



LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION

BIBICH ■ CLARK ■ GRIMMER ■ HOMAN ■ KAHLER ■ KOLLING ■ LCHS ■ PEIFER ■ PROTSMAN ■ WATSON

LCHS Public Relations Interns contributed to this newsletter. Send any ideas or questions to Sarah Verpooten at SVerpoot@lcsccmail.com



*Dr. Larry Veracco,
Superintendent*

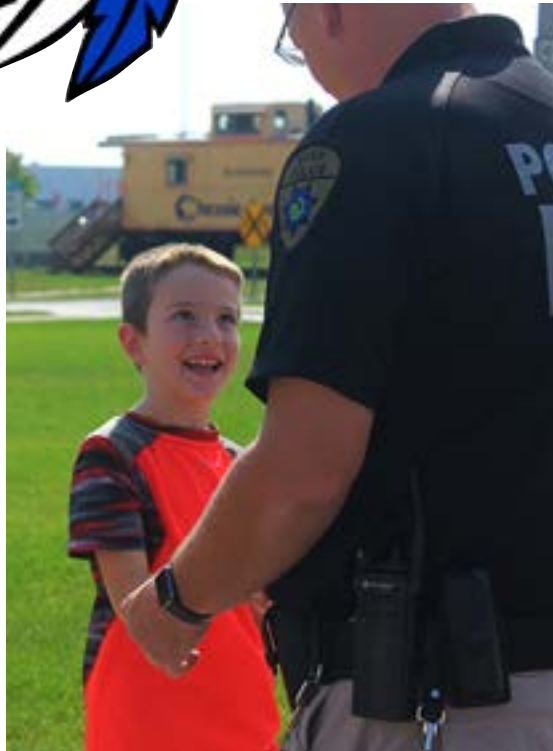
LCHS Class of 1997 Reunion Invites Reflection on Mission

Over the October 6th weekend, the class of 1997 took time out from their hectic schedules to renew friendships, share some laughs and a few stories from their time at good ole LC.

As part of their reunion, some members toured our rebuilt high school campus, attended the varsity football game against Michigan City and remembered members of their graduating class who have sadly already passed on. In conversations with some alums, many success stories were shared and much credit was given to our school system for those successes. For those graduates who took the time to say our schools significantly helped them develop into productive workers and citizens we say "thank you"!

While we spend a lot of time focusing on areas of weakness and initiating change to assist greater number of our graduates to find the successes of their dreams, it is healthy

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Protsman: Tritown Safety Village Trip

by: Kevin Holechko, junior at LCHS -

The second grade classes of Mr. Montez and Ms. Cornwell took a trip to the tri-town safety village. The kids who were super excited for the trip were split up by class and were taught how to be safe in the tri-town area.

The day started off with a lecture about train safety from Ms. Jody. The class learned about how to safely cross train tracks and why to never play near them. Ms. Jody had the class watch a video on train safety then she took the class outdoors. There Ms. Jody showed the class how to safely cross a street and what to look for when crossing train tracks. Ms. Jody showed the class the warning signs of train crossing and she took them inside a train caboose that was over a 100 years old. Once Ms. Jody had finished with showing the kids how to cross train tracks safely.

After the class finished up with Ms. Jody they were delivered to officer Kissinger who took the class back indoors. Officer Brian Kissinger from the Dyer Police Department, who has been teaching at the safety village almost his entire career as a police officer, was very friendly and excited to meet

the kids. Kissinger taught the kids about police safety and went into more detail on how to safely cross the street. Kissinger also explained what the duty of a police officer was and why they should trust the police. Kissinger worked directly with kids and would throw a few jokes in his lecture to keep the kids laughing and the adults who were chaperoning the field trip. Once the lecture had ended they went outside and Kissinger had the kids practice how to cross the street the way he showed them in his lecture.

Once they had finished practicing Officer Kissinger took the class over to the fire department. There they met Terry Swartouth from the St. John Police Department. Swartouth has been working at the safety village for more than 10 years now. He showed the class how to safely exit a building that is on fire and after the class practiced the entire group got to simulate a exit from a house that is on fire. The house filled with smoke and the kids safely exited the building. Once the exercise had come to an end the classes went to lunch where they ended the day. While at lunch they watched a video on electric safety and what to do before they go and dig and do construction projects at home.



