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News and Points of Interest from Lakeview Schools



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Rachel's Challenge

Lakeview High School students were introduced to Rachel's Challenge during an all-school assembly last September. Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School Tragedy on April 20, 1999. Rachel's Challenge, founded by her father, is based on a challenge to treat others with compassion and kindness set forth by Rachel prior to her death.

Following the assembly, a group of students and staff members organized a Friends of Rachel (FOR) group to help bring positive change to their school and community. There are approximately fifteen students and three staff members currently active in the group.

FOR members meet once a week to plan for a monthly Act of Kindness activity. In November and December, group members joined the LHS student government in collecting toys for the Marine's Toys for Tots Program. As a visual representation of the toys donated, the FOR group created its first chain link. Each link represented a toy brought in for donation. The chain was displayed in the Arbor Trail at LHS. In January, the FOR group collected 75 pairs of glasses from LHS staff and students and donated them to the Lions' Club. Also on several Friday mornings, the FOR members have opened doors for students and staff while wishing them a good morning as they enter the building. Most recently, group members passed out more than 1,300 Valentines to students and staff at Lakeview High School. Next on their agenda is to write a note of thanks to each staff member.

(Left to right) Rachel's Challenge members Sara Johnson (staff leader), Nicole Bentz, Whitney Nicholson, Megan Hotrum, Jessica Fry, Susan Hecht (staff leader), Natalie Cope, and Caitlynn Shump.

Ourmilitarykids.org

Families with one or more members deployed overseas will find this website very helpful. Funds are available for children to attend a variety of recreational and enrichment activities. Check out the information at ourmilitarykids.org.

Our Mission:

To provide educational programs in a safe learning environment that develop knowledgeable, healthy, socially responsible citizens in our global society.

Lakeview School District
15 Arbor Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015

269.565.2400
lakeviewspartans.org

Where Everybody Belongs

Last spring, Lakeview Middle School recruited 64 eighth grade students to help transition incoming 5th grade students into a warm and inviting educational environment. Their efforts were part of a new middle school program called Where Everybody Belongs (WEB), that was adopted to help 5th grade students transition to their new school while providing leadership opportunities for 8th graders.

After just one semester, staff, students and parents are reporting positive benefits for both 5th and 8th grade students.

According to LMS counselor Deb Miller, the WEB program has changed the focus of 5th grade orientation from adults providing instruction on rules and logistics to peers providing emotional and social support and confidence needed to be successful at LMS. Teachers have reported that, as a result, 5th grade students entered middle school less stressed and more prepared to learn this year.

Since hosting an extremely successful orientation day, 8th grade WEB leaders have reunited with their 5th grade "buddies" several times this school year. WEB leaders provide tutoring, attend social activities such as school skates, and lead classroom discussions and activities on character education.

Eighth grade WEB leader Cayley Winters recently spent an hour with a classroom of 5th grade students addressing issues such as spreading rumors and judging others. While modeling positive leadership, WEB leaders like Cayley are learning additional conflict resolution, group facilitation, and presentation skills.

"It makes me feel good that I can help change the future of Lakeview," said Winters, adding, "WEB is something I wish I had coming into middle school."



WEB leader Naruka Yosbino leads an activity for a group of 5th grade students.

LMS counselor Mary Ball noted that 8th grade WEB leaders are going above and beyond initial expectations to mentor 5th graders. Ball and Miller challenged the WEB leaders to make contact with their buddies outside of scheduled events. To track their efforts, WEB leaders were instructed to add a stone to a jar on display in the Student Services Office every time they made an extra contact with their buddy.

Ball said, "We wanted to help our 8th graders understand that being a leader and role model is part of who they are all the time – it isn't a role limited to organized group activities. They were way ahead of us," she added, noting that while they challenged WEB leaders to fill the jar by the end of the semester, the jar was filled twice in a little over a month.

"I tell the kids that each time they connect with a younger student, they are making a lifetime memory. While the 5th graders may not remember their WEB leader's name ten years from now, they will remember that someone went out of his or her way to make their time at Lakeview Middle School a positive experience," shared Miller.

Wrapping up her presentation, Cayley holds the attention of 25 5th graders by passing along her personal philosophy for middle school success. "You are the future of this school and you can alter the future. You can change how you act and how you treat others. It's your duty to try and turn situations around for the better."

