



**LearningSpring School**  
247 East 20th Street  
New York, NY 10003

2024-2025  
**THE SEEDLING**  
Back to School Edition

**PARENT ASSOCIATION**  
**First ZOOM meeting:**  
**Friday, September 13**  
**12 noon**



(Pictured: LSS PA Co-Chairs,  
Liz Gambino and  
Stephanie O'Donnell)

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2024-2025

# THE SEEDLING

Back To School Edition



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to the new school year! I am excited to share that LSS is expanding. We are opening a new middle school class - Birch. The new name was decided on by our students and staff. The Birch Class will eventually be a class of 12 students, with a Head Teacher and two Assistant Teachers. As we start the school year, it will be a class of 8 students. With a new class, comes new staff! I know everyone will help us welcome the new staff to LSS!

We are very lucky to have Stephanie O'Donnell return for a third year as our Parent Association (PA) Co-Chair. Joining her is Liz Gambino. Liz has been active in the Parent Association since her son Christopher began at LSS two years ago. They have been working along with our Development team at LSS to plan our LSS Imagine Community Night - much more to come about this and all of the PA initiatives.

As always, our summer program was a perfect blend of fun and learning! Students enjoyed weekly field trips, Fun Fridays, and engaging electives. During elective periods, they had the chance to connect with peers from other classes while exploring diverse interests such as health and wellness, broadcasting, the five boroughs, and much more!

As we look ahead to the new school year, we're excited to share that schedules are set, our amazing Facilities staff have prepped the building for the new school year, and we are all looking forward to welcoming our students back to school! Our new and returning staff will participate in a week of professional development, which will continue throughout the year. And plans to welcome our new parents are also in full swing! We're eagerly anticipating another year of growth—both academically and socially—and the continued development of our LSS community.

The LearningSpring Board of Trustees and I are wholeheartedly committed to providing an excellent and individualized learning experience for each of our students today, while ensuring our organization's longevity for future generations of children and their families. We are deeply grateful for the many ways you support us.

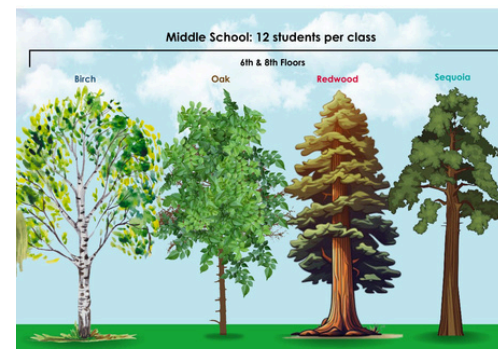
LSS is excited to start another school year with you!

**Margaret Poggi**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Introducing...Birch Class. This September, for the first time ever, LSS will have 13 classrooms. Birch will be one of four middle school classes, joining Oak, Redwood and Sequoia. LearningSpring's capacity will increase from 108 students to 120 students.

LSS Parents, to receive your updated "How We Grow" poster, which now includes Birch Class, please fill out the Volunteer Google Form.



## IMAGINE COMMUNITY NIGHT



Brought to you by the LSS Parent Association

Community is a huge part of the LSS experience for our students, and our families and friends, as well. Each fall, we come together—whether it be for The Imagine Party, Casino Night, or Raise Your Glass—and we ring in the new school year.

On Friday, October 25, the LearningSpring Parent Association invites you to Imagine Community Night for an evening of fun and connection at our school. Let's welcome our new parents, and also reconnect with our greater community. It's also a great occasion to introduce new friends to LSS.



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

# SEPTEMBER

## DAY OF SCHOOL

**FIRST**

**READY TO LEARN, GROW AND BELONG!**

We're thrilled to start our 24th school year on Tuesday, September 3. As the school calendar takes shape, be sure to stay updated by reading Margaret's weekly "LSS News and Notes," available both via email and in print. Your Parent Association (PA) Class Rep is also a great resource, and don't forget to follow us on social media for the latest updates.



