



Eagle Express

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Shore Central School District

Vol. 25 #3 FALL-WINTER 2021

Saluting Native American Heritage

Native American Heritage Month was observed in our schools throughout November, with language, music, dance, clothing, drawings, leather tooling, beadwork, speakers, exhibits, & more. Here are some photographs of the activities:

Top Right: At J.T. Waugh

Bottom:

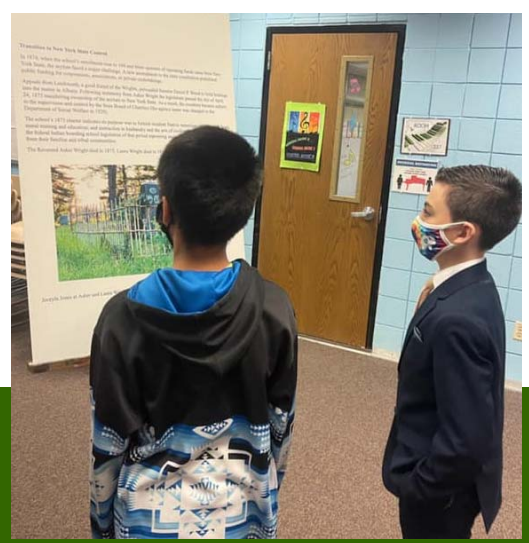
Left: At Highland

Middle: At A.J. Schmidt

Right: At the Middle School



LAKE SHORE'S NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



More photos on back cover ...



Thank You!

I want to thank our Lake Shore families and community for your support of our children and our schools during my time as Superintendent of the Lake Shore Central School District. The Board of Education has accepted my resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective Jan. 15, 2022. It has been a joy to watch your children learn and grow, from their first day of Kindergarten to their final steps across the graduation stage.

In my 36 years in education, serving as Superintendent of the Lake Shore Central School District has been an honor of highest magnitude. Together we have navigated the challenges of a global pandemic and we continue to plan for post-pandemic challenges that may lie ahead. Our \$59 million capital project continues on track, and already has seen substantial new resources, supports and amenities for our students.

This edition of the *Eagle Express* highlights the District's 2021-22 goals, and our ongoing commitment to ensure quality instruction, facilities and resources for all students. I am proud of the work we have done here and extremely grateful for your support of these efforts.

Soar ever upward, Eagles!

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent

GOALS 2021-2022

LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOLS

We will ...

- **Maintain a rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction to advance the learning of all students.**
- **Provide school community members with opportunities to support their mental and physical health and safety.**
- **Utilize state and federal funding to maintain and expand educational opportunities.**
- **Advocate for digital equity of technology at the local, state and federal levels for all students.**
- **Proceed with our Capital Construction Project plans, continue to maintain our facilities at the highest level, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility in all areas of operation.**
- **Foster a culture of community engagement to promote a partnership for success.**

GOALS 2021-22

LSCSD GOAL #1: ACADEMICS

GOAL 1: ACADEMICS ... Maintain a rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction to advance the learning of all students.

At our elementary schools, teachers and teaching assistants are receiving training in Fountas and Pinnell reading methods and mini-lessons and a K-5 math curriculum review will begin in 2022.

At the Middle School and High School, the grades 7-12 Languages Other Than English department is developing a plan for the Seal of Biliteracy. The grades 6-12 Social Studies department is developing a plan for the Seal of Civic Readiness.

At the High School, three new courses are underway: Computer Science, Physics of Sports, and Anatomy and Physiology.

A federal School Improvement Grant allows for us to hire a teaching assistant to support students in academic need. Much of this work is done at the Middle School where ELA and Math are using data to ensure curriculum alignment and to fill any gaps in curriculum, instruction and assessment.

The Special Education department is developing a consistent, Districtwide Response to Intervention plan to accelerate the response to potential learning gaps K-12.

The Board of Education in November approved a Professional Learning Plan developed by a committee composed of teachers, administrators, a consultant, board members and a college representative.



