

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

FEB. 2024 | VOL. 10

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Ink Trails: Student Writings

This month, student's were given the option to write a poem about new beginnings. Kate Beverly's poem is being featured in our Newsletter! Great job Kate B!!!

Student Featured Poem

By Kate Beverly

This is a new beginning.
It's a fresh start.
Every year is a winning.
For it's a new part in their heart.

Most people make resolutions,
but some don't even care.
Others look for solutions.
People that don't do them can't even compare.

When the ball drops at 12 o'clock,
it cannot wait.
It goes tick, tock, tick tock,
then it is great!

On New Year's Day it is time to eat.
Some people eat black eyed peas and rice.
Come to the table and pull up a seat.
Don't forget the pork, it's kinda nice.

Hope you love 2024 so far,
there will be no strife.
Think of the New Year as a super star,
2024 is a new part of your life!



Happy New Year



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



BIRTHDAYS - JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

Elin Giardino, 3rd grade, 01/03
Milania Singh, 1st grade, 01/06
Kate Beverly, 5th grade, 01/28
Ollie Young, 3rd grade, 01/30
Bert Hungerford, 4th grade, 02/04
Makynzie Lance, 4th grade, 02/04
Lochlan Smith, 2nd grade, 02/05
Ryan Campbell, 4th grade, 02/06

Cosette Thornton, 3rd grade, 02/10
Caroline Meeks, 5th grade, 02/12
Kate Zechmann, 5th grade, 02/12
Gavin Holladay, 4th grade, 02/12
Grace Costaldo, 5th grade, 02/13
Griffin Rosenblum, K5, 02/16
Matthew Joseph, 5th grade, 02/25
James Costaldo, 3rd grade, 02/25

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

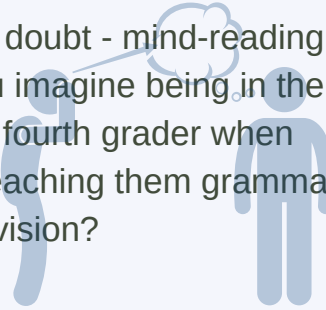
Teacher Spotlight
Our Energetic 4th
Grade Teacher!

KEITH WEST



What would be my Superpower to enhance my teaching?

Without a doubt - mind-reading!
Could you imagine being in the head of a fourth grader when you are teaching them grammar or long division?



these are a few of my
FAVORITE THINGS

Favorite Color: Navy Blue

Favorite Flower: Rose

Favorite Candy: Peanut M&Ms

Favorite Restaurant: depends on who is buying...Chick Fil A or Frank's Outback

FUN FACT ABOUT ME

To our surprise and delight, Mr. West revealed that he once took center stage as none other than Jason Aldean in a lip sync contest at Cannon School. Despite his charismatic performance, Mr. West humbly admitted that victory eluded him on that particular night.



My classroom go-to music

With my class it would definitely be the Final Countdown by Europe. They hum or sing that song all day long. I may try to turn them into George Strait or Brooks and Dunn fans :)



A MEMORABLE CLASSROOM MOMENT



"In an effort to motivate my students to improve their spelling score, I came up with the idea of letting them cut my tie if the class scored 90% or above on their spelling tests. I figured that they might only "cut" 2-3 ties...they ended up cutting 20! Each year after that, students would bring in ties at the beginning of the year and every Friday, we would pick one to cut! I never believed that it would take off like it did...but my classes developed a love of spelling. There is nothing like a fourth grader coming at you with a pair of scissors!!!"

Dream field trip for my students



"I would love to take this class to Washington DC. I would like to visit all of the museums - especially the Air and Space Museum and National Archives, I would hope that the field trip would spark some interest in the history of our country. I grew up in that area and I became interested in history and political science. Once we were finished with the museums, I would want to take them to Camden Yards and watch the Orioles win!!!"



MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

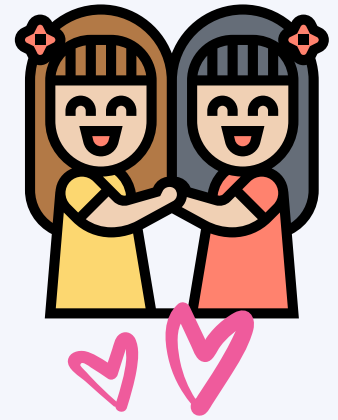
Teacher Spotlight:
Our Terrific 3rd
Grade Teacher!

ASHLEY PALMER



What would be my Superpower to enhance my teaching?

Maybe the ability to clone myself so that there are two of me. It would help me teach and help all of my students on a more individual basis. Also, I'd love to have more time in the day, there is SOOO much I want to be able to teach my students and I always feel like if I had a bit more time I could achieve all of it.



FUN FACT ABOUT ME

Ms. Palmer, with a modest smile, mentioned that she has an impressive collection of medals earned from competing in races ranging from 5Ks to half marathons. In her own words, she used to be quite the talented runner, showcasing her commitment to both teaching and an active lifestyle.



