



LAKE CENTRAL

MAY (18) NEWSLETTER

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

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

LCHS Public Relations Interns contributed to this newsletter. Send any ideas or questions to Kevin Holechko at holechko.kevin@gmail.com



Dr. Larry Veracco,
Superintendent

Successful Referendum Yields Sigh of Relief

Since our voting public supported the great work of our teachers and other school staff by VOTING YES on May 8th, we have had many people congratulate us on our victory at the polls. As Superintendent, unfortunately it did not feel like a time to celebrate. Rather than rejoicing in the moment, those of us who were most intimately involved in the campaign felt what is best described as relief.

The campaign forced us to rehash how the funding formula has worked against LC over the years, and we had to remind everyone that we used to get a tremendous amount of support for our classroom activities from local property taxes prior to 2009. Furthermore, we did our best to share with stakeholders the conservative approach to taxing the community that has been the hallmark of this district since its inception.

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Senior class returns to their roots



By: Kevin Holechko,
Junior at LCHS

Lake Central allowed seniors who were in good academic standing to leave school early on Friday, May 25 and return to their elementary school in cap and gown and catch up with their former teachers and show the students in elementary school what they had to look forward to too.





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The truth is that the increased revenue will not result in giant raises or the addition of unbelievable new programs in our schools. The additional resources will afford us the opportunity to remain competitive on teacher salary with local districts to which we are frequently compared.

The increases will allow us to better manage class size in all grades by adding some teachers. The additional revenue will give us a chance to beef up our counseling department as we have experienced greater needs to support the social and emotional health of our students in recent years. The extra money will give us some flexibility to use other funds from the state to increase the presence of armed security in the form of active policemen in and around our schools.

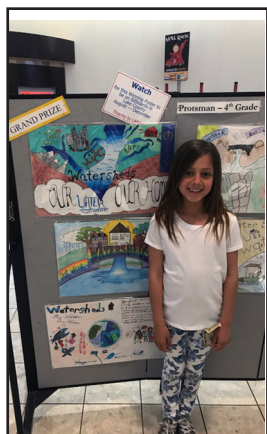
Speaking for myself, the thought of losing many of our best and brightest teachers to other school systems was a true motivator. As a parent of students in our schools, I know firsthand the dedication and commitment to teaching and student learning that is shared by our staff members. As a community member and property owner, while I am not doing cartwheels (that would make LCTV news for sure), over the tax increase, I do believe long term the strength of our schools is a huge community asset and contributor to the high quality of life in our towns.

This administration is committed to thanking the community for its support by carefully applying the resources to activities most impactful to students and by annually reporting on the local tax money that will go to operations, just as we do for our other funds. The increased financial support will have a tremendous effect on the quality of education we provide and will have a lasting impact on the students who pass through our doors. We want to thank our community for allowing us to continue to make decisions in the best interest of our students and for providing us the assistance necessary to move forward in providing the best K-12 education in Northwest Indiana.

Protsman: Soil & Water Winner

*By: Kevin Holechko,
Junior at LCHS*

Congratulations to Abby Grenchik, (4) of Protsman. She was the winner of the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest! Keep an eye out, her artwork will be featured on billboards across Lake County from August to December of this year.



Peifer: Music with the Xylophone

*By: Whitney Rains, Senior
at LCHS*

Music class is always full of new experiences. Students were learning about the Xylophone today. They all got to line up and yell out their new instrument and try to make their own music with it. Some even tried to read the music sheet they had in front of them and did very well. It was beautiful no matter how they chose to go at it. And you could see their faces light up when they did something that impressed themselves. They get to express themselves in a different way then in a normal class setting, which is a nice break from their usual classes.



Clark: 10 songs of Pride

*By: Justin Andrews,
Senior at LCHS*

On Saturday, May 12, the Clark Middle School choirs held their final concert of the year. Since it is the 10 year anniversary of the middle school being open, choir alumni were invited back to sing with the choir concert to a song that is performed every year. The students were invited to practice with the choir and the old choir instructor joined in leading both of the choirs at the end.





Congratulations to the class of 2018

Graduating class of 2018

Congratulations
to the 2018 class
on completing
the school year.

738 students

286 earned
Academic Honors

8 earned
Technical Honors

An average score
of 22 on the ACT

1500+ AP exams
taken over the
course of four
years

2831 College
Applications
submitted

509 students
have plans to
pursue a post
secondary
education

13 students
plan to pursue a
career in trades

15 students plan
to serve in the
armed forces

\$19,718,377 in
scholarships
offered to the
class 2018





*Theresa Schoon,
Director of Primary
Education*

ISTEP Scores Released this Summer and Information about the New ILEARN Assessment

The Indiana Department of Education will release Spring 2018 ISTEP scores on Monday, June 11, 2018. The scores will be made available online. Similar to previous years, we will put the claim code that parents need in order to access ISTEP scores in Skyward under Educational Milestones. A phone and email message will go out to parents reminding them of the score release, and the email will also include instructions for how to access those scores through the Pearson Parent Portal. Paper copies of the score reports will be given to schools in August and we will send those home the first week of the 2018-19 school year.

