA! Addison Harper, a 5th grader in Mrs. Hay's class, participated in the Character Cup. Her favorite activity in the Cup was the relay race because "I like to run and it was fun to watch my teammates and cheer them on!" From the Character Cup, Addison learned more about teamwork and the Six Pillars of Character. Everyone who participated in the Cup representing LPA got an award for participating!

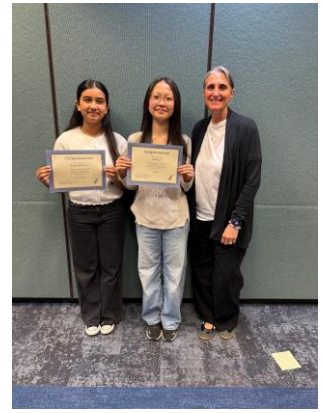


MORE WOLF NEWS

Poetry Finalists

By Ella Madelly and Ava Harper

Congratulations to Navya Satanaveni, Vera Lee, and Sahana Raidu on being all three finalists of the First Coast Young Voices Middle School Poetry Contest! They had the opportunity to read their poems aloud at the Jacksonville Public Library on March 28th from 2-3:30. The prizes are as shown: \$50 for 3rd place, \$75 for 2nd place, and \$100 was rewarded for 1st place!



Vera's poem was called *Orange*, and it was about not fitting in and the pressure of societal norms. Navya's poem was called *Quiet Bloom*, and it was about choosing your words carefully before speaking. Sahana's poem was titled *Silver Snakes* and was to spread awareness about child abuse.

Navya won first place, Vera was second, and Sahana was third!

Fifth Grade's Spectacular Speeches!

By: Navya Sadanaveni and Ashweja Mechineni

On Tuesday, March 24, our fifth graders presented their amazing speeches! We are proud to announce the winners of LPA's fifth grade speech contest are Leona Padgett in third place, Connor Pollack for second place, and Riley Hustis as our winner in first place!

They all did a great job, touching our hearts, making us laugh, and informing us of the world through their words. Nel Gorski in Ms. Wiggins class gave a speech on schools in Poland! She tells us about how schools are similar and different in Poland compared to the U.S. She says that she was nervous yet excited to give her speech. Another student, Samvida Nadimpally in Mrs. Moleski's class, spoke about endangered elephants. She informed the audience about the cruel uses of an elephant's body, and how we can help save them. All the fifth graders did a spectacular job, and LPA is so proud!



Congratulations to Kaitlyn Wildoner!

Marvelous Media

By: Anupama Deshmukh and Navya Sadanaveni

The middle school Battle of the Books team got 2nd place during the competition on March 24, 2026. The team captain, Ashweja Mechineni, is very proud of winning! She says that she is very proud of her team and would still be no matter who won. Akil Meda, a seventh grader on the team says, "Maybe winning wasn't the prize; it was about the friends we made along the way!"

The elementary Battle of the Books team brought back the winning first place for the first time in LPA history! According to Ms. Rice, "Not only did they win, but they battled a tie breaker round with Valley Ridge Academy (15 additional questions) and answered them all correctly. VRA did the same, so for the first time in SJCS history, there are **co-winners** for the North Elementary School Battle of the Books! In total, our team correctly answered **60 questions**—an absolutely AMAZING accomplishment!" LPA is extremely proud of them, and each and every one of them worked hard for the prize.

On another note, the winner of the Media Center March Madness has been announced -
📣 **LPA Reading March Madness 2026 Champion is *Potato Pants!***

March Character Counts

By Collins Haney

This month's Character Counts pillar is trustworthiness. These students that have been chosen for demonstrating the following great trustworthy qualities:

- Being honest
- Not deceiving or stealing
- Being reliable
- Having a good reputation



Student Council

By: Sylvia Thomas and Spoorthi Sindhaval

Student Council is holding a Bag It Up Drive for Goodwill on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026! Students can bring gently used clothing and household items to help support the drive! Donations will be accepted on the morning of April 2nd at the bus and carpool line.

Coming up soon, there are elections for Student Council! All rising 5th, 6th, and 7th graders are eligible to run this Spring. If you are running for the Council, make sure to see Ms. Herkel for an application and instructions. Hang up posters and promote yourself as a candidate!

Elementary Spring Dance Is Coming Soon!

