

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

December 11, 2020

Hello LISD Families!

This is my first winter on Lopez. As you well know, it gets dark early...and with no light pollution, it's SUPER dark. I was driving home last Sunday evening and came across the most gorgeous light display on Port Stanley Road. Now I'm sure y'all know about this, but imagine my surprise as a newcomer! I stopped my car, crossed to the other side of the road, and just stood there taking it all in and feeling grateful for the lovely people responsible for bringing this sparkly joy to our island. What a labor of love! I hope this season brings you some joy, surprise, and sparkle as well.

Speaking of seasonal joy, I've attached a flyer and map for the Santa Ship drive thru. It's all happening in the village on Sunday from 2:00-4:00. Obviously, I've never seen the Santa Ship but it sounds adorable and I'm definitely going to check it out.

This week, I'm introducing our sixth community agreement to you: **We set and communicate clear boundaries and respect the boundaries of others.** Boundary setting doesn't come easily to many of us. Brene Brown says it well: "When we fail to set boundaries and hold people accountable, we feel used and mistreated. This is why we sometimes attack who they are, which is far more hurtful than addressing a behavior or a choice. Vulnerability is based on mutuality and requires boundaries and trust. It's not oversharing, it's not purging, it's not indiscriminate disclosure, and it's not celebrity-style social media information dumps. It's about sharing our feelings and our experiences with people who have earned the right to hear them."

Interim Superintendent Search Update

Our school board chair, Jennifer Poole, is happy to report that we have received a variety of applications and that we have a strong group of candidates so far. As I said last week, I will keep you posted on the search for Interim Superintendent, Interim Elementary Principal, and First Grade Teacher.

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Listening Circle

We are beginning a series of community conversations about what school could look like for the rest of the year. Our aim is to partner with the Lopez Island Family Resource Center and the Lopez Island Library in an effort to understand and meet the needs of families. We will host some panel discussions and Q & A sessions after winter break, but the first will be a listening forum for elementary families on Tuesday, December 15th at 5:30. We are calling it a *Listening Forum* because we want to begin this process by just listening to families tell us what they have experienced and what they need moving forward. [Here is the link.](#) You can prepare by thinking about this guiding question: ***What challenges has your family faced over the past 9 months, and what are your needs and concerns as you look towards the remaining 6-12 months of the pandemic?***

We recognize that not everyone will be able to attend the *Listening Forum* and not everyone feels comfortable speaking publicly about their family's challenges. You can complete this [one question survey](#) to share your experiences with us in writing. At this point, we are just asking for elementary family input.

From our School Nurse, Karen Hattman

The students who have medication that is prescribed by their health care provider requiring dispensing during school hours must have a signed form giving permission for the school to administer the medication. These forms must be resigned each school year to be current. If you need a form, Please email the nurse to arrange for pick up (khattman@lopezislandschool.org).

For Secondary Families

Secondary Term 3 ends on Friday, December 18, 2020. Students have time during Winter Break to complete all assignments and turn in all work by the time school resumes in January.

Term 3 report cards will be posted in Family Access to each student's portfolio on January 11, 2021.

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Tech Sale

Lopez Island School District will be hosting a technology surplus sale Friday, December 18th from 12-3 PM outside of the gym foyer. Items will include laptops, desktops, Chromebooks, printers, monitors, and other tech-related items. Many of the items being sold may be damaged and/or be beyond their life expectancy and are sold "as is".

Customers will be directed to drive to the right when entering the north secondary parking lot and to drive counter-clockwise to form a queue. The sale will be outside at the edge of the parking lot under the cover of the entryway. In order to maintain social distancing, we are asking that only one carload group browse at one time. Masks are required. Students will be given priority to purchase any of the items for sale.

A full list of items and prices will be presented on request. For any questions, please contact Jesse Hammond at 360.468.2202 x2111 or jhammond@lopezislandschool.org

Hi-Cap

The Hi-Cap (highly capable) stipend position has not been filled by an LISD staff member, so we are taking applications from the community. The position announcement (attachment) has all the details, and the stipend has been adjusted for a partial school year. Please contact Renee (rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org) if you are interested. You can reach out to me if you have questions about the Hi-Cap program. I look forward to working with one of you in continuation of Kristen Ryan's good work.

Teacher

Lorri Swanson and Becca Hamilton; The 4th and 5th graders are having a Holiday Party and Secret Santa Gift Exchange drive thru Dec. 17th from 12:30pm - 1:30pm. In addition we'll also be celebrating Brian Auckland's time as our principal during this event.

