

# THE LP BULLETIN

NOTES, QUOTES, AND LOST COATS

The LP Bulletin #01  
August 15th, 2016

## UPCOMING LP EVENTS

**CURRENT 'HABIT OF  
THE HEAD, THE  
HEART, AND THE  
HAND'**

Coming Soon!

## HEADLINES

## ATTACHMENTS

### Headline

This Bulletin is later than usual, but I imagine no one really minds. The first Bulletin is a harbinger of the waning days of vacation and I understand why no one is entirely thrilled about that! Two weeks from today, just in case you've forgotten or intentionally repressed the fact, we start school. That would be Monday, August 29th. We're counting on you to be there! It is the second year in a row that we have started in August, which we routinely do when Labor Day comes late in the calendar, as it does again.

It's been -- or so seemed to be--an exceptionally busy summer. Shortly after Graduation, we turned attention to the project of spiffing up the ballroom (the aspiration of last year's Paddle Raise at the Auction) and to putting final touches on plans for this year's August Scholars Program. On the ballroom project, we got a jump start in June on the painting and on building a 'box' for the new A/V system (a huge project undertaken voluntarily by former LP parent Dick Pingree), and we also had the new A/V system installed--a two day job by a group of three professionals. Now to learn how to make it all work!

Our week long Orientation for August Scholars--for a record number of people (26 faculty and staff)--started July 11th and the Scholars arrived the following Monday. This year's program was by all accounts the best ever. We rolled back on the number of Scholars and classrooms (from nine to seven) to better fit our administrative capacities, and we also moved our second site just up the street to The Newman School, instead of Suffolk University. That shift, alone, made the program much easier to support and administer, and also allowed us to develop a sense of the wider community among Scholars and teachers. For the first time in many years, we were able to have a weekly All Scholar Meetings and, also, to have the Scholars at both sites see each other's culminating musical performance.

The 'graduation ceremony' was held at The First Church on August 5th. The sanctuary was packed with proud parents and friends of August



*This summer at The LP was a successful one! We had 85 August Scholars graduates complete our program.*

Scholars. The LP Scholars did a musical review under the direction of the Community Music Center of Boston, and the Newman students did a drumming performance, under the direction of All Hands Drumming, Eighty-five Scholars received Certificates of Completion.

Once August Scholars was underway, the administration had time to continue the planning for the coming year, and, after August Scholars ended, to take a few days off. The past few weeks, then, have seen a hectic pace as we have been working to complete our planning process, to put the final touches on the ballroom project, and to prepare for our week-long LP Orientation which starts in a week.

As I recently wrote to the faculty, it's that 'hang onto your hat' time when the wild hayride of another school year is about to take off.

Can't wait!

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## **School Forms**

And . . . Ms. Toker, grateful for the vast number of forms that dutifully arrived on the due date, can't wait for the tiny handful now overdue to arrive for processing.

Please understand: we absolutely, unequivocally, **cannot** have children in the school who do not have an up-to-date medical form, so that one is most important. But, the other forms matter as well and we should have them . . . tomorrow.

As I noted last year: " Due dates are not arbitrarily pulled out of a hat--they have a purpose, and in this case it is to allow Claire time for the immense job of processing information off the forms." The Faculty must have information about allergies, etc. at Orientation so we can review it then, not later. Teachers need to know about dismissal plans and permissions for pick-up-before the first day. And all of us need to have contact information (names, addresses, phone numbers) on people in our school community--the information traditionally contained in our Blue Book.

Speaking of which . . .

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## **The Blue Book**

As announced last spring, this year The Blue Book, our directory of the school community with names, addresses and phone numbers, and also with important annual dates, will be on line in a password protected parent portal. We will let you know when it is available in that new format--which will be earlier than ever! Parents, of course, can download and or print this information as needed, but having it on line presents all the advantages--currency, in particular, (and some of the disadvantages) that you can well imagine. And if we hate this change, we can undo it in the future.

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## **The Parent Handbook**

Claire sent The Parent Handbook to you as an attachment in an email on August 9th. Please let her know if you did not receive it or need it to be re-sent. I am certain that many of you have already downloaded it, even printed out copies to have on your bedside tables, and have been studying it closely since its arrival. Good!

