Junior High Festival Concert

Thursday, February 11th

The Junior High Festival Concert will take place on Thursday, February 11 at 7 pm in the Sellett Gym. This concert will include the band and choirs from Peru Parkside, LaSalle, Oglesby, Washington, and Waltham School. Also included in this concert will be the LP Concert, Mixed, and TREBLE choirs along with the LP jazz band, percussion ensemble, and the Symphonic Band.

We look forward to hearing from all of these wonderful ensembles!

Tutoring available – Get help now

Additional assistance in the areas of both Math and English will be available this semester during afternoon and early evening hours.

Tutoring will begin the week of January 11, 2016 and run through the week of May 16, 2016. Students are welcome to stop in at any time for assistance during these two hour blocks of time. Teachers will be available in their classrooms during the days and times above.

Any students coming back to the building for help during Tutoring Times should enter through the Clock Tower Main doors.

SCHEDULE:

Wednesdays ......... 4-6 pm  ..... Math .............. Mr. Stevenson’s Room 141
Thursdays ......... 4-6 pm  ..... Math .............. Mrs. Lawrence’s Room 142
Thursdays ......... 5:30–7:30 pm  ..... English/Writing .... Mr. McLaughlin’s Room 335

Connecting with Families at LPHS

Making the communication process easier for our families is important to us at LP. Educating a student without communication between the teacher and parent is like driving a car with three wheels. The car will surely make progress, but the ride will be cumbersome and nowhere near as efficient as it would be with a full set of wheels. The same can be said of a student’s learning. Communication between the teacher and parent will only increase the academic, social, and emotional growth of the student. When relations between teachers and parents are fostered through continuous communication, a student’s academic expectations become aligned throughout the school and home settings. The student then becomes the leader of his or her own educational progress while the parent and teacher serves as a team of support.

Here are a couple things happening at LP to help the communication process.

Starting this semester, LP’s faculty members have received cell phones to improve their ability to communicate with LP students/families. The new faculty phone numbers can be found through the online directory on the LPHS website. With the new phones, you can now reach faculty members by call or text.

It is strongly believed that students’ academic performance improves when teachers are in regular contact with parents and students to share information on successes and areas that need improvement. We hope by providing the new phones it will be easier for our teachers to communicate with families and for those families to reach out to teachers when a student needs help.

Additionally, the LP Family Ambassador program continues to allow LP parents/guardians a chance to speak directly with LP administrators and one another about their family’s Cavalier experience and develop ideas to improve those experiences.

Started last fall, this growing group is always looking for new guests to sit in on their brief, but fruitful, conversations. The next meeting will be at 6 pm on Monday, February 1 in the Alumni Room at LPHS. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Each meeting lasts roughly one hour. For more information, contact Matt Baker at mbaker@lphs.net.
January - February 2016

Mark Twain once observed, “I can live two months on a good compliment.” I would venture that many of us have a “warm-fuzzy” folder which contains notes and cards from family, friends, co-workers, and bosses that we occasionally pull out and read when we need a positive pick-me-up. Just as wonderful as it is to receive a note of praise, it is as equally rewarding and meaningful to be the giver of gratitude. With every note of thanks, recognition, and praise a bond is strengthened, trust is fostered and good conversation is nurtured. Scientists who study the power of gratitude tell us that practicing it can be life-changing. With any new skill or habit, showing (and receiving) gratitude takes practice and patience. During this past summer, I read the book “A Simple Act of Gratitude: How Learning to Say Thank You Changed My Life” by John Kralik. This book reminded me of the absolute importance of sincerely showing our appreciation for what others do for us. The premise of the book is that our personal and professional lives will be enriched through the simple act of giving thanks. As a result of reading this book, I set a personal goal to write 365 thank you cards over the next year. To date, I am at 176. I can say that this has been one of the most rewarding personal goals that I have worked on.

As we enter 2016 and begin to set New Year resolutions, instead of setting the annual “get in shape” goal, I invite you to challenge yourself to write 365 thank you cards over the next year and to document each one you send. I guarantee that the joy you provide others will be equally returned to you as well in many different ways. To help inspire you, please watch this short YouTube video, entitled Strangers Surprised by an Unusual Reminder to Care.

LEARN...GROW...LEAD... Excellence is our Standard!