Parents may request a rescore of their child's test from June 11th through June 22nd. We strongly recommend that for any student who misses

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Homan: Taking on Lake Central Unified Games



By: Ryan Voss, senior at LCHS

On May 10 students from Homan participated in a Unified Sports event held at Lake Central. Those participating were from the schools of Homan Elementary,

Protsman Elementary, as well as Clark and Kahler Middle Schools. Students were able to participate in a number of track and field events with help from the Best Buddies club that is at LCHS.



Bibich: Multiplying to success

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the Pass cut score by a few points that his/her parents request a rescore. Instructions for how to do so will be sent out with the School Messenger on June 11th. If you need assistance with requesting a rescore, please contact your building principal or assistant principal.

The ISTEP test will still be given to 10th grade students for two more years. However, this year marks the end of ISTEP for grades 3 through 8. Starting next year, the Indiana Department of Education will be administering a new assessment called ILEARN for grades 3 through 8. We discussed the new ILEARN test in a previous newsletter; however, to recap some of the major changes, there will now only be one test window (April 22-May 17, 2019) and the test is computer adaptive, meaning it adjusts the difficulty of the questions based on student response. The Indiana Department of Education has created a website with information about the new ILEARN assessment. It is can be found at <https://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/ilearn> and includes information for parents.

By: Jessica Cook, Senior at LCHS

On May 16, Mrs. Torrez's second-grade class works on multiplication worksheets. The students have been working on multiplication for some time and want to perfect their skills before they move onto third grade. As the school year winds down, students try to get their school work done quickly so they can enjoy their end of the year activities coming up like field day.

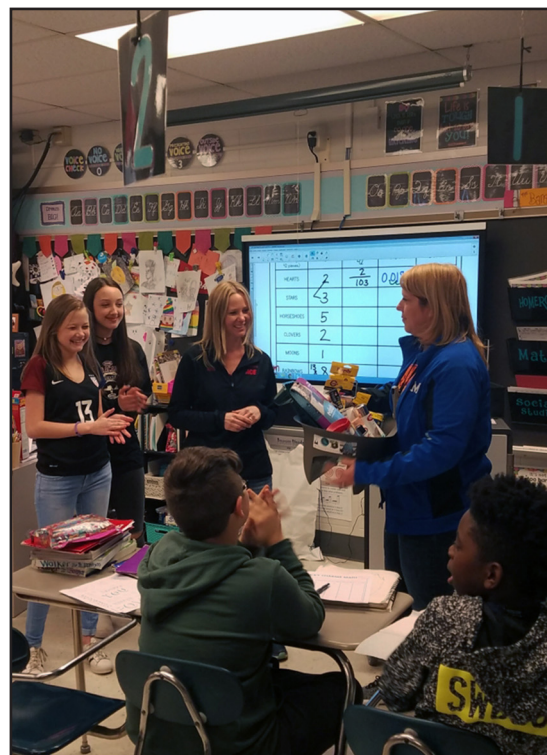


Kahler: Getting in touch with the Community



By: Ryan Voss, Senior at LCHS

On March 23rd tech teacher Mr. Vince Pucci was named the Ace+ Teacher. This contest was hosted by Gus Bock's Ace Hardware in Dyer. Students were able to nominate and vote for their teachers. Mr. Pucci received carts full of materials for his home and classroom. Ms. Barajas, 5th grade, received 2nd and Mr. Decker, social studies, received 3rd also receiving donations from Ace Hardware.





Farewell from Al Gandolfi



*Al Gandolfi, Assistant
Superintendent*

The Past is for Reflection

Let me start my final newsletter with this – Public Education has been good to me and good for me! Think of another occupation in which you get up each and every day with the sole purpose of working with, supporting, counseling and problem solving with children. Regardless of the age group, (and I have had the privilege to teach and administer at each developmental age group), the job can be overwhelming but incredibly fulfilling.

See, teaching is about changing behavior not controlling it, asking meaningful questions so children have to think just a little bit deeper. To justify why they believe what they say they believe. It is about pitching the ball where those in front of them can hit it.

The best part of this 35 year career was working directly with students, do not get me wrong, I found my administrative career to be challenging and rewarding. Being the Principal at an elementary school was incredible. I felt the unconditional love from those students each and every day. Assistant Principal at the HS, not so much love, but the opportunity to work with students as they grew and matured over a four year period was enlightening. My final transition was to Central Office, this has been a

challenging but rewarding final stop these last 8 years at Lake Central as Assistant Superintendent. I meet with many up and coming administrators, my advice, plan your career path wisely. Don't leave the classroom too early, spend as much time with students as possible, allow them to teach you as much as you work to teach them.

Why is the past for reflection you may ask? Today, we are not just responsible for teaching core subjects and electives. We should be responsible for developing critical thinking skills, communication skills and the ability to collaborate. Let's not look back; we are not going in that direction. Time for me to establish a second career, hopefully it will be as fulfilling as the first.

Kohling Art Show



By: Justin Andrews, Senior at LCHS

On Thursday, May 17, Kolling students had the opportunity to attend an art show with their parents. Every student that attends the school participated and parents had the opportunity to purchase the pictures that they painted. Later that evening, the third-grade students performed their annual program for friends and family.

Field Day

By: Kevin Holechko, Junior at LCHS

Protsman celebrated the end of the year by holding Field Day on May 23. Students were able to participate in a number of activities that took place both in and outside of Protsman.





Book Rental Fee's and the effects on the Corporation



*Rob James, Director of
Business and Finance*

While in some states such as Illinois, textbooks are issued to students as part of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). In Indiana and 7 other states, annual use of textbooks is not covered under FAPE. It may seem like a small thing to many, however the amount of unpaid balances in our community has been increasing rapidly over the past three years. We want to shine a light on the magnitude of this growing problem and what we currently have in place to minimize the problem. For the current 2017-2018 school year, we had over \$360,000 of unpaid textbook rental fees at January 31st, the date in which payments were due.

Legitimate Need

It should be noted the state does reimburse schools for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. We share this information because it is important for all to review the qualifications and take advantage of the programs that are set up to support students and their families.

Current Process at Lake Central
With the increase in outstanding

balances related to use of textbooks, LCSC has been using the following process for the past two years:

During registration at the beginning of the school year, parents sign an agreement to have all textbook rental fees paid by January 31st.

Families have the opportunity to make payments at any time, in any denomination, through Skyward Family Access.

Email reminders are sent to families from October through January, reminding them to review their account for any outstanding fees.

Phone calls are made in February as a final reminder to families to pay any outstanding fees.

Unpaid textbook rental fees are then turned over to our collection agency to pursue collection.

Summary

The need to collect a higher percentage of annual textbook rental fees is more important in light of the already large amount of outstanding fees. As a district, we want to be understanding of the unique circumstances that cause families to fall behind on meeting their obligations,

but we need to be able to document the specifics in order to collect the fees without utilizing the collection agency. For this reason, we want to move forward with more person to person communication through an increased use of phone calls in the future to improve this process.

Waston: Ending the year on a high note

*By: Jessica Cook,
Senior at LCHS*

On May 24, the early childhood students at Watson Elementary went outside to enjoy the sunshine. Before the last day of school arrives, the teachers wanted to end the school year on a high note and let students enjoy the recess equipment.





Grimmer: Spring play performance

By: Whitney Rains, Senior at LCHS

Grimmer students put on their school play on April 27 through April 29. They have put many hours of hard work into the play, from the acting to the sets, and costumes, you could see the integrity.

Although there were times of laughter, the students took their work seriously and wanted to be the best they could be. The

work they put into it really showed through, everything went on seamlessly and they were just as excited as when they ran lines in practice. This passion is what captivated the audience and put smiles on everyone's face.



LCSC Teacher's of the year

By: Kevin Holechko, Junior at LCHS

Congratulations to Mrs. Tina DuBrock (Kindergarten) for being one of the school corporations teachers of the year. DuBrock along with Mrs. Louise Tallent were picked as being both teachers of the year in the Lake Central School Corporation. DuBrock is one of the teachers who is behind the new yoga and mindfulness program that came to Protsman this past year. DuBrock teaches Kindergarten and will be continuing the Yoga and Mindfulness program at one of the local library's. Great job Mrs. DuBrock, you represent Protsman and the Lake Central School Corporation well.



Congratulations to Mrs. Louise Tallent, (Family and Consumer Science 'CTE'), on being awarded as one of the corporation's teachers of the year. Tallent has been with Lake Central for 20 years and has been involved in education as a whole since the age of 14. Tallent pulls her inspiration for her passion from Ellen Swallow Richards, who was a graduate and instructor at (MIT). Richards is the founder of the family and consumer science curriculum that Lake Central High School has in place. "The family is the base of a society/ culture," Tallent said. Congratulations on this monumental accomplishment we thank you for all that you do for us and we are incredibly lucky to have someone as special as you.