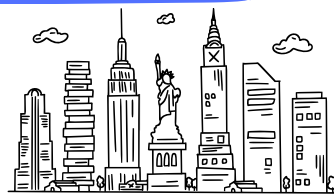
My classroom go-to music

When I do play music in the classroom, it's normally something inspirational, think "Hall of Fame". I love to motivate and inspire my students to be the best they can be. I also love Christmas music:)



A MEMORABLE CLASSROOM MOMENT

"One class moment that I will always remember is when I took a group of sixth grade students on a trip to New York to participate in the Model United Nations program. It was an amazing opportunity to visit a big city and to experience so many once in a lifetime adventures (Broadway, riding a subway, going to the United Nations building, and countless others). It was not just a great experience for the students but I loved it as well!"



Dream field trip

for my students

"This question is so hard because there are so many places I would love to take my students to... If I could organize a dream trip somewhere it would have to be to a different country. My students, regardless the age, have been so fascinated when we learn about the traditions of different countries."



Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Flower: Love them all!

Favorite Candy: Skittles or chocolate of any kind

Favorite Restaurant: Rioz Brazilian Steakhouse or Rustic Table

Student Spotlight - We have amazing kids!

WELLS PAYNE, 5TH

"Sweet Wells was so comforting to little Reeves today. As soon as he saw Reeves crying, he ran over to see if he was ok, and he said he had something that would cheer him up. ☺ He showed him his new baseball glove to bring a smile to Reeves' face. ❤️" Katherine Leventis



Student Spotlight - Great Work Ethic!

LILLY FAY, 2ND

"Lilly Fay is one of several students I have the pleasure of working with each week. She gives 100% each morning and loves learning. Lilly is all smiles and full of excitement whether it is working on spelling words, reading or working on some comprehension skills. She is a great example of how hard work leads to success. Lilly is also learning that there is no substitute for hard work and she is capable of reaching for the stars. I look forward to seeing all the continued success that Lilly has in front of her." Mrs. Ferguson



Off Campus Success - Go Team Basketball!

BASKETBALL STARS

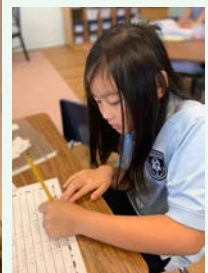


Exciting news! Our 5th grade champs - Hudson, Paul, Wells, Robert, and 6th grader Bennett - clinched 1st place in the Belin Basketball season. Hayden Hauser's team (2nd grader at LPS) also claimed the title of 1st place for her basketball team too!!!

Kudos to our dedicated coaches Hauser, Terenzi, and Payne for their outstanding guidance. Cheers to our future Lowcountry ballers! 🏀🏆😊



Play & Cheese



Homecoming Spirit Week

January 22-26

We recently concluded a fun Spirit Week that brought a burst of energy and creativity to our school community.

School Spirit

Monday: Dress Like a Teacher

Tuesday: Red, White, and Blue Day

Wednesday: Barbie and Ken Day

Thursday: Greek or Sorority/Fraternity Day

Friday: Show Your School Spirit!

We extend our gratitude to all participants for making Spirit Week a resounding success. The enthusiasm, creativity, and unity displayed during this week embody the vibrant spirit that defines our school community.

Thank you for your participation, and let's carry this positive energy forward as we continue to create memorable moments together.



Homecoming Pep Rally

Lowcountry Preparatory School's Pep Rally, held on the 100th day of school, January 26th at 2:00pm, was a spirited event that brought together students for some fun and camaraderie.

The Lower School students actively participated in entertaining games - musical chairs and limbo, showcasing their energy and school spirit. The Pep Rally served as a fantastic opportunity for both students and faculty to come together, fostering a sense of unity and pride within the school community.

Events like these play a crucial role in enhancing the school experience, creating lasting memories, and strengthening the sense of community at Lowcountry Preparatory School.





Marlin Fan Fun Time



We are excited to share the success of the recent Marlin Fan Fun event that took place on Thursday, February 1st, during the last middle school girls basketball game of the season.

Coach Nikki and the girls varsity basketball team went above and beyond to organize an after school event filled with engaging after-school activities for our lower school attendees. Marlin Fan Fun proved to be a hit, creating an atmosphere of excitement and school spirit that was truly special.

The young participants enjoyed a variety of free activities, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among our elementary students. From games to crafts, the event set the stage for an enjoyable evening leading up to the main event—the basketball game.

We were delighted to offer complimentary admission to all participating students, allowing them to cheer on their schoolmates and be a part of the thrilling basketball action. The gymnasium echoed with cheers, showcasing the incredible support our students have for their peers.



thank you
COACH NIKKI &
GIRLS VARSITY
BASKETBALL TEAM





Play
Food
Heeze



ENRICHING EXPERIENCES



SCISA State Spelling Bee

We are thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of our students who participated in the SCISA Spelling Bee on Tuesday, 01/23.

