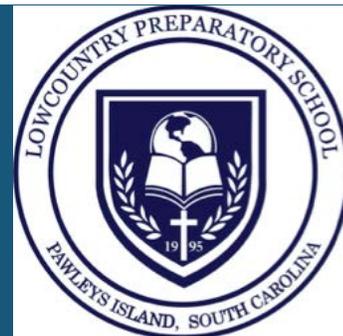


Monthly Report to Parents

March 2017



BASH Draws a Crowd!

Led by Trustee Lindi Brooks and the PTO, BASH proved a large success with its Mexican theme and authentic Mariachi Band. Substantial was participation even among families without children enrolled at LPS. Former Board Chair Dr. Dave Grabeman, wife Linda, and talented daughter, Chloe (LPS Class of 2015) were on hand, as well.

Brooks Auction Services, operated by Glen Brooks, stole the show with fast-talking auctioneers and a multitude of highly desirable auction items. The world-class chefs at DeBordieu Clubhouse outdid themselves with extraordinary fare. The evening netted a tidy sum that will go to the school's operating budget. Thanks to all who participated and made the evening a memorable one!

Warren Wins Top Gymnast Scholarship

On her way to the Ivy League, senior Caroline Warren has won the 2017 Louise Peck College Scholarship, the most prestigious gymnastics scholarship in South Carolina. Warren plans to use it at Brown University next fall.

Warren caught the attention of various Ivy League schools years ago with the combination of her sharp intellect and keen gymnastic skills. Nice work, Caroline!



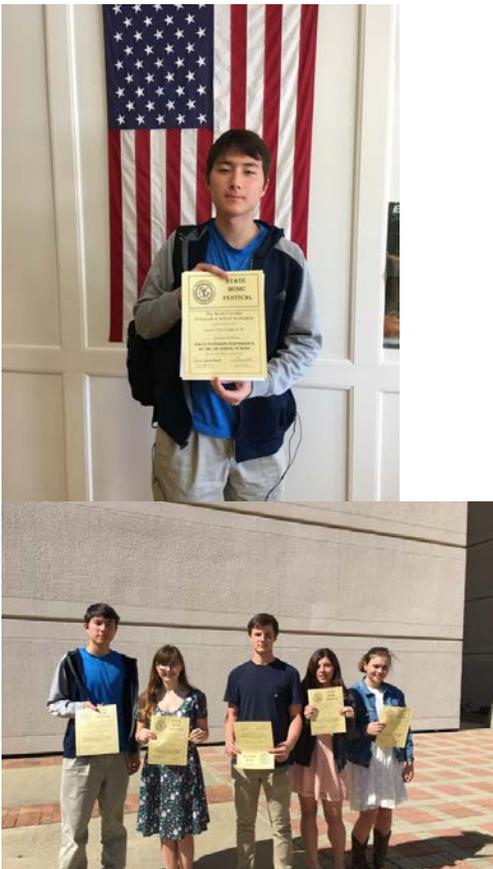
March 2017, Volume 15 Errico Finishes Rugged Maniac Obstacle Course

Sophomore Blake Errico, along with former LPS student Thomas Cook, completed the Rugged Maniac Obstacle Course. The event took place on Boone Hall Plantation in Mt. Pleasant on March 18, 2017. Unlike the standard 5K race, the Rugged Maniac courses involve multiple obstacles and a willingness to get one's running shoes muddy. Looks as if that was not all that got muddy!



Students Bring Home the Gold, Silver, and Bronze from SCISA Music Festival

LPS students distinguished themselves through bringing home gold, silver, and bronze from the March SCISA Music Festival. While no one was surprised with Susa Smith's gold, Ben Verville did surprise some with his gold. His fans are used to cheering him on while he is out on the basketball court. Olivia Collins, a regular name on the Honor Roll, nabbed a silver. Both Julian Mathis—who hosted two French students recently—grabbed a bronze, as did Lily Ashton. Nice work, all!



Tedrow Fifth in Sun News Regional Spelling Bee

Seventh-grader Cameron Tedrow finished in fifth place in the Sun News Regional Spelling Bee on March 11, 2017. St. James High School hosted this year's event. The event is sponsored by Sun News and the Sun News Educational Foundation.

Tedrow also performed well at the preceding SCISA Regional Spelling Bee held at LPS on January 25, 2017. Also participating at that event were Maisie Davis, Ashley O'Neal, Nolan Bohan, Emma Rusnak, Ben Hal, Dale Sankum, David Allen, Brandon Mercado, Anne-Hackett Little, Thomas Prosser, and Olivia Collins.