Homan: Click the preview below for video!

*by: Ryan Voss, senior
at LCHS*

On Sept. 22, Homan Elementary held their annual walk-a-thon. Here is a look at the fourth grade students participating in the late September heat during the walk-a-thon.

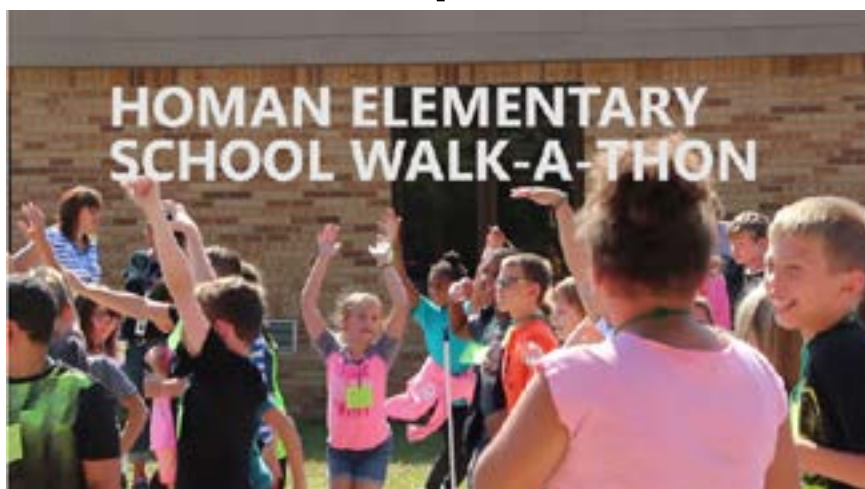


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for us to occasionally pause to remember all the good we continue to do for the students we serve. But resting on our laurels is not how we roll so we as a district will continue to seek better ways to meet the needs of a greater number of our kids.

One part of watching their reunion experience that resulted in serious reflection was the ceremony prior to kickoff where 23 helium balloons were released in honor of the 22 classmates, and my own dear friend, Principal Sandie Platt who are no longer with us. The sight of the balloons reminds us of the limited time we have to share with one another and with accomplishing our goals. It reminds me that the time to make things better for our community, staff and students is not limitless. It serves as an unspoken command to block out the noise and "get to work."

Thank you class of 1997 for coming home and for giving me the impetus to reflect on the great opportunity we are presented as educators to help form the next generation of parents, leaders, workers and citizens.



Kolling: Students and staff attend fall fun fair -



*by: Justin Andrews,
senior at LCHS*

On Friday, Sept. 15, Kolling hosted their annual fall fun fair.

With a variety of games and other activities to participate in, children had the opportunity to have an enjoyable night with their family and friends. As students played games, they had the opportunity to win prizes and later were allowed to trade them in for other prizes.

The fun fair also gave teachers an opportunity to



interact with their students outside of the classroom. Different teachers participated in a dunk tank and volunteered to wait for someone to dunk them. Other than games,

there were other options such as hair coloring and different baskets that were raffled off after being put together by different classes, each with a different theme.





Al Gandolfi, Assistant Superintendent

As our school community is well aware, growing addiction problems in our country have impacted our region and LC schools have a desire to combat this epidemic.

Over the past year and a half, LCSC has partnered with the Your Choice group to host the "Stairway to Heroin," "Wake up Call" and the "Playgrounds to Pills." We are happy to share that school districts in our region have noticed and want to host awareness programs similar to what we offered.

At their November study council meeting, Superintendents from Lake, Porter and Jasper counties will meet with the Lake County Drug Awareness taskforce to map out a plan to offer similar programming throughout the year in towns across northwest Indiana. It is through partnerships such as these that we can make a difference.

As always, we encourage you to get informed about addiction. Also, become familiar with sources of help available for anyone struggling with addiction or living with loved ones who have addiction problems. As more schools play a role in sharing this information, we hope to provide support to community members who are dealing with this serious societal problem.