The Parent Handbook is actually worthy of an annual read because it reminds us all of what 'community' means at LP and of the numerous and critical details that reflect the school's philosophical commitments, as well as its intentionality about even seemingly 'minor' matters.

This year's Handbook contains a few updates that will be of interest. I won't rob you of the pleasure of discovery!

## **Enrollment News**

We welcome, as usual, a new Kindergarten Class--18 in number, and includes 6 siblings. In addition, we have new students in grades 2, 3, and 4.

Unexpectedly, Henry Tweedy in our rising sixth grade applied out over the summer and was accepted to The Fessenden School. We wish him, and his parents, well.

Max Klein, in our class of 2020, is taking a year's leave of absence to help his Mom as she does a year's service as a doctor in Kigali, Rwanda. Max's father, Mike, has started a blog to record their adventures---[www.yearinkigali.blogspot.com](http://www.yearinkigali.blogspot.com).

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## **Staffing News**

We have much to be joyful about. Amber (former second grade teacher) and Devin's baby, Barrett, arrived just after school ended, on June 18th. Owen Patrick Doherty (son of Kara Doherty who covered two maternity leaves for us last year) arrived on July 22nd. And Juliana and Noel Brinkley, and daughter, Naomi, welcomed a little boy, Harper, on July 27th. Ms. Brinkley will be on maternity leave for September and October.

Eight LP Teachers had babies (Emma, Vincent, Otis, Ben, Elliott, Barrett, Owen, and Harper--quite a run on boys!) in a span of 13 months. An LP record.

As though this wasn't enough excitement for our community, we will soon also have had a flurry of faculty/staff weddings: John Krewson and Anna Niebuhr on August 5th on the Cape and our new colleague, second grade teacher Anne Kjeldgaard and Jordan Zanazzi in D.C. on August 6th. Maggie Corcoran and Eric Seitz will be married on August 19th (Maggie will not be here for the first week of school) and a second new colleague, Paige Connelly, will be married on August 27th to Jeff Keady in Kennebunk, ME--an event planned long before her hiring here so Paige, also, will not be here for the first week of school.

Four weddings in the span of . . . August! Another impressive LP 'record.'

Now, some not joyful staff news: Our wonderful colleague, Laura Mellen, has asked if I might see a way to cut back on her hours (Pete is travelling every week and with an eight month old at home and full time work--you get the picture!) I pondered her request at considerable length and eventually and reluctantly concluded that part-time (or job sharing) in that position would unlikely work well for the school. I am feeling the need for more administrative support, not less (one of my reasons for adding John Krewson on the admin side as our new Technology Coordinator.) Consequently, I have posted the Admissions/Program job as the first step to finding a full-time replacement. For the interim, Laura and I have agreed on an immediate reduction of her work schedule (she will not be here on Wednesdays--starting immediately) -- and we've also agreed that we will 'part company' (I hope but briefly) if or when I find the ideal replacement or, if or when she finds her ideal job -a three day a week commitment instead of full time.

Here are some brief bio's of our new Faculty and Staff for 2016-2017:

### **Amelia Ayres, Intern Grade 6**

Amelia is a recent graduate of Clark University in Worcester where she majored in English, Cultural Studies, and Communications. Amelia has spent many summers working with elementary age children at various schools in the area. This past summer, she worked in the August Scholars Program as a Head Counselor. Amelia grew up in Belmont, MA.

### **Nina Doonan, Intern Grade 5**

Nina comes to the Learning Project from Bates College, where she studied Environmental Studies and Spanish. She is interested in pursuing a career in education and worked in a third grade classroom

throughout her time at Bates. She also worked with the Let's Get Ready SAT Tutoring Program and has been active in the Big Brother Big Sister Organization. Nina is originally from Holliston, MA.

### **Mikah Farbo, Intern Grade 3**

A recent graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Mikah comes to the Learning Project with a degree in human development and psychology. She completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where she also played field hockey.

### **David Chodakewitz, Intern Grade 4**

David comes to The LP from the Merrowvista Program, where he led teenagers leading them on various hiking and biking trips throughout New Hampshire. He also worked as a social studies teacher with the Breakthrough Greater Boston Program. Prior to these experiences, he completed his undergraduate degree in Urban Studies at Brown University, where he was very active in the BOLT (Brown Outdoor Leadership Training) Program. He is originally from Pennsylvania.

