

THE LP BULLETIN

NOTES, QUOTES, AND LOST COATS

The LP Bulletin #15
November 23rd, 2016

UPCOMING LP EVENTS

Wednesday, November 23rd - Thanksgiving Feast and **Early Dismissal - 12:15**
Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving - **NO SCHOOL**
Friday, November 25th - **NO SCHOOL**
Wednesday, November 30th - 6th Grade to BLS

HEADLINES

Fall

This week has felt like winter is coming, the dusting of snow a *very* gentle reminder. But fall is not yet finished. Not all the leaves are on the ground, and the winter solstice is still more than a month ahead.

I measure the change of seasons on my walk to school. First, there is the sun's different slant, the changing light, and the cooling temperature; then erupts the glory of autumn color, and soon after begins *the fall*. The locust trees in the front of the First Church, where we have graduation, are usually the earliest on my morning journey to drop their leaves. They were bare several weeks ago. But a locust mid-block on the other side of the street still twinkles bright yellow--I would guess the beneficiary of more warmth on the sunny side. The leaves on the sugar maple in the Public Garden also drop early, several weeks before those of the red maple close by. The enormous gingko next to the anesthesia statue has blanketed the ground in a ring of gold, but has more coins to drop.

Still clinging to its yellow/green leaves is the English beech in the section in front of Cheers--and it will grasp tightly its leaves well into the winter. I like its tenacity for a particular reason. It was planted 23 years ago in memory of a parent at The LP who struggled for many years to remain alive. She died three weeks before her daughter graduated from the school. It was one of the saddest moments of my long career, but when I walk by that tree and think about her, I always smile inside.

Thanksgiving Feast

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

Integrity

WORD OF THE WEEK

Apply
Concede
Responsibility
Indulge
Predicament
Dawdle
Germinate
Tarnish
Flounder
Maneuver
Artifact
Prompt

ATTACHMENTS

[Holiday Tree Sale Flyer](#)



Thanks to the hard work of the whole school a delicious feast was enjoyed by all! Pictured here are 3rd graders on mashed potato duty.

Today, everyone smiles--pleased about the brief vacation ahead; happy for today's feast with schoolmates in the ballroom, and, maybe, depending, looking forward to another gathering with family and friends tomorrow.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is a 'highlight day' in The LP's annual journey. The children are always excited about this tradition, and I know they will remember this and our other school traditions long after they've forgotten how to compute the area of a circle, who followed Hadrian as emperor, or the number of electrons in carbon. Today is about connections, food, time together, gratitude, and celebrating community--a collection of experiences that truly has 'staying power.'

For the past two days the kitchen had been 'hoppin' while classes have come to make food. Meanwhile, the children have also been making cards for pencil pals--and the sixth graders made a second card for the Kindergartners. Momentarily, the first groups will come down to a room dimmed with standing lights and tablecloths on a single table stretching from the far wall back to the stairs. (A second long table is set up for the Kindergartners.) It has a feel of a potluck supper--a little fancy, but LP fancy--and without wine!

I will welcome the children and thank the Kindergartners for the decorations, the first graders for the corn bread, the second and third graders for the mashed potatoes, the fourth and fifth graders for the turkey soup and the sixth graders for the apple crisp. Ms. Hill will lead them in singing a Thanksgiving Song (with all the reminders of what we have to be thankful for,) then they will exchange cards and sit down to feast.

An hour and a half after the last group finishes, the children will pile out the door for early dismissal and head home, or to travel destinations, far and near, for the event tomorrow.



Current Habit of the Head, Heart and Hand: Integrity

Try to talk about this virtue at home when you get a chance. We defined it for the children as 'honesty,' 'trustworthiness' and 'wholeness.' It comes from the Latin meaning whole, which gives us the mathematical word 'integer' (a whole number,) the word 'integrate'--to make parts into a whole; or the opposite--'segregate,' and the word 'integral'--as in the arts are an integral part of a good education.

I read the children the parable of The Emperor's Seed. You can find this powerful morality tale by googling that title. It's well worth talking about with your child.

I especially like the concept of wholeness. We try to teach the 'whole child.' We want our children to have a sense of themselves as 'whole people.' And we want them to learn that tending to 'wholeness' is the meaning of 'integrity.' A favorite quote of mine, by Dag Hammarskjöld (Secretary General of the UN in the 1960's) is this: *"One who wants to keep his garden tidy does not reserve a place for weeds."*

Sound advice.

Quote of the Week

"To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places - and there are so many - where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some

grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

Howard Zinn

Word of the Week: Apply

Given our short week this week, we will continue with last week's Word of the Week, Apply.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Michael.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The LP Food Drive

Boxes are available for your donations of canned items. Please place your items in the collection boxes in the lobby at #107 and #110. Our food drive will last until Friday, December 2nd. The food pantry at Rosie's Place will be the recipient of your generosity!

I hope that this collection process provides an occasion to talk with your children about sharing with unknown others, about inequalities of wealth in this country, and about the moral duty imposed on all of us to take care of people in need. Doing so is what makes life worth living.



Ms. Cesarz Blog

You can now benefit from some of Ms. Cesarz's professional wisdom 24/7 by going to her blog at <http://lpparents.weebly.com/about.html> and reading some of the articles she has posted for your consideration, and, because it is a blog, you can share with others your own insights.

ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

Mixed-Media Shape Abstractions

This project is a continuation of the Kindergarten study of SHAPE, and element of art. The students learned about different kinds of shapes and how to draw them. They then cut then drew shapes on colored paper and collaged them onto black or white paper. The students then used another media (ink) and found objects to print shape designs over their collage.



Meredith, Kindergarten

Dinosaur Prints

This mixed-media project is an extension of the Second Grade study of fossils and dinosaurs. In science, the students learned exciting facts about fossils. They used this knowledge, and the examination of various images, to create a sketch of a dinosaur. They applied their knowledge of visual texture (the way something looks as if it might feel) to draw an image of a dinosaur. They transferred their textured dinosaur drawing to foam, and printed it as many times as they liked. They then used a wax-resist process to create a prehistoric environment for their dinosaurs.



Charley, Second Grade

Reptiles and Amphibians

For this project, the students learned about the difference between texture and visual texture. They learned scientific facts about reptiles and amphibians and chose one to be the subject of a two-dimensional work of art. The students drew a reptile or an amphibian and used drawing techniques to create a sense of visual texture (the way something looks as if it might feel). They used a wax-resist technique to color and make it look realistic.



Matthew, Third Grade

One-Point Perspective Compositions

In the Fifth Grade classroom, the students have been learning about the Renaissance. For this project, we examined Raphael's "School of Athens" and the work of Brunelleschi to get insight into how the invention of perspective influenced art during and after the Renaissance. The students learned how to use vanishing points, horizon lines, and one-point perspective techniques to create landscape that displays a sense of space. They then had the option of using their prior knowledge of chiaroscuro to shade certain areas to emphasize depth with graphite or using watercolor paint to give their composition a colorful atmosphere.



Katarina, Fifth Grade

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