Bibich: Students read "Because of Winn-Dixie"

by: Jessica Cook, senior at LCHS

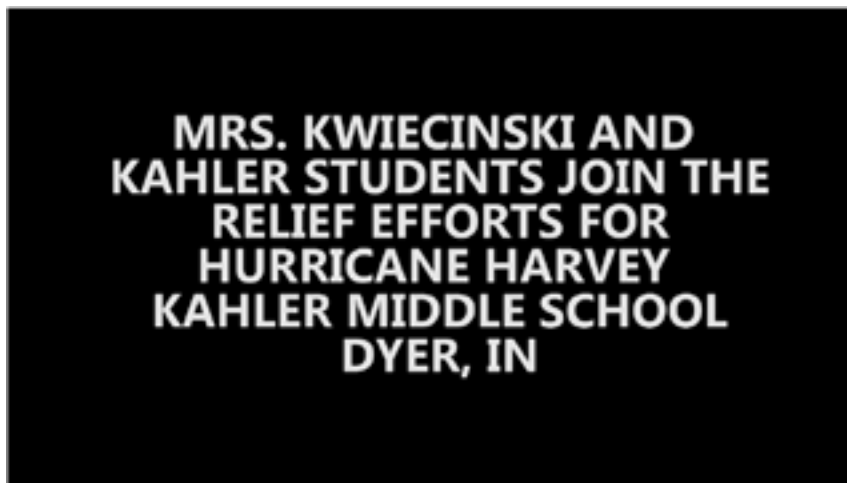
Mrs. Crary's third grade class has just started one of their many chapter books that they will read throughout the year.

The class began to read one of the students favorite books which is titled "Because of Winn-Dixie". The students carefully followed along while Mrs. Crary read aloud each chapter of the book. Throughout

different points in each chapter, Mrs. Crary would stop on certain words and the class would read the next word out loud to make sure everyone was on track. After each reading, the students

would then come up with chapter title names that corresponded with the events that took place in each chapter. The students would work together in groups to come up with the chapter titles.

Kahler: Click the preview below for video!



by: Ryan Voss, senior at LCHS

Kahler Middle School takes part in the relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey. Mrs. Kwiecinski (Social Studies) explains her reasoning for taking part. Also, she comments on middle schoolers taking up active roles in their community.



*Sarah Castaneda,
Director of Secondary
Education*

One of the biggest challenges facing us today as parents is helping our children learn how to interact with technology and use social media responsibly. Our children are growing up in a digital world that provides them with amazing new tools and communication resources that were not available when we were young. We want our children to take advantage of all of the opportunities that technology has to offer; however, constant access to social media can pose real risks as well. Given how quickly words and images travel and the fact that everything we post or share becomes permanent, it is critical that our children learn how to use technology and social media appropriately.

We believe that digital citizenship skills have become essential for students in the 21st century. That is why we are committed to teaching our students how to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly. Lake Central School Corporation was recently recognized as a Common Sense Media Certified District for Digital Citizenship. This honor is due to our efforts to teach



*Theresa Schoon,
Director of Primary
Education*

and promote digital citizenship within the classroom as well as engage our school community in this important discussion. Last year we offered two parent presentations on student use of social media and the topic of sexting. We received a great deal of positive feedback about these parent presentations, and will be hosting them again this year.

The parent presentation on the topic of Sexting will take place on Wednesday, November 1st at 6:00PM in the Kahler Middle School LGI. The target audience for this presentation are parents of students in grades 5 through 8, though all are welcome.

We will host two opportunities for parents to attend the presentation on Student Use of Social Media. One will be held in the evening on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:00PM. The other will be held during the day on Thursday, November 16th at 12:30PM. Both will be held in the Kahler Middle School LGI. The target audience for this presentation are parents of students in grades 4 through 8; however, all are welcome.

Facilities: New Gymnastics Space



*by: Jessica Cook,
senior at LCHS*

During this past summer, the gymnastics team received a new area in the auxiliary gymnasium that has

been fully equipped for all events. The team now has a home where they can practice and compete.

"I'm so excited to have home meets and hopefully have fans

come to watch us compete," Gabrielle DeVries (11) said.