In the 3rd grade category, Ollie Young showcased remarkable spelling skills, securing an impressive 5th place out of 40 participants.

Brielle Bardon, a 4th grade standout, delivered a stellar performance and earned the 10th position out of 43 contestants.

Annabel Strong, representing the 5th grade, and Grant Putman from the 8th grade also gave it their all, demonstrating not only their spelling prowess but also their enthusiasm for learning.

A big round of applause for these outstanding Marlins! We look forward to witnessing more accomplishments as they continue to excel in their academic journey.



SCISA Battle of the Books

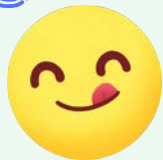
We are excited to highlight the participation of our dedicated students from grades 3-5 in the recent Battle of the Books competition. This engaging event challenged our young readers to showcase their knowledge of the 20 books on the BOB list.

The competition, spanning five rounds, provided a platform for our students to demonstrate their passion for reading. While they did not secure a specific placement, each participant gave their best effort and worked cohesively as a team.

The commitment and enthusiasm displayed by our students during the Battle of the Books reflect not only their love for literature but also their dedication to academic challenges. We commend each participant for their hard work, perseverance, and collaborative spirit. Students who competed include: Paul Terenzi, Nate Shelly, Maddie Zechmann, Claire Whiteside, Kaelyn Green, Caroline Meeks, Josie Short, Annabel Strong, Julienne Terenzi, Delphia Schussler, Greer Hawley, Wells Payne, Cosette Thornton.



yum!



Thank you Mrs. Schussler for the great treats!!!



75
DAYS
TO GO



100th Day of School

Friday, January 26th marked a significant milestone at our school as we celebrated the 100th Day of School with joy, laughter, and a touch of whimsy. The Lower School came alive with excitement as some students embraced the theme by dressing up as if they were 100 years old.

The 100th Day of School is more than just a numerical milestone; it symbolizes a journey of growth, discovery, and countless moments of learning. Our students have spent a century of school days exploring new ideas, making friends, and expanding their knowledge.

As we revel in the joy of reaching the 100th day of this academic year, we look forward to the continued growth, achievements, and shared experiences that lie ahead. Thank you to our students, parents, and staff for making the 100th Day celebration a truly memorable and enjoyable event.



K5 / 1st Grade Field Trip to Midway Fire Department

On February 1st, our Kindergarten and 1st grade students embarked on an educational adventure to the Midway Fire Department, where they delved into the fascinating world of fire safety.

The visit was filled with valuable lessons and hands-on experiences, allowing our young learners to gain a deeper understanding of the crucial role firefighters play in our community. The dedicated staff at the Midway Fire Department warmly welcomed our students and provided engaging insights into fire safety practices.

As they toured the fire station, our students had the opportunity to ask questions, interact with firefighters, and even witness a demonstration of firefighting tools and gear.

We extend our gratitude to the Midway Fire Department for their warm hospitality and for providing our young learners with an enriching experience focused on fire safety.

A special thank you to our Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers for organizing this educational excursion, ensuring that our students continue to learn and grow beyond the traditional classroom setting.



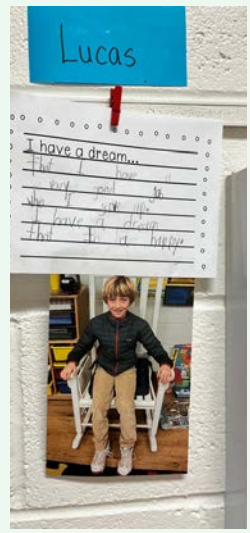
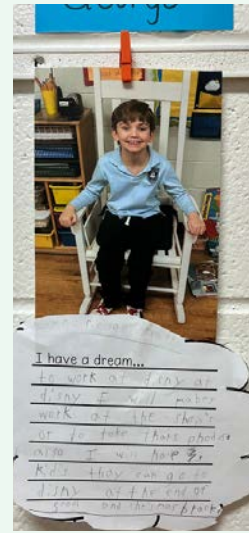
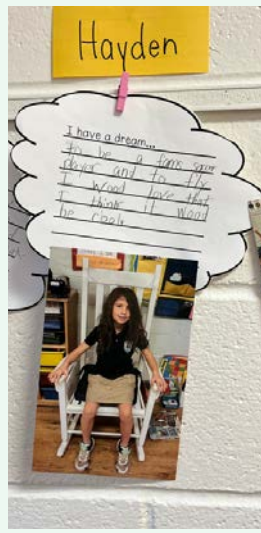
1st Grade

First grade is learning about Earth's materials and resources in science. They are currently studying rocks and soil. Students had fun in a rock lab this week observing rocks and their attributes. They compared and contrasted different sized rocks and talked about their colors and their textures. The rocks will remain in a center in their classroom throughout the unit where students can visit and interact with the rocks.