Students in Kelly Wild's 1st grade at Highland Elementary School used shaving cream for a tactile experience as they practiced their Phonics First skills.

Tactile learners learn by touching and doing, and understand and remember things through physical movement.

Principal Colleen Politowski also reports that the room smelled amazing!



Students in the new Physics in Sports class, taught by Sydney Sweet, designed a Rube Goldberg machine using different kinds of sports balls. They started by drawing an outline on paper while testing how different kinds of balls move. From left: Physics Teacher Sydney Sweet, and students Elizabeth Degenars, Brandon Szalkowski, and Donte Salatka.

GOALS 2021-22

LSCSD GOAL #2: HEALTH & SAFETY

GOAL 2: HEALTH & SAFETY ...

The School District will provide school community members with opportunities to support mental and physical health and safety.

In addition to maintaining COVID safety protocols, this goal encompasses safe, consistent student transportation service, including providing COVID-safe field trips.

Another component of this goal is Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). SEL committees meet quarterly at each building, developing strategies to increase attendance and academic success, decrease disciplinary referrals and improve students' sense of belonging.

Much of the work is based on helping students identify and appropriately express emotions and recognize the emotions of others.

"If you're not able to control your emotions, you're not ready to learn," explains Jessica Dosser, a special education teacher on J.T. Waugh's nine-member SEL Committee. To that end, students are taught to recognize three different "brains." The 'lizard brain' (brain stem) makes us feel safe ... if the lizard doesn't feel safe, neither the 'dog' nor the 'owl' will function.

The 'dog brain' (limbic system) makes our emotions—which must be under control to be able to learn. The 'owl brain' (prefrontal cortex) helps us stop and think before we act. It tells the other brains calming strategies—such as deep breathing, meditation, and mindfulness, to use if they get over anxious.



Allyson Mion's class created messages of kindness on the steps and sidewalks outside J.T. Waugh.



A.J. Schmidt 5th graders decorated stones with messages of kindness.



Above: Recognizing the emotions of others, as well as our own, is a part of social-emotional learning. Gestures of kindness range from chalk messages to sentiments on stones.

Left: Three members of J.T. Waugh's Social-Emotional Learning committee: Melinda Farley, Kindergarten Teacher; Jessica Dosser, Consultant Teacher/Special Education; Karen O'Connor, Reading Teacher.

'That guy's owl brain is not working right ...'

- J.T. Waugh student making the connection between a story character and the ways we feel, as taught in SEL: Owl (thinking before acting), Dog (emotions), Lizard (safety).

GOALS 2021-22

LSCSD GOAL #3: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

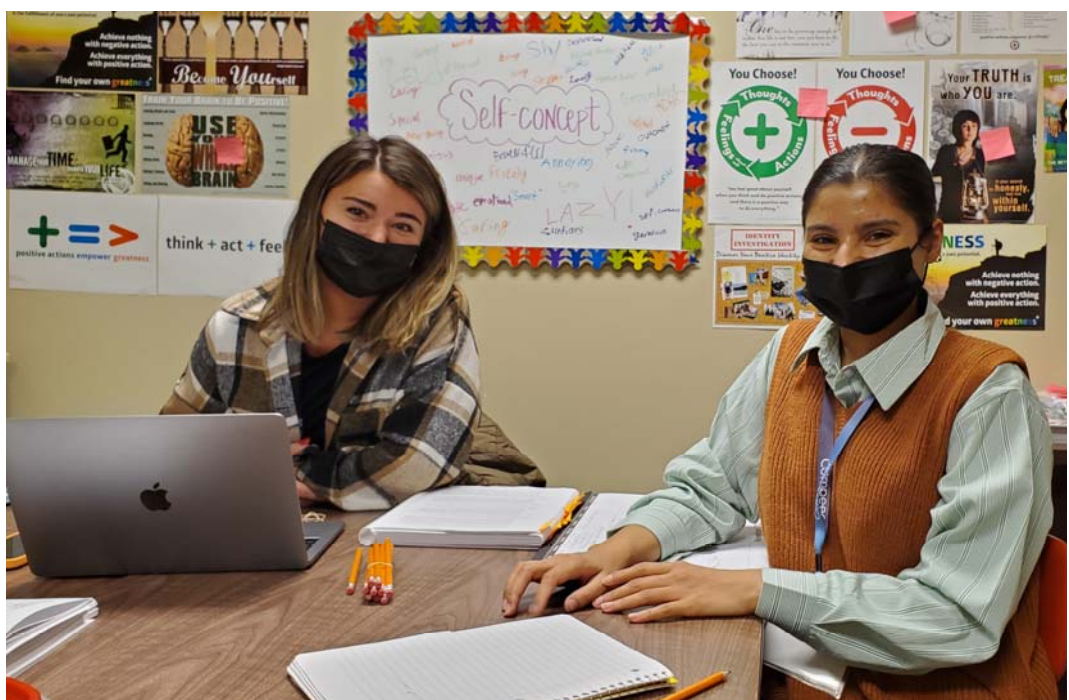
GOAL 3: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ...