## PARENT BREAKFAST

**NEW**

**A WARM WELCOME!**

This breakfast offers both a social and educational experience. You'll have the opportunity to connect with other new parents, meet our PA leadership, and engage with LSS teachers and staff. We're excited to see you there!



## GRANDPARENTS AND FAMILY FRIENDS DAY

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE!**

We invite grandparents and family friends to join us at LSS. You'll get to learn more about our school, have a great time, and become a part of our community.



## NOVEMBER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

**STRONGER TOGETHER!**

This adult-only meeting is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and collaborate with faculty on solutions to any challenges. You'll have one-on-one time with teachers and therapists to ask and answer questions. Attendance is mandatory, so please be sure to save the date.



## THANKSGIVING

**SO GRATEFUL!**

Students celebrate Thanksgiving with a range of activities that include festive crafts, sharing what they're grateful for, and enjoying a special meal together. It's a time for them to reflect on gratitude and community in a fun and meaningful way.

**FEAST**



## DECEMBER GIVING TUESDAY

**SUPPORT OUR MISSION!**

Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and our favorite—#GivingTuesday! Many corporations match or even double-match donations to their employees' favorite non-profits. It's the ideal time to make your Annual Fund donation to LSS!



# OCTOBER

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

**MEET YOUR TEAM!**

Not to be missed! During this parent-only event, you will visit your child's classroom, where you will get a glimpse of their daily life at LSS. You will also learn about the curriculum. Afterward, all will move into the gymnasium for a presentation and the opportunity to ask questions.

You will be able to meet your child's teachers and therapists, other staff members, and of course, fellow parents. At least one parent is required to attend.

**Tuesday, October 8**

(3rd and 4th Floors only):  
Magnolia, Maple, Juniper,  
Sassafras and Poplar  
6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, October 10**

(6th, 7th and 8th Floors only):  
Spruce, Cypress, Elm, Willow,  
Birch, Oak, Redwood and Sequoia  
6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

## IMAGINE COMMUNITY NIGHT

**IMAGINE. CONNECT. THRIVE.**

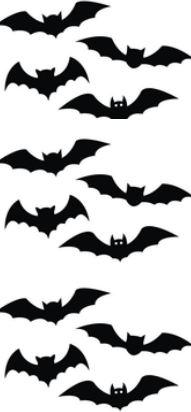
Imagine Community Night promises to be an unforgettable event. Join us at LearningSpring School for a lively evening of camaraderie, and community spirit as we unite to support LSS. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., giving you the chance to immerse yourself in a fantastic atmosphere, and enjoy our beautiful auction. The fundraising goal is \$50,000, so please plan to be a part of this wonderful evening.



## HALLOWEEN

**TRICK OR TREAT!**

LSS loves Halloween! Our younger students take center stage in their costumes for the Annual Halloween Parade, cheered on by family, friends, faculty, and staff. Meanwhile, our older students enjoy Halloween-themed parties and festivities.



## HEADS UP!

**September 13**

**September 15-October 15**

**October 3**

**October 11**

**October 14**

**October 15**

**November 8**

**November 11**

**November 27**

**November 28 & 29**

**December 13**

**December 23-January 1**

Parent Association Meeting—via Zoom

Hispanic Heritage Month

Rosh Hashanah—School Closed

Parent Association Meeting—via Zoom

Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous People's Day

—School Closed

Staff Professional Development—School Closed

Parent Association Meeting—via Zoom

Veterans' Day—School Closed

12 noon dismissal

Thanksgiving Break—School Closed

Parent Association Meeting—via Zoom

Winter Break—School Closed

## PUBLISHING PARTIES AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

**THE "WRITE" IDEA!**

Parents get the opportunity to see all that goes into the writing process at LSS first-hand. Classes work on different genres including opinion pieces and personal narratives. Students are very proud of their work and eager to share it.

3rd & 4th Floors: Tuesday, December 17

6th, 7th & 8th Floors: Wednesday, December 18

