

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 4, 2020

Hello LISD Families!

The holiday season is upon us and it can bring a mixed bag of emotions: excitement, grief, joy, sadness, wonder, anxiety. Let's use this awareness to be extra gentle with one another and to make kindness the best gift we have to give.

As you know, we are taking applications for several important district positions: Superintendent, Elementary Principal, and 1st Grade Teacher. The positions have been posted on our school website in addition to some official state sites. We plan to hire an interim administrator (or two) as soon as possible, and then do a careful and thorough search for the right permanent hires. The board is leading the admin hiring process and I'll keep you updated on progress. In the meantime, if you know some educators who want to live in the San Juans and work with some pretty delightful people....

This week, I'm introducing our fifth community agreement to you: **We approach conflict directly, productively, and with compassion.** Conflict is a natural part of being human and it doesn't have to be a bad thing. It just means that we are not in agreement. We all know that there are healthy ways of managing conflict so both parties can walk away feeling seen, heard, and valued. As LISD staff members, that is our aspiration and what we wish to model for our students.

Listening Circle

We are beginning a series of community conversations about what school should look like for the rest of the year. 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 session because we want to begin this process by just listening to families tell us what the educational experience has been like this year and what you want and need moving forward. I will include a reminder and link in next week's family letter.

For Secondary Families

The Lopez Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Superintendent Brian Auckland – bauckland@lopezislandschool.org, Title IX Coordinator, HR Specialist Renee Koplan – rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org, Section 504 Academic Case Manager, K-12 Counselor Jeanna Carter – jcarter@lopezislandschool.org, OR contact by phone, 360-468-2202, OR mail to 86 School Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261.

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Secondary conferences for Term 3 will be Wednesday, December 9th. Teachers are reaching out with sign up information. These are student/parent/teacher conferences so please make plans for your student to be part of the conversation.

There is some confusion about attendance for PACK. It is an attendance requirement for secondary students with the exception of full time parent partner students. I sincerely believe that PACK is an important part of the school day where students are connecting with each other in fun and meaningful ways, discussing digital citizenship, and learning productivity skills. I also understand that students are experiencing Zoom fatigue. A parent can unenroll a child from PACK by sending Ronda a message to that effect. Ronda will then take them off the PACK enrollment list and they will not be counted absent. I do hope that most students will remain enrolled and engaged in PACK. We are trying really hard to ensure that it is time well spent.

From Ronda, our Secondary Office Coordinator

Students are required to attend all assigned classes, be on time, and have proper materials. Promptness is a quality often related to success. Attendance is taken each period throughout the day. A student who is not in the "class" or Zoom session and prepared to learn at the beginning of class is considered tardy.

Secondary parents/guardians, please email Ronda rberg@lopezislandschool.org when you anticipate an absence. Lopez Island High School recognizes the legal status of an 18-year old in the state of Washington and will allow students who are 18 years of age to make contact for their own absences when necessary.

Elementary parents/guardians, please email Ali asmith@lopezislandschool.org when you anticipate an absence.

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Serving our Community



Members of the LISD staff got together before Thanksgiving to make 24 pies for the Lopez Food Share sponsored by the Family Resource Center.



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.

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From Karen Hattman, our School Nurse

As we move forward during the COVID epidemic we must plan ahead for school to reopen. Part of this process is up to date immunization records. The state has issued requirements that all students must have the following immunizations to attend in-person school. Please see the list below and make sure your child has all the immunizations required.

DTAP.....5 doses
HEP. B.....3 doses
MMR.....2 doses
Polio.....4 doses
Varicella....2 doses

Please provide the School Nurse with signed documentation of these immunizations. The new immunization law removed the option for personal or philosophical exemption for MMR immunization. There have been no other changes in:

- Other personal/philosophical exemptions
- Religious, religious membership or medical exemptions
- Titer testing in lieu of immunization

If you have provided the school with a signed exemption from a licensed health care provider or physician, it is still in effect unless rescinded by the provider.

Thank you for your efforts to meet the state requirements.

From Kendra Lewis: The third graders were thrilled to receive their own personal dictionaries from the Friday Harbor Rotary Club. The Rotary Club gives each third grader their own dictionary every year, what a special tradition! We have been having fun looking up new and interesting words like: subterfuge, harpoon, serenade and awry. These dictionaries are also packed with tons of other fun information, for example: did you know that the longest word in the English language has 1,909 letters?! I can't write it in this small space, but if you want to know what it is, ask a 3rd grader! Oh, and thanks to Matilda Twigg for being the courier between Friday Harbor and Lopez Elementary.

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From Brian Goff: Kindergarten enjoyed setting up a huge canvas tent, a very generous donation from a Lopez community member, thank you!! **We will use the tent as an outdoor classroom, and a place to get out of the rain.** We practiced this week: Ms Deirdre read us stories and we had math and reading mini-lessons. Thank you Lopez for supporting outdoor and experiential learning.



News from the Library

We're happy to announce that the Library Media Center (LMC) will be open for in-person book checkout (by appointment) starting on Monday, December 7th. Covid-19 protocols will be in place: Masks are required, visitors temperatures and attestation questions will be recorded, and hand sanitizer will be used. Gloves will be available for use as well.

Appointments are available in 15 minute segments, Monday - Thursday 10:00-2:30 and Friday 10:00-12:30. Please email lmc@lopezislandschool.org to make your appointment. Families are welcome to visit as a group/pod. This is also a good time to return books to the library.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

All my best,
Martha, Secondary Principal

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