The School District will utilize state and federal funding to maintain and expand educational opportunities.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides significant funding toward this goal. The District is using these funds to reduce class size, increase electives, increase special education services in a high needs building, and increase the number of elementary special area teachers (art and physical education), provide an instructional implementation leader at the High School, and increase High School physical education opportunities.

Programs being implemented with ARP funding include: Compeer for grades 6-12, Second Step for grades 6-8, Supper Club, Social Emotional Learning Committees, increase in social workers, as well as funding for summer school, after-school tutoring, and elementary academic intervention services and teaching assistants.

The District also is leveraging federal support through grants from Title 1 (academic intervention teachers; professional development and materials to support K-8 reading instruction; Title IIA (grade 1 class size reduction, professional development, mentors); Title III (materials for English language learners); Title IV (K-12 educational activities), and Universal Pre-Kindergarten.



American Rescue Plan funds help bring Master of Social Work students Olivia Bango, from UB, and Tulasi Siwakoti, from Daemen College, to work with Middle School students from 9 am to 3 pm twice a week.

Supportive friendships are one of life's most meaningful experiences—and they are very good for our mental health

Compeer is a program funded by the American Rescue Plan to provide federal assistance to combat the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. When you're going through a lot—because of a pandemic or the challenges of adolescence, you don't want to leave those helpful relationships to happenstance. So, Compeer is designed to directly provide them. At Lake Shore, Compeer is in place in grades 6-12. The format is simple: college students majoring in social work meet with students to talk. "If it's a difficult day, we can talk about what's going on and bring a smile to their face," says Tulasi Siwakoti, from Daemen. It's also about helping them think positively and practice positive action, says UB student Olivia Bango. Recently, Middle School students made time capsules with examples of how they view themselves and others. That's the "before" ... later the students will create an "after" time capsule, hopefully showing an uptick in positive self-concept and world view once they have adopted the practice of positive thought and action advocated by Ms. Bango and Ms. Siwakoti.

GOALS 2021-22

LSCSD GOAL #4: TECHNOLOGY

GOAL 4: TECHNOLOGY ...

The School District will advocate for digital equity of technology for all students.

The District continues to advance in its efforts to ensure adequate access to devices and Internet connectivity, whether the District is in full in-person, hybrid or full remote instruction.

Thanks to T-Mobile's free hot spots (275 provided every year for five years) in its Project 10Million program, as well as 65 Verizon hot spots, there is better Internet access in areas where coverage has been spotty. Access to personal learning devices also is progressing. This year, the District has loaned out 1164 Chromebooks to grade 6-12 students. As part of the third round of Smart Schools grant money, we will roll out Chromebooks to students in grades K-5 as the devices become available. The goal to have every student K-12 with a Chromebook is dependent on inventory and shipping issues.

In addition to providing devices and connectivity, the District is creating experiences for learners to make positive, socially responsible contributions and exhibit empathetic online behavior to build relationships and community.



Above: Freshmen working with Buncee, a multi-media publishing tool.

