

Lopez Island School District #144

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Dr. Carl Bruner, Interim Superintendent

Mary Fordham, Interim Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

February 12, 2021

Dear LISD Families,

***Sunsets are red
The ocean is blue
It is our hope
That this brings joy to you!***

Special thanks to Jesse Hammond, our Technology Director, for taking our photos and short videos and creating...

[A VALENTINE FROM THE LISD STAFF TO OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.](#)

From our Superintendent, Dr. Carl Bruner

The occurrence of several cases of COVID-19 on Lopez last week, with the potential of a connection to our school, caused us to delay the start of kindergarten. This was disappointing for all those involved, yet we thought it best to exercise an abundance of caution.

Our community has been very successful in minimizing the number of COVID-19 infections, yet we have to assume that we will see infections in the future. We certainly hope these cases are not serious and that they do not directly impact school staff or students; however, we know they may and we need to be prepared with a plan that is based on guidance from public health experts.

Last November, the district distributed a COVID-19 Toolkit, which can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/3tVZia7>. This document outlines the process for responding to positive cases of COVID-19. In combination with guidance from the San Juan County Department of Health & Community Services, it will determine how we respond to infections in or connected to the school when/if they occur. In this way, we hope to avoid arbitrary disruptions to student learning and family schedules.

In last week's letter I shared with you that we have been selected to participate in the 2nd cohort of the *Learn to Return Testing Program*, sponsored by the Washington State Department of

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Health. This initiative will provide free and easy access to COVID-19 tests for staff and students.

This week, our contact for *Return to Learn Testing* met with Nurse Hattman and me to review program details and timelines. Based on their recommendations, we will start by offering tests to school staff (with or without symptoms) and those students in school who are experiencing symptoms. As we become more experienced with the process, we hope to expand this service to all students regardless of whether they are symptomatic. Of course no student will be tested without the permission of their parent or guardian. We plan to begin *Learn to Return Testing* during the week of March 1.

While testing is an important part of our restart plan, we all know that vaccines are what will truly begin to improve the landscape. Our School Board, the teacher's union, and I, along with many others have advocated at the state level for school employees to be moved up the vaccine priority list, as they have been in many states. That has not happened and, according to health department officials, until the supply of vaccines is increased, changing the priority of school staff would make little practical difference. There is some evidence the supply is improving. Regardless, we will continue to advocate for all staff to have access to a vaccine.

That's all for this week.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable mid-winter break.

Go Lobos!

Mid-Winter Break: February 15-19

Enjoy a well deserved break from school! Also, please see the attached San Juan County media release on travel.

School Photos

Picture Day is scheduled March 16. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details on a schedule and safety protocols.

After School program

"The Lopez Island Library is partnering with the LISD to offer an in-person afterschool program for 1st-2nd grade students, on the school grounds, three afternoons a week, Monday - Wednesday, tentatively starting on February 22nd - March 31st (with the potential to continue after Spring Break if needed). The program schedule will work in collaboration with the efforts to bring students back in the building for in-person learning. Thus, the current plan is to run the program from 12:30pm - 4:30pm, but those times may change, depending on in-person school hours. If you would like to register your 1st and/or 2nd grade child(ren) please complete the online [registration form](#). You will be contacted by the Program Manager to confirm registration."

LIFRC Strengthening Families Program

The Lopez Island Family Resource Center is offering the **Strengthening Families Program** to families with students in grades 4 through 7.

Please open the attachments for complete information.

[Strengthening Families Flyer.jpg](#)

[Strengthening Families Program Photo.jpg](#)

If you are interested in participating in this 8 week program starting the beginning of March, please go to this link to let us know!

Click Here: [Strengthening Families Winter/Spring 2021 Registration Request.](#)

Completion of this form indicates your request to participate but does not guarantee your registration. You will be notified whether or not you are enrolled before the program start date.

Secondary News

Sports!

A six week season of Golf and track will begin on February 22nd, right after our mid-winter break. We are not traveling or hosting teams here, so participation will be practice only, not competition. Still, student athletes will get coaching, skill building, practice time, and a chance to hang out outside with peers...masked and 6 feet apart of course. Golf is available for 8th -12th graders (contact the coach, Richard Tetu, at rtetu@lopezislandschool.org). Track is 9th-12th (contact the coach, Marina Steinbrueck at msteinbrueck@lopezislandschool.org). We may offer a middle school track season after the high school season. As with all reopening plans, that will be dependent on a variety of factors, so stay tuned for more information.

Extracurricular Sports Forms

Extracurricular forms are required to participate in after school sports and are available on the school website at this link: [Extracurricular Sports Forms and Risk Management Forms](#)

Required Forms:

- 2020-2021 Medical Emergency Authorization Form
- Physical Evaluation Form (remains active for two years). If you had a sports physical on file but are not sure of the date, please email Ronda rberg@lopezislandschool.org
- Controlled Substances Acknowledgement Form
- Concussion Information Form
- Risk Management Form: Golf and/or Track

Term 4 Grades

Term 4 ends TODAY. Students will have time during mid-winter break to complete all assignments and turn in work when school resumes on February 22.

