

## LHE WELCOMES A NEW YEAR AND OUR NEW ACTING PRINCIPAL



Dear Loyal Heights Community,

I want to give a special thanks to everyone that attended the PTA General Meeting on 1/9. During the principal update, I addressed a range of topics and would like to review some of the subjects for those not present.

One of my goals this year is to continue to strengthen inclusivity. To support students and families in our special education program, I am working with the PTA to add a soft opening with lights on and quieter music for the School Family Dance on Feb 28, as well as a sensory room during the event for those that wish to stay. The goal of this approach is to make our dance a more inclusive event that builds positive school culture.

On December 18th, the staff passed a Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). This document will soon be public information, as it is for all schools in SPS. The CSIP is used to inform the decisions we make as a building, as well as to create a set of school goals around academics and school climate. This season also begins the annual budget cycle, a process that will be guided by the CSIP. I will be able to provide a more specific update during the next two months. Between now and February, I am working with the LHE Building Leadership Team to create our underlying vision statement to prioritize how we spend both our district-provided budget and the generous grant we receive from the community via the PTA. With the vision in mind, we will also ask staff to complete a survey and rank our priorities for the upcoming school year.

After the general meeting, the Parent Equity Group screened the movie *Angst*, which addressed the topic of anxiety in youth, followed by a Q&A led by our very own counselor, Brittney Rider. The movie and the discussion were highly thought-provoking and I have found myself engaged in conversation with multiple people (my wife included) since the event. Overall, this event reminded me of the importance to have empathy and patience when we

**Principal Berkenwald invites you to the next Coffee Chat.**

Fri, Jan 31  
2:30-3:30 PM  
LHE Cafeteria



work with our students. As this event had a positive effect on me, I imagine it did the same for others. I would like to thank the Parent Equity Group for being a sponsor of this event.

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Thank you for reading this message and I hope to see you at school or at one of the many upcoming events.

—Michael Berkenwald  
Acting Principal

## Mark Your Calendar!

### January

*Traveling Suitcase Theme: Diversity*  
*Celebrate Lunar New Year*

- 24** Last Day to Register for Girls on the Run
- 29** School! Snow Make-up Day
- 31** Principal Coffee Chat, 2:30pm, LHE Cafeteria  
Auction Procurement Deadline

### February

*Traveling Suitcase Theme: Justice and Action*

*Celebrate African American History and Black Lives Matter*

- 3-7** Black Lives Matter Week
- 10** Bullying Prevention Presentation, LHE Commons
- 11** Equity Group Meeting, 7:30pm
- 12** Multicultural Night, 6pm, LHE Cafeteria
- 17-21** No School (Mid-Winter Break)
- 28** School Family Dance, LHE Commons

### March

*Traveling Suitcase Theme: Courage and Being An Upstander*

*Celebrate Women's History*

- 10** Equity Group Meeting, 7:30pm
- 21** PTA Auction, Nordic Museum
- 26** Class Picture Day
- 27** Spelling Bee, LHE Commons

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FROM OUR PTA PRESIDENTS KATRINA HUPP AND STEPHANIE GARDNER

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful time with your families this past holiday season.

This new year's wish comes with appreciation for the amazing parents and families that volunteer their time throughout the year. It's hard to believe that the school year is almost halfway over, and we have so much left to accomplish before summer is here. We have recently added several exciting events to the PTA calendar, including a Bullying Prevention Presentation on February 10th and Family Dance on February 28th.

Our Auction leadership team and volunteer committees are very busy planning our largest fundraiser of the year. Thank you to all who have volunteered to host a grade-level parent party, create classroom auction art pieces, and reach out to our community for procurement items. Some are volunteering in these roles for the first time, and we encourage the veterans to pass on the knowledge and expertise, stay focused and have patience with each other! This is sure to be a fun community event, and we cannot wait to celebrate on March 21st at the Nordic Heritage Museum!

Finally, we wanted to express our appreciation of how Principal Berkenwald has been working so hard to embrace his new role here at Loyal Heights. From the very beginning, he has actively sought feedback from the PTA, engaged with parents in meetings and coffee-chats, and has been a positive presence in the classrooms and hallways. We appreciate your hard work, Principal Berkenwald, you are truly embodying what it means to be a collaborative leader and team member.

PTA AUCTION NEWS

Grab Your Primo Spot to the Beaver Beach Bash!

