

THE LP BULLETIN

NOTES, QUOTES, AND LOST COATS

The LP Bulletin #03
September 1st, 2016

UPCOMING LP EVENTS

Friday, September 2nd - Kindergarten Welcome Coffee at #107
Monday, September 5th - Labor Day - **No School**
Tuesday, September 6th - Girl Scouts and Test Prep Begin
Wednesday, September 7th - Class Coordinator Meeting
Friday, September 9th - Kindergarten BBQ

HEADLINES

A School Year Begins

Everywhere, across this country, children have already returned or are about to return to their schools after a long summer break. And for most of them, the change of pace from the languid days of vacation to the intense rhythms of a school is dramatic and, indeed, physically draining. It no surprise that many of our children were utterly exhausted after our first few days.

But acclimation comes swiftly. We're now three days and a bit more into the school year. Matters that required explanation or reminders two days ago (and extra energy from the teacher and from the learner) are now routines and hum along. And what I see, on my 'walk-about,' are children at work, often quite independently busy and productive, and responding to the invigorating pull of learning.

This is a good thing. We have quite a lot to accomplish, and, by the end of today, we'll only have 176 days left before Graduation in June.

The time will fly.

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

Mindfulness

WORD OF THE WEEK

Prompt

ATTACHMENTS

[2016-2017 School Calendar](#)

[September Calendar](#)

[Adventure Trip Sign-Up](#)



*Sixth grade wasted no time
getting right to work this
week!*

Notes, Quotes and Lost Coats

It was Will Murphy, dad of Robin in fourth (and two LP alums) who suggested this 'tag line' for our LP Bulletin last year, and while I feel we did a good job last year on the 'notes' and 'lost coats,' we were a little short on 'quotes.' So, here, by way of compensation, is a handful of favorites (currently posted on the front bulletin board) under the title: **EXPECTATIONS**

Don't lower your standards; instead wait for people to rise up to your expectations.

Susan Gale

High achievement always takes place in the context of high expectations.

Charles Kettering

One consistent finding of academic research is that high expectations are the most reliable driver of high student achievement, even in students who do not have a history of successful achievement."

Doug Lemov

The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and that we miss it, but that it too low and we reach it.

Michelangelo

And my personal favorite . . .

It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

W. Somerset Maughn

Our Current Habit of the Head, Heart and Mind: Mindfulness

Ms. Cesarz gave a wonderful talk on "Mindfulness" at our first Monday Morning Assembly, and also taught the children the 7-11 breath exercise (count to seven as you steadily inhale; count to 11 as you steadily exhale.)

Mindfulness practice is about living in the moment and also thinking about and experiencing (feeling) that moment fully at the cognitive level. Children are quite good about 'living in the moment' but the contemplative piece isn't their 'natural' tendency. We can, however, help them with that.

Each time we ask children what they think about something we are building their capacities to be mindful. Each time we ask them how they "feel about" something we do the same. And when we challenge them to consider another person's perspective, or to think about how someone else might be feeling about something, we are further strengthening their own capacity to be more mindful.

Surrounding some of our/their experiences with quiet, even solitude, is another way to nurture mindfulness. We always begin our Monday Morning Assemblies with an extended moment of silence for that reason. And encouraging children to understand that they are making choices in the moment all the time, and that they can 'stop and think, first,' about those choices, connects them to the empowering practice of mindfulness. It is by being mindful (as opposed to mind-less or mind-empty) that children learn to guide themselves to the destination they aspire to achieve.

Since the moment is the time in which we live, it behooves us to pay attention to it.

Reading Logs

Most Learning Project children, sadly not all, did a marvelous job keeping up with their reading logs this summer and we are grateful to parents for their support, and proud of our readers, who, of course are the main beneficiaries of all that wonderful reading. Few life experiences can be more valuable to children (and

to adults, also) than a good book.

And, along those lines, I coincidentally heard via Facebook from two LP alums this week about reading experiences each of them had at LP-and the lasting impact of those experiences. Sara Zielinski, 2001, posted a photograph of her second grade reading log and a photograph of a recent page from the reading log that she has kept since that early time. The book titles are different, but the passion for literature is the same.