By: Brielle Coppola, Mallori York and Julia Radecki

It is almost time for LPA's annual elementary spring dance! The dance will be held Wednesday, April 22nd. The theme this year will be Alice in Wonderland Glow Party! There will be three times for the dance, you will attend the one for your grade level. K-1 will be from 5-5:45PM, 2-3 will be from 6-6:45PM and 4-5 will be held from 7-7:45PM! A parent must attend the dance with their student. If a student comes in without a parent, the student will not be allowed into the dance. There will be a Schoolpay link sent out later in the week to pay for tickets. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time and are \$10. Each ticket gets the student and parent into the dance!

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!





LPA SPOTLIGHTS!

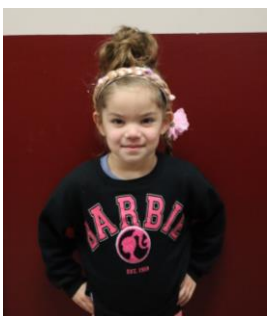
Staff Spotlight

By: Ariana Ali and Sarah Cheng

One of our amazing assistant principals is Mrs. Beish! She has been teaching since 2009 and has been working at LPA for two years. Originally, she was in the pre-med program, but after she worked a summer job and ended up loving it, she decided to change her major to Special Education! After graduating she worked in a private company that specialized in stopping struggling schools from closing. Mrs. Beish worked as an ESE teacher in many schools before coming to LPA, including some in Warren City and St. Johns school district. She became an administrator at South Woods elementary and came to LPA last year! During the day, Mrs. Beish works with the Dean to help with the issue of bullying, coordinates with middle school and ESE teachers, and helps during dismissal and announcements. We are so happy to have her as a part of the LPA team!

Mrs. Stanton is another one of our amazing assistant principals! She also has been working at LPA for two years, but she has been working in education since 1996. At first, she worked at Gamble Rogers before she switched to working for the district.

She has also worked at Durbin Creek, Duval, and Orange County before coming here. While working at Orange County, she was a speech-language pathologist and continued that when she moved to St. Johns. As part of her job, she tries to help out wherever she can around the school. Her favorite part of the day is when she can read to K-2 grade students! Originally, Mrs. Stanton swore that she'd never be an administrator, but as she said, "One thing led to another, and I ended up here!" We're so glad that she is a part of our LPA administration team!



Correction – February's Student Spotlight was Kindergartener Emerson Hart!

Student Spotlight

By Alice Poynton, Elena Heavener, and Lucy Collins

For this month's student spotlight, we interviewed 1st grader Billy Culfer and asked him many questions. We first asked him, "What was your favorite thing you did over spring break?" His response was that he went to New Jersey to visit his family! Also, we asked him about who he wants to win for LPA's Reading March Madness, and he said, "The Flat Cat". He said his favorite thing his class has done in March was a pot of gold with a rainbow coming out! One fun fact about Billy is he is a really fast runner!



Next, we interviewed 6th grader Oliver Day; His response to the question "What was your favorite thing you did over spring break" was, riding on his eBike! Safely of course! When we asked him who he wanted to win for March Madness he said Michigan basketball. He said in March he's has been loving a cell city project for Ms. Holten. One fun fact about Oliver is he enjoys playing football with his friends!



MORE LPA SPOTLIGHTS!



Teacher Spotlight

By Nora Maas and Hannah McFadzean

Our Teacher Spotlights for this month are Ms. Strillchuck and Ms. Montiel. Ms. Strillchuck is a hardworking and passionate Middle school teacher here at LPA. She has been a key member for the past 5 years. Ms. Strillchuck chooses to work with kids because she believes they are the best, and she loves seeing them grow over the year. One of Ms. Strillchuck's favorite memories from working at LPA was meeting her best friend Ms. Woolston.

Our other teacher spotlight is Ms. Montiel. She has been working here for two years and plays an important role at LPA as a fourth-grade teacher. She loves working with kids and enjoys helping them learn and grow. Ms. Montiel is extremely happy she gets to work at LPA and with her daughter being in eighth grade in the building over. One of Ms. Montiel's favorite memories from working at LPA was going on the eighth grade DC trip. Ms. Montiel was a Chaperone in DC and loved hanging out with her group and her daughter.



BHS Color guard offered instruction to the middle school PE classes last week!



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.

Fun Stuff by Ariana Ali

Jokes:

Q: How does NASA organize a party?

A: They planet!

Q: What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a tricycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle?

A: Attire

Riddle:

Last month's riddle was: What can you hold in your left hand but never in your right hand?

The answer is: Your right hand

This month's riddle: What question can you ask at different times of the day and always get a different answer, but every answer will be correct?

Trivia:

Q: Which two months always end on the same day of the week?

