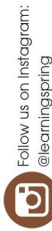




**LearningSpring School**

247 East 20th Street  
New York, NY 10003

2022-2023  
**THE SEEDLING**  
Jan/Feb Edition



2022-2023

# THE SEEDLING

Jan/Feb Edition



**LearningSpring School**

## MESSAGE FROM THE **SOCIAL SKILLS DIRECTOR**

Happy New Year! As we forge into 2023, the goal of the Social Skills Department is to increase the emotional intelligence of our students, while practicing what they learn in school, at home and in the greater community. Emotional intelligence includes self-awareness, self-regulation and empathy, skills that are important in all aspects of life. As LearningSpring prioritizes community building this year, the Social Skills Department is committed to reestablishing connections within our classrooms school-wide and among our greater community.

Our department had a big change this year; Nikki Gelfand was promoted from Head Teacher to Social Skills Coordinator. Nikki teaches and practices social skills weekly in each class, while supporting teachers to plan and incorporate social skills into their daily lessons. Nikki has been a wonderful addition to the department, and busy forming relationships with all of the students. Be on the look out for her newsletter, which details concepts taught in school, ways to carry over the skills at home, and a variety of other related resources.

No matter their age, whether as a 5-year-old who is just starting their journey at LearningSpring School or a 14-year-old middle schooler finishing their tenure (or somewhere in between), social skills is at the very center of their educational experience. For instance, learning about personal triggers can assist in anticipating and managing conflict. Personal space is another important topic that helps monitor what our distance from others should be based on our relationship to them.

Our graduates, LearningSpring School Class of 2023, are working hard on their classwork as well as preparing for the transition to high school. They are improving their interviewing skills and will move into personal goals and first impressions.

The Social Skills Department is excited for all of our students to continue to create positive memories about *their* school and *their* friendships, while building the confidence about what is possible here at LearningSpring and beyond. What a way to start the year.

Happy reading!

**Danielle Ferrante**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The **Development Department** raises \$1.1 million annually in order to bridge the gap between what NYSED/NYCDOE provides and what LearningSpring actually spends per student. We have raised \$501,641 and have \$607,559 left to go to meet our financial requirements for the 2022-2023 school year.



On our quest to reach 100% parent participation, 84% of our current families have already contributed to the Annual Fund. We also greatly depend on our current and former trustees, alumni families, grandparents and other family members, foundations, corporate programs, and friends to meet our fiscal needs. We couldn't do it without you!

## **EVENT NEWS**

LearningSpring School **Blooms 2023** Annual Benefit & Spectrum Award will take place on **Monday, April 24** at Tribeca Rooftop. We are thrilled that **Freddie Highmore** of ABC's "The Good Doctor" and **Victor Calise**, Director of Global Culture, Equity and Inclusion at Walmart, have kindly and graciously agreed to be our honorees.



Freddie Highmore



Victor Calise

Blooms is our most important fundraising night of the year, and so special to our LSS community. Please **Save The Date** and join us in celebrating our wonderful students, past and present, and amazing staff.

Visit [learningspring.org/blooms](https://learningspring.org/blooms) for more information or to purchase a sponsorship, tickets or ad space in our e-journal.

Please contact Alooma Tete, our Director of Development, for more information about how to support LSS. Call (917) 439-1349 or email [atete@learningspring.org](mailto:atete@learningspring.org).



# JANUARY

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### WE WELCOME 2023!

We've enjoyed our break and are ready to get settled back into the school day with our friends and colleagues. We are eager to see what 2023 has in store for the staff and students in and outside of the classroom.



## GIRLS' LUNCH

### YOU GO, GIRL!

Girls' Lunch was created as a designated time for the girls of LSS to bond, as they are fewer in number than their male counterparts. Every Friday, Girls' Lunch is filled with great conversation, lots of laughs, and of course, crafts, games, and toys—all ways to help our young ladies engage with and enjoy one another.



## STAFF MEETING

### KEEP ME POSTED!

The LearningSpring School staff is made up of a group of individuals who have diverse roles and responsibilities—from teachers, to social workers, to custodians, to speech therapists, and so on. How do we all stay on the same page? One way is that Margaret assembles the entire team for monthly meetings.



## MLK JR. DAY

### HONORING DIVERSITY

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
*Strength to Love*,  
Published 1963.



# FEBRUARY

## WORLD PLAY YOUR UKULELE DAY



### UKE CAN DO IT!

The Arts Enrichment Program at LSS is comprised of music, visual arts, playwriting, puppetry, and drama. This program gave our students the opportunity to play musical instruments, such as the ukulele, the keyboard, and the drums, to name a few. It is through the Annual

Fund that we supplement our grant awards and cover the cost of Arts Enrichment, a program that gives every single one of our students so much joy and formal exposure to the arts.

## VALENTINE'S DAY

### A SWEET DAY!

It's the loveliest day of the year, and since our students and staff are filled with love and happiness—why not celebrate? Let's dance the afternoon away and create great memories with friends here at LSS.



Teachers will be sending home requests for party supplies.



## OPEN HOUSE GET TO KNOW US!

Almost all of our families started their tenure at LSS with an Open House tour. Here's a chance to meet our staff and participate in a Q&A and tour our wonderful facilities. If you know a family that would be interested in learning more about LearningSpring, please have them contact Wing Har at [whar@learningspring.org](mailto:whar@learningspring.org).



## NEW PARENT WORKSHOP

### PARENT POWER!

LearningSpring's "Empowering Parents and Caregivers Using Our TCI Model" is the third topic of five mandatory New Parent Workshops. All workshops begin at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately 90 minutes.

Please RSVP to Kristen Singagliese at [ksingagliese@learningspring.org](mailto:ksingagliese@learningspring.org).