It's time to leave your ankle biters at home, round up your favorite cats and dudettes, and buy your tickets to the Beaver Beach Bash. It's sure to be a gas.

We are staying local with the party taking place at the Nordic Museum. Good news for you, you don't have to blow the doors off to get there. We're going old school and harkening the halcyon days of a 60's beach party.

Snag your tickets online by Feb 10: [lhes.ejoinme.org/tickets](http://lhes.ejoinme.org/tickets)

(Translation: [www.cougartown.com/slang.html](http://www.cougartown.com/slang.html))



Donations Needed!

Each year, our community puts together an awesome slate of auction items and it's thanks to YOU! We're looking for fun donations to make this the best year yet. Looking for ideas on what to donate? Do you have season tickets? Maybe you know a business willing to donate? Perhaps you know a local celebrity and can procure signed memorabilia? Do you have access to a unique behind-the-scenes hometown experience? These are just a few ideas of what we're looking for! Procurement deadline is Jan 31.

To donate: [lhes.ejoinme.org/](http://lhes.ejoinme.org/)



JUST FOR KIDS!

What did the beach say to the tide when it came in?

Long time, no sea.

MEET OUR PTA OFFICERS—THE BACKBONE OF PARENT SUPPORT



**Kali Sakai**  
**Co-Treasurer**

This is our family's 6th year at LHE and currently we have a 2nd grader here and a 5th grader at Cascadia. I am grateful to share the role of treasurer with Danielle Kisker.

My professional background was in digital media, broadcasting, mobile gaming and most recently, writing, but I have always been fascinated by financial planning and spreadsheets. While there are obvious responsibilities like writing checks, making deposits, running reports, reconciling bank statements and tracking the budget, we also oversee preparation of the PTA tax returns, apply for the gambling license for the auction raffle and renew the PTA's insurance policy.

It's a privilege to have such a well-resourced budget to steward and, prior to this year, I had always wondered how the PTA chose the items in the budget and how they set goals for fundraising. Additionally, having been an advocate for fully-funding schools at the state level, it was important to me to understand where the state funding stops and where the PTA funding begins. I will endeavor to support our team and community to the fullest and to speak up when I see areas where we can improve.

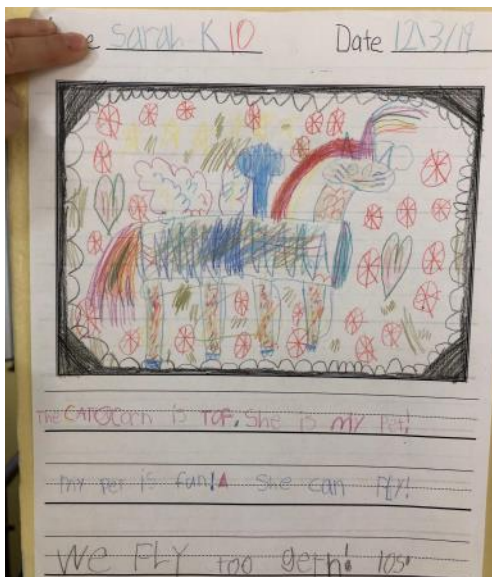


**Sabrina Savarin**  
**Co-Volunteer Chair**

We been at LHE since 2015 when our son entered Kindergarten. Our entire family has made wonderful friendships here simply by showing up at the events and activities that LHE offers! I love that as busy parents we are offered numerous school/PTA-sponsored activities that provide educational opportunities to foster our growth into parenthood, that celebrate diversity and inclusion, and which help us bolster our connections to our neighbors and broader community. These are so meaningful and impactful to our lives and our children's lives and it was for these reasons that I started volunteering.

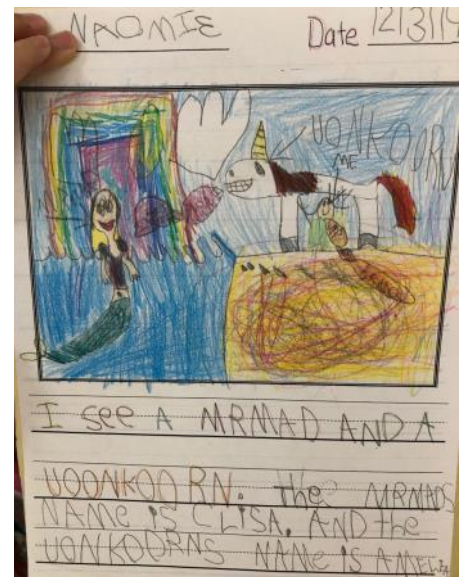
I started small, copying work for teachers and sending emails from home as Room Parent. I enjoyed these roles so much that I wanted to get more engaged and eventually took the leap sharing the role of PTA Volunteer Coordinator. Participating in daily life at our school is truly rewarding: I love getting to know my son's teachers, meeting his friends and their families, and seeing some of the inner-workings of the school day. We feel so grateful that our child is able to grow up in a connected and engaged school which we see as a cornerstone to our community at large.

