

# THE HOMAN HUB



## IN THIS ISSUE

Playground  
Protocols

College GO! Week

Health at Homan

1st Grade Spotlight

New Staff

Education Grant

Shortened  
Schedules

## PLAYGROUND PROTOCOLS

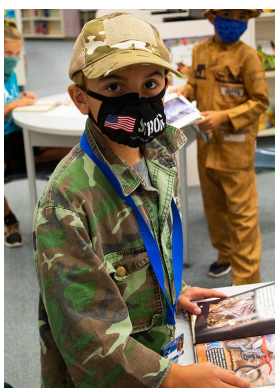
### NEW PAVEMENT + EQUIPMENT

COVID-19 has brought on many challenges in every aspect of restarting the school year, including recess. As a way to distance the children during recess, administrators decided to repave the parking lots and use some of the parking spaces for recess time. This decision ensured that classes were kept as separate as possible while enjoying recess.

The PTO also supplied new equipment such as balls and hula hoops. The playground is sectioned off into different areas, and each area is occupied by the same class. Even with the social distancing, however, the kids are having loads of fun.







## COLLEGE GO! WEEK

SEPTEMBER 21-25

During the week of September 21-25, the 3rd grade teachers spearheaded College GO Week, a week dedicated to encouraging kids to follow their dreams and explore career paths. The kids made crafts related to future careers and learned about different career options. The kids had a blast coming up with fun ways to express their future goals.

Many days had an activity to introduce the students to college readiness:

**Monday-** Go over the College Prep checklist with family

**Tuesday-** View digital magazines

**Wednesday-** Career Day

**Friday-** College Spiritwear Day



## HEALTH AT HOMAN

### CHANGES TO LUNCH PROCEDURES

Due to the pandemic, schools within the district have had to change many of their practices to discourage the spread of the coronavirus and encourage social distancing. One of the biggest changes can be seen in how lunch is handled. Students are now required to eat lunches in their classrooms. Once the kids leave for recess, custodial and kitchen staff disinfect every



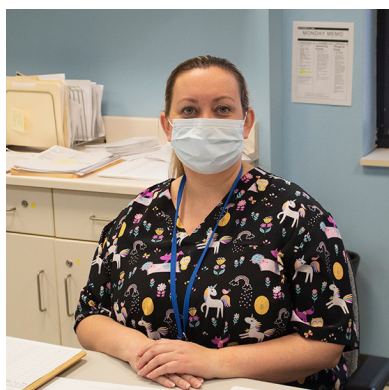
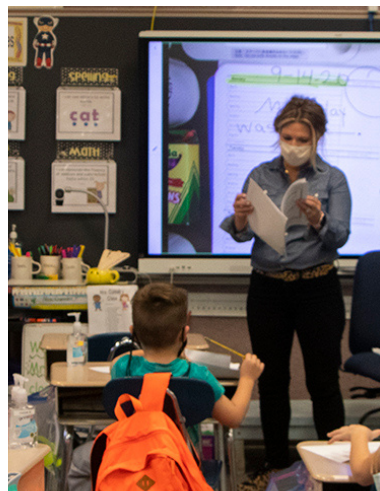
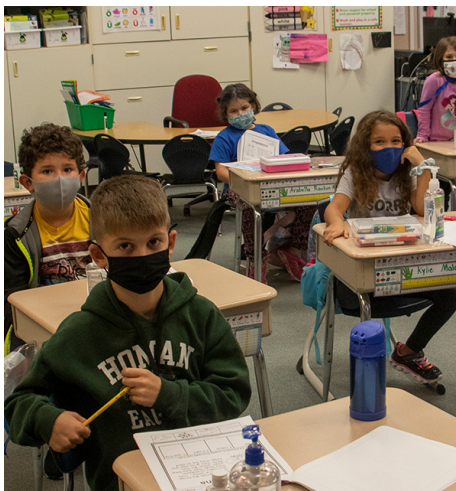
desk and clean up the classroom. This is a huge undertaking, and it has been a challenge to figure out how to effectively and efficiently disinfect every desk and lunch area. About 70% of students are learning in-person, which means that classrooms are still relatively full during the day. The teachers and students are all incredibly grateful for the custodial and kitchen staff's efforts to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times.



