



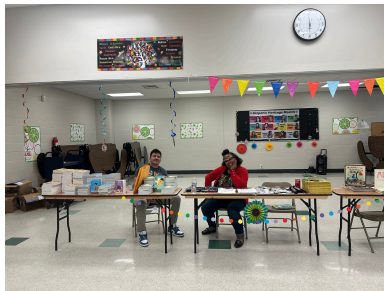
## Hispanic Heritage Month: Viva La Raza y Cultura



September 15th marked the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage month. On October 10th, Long International Middle honored and celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with books for this year’s first Literacy Night entitled “Libros, Juegos, y Fiesta” (Books, Games, and Celebration). National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates achievements, histories, traditions, diversities, and cultures of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. For Long, this month and celebration is important because we are a school of internationality: the student, staff, and community make-up is one of the most diverse in the St. Louis Public School system. With almost 300 students, Long provides education, access, and opportunity to 130 immigrant and refugee students and families--that is nearly 50% of our student body! Of the 130 students, **half of the students are Spanish speakers** with home countries of **Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala, Columbia, and the Dominican Republic.**



During our Literacy Night, we invited families to learn more about the countries represented by our Spanish-speaking families by engaging in traditional games from Hispania, Spain, Mexico, and Brazil. Food was catered by our local Mexican restaurant, Mariachii’s II on Gravois--the food, as always, was *muy fuego*!! Each family and student were able to select from one of the Hispanic culture-based novels: *MexiKid* (Pedro Martin--Mexican), *Flora La Fresca & The Art of Friendship* (Veronica Chambers--Spanish), *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings* (Margarita Engle--Cuban), and *Esperanza Rising* (Pam Munoz Ryan--Mexican), as well as picture books for early literacy readers. As the year continues, we look forward engaging our parents and families in additional activities and events. **Our next upcoming event is Wednesday, October 30, 2024 for Trunk or Treat and Tricks at Long International Middle School.**



Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th-October 15th





# LIMS News & Events



Lynx Sports

## Volleyball:

- Girls
  - Next game: Saturday, October 19th @Clyde C. Miller at 10AM. vs. McKinley
- Boys
  - Next game: Saturday, October 19th @Clyde C. Miller at 9AM v. McKinley

## Boys Soccer:

- Next game: Saturday, October 19th @CVPA at 10AM Field 1 v. Gateway MS

Questions? Please contact our Athletic Director, Mrs. Pang ([lequita.pang@slps.org](mailto:lequita.pang@slps.org))



## Health update!

### Illness:

The season has changed and allergies, colds, sinus infections, flu, and yes--still COVID-- is in the air. If your student feels ill, please keep them home and follow up with the school and your healthcare provider.



## Upcoming Dates/Events

- Monday, September 16th Tuesday, October 15th
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Thursday, October 10th
- Literacy Night: Libros, Juegos, y Fiesta 4-6 pm
- Friday, October 11th:
- Professional Development, NO SCHOOL
- Monday, October 14th-Thursday, October 17th:
- STAR Progress Monitoring Reading and Math
- Tuesday, October 15-Thursday, October 17th:
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Tuesday--VIRTUAL 2:30-5PM
  - Wednesday--IN-PERSON 3-6PM
  - Thursday--IN-Person 3-6:30PM
- Thursday, October 17th:
- College Visit Field Trip, St. Louis Community College
- Friday, October 18th:
- NO SCHOOL

## LIMS Spotlight

### Picture Day is Coming

Fall Pictures are coming to Long International Middle School! **Wednesday, October 23rd**, Wagner Portraits will photograph staff and students for the 24/25 school year. Students are able to "Dress Up"--***ripped jeans or holes in clothes, pajamas, half-tops, spaghetti straps, or see-thru shirts, leggings, or bikers shorts, and attire with inappropriate words or images are prohibited.***

To order, please use Wagner's online ordering service--no cash, check, or onsite payment will be accepted:

Only online orders will be accepted.

(Please do not bring checks, cash, or order forms to school as they will no longer be accepted.)

