

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 5, 2021

Dear LISD Families,

Thanks so much to all who attended the Wednesday Village Square meeting on school reopening sponsored by the Lopez Island Library. If you didn't get the chance to attend, you can listen to the recording [HERE](#). Also, Mary and I are grateful for the well attended Coffee Talk Thursday evening. It's so helpful for us to understand what you are thinking and wondering.

This letter is chock full of important information, announcements, celebrations, and photographs. Let's get to it!

From our Superintendent, Dr. Carl Bruner

In planning for reopening our schools, we've struggled with how to accommodate those students whose families want them to remain engaged in fully remote learning. Some districts have offered these families the choice of enrolling their children in their districts' homeschool parent partnership programs. While that could be an option for us, we know that when families commit to our parent partnership, they agree to take on the role of primary teacher for their child, with school district support. Many, if not most families who do not want their children to return to school during the pandemic are motivated by factors other than a desire to homeschool.

We also considered adding time to one or more of our part time teachers to instruct those students who remain in remote learning. While "doable," this has the downside of disrupting the relationships that our teachers have with their students and families - relationships that are key to learning.

This week, Elementary Principal Fordham and her teachers met to discuss how best to address this and related concerns. They came away with a commitment to what is called an AA/BB model of hybrid instruction. Put simply, students will be divided into A and B cohorts. Both cohorts will meet 2 mornings a week, 3 hours each day, for in person learning. Students who are fully remote will be involved in a zoom-based and independent, remote learning in the afternoon. Students in cohorts A and B will receive remote learning assignments for the afternoon.

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

This week, Principal Fordham and kindergarten teacher, Brian Goff have met with families individually to explain this new model and show how the classroom has been set up to ensure students and staff remain safe. The timeline for our kindergarten start has not changed. Students in cohort A will return on February 8.

A common schedule, K-5 has major advantages for families and staff, even though we know that, within this framework, we will need to modify things based on the size of the class. We look forward to starting 1st grade students after Mid-Winter Break.

Also on the restart front:

- Our heating and ventilation system (HVAC) has been reviewed. Classrooms are all on their own intake and outflow systems, meaning that air is not shared between different groups of students and staff. Some of our office spaces do share the same HVAC system. We are using portable HEPA air filters in these areas and in classrooms as an extra precaution. Leaving outside doors and windows open when students are in classrooms will also help the rate of air exchange.
- We were notified on Thursday that our district has been selected to participate in the *Learn to Return* Testing initiative. Sponsored by the Health Commons Project, this initiative will provide us with access to onsite COVID-19 testing for staff and students who are engaged in in-person learning. Frequent school-based testing has been shown to be a game changer in supporting the safe return of students to school.
- Wednesday evening, Principals Martin and Fordham, San Juan County Department of Health and Community Services leaders Mark Tompkins and Dr. James, and I presented information on school reopening as part of the Lopez Island Library's Village Square program. Approximately 46 community members attended the Zoom discussion. The program was recorded and will be made available through the Library's website.
- On Thursday, Principals Martin and Fordham hosted a virtual Coffee Talk, which, in part, included additional information of reopening plans.

We're pleased to announce those LISD staff who were recognized by the Lopez Community Center as Spirit of Lopez nominees:

- Jesse Hammond for his work with the MPPACT music program
- The Kitchen, Transportation, and Garden Crews for feeding the children of Lopez Island
- Suzanne Berry for her work and continued dedication to the LIFE program

Thank you for your commitment to our District.

Go Lobos!

PTSA Lobo Love Event

Click [HERE](#) for details on how you can send love into the world while supporting your LIPTSA!

Counselor Appreciation

Did you know that it is National School Counseling Week? We truly appreciate our own LISD K-12 counselor, Jeanna Carter, for her years of service to this district and for all she does to support the social-emotional health and academic readiness of our students. Thank you, Jeanna!

Black History Resources

Though the history and achievements of black Americans should certainly extend beyond the month of February, Black History Month serves as an important reminder, and perhaps a catalyst. The wonderful Lopez Island Library has a [GREAT COLLECTION](#) of books for children and teens.

Come visit the Library Media Center (LMC)

Students are now able to come into the library and check out books. The following procedures have been approved by the school nurse. Masks must be worn; temperatures will be taken and screening questions will be asked and recorded. Ms. Deirdre is in the library Monday – Thursday from 10:30-2:30 and on Friday from 8:30-11:30. Please send a brief email to Deirdre to let her know you're heading to the LMC. If not able to visit, students can email their requests to: lmc@lopezislandschool.org.

