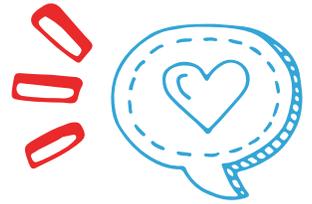


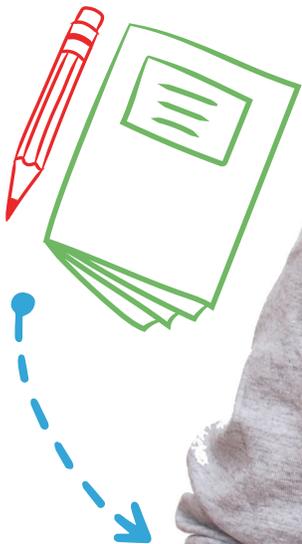
THE START OF SOMETHING NEW.

Stories featuring brand new students, teachers and administrators.

» MEET SCHOOLS' NEW PRINCIPAL RYAN ESCAMILLA



DONOR SPOTLIGHT
STUART ELLIOTT



INFLUENTIAL
INFLUENTIAL
INFLUENTIAL



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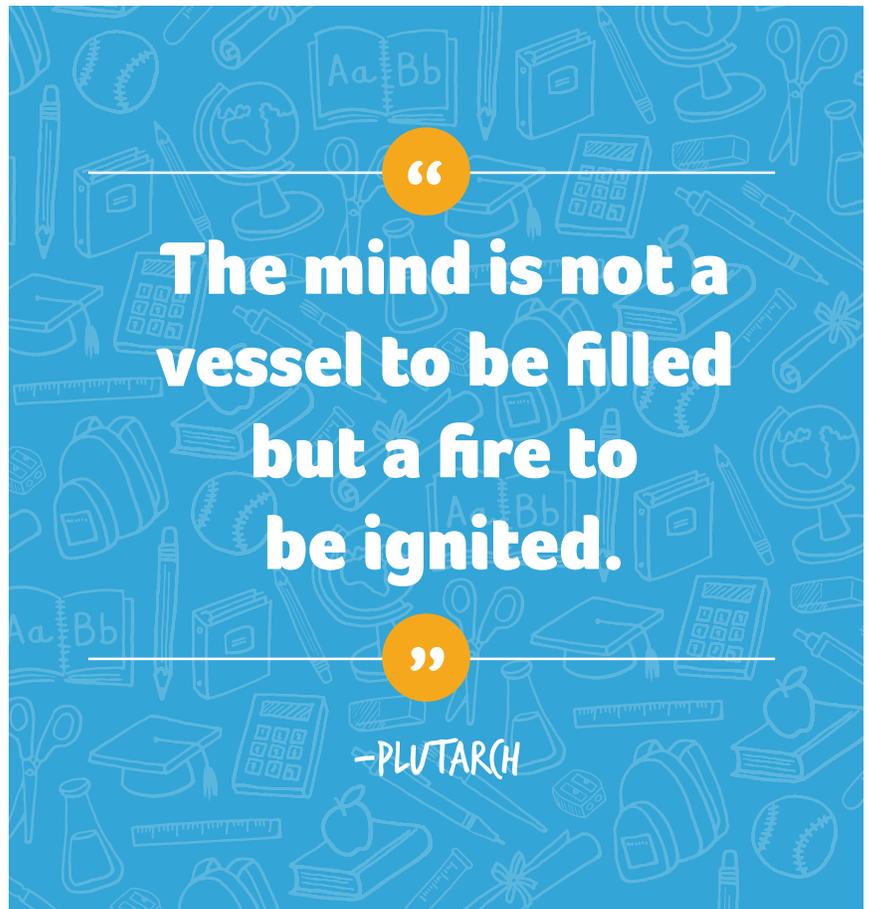
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A Brand New Year

Dear friend,

I once had someone describe the start of the school year as “Second New Year.” To her, every fall gives us the opportunity to start over. A new backpack, new teachers and a new grade in which to reinvent ourselves.

It reminds me of that scene in “You’ve Got Mail” where Tom Hanks writes to Meg Ryan, describing the appeal of autumn and how, if he only knew her name and address, he would send her a bouquet of freshly sharpened pencils.

This time of year holds so much potential. However a quick glance at any media outlet yields news full of uncertainty and worry about what might happen next.

No one knows what this year will bring. What we do know is kids can’t wait.

