

Lopez Island School District #144

86 School Road
Lopez Island, WA 98261
Phone 360-468-2202 Fax (360) 468-2212
www.lopezislandschool.org

Brian Auckland, Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

November 20, 2020

Hello there LISD families!

I'm beginning this letter by just naming that we are experiencing a lot of change here at LISD. You've already received the letter from our superintendent/elementary principal, Brian Auckland, that he will be taking leave in January and not renewing his contract. Ann Marie Fischer, long time LISD employee and current parent partner teacher, is retiring immediately. Our first grade teacher, Rachel Post, is excited to move into the parent partner program teacher role, and we will need to fill her 1st grade position. That's a lot of change, and change can be difficult because it involves loss, no matter how you feel about it. Moving from Idaho to Lopez Island was a BIG change for me. I left friends, co-workers, a job I loved, a short drive to visit my daughter, endless mountain biking trails, white Christmases, and all things familiar. I had to let those things go so I could move in a different direction. What I gained is a school community, new friends and co-workers, regular kayaking, fresh eggs just up the road, so much locally grown produce, and a house with a wood stove (always wanted one).

Moving here has been so much of a change that it has made space a great deal of self reflection about who I am and what my values are as an educator, a leader, a community member, a human being. I'm hoping that the changes we are experiencing as a school district will prompt all of us to do a good deal of collective reflection, both formally and informally, about who we are as a school district, what we value most, and where we are headed. What are our highest aspirations? I don't know. Wouldn't it be wonderful to figure that out?

I will do my best to help lead us through this change, and I'll need your support, patience, and honesty. We will await information from our school board about the process for filling these positions. The board is also working on a plan for a community conversation about remote, hybrid, and face to face learning, to ensure that we are listening to the needs of our families. Stay tuned for details on that too.

This week, I'm introducing our fourth staff community agreement: ***We have courage and take risks. It's okay to make mistakes.*** I'm so happy to say that I get to compliment staff members on this one all the time. As I build trust with people, they feel more comfortable sharing their struggles, challenges, frustrations, and bad days, in addition to their successes, joys, and best days. It's so important for all of us (families included!) to be real with each other in compassionate ways.

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For Secondary Families

It's so hard to be a teenager during Covid. I read a [good article](#) the other day that may be helpful. My big takeaway from the article was "understanding their frustration over not seeing friends." Check out the other useful gems, or just remember this resource is available when you need some advice. As I said last week, we are working on setting up small student clubs for secondary students who just want to connect with others. We have a long list of fun ideas....pingpong, hiking, outdoor cooking, wood carving, Stranger Things watch parties, yoga, etc. We'll be surveying our students next week and hopefully getting some of these clubs (those that can be remote or outside) up and running before the winter break. If you want to lead a club, please email Jaimie Terada at jterada@lopezislandschool.org

And also....

- Secondary conferences for Term 3 will be Wednesday, December 9th.
- Secondary Term 2 report cards will be posted to the **Portfolio Tile** in Family Access on Monday, November 23.
- Families can look at the breakdown of each class grade in the **Grading Tile**. At the top left, select All Year for Grades Filter (Grades Tab); select Current Year for School Year Filter (Other Tabs). Scroll down the Term 2 column and select the specific grade link to view the grade breakdown.
- Students and parents can reset their Skyward password by going to our school district website, opening "Qmlativ," and entering "forgot password." Check your email for the link or check your spam folder. Once you have your login and password, go back to the Qmlativ link and enter them.

From Safe San Juans

We are grateful for this opportunity to share some resources around the topic of technology use. 2020 has proven that technology can be an extremely powerful tool, however, there are many questions around safety, extended use, and family guidelines.

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The following newsletters are broken down by grade levels to help you access the appropriate resources for your student:

K-5: <http://bit.ly/TechTalkK-5Oct2020>

6-8: <http://bit.ly/TechTalk6-8Oct2020>

9-12: <http://bit.ly/TechTalk9-12Oct2020>

Do you have questions you would like to have addressed in the future?

Click here: <http://bit.ly/Tech-TalkQuestions>

En Español

Agradecemos esta oportunidad de compartir algunos recursos sobre el tema del uso de la tecnología. 2020 ha demostrado que la tecnología puede ser una herramienta extremadamente poderosa, sin embargo, existen muchas preguntas en torno a seguridad, uso prolongado y pautas familiares.

Esperamos que compartir las herramientas a continuación ayudará a responder algunas de sus preguntas.

Grados K-5: <https://bit.ly/HdTK-5ed1>

Grados 6-8: <https://bit.ly/HdT6-8ed1>

Grados 9-12: <https://bit.ly/HdT9-12ed1>

¿Tiene alguna pregunta para nuestra próxima publicación?

<http://bit.ly/Tech-TalkQuestions>

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A Couple Heartfelt Messages from Teachers

From Brian Goff Dear Parents: (from a Mr. B kindergarten update)

We will get through this tough time. You are all remarkable and you are doing a very hard job, wearing so many hats. Give yourself some grace to not need to do it all and please remember, a very important resilience factor, for the mental health of kids and all of us getting through this crisis, is that kids know they are loved and they know caring adults are looking out for them, thinking of them and taking action for them. Spread love to your neighbors down the road and across the island, get connected safely, reach out and call a neighbor, or an elderly person who lives alone and say, "I'm thinking about you, how are you today?" Those tiny interactions can mean the world, and new connections are good medicine for dark days. These hurdles and struggles are very hard and cause pain and scars, but they also make us who we are. Let's lean on each other and generate beacons of love and caring, which grow our community resilience.

From Kendra Lewis As I wrap up conferences with the second and third grade families, I am reminded once again at the amazing work that parents and caregivers are doing at home with their children. I know that the burden being placed on you right now can feel overwhelming and it may feel like you can't do it, but please know that you are doing it every day. You are juggling jobs, children, classes, assignments, home duties, and many other things I don't even know about and you are making sure your child shows up. Thank you for everything you are doing and thank you for giving me honest feedback about what is working and what is not working for you and your child. I am looking forward to our continued partnership.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving next week! For many of us, it will be a quieter holiday since we have been advised to avoid big gatherings of family and friends. I plan to spend a couple days reading, making good food, taking some walks, working on the neverending list of house projects, and catching up on the latest season of the Great British Bake Off.

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I won't be sending out a family letter next week, but I'll resume Friday letters the following week. My hope is that you are getting used to receiving these on Fridays...and maybe even looking forward to them :-)

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone.

All my best,
Martha, Secondary Principal



Today's photo is my school lunch from yesterday....because it was AMAZING!

...chickpea curry over rice, beet salad, and a jammy scone

The beet salad is completely home grown. Even the cheese was made in OUR kitchen :-)

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