

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CONNECT

JANUARY 2014



NHS Thanksgiving Dinner: A Big Success

On November 24, 2013, the National Honor Society hosted its annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We served over 900 people. Sixty-six turkeys, fifteen hams, over seventy dozen dinner rolls, and several pounds of green beans, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy were made. Very little food was left over.

A special thank you to Honee Bear Canning who donated all of the turkeys; Ryan Caldwell, Lawton Lions Club and its members for cooking the turkeys and assisting us in organizing the event; and to Bill Maury, Jeff Biggers and the MANY other volunteers who helped cook and serve the food, organize the take out area, and many other tasks that we could not complete without the help of our parents and community members. They all played a major role in making this event a success. We would not be able to pull off this event without your support.

NHS enjoyed serving our community and thank all who participated. The 2014 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 23.

Thank you to all the following businesses and individuals who made donations:

Adam's Hardware
Big T's Restaurant
Bowman Art, LLC
Crystal Flash—Paw Paw
Denise Kuipers
Dessert Unlimited
East Van Buren Seniors
Fruitbelt Canning
Harrison Packing
Hedges Veterinary Hospital
Jackie Noble
Karen Welburn
Lawton Athletic Boosters
Lawton Community Center
Lawson Oil Company
Linda Barkalow
Local Girl Scouts



Meijer of West Main
Minute Maid/Coca Cola
Pizza Hut—Paw Paw
Phillips Environmental Consulting
Ron & Molly Riley
Sam's Club
Scott Trucking
Southwest Michigan Insurance
Tim & Martha McDaniel
Wagoner's
Wally Hitchcock



Leslie Wardell Awarded \$1,500

On December 12th, our very own high school/middle school art teacher, Leslie Wardell, received a special surprise. In Publisher's Clearing House fashion, representatives from Midwest Energy presented Mrs. Wardell a check for \$1,500 to purchase pottery wheels and art supplies for her classes. Earlier in the year, Mrs. Wardell had written a proposal and applied for the grant. To her surprise and the surprise of her 4th period art class, she was selected from over twenty-seven other applicants. As the prize patrol presented the check, Mrs. Wardell could only respond "I think I'm going to cry!"

The Strengthening Schools grant program was introduced by Mid-

west Energy Cooperative in early 2013 to make grants available to public schools for academic and classroom needs and special projects, technology or specific support for academic clubs and organizations. A small group of Midwest Energy members from across our service territory comprise the grant review committee. Each committee member received blind copies of the grants and scored them according to the degree it will enrich the students' learning experience, the potential for long-term benefit to the students involved, as well as other factors. Those scores are tabulated to make the final award determinations for the top scoring grant applications. For this grant cycle,

they received forty-nine grant applications requesting close to \$100,000 from twenty-three school districts across their service territory. The grant committee awarded twenty-two grants totaling \$30,029 representing seventeen school districts.

The application for their 2014-15 cycle will become available April 1st with a submission deadline of October 15, 2014.

Thank you to Mrs. Wardell for your extra effort in providing quality educational experiences for our students and to Midwest Energy for supporting local school initiatives.



LCS Set to Launch Strategic Plan

By Christopher J. Rice, Superintendent



I am very pleased to be able to share some exciting news with the Lawton community. After several months of collecting community input and reviewing district data, the Board of Education is expected to approve a Strategic Plan for the district at the regular February meeting.

The purpose of developing a Strategic Plan is to provide a blueprint for the work and priorities of the district for the upcoming 3-5 years. We expect the strategies that arise as a result of this work to have a significant and positive impact on the educational process in each of the

Lawton Community Schools. The complete plan will be shared with the public upon Board approval but I can share with you now the main goal areas to be addressed in the plan.

1. Improve Student Achievement
2. Enhance Family, Student and Community Engagement
3. Market Lawton Community Schools to Optimize Public Relations
4. Maintain Financial Stability
5. Provide a Strong Technology Foundation
6. Provide Safe, Secure and Efficient Infrastructures

These goal areas will provide school administrators, teachers, and staff with the focus necessary for us to grow as a district and become the premier small school we are capable of becoming.