There were athletic equipment improvements made during the 2012-14 renovation, but the team did not benefit from those upgrades.

With this new space, the members of the team are able to access the athletic trainers and training room throughout practices.

"I think our team as a whole will become a lot more connected with our school," Sophia Born (11) said.



Clark: Staff runs for XC -

*by: Justin Andrews,
senior at LCHS*

Students on the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams had the opportunity to run with their favorite teacher on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The students ran with the teachers at Clark Middle School and down to a neighborhood near the school.

After those who participated ran back to the school, the staff members were invited

inside near the cafeteria for refreshments and a group photo with all of the students and staff members who came to support the teams.

Teachers of a variety of subjects and grade levels were able to bond with their students outside of the classroom.

The event was organized by the cross country coaches Mrs. Kerry Cooper, Science, and Mr. Bob Gustas, Mathematics.



*Rebecca Gromala,
Director of Special
Education*

Differentiated instruction is an approach to teaching that provides students with different pathways to learning. Within this framework, instruction is tailored to meet the diverse needs of students within a single classroom. Teachers provide instruction at different levels and students are given multiple avenues to access information and demonstrate what they have learned. Differentiated instruction is critical because it allows teachers to meet the needs of all students within the classroom. High achieving students and struggling students are provided with appropriate instructional opportunities. Within Lake Central School Corporation, all teachers have access to a variety of tools and techniques to aid in differentiated instruction. Special educators and general educators frequently partner to plan and provide instruction. Strategies that work well with students with special needs, such as visual supports and multisensory approaches, are often helpful for all students. Reading specialists, math coaches, and technology trainers also support teachers in finding meaningful ways to differentiate classroom instruction.

40 years in the classroom: Two LC veterans -



**Rita Laskey, Spanish, LCHS
40 years**

What do you still love about teaching?

I really like being with my students. They are smart, amusing and they keep me on my toes. I learn something new from them every day. I love it when someone comes to class and says that he/she "had" to translate for people who came into wherever they work. They didn't think that they could do it, but did. Being with teenagers all day keeps me young. I can't imagine doing anything else.

Why do you love your subject?

I have used Spanish wherever I have traveled in the world. I want my students to be able to do so also. Using it in Austria didn't work that well for me, but in many other places it has. On a small plane in Alaska, there were 18 people from Mexico and my sister and I. I want my students to go out there and use the language. Knowing Spanish makes a person a better candidate for many jobs. When I was in school, I worked retail and used Spanish all the time with customers. My sister, a nurse, needed to know Spanish in order to help her patients.

How has teaching changed since you began?

There was no technology when I started. We used a typewriter to type up tests, etc. and had to go back and put in accent marks and other punctuation by hand. The only computer took up 25% of a classroom. For grades, we marked dots on little cards and two of our math teachers ran them through the computer to come up with report cards. Classes today are a lot bigger. Everyone knew everyone. Now, I see a name on a pass and have to ask the student who the person is and what he/she teaches. We are pretty isolated in our new building. I see people in my part of the hall and whichever women go to the bathroom between classes with me. We don't have opportunities to see others and get to know them. After I graduated from LC, the A wing was added to the building. During my first or second year, the original C wing was added. Later, it was the freshmen center. Now, the only part of my old Lake Central is the fieldhouse.



**Steve Starcevich, Fourth grade, Watson
41 years**

What do you still love about teaching?

I love everything about it, I love relationships. It's changed a lot, trust me I could write a book about it. I like the relationships. I like horsing around with the students by making them laugh and joke around. You teach in the midst of it. You do more entertaining sometimes in teaching. There was one class I took in college. You had to memorize a whole bunch of countries and if you missed one you would get a F. I would go to the class and the teacher was so funny and entertaining. I would there for an hour and a half or two hours laughing with him. I would look forward to that class. I would take that course again. I model my teaching after that you have to have fun and you have to have entertainment. Let the students know you enjoy their presence.

Why do you love your subject?

When I was younger, I ran into this English teacher and she was brutal. I didn't have the background. I didn't know my predicate nouns, direct objects or indirect objects. That was a very miserable year for me. When I became a teacher, I didn't want any kids to deal with that, because I know there are bigger issues. I hammer grammar and English. I do it jokingly and laughing but we spend so much time on it. A lot of my past students will come back and tell me that it was so beneficial to them.

