

## Lopez Island School District #144

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Lopez Island, WA 98261  
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[www.lopezislandschool.org](http://www.lopezislandschool.org)

Dr. Carl Bruner, Interim Superintendent

Mary Fordham, Interim Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

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February 24, 2021

Dear LISD Community,

Did you see the moon this morning? Wow! "The moon was so beautiful that the ocean held up a mirror." -Ani Defranco

As always, this week's family letter is brimming with news, announcements, and updates. Carl, Mary, and I are trying hard to provide you with regular and transparent communication. Our letters are long, but this is where you can often find the answers to your questions. I'm hoping the headings make it easier for you to skip over sections that don't apply to your family. I also send the letter to the secondary students, staff, our school board, the LIEF board, library, and family resource center. It is in everyone's best interest to ensure that our community is well informed about what is happening at school...during Covid times and always.

### Superintendent Update

At this week's School Board meeting, **Kelli Carrier was sworn in as the district's newest Director**. Kelli was appointed to fill the position vacated by Carol Steckler, who retired from the Board in December 2020 after five years of dedicated service. Kelli is a Lopez Elementary parent and brings a passion for community service and education to her new role. Please join me in congratulating her on her appointment to the LISD Board.

**Welcoming kindergarten students into school** on Tuesday and Wednesday this week brought lots of joy to those of us at Lopez School! As difficult as the past year has been for students and families, it's also been hard on educators, who derive their job satisfaction out of in-person work with children and youth. We certainly have a long way to go, but are heartened by our elementary team's commitment to designing safe, in-person opportunities for their students, while accommodating those families who want their children to remain at home at this time. We look forward to welcoming 1<sup>st</sup> graders on March 8!

Many thanks to **Malia Sanford and her team at Lopez Library** for partnering with the District to safely provide an after-school program for children in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades three days per week.

Given that our secondary teachers teach multiple subjects and grade levels, it's more difficult to develop a sequential plan for **restarting in person learning for students in grades 6 – 12**. Challenges aside, these teachers are considering safe ways to bring additional students into the

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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, Interim Superintendent Carl Bruner – [cbruner@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:cbruner@lopezislandschool.org), Title IX Coordinator, HR Specialist Renee Koplan – [rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org), Section 504 Academic Case Manager, K-12 Counselor Jeanna Carter – [jcarter@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:jcarter@lopezislandschool.org), Section 504 Health Care Case Manager, Karen Hattman, RN – [khattman@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:khattman@lopezislandschool.org) OR contact by phone, 360-468-2202, OR mail to 86 School Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261.

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building in the coming weeks for in person learning opportunities. Teacher Kristin Ryan's Woodshop class, which began this week, is a great example.

We know that **extracurricular activities** play an important role in teenagers' development. Turnout for golf and track started this week. Though we are not participating in any inter-district competitions, we're excited about these opportunities for our student athletes.

We began receiving training this week on the **COVID-19 testing** program we hope to begin implementing next week. We will initially begin by offering weekly tests to staff who are working on campus. This will be expanded in the coming days to students on campus who are experiencing symptoms. Making tests available to all students, including those who are not experiencing symptoms, is our ultimate goal.

We know there is interest in our **protocol to handle cases of COVID-19 transmission or exposure** that may occur at school. We are currently working to update the process outlined in our COVID-19 Toolkit (<https://bit.ly/3tVZia7>) based on what we have learned in planning for the return of our Kindergarten students. Updated information will be available soon.

**Student transportation** remains a challenge for us. A lack of bus drivers, combined with a lack of van drivers for meal delivery are barriers at this time. We know transportation will mean the difference between returning to school or remaining at home for some students and are working hard to identify solutions.

It's that time of year when school districts begin to gear up for the **budget planning process**. As many of you are aware, the Legislature's limitation on local Educational Program and Operations levies created a sizable budget shortfall for the current school year, creating the need for significant budget cuts. We're hopeful we will not face the same challenge in budgeting for next year, but won't know for certain until the state budget is passed by the legislature toward the end of April. In the meantime, we have structured a process that reflects the School Board's commitment to:

- Collaboration with our employee associations
- Seeking staff and community input in identifying priorities
- Maximizing all available state, federal, and local resources

We started this week with a review of our current budget by leadership from the District, Lopez Education Association, and Public School Employees. Stay tuned for additional information about our budget process, including opportunities for input.