Outstanding Staffulty Members

Spanish teacher Gladys Ramey and Cafeteria staffer Kathy Michaelsen were awarded the student-nominated Tireless and Staff awards, respectively, at the start of the semester. The LP drum line performed in the halls, leading members of the LP Renaissance committee as they presented the awards.

The Power of Gratitude

Gratitude requires humility, which the dictionary defines as “modest and respectful.” Explore where this fits in your life.

Give at least one compliment daily. It can be to a person or it can be asking someone to share your appreciation of something else.

When you find yourself in a bad situation ask: What can I learn? When I look back on this, without emotion: What will be grateful for?

Vow to not complain, criticize, or gossip for 10 days. If you slip, rally your willpower and keep going. Notice the amount of energy you were spending on negative thoughts and actions.

Sound genuinely happy to hear from people who call you on the phone. Whether the caller responds with surprise or delight, he’ll know you value speaking with him.

Become involved in a cause that is important to you. Donate money or time or talent. By joining in, you’ll gain greater appreciation for the organization, and it will appreciate you more, too.

Finally, as superintendent of LPHS, I wish to express my deepest delight, he’ll know you value speaking with him.

What can you be grateful for?

When I look back on this, without emotion: What will it be?

What will you do differently?

It can be to a person or it can be asking someone to share your appreciation of something else.

Youth can be grateful for?

When I look back on this, without emotion: What will it be?

What will you do differently?

It can be to a person or it can be asking someone to share your appreciation of something else.

Students of the Month

The LaSalle-Peru Township High School December Students of the Month were recognized during a breakfast ceremony on Wednesday, December 16. Students recognized this month were Ernie Arriaga, Jeff Gray, Abbie Senica, Joshua Sensiba, Jacob Pocivasek, Owen Wolfe, Isabelle Nemeth, Aubrey Cheney, Jessica Sanchez, Paulina Dimas, Nick Gause, Jaden Corsonoli, Kendra Yade, and Matthew Adams. Students are nominated for this honor by LPHS teachers, coaches, and staff.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Renaissance Program and Fairmont Santrol, represented by Kelsey Carey. Music was performed by student pianist Rachel Black.

Respect Week

April 25-30 will be Respect Week hosted by LEAD (Leadership, Education, Awareness, for Disabilities). During this week the students will participate in different events to learn more about people with disabilities and differences of our student body at LPHS. The students will have a chance to participate in a photo booth, trivia contest, take the R-word pledge, and different activities in their classes. The week will end with a Volleyball Tournament open to the community. The Volleyball tournament will be for teams of no more than 8 players ages 18 and older. The cost will be $100/team and all proceeds will go to Starved Rock Special Olympics Area 16.

Calendar of Events

January 18 ............................................. Martin Luther King Day (NO SCHOOL)
February 1 .............................................. 6 pm ... LP Family Ambassador meeting, Alumni Room
February 3 ............................................. 6 pm ... Parent Power Session/Financial Aid and IVCC Information Rooms, 316 & 323
February 11 ........................................... 7 pm ... Junior High Festival Concert, Sellett Gym
February 15 ............................................ Presidents Day (NO SCHOOL)

Find more details on upcoming events on the online calendar at www.lphs.net.

What do you think about LP?

Teachers, parents, and students across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the annual statewide Illinois SE5Essentials Survey, designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child’s school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes:

1) Effective Leaders
2) Collaborative Teachers
3) Involved Families
4) Supportive Environment
5) Ambitious Instruction

Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at LPHS and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

The Illinois SE5Essentials will be conducted through March 11, 2016. To take the survey please visit https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois and select the appropriate survey to begin.

For more information about the Illinois SE5Essentials, please visit https://illinois.5-essentials.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact SE5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or SE5Essentials@uchicago.edu.

BBQ to get to NOLA

On Sunday, January 31 from 5-8 pm the LP Choirs will be heading down to New Orleans with HAZE smokehouse at 159 Bucklin Street, LaSalle to help raise funds for New Orleans. Tickets are $12 and can be purchased from any choir student or by e-mailing Ms. Taylor (ataylor@lphs.net).

The dinner will include your choice of a brisket, pulled pork or veggie sandwich served with beans and rice. Dine-in receives a fountain drink as well.

Haze Smokehouse • January 31 • 5-8 pm