After mid-winter break, students will return to Term 5 courses in periods D, E, and F.

Term 4 report cards will be posted in the Family Access Portfolio tile on March 2.

From our ELL Coordinator, Arielle Ott

We are excited to announce that Latinx middle school students are being invited to join other Latinx students from Orcas and San Juan Island for a bilingual youth empowerment peer mentorship program with leaders from La Cima! The group will meet on Zoom Wednesday, February 24th at 2:30pm and every Wednesday thereafter until the end of the school year. For more information check out this article in The Islands' Sounder:

<https://www.islandssounder.com/life/latinx-focused-peer-to-peer-mentoring-at-the-funhouse-strengthening-community/?amp>

and/or contact Arielle Ott at aott@lopezislandschool.org

Family Input

Thanks to everyone who attended the Secondary Family Listening Forum on Wednesday evening. If you were unable to attend or didn't have a chance to share your family's experience, please complete this [ONE QUESTION SURVEY](#). I am gathering stories/concerns/questions/requests, meeting with other community leaders and the school staff, and making plans to support families more effectively during this time.

From Richard Carter

"I would like to acknowledge Alison (paraeducator) for her success working with students in Literacy 6. All the students who spent time with her in breakout sessions made significant progress in their writing assignments, and some even asked if they could work with her during PACK time (which they did). The results are impressive."

Alison will be doing her student teaching in our elementary school next fall. Lucky us!

Digital Safety Presentation

The LISD Technology Committee will be hosting a Digital Safety Workshop for secondary parents featuring Jo Langford on March 1st from 6-7:30 PM. Jo will be speaking with parents on how to encourage good digital citizenship with kids as well as best practices for protecting student privacy. One of Jo's main focuses is on sexual and mental health in these digital times as well as what to watch out for with the "Three Big Bads", pornography, sexting, and cyberbullying. This workshop will be focused on our secondary parents, 6-12th grade, but

parents of any grade level are welcome. Parents of 4th and 5th graders may find this information applicable as well. A separate workshop is planned for elementary families in April. It is requested that students do not show up to these events, parents only, please.

Elementary News

Dear Lobo Families,

This was a week of flexibility. The elementary team was ready for Kindergarten to start in-person learning last Monday, but now we are regrouping to tweak our restart timeline. There will be more information on the timeline to come after the mid-winter break. Mid-winter break is always a great time to pause and rejuvenate so that our students and staff will be filled with energy for more learning. We wish everyone the time to rest and relax during this time and look forward to seeing you after break.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Mary Fordham

Building a Solar Dehydrator

Ms. Lorri Swanson's science students are learning to build their own solar dehydrator. Will this be something that we will see at the STEM Fair? Below are some pictures of students during the building process.. It makes one wonder just how big will this solar dehydrator be!



From Kendra Lewis

This week, the second and third graders had some silly fun during our writing workshop. We wrote stories for our pets! First, we had to think about a subject that would interest our particular pet: would they want to listen to an action-packed story in which they saved the day, or would they prefer a more mellow story that they could fall asleep to? The students wrote some pretty wonderful stories that are sure to satisfy any pet. The second grade titles included: Dog Detectives, Master Cat and Super Dog, The Adventures of Thelma and Louise (written for gerbils of the same names), Super Cat and Super Kitten and Vicci: The Guardian of the Secret Treasure. In third grade the students used a range of writing styles to appeal to their specific pet. They wrote essays, poems, love letters and bedtime stories (*Go To Bed*, *Kimbo* and *Sir Oscar The Great* - which is a short story because he falls asleep quickly).

Parent Partner Program News from Rachel Post

Parent Partner families are studying a wide-variety of topics through hands-on classes. If you can imagine it, parent partner families are doing it. I am continually blown away by their perseverance and creativity.

Two 11th graders are studying Thai this year and took a trip to Isaan: "...which is the north eastern side of Thailand called อีสาน. To document some of my immersive experience on this trip, I have started filming short video diaries for each day on our trip." [Video Here](#)



"On the set" of a film short for Parent Partner Cinematography class: director on camera in the salal, actor in character, and action!

Grades 8&7: Learning doesn't stop during a Lopez power outage! You can see them here putting the outage day to good use by building a milking station.





This 4th grader built an art machine! "...there is a battery (you can see hooked to the front), then a little circuit board where you can move the wires to make it go faster or slower and a motor inside the box...all that makes the wheel spin."

Here you can see a 3rd grade musician practicing piano! Music is so uplifting.



In 3rd grade, we explored the outdoors and "gathered as many kinds of moss as they could find, then put them on the tray to see, and then planted a moss garden."

This 2nd grade Paleontologist has been studying the Cretaceous period. We had an amazing field trip: "We visited a friend and got to see and touch actual dinosaur bones."



Happy Valentine's Day, Happy Mid-Winter Break, and Happy Friday!

**All my best,
Martha Martin**