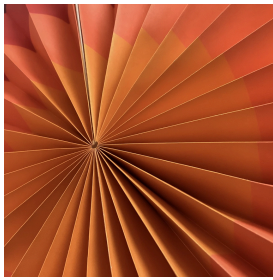
<https://tinyurl.com/3zsreek2>

[www.WagnerPortraitGroup.com](http://www.WagnerPortraitGroup.com)

Online Pre-Order Password: 7B7X3Z7T



# LIMS Student/Class Spotlight



Line Composition  
(M. Howard--8th  
grade

Tone  
Composition  
(Parshawn  
Henton--7th  
grade)



## Photography in Art

This year, students have the opportunity to explore further elements of art in two units of study: Graphic Design and Photography. Students in these classes are being introduced to photography through a co-taught class with Ms. Smith--our Art teacher, and Ms. Halstead--our 6th grade Social Studies teacher. Students are already learning about different types of compositions for photography and have begun analyzing how these elements work together. Ms. Halstead is able to tie historical context for the compositions and photos. We are excited as to what our students will begin to notice from day to day, and how pictures and photography depict life and art. As the unit unfolds, we will begin display some of the photos and analyses. Check out some of the students recent photos taken in the building!

## Take 5: Hispanic & Latinx Staff

Dr. Nanez-Hunt (Principal), Mrs. Fita-Lluch (ESOL), Ms. Santos-Garcia (Secretary),  
Dr. Thumas (World Language),

### Cultural Background:

**Hunt**--Born and raised in California. Moved to St. Louis at 16. I am Black-Mexican-Indigenous (Apache)

**Fita**--Born and raised in Valencia, Spain. Moved to St. Louis in 2016. I am Spanish

**Santos**-- Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I am Puerto Rican and Dominican

**Thumas**--Born and raised in Miami, Florida. I am Cuban.

### Experience/Educational Background:

**Hunt**--Bachelors of Art (English), Bachelors of Science (Secondary Education), Masters of Art (English), Educational Specialist (Educational Administration), Doctorate of Education (Educational Leadership). 25 years in Education--2nd grade teacher, High School teacher, Instructional Coach, Assistant Principal, and Principal.

**Fita**--Bachelors in Translation and Interpreting Spanish, Catalan, English, and French. Masters of Education in Teaching and Learning, Working on my Ph.D. I have teaching since I was an undergrad student; this is my 8th year at Long.

**Santos**--SLPS alum (Ames VPA, Carr Lane VPA, and CVPA). YMCA childcare teacher and director

**Thumas**--Masters in Criminal Justice and Juris Doctorate. I have been teaching for 25 years.

### Why do you "BeLong at Long"?

**Hunt**--Long is a special place for me. The students, staff, and community all represent who we teach and support. We work very hard to create a space of belonging. I belong because I see myself in the students, staff, and community

**Fita**--Long has helped me grow so much in a personal and professional way that now it is my home. I love the diversity and being in the midst of it every day.

**Santos**--As soon as I walked in, I knew it was a for me. The diversity here just feels right! So many cultures to learn, and teacher about my own culture! It is EXCITING!

**Thumas**--I see hundreds of future professionals in our school and want to be a good influence for them. I am tough but character breeds success. I love my colleagues and administrative team.



In celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate our Hispanic and Latinx diversity with our principal Dr. Hunt (Indegenous & Mexican), Ms Antos (Dominican and Puerto Rican), Mrs. Fita (Spanish), and Dr. Thumas (Cuban)--not pictured

### Fun Fact:

**Hunt**--I am the descent of Indigenous royalty.

**Fita**--I love learning languages. After trying Japanese, my brain can only handle so many! I speak Spanish, French, Catalan, English.

**Santos**--I was in the circus and I am a ballerina.

**Thumas**--Loved the magical days of Coconut Grove

### When I was in middle school:

**Hunt**--I was a supernerd who played 2 instruments and failed at cheerleading tryouts. My favorite book was the Phantom Tollbooth.

**Fita**--I was elected "class president" by classmates all 3 years.

**Santos**--I would dance and join every musical I could.

**Thumas**--Went to Key Biscayne for boating and tried to sneak into President Nixon's house.

--Transforming learners into Global Scholars who collaborate, innovate, and create solutions that contribute to the challenges of our neighborhood, our city, and the world.--