As always, I encourage any member of our community or school family to contact me at any time. Please know that in the spirit of chain of command, I may first direct you to the administrator with primary responsibility in the area of your concern. Thank you for your ongoing support. May 2014 be filled with health, happiness and prosperity for our schools and community.

Follow Your Dream Scholarship



Lawton Education Foundation, Inc. is once again offering the "Follow Your Dream" Scholarship. Students attending Lawton Community Schools (1st – 12th grade) may apply for money to pursue their achievement goals or dreams. "Follow Your Dream" scholarship money

may be used toward activities or supplies such as a summer camp, sports equipment, musical instruments, computers, lessons, etc. This year's applications are due on Monday, February 3. The application form is

available in each school building, as well as on the school website. Scholarship winners will be announced at the annual LEF Soup and Sandwich Supper, which will be held on March 19th.

LEF Annual Community Soup & Sandwich Supper

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014— 5:00—7:00 PM
LAWTON COMMUNITY CENTER



Presentation of the Lawton Education Foundation Follow Your Dream Scholarships

Menu

- Soups
- Sloppy Joes
- Vegetable Tray
- Chips/Crackers
- Dessert
- Beverage

Donation

- Adults—\$6.00
- MS & HS Students—\$5.00
- Preschool & Elementary Students—\$3.00
- Two and under—Free

Proceeds will go to the Follow Your Dream Scholarships.

Lawton Elementary School

by Stephanie Brown, Elementary School Principal



As we enter the second part of the school year, I would like to take a moment to say what a truly special place Lawton Elementary is. The teachers and staff are dedicated and work tirelessly to provide our students a wonderful education. I have found hard-working students who put forth great efforts daily to create a brighter future for themselves. We are also very fortunate to have the support of such wonderful parents and community members. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to join this wonderful community and I look forward to what our future holds.

This year our teachers have been implementing a new reading series aligned with the common core curriculum. In addition, we have been meeting biweekly as professional learning communities to focus on the learning of each student. We have been working together as teams to clarify student learning outcomes, monitor each student's learning on a timely basis, and provide systematic interventions that ensure students receive additional time and support for learning when they have difficulty. Moving forward we have decided our future goal is to extend and enrich learning when students have already mastered the core

objectives. We want to make sure that we are using student assessments to help us drive their individual learning process as well as to drive our instruction. We are excited about the new reading series and plan to work closely together to ensure all students are learning and growing.

As we wrapped up 2013, the December Sing-Along was an event to be seen! It was magical to see students sing Christmas and Holiday Carols along side of their classmates, teachers, and families. Thank you to Mr. Oegema for setting this event up year after year and for all of our families that came out to join in the fun! It was such a special way to send our children on to their break.

Cold weather is upon us. Please be sure your children come to school with the necessary outdoor clothes to keep them warm and dry as temperatures are low. If the temperature with wind chill is at or above 10 degrees, we will be headed outside for recess. Students need warm coats, snow pants, mittens, and hats. If your child is in need of appropriate winter gear, we may be able to help, so please let us know.

Substitute Teachers Needed! If you have an interest in helping Lawton Community Schools

by substitute teaching and have at least 90 college credit hours, we would love for you to join our school community. Please contact me for more information or go to the link below to check out requirements and processes. If you are a retired Lawton teacher, please contact our district office directly for more information on substitute teaching.

<http://www.subpass.com/go/requirements/pesg/van-buren/>

On December 19, 2013 a \$51.7 million federal grant was awarded to Michigan to help fund more early learning opportunities for low income children. This grant was awarded through the Race to the Top Early Childhood Learning Challenge. Michigan was recognized with this grant for focusing on increasing the number of low-income and disadvantaged children enrolled in high-quality, early learning programs. State-wide, Michigan has around 182,000 children ages 3 to kindergarten from low income homes who stand to gain from this grant. We will know more soon as to how this will potentially positively impact our local children and families. We are excited for the possibility to offer more resources and preschool education to Lawton children.