The library's online catalog is available for your use at this location: <https://lisdllmc.goalexandria.com/> You are encouraged to explore the search options; basic, genre and browse searches are your choices. If you need more assistance, please use the email address above or leave a message at 468-2219 extension 2113.



Book checkouts are encouraged! Here is the process:

- 1) Write down your selections: Book title and author's name.
- 2) Send an email to lmc@lopezislandschool.org with your selections
- 3) Books will be checked out to your student, cleaned and packaged for pick-up in front of the elementary school. Deirdre will send you an email when your books are ready for you (usually within 24 hours).

School Website

Perhaps you have noticed that the school website is down. We are working with the company that hosts our website, and we expect service to be restored very soon. Thanks for your patience.

Mid-Winter Break

As I'm sure you know, our mid-winter break starts in one week. School is dismissed at noon on Friday, February 12, and classes resume on Monday, February 22nd.

Please read the following message from Karen Hattman, our School Nurse and Covid-19 Site Supervisor:

Hello All,

As you know, we are fast approaching our Mid-Winter break time. I am sure you all are looking forward to the free time as it has been a difficult time to this point in the school year.

Travel would go a long way to making the year more enjoyable. I wish to caution you about travel during this time based on the CDC Guidelines and the San Juan County Guidelines. For those looking to travel off island by means of air or cruise ship, there will be a 14 day quarantine recommended upon your return. In addition prior to returning to school please consider getting a COVID test to show you have not picked up any hitchhikers during your time off island. There are some new strains of this virus which are more communicable than the original. When one travels, exposure is increased when you have to go through airports or other loading situations where lines and checkpoints mean close contact (within 6 feet) with others not in your immediate family. You do not have to show symptoms to harbor and spread this virus.

Please check San Juan County's [Hot Topic #33](#). It was released during the Holidays but the recommendations are still the same.

Please email me with any questions.

Karen Hattman Rn
khattman@lopezislandschool.org

SECONDARY NEWS

Secondary Family Listening Forum

We are hosting a Secondary Family Listening Forum on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m. This will be similar to the event we hosted for elementary families in December. Our aim is to partner with the Lopez Island Family Resource Center and the Lopez Island Library in an effort to understand and meet the needs of families. It's called a *Listening Forum* because we want to make space to listen to families tell us what they have experienced and what they need moving forward. [HERE IS THE LINK](#). You can prepare by thinking about this guiding question: ***What challenges has your family faced over the past 9 months, and what are your needs and concerns as you look towards the remaining 6-12 months of the pandemic?***

We recognize that not everyone will be able to attend the *Listening Forum* and not everyone feels comfortable speaking publicly about their family's challenges. You can complete this [ONE](#)

[QUESTION SURVEY](#) to share your experiences with us in writing. We already sent out a survey to elementary families, so this survey is for secondary families only.



Culinary Grant

Amy Studzienko is delighted to announce that the LISD Culinary class was awarded a grant for four full sets of canning equipment. She can't wait to work with students next fall preserving some of LIFE's (Lopez Island Farming Education) bounty for the students to enjoy at home all winter long.

Way to go, Civics and French Students!

"I want to commend the Civics and French 2/4 classes for their exceptional attendance and participation. I feel it is way above state norm, with full TIMELY attendance many days, absences being the exception, and quick communication on the part of students and parents if the internet connections are poor."

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Message from Mary Fordham, Elementary Principal

If you read Dr. Bruner's message above, then you know that it was a very busy week for us at the LISD. Currently, we are eating, sleeping, and breathing Restart at school. Our goal is to make it a safe learning environment for both students and staff and we are confident that we are able to do that with our restart plan in place. This Monday, February 8th, we are excited to welcome our Kindergarten students on the school campus for in-person learning. This past Wednesday and Thursday, individual Kindergarten families visited their classroom, walked through the daily entry/exit procedures for students, and asked important questions about our school's health and safety preventative procedures during the pandemic. We look forward to Kindergarten Restart on Monday and sharing news and pictures soon.

Mr. B's Kindergarten Classroom



New Elementary Office Coordinator, Karrie Warner

We are delighted to announce that Karrie Warner will be our new elementary office coordinator. Karrie started working in education in the Nooksack School District as a coach for middle school girls' basketball and volleyball teams, as well as the assistant coach for the high school girls' volleyball team. Prior to coaching, Karrie worked as a cake decorator/baker in a retail bakery in Whatcom County.



In September 2019, Karrie and her husband, Bret, relocated to Lopez Island because of Bret's job with OPALCO and their love for the saltwater. She began subbing at LISD as a para and shortly was hired as a special education para. This year, she has been working daily with the kitchen crew to prepare many meals to be delivered to our students.

