



News & Notes

A newsletter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Galluzzo

Following the Board of Education Meeting of April 20, 2021

The Board of Education at a Special Meeting on March 23:

Approved the award of the Plumbing Contract for the Middle School Capital Outlay Project to the low bidder ... MLP Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc.

The Board of Education on Tuesday night:

Approved the temporary appointment of:

Christopher D'Anna,
Interim High School Principal.

Accepted with regret for the purpose of retirement the resignation of:

Janice Catalano,
Occupational Therapist

Jeffrey Salerno,
Science Teacher

Lisa Smith,
German Teacher

Accepted with regret the resignation of:

Maria Schmelzinger,
Bus Attendant

Approved recall from lay-off of:

Andrea Jakiel,
to a 10-month clerk-typist position



Hello Everyone,

As you know, we're able to bring K-5 students back for five days a week of in-person instruction, starting April 26. Middle and High School students must remain on hybrid instruction because it's not possible to cohort these students (due to their wide variety of classes) during this time of high COVID-19 transmission in Erie County. However, their instructional opportunities also will increase as we incorporate synchronous learning with their hybrid instruction.

The CDC designates a "high" transmission zone as being when a county has 100 or more cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. Erie County last week far exceeded that, with 430 cases per 100,000 people.

Still, when cohorting is possible, even in high transmission zones, the CDC's relaxed distancing guidelines are allowed because schools continue to be one of the safest places we can be during COVID-19, due to the stringent safety protocols.

For accomplishing that, we owe a debt of appreciation to all who have diligently observed the guidelines for distancing and masking and sanitizing, as well as to those who have implemented the many layers of protection in our buildings and on our buses: the signage, the seating charts, the hallway and stairway markers, the ongoing cleaning of surfaces and instructional materials, the temperature checks and the daily COVID screenings.

We hope to stay open and to eventually be able to expand more in-person instruction to our Middle School and High School students. To help ensure that can happen, we will continue to follow our strict safety measures and protocols. We also will advocate to the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health regarding the importance of keeping children in school.

We continue to advise parents to keep children at home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or if they have possible exposure to a person with COVID-19, and to avoid co-mingling students and adults outside of the school day.

We remind everyone to adhere to the guidance for social distancing, masking, sanitizing, and gatherings, and to remember that the CDC advises that COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

If we continue to do everything we can to prevent COVID-19 transmission, the more likely we are to stay open and return to more normal times. My thanks to all for your ongoing support of these efforts.

Sincerely,
Dr. Charles Galluzzo,
Superintendent

ANNUAL MEETING & VOTE

From the BUDGET REPORT at Tuesday night's Board of Education Meeting

Board of Education Calendar:

**May 4
6:00 pm,
Meet the
Candidates
Night**

**7 pm,
Budget Hearing**

**May 18, High
School
Gymnasium
9 am—9 pm
Annual Budget
Vote**

**May 25, 7 pm,
High School
Regular
Meeting**

**June 8, High
School
7:00 pm,
Regular
Meeting**

MAY 18 SCHOOL VOTE

Proposition 1: The School Budget

The Board of Education on Tuesday night approved a \$60,665,973 budget for the 2021-22 school year for presentation to voters on May 18. This represents a 1.01% increase, \$608,748, over the current year's budget. On a \$100,000 home in the Town of Evans, that will carry an estimated tax increase of \$23.58 before STAR savings. Dan Pacos, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance, pointed out that although the allowable tax levy increase this year is 4.08%, the District targeted, and achieved, the proposed 2021-22 budget with only a 1.95% tax levy increase.

There will be two additional propositions in this year's vote, neither of which carries a tax increase, but voter approval is needed to proceed:

Proposition 2: 5 Buses & a Maintenance Truck (NO TAX INCREASE)

The second proposal before voters will be the purchase of three full size 71-passenger buses, two 30-passenger mini buses, and a maintenance truck with a lift gate and a snow plow. The total estimated cost for all the vehicles is \$574,780.95, but there will be no tax increase.