And Katrina Grigg-Saito, '91 (aka Gold-Saito), whose first children's book, *The Sound of Silence*, was recently released by Little Brown, posted an essay that she called "A Love Letter to Reading." It is about a reading experience she had here as a fourth grader that she links to the moment she held her freshly printed book-baby in her hands for the first time. Here's the whole essay:

Even though fellow fourth grader Scott Alden warned me, I didn't listen. He told me not to read the ending to *Bridge to Terabithia* at school, because I would cry and people would see me.

It was near the end of the school day and I could feel the thin sheaf of pages in my right hand, knew I was getting close to the end, but the story was too wonderful-no way could I stop reading. The boy in the book was soaring after time spent with his favorite teacher and he feels the "joy jiggling inside of him so hard," and that joy was in me too, and it seemed like nothing could possibly make me cry, and then he walks into his kitchen and finds out that his best friend is dead. I crept under one of the school chairs, burst into tears, and kept reading.

The wrench of the girl's death is still so palpable to me now. It was my first death, the death of this character that I loved. I'm struck now by the beautiful way books can prepare us for loss, can make us familiar with tragedies we will someday have to face. It wasn't just a handbook for loss; it was a handbook for survival too. I held onto that book like a life raft, wanting to know how the boy would survive, absorbing his guilt and eating the "marvelous" pancakes with him. I had to read even as the tears were streaming down my cheeks.

"A book is a heart that only beats in the chest of another," writer Rebecca Solnit says about the way books live inside of us. That's what brought me to writing for children: the desire to transmit that electric, immersive feeling of reading.

The Sound of Silence is a love letter to reading. The boy in the book searches bustling Tokyo for the elusive sound of silence, but he's searching for more than that-he's searching for that space inside of him, and he finds not just an external silence, but an internal one. He finds it between the covers of a book. Reading gives us empathy and opens up space inside of us. It's a space that we're not paying attention to that much any more, that's getting crowded out by smart phones and apps, and it's a space that I want us to guard and help the children around us to guard.

The Japan of Yoshio's world is a Japan that I grew up hearing stories about. My father's old Japan is tucked into the folds of this new electronic noisy Japan. Though illustrator Julia Kuo and I never talked about this specifically (we talked about so many other wonderful things through our collaboration), it's clear to me that she knew implicitly the Japan I'm writing about, the one that's rooted in the ancient, that peeks out between department stores and apartment buildings.

It's an incredible thing, when you love books this much, when books feel like sacred objects, to write a first children's book and have it published. My editors at Little, Brown sent me the finished book in the mail, gift-wrapped in crisp polka-dotted paper, and I was so excited that I couldn't open it. I waited for a while, and then finally, finally, I unwrapped my book and read it for the first time. Scott Alden should have warned me. I cried. This time, out of joy.

The Parent Portal

The Learning Project has a new website! The design and text is similar to the one you've experienced in the past, but this one has updated photographs and is mobile-friendly - which means it will resize itself to fit your phone and tablet screens, and incorporates an easy-to-tap menu. Under the "Parents" link in the main menu, you'll find a link that says, "Parent Portal." This is where you can view and download a copy of our digital Blue Book. I encourage you to do so! In the future, we also plan to use this portal to share school

photos, links to educational articles, and more! We'll update you when that occurs.

Word of the Week

Prompt; adj. 1. done, performed, delivered at once or without delay: a prompt arrival at school. 2. ready in action; quick to act as occasion demands; 3. v.t.; to move or incite to action; allow me to prompt you toward doing your homework, now; 4. To assist (a person speaking) by suggesting something to be said-as in a theatre when a 'prompter' supplies a forgotten line to someone on stage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sixth Grade Self-Dismissal

Our sixth graders, with parent permission, are allowed to self-dismiss and be on their way home or to afterschool activities. That parental permission-written-is an absolute requirement before we will allow self-dismissal to happen. Important for parents and our sixth graders to recognize, however, is that when they dismiss themselves from school, they do not get to 'hang around school.' They must be on their way.

One place they sometimes like to go is the playground. And here is something else they--and their parents--must recognize. When LP children are on the playground and LP teachers are there monitoring afterschool children, our sixth graders must abide by the same rules and behavior standards we expect of them when they are directly in our care, and indeed, at all times they are not. There is no immunity from being an LP student--not even graduation. And we certainly expect the most exemplary conduct from our oldest LP students because they have had the longest time being guided by us in that direction. And, as mentioned earlier, "It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."

