



J.T. Waugh 2nd and 3rd graders gather for a group photo after placing their pinwheels in the ground.

Sept. 30: “Every Child Matters” Observed Throughout Lake Shore Schools

“Every Child Matters,” also known as Truth & Reconciliation Day, was observed on Sept. 30 in Canada and the U.S., including at Lake Shore schools.

Students and staff throughout the District set aside time to honor and remember the Indigenous children taken from their families as residential schools in the two countries tried to assimilate them into white society.

Orange was the color of the day and pinwheels and banners were placed outside of every District school. While the residential school era is gone, the memory of the many children who died or suffered abuse is not forgotten.

See coverage from WIVB-TV and WKBW-TV.

At Tuesday night’s Board of Education meeting:



High School Principal Dr. Katy Berner-Wallen provided a High School Update to the Board. Prior to the meeting, she led a tour of the school and the many improvements accomplished in the Capital Project. (See photos by Melissa Bergler/page 3.)



Afterward, Compeer CEO Cheri Alvarez and Director of Youth Services Ashleigh Cieri provided an update on the Compeer program, which promotes good mental health through meaningful friendships. Compeer is in its second year at Lake Shore.

- Photos by Kristine DeMartino



Highland Elementary School Principal Colleen Politowski leads the school’s procession to place their pinwheels near the Every Child Matters banner that faced Route 5 in front of the school.



Students at A.J. Schmidt Elementary School quietly circled the school’s flag pole as Native American music played. They planted their pinwheels after hearing from Jordan Cooke and Jacinta Garcia.



Pinwheels ...

(clockwise from top left) ...
at J.T. Waugh, William G. Houston
Middle School, A.J. Schmidt,
the High School, and Highland.

*See these and other photos on the District
and individual building Facebook pages!*



Also on Sept. 30 ...

Lake Shore's Freshman Academy Boot Camp Returned!

Like so many other traditions, the Freshman Academy Bootcamp was sidelined during Covid, but it returned last week, welcoming the class of 2026 and providing opportunities to work together physically, mentally and emotionally and simply have some fun. As in years past, seniors were on hand to help freshmen complete their tasks in brainstorming, team-building and trust-building. Mother Nature provided a beautiful day, Connors' Hot Dog Stand provided a wonderful lunch, and freshmen, seniors and teachers all had a great time.

*Would you want to walk the beam, and blindfolded to boot?
It's a lot easier when a Senior is there to lend confidence and
support. It's always good to have someone you can count on!*



- Photo by Jeff Connors



**Dr. Katy Berner-Wallen,
High School Principal,
led members of the Board of Education
and administration on a tour
of the High School Tuesday night.**

**Here are some photographs
of what they saw on the tour.**



Board members Dennis Feldmann
and Michael Franey during Aud tour.



Board member Kathleen Chiavetta
tries out the cafeteria booth seating.



Superintendent Dan Pacos and oth-
ers take in the new Art rooms.



This is a newly renovated Science
classroom.



Yup, that's who you think it
is. Teacher Kacie Marchetti
keeps things interesting!



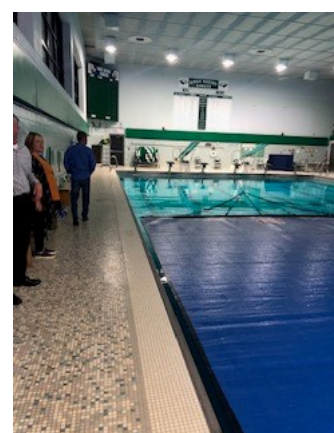
As does sophomore Alexa Jones. An
article on her award-winning cro-
cheted sea creatures is coming soon!



Board members also saw
the new weight room ...



multi-purpose room ...



new automatic pool cover...



and gym.



And took note of Tuesday's
beautiful sunset before
heading into the Board
of Education meeting.

- Photos by Melissa Bergler