Baby & Family Links Programs

By Mary Rivas

This year the Van Buren Intermediate School District Baby Links program is offering a new Baby Steps group. This group is offered especially for families on the east side of Van Buren County and includes baby games, rhymes, parent support/sharing. No reservations are needed. This program is for prenatal parents and parents with children up to the age of two years old. It is held almost every Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am at the Michigan Avenue Academy (school) in Paw Paw. If you would like more information, please call 269-539-5214.

The Baby/Family Links program is going well, too. The program uses the Parents as Teachers curriculum, with the philosophy that the

“Parent is the first and most influential teacher.” The family educator and parent visit together and explore ways to interact with the child to support the child's development. Our goal is to partner with families to help children reach their fullest potential to be successful in school and beyond. Services are free and voluntary.

Services include

- Personal home visits with assessments and activities to meet family goals
- Age specific information with parent-child activities to stimulate growth and development
- Screenings to assess hearing, vision, health and development
- Group connections to stimulate healthy



social-emotional growth for your child and to connect with other parents for support

- Community resource connections and information

You are welcome to call or visit us on the Great Start website for more information. There is a place to sign up for the Early Childhood newsletter that comes monthly to your home FREE. It contains information on early childhood development and activities in the community. If you have any questions, please call us at 269-539-5214 or visit us at www.greatstart-vanburen.org.

Preschool News

By Kim Emmert



Lilleonah,
Jacqueline
and
Oryanna

It is hard to believe winter is already here, and it makes us wonder: where did fall go? We have had fun studying leaves, and pumpkins this fall. The class looks forward to our new letter each week and meeting our Zoo Phonics animal to go along with it! We will be practicing dressing for winter to head outside to play.

Each day when we read a story, we discuss the author, illustrator, what the title is, and the characters of the story. *Pete the Cat* is by far our favorite character! From his white shoes, to his school shoes and his four groovy buttons, we can't get enough of him. For the Elementary Halloween Spooktacular the G.S.R.P. preschool class had a giant Pete to

decorate their door, with 16 smaller friends created by the class to join him. All of the four-year-old classes went on a fun adventure to Harvest Moon Acres to learn about what animals and insects are helpful to the farm, and which ones are not. The wagon ride and hay bale maze were another fun part of the trip. The next few weeks give us an opportunity to study winter and snow. It is always fun to learn about how water turns to ice, and how there are no two snowflakes exactly alike! We will also continue to work on meeting our Zoo Phonics animals each week and learning their letters and sounds.

Off to Gull Meadow Farms & a Trip to the Fire Station

By Jessica Schubert



The Kindergarten students traveled to Gull Meadow Farms on Friday, September 27, 2013. We enjoyed a hayride out to the apple orchard, where we picked both Fuji and Cameo apples. It was so chilly that our apples were covered with frost and bits of ice! We returned to the barn where we enjoyed a glass of apple cider and a doughnut. A lesson was presented on apples and pumpkins, showing many of the different varieties. We saw LOTS of interesting pumpkins! After a quick lesson, we ventured off to Pumpkin Lane, where we zigzagged through the maze, slid down the large slide, and sat on a HUGE rocking chair. Thank you to all of the parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends that joined us on our

adventure. We had an awesome day!

The month of October is host to Fire Safety Week. To honor this important week, the kindergarten classes took a walking field trip to visit the Lawton Fire Station. While we were there, we learned how to be safe if our home catches on fire and what to do in an emergency, looked at all of the fire equipment, sat in the driver's seat of one of the big trucks, looked at a fire hydrant up close, and practiced spraying one of the large fire hoses. Thank you to all of the volunteers at the Lawton Fire Station who took time to make our visit happen. We had a wonderful time!



4th Grade Garden Sign Contest

By Ryan Goole, Addison Modderman, and Maria Mason

We did a sign contest on the school garden. The people who won would have their idea put on a sign by the school garden. The people who won would get prizes. Addison Modderman won the title. It said: Vegetable Island. Maria Mason won for her graphics. Ryan Goole won the other title that said: Lawton Elementary Garden. Each winner got a prize. One person got a bug kit and the other two people got books. A person named Mrs. Rueff is making the sign. It will be put in the garden this spring.



The Importance of Compost

By Allyson Wilds



Here at Lawton Elementary we have a school garden. We have been working on it for a few years now. This year we are getting more into compost. Compost is fruit, vegetables, and other things.