Young Tedrow's past performances suggest he will have another shot at it next year. He still dreams of winning the all-expense paid trip to attend the National Spelling Bee. Hang in there, Cameron!



DeMello Shines in Equestrian Competition

Sixth-grader Venus DeMello wowed the crowd with her riding skills over two days at Ashley Hall's annual fundraiser at Mullet Hall in John's Island on March 18019, 2017. DeMello competed in both the short stirrup and the 11-and-under division.

DeMello finished as Champion in two divisions. She finished as Reserve Champion in two others.

Head of School Scott Gibson III teachers her English. "In English class, Venus regularly talks about riding. She has a clear passion for it—happy to see that she did so well in this competition."

"It was fun," said Venus. "Chase (her pony) was really good."

Venus has ridden Chase for about one year now. Nice work, Venus and Chase!



Science Fair Features Impressive Research

The LPS Science Fair was held on Wednesday, March 15th in the gymnasium. Approximately 70 students participated. This annual event is designed to encourage students to explore topics of interest, use the scientific method to conduct experiments, and to dig deep into questions to which they want answers.

"This fair is a great way for students to showcase their hard work and effort" stated Jennifer Carson, Lower School Science Teacher.

Judges have the difficult task of determining the best projects to represent LPS at the SCISA State Science Fair on April 4, 2017. "Everyone did a fantastic job" reported Heyward Key, Middle and Upper School science teacher who helped organize the Fair.

The following projects captured the awards for this year's event: From the Lower School, first place, Madeleine Davis, fourth grade, "UV Protection"; second place, Griffin Ballard, third grade, "Aquaponics vs. Soil"; third place, River Schumacher, first grade: "Earthworms vs. Human Detergent"; and

Honorable Mention, Tyler Bowles, fourth grade, "How Long Will Ice Stay in Different Brands of Cups?."

From the Middle School, first place, Elijah Fesperman, sixth grade, "Picking Your Golf Balls: Costly or Cheap?"; second place, Mary Chapman, seventh grade, "Do Dogs Have Good Taste?"; third place, Elizabeth Stedman, eighth grade, "Shining a Light on Light Pollution"; and Honorable Mention, Harry Oxner, eight grade, "Paper Airplane Project."

Fine work, young scientists!



Students, Teachers Run Myrtle Beach Marathon and Relay

Junior RP Sehorn completed the Myrtle Beach Marathon—his first—on March 4, 2017. Sophomore Blake Errico ran as a member of a five-person relay team. Teachers joined in, as well.

Coach Riddle, originally scheduled to participate in the teachers' relay, was called away for post-season basketball duties. Errico stepped in. Other members of the relay team included Mr. ("Father") Phil Cook, Ms. Maggie Dunlap, Ms. Lindsey Hollingsworth, and Ms. Van Hoewyk.

Head of School Scott Gibson III ran the full marathon. With him was his daughter, Courtney. It was her first.

Looking back on the event, Father Cook, always self-effacing, observed, "I didn't know I could run that far, but the crowd and atmosphere made it possible." Secretly, Father Cook reportedly plans to win next year's Boston Marathon.

For 2018, we envision at least three relay teams, at least one each among students, teachers, and parents. So, parents, think about it: three six-mile segments, and two four-mile segments. Form your teams!



Tanoff Runs the Asheville Marathon at Biltmore Estate

IB mathematics and calculus teacher Ben Tanoff completed his second marathon, the Asheville Marathon at Biltmore Estate, on March 12, 2017. He had originally planned to run the Myrtle Beach Marathon with his colleagues but was invited to a family member's wedding on that day. He did his research and found the Asheville Marathon scheduled for the following weekend. Wasting all of his training time was simply not in the cards—he had to run!

Remarked Tanoff, "That was without a doubt the craziest thing ever. Running through Biltmore in the snow was beautiful. The view was out of this world!"

On this, his second marathon, Tanoff completed the 26.2 miles in 3:39, an improvement over his time last year. Nice work, Ben!



Thespian Alumnus Returns to Campus

Caleb Carson, Class of 2016, returned to campus on March 23, 2017. He is currently enrolled at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina where he is majoring in theater. During his time at LPS, Carson was an award-winning member of the Drama Club and was well known on the SCISA circuit for his compelling performances.

Caleb reported that his grades are good at Guilford. He says that he has adjusted well to undergraduate life. Next year, he plans to room with Leo Gibson, also a member of LPS Class of 2016.

