



News & Notes

A newsletter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Galluzzo

Following the Board of Education Meeting of November 3, 2020

We're all pieces of the same puzzle

The Green, White and Gold Eagles of the Class of 2021 may not always be together, but they are painting individual rocks with their names ... and those rocks WILL be together, in the form of a giant 2021 that will be displayed outside the High School. Here are some examples of their efforts:



Hello Everyone,

The Lake Shore Central School District has a protocol in place whenever we are alerted of a positive case of Covid-19 in our District. That protocol includes working directly with the Erie County Department of Health to provide contact tracing information.

As you may have heard, we've had some isolated cases of individuals testing positive for Covid-19: one at Highland, one at J.T. Waugh, one at A.J. Schmidt and two at the High School, one of which was from a BOCES CTE class.

In all cases, the proper protocol has been followed:

- The affected individual has been isolated.
- In most cases the ECDOH determined that there was no need to quarantine any staff or student because the affected individual was not in school while contagious.
- In one instance, the affected individual was in school during the contagious period. In such a case, the ECDOH contacts individuals it identifies as close contacts. These individuals return to school only after completing Covid-19 quarantine/isolation procedures, as directed by the Erie County Department of Health.

Any new cases are reported on NYS's School Dashboard. Also, the District sends notification, aligning with HIPPA and FERPA regulations, to school personnel and parents.

Please note that our school buildings and buses continue to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each night. Everyone's cooperation with social distancing, hand-washing/sanitizing and masking is much appreciated and helps to keep us all safe. Thank you again for your continued support as we work through these challenges.

Sincerely,
Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent

More Senior Rocks Pix!

The Green, White and Gold Eagle members of this year's Senior Class will symbolically come together when their individually-painted rocks are configured to form 2021, says Leadership in Action teacher Julianne Baginski. Senior Rocks are now on display in the showcase across from the HS offices.



School Board Notes

Highlights from Tuesday's Work Session

Empathy & Academics

Principal Paula Eastman discussed the importance of providing empathy and understanding to students and their families during the stresses of the pandemic, while also ensuring accountability and making clear what students are expected to know and turn in. "We want to make sure they're enjoying and liking school and not adding to the stress at home," she said.

Title 1 Snapshots

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Melissa Bergler presented Accountability Status Reports drawn from the 2018-19 NYS School Report Card Data.

The District prepares improvement plans for areas where state targets are not met, but insights are more elusive now due to comparative data being nonexistent from when testing stopped during Covid-19. Nevertheless, the District knows where to pay close attention and is creating plans to adjust where necessary.

"There's a lot to be proud of and a lot we have to work on, to be sure," said Mrs. Bergler.

Trending More Confident ...

Confidence in our schools as a safe learning environment appears to be increasing as we approach the year's second trimester. The school year started with 76 of J.T. Waugh's 325 students on full remote instruction. That's 23% of the school's enrollment. Starting Nov 16, 34 of those students are returning to in-person instruction, reducing the full remote enrollment to 43 (which includes one new full remote student), or 13% of the school population. At A.J. Schmidt, four of the school's 34 remote instruction students will return to in-person instruction. At Highland, there is a similar trend, with five of its 33 remote instruction students returning to school.

Meals!

The District has distributed 11,208 breakfasts and 11,703 lunches to families since September, Superintendent Dr. Charles Galluzzo reported. Funding for the free meal program is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Meals are prepared and distributed at the Middle School by Personal Touch Food Service. The U.S.D.A. free meal program is funded through Dec. 31st.

Sports

State and local athletic officials have three meetings coming up this month before confirming whether Winter sports can be offered. Nevertheless, Districts are preparing ... no one wants to be the team that didn't practice if sports get the green light!

Schedules for physicals, sign ups and tryouts have been announced.

Lake Shore students can sign up for the following Winter sports: Cheerleading; Varsity, JV, Modified Boys or Girls Basketball; Boys Varsity Swim; Co-ed Modified Swim (7-8gr); Varsity Indoor Track (9gr-12gr); Varsity Wrestling, and Modified Wrestling.

The decision on whether Winter sports are a go is expected by Nov. 30.

The Costumes were a great hit ...

And so was the story of the Reading Specialist!



These photos show J.T. Waugh 1st grader Harmony Gray as she works on her sounds and words with Reading Specialist Kellie Rooth.

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ur schools' Halloween costume photos on Facebook last week were quite a hit! Analytics showed those posts reached more than 14,500 people.

The Halloween post with the largest reach was a collection of photos from A.J. Schmidt, which included Heidi Brown as a spectacular bat (**2.2K**), followed by the post showing the Middle School's magnificent minions (**1.7k**).