Compost is important because it helps crops grow better. It also gives crops more moisture. It helps to recycle and not to waste. You will find bugs in your compost pile like millipedes, snails, and

slugs' materials into smaller pieces.

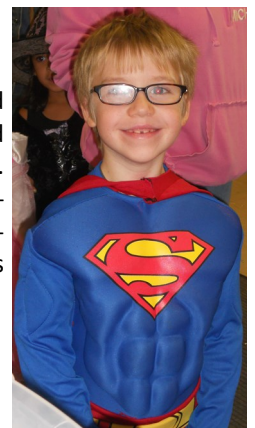
When people wash their laundry and dry them there is lint that comes off of them, and lint turns into compost. If you use eggs crush the shell and it becomes compost. Worms are also compost they help gardens grow, and also to be healthy. When you rake your yard save the leaves and put them on the garden and it gives them moisture.

Spooktacular

By Mandy Merriman

Lawton Elementary held their Halloween Reading Spooktacular on October, 29th 2013. There were over 800 attendees this year! Children came dressed in their costumes and were able to trick-or-treat around the building. In addition to trick-or-treating, students participated in a number of educational activities that included, listening to Halloween themed stories, reading books in the library, using the literacy lab to take AR tests, and voting on their favorite decorated classroom door. Many students also chose to participate in Hop Sports activities. Students were able to enter their name in a drawing for

prizes that included a bucket of books and goodies. The Reading Spooktacular ended with a music performance by the students. Thank you to everybody that donated candy, assisted with door decorating, or volunteered their time to help make this event a huge success!



Lawton Elementary 9th Annual “Amazing Race” Lock-In

By Tammy Barkovich



On November 15, the After Prom Bash Committee (parents/class of 2015) hosted the 9th annual Lock-In at Lawton Elementary School. This year’s theme was “Amazing Race.” Eighty-one students were divided into teams and competed in competitions that required teamwork, problem solving and competitive races. Each team was led by three high school students. The students spent most of the evening participating in team activities, followed by a volleyball tournament and movie (*Cloudy*

with a Chance of Meatballs) on the big screen. The highlight of the evening was the amazing magic show presented by the duo of Lucas Beaudoin and Patrick Riley!

A special thank you to the thirty-seven high school students who volunteered their time for this event. A huge shout out to Coach Hobbs, Coach Barkovich, Coach Lycan and Coach Cosby for chaperoning, instructing and planning the lock-in.

The Journey

By Tim Cerven, Middle School Principal



Lawton Middle School has embarked on a journey, a mountain climbing expedition if you will, one that will change the culture of our school building. As educators, we recognize the value of “time” as it pertains to

successfully educating middle school students and “time lost” when dealing with off-task students. We place a value on time when lesson planning, a value on time in the instructional process, time with engaging students, yet we lose time when addressing students who do not follow our R.O.A.R. expectations. As a team—as a family—we can begin this journey up the mountain face towards a system where time is redirected to the educational process.

In recent attempts, the middle school has set out on this journey as a lone ranger, the principal on a mission to swiftly walk

the long paths of the winding trails, stumbling over the rocks and brush pushing forward and out of breath focusing on reaching the peak, the place where the answer lies, the magic wand that will transform our students into students who accept the responsibility to be a “student of education”: taking ownership in their learning, have a positive attitude and respect themselves and their peers as well as all aspects of our middle school. This journey proved to be minimally successful.

Beginning this year, the middle school is making this journey as one unit, as a team—a family with all the necessary tools to make a difference in the academic success of our students and a change in how we expect our students to act or behave at Lawton Middle School. When making the journey up the side of a mountain, the appropriate tools are required: the proper shoes and ropes, the clips used in climbing the mountains face, and the knowledge necessary to safely achieve this task. Our

journey will also need the appropriate tools to safely and successfully achieve our goal. We have resources in the form of *Teach Like a Champion* and the *C.H.A.M.P.’s* books, character building activities, the Academic Center as well as research on bullying prevention that has contributed to increasing students’ “time on task” and a better learning environment with measurable success academically and behaviorally.