2nd Grade

In our recent second grade activity, students delved into the inspiring legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. After learning about his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, our young learners embarked on a reflective journey to explore their own dreams for the future. Armed with paper and an array of colorful tools, the students illustrated their dreams and penned down accompanying paragraphs detailing their dreams for the future.



3rd Grade

In the fun world of third grade, our students are embarking on an enriching journey exploring both the Harlem Renaissance and Black History. Combining the two themes, our young scholars are immersed in researching and writing biographies on influential African American figures from the Harlem Renaissance. This project not only delves into the historical significance of the era but also hones essential skills such as note-taking, text summarization, and the art of crafting multiple paragraphs. As our third graders delve into the lives of remarkable individuals, they are not only broadening their historical knowledge but also enhancing their research and writing abilities. Way to go third graders!!!

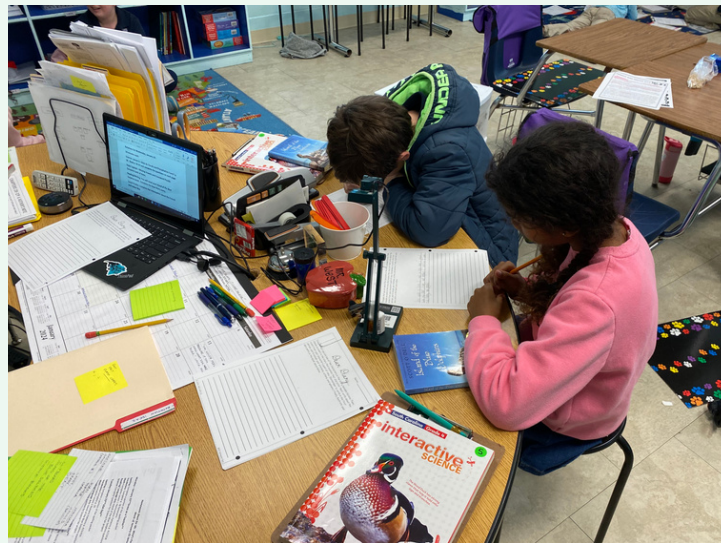


4th Grade

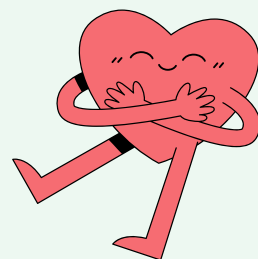
The 4th grade class are engaging in rotations that enrich their learning experiences. These rotations, conducted at least twice a week, span fast facts, state capitals, division, social studies, vocabulary, writing, and climate studies. These sessions are designed to not only deepen their understanding of these subjects but also make learning a fun and interactive process.

Students are grouped into smaller teams, promoting collaboration and teamwork. This not only fosters a sense of community but also allows us to cater to individual learning styles, ensuring that each student has the opportunity to thrive academically. Through visual aids, discussions, and interactive elements, we aim to meet the individual needs of every student, fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment.

After completing each rotation, we facilitate a reflective discussion with the students. This valuable feedback loop allows us to understand their perspectives, gather insights, and make improvements for future sessions. Our commitment to continuous improvement ensures that each rotation is a step towards an even more enriching educational journey.



WE ♥
4th GRADE



Library

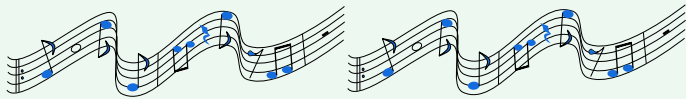


Our fifth grade students embarked on a journey into history as they explored the concept of freedom quilts. These quilts, intricately woven with purpose, served as a clever guide for slaves seeking the Underground Railroad. Each quilt bore a concealed map message, providing a vital path to freedom.

During this activity, students had the opportunity to select their quilt patterns and delve into the historical context behind each design. To complement their creative endeavors, our young scholars also penned short essays, offering insight into the symbolism and significance of their chosen quilt.

Judges evaluated both the design and essay writings, making the selection process a true test of creativity and historical understanding. A hearty congratulations to our winners: Kate Beverly, June O'Halloran, Caroline Meeks, and Grace Costaldo.

Music



Lower School music students are learning the basics of rhythm by using the Takadimi counting system. We count rhythms aloud as we clap along. After counting and clapping these rhythms all year long, students are now learning to play these rhythms on buckets with drums sticks. Here's a photo of the 4th grade "bucket drumming" along with fun songs like "We Will Rock You" by Queen, "Rollin' In The Deep" by Adele, and "Any Thing You Want" by Roy Orbison.



