High School Students and Staff Participate in Equity Activities

On Wednesday April 18, students at LHS learned of the importance of getting to know others and not letting the differences be barriers between them. For several years, the district has been involved in intentional equity training for staff but has never extended an opportunity like this to all high school students.

With the assistance of student leaders, staff led groups of students through a structured set of activities entitled “Student Voice: Listening to Our Stories” to bring awareness to the struggles of historically marginalized groups of people, including but not limited to those who identify as people of color and members of the LGBTQ community. The students began the afternoon with an icebreaker to get to know each other on a surface level, then they went more in depth with an opportunity to talk about themselves as individuals. This part of the activity demonstrated that there is much more to individuals that we see on the outside.

Students also watched a video of staff members’ comments on the importance of equity to them and a video of students recounting instances of discrimination and prejudice that have been experienced at LHS. The afternoon consisted of students sharing their reactions to those comments, reflecting on their own experiences, and making an action plan to help all students at LHS feel safe, comfortable, and appreciated, which is the ultimate goal of equity training.

Students and staff alike shared that the experience was productive:

“I never knew that people, my friends, were feeling like that (sad and angry). I just didn’t know.” -- Student

“I heard a lot of students who were frustrated.” -- Student

“I’m going to try to think about what I say before I say it because I don’t want someone to get hurt.” -- Student

“I saw the power of listening! The commitment statement at the end indicated that students had heard others, that they were feeling moved to act, that they were feeling empathy.” -- Staff

“Being in space with kids to talk about their stories was a gift.” -- Staff

This activity offered a wonderful opportunity for our school community to begin building deeper connections with one another to get to a place of discussing difference. We will continue this work in the coming school year, as we work to improve emotional safety for all students.

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Kathleen Moore, Vice President
Mary Jane Cipcic, Secretary
Mike Ormstead, Treasurer
Lisa Carpenter, Trustee
Betsy Haadsma, Trustee
Gail Palmer, Trustee

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Minges Brook Kids Care

Having the opportunity to help other people in need along with having a good time. That was the driving force behind why students in the Minges Brook Kids Care Club recently volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to pack food at the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. Fourth grade students in the Kids Care Club meet regularly and identify the needs of their community. They then choose projects to volunteer their services for throughout the school year.

Madeleine and Zoe reported that it is fun doing work that helps other people in need. It was especially nice to volunteer with a group of their friends. The club members worked in an assembly line and each put a food item into a bag. Some of the items they packed were cereal, soup, canned veggies, juice and macaroni and cheese. Madeleine said she didn’t know about the Food Bank prior to volunteering and was impressed by what she saw and learned. The girls are looking forward to their next projects, one of which involves an upcoming program at school called Muffins With Moms.

Minges Brook Students Authors

“IT’s fun to be an author!” That’s what first grader, Jude reported. Students in first and second grade at Minges Brook Elementary are using a new website, WriteReader, to create books. The website was created by parents in Denmark who are also teachers who saw the need for a tool to allow children the opportunity to become better writers and readers. WriteReader is a literacy learning platform for children to share self-created books with family members and classmates. Grabe, a first grader said he likes to be able to see the books his created printed and hanging on his locker. He also likes to read his classmates books.

First grade teacher, Mrs. Kristin Markillie, said, “I love that WriteReader encourages students to be more creative with their writing. It gives them ownership when they can publish their own stories. They love writing informational stories on WriteReader because they can choose real pictures that match their writing.” Students in Miss Susan Miller’s second grade recently wrote personal narrative stories which Ms. Julie Blaine printed and bound together into one book. Students can check out the book from the school library. Several other classes are in the process of writing stories which will be printed and bound for check out in the library. Students from all grade levels have been enjoying checking out Miss Miller’s class book to read and are looking forward to the upcoming books.

Students Attend Gilmore Keyboard Festival

Can you think of a better way to spend a cold Friday morning than listening to a classical pianist? The Gilmore Keyboard Festival recently invited students from the area to a 50 minute concert. Minges Brook Elementary gladly accepted! The Gilmore Foundation paid for the entire school to be transported to the WK Kellogg Auditorium. Guest pianist was Alpin Hong. Mr. Hong captivated the students with his enthusiasm and extraordinary talent.

