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

Dr. Carl Bruner, Interim Superintendent

Mary Fordham, Interim Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

January 29, 2021

Hello there LISD Families!

This week, I was reminded of the power of community. On Wednesday, we held our first CTE (Career and Technical Education) Advisory meeting with field area experts in our community working with CTE teachers (Joe Behnke, Kristen Ryan, Amy Studzienko, and Jeanna Carter) to bring relevant and experiential learning to our secondary students in Marine Biology, Woodshop, Health Careers, Career Choices, Sustainable Agriculture, and Culinary. One of the primary purposes of the Advisory is to gain important information from field area experts about the skills, knowledge, and habits needed to help us build courses that prepare students for careers in those fields. As I listened to members of our Lopez community offer ideas, inspiration, and encouragement to our teachers, it was just so obvious that the CTE program is providing an important opportunity for school/community collaboration. We are filled with gratitude for our CTE Advisory members, some of whom are LISD parents and staff members. Many thanks!

Reopening News from Carl Bruner, our Superintendent

As hoped, we are now able to share some details about our restart planning efforts. Below is a summary of where things stand, based on what we know at this time.

This plan has been informed by information gathered from other school districts, our nurse, the San Juan County Department of Health and Community Services, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (The most recent guidance from Health Officer, Dr. Frank James, can be found on our website at

https://www.lopezislandschool.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_176833/File/District%20Info/Board/2020 -21/Schools%20letter%2027%20Jan%202021.pdf)

• Phase 1: Kindergarten

Plans are in place for kindergarten students to start in school on **February 8**. Children will be divided into morning and afternoon groups to limit class size. Each group will meet with their teacher for 2 ½ hours. The focus will be on instruction in reading, writing, and math. Families

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and their kindergarteners will be invited to come visit the classroom, by appointment, next week.

The following strategies and protocols are being put into place to ensure the health and safety of students and staff:

- o Classroom cleaning
- o Social distancing
- o Daily check ins and health attestation
- o Mandatory masks for all students and adults
- o Frequent handwashing
- Individual sets of supplies and materials for each student to prohibit sharing
- o Adequate ventilation
- o Grab and go lunches
- o Procedures for responding to student or staff COVID-19 infections

Kindergarten parents will be receiving more detailed information from teacher, Brian Goff, and Principal, Mary Fordham.

We will plan to serve students whose families do not want them to participate in in-person learning, remotely.

Phase 2: 1st grade

The return of first graders will depend, in part, on what we learn from our experience with kindergarten. The schedule may or may not be the same (i.e., morning and afternoon groups), depending on class size, family preference, and what the teacher believes will be most effective.

We are hopeful we can implement the return of first graders on or around February 22.

Phase 3: Grades 2 through 5

As many of you know, grades 2 and 3 are served in a combined class taught by Kendra Lewis. This presents some special challenges in planning for these students' return to school

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in a hybrid model. We are committed to developing an approach that works for this combined class and for grades 4 and 5. We hope to bring 2nd and 3rd graders back around March 8, followed by 4th and 5th grade students soon after.

The Lopez Island Library is partnering with the District on an activity program for children in grades 1 and 2. More information will be coming soon.

Starting February 4, The Lopez Island Family Resource Center is implementing a program on Thursdays from 1 PM – 4 PM at Odlin Park for students in grades 4 – 5. For more information on this opportunity, go to https://lifrc.org/learning-opportunities/after-school/.

Many thanks to these important community partners!

• Phase 4: Grades 6-12

Middle and high school are organized around content areas. Given our size, most of our secondary teachers teach multiple grade levels. This complicates scheduling students' return in a hybrid model, yet we believe we can learn from other districts' experiences. **We are hopeful we will be able to phase our secondary students back into school sometime after spring break.**

In the meantime, we have and will continue to offer specific opportunities for middle and high schoolers. The following classes have been or should soon be approved by the county for in person small group instruction:

- o Sustainable Agriculture
- o Woodshop
- o Chemistry labs

Social contact with their peers - a very important part of teenagers' development – has been sorely lacking over the past 10 months. Several of our teachers have volunteered to organize and supervise outdoor social times for secondary students. These began this week and, as circumstances allow, will continue to be offered.

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As we move forward, we are committed to:

- provide timely communication as plans change due to circumstances beyond our control
- make efforts to do what we can to accommodate those students whose families do not want them to return

We know that a variety of opinions and beliefs exist about bringing students back to school at this time and those beliefs and opinions will be expressed on social media. We cannot get ahead of that and do not have the resources to try. We will do everything we can to ensure that the information we provide is accurate and reflects the guidance of our public health officials. We will make mistakes along the way, that's certain. I apologize for our missteps in advance.

Please feel free to contact me or our Principals, Mary Fordham (Elementary) or Dr. Martha Martin (Secondary) as questions arise.

Thank you and Go Lobos!