At the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, our mission is to ensure all students have what they need to reach their full potential. We work to make this happen by raising money to fund opportunities that allow students and educators to go above and beyond.

The resiliency of our community’s youth is astounding. I invite you to take a look at the hope captured in the following pages, from kindergarteners getting their first glimpse of what school has to offer to new principals excited to take on a challenge; it is truly inspiring.

This year we will have to work even harder to provide these types of opportunities for kids so the learning gap created in 2020 does not grow.

Now more than ever, kids need opportunities to discover, reflect and grow.

Join us.

Your potential to make a lifelong difference is waiting.



Wendy Van DeLaCastro
President

“
**Life starts all over
again when it gets
crisp in the fall.**

”
-F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

Grown-up Goals



NEW TEACHER FEATURE KATRINA BARNES



This school year, new teacher Katrina Barnes is going back to her roots. As an alum of Arnold Elementary School, Barnes' return to teach there only seemed right.

"I had my practicum experience there, and returning just felt like it was meant to be," said Barnes. "It's an honor to go back there as a teacher after being a student, and it feels like I am coming back home — that I've always belonged there."

Barnes always knew she wanted to be an educator. She said she would play school with her cousins when they were kids, and she taught her little sister her numbers and the alphabet when Barnes was in middle school.

"I wanted to work with elementary students because I really like working with younger kids," said Barnes.

"I love being able to teach them how to read and write and reach their goals."

"I'm excited to impact students' lives like my teachers did for me when I went to Arnold," said Barnes. "They really inspired me to take this journey to pursue a career in education. I think each teacher I had impacted me in their own unique way."

Barnes said she has first year jitters, like all new teachers, but she feels prepared to take on her first year at Arnold.



CLASSROOM NEEDS

At the Foundation, we provide tools for educators like Fund a Need, a crowd-sourcing platform that allows teachers to raise funds for special classroom projects. Read more about the resources we provide teachers at bit.ly/lps_educators.

New Kid at School



KINDERGARTEN FEATURE: ZAYDEN OHLIN



What do you want to be when you grow up? For many, this is a daunting question, but for incoming kindergartener Zayden Ohlin, it couldn't be easier.

"I wanna be a policeman," said Zayden, who is starting kindergarten at Wysong Elementary this fall.

Your typical kindergartener probably wouldn't be excited to learn more about math, but Zayden said it's his

favorite thing to do at school, right behind reading "the snake book."

Like most five-year-olds, Zayden is constantly on the move. When asked what he thinks he will learn in kindergarten he replied, "I don't know!" while climbing over the arm of the sofa. "I think I'll probably learn how to cook?"

While it's more likely that Zayden will learn about the ABC's, we have no doubt that the magic of discovery will follow.

Making a Difference In New Ways

NEW PRINCIPAL FEATURE RYAN ESCAMILLA

Great educators are often inspired by a great education. In Ryan Escamilla's case, that statement could not be more true.

Ryan Escamilla has been an educator with LPS since he started as a social studies teacher at Lefler Middle School in 2005. Now on his way to start a new school year as the principal of Schoo Middle School, Escamilla credits his journey to his past teachers.



"I had educators and role models in the classroom that made me really want to do what they're doing, and have the influence that they're having on their students," Escamilla said, while noting some specific teachers like Mrs. Ball, Mr. Matheson, and Mrs. Hawes. The latter two were the ones who sparked his love of social studies.

After a colleague noticed Escamilla's skills in working with students and parents, and his ability to handle situations outside the classroom, he was offered the position of coordinator at Park Middle School, and eventually associate principal at Lincoln High School.

"Honestly, it was never my goal to be an administrator. I loved the classroom, I loved teaching U.S. history, and I had no desire to leave," said Escamilla. "But I really am in education to make an impact on students and their future goals, and I realized I can make an impact on a larger number of kids as an administrator."

Escamilla's new job as the principal at Schoo is pretty different from his roots in social studies, but he's ready for the challenge.

"I think it'd be silly not to be nervous. It's a big responsibility," said Escamilla. "But I'm not coming in to rebuild Schoo. It's a very well-maintained school with a history of excellence, and I'm coming in to continue that tradition. I plan to stick around for a while."



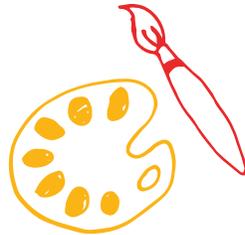
ACKNOWLEDGING DIFFERENCE-MAKERS

At the Foundation, we give principals a way to recognize staff and students making a difference with our annual Inspire Awards. Check out our 2021 Inspire recipients at bit.ly/foundationinspire.