Physical Education



The PE class captain program is new this year and designed to instill values of honesty, integrity, and leadership in sports and physical fitness. Through this initiative, students are encouraged to exemplify these qualities, as well as playing safe, working hard, and being kind during class. This program has helped to foster a positive, supportive, and fun environment while gaining leadership skills. In January, we were pleased to have Sailor Peterson, Asher Mims, Ellie Swanson, McKenna Barclay, Isabella Garcia, and Paul Terenzi lead as Class Captains! We had a wonderful time welcoming parents and family to our PE classes this week with lots of Dodgeball and some Freeze Tag!



LitCon 2024: Empowering Educators

From January 27th to January 30th, our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade teachers embarked on an educational experience at LitCon in Columbus, OH. LitCon, a National Conference dedicated to K-8 Literacy and Reading Recovery, proved to be a conference of inspiration and innovation in the realm of education. This trip was possible through grant funding.

Our team had the privilege of immersing themselves in a wealth of knowledge shared by experts in the field of literacy. The conference not only shed light on current issues in education but also provided invaluable insights into the latest strategies for fostering literacy excellence in young learners.

Mrs. Livingston expressed her excitement, stating, "I am eager to implement some new strategies I learned about. Professional development conferences like LitCon always solidify my passion for education and my commitment to creating students who are intrinsically motivated lifelong learners."

Amidst the wealth of information, there was also room for some delightful moments. A fun highlight was the unexpected encounter with the 'Kindergarten Cop' himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger, adding a touch of humor and excitement to the conference experience.

As our teachers return, armed with fresh perspectives and innovative approaches, we anticipate a positive ripple effect on our classrooms. LitCon 2024 has not only reinforced our commitment to education but has also empowered us to nurture a love for learning in our students.

Already Implementing

One shining example of the immediate impact of LitCon is Mrs. Tamasitis, who wasted no time in implementing a writing strategy learned at the conference. Sharing her enthusiasm, she stated, "One session I went to was called 'I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY (writing).' We discussed journal writing and getting kids to find things in their lives to write about."

Mrs. Tamasitis described a particularly engaging activity from the session: "One activity she suggested was a Quick list - you give a topic (recess) and list 3 things that happened at recess. Then they pick 1 of those things to write about for 10 minutes. We tried this today using 3 things that happened while I was away. They did a great job, and some of them chose to share."

This immediate application of newfound strategies exemplifies the dedication of our educators to bring the latest and most effective teaching methods into our classrooms.



Ms. Rogers comments, "In attending LitCon, I was given the opportunity to learn from experts and professionals of the teaching field. I left with valuable information and new strategies that I am excited to share and implement in my classroom. One quote that stuck with me during my time at the conference was, 'In a world addicted to speed, slowness is a superpower'- Carl Honore.

Something I plan on implementing within myself as I grow as a teacher is to take time for depth not only in educating my students, but also in fostering relationships with them.

I also met The Kindergarten Cop in person and now that movie has been put on my must watch list!"

SCISA Art Show

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for this year's SCISA Art Show. The show took place in Lake City on January 31st. Our Winners are highlighted in blue!!

1. Asher Mims, 1st grade
2. Carly Todd, 2nd grade
3. **Charlton Truluck, 1st grade**
Honorable Mention - 3D Sculptures & Pottery
4. Reeves Beverly, 3rd grade
5. **Cosette Thornton, 3rd grade,**
Honorable Mention - 3D Sculptures & Pottery
6. Adeline Truluck, 3rd grade
7. **Turner Mesimer, 3rd grade**
Honorable Mention - Painting & Drawing
8. Zach Ard, 3rd grade
9. Anastasia Grace, 4th grade
10. Ryan Campbell, 4th grade
11. Brielle Bardon, 4th grade
12. Gavin Holliday, 4th grade
13. Hollis Swanson, 4th grade
14. **Wells Payne, 5th grade**
1st place!!! Painting & Drawing
15. Annabel Strong, 5th grade
16. Shannon Hungerford, 6th grade
17. **Nathan Robinson, 6th grade**
Honorable Mention - 3D Sculpture & Pottery
18. Bennett Burroughs, 6th grade
19. Sarah Livingston, 6th grade
20. Stella Short, 6th grade



Congratulations to Wells Payne for earning 1st place award in the category of Painting and Drawing!!!



Turner Mesimer
Honorable Mention

Cosette Thornton
Honorable Mention

Charlton Truluck
Honorable Mention

Nathan Robinson
Honorable Mention



Asher Mims

Adeline Truluck

Reeves Beverly

Annabel Strong

Anastasia Grace

Brielle Bardon

Zach Ard

Ryan Campbell

Hollis Swanson

Carly Todd

Gavin Holliday

Stella Short

Sarah Livingston

Bennett Burroughs

Shannon Hungerford



Inspiring Note from a R.E.A.D. Member

December 2023

Happy New Year to you and hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday.

FYI—Cooper, my 5-year-old golden and first R.E.A.D.* pup, had a right rear leg amputation on 12/2 for a soft tissue sarcoma. We were at first devastated, but when staging showed no evidence of metastatic disease, amputation was a chance for a cure.