# 1ST GRADE SPOTLIGHT

## A LOOK INTO MRS. CUROSH'S CLASS

Mrs. Curosh's first grade class is bustling with fun this year! The class has been reading many different genres of books and learning key math concepts. They are also learning about animals and their natural habitats. The students have been great at keeping their masks on and following the guidelines that coincide with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Curosh states that the kids have been doing great in the transition back to school. Keep up the great work, 1st grade!



## MEET THE INTERN

### ALAYNA WILKENING

Hey everyone! My name is Alayna Wilkening, and I am Homan's Public Relations Intern for the 2020-2021 school year. I'm so excited to have this opportunity and I've loved every second of it so far! I am currently a Junior at Lake Central and a design editor for the publications staff. I plan on majoring in graphic design and minoring in photojournalism in college. I have always loved using design and graphics to communicate, and I hope this newsletter will be effective in keeping you informed about what's been happening with your child at school. Now more than ever, teachers and staff are working hard to make your child's school experience memorable, and I hope you can see all of their hard work paying off. If you would like to contact me for any reason, feel free to reach out! You can email me at [printerns@lcsaill.com](mailto:printerns@lcsaill.com) or [lalalaney2@gmail.com](mailto:lalalaney2@gmail.com).



## NEW STAFF!

### GIVING A WARM WELCOME

Homan Elementary would like to welcome some new staff into the family for the 2020-2021 school year. We are excited to introduce Heather Helmuth (Nurse), Betsy Schultz (PE), and Karie Leonard (Library) to the students and parents. They can't wait to get to know you and your child!



# EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT

## LCEF GRANTS \$5,000 TO SCHOOLS TO ASSIST IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Homan teachers and classroom staff are appreciative of the Lake Central Education Foundation's (LCEF) contribution! On Monday, August 3, 2020 the LCEF provided the Corporation with \$5,000, Grant Round 53, to help purchase PPE supplies for every school. This generous donation given in these unprecedented times of COVID-19 has assisted in making our classrooms a safe environment for learning. The \$5,000 Grant was made possible because of funds raised mainly through the Bureau of Motor Vehicle Education License Plates, Amazon (smile.amazon.com), community member/business contributions, and LCSC staff donations. To learn more about how the LCEF supports your child's learning, visit their website at <http://lakecentralef.org>. Thank you very much and ALL your assistance in helping to facilitate the awarding of Grant 53 in such a different start to the 2020-2021 school year.

Story by: Brenna Sealy

# SHORTENED SCHEDULES

## SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO SHORTEN WEDNESDAYS BY 90 MINUTES

Decided by a unanimous vote from the present school board, beginning the week of Oct. 14, students of the Lake Central School Corporation will be released 90 minutes early every Wednesday. This change is being put in place to allow teachers additional time to plan and prepare lessons for both online and in-person students. "We don't take cutting out instructional time lightly. In most cases, we wouldn't do it, but we just recognize we've got a lot of [teachers] that are struggling a lot and so in the short term at least, we'd give them some time to work with their peers," Dr. Larry Veracco, superintendent, said. Teachers will be able to use this time to learn to use the new forms of technology that are needed in the classroom as well as transferring lessons online. The extra 90 minutes is hoped to allow pressure to be relieved. "I think that they are applying a lot of pressure to themselves and it can make the job a lot tougher than it maybe has to be but we really just want to try to take the pressure off and we figure the middle of the week is a good time to do that. [The teachers] can fill that gap with whatever they need the most," Veracco said. The concerns regarding parents being unable to watch their children will be taken care of through the adventure club. Bus services will also remain available. "We're going to look at bringing the adventure club in a little earlier for the elementary kids to see what the demand is but we should be able to satisfy some of the demand with the adventure club," Veracco said. This time is intended to better the student's education and the mental health of teachers. Teachers will have more time to do whatever is needed in order to adapt to school during COVID-19 and create the best learning environment possible for students.

Story by: Brenna Sealy

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Oct. 5-9:** Riley's Week
- **Oct. 14:** Picture Retakes
- **Oct. 19:** End of 1st grading period
- **Oct. 26-30:** Kindness Week
- **Oct 30:** Halloween Party
- **Nov 2-3:** Fall Break



# CONTACT US!

Homan Elementary School

210 East Joliet St.

Schererville, IN 46375

Phone: (219) 322-4451

Fax: (219) 865-4442

All photos and stories are taken and written by Alayna Wilkening unless otherwise specified.

[prininterns@lcscmail.com](mailto:prininterns@lcscmail.com)

[lalalaney2@gmail.com](mailto:lalalaney2@gmail.com)