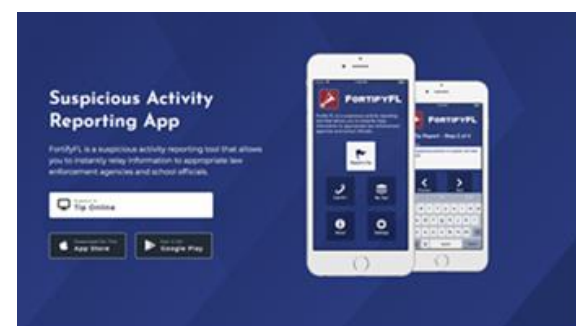
A: March and June (check for yourself if you don't believe us!)

Q: Which animal can taste with its feet?

A: Butterflies

Weird Fact:

It is possible for pistachios to spontaneously combust! They contain high levels of fat and low moisture, so they are at high risk to suddenly burst into flames. However, this is only possible when they are stored in high quantities. Because of this, they are classified as a Dangerous Good according to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.



NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT



ELEMENTARY MUSIC



MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

It has been a fun and active month in music class! Our Kindergarten and 1st grade students have been exploring improvisation by learning how to "improvise" through creative movement and dance to many different styles of music. 2nd grade has been using the parachute to help learn and experience musical form in an exciting hands-on way. 3rd grade has been busy practicing for their upcoming musical, *The World of Dr. Seuss*. 4th grade wrapped up learning the C major scale on recorder, and 5th grade finished their final bucket drumming lesson of the quarter. Both 4th and 5th grade are excited to end the year with one of their favorite units—Boomwhackers!

Singfully, Mrs. Snyder



SPOTLIGHT

This is a spotlight photo of students exploring music through movement by using the parachute to follow musical form and scarves to improvise creatively to what they hear. Learning was active, expressive, and so much fun!

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

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



4TH Grade Band Visit

By: Anupama Deshmukh and Navya Sadanaveni

The 4th graders visited the middle school band and learned about sound waves! Mr. Spilling, the middle school band teacher, taught the 4th graders all about how sound waves are made and about sound energy. Iris Broglie from Mr. Buckley's class, says that her favorite part of the lesson was, "When the 8th graders were playing instruments." She enjoyed learning about sound energy, and she said she would sign up for the band if asked.

Art Show!!

By Mallori York and Bree Coppola

This year's art show is April 23, 6:00pm – 8:00pm in the main hallway. Every elementary student will have two pieces of art while some middle school art works will be featured. There will be a five-dollar or more donation for you to take your students' art home. Those donations then go to the school's art supplies for next year. During the art show you will be able to go into a glow room, there will be interactive activities, and you will be able to enter in giveaways. Those giveaways will include baskets of art goodies/necessities, a gemstone kit, and an art of your choice award from Mrs. Scoggins and Mr. Wolfe.

Band News

By Sadit Anwar

This month, Concert band and Symphonic band had their band MPA on March 6th and 7th. This is the first time two bands have gone to an MPA together. Concert band had gotten an overall rating of good and Symphonic band had gotten an overall rating of excellent. The Concert band played "Geyser Point", "Atlantis", and "A Shaker Hymn" at the MPA. Symphonic band played "March of the Hobgoblins", "A Canadian Ballad (She's like a Swallow)", and "Tales of a Medieval Warrior" at the MPA. Now, all the bands are practicing their music for the end of the year concert. Each band has three pieces of music that they will play at the end of the year.



Tickets for “Shrek the Musical Jr.!” go on sale April 1st.

Tickets are \$10

<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/LPA-Drama-presents-Shrek-the-Musical>

**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 Averbach
Music by: Jeanine Tesori
Originally Produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions
Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford
"I'm a Believer" by Neil Diamond

**DIRECTED BY:
JILL B. HERKEL**

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

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI), www.MTIShows.com

ART BY SAFIYE U. , 5TH GRADE

LPA'S ANNUAL ART SHOW

ART OFF THE WALL 2026

JOIN US ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD

FROM 6:00-8:00PM IN THE MAIN HALLWAY
FOR AN EVENING CELEBRATING LPA'S ARTISTS!

**BY GIVING A \$5.00 OR MORE
DONATION PER FAMILY,
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR STUDENT'S
ARTWORK OFF THE WALL AND HOME!**

**THERE WILL BE FUN ACTIVITIES, A GLOW
ROOM, AND ENTER TO WIN GIVEAWAYS!**

ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL HAVE ARTWORK ON DISPLAY
FEATURING ARTWORKS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL ART STUDENTS

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LPA'S ART DEPARTMENT

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

A look ahead at what spring performances are coming up to finish the year in our amazing arts programs!!!