STUDENT WRITING SHOWCASE: CELEBRATING UNICORNS!



The unicorn is TOP. She is my pet!  
My pet is fun! She can fly!  
We fly togeth!

Sarah K, 1st grade



I see a mrmad and a Uoonkoorn. The mrmads name is Clisa. And the uonkoorns name is Amelia.

Naomi B, 1st grade



MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On **Wed, Feb 12**, we are celebrating the different cultures and nationalities of Loyal Heights! In addition to celebrating the cultures of the world, we want to encourage families to represent cultural diversity within the US. This is a fun way to explore your roots as a family!

If you are interested in representing a country or US state, contact Diana Solorzano ([dianasolorz@gmail.com](mailto:dianasolorz@gmail.com)) and Meeah Park ([meeah@icloud.com](mailto:meeah@icloud.com)). Look for a flyer in kid mail with more details.

*Guarantee your spot at the LHE Culinary Event of the Year! Email Diana and Meeah to reserve your booth!*

DID YOU SPOT THE FLOCK?



Looking forward to Valentine's Day but unsure how to tell your LHE neighbors and friends how much you love and appreciate them? Flock them!

An unusual phenomenon has arrived in Loyal Heights! A stand of flamingos made its way north to our little neighborhood to warm up Loyal Heights for the Beaver Beach Bash. But have no fear! The LHE PTA Auction Team happens to also be trained flamingo experts.

Donate to the LHE PTA and have our flocking crew flock your friends, family, and neighbors.

Check out all the deets, pick your mark, and let us do the work!

Online at: [bit.ly/2uRV0Xz](http://bit.ly/2uRV0Xz)



JUST FOR KIDS!

What's the opposite of a flamingo?

A flamin-stop.

WHERE TO FIND SCHOOL NEWS

- ✓ **EMAILS:** **LHPTA Weekly Update** (Katherine Diers, [kdiers@comcast.net](mailto:kdiers@comcast.net)); **School Messenger** from LHE and SPS (Kathy Katzen, [kkatzen@seattleschools.org](mailto:kkatzen@seattleschools.org))
- ✓ **MONTHLY LHPTA NEWSLETTER, Beaver Tales:** via Kidmail and at [www.loyalheightspta.org/connect](http://www.loyalheightspta.org/connect). Email Katie Kaku ([ktkaku@gmail.com](mailto:ktkaku@gmail.com)) with news, announcements, photos, raves, story ideas.
- ✓ **LHPTA WEBSITE:** [www.loyalheightspta.org](http://www.loyalheightspta.org)
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- ✓ **LHE WEBSITE:** [loyalheightses.seattleschools.org](http://loyalheightses.seattleschools.org)

SUPPORT BALLARD PERFORMING ARTS

*Ballard High School Performing Arts*

**61st Annual Spaghetti Dinner**

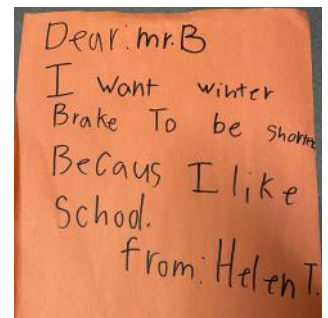
**Feb 1, 5:30-8:30pm, Ballard HS Commons**

This fundraiser is your one chance to hear all 15 Ballard HS Performing Arts groups! This year's theme is 90's music. Plus, catch a sneak preview of the musical, *Xanadu*. Tickets available online or at the door... [ballardperformingartsboosters.org](http://ballardperformingartsboosters.org).

STUDENT WRITING SHOWCASE

Dear Mr. B  
I want winter brake to be shorter because I like school.

From: Helen T  
(1st grade)



Students celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. by singing *We Shall Overcome* during an assembly.