That's all for this week.

Have an enjoyable weekend. Go Lobos!

### **Mentor Tutoring Program – All Welcome!**

*(This message, sent to me by LIFRC, is for students, but please read. I'm sending it to them too!)*

Hey LISD Students: do you need a little extra help with your schoolwork? Did you know that there is a free tutoring program that happens every Monday and Tuesday for Grades 4-12? LIFRC Tutors are partnered with the Lopez School to provide students one-on-one or small group tutoring on academic subjects. Drop-ins are always welcome! Join us on Monday from

1:30pm-3:30pm and/or Tuesdays from 6:30pm-8:00pm. To get the link, contact [gretchen.tutor@lifrc.org](mailto:gretchen.tutor@lifrc.org) or talk to your teachers.

### **Join the Lopez Biodiversity Treasure Hunt**

Russel Barsh and Madrona Murphy from Kwiaht, the Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea, have created a great site for kids called [Lopez Biodiversity Treasure Hunt](#). Check it out!

### **Schedule Change**

March 19th, formally known as a staff inservice day, is now scheduled as a regular school day. It takes the place of the day we lost due to the countywide power outage in January.

### **School Photos**

School picture day is Tuesday, March 16. The photographer, Kevin Hellriegel, will offer the same great service we have received in the past. Our office coordinators will be working with Nurse Karen to set up a safe and efficient walk-through process for individual student and staff photos in the gym from 8:00-11:45 am. Watch for an email from the school next week for instructions regarding specific times and/or appointments and the order form and payment options. We hope that all students and staff will get their photos taken for ID cards and the yearbook, even if they are not purchasing photos. Questions can be emailed to Ronda in the secondary office, [rberg@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:rberg@lopezislandschool.org)

### **Lobo Gear**

You can now get LISD Lobo apparel from two places: Wade Co. here on Island and T-shirts by Design in Anacortes. T-Shirts by Design has set up an on-line store for us that is open until March 10th. Click [Lopez-Island-Lobos](#) to see what's available!

### **From Samantha Olson, Lobo Pack President**

At this time The Pack is looking to add dedicated people to our board. You do not have to be a parent of a child in athletics or a parent at all, but someone who is passionate about giving our student athletes here on Lopez the tools they need to succeed.

The best way for us to support our student athletes is to show up, and to fundraise. Fundraising helps The Pack take some of the burden off the school, but more so, gives our student athletes new jerseys, equipment, and support.

The Pack also plans to file for our Federal Non Profit status, so we would like someone with a background in Non Profits.

If you think you can help in any way, or want to be a Board Member, Please contact Samantha Olson, President, for more information. [Lobobooster@hotmail.com](mailto:Lobobooster@hotmail.com)

## Secondary News

### **Term 4 Grades**

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

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.

In the Secondary Family Listening Forum, some of you shared that it's hard to access your student's grades. If you need help, Ronda is here for you and can walk you through the process over the phone. If we need to get an interpreter for the conversation, we will!

### **In-person Learning**

We do not yet have a comprehensive plan to bring students back into the building grade by grade. You may, however, begin to see a few more options and opportunities for in-person learning for the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday long class days or for specific events, activities, or guest speakers. Teachers who are interested in bringing students into the building will submit a plan to Karen Hattman, our school nurse, and the two will work together on safety protocols and practices for that particular learning context. I used the word "option" above to let you know that students will not be required to attend school in-person if you or they are not comfortable with that.

### **Digital Safety Workshop for Parents**

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.

Click [HERE](#) for the event information on our school website and the Zoom link.