Karon, 1st grade, liked when the pianist played the theme music from Optimus Prime and Spider Man. Aubrey, a 2nd grader, got excited when music from Harry Potter was played. Jordan, 4th grade, liked the whole concert. She said she would like to take piano lessons and listening to Alpin makes her want to learn even more. Looking at the rows of students listening to Mr. Hong was a real treat. This was one pianist they will never forget.

Community Partnership Enhances Music Instruction

Lakeview School District continues to develop community partnerships to enhance student learning experiences. One example of this work came about when the Battle Creek Symphony Conductor Anne Harrigan asked music teachers if they would like to partner for unique educational opportunities. Elementary Music Teacher Paula Carr was happy to answer the call.

“I met with Anne during the summer to decide what we could do. She had an anonymous donor who was interested in supporting us, so I submitted a plan with some research in a proposal letter and got a couple of quotes from other music staff in support of the plan,” explained Carr.

As a result, the donor agreed to financially support 3 different opportunities for Lakeview students: a performance by Ars Voce featuring music from around the world for fourth grade, a performance by a brass trio for third grade, and a musical petting zoo for second grade. Most schools had all three experiences.

Paula’s initiative has expanded the program to Battle Creek Public Schools so it can benefit all students in Battle Creek.

Riverside Students Demonstrate Social Responsibility

This spring, Riverside third graders in Vicki Kramer’s class learned about being socially responsible citizens as part of the Biz Whiz 101 economics program. Biz Whiz is designed to bring students real-world experiences from the world of work and challenge their thinking about entrepreneurship. After learning how to earn money by following their interests and using their talents, students must decide where to invest their profits in their community.

Kramer’s class chose to donate funds to The Humane Society of South Central Michigan. “A representative from the Humane Society visited our classroom and students were happy to present them with $147.60 from our 2-day pencil sale,” explained Kramer.

The Biz Whiz 101 experience if designed to show young students how to earn a living doing what they love and to donate a portion of their future income to better their community.

Art Happenings at LHS: Empty Bowls

The Lakeview Art Club had another successful fundraiser this year at their Empty Bowl Ice Cream Social. They raised $850 for the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. The event was sponsored by Culver’s, Pizza Hut, Little Caesar’s, Jet’s Pizza, Auntie Anne’s Pretzels, Firekeepers Casino and Hotel, DiNicos Ice Cream Parlour, Wirtz Family Popcorn and Ice Cream, Bob Evans, Biggby Coffee, Howard’s Ceramics and Gifts, NCG Cinema, JC Cinema, West Columbia 7, and McDonald’s.

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Riverside Students Work toward Becoming Healthy Citizens

Health & Wellness have long been the mission of students and staff at Riverside Elementary. Each year, the Riverside team plans and executes programs that align with our district Healthy Citizens goal to help students and staff exhibit behaviors that are mentally and physically beneficial to themselves.

On April 26, the Riverside community participated in their annual Health and Wellness Fair and Walk to School Day. Community partners gathered at the school to set up informational stations for families to learn about such things as healthy portion sizes and community active programs such as First Tee and Cardio Drumming.

Mileage Club is another program designed to help students move forward at recess, working towards a goal of 60 minutes of activity every day. According to Program Coordinator Laura Parsons, “This school wide club encourages students to move forward while outside during recess. It has great benefits including physical activity, setting personal health goals and decreases behavior problems. Students are rewarded with a variety of prizes, provided by Operation Fit, when they run laps.” Riverside’s student leadership team has been instrumental in promoting the school’s health and wellness activities which resulted in earning a Fuel Up to Play 60 silver award.

Future golfers practice their swing at Riverside’s Health & Fitness Fair.

LHS Students Earn Top Honors at MSVMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival

On Saturday, April 14th, three LHS Choir students traveled to Allendale High School to participate in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association’s State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Senior, Logan Black all earned the opportunity to go to state festival by earning 1st division ratings at the MSVMA District Festival in February. Sophomore, Elizabeth Robins also scored a “1” at district, but was unable to participate at state due to a schedule conflict. At district, the students prepare two contrasting pieces and perform for a judge who then clinics and rates them. Any students who earn a “1”, move on to state, where the students have the added challenge of sight-reading an example in front of another judge.

