



## Family News - Wednesday, March 21, 2018

### Upcoming Dates

**Thursday, March 22:** College & Career Readiness Night, 7:00 PM

**Friday, March 23:** Student Financial Literacy Fair

**Tuesday, March 27-29:** 10th grade MCAS

**Wednesday, March 28:** Partners in Education (PIE) Meeting, 8:30 AM

**Friday, March 30:** No School, Good Friday

**Tuesday, April 3:** Parent's Advisory Group Meeting, 6:00 PM; MCAS begin in Elementary/Middle School

**Thursday, April 12:** Post High School Fair, details TBA

**Friday, April 13:** Full School Day

**Monday, April 16-20:** Spring Recess Week

### Core Ethical Values

#### Advancing character education

By: Ted Sharp, Interim Executive Director

I want to share with everyone what highly effective schools do to advance character education and why it all matters! Walter Lippman, an American writer said that good character and ethical behavior are not transmitted through our genes rather we have to work at it. William James, an American philosopher contributed to this idea by telling us that we are who we are as a result of habits that we cultivate during the course of our life, particularly during our formative years.

The integration across school's educational program of the core ethical values, including but not limited to respect, responsibility, honor, compassion, courage and empathy, is essential to the development of everyone that is part of the learning community (students, staff, parents). Our most important responsibility is to do all that we can to enable each child to be a person of great integrity and to understand that we all have an obligation to contribute to the common good.

Core ethical values are widely shared, pivotally important beliefs that form the basis of good character. They meet the tests of reversibility (Would you want to be treated this way?) and universality (Would you want all persons to act this way in a similar situation?) Core values tend to be interpersonal in nature (How we act with and towards others) rather than personal (Relating to individual issues).

Core ethical values may be defined as the basic principles, characteristics, and ideals that we use to make decisions and judgments in our lives. Many people will add to this definition stating that they are unchanging, essential tenets by which all of us are obliged to live.

Core ethical values should deal with issues of right and wrong, and they are a matter of obligation. They do not relate to issues of personal preference, taste, or opinion.

Core ethical values affirm our human dignity, help us to maintain our rights and the rights of others, and nurture the character development of young people. They are educationally significant because they may advance student academic achievement and prepare them to be good citizens, productive workers, and ethical human beings. Core ethical values not only define who we are, they exemplify our character traits.

Character traits are the inner qualities of an individual that are exemplified in behaviors or incline the will to choose right over wrong. Character traits are the basic features of who we are, on our own, in relationship with others, and through our relationships with others within our community, the nation, and the world. In essence, they enable us to do the right thing even when no one is watching. If our personal reputation is the most important thing we have, and I believe that it is, and if we want to be judged by the content of our character, and I believe that we do, then taking seriously our responsibility to assist young people to both model and to become stewards of good citizenship must be our highest priority.

The goal of highly effective schools is to make core ethical values an integral part of the school experience: this includes modeling ethical behavior, open dialogue about ideas and issues that have ethical significance, relationship building based on relational trust, and celebrating the school's core ethical values, guiding principles, and shared standards of ethical conduct. This work is, of course, nuanced to the age, grade, and comprehension level of the students

I encourage you and your family and you and your colleagues to engage in the following exercise.

Make a list of the values you believe are most important to your life.

- What do these values mean to you?
- What characteristics do these values have in common?
- Are they the same values that you would like to be taught in schools? Why or why not?

- Why do you believe that it is important to teach core ethical values in school?

LPS is dedicated to helping each member of the school community to be a person of integrity and to contribute in significant and timely ways to the common good. It is to that end we focus on both the cognitive and the affective development of our students. This mission is most effectively achieved when the school and the parents work as partners in the education.

## Welcome New Staff

**Nathalie Elsaieh** joins LPS as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Nathalie has a B.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from St. John's University (NYC) and a M.S. in Speech Language Pathology from Worcester State University. When she's not working, Nathalie loves to take long weekends to go back to New York City! While there she likes to relax in Central Park, visit the MET museum, walk the Brooklyn bridge, and eat at Brooklyn restaurants.

**Kaitlyn McClain** joins us LPS as a temporary Speech-Language Pathologist who will be with us through end of school year. Kaitlyn received her Bachelor's degree from University of Michigan and her Master's degree from Chapman University in Southern California. When she's not working, Kaitlyn loves to cook and explore the outdoors!

**Brigid Flynn** joins LPS as a Work Study Transition Guidance Coordinator. Brigid received her B.S. in Rehabilitation and Disability studies from Springfield College and an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from UMass Boston. During her free time Brigid enjoys spending time with family and friends, skiing, camping, hiking, and cooking.

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff members!

## *Child care news*

We have many hardworking High School students who are a major asset to our program as they work alongside the teachers in this fast-paced environment. They learn many job & life skills that are essential in providing a safe & stimulating environment for the children.

One student we would like to feature is **Melina Shamim**. She has been in our class for many years and has always been hard working and driven. She has always expressed an interest in working in a Child Care setting after leaving Learning Prep and has been accepted into the Lesley Threshold Program where she will be studying Early Childhood Education. In her time with us, she has been extremely productive and creative. She asks what the curriculum themes will be and brings in project ideas that she creates, prepares and executes all on her own. Her work is displayed in our classroom and the children enjoy her projects. They are always theme based and age appropriate. Melina will do great

things as she leaves the LPS community. We benefit from her participation and wish her the best of luck!