Transportation Aid on the new buses, coupled with revenue from the sale of the older buses and the older maintenance truck, will fully fund the purchase of the new vehicles. Also, there will be savings from increased fuel economy and reduced repairs on the new vehicles.

Proposition 3: Create a Capital Reserve Fund (NO TAX INCREASE)

This would authorize the District to create a Capital Reserve for capital purchases including future capital projects, allowing the District to save money up front to pay toward the cost of future large purchases. Funding would come from the District's unappropriated fund balance, unspent funds from the District's Debt Reserve and any other funds that the Board and/or voters would authorize over the life of the reserve. The total amount authorized would be \$10 million (plus interest that the reserve fund would earn). The Capital Reserve would have a probable term no longer than ten (10) years.

Board of Education Election

The candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of the two incumbents and will serve on the Board of Education for three-year terms to commence on July 1, 2021 and expire June 30, 2024. The seats are currently held by Jennifer Michalec and Kathleen Chiavetta. Below are the candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Ballot Position #1 - Arlene DeJoy-Meckes
Ballot Position #2 - Jennifer Michalec
Ballot Position #3 - Guy Canonico, Jr.
Ballot Position #4 - Kathleen Chiavetta
Ballot Position #5 - Tiffany Eckles

**VOTING WILL BE FROM 9 AM—9 PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 18 IN THE
HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.**



**SAVE
THE
DATE:**

**Lake Shore's
Class of
2021
Graduation
will be on
Thursday,
June 24th
at
6:30 p.m.**

**Location
TBD.**

**Watch for
further
details!**

REPORTS

From Tuesday night's Board of Education Meeting

UPK & K!

Presented by Christine Starks, Building/Program Administrator

Mrs. Starks reported on the programs serving some of our school-community's youngest students, including the Southtowns YMCA UPK program which has been hybrid since last Fall. Eighteen students attend on alternate 3-day/2-day weeks and there also is a remote group meeting in 40-minute Zooms. Already, 24 students are enrolled for next year's UPK program.

The UPK program, which is grant-funded, is for students who turn four before Dec. 1. Typically it serves at least 62 students, although during COVID-19, those numbers stood at 47 in January 2021.

A PEDALS program, funded by a two-year grant, provides an instructional coach to help promote social-emotional learning for the four-year-olds in the UPK program.

Due to COVID-19, there will be no Kindergarten Information Night this year. Instead, a series of videos from elementary principals, the school lunch manager and the transportation supervisor, is posted on the Instruction tab of the District's web site in a section called "Kindergarten Information Center," along with information about school counselor and social worker services.

All That Technology!

Presented by Jeffrey Barnes, Director of Technology

Mr. Barnes opened his presentation noting that the pandemic brought major changes to how instruction occurs, but the district luckily had switched to a Google Cloud platform and was able to shift pretty quickly. In addition, the District's network infrastructure had been upgraded in a previous Capital Project.

With technology now infused into everyday learning, the District also has worked hard to get devices into the hands of kids. Through the NYS Smart Schools Bond Act, the District already has acquired 950 Chromebooks and anticipates 950 more through a pending Bond Act grant application. The Bond Act also provided funding for desktop computers, in addition to laptops, ensuring that teachers would have both platforms for simultaneous work involving projecting lessons in synchronous instruction, Google Meets, email communications and other tasks.

Getting devices was only part of the equation. Through the TMobile Project 10Million program, the District acquired multiple mobile hotspots. Also, through the My Brother's Keeper program, devices and mobile hotspots were provided for Native American males. The goal has been to get devices and connectivity to as many students as possible, said Mr. Barnes, and by Fall, the District will be providing a Chromebook device to every single student.

Prepping and maintaining the devices and keeping everyone connected and integrating the technology into instruction has been a monumental task. Mr. Barnes highlighted the Information Technology Team members who have made it all possible: Victoria Trimm, Prashant Sakpal, Ryan Przepasniak, Ryan Nellis, Michael Drezek, Deann Poleon and Tom Spada.