Popular among members of the Upper School, they were quick to invite Caleb to join them for lunch off campus where, one suspects, he regaled them with stories of “real” life as an undergrad.



Security Upgrades Completed

Beach Hi-Def, a local contractor, has completed the installation of magnetically locked doors on the Lower School, the Middle and Upper School, and the gymnasium. The contractor has also installed a surveillance camera array on campus.

“This marks a substantial increase in the level of security on campus,” noted Head of School Gibson III. “We should remember who funded this project, namely a group of generous families who donated restricted gifts to the Annual Fund.”

In addition to the magnetically locked doors and the camera array, members of the faculty and staff now close the gate at Blue Stem Drive after drop off. The measure is designed to eliminate vehicular traffic by trespassers.

“Students have responded well to the new door locks,” assessed Middle and Upper School Director David Suber. In the Lower School, teachers and assistants operate the doors for the students.

These upgrades demonstrate the value of AdvancED’s External Reviews that take place every five years for re-accreditation. Security was one area noted in the last review for improvement. So, we have improved!

Athletic Committee Sets 60-Day Goals

Members of the Athletic Committee have wasted no time in taking action. They have set as their objective the following: “to improve the Marlin Athletic Program by ensuring athletic opportunities throughout the enrollment of each student.” The concern is that while LPS is fielding playoff teams, state championship teams, and state runner up teams at the varsity level, athletic opportunities are fewer for students in the Lower School and Middle School.

Goals for completion by the end of the academic year include these: 1) identify all committee members; 2) create a pipeline report to expose teams and school-years at risk; 3) establish “Marlin Athletic Team Signup” night; 4) identify teams for AY 17-18; 5) Establish sport-specific training, nutrition, and wellbeing programs; 6) audit equipment and uniforms; 7) inspect locker rooms; and 8) assess PE curriculum.

Look for progress reports in upcoming editions of this newsletter. Meanwhile, go, Marlins!

Parent Satisfaction Remains High

Tabulation of the March 2017 Parent Satisfaction Survey revealed little net change compared with results from October 2016. The overall rate of parent satisfaction remains high with focused effort already underway in areas in need of improvement in the eyes of parents, namely information technology and a more formally developed athletic program for the lower grades.

Ratings of “character education” and “civil atmosphere” both improved to A, while ratings of “communication” went from A to A/B and “athletics” dropped to “C.”

The number of parents taking the survey jumped to 40 plus this time, a nice increase over what has averaged 20 plus over recent years. As is the case with most surveys conducted by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the measure of central tendency used is the median.

Look for the Parent Satisfaction Survey to continue to take place in October and March of each academic year. The survey remains a key component of our communication program.

Comparative Parent Satisfaction Survey Results
(Median Values)

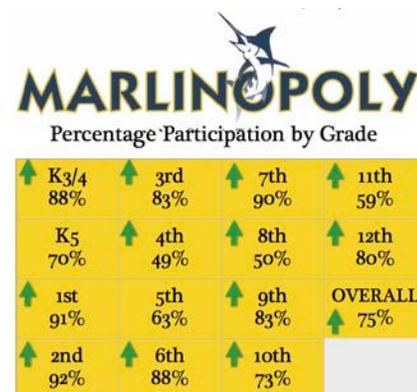
Aspect	October 2016	March 2017
Overall Satisfaction	B	B
Quality of Education	A	A
Communication	A	A/B
Athletics	B	C
Value of Education	A	A
Implementation of the IB	A	A
Ongoing Pursuit of STEM	A	A
Social Events for Students	B	B
Social Events for Parents	B	B
Buildings & Grounds	B	B

Parent Satisfaction Survey Results:
March 2017 vs. October 2016

Aspect	October 2016	March 2017
Information Technology	C	C
Students' Personal Appearance	B	B
Rule Enforcement Consistency	B	B
Character Education	B	A
Civil Atmosphere	B	A
Quality of Faculty & Staff	A	A
Nurturing Environment	A	A
The Arts	B	B
Admissions Standards	B	B
Engrade	A	A

Parent Satisfaction Survey Results:
March 2017 vs. October 2016

Aspect	Median Value	March 2017
Interaction with HoS	A	A
Interaction with AHoS for Admissions	A	A
Interaction with MS/US Director	A	A
Interaction with MS/US XO (Liz)	A	A
Interaction with MS/US XO (Valerie)	A	A
Interaction with LS Office Manager	A	A