The Last First Day



SENIOR FEATURE
CARLEE HUGHES



This year is full of new beginnings, but for our seniors, it's full of lots of endings too. For senior Carlee Hughes, the beginning of her last year of high school is bittersweet.

"My mom texted me, 'happy last first day of orientation!' And I'm like, Oh, don't say that. I'm not ready," said Hughes.

Hughes is pursuing an alternative route for her high school diploma through the Bryan Community Focus Program. This program allows for a more focused school environment where students get to work more closely with teachers in smaller class sizes. When students find they don't function well under the standard school system, Bryan offers an alternative way for those students to still

be able to graduate. Hughes said the teachers at Bryan are more like mentors or parent figures for some classmates.

"We like to describe it as a family," said Hughes. "You're close with all of your teachers and they all know you by your name. In the main high schools, a lot of the time, you don't get that connection with teachers, but you automatically have that at Bryan."

Before she was at Bryan, Hughes did her freshman and sophomore years at Lincoln Southeast High School, while also attending The Career Academy in the health science program. She said she wants to pursue a career in the healthcare field after graduation, potentially becoming a nurse.

While she's had a career path in mind for a while now, her time at Bryan has let her explore her passions more.

"I love art; anything drawing or painting," said Hughes. "So I've connected a lot with my art teacher at Bryan. And he's helped me grow as an artist."

Hughes has a lot of pride for her school. She said it really helped to lift her up after she was struggling and set her on the right path.

"All the people I've met at Bryan have become lifelong friends. I don't know where I'd be without them."

RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT STEP



The Foundation funds opportunities for exploratory learning for individuals entering the workforce after graduation, like The Career Academy, and scholarships for postsecondary education. Learn more about student resources at bit.ly/lps_students.

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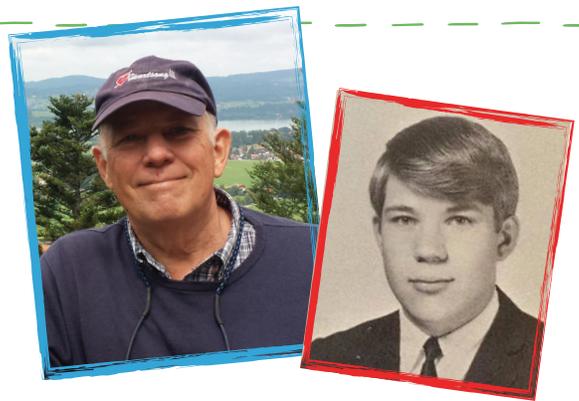
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FNEWS22

A Love of Learning

» DONOR SPOTLIGHT STUART ELLIOTT



Adventurer, tech-wiz, and entrepreneur. Now that's a pretty impressive resume. Before you go guessing, no, it isn't Steve Jobs. This resume belongs to none other than Lincoln's own, Stuart Elliott.

Stu grew up in Lincoln, with an innate passion for learning. "I hated nap time as a kid in school because it seemed like a waste of time," he reflected.

"I can't say I was all that impressed with my first and second grade teachers," Stu, who readily admits he was a bit of a handful, said. "They just weren't motivating to me."

After transferring to Calvert Elementary, Principal Anna Zeman, an LPS educator of 40 years, took him under her wing and found a way to channel his energy into learning. Soon after, Stu discovered a love of math and science.

In high school, Stu's passion for technology only grew. When he went to Lincoln Southeast, he was able to take part in a computer lab class. As a high schooler, he was given access to one of the first computers in Lincoln.

"We were all thrilled to have the opportunity," Stu said. "It filled a good-sized room and it couldn't even store one picture worth of memory. It was just totally cool to us."

As Stu progressed in his career, he started his own computer consulting practice, and he still credits his time at LPS for sparking his love of science and math. That's why he established the Stuart Elliott Student Assistance Fund.

The fund exists to make sure students who otherwise can't afford extracurricular activities aren't left out.

"I've tried to focus my philanthropy on helping kids that wouldn't have the financial means to take advantage of the opportunities that are there," Stu said. "So that was my goal in giving to LPS; it's a way to give back to where I got my good start."

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Students and their families needing assistance can go to bit.ly/stuelliotffund to learn more about this fund.



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.....
All students should have what they need to reach their full potential.

In order to accomplish that, we leverage the community to create opportunities that enhance academic and personal success of Lincoln Public School students and educators.