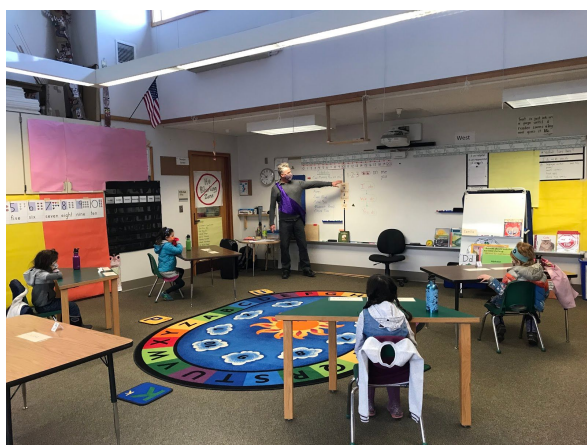
The secondary staff will be engaged in a similar workshop during our collaboration time on Tuesday afternoon.

## Elementary News

### Message from Elementary Principal, Mary Fordham

Dear LISD Families,

This has been a week of excitement for the elementary team. Tuesday, February 23rd, was our first in-person learning at school for our kindergarten students. We welcomed kindergarten cohort A on Tuesday and cohort B on Wednesday. It truly is a joy to see our students back in school and learning. A huge shout out to kindergarten teacher, Brian Goff, for all his hard work and planning to get everything up and running for the Class of 2033. Be sure to check out just a few of the pics from the first week below.



We anticipate the return of first graders on Monday, March 8th. Our second through fifth grade teachers are currently in the planning stages and we hope to announce the start dates for these grades soon. In the meantime, the elementary team continues to work hard to provide learning opportunities for all students. Below are a few highlights from our 4th and 5th grade classes.

### 4th/5th Grade Updates from Ms. Lorri Swanson and Ms. Becca Hamilton

Flash Program: Ms. Lorri and Ms. Becca have partnered with Safe San Juans to provide the 4th and 5th grade students with intro to puberty classes. We are grateful to have Wen Murphy,



ARNP, FNP-BC from the UW's Clinic partnering with Safe San Juans in assisting with the instruction for these classes.

Solar Dehydrator: The 4th and 5th graders continue to make progress on the solar dehydrator. Thank you to AmeriCorp, Zoe Gregozek, for your partnership and mentorship on the project.

4th Grade Fun: Our 4th graders continue to enjoy their Friday Read Aloud time with Ms. Deirdre and their weekly book club meetings at school.



*Progress on Solar Dehydrator*

### 5th Grade Poems

#### **5th Grade Haiku** by Manuel

"We cannot walk alone"  
White people and black people  
Believe in justice

#### **Winter Time** by Colin

When winter comes I get excited to play in the snow.  
When I am cold from playing in the snow I like to go by a warm fire to get a bit dryer.

When I am on my sled I think about crawling into my warm bed.  
If I fell off my sled I would have snow on my head.  
A warning about snow was all across television.  
The snowfall was so thick I felt like I lost my vision!  
It was so cold it felt like a dog's nose.

Snowflakes are delicate and unique.  
Each one crafted with precision and technique.  
As they fall from up high, I look in the sky and one falls in my brown eye.  
Falling down, they hit the trees and the ground.  
Looking around, I block out all the sounds.  
I wanted to make a snowman bigger than Japan.

### **Let It Snow**

*By Lola*

Let It Snow  
I hope it will snow  
Let it snow  
Let it slow  
I wish it will snow  
Let it snow  
Let it snow  
Let the World become white  
Let it snow  
Let it snow  
It's a beautiful sight  
Let it snow  
Let it snow  
Let the snow fall down at night  
Let It Snow  
Let It Snow  
the world is just a sight  
It's fluffy like a cat  
And cozy like mitten  
But its not warm like a Kitten  
And it is cold and wet.  
something that is different from rain  
different from Sun  
different from Clouds  
Different.  
What do my wondering eyes see? Through breaking snow  
I know. I know.

I can't believe it's a beautiful white kitten, oh my Sights.  
I see it! I see it!  
It is a dream, my dream has come true.  
I can't believe it is as white as snow.  
The night is still. The snow has just fallen.  
It's beautiful and what the world can believe?  
It's a day! it's a day!  
That no one can believe,  
It is Christmas! It is Christmas!  
The day is perfect! The day is perfect!  
The snow just fell, so it is the best day to have Christmas!  
I can go outside and make snow angels and Snow people the snow is like a kitten



Enjoy the weekend, everyone!

Martha Martin, Secondary Principal