Inset Below: 4th graders working with the Minecraft Indigenous Stories Challenge.

Devices & Connectivity Link Students With Technology & Online Communities

Students in Katerina Koutsandreas' freshman English/Language Arts classes are writing short stories using Buncee, a multimedia publishing tool. They are helping to build writing communities through Buncee Boards, a collaborative space where they can add, share, comment and find additional writing inspiration. Many students are entering a Digital Story Contest with other student writers from around the globe.

Students also are building online communities through Minecraft Education, a game-based



learning platform that builds STEM skills. For Native American Heritage Month, A.J. Schmidt 4th graders read Indigenous stories and books with Librarian Tracy Wing. Then they created interpretations of those stories inside Minecraft Edu to teach others about that book—and hopefully entice them to read it. “They made interactive digital communities by adding the books’ characters as NPCs (non-playable characters), and created appropriate settings and scenes. It’s a great way to enhance our Native American Heritage Month celebration and a love of reading,” says Technology Integrator Michael Drezek.

GOALS 2021-22

LSCSD GOAL #5: FACILITIES

GOAL 5: FACILITIES...

The School District will proceed with its Capital Construction Project Plans, continue to maintain facilities at the highest level, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility in all areas of operation.

The past four years of the District's Capital Construction Project have seen high profile projects such as the new High School addition with its athletic facilities, state-of-the-art wood and metal shops, art and science room renovations, as well as the complete renovation of the Middle School auditorium, along with mechanical, plumbing, electrical and security upgrades throughout the District.

Gym renovations are complete at the High School, Middle School and J.T. Waugh. Upcoming projects include secure entryways at all elementary schools; parking lot, sidewalk and drainage improvements at A.J. Schmidt, Highland and Hoag, and playground improvements at A.J. Schmidt, Highland and J.T. Waugh, and renovation of the High School auditorium.

With savings from the projects, additional roof, floor, ceiling and light replacements are planned, along with more mechanical, plumbing and electrical upgrades.



Above: With bold graphics, the Lake Shore Eagle logo, and school colors in green and white, school spirit soars throughout the foyer of the new athletic addition.

Below: The addition also houses state-of-the-art wood and metal technology shops.



GOALS 2021-22

LSCSD GOAL #6: COMMUNITY

GOAL 6: COMMUNITY ...

The School District will continue to foster a culture of community engagement to promote a partnership for success.

Parent engagement and partnerships with the Seneca Nation are the action items in this goal.

The Seneca Nation partnership efforts include providing increased knowledge of the Boarding Schools curriculum, administrative liaison weekly updates, a home school liaison, and full participation in Native Voices and the Native American Regional Forum.

Increased parent engagement and involvement K-12 will include improving students' sense of belonging and use of supports, as well as improved parent support.

Parent engagement at A.J. Schmidt, J.T. Waugh and the Middle School involves building and implementing parent engagement plans through June.

At Highland, Hoag and the High School, parent engagement plans are being implemented through June.

Meet Heath Garlow!

Heath Garlow started teaching in 1990 on the Cattaraugus Territory, first as a Seneca language teacher, then as a GED Teacher Assistant. He went on to become a Johnson O'Malley tutor at Gowanda and Lake Shore. "I spent a lot of time studying the material," he says. "I didn't want to tell students I couldn't help them." So, he brushed up on chemistry, physics and biology, sometimes staying after school to work with the subject area teachers. "Now I feel comfortable being able to tutor in any subject," he says, "Well, not music." He also has taught college math at SUNY Fredonia, served as the Seneca Nation's Director of Education and taught math at Buffalo's alternative school. He proudly notes that no 7th



Myelle Parry and Riyah Rodriguez use yarn and paper to create models of atoms.

grader, and only one 8th grader, at School 44 passed the state math exam before his arrival. In his first year, 32% of 7th graders and 56% of 8th graders passed.

His secret?

