

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 21, 2020

Hello Beautiful LISD Families!

Happy Winter Solstice.. As we have grown closer and closer to the solstice, we've been experiencing progressively shorter days and longer nights. The ease of electricity, making it possible for a home to be brightly lit even at night, can cause us to ignore an important cue from mother nature. It's dark and therefore time to rest and restore, light a candle..or a fire, pile on some blankets, sip something warm, slow down. I love that winter solstice brings us this reminder in the middle of what is often a very busy and high energy time of year.

This seems like the right time of year, the right day even, to share one of my favorite poems with you. Please enjoy **Fire** by Judy Brown.

What makes a fire burn
is the space between the logs,
a breathing space.
Too much of a good thing,
too many logs
packed in too tight
can douse the flames
almost as surely
as a pail of water would.

So building fires
requires attention
to the spaces in between, as much as to the wood.

When we are able to build
open spaces
in the same way
we have learned
to pile on the logs,

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then we can come to see how
it is fuel, and absence of the fuel
together, that make fire possible.

We only need to lay a log
lightly from time to time.
A fire
grows
simply because the space is there,
with openings
in which the flame
that knows just how it wants to burn
can find its way.

Friends, I hope this break from school provides an opportunity for all of us to find some space between the logs.

Today, I'm introducing to you our seventh and final community agreement: ***We seek opportunities to be inclusive, show, gratitude, and enjoy our colleagues.*** Though this one can be challenging when we are not all in the building together, naturally running into one another and sharing small moments of connection, it is certainly not impossible. At staff meetings, we try to make space for greetings, appreciations, and even apologies, and we take the time to lift up colleagues who have demonstrated community agreements. During a time when everyone is very tired of looking at their computers, it can be hard to resist the temptation to just dive right into business, but we are always happy to have connected with one another in meaningful ways, and we know that this is also important for our students.

HR Update

We have been conducting LOTS of interviews and I thank our HR director, Renee Koplan, and all the LISD staff members, board members, and parents who have taken much time to serve on interviewing committees for First Grade Teacher, Part-time Interim Elementary Principal, and Part-time Interim Superintendent. Also, thanks to Jenny Poole, our board chair, who has done a great deal of work on

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the Interim Superintendent search. Megan Ramsey has accepted the 1st Grade position. She currently lives on a sailboat in Anacortes so she'll be sailing on over to Lopez soon to begin working with our super fantastic elementary team. We have made an offer for the Interim Elementary Principal position and we are waiting to hear from the candidate. Also, the board interviewed candidates for Interim Superintendent at tonight's special board meeting in executive session. I believe they'll be extending a contract to Carl Bruner from Mt. Vernon School District. I'll send an update once we have an enthusiastic "yes!" to either offer.

We have attracted qualified candidates for our posted positions, we are making progress interviewing and filling the positions, and we should be welcoming some great new colleagues very soon. All of that feels really good to report.

Listening Circle

Many thanks to everyone who came to the listening circle last week, and especially to the folks who shared their stories. If you are an elementary parent or guardian and you weren't able to come to the meeting or didn't feel comfortable speaking in that webinar venue, please complete this [one question survey](#) to share your experiences with us in writing. So far, six people have completed the survey and we would sure love to hear as many perspectives as possible.

From the Family Resource Center

The LIFRC is conducting their own research on Lopez Island family needs and concerns. Please complete this survey as well. We know it takes time, but this will help the LIFRC serve our community in the ways that matter most.

Here are the links in English and Spanish.

[¿Cómo podemos fortalecer a López? - Hogares con niños](#)

[How We Can Strengthen Lopez? - Households with Children](#)

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From the LIPTSA

As part of LIPSTA's grant, we helped build a games library, available to the community, in partnership with the Lopez Island Library. The collection houses about 70 games currently and is designed to support students/families in our school community. There are a wide variety of games that support social emotional health, education, and are just plain fun. Games are age appropriate for K-12 students.

Perfect for holiday play! Click here to find out more: <https://lopezisland.biblionix.com/?booklist=23049>

Art Program News

Chimera, our local art gallery was able to donate \$763 to the art program this year. Every year they have generously put on a fundraiser and the community buys raffle tickets to support the LISD art program. We are so grateful! Thanks to Chimera, we are able to buy art materials and supplies for our students.

Fun fact: I won a beautiful wooden bowl carved from a Lopez tree!

Classroom (Zoom Room) News

From Joe Behnke: 10th graders studied anaerobic respiration in Biology class through making kimchi this week.

From Debbie Tetu: The seniors are planning for a normal graduation but staying flexible and ready for anything.

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From Kristen Ryan: Ms. Ryan and her woodshop students would like to send out a HUGE thank you and shout out to the following folks who participated in their zoom sessions for informational interviews over the past term:

- Mickey von Dassow | [The San Juan Economic Development Council](#)
- Joe Schnieder | [JAS Design Build](#)
- Bruce Creps | [Notable Woods](#)
- Steve Sovelove | [Phoenix Rain Woodworking](#)

We are so grateful for your support! Thank you!

From Amy Studzienko: English 10 students are finishing some narrative non-fiction pieces. They are looking really good, and Amy is appreciative of her students AND their previous English teachers. It takes a (Lopez) village!

Have a wonderful break!

All my best,
Martha, Secondary Principal

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