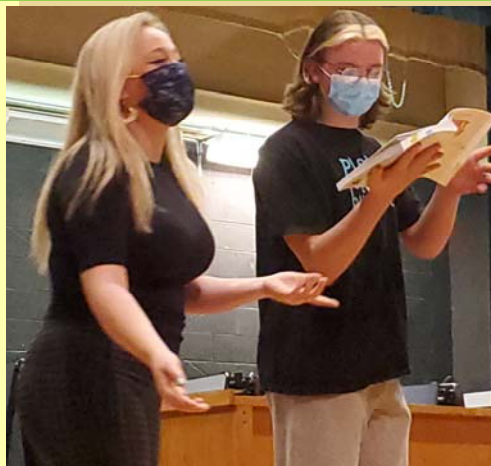
Rehearsing!

The pandemic has changed many aspects of our lives, so *"Disney's Freaky Friday"* seems an apt title for this year's Lake Shore High School musical (although this year, any day of the week would do).

This fantasy-comedy is about a mother and daughter who don't get along ... then suddenly their personalities are switched and they have to live each other's lives on one very freaky Friday.

Lake Shore's *"Disney's Freaky Friday"* production will debut the first weekend in June (June 4, 5 and 6) and it will be a virtual, pay-per-view event with a link so you can watch from your computer, smart TV or phone.

Rehearsals are currently underway ... here's a peek!



Kaylee Guzman and Sam Eschberger, rehearsing their roles as Katherine/Ellie and Adam.



Devon Logel will portray Mike and Olivia Sullivan plays the part of Fletcher in the production.

'Freaky Friday' LSHS's 1st Pay-Per-View Musical Now in Rehearsals!



‘Some Nights’

High School Music Teacher Deanna Civilette shares with us this second recording by Eagles Encore (the Mixed Chorus volunteer A Cappella group). They are performing “Some Nights” by Fun, in which the band performs on a fictional night battlefield in the Civil War. In the Fun video, lead singer Nate Ruess sings as he rallies a Union regiment for battle.

Listen to the Eagles Encore excerpt [HERE](#).

And stay tuned - Ms. Civilette says there are three more songs in the works! Below are the students who participated. (Michael Gates and Elizabeth Todaro-Tucker participated via audio only.)



Lauren Smith



Abby David



Chloe
Budziszewski



Cassie
Chiappetta



Morgan Quirk



Kaylin
Golembiewski



Sam
Eschberger



Reilly Green



Marisa Scarpine



Victoria Cherry



Devon Logel



Emma Rinn



Hannah Dunmire



Joe Kostusiak



Kaylee Guzman

5 Middle School Students Selected for

All-County!



6th Grader Felicity Deeds has been playing clarinet since she was eight years old. Her Mom encouraged her, and her sister also plays clarinet and saxophone. Teacher: Jennifer Kenny



7th grader Kaitlyn Taberski has been playing trumpet since 4th grade. That year, "it was a thing," she says. And it still is! Teacher: John Kresse.



7th grader Caden Herc has been playing the harp for five years. He watched a harpist playing at a retirement home and really enjoyed it and decided to pursue it himself. Teacher: Paul Siekierski.



8th grader Emily Valentine has been playing clarinet for about five years. She started playing an instrument because her older sister inspired her and she wanted to play an instrument like she did. Teacher: Jennifer Kenny



7th grader Courtney Shappell has played clarinet for three years. Her god-mother played it, so she also became interested and found she really loves it. Teacher: John Kresse.

Entrepreneurship Meets Technology

And It's A Profitable Mix for Business!

Every business startup involves some element of risk. A lot of time and money goes into starting a business ... the big question is - will it turn a profit? Learning how to use technology tools to help make that happen is part of the 'Entrepreneurship' business elective taught by Marla Schifano at Lake Shore High School.

Social media helps drive the success of businesses these days, so students in class were tasked with creating a fictitious business and a social media blitz to promote it. With the help of Technology Integrator Deann Poleon, the students were armed with the technological tools to create flyers, commercials, business cards, websites and business floor plans using software like CoSpaces, Canva, Google Sites and WeVideo to promote their businesses. Here are some examples of their work.