"Taking the material from ditto to three-dimensional," he says. In his classes, X and Y coordinates get taped across the room, stu-



Heath Garlow, Middle School tutor funded by the Seneca Nation and the Johnson O'Malley Act.

dents work with butcher paper, plywood, pegs, laser pointers, squirt guns filled with ink ... whatever works to move the conceptual into something tangible. This year, he's bringing his magic to about 50 students at

Lake Shore, in a position supported by the federally-funded Johnson-O'Malley program and the Seneca Nation.

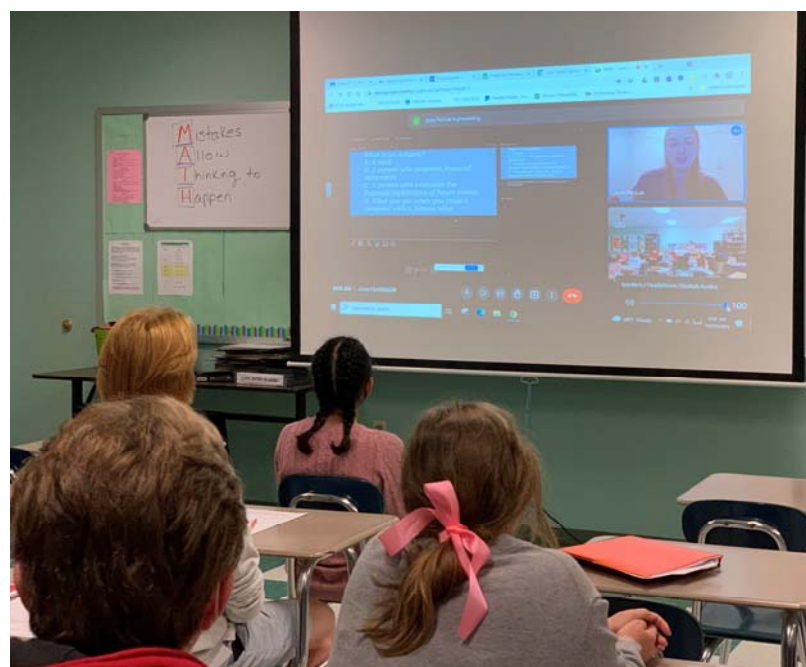
Area Grads Talk Careers ...

If You Love Crunching Numbers ...

The pay is great and if you love crunching numbers and moving data around, the actuarial field is heaven on earth.

That's the message June Longbine Pericak (LSHS Class of 2012) brought to Kate Kreinheder's AP Calculus and College Calculus students in a recent Zoom presentation. Actuaries are the folks who use mathematics, statistics and financial theory to analyze the financial costs of risk and uncertainty. Their role is essential in the insurance industry and other fields. June, who recently reached the prestigious level of FSA (Fellow of the Society of Actuaries), lives locally and works for Independent Health.

"She told students about the process of becoming an actuary, the different levels that can be reached in this prestigious field, and what an actuary actually does for a company, as well as the terrific salary and benefits and just how much she enjoys her work," says Mrs. Kreinheder. "Her presentation gave our top math students some insight into a commonly overlooked field of study in mathematics."



Amazon Guest Gives the Scoop on College, Coding & Careers ...

With the help of Google Meet, Amazon Senior Software Engineer Christian Pace met with students in Devon Asboth's AP Computer Science Principles class to talk about how he discovered computer science and made it his career.

"Christian went to high school in Wellsville, NY, and attended Brockport and RIT prior to working with Amazon so he was excited to talk with a group from WNY," says Mrs. Asboth, a Special Education and Math Teacher.

"The first half of the presentation was about his life experiences with computer science through high school, college, internships, and careers. The second half was a question and answer session where students talked to him about college, coding, and career options for computer science." His Top Tips:

- Utilize mentors! Reach out when you need help/info
- Mistakes will happen, use them as a learning tool
- Not all tech jobs require coding



Nicholas Korzkowski, Jr., and family.



Kyle Krysztofowicz and family.

Standing Ovation for August Grads

Lake Shore High School's August graduates were honored by the Board of Education with a presentation of diplomas and a spontaneous standing ovation. Graduates Nicholas Korzkowski, Jr., and Kyle Krysztofowicz and their families heard praise from Principal Tim Flanagan before receiving their diplomas.