Cooper made his “stage debut” today as a tripod for his first R.E.A.D.* session since his surgery. Coop was so excited when he saw me get his vest. All his canine partners were thrilled to see him, as were teachers and the Lowcountry Preparatory School Lower School Director.

Coop did great and what really made today special was when his student, Adeline, interrupted our session to tell me that Cooper was now special and unique. It was so touching. And I have to admit, as a completely non-biased Dad, that I agree and think he is Mr. Unique!

Sorry for blabbing on but this has been a journey for my wife and myself. And it's truly a tale of resilience—for us, for the rest of our family, for Cooper and for the students who have been behind him 100% and who have not been upset by his amputation.

Best,

Mark DuPuis

Pawley's Island, South Carolina



A LOOK AHEAD...

Open House Jan 30th & Feb 27th



Lowcountry Preparatory School hosted a successful Open House on January 30th, welcoming prospective families and community members from 9:00am to 10:30am. The event saw a positive turnout, with Mr. Wehunt extending a warm welcome to attendees. Engaging student-led campus tours were offered, providing insights into the school's facilities.



Visitors had the opportunity to step into classrooms, where teachers and students eagerly greeted them. This event allowed guests to experience the school's vibrant learning environment firsthand.



Mark your calendars for the upcoming Open House on February 27th, scheduled from 9:00am to 10:30am.

Barrier Island Field Trip - February 5-7

Our 5th and 6th graders have the opportunity to participate in a three-day, two-night field trip to St. Christopher Barrier Island Camp on February 5th – 7th! The St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center is located on Seabrook Island, just south of Kiawah. The field trip is centered on marine environmental science education and the barrier island program is truly an extension of our school mission as meaningful connections and enriching experiences are prioritized.



Valentine's Day Dance - Feb 9th

Join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and dancing in the gymnasium on February 9th from 5:30 to 7:00pm. This event promises to be a delightful celebration, providing an opportunity for students, parents, and faculty to come together and share in the joy of the season. There will be music, refreshments, and plenty of opportunities to make lasting memories.

For grades K5 - 5th. Attire is festive, and we encourage everyone to wear their favorite Valentine's Day colors or outfits.

US students will deejay the event! Come join us!



Good News Club Starts Back Up - February 7th

The first Good News Club meeting of the year is just around the corner! Club will begin on Wednesday, February 7 and will end Wednesday, March 20. Meeting time is 2:30-3:45pm. Registration forms have been sent home. If you are interested in your child joining this wonderful club, a form **MUST** be filled out and turned in prior to attending. This is a policy of Good News Club and there are no exceptions. Forms may be returned either to the child's teacher or the Lower School Office. If you need a form, one may be obtained in the Lower School office or by email (jgalloway@lowcountryprep.org).



LPS Science Fair - February 28th & 29th

Our annual LPS Science Fair is almost here. Students in grades 3-5 will present their projects to multiple judges on Wednesday, February 28th, 8-11am, while students in grades 6-8 will hold their presentations on Thursday, February 29th, from 8-11. It is an exciting time for our students, and we look forward to hearing all about their projects. We always need volunteer judges...if you are interested, please email Christie Jolly at cjolly@lowcountryprep.org.

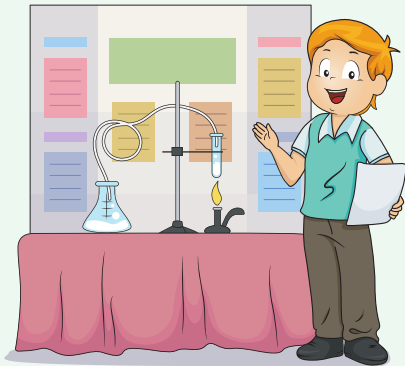


Project drop-off for LS:

- Please bring your child's science fair project to school by Tuesday, February 27th. We will set projects up Tuesday afternoon in the gymnasium as the Science Fair starts promptly at 8:15am the next morning.
- If you are unable to deliver the project by Tuesday, February 27th, please deliver your child's project by 7:50am on Wednesday, February 28th. You will need to take your child into the gymnasium, locate their spot, and set up the project. Teachers will not be able to help if you bring in the project on Wednesday morning.

Project pickup:

- Students will take their projects home on Thursday, February 29th.
- All projects not collected by end of day Friday, March 1st, will be disposed of.



School Science Fair Awards Assembly: Thursday, 02/29/2023, starting at 2:00pm

April 11th - SCISA State Science Fair

Winners of our school science fair (1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners) and one of the two Honorable Mention will attend the SCISA Science Fair on April 11, 2024. The location of this event is usually Sumter County Civic Center (700 W Liberty St, Sumter, SC 29150). More information will be provided to our winners at a later date. Parents of the winners will be asked to transport their child to this event.