HIP PACKS AND A REFLECTION ON GIVING FROM AN LHE PARENT

We've just concluded the "season of giving" and we're still in the midst of a "season of reflection." One reflection is a new awareness for giving our best to those in need and a realization that those in need might be our friends and neighbors. Just last weekend, my girlfriend shared how her family was a recipient of a Giving Hands Mitten. We're still collecting food donations—so remember to add just one more thing to your grocery cart for HIP!

My volunteering has brought me an awareness that this ongoing food drive need not be one of clearing out the back of my pantry or even the front of my pantry, but rather my giving can align with what I purchase for my family. I've been following my own advice and have created a habit of adding a few more things to my grocery cart: shelf-stable milk (e.g. Horizon mini-packs); serving-sized crackers (e.g. Ritz individual packs); Madras Lentils or six-pack of soup (hellooo, Costco!).

I feel honored to have the ability to do things like "add one more thing to my cart." The official "season of giving" is over, but we don't ever have to stop being generous.

-Marissa Kaiser

**HUNGER INTERVENTION PROGRAM (HIP) PACK NEEDS (assigned by grade)**

**K/5th:** Entrée item (e.g. Madras Lentils, Thai Vegetable Peanut, Healthy Choice Soups)

**1st/3rd:** Whole-grain crackers

**1st/2nd:** Dried fruit snacks

**2nd:** Wet fruit snacks (e.g. applesauce pouch, peach cup, can of Mandarin oranges)

**3rd:** Serving-size protein

**4th:** Serving-size milks (e.g. Horizon 8 oz)

LOYAL HEIGHTS CELEBRATES OUR READERS!



Over Winter Break, our librarian Mrs. Blangy challenged Loyal Heights students to be extreme readers. All submissions were creative and wonderful. Staff voted on their favorites this week.

← The winner is Maya H (3rd grade).

Honorable mentions go to Emily D, Calvin M, Will W, and Ryder M.





RAVES...

RAVES...

RAVES...

RAVES...

RAVES...

**RAVE** to Amy Tsang. The office staff loves Starbuck Thursdays. Thank you so much!

**RAVE** to everyone who participated in Giving Hands this year—it was a huge success. The season for giving is never over. Gift cards get us through the year so they are welcome anytime. Thank you again for opening your hearts and giving back to the community.

**RAVE** to Whitney for stepping up and helping the auction team again this year.

**RAVE** to our Auction Committee and volunteers working tirelessly to make the Beaver Bash successful and a blast!

**RAVE** to all those having fun (and raising funds) flocking their friends.

**RAVE** to all our room parents, there whenever when we need them.

**RAVE** to Ms. Tasha Reynolds, our new instrumental music teacher, who is already organizing the Spring Concert.

**RAVE** to Principal Berkenwald and Vice-Principal Sanchez for their presence, care of our children, and humor.

**RAVE** to the Equity Group for community pizza dinner and screening of *Angst*.

**EARTH CORNER: AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES—WHAT’S GOING ON AND HOW TO HELP**

While Seattle is feeling the chill of winter, Australia is scorching under summer heat and experiencing the worst bushfire season in decades. Much of the country has been burning since September. Bushfires are not uncommon, but an unusually long, hot, and dry summer has worsened conditions in an already dry country.

Climate change is believed to be a factor in the Australian fires. Greenhouse gases are causing the Earth’s temperature to rise and can change rain and snow patterns. This may contribute to the bushfires, causing them to be larger and to burn hotter. It also puts people and wildlife at risk. Thankfully, Australia’s firefighters, government, and ordinary men and women are working to help the people, houses, and animals in danger. Did you know that some rescue dogs can smell koalas and help humans track and rescue them?



*A volunteer helps a kangaroo burned in the bushfire.*

**What can we do?** Even little acts of kindness can help. We can take steps in our daily lives to combat climate change, like turning down the heat at night, taking shorter showers, and walking or taking buses instead of driving. If you would like to help people and wildlife in Australia, consider these charities: [Australian Red Cross](#), [NSW Rural Fire Service](#), [Wires](#), [World Wildlife Fund Australia](#), and [Givit](#).

**To learn more:** [natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/physical-geography/what-is-a-bushfire/](http://natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/physical-geography/what-is-a-bushfire/)

*By Jessica P-N and Katie K, LHE parents*

**STUDENT WRITING SHOWCASE: RESOLUTIONS FROM MRS. LEPSE’S CLASS**

*Happy New Year! This year I will try to...*



*Help Others*



*Be A Star Student*



*Do My Best Work*



*Learn New Things*



*Share*