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



EXTENDED DAY
LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

**Liberty Pines Academy
2026-2027**

**Extended Day Registration
(Morning & Afternoon)**



BREAKING NEWS

- **April 23rd & April 24th** *Returning Extended Day students ONLY.*

***During Extended Day/Check-out Desk 3:15 pm -6:00 pm

- **May 1st** Opens for ALL students.

Registration will remain open until spaces are filled....

Classes will fill up quickly – First come first served!

➤ **Please Keep in mind the following:**

- Registrations will not be accepted without payment.
- Paperwork must be turned in by parent – not sent with student.

**Extended Day Registration will close for the summer on
June 1st, 2026.**



Beachside High School

BARRACUDA SOCCER CAMP

2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Rising 6-8th graders
- Co-ed Camp
- June 8th - June 11th
- 9:30AM- 12:00PM



\$195

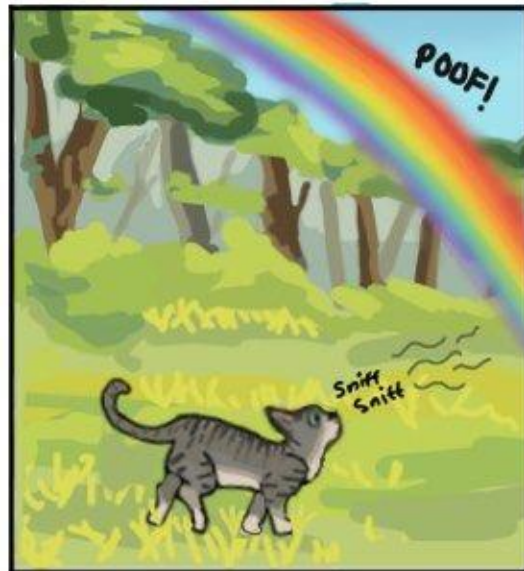
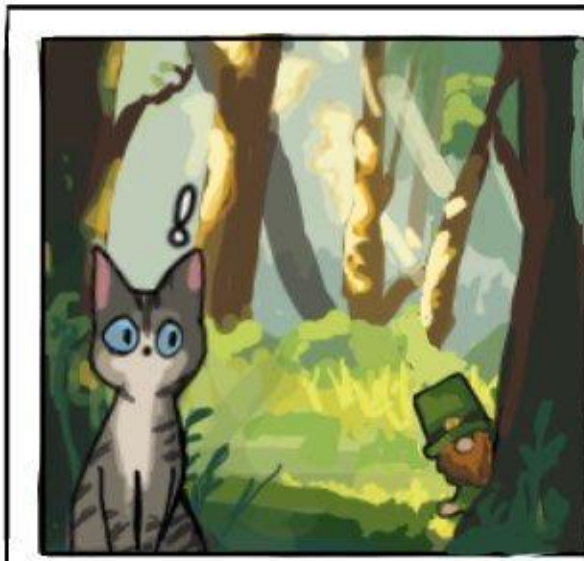
\$20 off if registered before May 15th!

**SIGN UP
VIA QR
CODE**



A FISHY SURPRISE

By: Sarah Cheng



 **HAPPY** 
St. Patrick's Day
THE END



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!

PTO NEWSLETTER

PTO INFORMATION



Join the LPA PTO Team!!
We are looking for awesome volunteers to lead our committees.
No experience needed- just enthusiasm, heart and a little time.
There is a place for everyone!
Next PTO meeting is April 16th 9:00 am.

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Sunshine of the month

We want to give a special thanks to Ms. Davis for planning and executing Field day. All the kiddos and parents had the best day.

We also want to thank Ms. Juanita for always being a smiling face and helping the PTO.



Upcoming PTO events

Family Fun Day- April 18th
Spring Book Fair- April 20th-24th
Art Night- April 23rd
Staff Appreciation Week - May 4th-8th



REMINDERS



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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

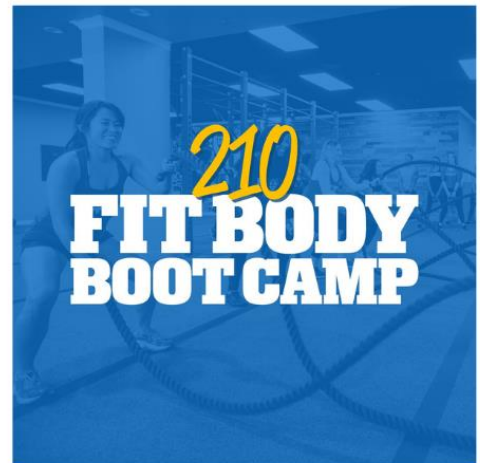
Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.





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.