Literary Meet - March 1st

On January 25th, students auditioned for the SCISA Literary Meet. Congratulations to the following students who will head to Florence on March 1st for the SCISA Literary Meet:

- 2nd grade: Johnathon Lursen
- 3rd grade: Delphia Schussler
- 5th grade: Paul Terenzi
- 5th grade: Kaelyn Green



Thank you Emily Livingston for being the Literary Team Sponsor!





Chess Club - March 26th

The dedicated members of the Lower School Chess Club have been hard at work, engaging in weekly practices to sharpen their skills and strategy in anticipation of the upcoming Chess Tournament.

Practice Makes Perfect: Our young chess enthusiasts have been meeting regularly to delve into the intricacies of the game. Under the guidance of our experienced coaches and the enthusiasm of the students, each session is a blend of learning and friendly competition. It's inspiring to witness their growth and passion for the game.



Save the Date - Chess Tournament on March 26th: Mark your calendars for a day filled with strategic moves and thrilling matches! Our SCISA Spring Chess Tournament is scheduled for March 26th. This event will not only showcase the skills our students have honed but also provide an opportunity for them to demonstrate sportsmanship, critical thinking, and camaraderie.



5th - to- 6th grade Transition Plan

Soon your children will be reaching an important milestone in their academic lives, transitioning from Lower School to Middle School. The school is sponsoring several events to assist rising sixth graders, the Class of 2031, with this transition. We extend a warm welcome to these students and invite them to participate in our upcoming events described below. Parents will receive an email with more details on Friday, 2/2/24, from Mrs. Lindsey Blomdahl, our Middle School Director. Please be on the look out!



Transition Schedule: >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>> >>>>>>

- March 1: Parent and Student Surveys sent out to gather information about your concerns/questions
- March 25: Middle School Teachers will visit the 5th grade classroom to talk about the middle school experience
- April 8: Current 6th grade students will visit the 5th grade classroom for a Q & A session
- April 25: 5th graders will experience a period at the middle school (9:05-10:00); 1/2 of the class will go to Mr. Smith's math class and the other 1/2 of the class will go to Mrs. Blomdahl's English class
- August 8: Open House starts at 4:00pm for rising 6th graders (everyone else comes at 5:00pm)



Join the Roaring Fun at BASH 2024: A Great Gatsby Affair!

Get ready to step back in time and experience the glitz and glamour of the 1920s at this year's BASH event - Building a Scholastic Heritage. It's more than just a night of festivities; it's an opportunity to make a significant impact on our children's education.

Event Details:

- Theme: 1920s Great Gatsby
- Date: Saturday, March 16th, 6-10 pm
- Location: Litchfield Country Club

What to Expect:

- 🍴 Indulge in delicious food
- 🎪 Enjoy lively entertainment
- 👉 Connect with fellow parents, grandparents, alumni, staff, and friends

Purpose Behind the Party: Proceeds from BASH help bridge the gap between school tuition and the actual costs of educating our children. Your participation directly supports educational initiatives, programs, and resources that enhance the learning experience for all students.

Ways You Can Contribute:

- 👉 Get Involved: Help the PTO with planning, collecting, or donating auction items.
- 👛 Sponsor: Highlight your business and benefit LPS. Sponsorships include reserved seating and recognition at BASH and on social media.
- 👉 Join Us: Attend the event to show your support for our school.



Lower School Theme Baskets

We are planning on donating themed baskets to BASH again this year. They were a hit last year and we know they will be an even bigger hit this year! Your classroom teacher or room parent should be reaching out to you about this. All donations to the baskets should be sent in by February 23rd. Themes for this year are:

- K5: Who's Your Caddy? Golf Basket
- 1st: Tourist In Your Own Town Basket
- 2nd: Food & Beverage Basket
- 3rd: Family Game Night Basket
- 4th: Grilling/Smoking/BBQ Basket
- 5th: Hooked on LPS (fishing themed basket)



Contact Information: For questions, donations, or volunteering, please reach out to Robin Johnson at robinjohnson713@icloud.com.

Let's make BASH 2024 an unforgettable night of fun, community, and support for education!
See you there!

Sponsor Levels

High Ball Sponsor: \$5,000.00

10 Event Tickets & Reserved Sponsor Table
Custom Whisky Glass & Champagne Flute
Sponsor Fedora Hat & Feather Boa
Social Media & Event Program Recognition
Corporate Logo or Name at Event

Bees Knees Sponsor : \$2,500.00

6 Event Tickets & Reserved Sponsor Table
Custom Bees Knees Glass & Champagne Flute
Sponsor Pocket Square & Satin Gloves
Social Media & Event Program Recognition
Corporate Logo or Name at Event

Mint Julep Sponsor: \$1,000.00

4 Event Tickets & Reserved Seating
Custom Mint Julep Glasses
Social Media & Event Program Recognition
Corporate Logo or Name at Event

Side Car Sponsor: \$250.00

2 Event Tickets & Reserved Sponsor
Social Media & Event Program Recognition
Corporate Logo or Name at Event

Financial Aid Application - Open 02/01-02/23

- Online applications for financial aid will be accessible from February 1st through February 23rd.
- See steps in email sent out on 01/29/2024 or steps listed on the last page of this newsletter
- Application for financial aid does not guarantee financial aid.
- Office hours for assistance with financial aid applications are available by appointment. Please call Tina Flaherty at 843-979-0078 or contact her by email accounting@lowcountryprep.org to schedule an appointment.