Village Square

The Lopez Island Library is hosting a Village Square focused on updating the community on the plans to re-start in-person schooling for Lopez Island School District (LISD) students. Panelists will include Carl Bruner, Mary Fordham, a representative from the San Juan County Health Department, and me. Thanks to Malia Sanford, the Outreach Manager at the library, for making this possible. This will be an opportunity for the Lopez Island community to virtually meet the new LISD interim administrators, to hear what the school restart plans are, and what safety measures will be taken to minimize risk. As with every Village Square episode, there will be time in the final portion of the program for audience questions using the zoom webinar Q&A feature; and as always, this program will be recorded and available to watch afterwards through the Lopez Island Library's program archives.

Wednesday, February 3rd at 6pm

Village Square Zoom Link

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Coffee Talk

Mary Fordham and I are hosting a virtual coffee talk for families on Thursday, February 4th at 5:30. Here is the <u>Zoom Link</u>. Please join us! You can ask questions, share concerns, offer feedback....and, perhaps most importantly, we can get to know each other.

Yearbook Opportunity from John Platter

I am looking for students interested in working on the yearbook this year! Please encourage them to email me at jplatter@lopezislandschool.org if they have any interest at all in joining the Yearbook Club where we will create the yearbook together.

Elementary News from Mary Fordham, our Elementary Principal

Dear Lobo Families,

As I reflect back on the end of this last week in January, I find myself thinking about how busy and exhausting this week has been... busy and exhausting in the best way possible. The kind of exhaustion that still leaves you energized and motivated emotionally at the end of the day. I am constantly reminded about how Lopez is a community that pulls together and works collaboratively to solve problems to improve education for our students. This week was no different. As an elementary staff, we have established routine collaboration meetings to address educational needs and the needs of our students. We are also working together on the Restart process for students and hope to roll out more details to families soon.

Dr. Martin mentioned that we will be hosting a coffee talk with the principals next Thursday, February 4th, at 5:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity for us to informally meet and ask questions. We hope you can make it!

Thanks! Mary

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5th Grade Poetry

Ms. Becca's 5th Grade has been learning about the poet, Robert Frost, and recently read the <u>Road Not Taken</u>. Then, students wrote their own poems about winter. This week, Amia J. Poole, would like to share her poem with the Lobo families.

This Winter

By Amia J Poole 5th Grade

This winter is cold & soggy
Sniffles & sneezes make me groggy
I go out to the frozen marsh
The cold is very harsh

The snowflakes fall on your nose & eyelashes
Like a soft beacon that flashes
Saying "go, get out there
Have some fun
Don't just stand and stare
Go & get everyone"

Sledding or skiing
I don't know
Take Caution in choosing your option
But just get out in the snow

Rosy cheeks and frozen toes
Let's go sledding
Come on go
I truly do get a thrill

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Gliding on that snowy hill

The snow is white butterflies Though otherwise Falling on you like resting stars The white goes so far It is truly bizarre

The wind is vicious Inside hot chocolate is delicious Snuggle tight in your beds And tomorrow another day on sleds.

In addition, the 5th Grade spent time remembering and learning more about Dr. Martin Luther King. Then, each student wrote a Haiku to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. Below is Huck's Haiku.

> Huck's Haiku 5th Grade

He had a big dream

That we should all share today

Love peace harmony

Games Library

Please check out the **GAMES LIBRARY** on the Lopez Island Library website. The games library was created through a PTSA grant (thank you PTSA!) and individuals/families have donated games as well. This is such a great way to bring a little variety to your family evening activities without spending any money. There are SO many games in the library and it's really easy to check them out!

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Other Places to Find LISD News

Find LISD on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok!

<u>Facebook</u> Lopez Lobos (We also have a Lopez Island School District page)
<u>Instagram Lopez Island School District</u>
<u>TikTok @Lopez Island School</u>

Hi-Cap News

The Hi-Cap parent and teacher referral process is open, and a referral form is located at the bottom of <u>THIS</u> page on our website. Our Hi-Cap Coordinator, Pat Burleson, will review the referral process with teachers at our collaboration meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd. If your child has already been Hi-Cap identified, Pat is working on student learning plans and will be reaching out to parents very soon. Please reach out to Pat at <u>pburleson@lopezislandschool.org</u> if you have questions.

Sustainable Ag News from Amy Studzienko





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Outside Fun and Connection for Secondary

This Wednesday, we hosted several outdoor social gatherings for our secondary students, an hour each for middle and high school students here at school and a couple hours to hang out around the fire at Odlin Park. Thanks to Jaimie Terada, Amy Studzienko, and Brian Goff for bringing some joy to the tweens and teens of Lopez Island!



For those interested in playground social time on Wednesday, February 3, there are a limited number of slots so students must email Jaimie Terada (jterada@lopezislandschool.org) if interested. First come first serve. Students must confirm that there is space and ensure they have a way to get dropped off and picked up. Middle schoolers can come from 1:00-2:00 and high schoolers from 2:00-3:00.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

It is a happy talent to know how to play.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson