

LAKE CENTRAL NEWS

Sean Begley - Principal // Timothy Powers - Asst. Principal // Marty Freeman - Asst. Principal // Richard Moore - Asst. Principal
Ed Beck - Asst. Principal // Doug McAllister- Dean // Erin Novak- Dean // Melissa Rettig - Director of Guidance // Mary Rebey - Supervisor, West Lake

WINTER FORMAL: CITY OF LIGHTS



Photos by: Justin Andrews and Jade Mehok, Story by: Hannah Hill

On Jan. 21, the Halls of St. George was filled with eager high school students in colourful dresses, dapper suits and dancing shoes ready to party at Lake Central's annual Winter Formal dance.

The dance itself was organized and set up by N-Teens who decided to make this year's theme "City of Lights".

"I thought the designs really fit the theme 'City of Lights'. I really liked the silver and gold balloons and the lights on the table," Tabitha Pappas (12) said.

Along with decorations, the hall was filled with a photo booth, complimentary snacks and drinks, and a DJ who many dance-goers have strong opinions on.

Some highlights from the dance included the kiss between Formal king and queen Jackson Bosold (12) and

Olivia Born (12) and a performance by members of the varsity football team singing "Courtney" an original song written about Courtney Rhomberg (11) that went viral on Twitter.

"When a few of my friends told me they were gonna play the song I didn't believe it. Then I saw some of the main singers of the song with a microphone, and I was really shocked so I ran up to them because I wanted to be there when they were serenading me. It was pretty cool," Rhomberg said.

The dance ended around 10 and students were sent home with silly print out photo booth pictures of themselves, and a one-of-a-kind light up souvenir cup.

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS INFORMATION



Commencement tickets are now on sale in the school store (<http://bit.ly/2jBOUmw>) through February 17.

Participating graduates do not require a ticket, and there are only two complimentary tickets per each participating graduate. Two additional tickets may be purchased for \$5 each, plus service fee.

There is a link to sign up for two additional tickets, if they become available. A computerized random drawing from the list of those who registered on the link will take place in March. Notification will be sent to the email supplied on the link. Those notified will be given three days to

purchase two additional tickets. If tickets still remain, another random draw will take place on the fourth day. Students and parents should be made aware the additional tickets may not be in the same section of the original purchased tickets.

More information for seating configurations will be released in May as well cap and gowns distribution.

Participating graduates will pick up both all tickets at Commencement practice on May 26th at 10 a.m. Commencement is scheduled to be held at Lake Central on June 4. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Brumm at lbrumm@lcschools.com or 219-365-8551 extension 2050.

TWITTER: @LCHSNEWS // INSTAGRAM: @LAKECENTRALNEWS // SNAPCHAT: @LCNEWS

FACEBOOK: LAKE CENTRAL NEWS // WEBSITE: LAKECENTRALNEWS.COM

For future events: sign up for Pinwheel (<https://trypinwheel.com/>) // For future sporting events: check out Schedule Star (<http://bit.ly/2h9zzp8>)

SPOTLIGHT ON...

MR. PAUL VOLK

Here at Lake Central, artwork extends outside of the classroom into galleries lining the library and even into local art shows and fairs, but it does not stop there. Art teacher Mr. Paul Volk has been given the opportunity for his work to be showcased in a renowned art gallery in London.

The Parallax Art Fair, located in Chelsea, London, claims to be the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom and Europe. The fair often has around 6,000 pieces on display, and Volk's will soon join the exhibits.

"I joined an Indiana artist website that the state has that shows my contemporary artwork and has a little bio about the type of art that I do. I got an email from a guy in England earlier in the fall asking me if I would be interested in submitting some artwork for his show that was going on in London," Volk said.

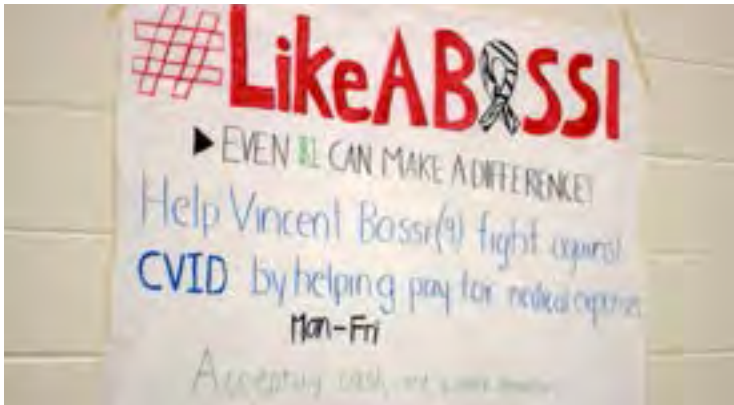
Volk has two paintings being sent overseas for display: "Abstract Fish" and "Constellation."

"I really like working with color in line as subject matter, so I took something that was sort of recognizable, a fish, and I just started pulling pieces out of it that it all comes together to give you this sort of aquatic scene. Then, the 'Constellation' sort of looks like an old compass that would point sailors into the distance when they were travelling. They would look at



the night stars, so they would use like a constellation and a compass to point them in the right way. The textures I have on the constellation I actually sanded, and I removed some of the paint so that you have this rough texture with this smooth application of paint on them," Volk said.

Volk tries to use his art experiences in the real world to inspire other students to follow their passions as well.



#LIKEABOSSI

Lake Central class cabinet put on a fundraiser the week of Mon. Jan. 23, to help raise money for Vincent Bossi, a freshman at Lake Central. Bossi, who is currently at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, was diagnosed with CVID; however, doctors at the Mayo Clinic have been hearing from doctors all over the nation about potentially finding a new diagnosis.

"A few weeks ago the Lake Central News Facebook page received a message from a friend of the Bossi family asking us to promote the family's GoFundMe page. Since Olivia Oster and I have access to the LC social media accounts we were able to see it and get it out there for all our followers to start donating. We realized after a few days that many students did not have access to credit or debit cards so we decided to talk to administration about starting a cash and check fundraiser during lunches at school," Stefan Krajisnik (12) said.

Throughout the week students sat and collected funds during lunches. The students ended up raising \$720 at the end of the week. "Since Vincent's brother, Anthony, is a senior here at



LC I thought it would be fitting as class president to have the senior class cabinet sponsor the fundraiser. Our principal, Mr. [Sean] Begley, seemed totally on board with it, and once the school board approved it we went into it full force. Our goal was just to help the family out as much as we can. We never had a certain number in mind because we knew even the smallest amount could help. With so many students in our school we knew even small donations from each person could add up to a large number. Overall, I am extremely happy with how much we were able to raise," Krajisnik said. Even as a freshman, Vincent managed to touch hundreds of students' hearts.

"I've never had the chance to meet Vincent but he is a part of the Lake Central family nonetheless, and we should be open to helping him out. Just because our in-school fundraiser is done doesn't mean people should stop trying to help. Even something as simple as tweeting out a link to his GoFundMe can go a long way. Our efforts to help their family won't stop until Vincent is healthy, back home and in the halls of LC," Krajisnik said.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

DANCING WITH THE CENTRALETTES



The Lake Central Centralettes hosted their annual dance clinic on Jan. 29. While still making time for laughs and smiles, the clinic gave the younger girls a chance to be a Centralette for a day.

"The Centralettes have always been tremendous ambassadors of goodwill for LCHS. This goodwill exists not only because of our achievements both locally and nationally, but because selflessness and mentoring are as important today as they were 20 years ago. 2017 marks the 22nd year we have hosted this clinic for our community. Many of our Centralettes are former Junior Centralettes. They understand their role in mentoring young dancers who may someday stand in their proverbial dance shoes. It is because of this mutual benefit, the connection we have with our community continues to flow both ways," Kevin Mathis, Dance Director,

said.

This clinic provides benefits not only for interested Centralettes, but current Centralettes as well.

"The purpose of our clinic is to make dance accessible in a safe and friendly environment. It introduces the community to our team while allowing our dancers the opportunity to reconnect with the community of a personal level. It reminds our dancers why they choose dance as their sport," Mathis said.

There were three age groups at the clinic: Pre-school/Kindergarten-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade and 7th-8th grade. The younger girls were able to show off their hard work during the Parent Show at the end of their session.

For more info, visit NWIndianaLife.com

NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Following the resignation of Mr. Brett St. Germain as head football coach, speculation spread as to who would be filling to void. Mr. Tony Bartolomeo, Science, was named head coach after his short tenure as interim head coach for the Indians in the middle of the 2016 season.

"The fans, the parents, the coaches, the teachers and the kids can expect we're going to work as hard as they we can because we can control that. We're going to try to outwork everybody, that's a controllable thing," Bartolomeo said.

Prior to coaching at Lake Central, Bartolomeo spent nine seasons running the offense at Merrillville High School and Munster High School. Despite the strong offensive resume, Bartolomeo feels confident that with the help of his staff the team can be just as successful in the other phases of the game.

Recruiting new players from the high school and middle schools will be key to helping the process.

"Other than getting going right now, our main



goal is to get more kids playing football in Lake Central School Corporation," Bartolomeo said. "The best way to get kids to do anything is to build relationships and have them be a part of something that they enjoy. Once kids get to football, it's without due that they always look and think; 'This is the greatest thing I've ever been a part of. I love this so much I wish this would've happened to me earlier. I wish somebody would have told me.'"

SPOTLIGHT ON: LIVESTREAM

LC
Television

In years past, members of the LCSC community have struggled between balancing work with attendance at school events. The LCTV live streams fixed that issue. Now teams can get footage to review games, and the community can access events from home.

"[The live stream] started last year. Tyler Forajter (11) is the captain of the team. It started off as a thought like 'what if we could do this' and it blew up from there. We started doing football [and] basketball games and now we are doing school board meetings," Colm Tomaszewski (11) said.

Recently, the crew broke the record for most views on a stream during the varsity boys basketball game against Munster.

"I think it's a big hit. Some don't get many live viewers, but people come and rewatch it. People are always asking for the link so it's become really good," Tomaszewski said.

As the year continues, LCTV looks to also expand their coverage to spring events. To get access to the streams, visit the "LCTVNews" Youtube page, or stay tuned to get direct links through tweets from the LCHS News Twitter account.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

FRESHMEN PARENT NIGHT



Months before the incoming freshmen are scheduled to start high school, the parents of current eighth graders were given the opportunity to visit the school for information and tours.

The night promptly started at 6 p.m. on Monday Jan. 23 with a presentation from the principals at 6:15 p.m. Following the presentation, parents were invited to walk through Main Street where tables set up by Department Heads, students and faculty members were ready to talk and hand out information packets.

"I hope the parents left the tours not as nervous about their students getting around the school and were more informed on what classes their kids should take and what they will be doing throughout the day," Alexa Szatkowski (12) said.

Along with the informational booths about the classes that are offered, a few tables were set up about organizations and clubs students can join. Lake Central Theatre Company was one extra curricular that was presented with a few students in theater talking about the opportunities they were given.

"The theater table was so fun. All of the parents were incredibly kind and excited, which made us excited. It was a weird feeling though because we were trying to encourage these kids to join our company, but since Me, Hannah [Souronis] (12) and Will [Kruzan] (12) are seniors, we'll never meet them or get to work with them," Adam Gustas (12) said.

Even though a student may not originally be interested in an activity or hobby, being exposed to it early on can help one discover something new and exciting.

"I feel that when you meet some people [in a particular club] and see how they are, it could really sway your decision on what to do in high school," Gustas said.

After walking through of Main Street, parents were met with student volunteers offering tours of the building for those who are unfamiliar with the large size of the building. One particular volunteer took this chance to offer advice to the incoming students and parents on information and/or tips she wishes she was given as she was entering her high school career.

"I told the parents to make sure their students take their core classes such as fine arts credits and personal finance as early as they so they aren't trying to cram those classes in senior year," Szatkowski said.

NEW BUSES, NEW SEATBELTS



As the new year begins, the process of switching to seat belt-equipped buses begins. These new buses have three belts per seat, each of which goes across both the lap and shoulder.

"Currently the way they're manufactured without them, they are the safest mode of transportation on the road, but that additional safety piece is beneficial to our students," Christian Flores, Director of Transportation said.

As of now, there is no law requiring the implementation of seat belts on school buses, but in anticipation of a law being made, the corporation bus fleet will slowly be replaced with those with seat belts.

"We typically get rid of the buses that are 12 years old. As we purchase new buses, we will buy ones that will be equipped with seat belts," Flores said.

Even though it may have seemed a bit strange to students to have these seat belts, compliance and approval of this change has been high, though some students were slightly hesitant with their implementation.

"I did not want the seat belts because it was more comfortable without them, but if we do get into a bad accident and the belts do help. I'll be thankful for that," Brendon Tomky (10) said.

Regardless of some students' concerns about the protection provided, students have been following the new expectations in the fullest.

"The drivers have been really satisfied with the students complying with the initiative. I have not had one driver complain that students weren't following through," Flores said.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE FIELD HOUSE



When construction workers built the new school, the fieldhouse was kept for a number of reasons. One of those reasons was to give people a chance to exercise, for no charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"I found out about this event from my friend's son who went to Lake Central," Mary Kirn said.

Administration always thought about having an open walk in their gym, but there wasn't enough room.

"During the campaign to ask the community to support construction of a nearly 'new' high school, we received numerous questions from senior citizens regarding the ability to walk inside during the winter. After construction was completed, we began the activity, Dr. Veracco, Superintendent, said

Administration think that it's a great opportunity to go because not many locations have places where you can walk for free inside which benefits a lot of people because some people might not want to pay the money

"We began the opportunity for community walking in early November and plan to end it at the end of March. The dates were set based on weather. We do not believe many people will want to walk indoors when it is nice enough to walk outdoors," Dr. Veracco said.

Walking in the fieldhouse isn't forever as it will end on March 23, and continue back next winter.

FEELING THE PEP: WINTER PEP RALLY



Photos by: Jennifer Chavarria and Sofia Hay

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, the winter pep rally was held during Pathways to Excellence. The pep rally was held to honor the winter sports teams and other programs. It also featured a game between members of the Westlake basketball team.

"I really liked that they honored the Westlake [basketball team] because they don't get a lot of attention at Lake Central, so having them [be a] part of the pep rally made it a little bit [more] special," Claire Urchell (11) said.

After the Westlake team played, the hosts of the pep rally then announced that the students would be participating in a karaoke competi-

tion where the grades faced off against each other. It featured songs like "Party in the USA" and "YMCA."

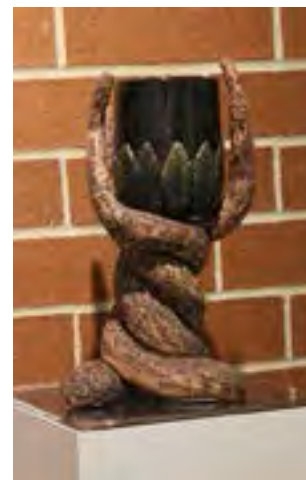
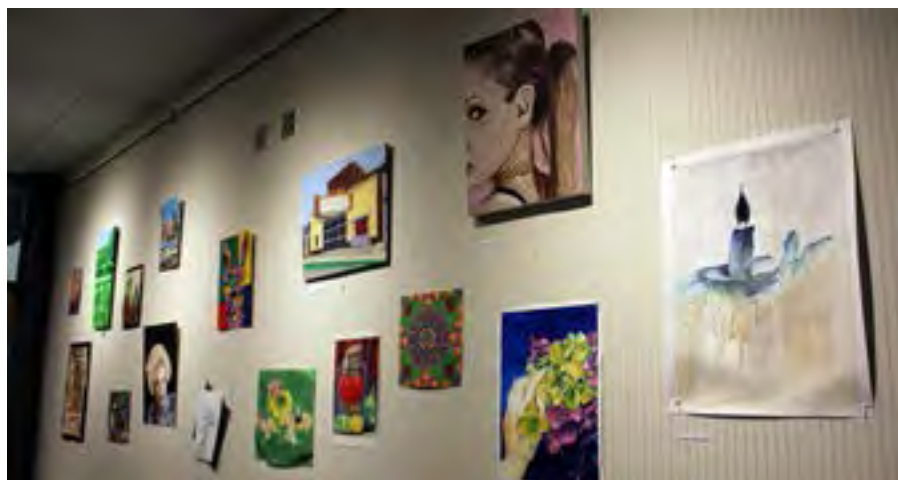
"I thought that the [karaoke competition] was interesting, but it could have been done in a better way," Amy Denton (11) said.

There was then a basketball game held where the students faced off against the staff members. The students won the game with a score of 15-12.

"I think it was really interesting. That was my favorite part of the [pep rally] because I got to see the students and the teachers interact with each other," Urchell (11) said.

IN THE CLASSROOM

ART GALLERY



Artwork created by students in Mr. Paul Volk's art classes is hung up proudly in the Art Gallery. The gallery is located next to the conference rooms along side the library. Artwork displayed in the gallery is work of current and former students. Also, the work caught most parents' attention during tours at the eighth grade parent orientation night.

ELEPHANT TOOTHPASTE



Photo and Story by: Cherylynn Gholson

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Mrs. Lauryn Vukas' fifth hour Chemistry class watched a demonstration of an elephant toothpaste lab. Mrs. Vukas thought the students' reactions unit was the perfect time to present this lab to the class.

"I showed the decomposition reaction of hydrogen peroxide, turning to water and oxygen with a potassium iodide catalyst," Mrs. Vukas said.

This lab was designed to help students put an image to the definition of reactions and catalysts.

"I think when you are able to see a reaction, such as the catalyst, happening it really helps students understand it more," Mrs. Vukas said.

During Mrs. Vukas's fourth hour, the class came up with an idea to use a water bottle instead of a beaker to make the reaction bigger. This curiosity created a new experiment Mrs. Vukas would show to her other chemistry classes.

"We searched different videos on elephant toothpaste experiments and decided to use a water bottle. I believe chemistry is all about experimenting and testing new things," Mrs. Vukas said.

IN THE CLASSROOM

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE GENETIC UPDATE CONFERENCE

The Genetic Update Conference, hosted by Miss Gabrielle Rapin's Human Genetics Classes, will be held on Feb. 13 in the auditorium. Programs begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:30 pm.

Topics to be covered are:

- "Human Embryology... Basis of Stem Cell Biology"- Human iPS Stem Cell Therapy & Regenerative Medicine
- "CRISPR-Cas9 - Applications of Genome Editing"- Practical Applications & Ethical Implications

Detailed Conference

Topics are:

- Human Embryology: Natural stem cells: Embryonic & Adult; Pluripotent, Multipotent and Totipotent
- Lab Made Human Stem Cells: iPSCs induced Pluripotent Stem cells from human skin using 'Dolly' Signals
- CRISPR/Cas9: bacterial immune system used for genome editing; quick, easy and precise way to delete or correct the DNA of any organism including humans

Dr. George Church of MIT has genetically modified pig embryos with CRISPR - to make possible transplantation of pig organs into humans.

Feedback evaluation indicates numerous students are making career decisions almost every day during these programs.

If you would like to register to attend or have questions, see Miss. Rapin in C132 or email her at grapin@lscmail.com.

Admission and registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 30.

MAGIC IN THE CLASSROOM



Mrs. Bridget Baird, Westlake, came up with a new, creative way on teaching lessons.

"I teach special needs here and in my classroom we are doing a whole Harry Potter overhaul. In addition to our normal lessons, we'll have Harry Potter inspired activities, lessons, crafts and even a Harry Potter takeover of the snack cart that runs in the afternoon for teachers," Mrs. Baird said.

In keeping with the Harry Potter theme, they also decided to adapt the different Houses as learned about in the books and movies.

"The students and peer mentors have been sorted into houses and will be earning and

losing points based on behaviors. There are also several adults around the building that will be acting as "professors" who will help mentor the students as needed, provide feedback on any behaviors outside of the classroom, good or bad, probably all good though, and overall provide more high fives and smiles to the kids when they are not in my room," Mrs. Baird said.

"It is fun for us since it can get dreary this time of year. It is more of a focus on positive reinforcement than academics," Mrs. Baird said.



AP COMPUTER SCIENCE



AP Computer Science Principles is a new class with Mrs. Rita Chavez, Business, as the teacher. Along with a new class, a new project took place.

"One of their assignments was to create a game where something is dropped from a character at the top of the screen, and a character at the bottom had to dodge the falling objects. At the end of the game, the length of life, in seconds, is displayed on the screen," Mrs. Chavez said.

Lucas Rhone (12) chose falling asteroids as his falling object, shown in the photo

above. To make this game, programming took place.

"The students wrote their programs in Python, which is the beginning programming language at most universities," Mrs. Chavez said.

After seeing the finished products, this project will be repeated in years to come.

"I like this project because students needed to synthesize all of the programming material learned up to that point. In real work situations, computer scientists have to troubleshoot problems they encounter by using online research. This project gave students that experience,"

Long term goals are also in mind.

"I will definitely use this project in future years. I feel it helps prepare students for the create portion of the AP exam, where students design and create a program of their own choosing and upload their finished project to their College Board online digital portfolio," Mrs. Chavez said.