The biggest non-Halloween story came from J.T. Waugh, with the post profiling Reading Specialist Kellie Rooth (**1.9 K**). The post prompted many tributes and accolades, including this: *"Yesss!!!! Thank you for featuring master-teacher, Kellie Rooth!!!! She is an incredibly knowledgeable and ultra-dedicated reading specialist and Lake Shore is exceptionally fortunate to have her. There is no doubt the children of this district are more likely to flourish and thrive thanks to the talented and devoted teacher/leader pictured right here!!!!"* How great to be so appreciated!



Trending strong this week are the posts about Highland's Red Ribbon Week (**1.3K**) and the profile of High School AP teachers Jeff Salerno and Kate Kreinheder scoring AP exams from around the world (**1.2K**). It's great to see people paying attention and caring about the good things happening here.



Did you know ...
According to the American Cancer Society, when breast cancer is detected early, the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%.



Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among U.S. women and is the second leading cause of death among women after lung cancer. Raising awareness about breast cancer early detection, risk factors and prevention was part of a Senior Class project during Breast Cancer Awareness Month (Oct. 1—31) at the High School.

Pictured are: Gabriella Dynas, left, and Breanna Bartz.

Photo by Julianne Baginski.



If you contribute at least \$52 a year (a dollar a week!) to the United Way, you're eligible for prizes (such as parking spaces) here at Lake Shore. Those are pretty cool. Ramping up the cool factor even more is the \$1000 Grand Prize provided by Tops Friendly Markets. Cooler yet was the United Way's Prize Patrol Zooming into the Middle School last week to announce the \$1000 winner – our own Jeff Sills! Watch the video from Katy Berner-Wallen [HERE](#).

The \$1000 gift card can be used for groceries or gas at Tops, said Tops representative Andy Brocato. On hand to share the good news were Christine Starks, Lake Shore's United Way Campaign Coordinator; Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent; Erich Rediell, Principal; Katy Berner Wallen, Assistant Principal; and the entire Middle School PE Department. Congratulations to Jeff Sills and many thanks to all who supported this year's United Way campaign!

GOOD NEWS from the Prize Patrol...

JUST IN CASE:

Remember, if you feel you need testing, rapid-testing is available to ALL school district staff who work in buildings, including transportation.

Appointments must be made at (716) 858-2929 and are on weekday mornings, first-come, first-served.

If your physician tells you to get a Covid-19 test, make sure they know you're eligible for rapid testing because you work in a school district.

Did You Know ...

that the New York State Education Department has launched the NYS Parent Dashboard?

It is part of SED's plan to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act, which emphasizes equity in education for all students and expands measures of school accountability and success.

The dashboard profiles key data about all public schools in New York State. See it [HERE](#).

Just A Reminder ...

Covid-19 has challenged us all with unprecedented stresses ... and now the holidays are approaching, with their own special stress factors. So, in case you missed the BlueCross BlueShield of WNY November Wellness Tips shared by Christine Starks earlier this week, here's a recap and a reminder of how important it is to take a breath and take care of ourselves:

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. Early detection can help provide more treatment options and a greater chance of survival. Many symptoms do not show in the early stages but follow up with your doctor if you experience: persistent cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, unexplained weight loss, bone pain, hoarseness. Risk factors include smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, radon gas, asbestos, air pollution, and personal or family history of lung cancer. Only 35% of lung cancer patients are current or former smokers.

Prioritize "Me Time"

Holiday season stress can be overwhelming. Set aside some time for yourself amidst the family gatherings and long "to do" lists. Do some yoga, take a walk, or catch up on some reading. Shoot for 10-15 minutes a day.

Holiday Calories Still Count

The holidays can be a challenging time to watch portion sizes.



Try using a smaller salad plate instead of putting food onto a 12-inch dinner plate. One cup of food on a small plate looks like more than the same cup on a large plate. Also, take the conversation away from the food table – we're less likely to pick at snacks when they're not in arm's reach!

Budget!

One of the biggest reasons for holiday stress comes down to finances. We tend to go overboard during the holidays due to lack of planning. Set aside time to sit down and create a budget for your holiday season and *stick to it*. You don't want to end the holidays in the red! Start the New Year off right.

Keep Moving

Exercise has plenty of benefits, from weight management to stress relief. Make sure it's a priority for you. On the days you know you have plans/gatherings, get your exercise done in the morning or before the gathering - that way you can't talk yourself out of it later in the day. Grab someone to join you! The more the merrier.