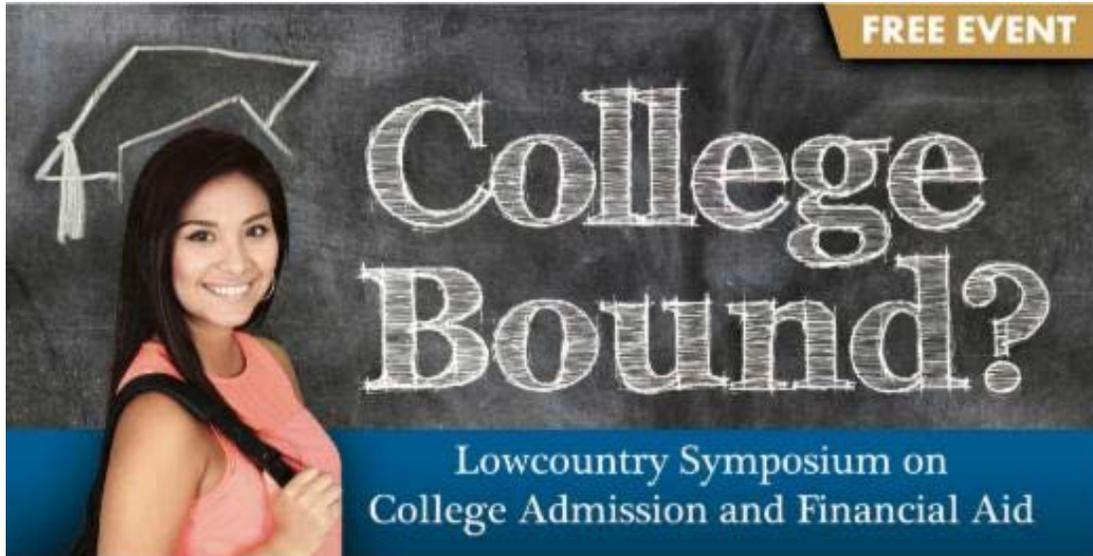


Participation in Marlinopoly Continues to Grow

With but two months remaining in the school year, participation in Marlinopoly grew in 12 of our 13 classes over the past 30 days. The goal is to repeat last year’s record of 100 percent participation in the Annual Fund among parents. One hundred percent of both trustees and members of the faculty and staff was reached some time ago. As E. E. Ford Foundation Executive Director John Gulla noted last summer, 100 percent participation among those three groups is extraordinary and puts LPS in an elite status among member schools of the National Association of Independent Schools. We must do it, again!

The first, second, and seventh grades have achieved levels of 90 percent plus. Yet, other grades are below that.

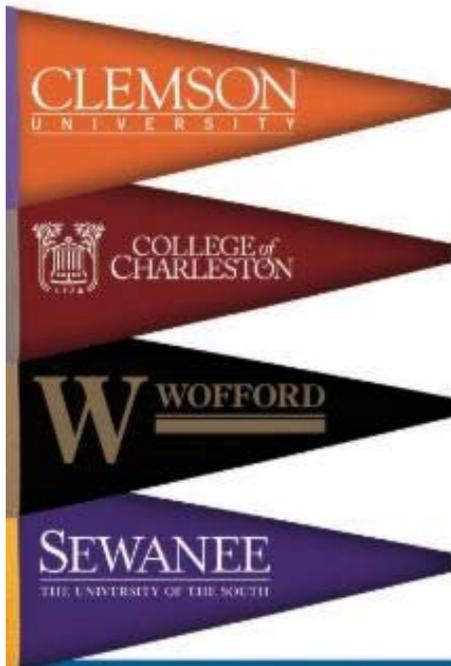
Remember, your donation to the Annual Fund is tax deductible. So, if you have not given, please do so.



Learn more about the college admission and financial aid processes. Join us for a panel discussion led by admission personnel from **Wofford College, The College of Charleston, Clemson University, and Sewanee**. A question and answer session will follow the discussion.

The evening will wrap up with a chance to talk with the admission personnel and obtain materials from these schools. This event is **FREE** and graciously hosted by Lowcountry Preparatory School and open to the public including all students and families with questions about making college a reality.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH • 6-9 PM



Robert Barkley
*Director of Admission,
Clemson University*

Suzette Stille
*Director of Admission,
The College of Charleston*

John Birney
*Director of Admission,
Wofford College*

Lee Ann Backlund
*VP Enrollment Management/
Dean of Admission,
The University of the South*

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