How has teaching changed since you began?

When I first started teaching, you would get the curriculum, do it and you knew you did a good job. There was no pressure. We didn't have to do all the testing. I'm old enough to remember where everyone had a smile on their face, laughing and joking. Unfortunately, it is not that way anymore. These teachers are very stressed and it has taken the fun out of the entire profession. Unfortunately, there is such an atmosphere where people come to work so pressured and stressed I know many teachers that cannot wait to get out because of it. A lot of great teachers will never be here because of all the problems.



*Rob James, Director
of Business Services*

The Lake Central Board of School Trustees adopted the school district's 2018 calendar year budget on October 11th. The 2018 budget estimates expenditures in the General Fund at \$61 million. The General Fund is the main operating fund of a school corporation. It is used to pay for the salaries and benefits of our teachers, classroom aides, clerical, and custodial staff. The General Fund is also used for to pay for utilities, insurance, security, and supplies.

The 2018 budget also calls for expenditures of approximately \$8 million for our Capital Projects Fund (CPF). The CPF fund covers the cost of our Maintenance and Technology Departments. These expenditures include the wages and benefits of employees, software licenses, building inspections, upkeep of our school buildings, and small projects.

The other major fund included in the budget is the Transportation Fund, with estimated expenditures of \$5.9 million. The Transportation Fund is used for costs attributed with transporting students to and from school. This includes not only the bus drivers, but also the bus aides, mechanics, fuel, and repair parts. The cost of purchasing buses is not included.

LCHS: 'Stairway to Heroin' presented to parents

*by: Kevin Holechko,
junior at LCHS*

Following a morning presentation to freshmen students, Lake Central invited the community to a informational meeting on October 10 to discuss America's drug problem.

"It does not necessarily happen in the high school but it is a problem in the community. It is a problem in Lake County, and instead of reading the paper or talking to reporters we want to be part of the solution," Al Gandolfi, Assistant Superintendent, said.

The night started with several companies that are helping fight the crisis. About 130 parents attended along with police chiefs from the Tri-Town area and LC administrators.

The presentation started with the Lybert family telling their story about how their son recovered from addiction. Following was Detective



Chris Kohl, who spoke about drugs and alcohol and the dangers they pose to kids. When Kohl finished "Melanie" gave an emotional story on how she lost her daughter to drug use. Dr. Tim Westlake came up and spoke about the danger of prescription drugs. The last speaker was Chris Gleason, who is a alcohol and drug

therapist at Rosecrance. Gleason talked about his personal issues as an addict. The night ended with LCSC School Resource Officer Jerry Patrick giving one last warning to parents about how dangerous opioids are and reminding parents of their duty to tell their children the dangers of drugs and alcohol.



Peifer: Students rewarded for mindfulness

*by: Whitney Raines,
senior at LCHS*

Something new coming to Peifer Elementary, an award system for good behavior by the students. Mrs. Hartman brought in the 1st

graders to tell them about the program.

All it takes is doing something good, like picking up garbage or helping a friend. The students can be rewarded a yay tag, which is something that they can put on a key chain and attach it to their backpacks to collect over the school year.

They can get a "My Principal is Proud of Me" sticker, or they can receive a token that they can exchange for a prize at the treasure tower.

All of this is working towards building a better school.





*Marty Freeman,
LCHS Assistant Principal*

Dual Credit is a program at Lake Central that allows students to take high school classes but receive college credit. The classes range from U.S. History all the way to Chemistry. All enrolled students at Lake Central can enroll in a dual credit class once they reach high school. The classes are based on a college level syllabus and are more difficult than regular classes. Last school year, Lake Central students racked up 6,418 dual credit hours. Combined, that saved \$1.2 million in college tuition. However, teacher certification to teach dual credit was changed this past year and it has made it tougher for teachers to qualify to teach dual credit.

Going forward Mr. Marty Freeman, who oversees dual credit program at Lake Central, has stated that the dual credit classes are not meant to replace the AP. The whole goal behind the program is to save money for parents in the long run so they are not paying large amounts of money when they send their child to college. Besides possible college credit and saving money, the students enrolled in the class get to experience college rigor that gets them an idea of how difficult college may be.