## Term date changes

Due to multiple snow days, we are changing the end dates for terms 3 and 4. Term 3 will end on **April 13th** and term 4 will end on the last day of school, which has not yet been determined. Please contact **Gretchen Petersen** at [gpetersen@learningprep.org](mailto:gpetersen@learningprep.org) with any questions.

## MCAS News

Yes, it is that time of year again, Spring MCAS is upon us and 10th grade students will begin taking the ELA portions of the test at the end of March. The EMS students testing is organized so that each grade is tested on the same days. As you plan doctor visits, please keep this in mind. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent during any testing sessions, please let **Gretchen Petersen** know at x [617-965-0764 ext. 310](tel:617-965-0764). It is also important for students to eat a healthy breakfast before coming to school and to bring snacks to eat when they take a break. The schedule is as follows:

### **March- ELA**

- Grade 10: March 27, 28 & 29

### **April – ELA**

- Grades 3,4 & 5 – April 3 & 4
- Grades 6 & 7 – April 5 & 6
- Grade 8 – April 10 & 11

### **May- Math**

- Grade 3, 4 & 5 – May 1 & 2
- Grade 6 & 7 – May 3 & 4
- Grade 8: May 8 & 9
- Grade 10: May 23 & 24

### **May- Science**

- Grade 5 & 8 – May 21 & 22

### **June- Science**

- HS: June 6 & 7

The students will be tested 1:1 or in small groups and provided with MCAS accommodations listed in their current, signed IEP.

Students in Grades 6 and above will be reviewing and signing a letter of personal responsibility regarding MCAS testing, per DESE. All test administrators also review and sign a non-disclosure security contract. We use the DESE suggested form and will send home a copy of the student letter.

If you have questions regarding MCAS, please contact **Gretchen Petersen** through email at [gpetersen@learningprep.org](mailto:gpetersen@learningprep.org) or at [617-965-0764 ext. 310](tel:617-965-0764).

## Summer program (Extended Year Program)

Learning Prep School Summer Program (Extended Year Program referred to as EYP) is a 4-week program beginning **Monday, July 9th and ending Thursday, August 2nd**. The program will operate Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The EYP is designed to maintain progress and prevent substantial regression through structured educational and social experiences. The program is modeled after the regular Learning Prep School program but includes activities to help provide a "camp-like" feel. The EYP is open to any student who is enrolled at Learning Prep School.

#### Elementary/Middle School (entering grades 3-8):

Program components consist of academic classes, social skills groups, arts/crafts, organizational support, interactive games and structured field trips. The academic areas will include reading, math, writing, and social communication.

#### High School (entering grades 9-12):

Program components consist of functional academic classes, social and transitional/pre-vocational skills development as well as travel training through local educational trips. The functional academic areas will include reading, math, and writing. All students entering 12th grade will be participating in a work experience, 2 days per week.

#### Enrollment Information:

The Summer Program (EYP) is not approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). A school district seeking placement in the LPS Summer Program may submit the Notification of Intent to Seek Approval for Individual Student Program (form 28M/3) to DESE. Parents may choose to enroll independently.

The tuition for Summer Program (EYP) is \$3,300. Please contact **Maria Fitzpatrick**, Summer Program secretary, for enrollment forms at [617-965-0764 ext. 125](tel:617-965-0764) or at [mfitzpatrick@learningprep.org](mailto:mfitzpatrick@learningprep.org).

## Transition Department Events

### COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS NIGHT

**March 22, 2018** 7:00-8:30 pm, Learning Prep Cafeteria

Please join us for an informative evening focused on outlining the steps that parents and families can take to help their student become prepared for college, career and beyond. Please RSVP to **Erin Brown** at [ebrown@learningprep.org](mailto:ebrown@learningprep.org).

### FINANCIAL LITERACY FAIR

On **March 23, 2018** Junior and Senior students will participate in Learning Prep's Financial Literacy Fair. Students will have the opportunity

to simulate real life financial decisions that are required for independent living such as securing housing, organizing transportation, and managing bank accounts. Once again staff from PricewaterhouseCoopers and Village Bank will be on hand to assist students and provide sound financial advice. If any parents or family members are interested in assisting with the fair, please contact **Jarryl McKey** at [jmckey@learningprep.org](mailto:jmckey@learningprep.org).

## Yearbook orders

2017-2018 High School Yearbooks are on sale now! Order forms already went home with students or you order online and add special features!

Two ways to order:

1. [Download the order form](#) and return to **Kaitlin Scorzella**
2. [Order a yearbook online](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Kaitlin Scorzella** at [kscorzella@learningprep.org](mailto:kscorzella@learningprep.org).



## Spread the word about Learning Prep School

If you know someone who may be interested in Learning Prep for their child, please encourage them to attend one of our Open House events:

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018** at 10:00 AM

**Monday, May 14, 2018** at 10:00 AM

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018** at 10:00 AM

RSVP's appreciated to:

**Korina Martin**, Director of Admissions

[617-965-0764 ext 226](tel:617-965-0764) or [kmartin@learningprep.org](mailto:kmartin@learningprep.org)

**Learning Prep School is an innovative school for students with language and learning disabilities. Understanding that language skills are the basis for all learning, LPS's unique curriculum integrates the teaching of language skills in all subjects.**

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