Lawton Middle School is on a journey to provide the type of education that will prepare our students for whatever the future dictates. Time is a valuable asset in the education process and increasing student engagement in meaningful educational activities will set the stage for academic success and a positive middle school experience.





Enter Strong ... Leave Stronger

By Tony Karsen

The first trimester of the 2013-2014 school has come to a close with solid results and consistent progression within the Lawton Middle School Physical Education Program. Our students are improving their confidence within physical skill development and are increasing overall character to enhance the working environment. Hard work does pay off, and our students are proving that.

All students 6th – 8th grade, engage in pre and post fitness testing. Each test measures a different skill component related to physical fitness, technique, and

overall ability. One particular test that is performed to display cardio-respiratory endurance is known as the Pacer. It is a 20 meter test that gets progressively more difficult the longer a student stays in. It truly does measure overall endurance, but also tests a student's drive and mental toughness. During the first trimester, there were seventy-five total middle school students tested and sixty-nine improved from their pre to post test. Ninety-two% of Lawton Middle School students were able to set a goal, work to achieve it, and improve on a very challenging test.

There were many other drastic changes and very impressive improvements within our other fitness tests as well, so be proud Lawton parents and family members. So much of what we do in Lawton Physical Education is work to establish confidence. When a student is confident, they truly can accomplish anything. We are pleased with the results, but we will refuse to be complacent. There is always more work to be done and goals to achieve. Enter strong, leave stronger is not just a motto, it's what we do.

Honoring Veterans

By Chad Kuhlmann



This past Veteran's Day, the faculty and students at Lawton Middle School were delighted to have local veterans, Norman Harvey, Gary Kruiuzenga, and Joe Gray come into our classrooms and give us a glimpse of their experiences serving in our military. They brought with them photo albums, badges, medals, and most importantly, the voice of one who has actually been to the places most of us only read about. Hearing these men share their stories captivated their audience and gave our students a first-

hand account of the service and sacrifices endured to protect our freedom. We would also like to thank the families of our veterans for the immeasurable sacrifices they make as well. Often, when a parent is deployed, the rest of the family is left struggling to fill holes in hearts and lives as well. On behalf of everyone at Lawton Community Schools, we would like to thank all of our veterans and their families for their honorable service and sacrifice.

Welcome to Mr. VanWeelden's 6th Grade Science Class!

Mr. VanWeelden's 6th grade students are brainstorming to find a list of ideas about forces that cause weathering and erosion. The students have been reading different articles about weathering and erosion. They will be asked to investigate a topic that pertains to the subject. The students must put together an experiment to demonstrate to the class their understanding

of the topic weathering and erosion. The project must contain all required parts of a science experiment. Requirements: The students must recognize the problem, form a hypothesis, do the experiment, analyze the data by a chart or graph, and then write a conclusion using claim and evidence.



Middle School Honor Roll 1st Trimester



Exemplary Honors

6th Grade

Adams, Aiden
Carter, Megan
Lull, Sierra
Noble, Dustin
Rueff, Alexander
Ruff, Kelsey
Strausberg, Ivy

7th Grade

Dopheide, Megan
Jones, Emma
Kalas, Dylan
Rowlison, Isabella
Switzer, Hazen

8th Grade

Berg, Haley
Butcher, Bryce
Docekal, Michael
Hedges, Clara
Hill, Mya
Holloway, Adam
Leighton, Brandon
Robbins, Paige

Rueff, Courtney
Taplin Elise

High Honors

6th Grade

Armstrong, Chloe
Aumaugher, Mycaela
Barr, Kayli
Deuel, Parker
Doster, Ella
Gordon, Lyric
Gear, Jessica
Jones, Ethan
Kovach, Adah
Lansdale, Cassandra
Lawson, Madison
Lowe, Chasity
Martinez, Gabriela
McCoy, Ethan
Reynolds, Mary
Stermer, Andrew
VanHoeve, Carly
VanWyk, Landyn