STEPS

1. Complete the online financial aid application at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid> between February 1st and 23rd.
2. Upload all required financial documents to the online FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment portal, including: tax forms & supporting schedules from tax year 2022 and tax year 2023 (if/when available), W2s, and copies of two most recent pay stubs. If applicable, copies of supporting documentation for Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation and TANF can also be included.
3. Submit the application with a fee of \$40 (goes directly to FACTS, not LPS)
4. The Financial Aid Committee will meet in late February 2024 to review the completed applications and award financial aid. Prior to consideration, a financial aid application must be completed (Step 1) and financial documents uploaded (Step 2).
5. Families that have completed the application process by February 23rd, 2024, will receive written notification of the financial aid award on February 29th.



Re-enrollment Information - Open 03/01 - 03/15

The re-enrollment period for current families starts on March 1st and lasts until March 15th. Enrollment will be open to the public on March 16th, so please complete all necessary steps by March 15th to secure your child's spot. Re-enrollment information will be emailed out to current families by February 29th explaining the process.



Did You Know? Fun Facts...

Animal Fun Facts:

- Did you know that a group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance"?
- Some frogs can jump up to 20 times their body length!

Incredible Inventions:

- The first video game was created in 1958, and it was called "Tennis for Two."
- The world's largest jigsaw puzzle had over 550,000 pieces!

Nature Marvels:

- The tallest tree in the world is a coast redwood named Hyperion, standing over 379 feet tall.
- Honey never spoils! Archaeologists have found pots of honey in ancient Egyptian tombs that are over 3,000 years old and still perfectly edible.

Amazing Numbers:

- A group of 12 cows is called a "flink."
- The number "googol" is so large that it's more than the number of atoms in the observable universe!

Bizarre Food Facts:

- Some people in Iceland eat a traditional dish called hákarl, which is fermented shark!
- The world's largest pizza was made in Italy and measured over 1.13 miles in diameter.





Calendar of Events

- 02/01: Financial Aid Application Opens; closes 2/23
- 02/05-02/07: Barrier Island Field Trip, 5th and 6th graders
- 02/07: Good News Club starts back up; meets from 2:30-3:45 every Wednesday; Ends on 03/20/24
- 02/09: LS Valentine's Day Dance in the Gymnasium, 5:30-7:00pm
- 02/13: Practice Fire Drill
- 02/19 & 02/20: School Closed
- 02/23: Completed Financial Aid Applications due by this date
- 02/23: 3rd & 4th grade field trip to Wonderworks; bring bagged lunch
- 02/27: LPS Open House 9:00-10:30am
- 02/28: LS Science Fair 8:00-11:30am
- 02/29: MS Science Fair 8:00-11:30am
- 02/29: Science Fair Assembly, 2:00pm
- 02/29: Financial Aid Letters go out
- 03/01: Literary Meet
- 03/01: Read Across America//Dr. Seuss's Birthday; Read with Fin Friends 12-12:30
- 03/07: Diamond Dell Mobile Gem Mining On-Site Field Trip, K-5
- 03/08: School Closed
- 03/11: School Closed
- 03/12: Start of Quarter 3; Report cards emailed home
- 03/16: BASH, Litchfield Country Club, 6-10pm
- 03/18: Testing Window: Iowa K-8, CogAt 2, 4, 6
- 03/20: Math Meet
- 03/20: Last GNC meeting, 2:30-3:45pm
- 03/25: Lock Down Drill, #2
- 03/25: MS Teachers come speak with 5th graders
- 03/26: SCISA Spring Chess Tournament - Weldon
- 03/29: Good Friday, School Closed
- 04/01-04/05: School Closed, Spring Break
- 04/08: Middle School Students come speak with 5th graders
- 04/11: SCISA State Science Fair in Sumter
- 04/19: Spring Lower School Performance, 1:30-2:15pm
- 04/22: End of Year Star Assessment Window, K-5
- 04/25: 5th Graders Shadow in 6th grade for one period
- 05/21-05/23: 1/2 days, MS/US Final Exams; No Lunch or Aftercare
- 05/24: Last day of school / Lower School Awards 8:30-9:15; 5th grade graduation 9:15
- 05/25: Graduation (12th graders), 10:00am

have a
GREAT
WEEKEND