### **Paige Keady, Intern Grade 1**

Paige was most recently working in the Winchester school system where she was a teacher's assistant in a fourth grade classroom. Before that, she worked for six years in the marketing industry. She is a graduate of Providence College where she majored in Public and Community Service and Marketing. Paige grew up in Winchester, MA.

### **Anne Zanazzi, Head Teacher Grade 2**

Anne Zanazzi joins The LP having just earned her master's at Lesley University. Last year, she worked as an associate teacher at BB&N in both first and fifth grades. Prior to that, she worked as a third grade teacher at the Holy Trinity School in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Georgetown University where she studied International Relations and Affairs. Anne grew up in the D.C. area.

### **Laurie Katz, Head Teacher Grade 1 (Maternity Leave Coverage)**

Laurie Katz (pronounced 'Kates') joins the LP after spending the last year as a second grade Intern at the Chestnut Hill School. Laurie is from the Back Bay originally and attended Kingsley Montessori, Brimmer and May, followed by DePaul University. Shortly after Juliana Brinkley's return from maternity leave, Laurie will begin her Master's in Education at Lesley University.

### **Laura Healy, After School Assistant**

Laura Healy joins us as our new After School Assistant. She is currently working toward her Master's in English as a Second Language degree and teaching certification at UMass Boston. She has extensive experience working with children in after school programs, teaching dance at the elementary level, and working as a mentor. She completed her undergraduate degree in Pennsylvania at Susquehanna University and grew up in New York.

### **Natalia Christie, Intern Grade 2**

Natalia Christie, our former After School Assistant (who also provided coverage in both kindergarten and second grade last year), will be joining the intern team this year. Natalia is a graduate of UMass Amherst and is originally from Hartford, Connecticut.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **Sixth Grade Extra Prep ISEE Course**

If you are interested in signing your child up for this course this fall, there is still room available, but we need to know our enrollment very soon so we can begin preparing materials. The deadline to return your forms was, as you know August 5th. Please let Claire know this week if you are interested so Justin, who will be teaching both strands-math and language arts-- has time to prepare materials. The program starts on **Tuesday, September 6th.**

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## Cradles to Crayons

Inspired by Monica Shah, mother of Nayan (second grade) and Leela, in Kindergarten, we are going to again do this school wide service project on a date yet to be determined, but likely a Saturday afternoon (after morning soccer, etc.) in the fall. You can find out about this program at their website, [cradlestocrayons.org](http://cradlestocrayons.org) but, in a nutshell, it passes on useful donated items that will benefit children in Boston whose families have limited resources.

Last year it was a tremendous success with about 25 LP family members (children included) participating. Volunteer groups on the chosen Saturday bag items for children in need at the warehouse (it's called "shopping.") Other volunteer opportunities include: Donating items and helping to sort and bag items on the Friday before the event at the warehouse.

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## Book Fair

This year the Book Fair will be on October 15th. Gina Powers has gamely volunteered to be Chair, and has met with Maggie to start the preparations. Jen DiManno, last year's chair, has been very helpful as well. Please put this date on your calendar and do what you can to help our first fundraiser--and fun event--be the success it has been for several decades.

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## Upcoming Events Calendar

A full schedule of upcoming fall events--conference times, potluck suppers, etc.--will be available shortly. We will send it out as soon as we have everything 'nailed down'--or at least nailed down as best as we can predict! In the mean time, many of the major annual events can be found on the new calendar on our updated website.

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## Kindergarten Cookout

A "getting to know one another" Cookout for Kindergarten families will be held on **Friday, September 9th at 5:30pm**. We will meet at the playground, briefly, and come back to school around 6:00. The children will be supervised in the ballroom for a pizza dinner, and some entertainments, while parents have a chance to socialized upstairs over hotdogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill. We will finish up around 7:00.

Please put this event on your calendar now; we hope you can come.

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## First Day of School Parent Coffee - Monday, August 29th.

After you have said your fond farewells, we hope you will stop by the lobby at 107 Marlborough Street for a cup of coffee and conversation. Kleenex will be available for anyone who is feeling especially sorrowful.

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## ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

Coming soon!

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