

Lopez Island School District #144

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 8, 2021

Dear LISD Families,

Happy 2021 and welcome back to school after winter break! I've seen lots of memes and social media posts about the horror of 2020. While 2020 did indeed bring us a deadly virus and therefore the inability to teach and learn in our building, hug, shake hands, invite people inside our houses, go out to dinner, (insert your own reality here), there were also some bright spots. 2020 brought me to Lopez Island and to this school community. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the families of Lopez in this capacity and for the warm welcome and encouragement I continue to receive. I'm starting 2021 with a heart full of gratitude for all of you.

This week, it has been my honor to extend a welcome to some new LISD staff members: Our Interim Superintendent, Dr. Carl Bruner; Interim Elementary Principal, Mary Fordham; 1st Grade Teacher, Megan Ramsey; Assistant Cook, Colin Walker; Decatur School Custodian, Jill Bliss; and Hi-Cap Coordinator, Pat Bureson. I sent an introductory letter from Mary earlier today and you can expect one from Carl very soon. Starting next week, they will be collaborating with me on the weekly family letter.

It's been an upsetting week for our country. Young people are looking to the trusted adults in their lives to help them unpack what they are seeing and reading. These can be hard conversations as we struggle to figure out what is developmentally or age appropriate, how much of our own opinions to offer, how much do kids know about democracy, how much do WE really know....all while we are personally processing all of it as adults. Will we be able to answer their questions? Will we be able to inspire hope (not blind optimism) for the future? What can we say that will empower them to work together, even and especially with people who see things differently, to be agents of positive change? This is a tall order for the grown-ups, but please don't turn away. Don't let the messiness of these conversations override the importance of having them. There are a variety of resources online to help both teachers and parents/guardians navigate these conversations. Here is one I shared with secondary faculty yesterday: [Facing History and Ourselves](#). One common thread in all of the resources I have read is to ask open questions about what they are thinking or feeling and what they are most concerned about, then do a LOT of listening. Help them turn to quality news sources, encourage them to distinguish between fact and opinion, and model a calm and reasoned approach to dialogue. I'm sending you courage and compassion.

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Lunch Program News

A group of us gathered on the afternoon of December 24th to harvest kiwis for the lunch program. Am I the only person who is surprised that we have a kiwi farm on Lopez? Having mostly enjoyed this fruit in the context of a tropical fruit salad, I assumed they grew in tropical places. Another LLE (Lopez learning experience) for me! We harvested...wait for it...2500 pounds of kiwis!

Speaking of fruit, here's a fun fact about the lunch program: We have used more fruits and veggies by this point in the year than we usually use by May. This is because we usually serve about 120 meals a day and we are currently making and delivering over 300.

From Karen Hattman, School Nurse

Please ensure that your child's vaccines are up to date. As we move closer to opening school, those children who are not in compliance will not be able to attend school. These are the required vaccinations. Hepatitis B-3 doses; Dtap/tdap-4 (or 5 doses sometimes); Polio- 4 Doses; MMR- 2 doses; Chicken Pox (Varicella) - 2 doses. There must be documentation by the provider who immunized the child of full immunization or titer or there needs to be a signed certificate of exemption. Please provide a CIS or signed record from your provider so the record can be added into the school record and WAIS updated.

Secondary Grading Intel

Secondary Term 3 report cards will be posted in the Family Access **Portfolio tile** on Monday, January 11. Families can look at the breakdown of each Gradebook 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 columns and select the specific grade link to view the grade breakdown. Click "More" at the bottom to view all courses.

Secondary students earning semester grades through the Parent Partner Program will have report cards posted in the Family Access **Portfolio tile** on January 19.

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Hi-Cap News

As I said at the beginning of this letter, Pat Burleson is our new Hi-Cap Coordinator and we are so lucky to have her. Hi-Cap is a stipend position and Pat is joining us mid-year. Thank goodness she brings loads of experience as a Hi-Cap teacher and classroom teacher, so she is ready to rock and roll with student learning plans and PD/support for teachers on identification, social-emotional needs, and academic differentiation for Hi-Cap students.

Ceramic Heads in the House

From Jaimie Terada: Middleschool and Highschool students have been doing an amazing job making their Ceramic heads at home and then transporting them to school safely.



Community Shakespeare

A number of LISD students recently performed in two Community Shakespeare radio theatre productions, *A Christmas Carol* and *84 Charing Cross Road*. The latter is still available for streaming until January 10th. Grab a warm beverage and settle in for a listening treat! Congratulations to Teus Rabel, Kayla McClerren, Zachary Sanford, Anna Fuller, Naima Garcia, Jacob Sanford, Josie Luckhurst-Slaterry on an incredible performance, and to their director, our own Richard Carter.

STEM Fair...Covid Style

From Lorri Swanson: "Fourth and fifth graders just started brainstorming ideas for their individual S.T.E.M. Fair projects. This is an annual tradition and we're not going to let Covid get in our way of science and engineering! Our students will, fingers crossed, share their projects

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with family, friends and community during the second week of March. We are planning again, as we did last year, to be eco-sensitive and share our projects digitally. Hopefully, we'll be back in school by then and family, friends and community members will get to see all our students' projects displayed on student Chromebooks in the MPR."

A Celebration of Great Writing

Amy Studzienko would like to lift up the powerful essay on identity written by Valentina Rendon. Direct quote from Ms. S: "I can't wait to find her a publisher!"

Congratulations are in Order!

John Platter, our math and music teacher, finished his master's degree over the winter break. John is now an official Master of Science in Data Analytics, which shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who knows him. Congratulations, John!

Book Swapping Success

From Richard Carter: "I really appreciate all of the student families who are picking up and/or returning books to me from Literacy class - this year's and last year's books. This takes time and effort, and is very important to me and to other students. Thank you!"

Elementary Family Listening Forum

Again, thanks to everyone who came to the listening forum before winter break to share their family experience and listen to others. Also thanks to those who completed the survey with the same essential question or sent me an email if the survey link wasn't working. It took time and energy for you to share your family's story and you have trusted me to do something with this information. Yesterday, I met with our district administration, leaders from the Lopez Island Family Resource Center and the Lopez Island Library, and Kimberly Vora to talk about what we have learned from what families have shared here and in the LIFRC survey. While our Interim Superintendent is prepared to lead us through the planning process for school restart, we zoomed in on what families are needing at this moment and how we, as community leaders, can collectively make efforts to meet those needs.

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Here are some of the big ideas that emerged from surveys, emails, and the listening forum:

- Some families would love for school to reopen, but they need the assurance of Covid safety protocols and procedures in order to feel comfortable sending their children back into the building.
- Some families are not comfortable sending students back into the building this school year.
- Some families are not sure yet if they would send their children back into the building.
- Some parents are worried about the social emotional development and/or academic progress of their children.
- Some parents are exhausted, overwhelmed, worried about their own mental health, and in need of a break.
- Some families are struggling financially as a result of Covid-19.
- Some families could use some help with child care.
- Some families would love to see day camps or other programs that give their children opportunities to play and connect with others.
- Some families do not belong to social pods and are feeling very isolated.

Whew, you made it to the end of this letter! You have demonstrated the character habit of perseverance. Have a lovely weekend.

All my best,

Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

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