GAME ON! Sporting Goods, They have what you need!

Fictitious Business & Social Media Blitz Created by Shane Friend, grade 10

Here is the flyer Shane created in *Canva*:



Here's the animated spot Shane created in *CoSpaces* in his business space:

SEE IT [HERE](#).

Puppy Paradise, Dogs love us at Puppy Paradise!

Created by Austin Russell, grade 10

Here is Austin's Puppy Paradise flyer, created in *Canva*:



Here's Austin's Puppy Paradise animated spot in his business space (created in *CoSpaces*):

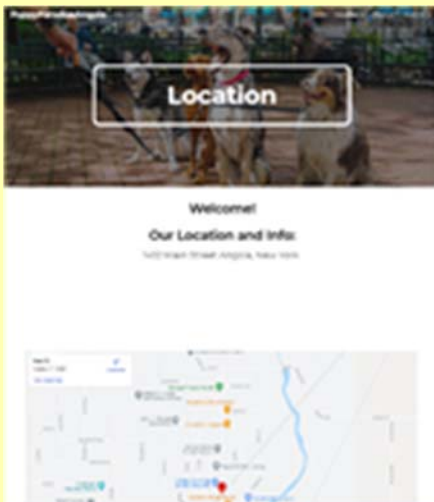


SEE IT [HERE](#).

This is Austin's Puppy Paradise commercial (created in *WeVideo*):
SEE IT [HERE](#).

Here are some selected pages from Austin's Puppy Paradise Google Site:

(Students had to build a multi-page website for their business where they included their logos, brochures, interactive maps, a link to their CoSpaces design and their commercials.)



Other commercials created by students include:

Nostalgia Sphere, where you can find the favorite games from your childhood.
By Anthony Cadin, grade 10
SEE IT [HERE](#).

Pinelli's, a new restaurant and catering business.
By Milleah Pinelli, grade 9
SEE IT [HERE](#).

Other student business materials include:

Flyer created by Blake Hageman, grade 10



Logo created by Joseph Pignone, grade 9



Brochure created by Vincent Marszalek, grade 10



On Tuesday,
April 20,
a
Community
Meeting
was held on
Google Meet
regarding the
return of
K-5 students to
5 days/week
instruction,
and the
start of
synchronous
instruction
for the
Middle and
High School,
which will
remain
on hybrid.

You can watch
the recording
[HERE](#).

The Day That England's 'Call the Midwife' Came in Real Handy in Buffalo, NY



Sophie Chimera and one of her flower arrangements from faculty members.

She doesn't necessarily consider herself a "baby person," but High School Social Studies Teacher Sophie Chimera loves watching the BBC TV series, "Call the Midwife." The show is about midwives who lived in a nunnery in the East End of London in the 1950s and '60s. The stories get specific about what midwives do when a baby is born, which is not the sort of knowledge you expect to come in real handy when you're out walking your dog. But early Tuesday morning it was exactly what Sophie needed to know

It was, "Super early, around 5:30 a.m., and super dark," says Sophie, when she heard, "A weird wailing sound, a cry. As I get nearer the West Ferry/Ashland intersection, I suddenly see a young girl running toward me, shouting, 'Help, Help! Baby coming, baby coming!'."

Sophie quickly returned her dog to home, four houses away, rushed back to the girl's parked vehicle and opened the passenger door.

There, tangled in in mom's skirts, cord still attached, was a newborn baby.

The young girl, now hysterical, called 911. The operator asked if the baby was breathing and Sophie wasn't sure that it was. The baby was very pale and wasn't moving. Then she recalled all those episodes of "Call the Midwife." "I knew I had to flip the baby over and tap the back ... and all of a sudden, I could hear the baby cry." She asked the girl for her head scarf and wrapped the baby in it, and the operator instructed her to lay the baby on its mother. Just then, the police, fire department and ambulance arrived.