Mr. Flanagan noted that they put in the "time, effort and energy to work very hard to earn a diploma," adding, "Life is so much

easier with this piece of paper. And, hey—you guys get an indoor graduation!"

Afterward, the Board of Education recessed for a brief cake reception and a chance to share congratulations.

Also graduating in August, but not attending the diploma presentation, were Shane Sodaro and Maddi Santana.

What Do Teachers Do On A Conference Day?

Students had a day off for Superintendent's Conference Day but teachers were back at work for a day focused on department and grade level goals. Some were creating and analyzing assessments or reviewing testing format and content for new exams. Others were researching software or reviewing instructional strategies and updating curriculum.

Social Emotional Learning committees met at all buildings, K-12, and transportation staff had QRT training.



Highland 5th grade teachers Katherine Caboot, Jody Schmidle and Jennifer Mann analyze student writing samples and set writing goals for their grade level.



J.T. Waugh Kindergarten teachers Mindy Farley and Melanie Jones review student work and set writing goals for their classrooms.

NEWS Bits ...

'Cleanest you can get ...'

In his report to the Board of Education, Luke Malecki, Office Managing Partner at the Drescher & Malecki accounting firm, described Lake Shore's recent audit as, "A very clean audit, the cleanest you can get," and commended the business office staff on a job well done.

School Safety Excellence

The Utica Insurance Group presented Lake Shore with its School Safety Excellence Award. "Your continued efforts to provide a safe, healthy and focused structure for learning in 2021 are to be applauded," said Senior Vice President Brian D. Saville.

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NYS Commendation Presented to Tony George

Sen. Sean Ryan presented a NYS Senate Commendation Award to High School teacher Tony George, the founder of Bald for Bucks, during Lake Shore Homecoming events.

In 2002, when Mr. George's sister, Cathy, was undergoing chemotherapy, he shaved his own head in solidarity. When he told his students about it, they began collecting dona-

tions, eventually raising \$3,600.

Cathy passed in 2004, but the George family's tragic loss inspired a remarkable movement in Western New York.

Since its inception, the annual Bald for Bucks campaign has raised more than \$6 million for cancer research and patient care at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

More than half a million dollars of that amount was raised at Lake Shore Central, noted Sen. Ryan when presenting the award.

Photo: Tony George, left, with Sen. Sean Ryan.

Clearing the Air

No single safety measure is 100 percent effective against COVID, but layering multiple measures provides level upon level of protection.

Some measures—like hand sanitizers and mouth and nose coverings — are very obvious.

But behind the scenes is another measure constantly at work: fresh outside air is brought in through univents in each classroom, providing four air changes per hour.

"When the pandemic began, Lake Shore exchanged standard filters for Merv-13 air filters in the rooftop units and air handler units," explains John Wilson, Director of Facilities (at right). "That's the highest filtration value that we can purchase for our District."





Lake Shore Central School District

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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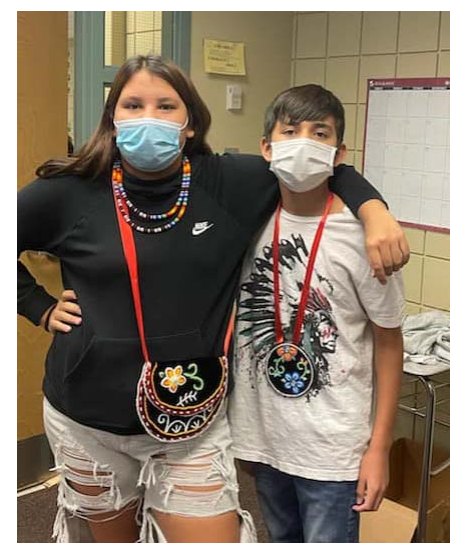
Native American dance demonstration at A.J. Schmidt.



Leather tooling at the High School.



Traditional dress and instruments at Highland.



Beadwork at the Middle School.