An Apology

Last week, in the lengthy 'caption' next to the picture about our AISNE launch--when the faculty put on reflective sunglasses and looked (a) ridiculous; (b) incredibly hip; (c) embarrassingly unprofessional (d) worse than all of the above--I forgot to mention that Ms. Hill was also absent. I should like to tell you that she was protecting her professional reputation but the truth is that she had an appointment and missed the photo-shoot. And I missed mentioning that she was absent. My apologies.

And Some Belated Thanks

Those of you who attended the Spring Season of LP Theatrical Productions (Ltd.) might not have noticed that during our Spring season we had curtains that were actually not just pinned together pieces of material, but a left and right curtain that were each separately a whole large piece. That handiwork-or needlework-was accomplished by Eileen McCormack and we are all very grateful to her for further upgrading our drama program with this practical solution to a longstanding deficiency.

Cradles to Crayons

Fall is here - it's the perfect time to clean out your children's closets and donate to The LP's clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons, a terrific Boston-based organization that serves children in need in our community. We will have bins out starting next week to accept new and like-new (gently used, no rips or stains) clothing, coats, and shoes. The organization also accepts new and gently-used books, toys, and new hygiene items (diapers, wipes, etc.)

Please also join us to volunteer at Cradles to Crayon's Giving Factory in Brighton on **Saturday, September 17th, from 1:30-3:30pm**. We have spots for up to 40 LP parents and children. Volunteers will inspect, sort, and bag items for children who are served by various social service agencies in our city. It's a great opportunity for the whole family to roll up their sleeves to help other families in our community.

We also need parent volunteers to help sort through collected items on **Friday, September 16th**, at The LP between 1:30-3:00pm and to drive donated items to Cradles to Crayons in Brighton.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please email Maggie at mcorcoran@learningproject.org

Class Coordinators

The following are your Class Coordinators for the upcoming school year:

- Kindergarten - Lisa Herrington (Mother of Leo) and Heather Burke (Mother of Marlowe)
- 1st Grade - Kim Napoli (Mother of Gianna) and Tara Vuono (Mother of Sebastien)
- 2nd Grade - Cathy Wong (Mother of William) and Fritz Knabe (Father of Ginger)
- 3rd Grade - Geraldine O'Hagan (Mother of Maureen) and Charlene Domenech (Mother of Carolina)
- 4th Grade - Christie Fujimoto (Mother of Carina) and Will Murphy (Father of Robin)
- 5th Grade - Sarah Rabasco (Mother of Lexi) and Ralph Peteranderl (Father of Katarina)
- 6th Grade - Colleen Brannen (Mother of Liam) and Catherine Bordon (Mother of William)

After School Care Needed

Albina (Christo's mom) is looking for someone to take Christo (4th grade) from school to after school activities on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Hours are from dismissal for about two hours. Competitive payment.

Please email Albina even if you know anyone who might be interested.

albina@velikin.net or 617-306-8905

Fall Adventure Trip

4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited on our fall Adventure Trip-- canoeing down the Charles with Mr. Rob! The trip will take place on **Saturday, Oct. 1st, from 9:00- 2:00**. Sign-up forms were sent home today and are attached to the Bulletin for your convenience. Sign ups are due back to Ms. Mellen by **Sept. 16th**.

Community Music Center Lessons

This fall, we are pleased to offer after school music lessons once again. Beginning the week of **September 12th**, lessons will be taught at The LP by teachers from the Community Music Center of Boston. We are offering group guitar on Mondays, group piano on Wednesdays, and group flute on Thursdays to students of all ages. Please contact Jennifer Keller Rathbun at CMCB if you are interested in signing up for lessons krathbun@cmcb.org 617-482-7494).

Book Fair - Save the Date

The LP's beloved Book Fair is on the calendar for **Saturday, October 15th**. Please save the date!

Hip Hop Classes at Dana Hall - Girls Grades 1-5

What: Dana Hall School Girls
Who: Girls - Grades 1-5
When: Sunday, September 25th, 2016 4:00 - 5:30 pm.
Cost: \$20 per person
Contact: www.danahall.org/hiphopclass16

ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

Coming soon!

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