But it was Sophie who was first on the scene. "The girl and the mother were from Eritrea," says Sophie. "The mother spoke no English. The girl said, 'Thank God I saw you, there was nobody around,' and she was praying the whole time." Sophie was shaken, but headed into Lake Shore and got to work on time. Mom and baby are at Children's Hospital. Privacy restrictions are a challenge, but Sophie is trying to make arrangements to send a gift card. Meanwhile, she's receiving flowers and congratulations on the birth of 'her' baby, and feeling very appreciative to the BBC and all those episodes of "Call the Midwife."

It's BBQ Time!

Enjoy
a tasty chicken dinner
&
help support
JTW's 5th Grade
Outdoor Ed program
and Highland's
Parent-Teacher Group!



Two opportunities are coming up for a delicious dinner from **Master's BBQ!**
Both meals include 1/2 chicken, homemade slaw, salt potatoes, and roll w/butter.
Both events will have some day-of dinners available, but presale payment is preferred, if you are able.



Opportunity 1: Support JT Waugh's 5th Grade Outdoor Ed Program

Thursday, May 6 4:00PM-Sold out

\$13, Pickup is at JTW parking lot

To purchase tickets, please send payment via interschool mail to
Allyson Mion at JTW (Include your name and building where you work.)



Opportunity 2: Support Highland's Parent Teacher Group

Monday, May 10 3:00PM-Sold out

\$12, Pickup is at Highland parking lot

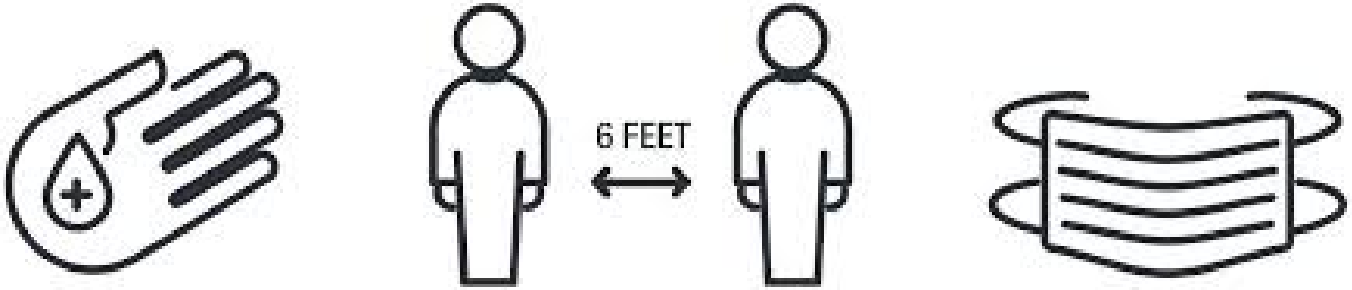
To purchase tickets, please send payment via interschool mail to **Kelly Jones at the Middle School** (Checks payable to *Highland PTG*)

OR Venmo to *Ishighlandptg* (Name will appear as Allison Tilert. Please include building where you work in the comments.)

COVID-19 Protocols

Reminders!

Keeping Us Safe & Our Buildings Open



Although the positivity rate is dropping, to keep our buildings open and staff, students and colleagues safe from COVID-19, we must continue to follow all protocols:

- Masks should be worn at all times.
- Social Distancing for 6 feet or more at all times. (The ECDOH considers someone a "close contact" if they are less than 6 feet for 10 consecutive minutes or more.)
- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and running water are not immediately available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and rub hands together until they are dry.
- Stay home if sick.
- Faculty & Staff should take breaks in separate locations to help minimize the spread of any potential COVID-19 that may affect your building.
- Avoid gatherings with people you don't live with.

If you are experiencing symptoms or have been advised by a healthcare provider to get tested, rapid testing is available.
Appointments are made at the county's COVID-19 hotline: 858-2929.

If you test positive
OR are in contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19
contact
kristine.demartino@lscsd.org
or
926-2202.

Please use 545-0626 after hours and weekends.

Results and quarantine/isolation orders need to be provided to Kristine DeMartino upon receipt.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Superintendent's Office. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in keeping our District safe and our buildings open.