Kendra Lewis: The second and a third graders had a special treat last week when Theo's mom, Kimberly, and his grandpa, Ravi, joined us for our Fun Friday zoom. Ravi zoomed in all the way from

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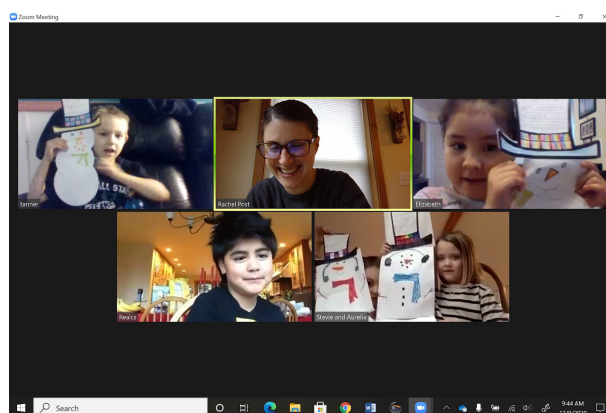
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Colorado to teach us about Diwali. Diwali is a festival of lights, much like when people who celebrate Christmas fill their homes with lights and colors, people who celebrate Diwali do the same thing, only instead of a tree and colored lights, they decorate their homes with colorful patterns called *rangoli* and colored lanterns. It is a time to celebrate the promise of light in the darkness and to be grateful for the blessings of the year. Ravi talked to us about growing up in Gujarat, India and how he used to celebrate Diwali with his family. Kimberly and Theo also made a special Diwali sweet for all of us to try, coconut *laddoos*. Thank you to Kimberly, Ravi and Theo!

Rachel Post: We read Snowmen at Night and Snowmen at Work and did a writing response about "Snowmen at night might ____." The writing response was on their top hats, and the kids cut and colored snowmen to go with the hats.

Richard Carter: Richard invited his 7th and 8th grade students to write essays responding to the following prompt: ***What would you tell your grandchildren / posterity about living through the Pandemic of 2020? Write them a letter.***



I loved reading these brilliant essays and I've curated a small collection of snippets for you here. Enjoy!

- "I know that you may not care about what has happened in the past, but I believe that you should know what it was like to live through the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic."
- "Imagine one day you're on a family vacation and the next you're too scared to see your friends."
- "I hope that my generation learns from this and moves forward from the pandemic so that we are more conscious and prepared for such a thing in the future."
- "On Sundays, I would sail. But there was only one word to describe the other 6 days. Boredom. I just kept hoping that school would be in person when it started again."
- "Well, even with everything going on, there were still people who didn't believe, who didn't wear a mask, which for sure was not helping out one bit."
- "As it turns out, it's really the little things that I miss. Like going to the store and picking out my own food. Or all the drama at school that I used to think was annoying."

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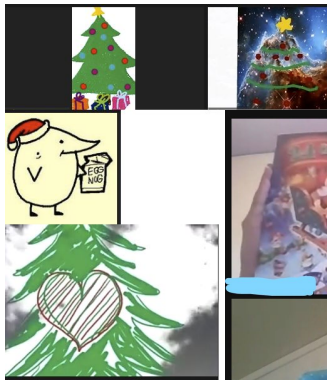
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- “You just kind of feel helpless and like you are suffering from something you didn’t do.”
- “I’m not sure why toilet paper is running out.”
- “I guess everything happens for a reason. That reason I don’t know, but this is life in 2020. They could honestly make a movie out of this in 2050 or something.”
- “All our friends were tiny boxes on a computer screen and all our assignments were on Google Classroom”
- “Where do I begin? It is day 250 of quite literally house arrest”
- “We all missed the little things about school that we had taken for granted before. Like the five minute break between class in which we would chat and socialize, and lunch where we would all sit at a table and eat and talk and also laugh.”
- “But there are silver linings. I have gotten so much closer to my sister and my mom, and I have also had a lot of time to dedicate to pursuing things that interest me.”
- “The school provided lunches and they would be put in a cooler at the top of your driveway for you to go get whenever you had the chance.”
- “The pandemic was crazy. 2020 was crazy. All of the events that happened were insane. The one thing that made the pandemic worth it was spending more time with my dog.”



Secondary PACK students enjoyed a little holiday Zoom silliness in lieu of the traditional door decorating..another great example of “how can we still do this thing.....but differently?”



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Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

All my best,
Martha, Secondary Principal

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