In Karrie's free time, she and her husband enjoy boating, crabbing, fishing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and anything that has to do with the boat. They have two children: daughter, Breanna, 28; and son, Blake, 24. And we can't forget their furry family members: Wilson and Dolly, their two large dogs; and their new kitten, Todd. August 2021 will be an exciting time for Karrie and Bret. They will be first time grandparents and celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

Welcome Karrie to the elementary office!

All you need is love

LIPTSA is helping us with Valentine's Day in elementary school (1st-5th)! They are building portable valentine receptacles for kids. Students will be invited to school to deposit their valentines into each others' receptacles (Valentine mailbox wall). The receptacles will be outside their classroom during the day next week. Kids will be invited back for a Valentine Day drive thru on 2/14 to collect their valentine goodie bag. Each teacher will be in touch with their students and families with more details.

What Are Our Students Learning?

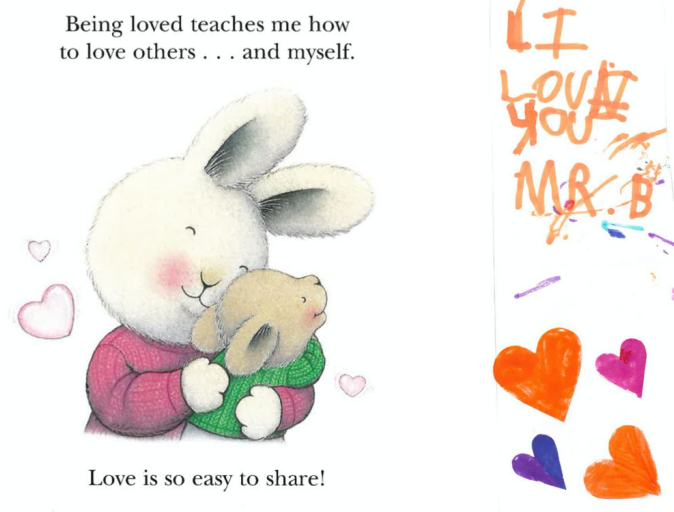
During Black History month, our **5th Grade Class** is learning about a different African American person each day. At the same time, our 5th graders are writing biographies and many have chosen to write about one of the African American people that they have been learning about.

Both our **4th and 5th Graders** are focused on STEM this month, designing their projects to hopefully be a part of our STEM Fair later this spring. Be on the lookout for pictures soon!

A few words from Mr. B's Kindergarten Class:

Kindergarten is starting!! Adorable pictures to follow...YAY!! It's very strange to be starting school the week before Valentine's Day. Setting up my classroom and imagining children here, brings an array of feelings. One of the Valentine books I've been reading out loud, on virtual K this week, is called When I'm Feeling Loved. We ended our book talk discussing the idea of

sharing love and how cozy love feels. The homework assignment for the day: Go on with your day sharing love with special people. Later the same day at school, I got a card from a Kindergartner who took her homework seriously. Go share love and have a sunny weekend...thank you Amara for making me feel special...B



5th Grade Poetry - inspired by Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" poem

The Snow That Did Not Stay

By Ayla. A. Rick

The ground was cloaked in an icy coat that spread far and wide.
The snow fell silently sticking to the ground like a magic potion.
Me and my cat, we ran to play outside.
To build snowmen and snow cats on that fine winter day.

We woke up to heavy rain and our work of art gone.
With mixed emotion we went outside in raincoats and boots.
We silished and sloshed in the slushy snow.
We made modifications to our old creations.

With hands cold as icicles and wet winter clothes.
We waded inside making puddles in the house.
Eating cookies and hot chocolate we warmed up our toes.
We gave mom a presentation of our piles of sludge.

Running around the house we got inspiration for a new indoor game.
We made a workstation out of my collection of old cardboard boxes.
We fought over the station and of course I was to blame!
So we packed things away until the next rainy day.

We curl up in bed and read the afternoon away.
A nonfiction book about pollution and an old storybook.
We make the transition from play to sleep as the world turns slowly grey.
We snuggle, my cat and I, hoping that tomorrow brings more snow.

5th Grade Haiku Poetry - inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK Haiku
by Ian Cankusic

Martin Luther King
Wanted to hear freedom ring
Thank him for loving

Whew! You made it to the end of our letter! I hope you feel inspired and informed.

Have a fantastic weekend :-)

All my best,

Martha

*"To all of you who keep showing up in the midst of fear, uncertainty, and struggle - **thank you.**
I'm deeply grateful for your vulnerability and courage. This is how we change the world."*
-Brene Brown



Look what Wyatt found on the school LIFE trail!