Watson: Kindergarteners attend Boot Camp

*by: Jessica Cook,
senior at LCHS*

On Sept. 29, all of the kindergarten classes at Watson Elementary attended a boot camp in the gymnasium.

The students were separated depending on which of the four Kindergarten teachers the students had.

Each group was then sent one of the seven activities, which they stayed at for about ten minutes.

Each of the students were asked basic spelling, math and reading questions by volunteers and then were able to complete the activity where they were stationed at. The students rotated around each activity at least once.



Grimmer: Fearless Females empowers girls

*by: Whitney Raines,
senior at LCHS*

Fearless Females is a club for those who feel passionate about the empowerment of females. Girls of all ages come to share opinions on how they can help the community. Officers run projects that they discuss. Each student wants to be involved in and out of school. They hope to show how strong and independent girls can make a big difference when given the opportunity.





Dates to know: -

November 6-10
Homan Book Fair

November 7
6:30 p.m. LCHS Senior
Parents FAFSA Q&A

November 10
9:30 a.m. Kahler
Veteran's Day Ceremony

November 17
6-8:30 p.m. Bibich PTO
Fun Fair

November 23-24
Thanksgiving Break

December 1
6-8:30 Watson PTO
Holiday Carnival

December 7
7 p.m. Bibich 4th Grade
Holiday Showcase

December 12
7 p.m. Clark Choir
Holiday Concert

December 13
7 p.m. Clark Band
Holiday Concert

December 21
First Semester Ends

December 22- Jan. 5
Winter Break

January 8
School Resumes



For more dates and the latest information on your school, please sign up for an eventlink account. A link can be found at www.lcsc.us

Dr. Veracco's 5 Questions for New School Board Member Cindy Sues -



For years as an extremely active and dedicated PTO officer and volunteer, Cindy Sues admired the quality of education her children were receiving in Lake Central schools. When she heard that Dr. John DeVries, long time Board member from St. John, was in his last term, she decided to throw her hat in the ring in order to serve the students of Lake Central in a larger capacity. After a successful campaign she nears the end of her first year serving on the Board.

After completing her first nine months, I caught up with Mrs. Sues in order to ask her a few quick questions

about serving as a school board member.

Dr. Veracco: What has surprised you the most during your time on the Board?

Mrs. Sues: I have always been happy and impressed by how hard our staff works to make things great for kids. What I didn't realize was how large our corporation is in terms of the number of employees, the amount of reporting that must be made to the state and federal governments and the amount of activity that takes place on a daily basis.

Dr. V: What has been the one thing that you learned since becoming a board member that you wish the rest of the Lake Central community knew about our schools?

Mrs. Sues: I have been extremely impressed

with how fiscally responsible the corporation has been as support from the state has been limited over the last several years.

Dr. V: How is your role as a board member been influenced by having children attend Lake Central schools?

Mrs. Sues: As a parent, I always want what is best for my children. I always appreciated what the staffs at Kolling, Clark and LCHS do because my children attend(ed) those schools. What I have been extremely impressed by is the sheer number of awards and recognitions received by students under the guidance of staff. I now see how much of this is happening district wide and it makes me prouder than ever before.

Dr. V: How have your fellow board members

helped you transition to your role as a school trustee?

Mrs. Sues: They have made me feel welcome and they too always want what is best for our students. They have always been helpful in helping me to understand some of the more complex education lingo and financial terminology.

Dr. V: What else would you like to share with the readers of our corporation newsletter?

Mrs. Sues: We live in a world where many people in the news can often appear to be selfish. I feel like the best way to judge a community is by examining the commitment the community makes to educate its youth. I am extremely happy that our community takes great pride in putting forth a first rate school experience for our kids.

Math Coaches: Click the preview for video



by: Ryan Voss &
Whitney Rains, seniors
at LCHS

We caught up with math coaches Mrs. Valerie Gardner and Mr. Scott King to get their take on their new positions. They give information on what they do, what it adds for the students, for the corporation, and the goal of their new jobs.