WEB leaders Christian Elliott and Rachel Hoffman hold the collection jar for tracking contact between WEB leaders and their 5th grade buddies.



LHS Students Named Finalists in National Merit Competition

Lakeview High School seniors Matthew Johnson, Brandon Tomlinson, and Jamie Zhang, have been named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The three were among 1.5 million juniors in over 21,000 high schools who entered the 2009 National Merit Program last fall. Johnson, Tomlinson and Zhang qualified first as semifinalists by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

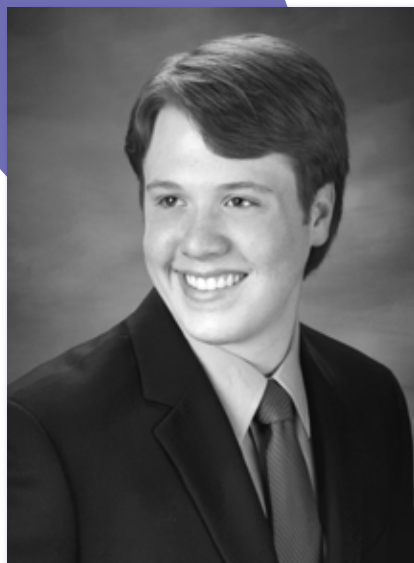
To become a finalist, a semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record, be recommended by their high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®. Approximately 50% of semifinalists, comprising less than 1% of all high school seniors nationally, advance as finalists in this highly competitive program.

As National Merit Scholarship Finalists, the three Lakeview students will each compete for one of 2,500 National Merit Scholarships.

Jamie Zhang



Brandon Tomlinson



Matthew Johnson



*Lakeview Board of Education President
Kathleen Moore*

Board President Honored as Leadership Fellow

Kathleen Moore, President of the Lakeview School District Board of Education, was recently named one of Michigan State University's 24 Michigan Political Leadership Program Fellows for 2009. Moore recently began a 10-month program in which she will learn about personal leadership, government ethics, campaign finance, constituent services, economic development and media relations.

The Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) at Michigan State University (MSU) recruits, trains, and inspires tomorrow's public policy leaders, preparing them with vision, commitment, and the skills for effective governance. Since its 1992 inception, more than 400 MPLP graduates have put the skills and relationships acquired through the program to work in their communities as candidates for office, as government officials or as citizen activists.

Moore was elected to the Lakeview School District Board of Education in June 2004. She was appointed to the Government Relations Committee for the Michigan Association of School Boards in 2007. She is also the liturgy coordinator/bulletin editor for St. Philip Catholic Church.



(Above) DeQuan Perry and Bailey Dunbar perform a skit at Minges Brook Elementary.



(Left) Kennedy Allen and Jasa West enjoy a musical performance during a Black History Month presentation at Minges Brook Elementary.

Students Celebrate Black History Month

Twenty-seven LHS students joined together to produce an hour long program paying tribute to individuals, traditions and events contributing to our nation's rich African American heritage. The production was designed, choreographed and performed by Lakeview High School students.

Prior to their community debut, the group spent time in each of Lakeview's four elementary buildings, sharing their talent with students and staff members. The elementary students clapped, sang and waved their hands through songs including the Black National Anthem, praise and step dance routines, a skit and Black History trivia.

The group performed later that evening for an audience of their peers, families and community members.

Penny Collection Improves Math Skills and Benefits United Way

Third grade students from across the District used their math skills to benefit a local charity for the second year in a row. Challenged to work together to collect 1000 of something, the students held a penny drive. After collecting and counting the money, students were pleased to donate a total of \$337 to the Battle Creek United Way. Last year students donated over \$350 to the Salvation Army.

Great Start

Readiness Program

A special Preschool experience for students in the Lakeview School District.

This **FREE** program is open to students:

- who will be four (4) years old by December 1st
- who reside in the Lakeview School District
- who qualify because of household income and/or other at-risk factors

For more information about this FREE program, please call Lakeview School District Community Services Office at **269-565-2415**.

Applications will be available on Wednesday, April 15 beginning at 8:00 am.