7th Grade

Baugh, Sydney

Bugarin, Brianna
Campbell, III, Martin
Campbell, Kaitlyn
Carpenter, Abigail
DeKoning, Joshua
Emmert, Kaitlyn
Gibbs, Jordyn
Johnson, Abigail
Ludwig, Tye
Lycan, Grady
Mack, Nathan
Martinez, Natalia
Maynard, Dillon
Peat, Regan
Shilts, Jasmine
Smith, Dayleah
Stuut, Katelyn
Taylor, Amaya
Thomason, Luke
Welch, Victoria

8th Grade

Barr, Zachary
Camfield, Madison
Cassada, Kirsten
Eufrazio, Lupita
Geib, Thomas

Gibson, Kiley
Goble, Brandon
Gray, Mallory
Gear, Zachary
Gunnnett, Andrew
Havera, Melanie
Maynard, Joel
Mullins, Lindsay
Northrop, Lance
Palmer, Austin
Reynolds, Jacob
Robbins, Emily
Somerville, Meredith
Stephayn, Emma
Taylor, Nikka
VanOrman, Alec
Waite, Alissa

Honors

6th Grade

Allen, Alyssa
Battees, Faith
Docekal, Mathew
Farrow, Alondra
Jensen, Kenneth
Judge, Logan

Mancera, Lexis
Maynard, Harrison
Nelson, Ryan
Nicks, Zepplin
Platt, Shannon
Slavings, Alyssa
Soto, Anthony
Tennant, Dallas
Terpstra, Madison
Terry, Taylor

7th Grade

Brooks, Amanda
Buentello, Jamar
Cosby, Maggie
Flint, Chance
Gibson, Chloe
Gruber, Leah
Horton, Astrid
Matthies, Jacob
McKee, Madison
Miller, Leah
Ruff, Morgan
Simons, Billy Jean
Triemstra, Kyia
Vigil, Odalys
Welch, Justin

Weston, Zackery
Wilds, Sierra
Worthington, Christina
Yancy, Marissa

8th Grade

Barkovich, Grace
Birdsall, Cedric
Carter, Kevin
Flores, Graciela
Hudson, Kendra
Mancera, Lila
Nickrent, Alexia
Pollock, III, William
Singleton, Lauren
Teebles, Cierra
Woodruff, Riley
Zedeck, Joseph

High School Honor Roll 1st Trimester

All A's

9th Grade

Bratcher, Abigail
Brown, Daniel
Carrizales, Issac
Carter, Amanda
Conner, Kristin
Docekal, Emily
Lycan, Clare
Martinez, Natalie
Medsker, William
Specht, Aric
Strong, Jacob

10th Grade

McDaniel, Lydia

11th Grade

Proxmire, Samantha

12h Grade

Borowiak, Annamarie
Brewer, Rachel
Dietrich, Macy
Gilley, Rachel
Havera, Allison
McDaniel, Genevieve
Pastol, Bailee

Peters, Katie
Riley, Katherine
Streeter, Johnathan

A—B

9th Grade

Chavis, Brandon
Craig, Jason
Cronenwett, Paige
Dailey, Drew
DeKoning, Jared
Dunn, Alyssa
Flint, Danie
Grimaldo, Ana
Hartfield, Daniel
Holloway, Emily
Hovenkamp, Elise
Jewell, Ashley
Leighton, Derek
Lull, Trever
McKee, Hunter
Munro, Tyler
Phillips, Taylor
Rogers, Taylor
Saidla, Lauryn
Shaw, Calob
Terpstra, Savannah
Thornton, Thomas

Walters, Cody
Welch, Katelynn

10th Grade

Baugh, Cody
Bean, Harley
Berg, Tyler
Borowiak, Brianna
Bunch, Kyle
Coleman, Ineah
DeBoer, Denver
Duffield, Cameron
Elliott, Kayla
Geib, Jaelyn
Gray, Jacob
Henry, Shaun
Karasch, Allison
Lamb, Ashley
McDowell, Jacob
Milam, Jasmine
Ramsey, Lucas
Raynolds, Megan
Stermer, Bret
Stuut, Kristin
Wimes, Jarod