Congratulations Lakeview vocalists!

Art Happenings at LHS: Battle Creek Excellence in Art Competition

Continuing this tradition of community involvement, in April, four Lakeview High School students (Amy Bebee, Myles Hoemens, Breh Ruger & Bree Young) donated their artworks to the Battle Creek Event of Art Competition. This silent art auction/competition through the Battle Creek Optimist Club was hosted by the Calhoun Area Career Center on April 21. The sophomore Bree Young, sponsored by LHS teacher Candace Knack, was awarded the Judges’ Award including a $500 scholarship!

A Successful Season for Lakeview’s FIRST Robotics Competition Team

Lakeview’s FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4327, Q Branch Robotics, competed at the World Championship in Detroit April 25 through 28th at Cobo Center and Ford Field. One of 455 teams from across the world, Q Branch finished with four wins and six losses putting them at 53rd of 68 teams in the Daly subdivision. Along the way, the team competed in alliances with other teams from New York, Virginia, Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec, France, and the Netherlands. Governor and Lakeview alumnus Rick Snyder along with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne stopped by Q Branch’s pit during the competition to congratulate our students and ask them about the process involved to work their way to the World Championship


LMS Holds First Annual Science Fair

The first annual LMS Science Fair was Saturday, April 14. Over 50 students registered. Many thanks to the PTA for their financial support! The Science Fair was organized by 8th grade NJHS members Jacob Reinstein, Jessica Peterson, Kevin Grady, Carter Black. Students in grades 6-8 competed, including categories for Dance, Robotics, Art, and Science.

5th grade Medal Winners:
Bronze = Kaydlyn Hann
Silver = Emma Moon
Gold = Lillian Daniel, Alexa Anthony, Vivian Wright

6th grade Medal Winners:
Bronze = Ricardo Diaz
Silver = Kalyah Ackley
Gold = Calvin Frank

7th grade Medal Winners:
Bronze = Dominic Hammond
Silver = Brendan Vandehei
Gold = Reese Deadrick-Whalen, Annika Yoder, Mallory Kowalski

8th grade Medal Winners:
Silver = Kyiah Nelson, Trent Opala
Gold = Makenly Keller, Alyssa Hartley

www.LakeviewSpartans.org • www.Facebook.com/LakeviewSpartans
The 7th grade NJHS Food Drive service project was a super success! They donated a whopping 1,067 pounds to the Food Bank, as well as $700 to the Lakeview account for After-School packs. Forty-four students also volunteered on May 4 at the Food Bank. Together they packed over 1500 pounds of frozen foods, sorted over 3,500 pounds of canned pie filling and applesauce, and relabeled over 10,000 cups of applesauce in less than two hours! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project!

The LHS Annual Multicultural Week each year brings together Lakeview students to discover and celebrate the many cultures that are Lakeview! All activities showcase Lakeview students and their countries of origin and/or ancestry.

The week started with a hall march and fashion show featuring Korean and Chinese street fashion, an Indian wedding dress, examples of Vietnamese Ao dai and a Taiwanese school uniform.

On Tuesday, students were able to sample foods from Spain, Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, France, Burma, Japan, Italy, Brazil, Southern Soul Food, and Indian. Thanks to all the area businesses for partnering with Lakeview High School this year: Bulgogi Box, Territorial Brewing Company, Continental Bakery, Taste of India, Thai Flavor, Sakura, Zarzuela, Lakeview Catering and a very special family soul food connection.

A cultural dance assembly on Wednesday was jam-packed with some new faces and moves LHS has never seen! Students and staff got to see how folks move to different beats.

The annual event ended with a world showcase with Lakeview students representing 20 countries sharing different aspects of the cultures they represent through information posters and videos, cultural artifacts, games, food, dancing and fellowship. Videos and more photos from the week’s events can be found on the LHS Multicultural Club’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lhsaroundtheworld.