3rd grade students Hma Zuali and Makayla Miller (left) and Ricardo Lara and Hannab Lazarus (above) work on a math assignment in Ms. Stone's Westlake classroom.



Riverside Science Fair

Riverside student scientists showcased their work during the annual school science fair. Students toured the projects displayed in the gymnasium throughout the day while families joined the festivities that evening.



(Above) 1st grade student Spencer Braswell proudly brings attention to his sister Brienne's science project.

(Left) Keyton Rothchild and Grace German take interest in a working volcano.



Elementary Truancy Pilot

A refined process to address elementary student absences is being piloted at Lakeview's four elementary buildings. Letters were sent home to all elementary parents in January explaining that once a child has five absences without medical documentation, the absences will be investigated by school officials. The letter further explained that, under the newly revised process, tardies and early departure from school will be considered as part of a child's attendance history.

While it may seem harmless for a student to come in a few minutes late or leave a few minutes early, people don't realize how quickly missing five or ten minutes of instruction every few days adds up," shared Westlake Elementary Principal Jim Owen.

"By making it a priority to get students to school on time and every day, we are showing them that school is important and at the same time we're establishing good habits for later in life," shared Prairieview Principal Carol Disler. "Knowing how important regular attendance is for student achievement, we had to find a better way of communicating these concerns with parents."

The District's four elementary principals spent several months expanding attendance procedures to include instances when a student arrives to school late or leaves early. A process was outlined where teachers and secretaries can use PowerSchool, the District's student accounting software currently used to track days missed, to record late arrivals and early departures.

Administrators will use the information entered into PowerSchool to identify students whose attendance may be of concern.

Once a student is identified, principals can employ PowerSchool to generate a letter to parents that will include their child's personal attendance information. Principals are optimistic that communicating with parents early and regularly is the key to addressing attendance concerns.

"We came together to solve a problem and quickly realized an opportunity to better serve our families. The revised attendance process gives us one more point of communication with families. It allows us to provide them with the data they need to support their child's school success and at the same time make sure they are aware of the resources available to them," shared Riverside Principal Denise Myers.

Staff will continue working with families to identify resources and solutions for getting their children to school every day. "We are committed to doing whatever is in our means to help each student succeed. That hasn't changed. What has changed is our capacity for monitoring the different aspects of student attendance and the ability to quickly communicate this information with parents," said Minges Brook Principal Laura Williams.

The principals will spend time this summer evaluating the effectiveness of the attendance procedures, making necessary changes prior to next school year. "The changes being made now seem pretty simple," shared Owen, "but the potential payoff is huge. The entire administration and staff are committed to making this work for our students and families. "

Letters to President Obama & Vice-President Biden

Fourth graders in the district have been on the front edge of the national political scene over the last few months as they have integrated writing, social studies, and technology into their research and observations of the national presidential election.

During the fall, under the guidance of elementary Instructional Technology Coaches Julie Blaine and Stacy Smith, the fourth graders used the internet to research six major issues of the presidential campaign: jobs and the economy, healthcare, the war in Iraq, education, national security, and the environment. Using the facts learned in their research, each student created a poster highlighting the issue of their choice.

Once they had completed their posters, the students were well-informed voters and able to participate in a national mock election for students, held prior to the national registered voter election. The results from the nation's students mirrored the results of the national election by registered voters.

Once January, 2009, arrived the students directed their attention to the actual Inauguration of President Obama and Vice-President Biden by learning about the Oath of Office. The students watched history being made as they viewed the Inauguration via web based streaming.

In the days following the Inauguration the fourth graders were introduced to letter formatting skills in the Word program by Julie and Stacy as they wrote, edited, revised, typed, and finally published personal letters to President Obama or Vice-President Biden. In these letters each student highlighted the campaign issue that they chose to learn about in the fall, presented facts about the issue to the President or Vice-President, and even offered some ideas to help address the issue.

Once perfected, the letters were printed on official school letterhead, signed by the student, and mailed to the President or Vice-President. Now, they are anxiously awaiting a reply from The White House!

Excerpts from Mrs. Shilling's 4th Grade Students' Letters



Samantha Vosburg

"Did you know that there are 94,000 schools in America and they do not all have the same quality education? I think all children should be able to have the same educational rights. Kids my age in Hawaii should receive the best education just like kids in Michigan."