11th Grade

Barkovich, Kyle
Bowman, Lily

Cody, Kristen
Conner, Brody
Gilley, George
Hedges, Stephanie
Hurley, Parker
Isbell, Adria
Kees, Jonathan
Knapp, Alan
Maxwell, Dane
Mullins, Allison
O'Donnell, Christopher
Riley, Patrick
Rimes, Marissa
Streeter, Amber
Vigil, Cecelia
Walter III, Vernon

12th Grade

Birdsall, Cynthia
Bratcher, David
Church, Matthew
Fleming, Alysha
Isbell, Alexander
Keene, Adam
Mauk, Christopher
Maynard, Matthew
McDowell, Miranda
Medsker, Brianna
Reynolds, Lauren

Romero, Laura
Smith, Travis
Somerville, Stephanie
Stewart, Avery
Toso, Joseph
Wimes, Brenden
Worthington, Sabation

B Average

9th Grade

Bugarin, Melanie
Emmert, Jacob
Franco, Ignacio
Holden, Veronica
Hurley, Peyton
McKee, Katherine
Reynolds, Nicole
Shilts, Ashley
Simonds, Gracen
Vigil, Aleiah
Woheck, Wesley

10th Grade

Akerson, Alexis
Boven, Jacob
Curtis, Spencer
Decrick, Lauren
Goole, Charles

Lawrence, Cheyana
Mauk, Amber

11th Grade

Beach, Austin
Dayhuff, Ema
Gebhard, Christine
Hartfield, Amy
Hegenauer, Kelsea
Menck, Cole
Somers, Taylor
Stermer, Donald
Tomilo, Evan
Welling, Noah

12th Grade

Benoit, Ashley
Crosbie, Regan
Danger, Marc
Diller, Brad
Dudek, Courtney
Elliot, Jared
Kelly, Kyle
Kerns, Richard
Livingston, Tyler
Phillips, Summer
Shinabargar, Nathan
Terry, Jarad
Turner, Brandon

From The Desk of the Principal

By Tammy Wilson, High School Principal



This winter, events at the high school are moving right along. It seems like we just started back to school and we are already well underway in our second trimester. The fall sports season was an exciting one as we cheered on our Blue Devils. Winter season promises to be just as exciting as we are off to a great start with wrestling and basketball. New this year will also be competitive cheer!

Our high school teachers are working hard on our school improvement goal areas to help ensure student success and continued school improvement. For the second

year in a row, we will soon be starting our RAFT (Reasoning Attainment for Tomorrow) Program. This involves engaging students in strategies that include cross curricular reasoning problems. Similar in delivery to our SOS (Save Our Students) Program, RAFT will be staffed by high school teachers and will service students for one hour after school. Enrollment in the program will be based on the results from the NCA reasoning test taken first trimester. Freshman and sophomores scoring below a four are expected to participate in the program for a minimum of three sessions. The goal of the program is to give our students the tools necessary to be successful in their classes as well as on the MME (Michigan Merit Exam) which

includes the ACT. Other high school goal areas are writing, reading and school climate. All groups are meeting monthly to analyze student achievement data and implement strategies to improve learning for all students.

At Lawton High School, our staff is taking a proactive and positive approach to ensure the success of all students. High standards for achievement and a positive learning environment are important components to a successful school year. All students are encouraged and rewarded for following the Lawton High School behavior expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe.

Keep up the Blue Devil pride!

Blue Devil Color Dash

This year was Lawton's 1st annual Blue Devil Color Dash, the fundraising event for both the art and athletic departments.

The event featured both middle school and high school participants. Students were to dash through color stations on a small course where our staff volunteered to throw powdered color on them. This event took place on Thursday, September 26th during homecoming week to help celebrate and support the Blue Devils!

Both the students and volunteers that participated had a blast! We look forward to blowing it up next year and make this the "to-do" activity for years to come.



Performing Arts



Lawton Choir Holiday Concert

Lawton High School Presents Hot Rod Cruisin' Back to the 1950's

A Trip Back to the 1950's with drag races, malt shops and nifty fifties music. Be there or be square daddy-o.