Anna Card

"A few months ago, our class had to make a campaign poster and I chose health care as my topic, of course. Did you know that nine million children in our country do not have health care? I think every child should have health care insurance coverage and a warm, caring family like I do."



Austin Heinrich

"I am writing to you because I am concerned about our economy...In your Oath, you promised to 'protect' us. I would like to see you protect us from high taxes so that all families are able to buy our needs without worrying about running out of money."



Nicholas Reed

"The people in our country are struggling right now because they don't have enough money. I think we should lower taxes...I am counting on you to do your best job for our country and addressing this problem."



Kindergarten Round-Up

Dates Scheduled

Now Planning for full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools! If you have a child who will start kindergarten in the fall, please plan to join us for Kindergarten Round-Up! While there, you will register your child for school and find out important information on the kindergarten program. Child care information will also be available.

Minges Brook Elementary

Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Riverside Elementary

Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Prairieview Elementary

Tuesday, April 21 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Westlake Elementary

Wednesday, April 22 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

You will need to bring the following information to Round-Up:

- *Child's Official Birth Certificate*
- *Child's Immunization Records*
- *Proof of Residency (gas or electric bill, property tax statement, mortgage bill, or rental agreement)*

Please call the Lakeview Community Services office at **269-565-2415** and let us know you are coming!

Spartan Savers Opens at Lakeview Middle School

Lakeview Middle School, in partnership with Kellogg Community Federal Credit Union (KCFCU), is pleased to announce the grand opening of Spartan Savers Credit Union at the Lakeview Middle School Bagel Bar.

Spartan Savers is sponsored by KCFCU and allows students to gain real life work and banking experience. All Lakeview Middle School students are eligible to join Spartan Savers with their parent's permission.

The following article was originally published in the first issue of the Amethyst, Lakeview Middle School's student newspaper.

5th-Interest is Rising

by Emily Skalka, 5th grade



On November 11, 2008, a student run credit union started at Lakeview Middle School. The LMS Credit Union is open on Tuesdays during lunch for all grade levels. It is located in The Bagel Bar. The LMS Credit Union is sponsored by Kellogg Community Federal Credit Union. Mrs. Denison is the adult in charge of running the LMS Credit Union.

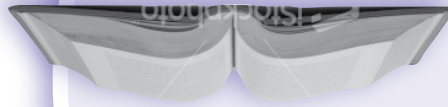
Students working at the LMS Credit Union can be a teller, computer operator or branch manager. A teller counts and collects your money. A computer operator records the customer's name and how much money was taken out of your account, or puts money in your account. If those don't work for you there is a branch manger that files papers.

The whole point of the LMS Credit Union is so kids can have a fun and safe bank account and learn how to save money. Stop by the LMS Credit Union on a Tuesday and open your account soon!



(Left to right) Gabrielle Robinson, Alex Barrett and Federico Conde prepare to work at Spartan Savers Credit Union.

COPIES OF THE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
LMS LIBRARY FOR PARENTS TO SIGN OUT.



269-565-4813

mball@lakeviewspartans.org

Any questions contact Mary Ball

Hosted by LMS Counselor Mary Ball

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

6:30 p.m. Lakeview Middle School Library

April 15, 2009

Parent Empowerment Book Discussion

Lakeview School District
15 Arbor Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015



News and Points of Interest from Lakeview Schools
POINTS

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Suzanne Nielsen	Community Services Coordinator	565.2415
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Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicant and admission and employment, and all unions or professional agreements with the Lakeview School District are notified that the Lakeview School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability, admission or access to or treatment or employment in any of its programs, activities or policies. Any person having inquiries concerning the Lakeview School District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, the ADA or section 504 is directed to contact the Office of Human Resources at 15 Arbor Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015.

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Battle Creek, MI 49015
565.3700

Lakeview Middle School

300 South 28th Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015
565.3900

Minges Brook Elementary

435 Lincoln Hill Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49015
565.4500

Prairieview Elementary

1675 Iroquois Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49015
565.4600

Riverside Elementary

650 Riverside Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49015
565.4700

Westlake Elementary

1184 South 24th Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015
565.4900

Central Office Administration

15 Arbor Street
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LAKEVIEW SCHOOLS