Performance Dates

February 22 at 7:00 pm

February 23 at 2:00 pm

Ticket Prices

\$8—Adults

\$5—Students

4 & under Free

To purchase tickets contact: Laura Maury
269.624.7818 or lmaury@lawtoncs.org



Lawton Students Get an Early Start on College

By Gloria Jurado-Long

This year Lawton High School has six students who are participating in the Van Buren Early College Health Alliance (VBECHA). Juniors Kristen Cody and Adria Isbell were accepted into the program this past spring and completed their College Readiness course over the summer. This year they will earn up to 14 college credits through the Allied Health Program and additional college classes taken at the Technology Center. This semester Kristen is taking Fundamentals of General, Organic, and Biochemistry through Lake Michigan College and Adria is taking Fundamentals of Psychology through Southwestern Michigan College.

Lawton Seniors Macy Dietrich, Allison Havera, Katie Peters and Summer Phillips are in their

second year of the VBECHA program. They are enrolled as full time college students at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. As VBECHA students they are able to choose the college courses that will be the best fit for their anticipated major and for transferring to their college of choice. They will graduate from the program with up to 44 college credits all paid for by the Van Buren Technology Center.

Applications for the VBECHA program will be available after January 15, 2014, through the High School Counselor. If you are a sophomore interested in any of the Health Science programs at the Technology Center, consider applying to the Early College Program to accelerate your college career. This year the Early

College Program will be open to the participants in the following programs:

- Allied Health
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Academy
- Patient Care
- Pharmacy Technician



What is the LAAC?

LAAC is the Lawton Accelerated Academic Center, an alternative high school in the Lawton Community Schools.

LAAC is a Michigan Public High School and a separate educational institution from Lawton High School. This "one classroom" school meets in the old middle school on the corner of Nursery and Second Street. The program is in its tenth year and has shown tremendous growth and change. Currently nearly thirty full time students and part time students (shared with Lawton High School or the Van Buren Technology Center) are enrolled in the LAAC.

The vision of the LAAC is "Strong, Motivated, Ready!" The students and staff at the LAAC work each day to prepare students to internalize these qualities as they work toward their academic goals. In general, students are re-

ferred to the LAAC by the high school principal or come as school of choice students and are at least sixteen but no more than twenty years of age. Some students graduate directly from the LAAC while others return to Lawton High School part or full time. Each year our number of graduates has grown.

In many ways, students at the LAAC are very much like Lawton High School students. They attend school each day from 8-3 and are polite young people representative of Lawton's Community. Also like other Lawton Community Schools, LAAC is a safe and orderly environment.

LAAC students are different in that they focus only on academics. Full time LAAC students do not participate in MHSAA sports programs or extra-curricular activities. Most LAAC students participate in daily physical education and weekly art class. Most academic learning at the LAAC is self-paced online learning done

with the support of Mr. Armbruster, the classroom teacher. Students do not move on until they achieve mastery of each topic.

The LAAC also provides evening programs for students, parents, and community members. Many Lawton High School students participate in credit recovery after school to make up credits. Adults may also apply to attend diploma completion or GED preparation classes free of charge.

The LAAC is open Monday through Thursday from 3PM-7PM for credit recovery and adult education students. Registration paperwork for adults is available from the district's guidance secretary, Mrs. Welburn in the Lawton High School Guidance Office.

High school students from surrounding districts interested in attending the LAAC should apply through the program's principal, Tamara Webster at 269-624-7542.

Food Service: Six Cent Rule and Oatmeal Mix in Day

We are pleased to announce that LCS was one of 10 districts in the State of Michigan to qualify for an addition six cents from the State. Our food service department qualified based on strict nutrition standards. Congratulations!

If you asked just about anyone what they thought would be the number one most boring breakfast, they would probably answer "oatmeal." The Nutrition Team at Lawton Elementary thought that this would be the perfect challenge, to jazz up healthy oatmeal

to make it more appealing.

The target group for this event was the 5th graders of Lawton Elementary. Oatmeal was served along with a variety of options to "mix-in" These included strawberries blueberries, dried cherries, peaches, vanilla yogurt and granola. The students were encouraged to try any combination that they thought would be good. While some students added only one item to their bowl, others tried the "kamikaze" approach, loading their bowl with everything availa-

ble.

While strawberries were voted in as the favorite topping, Granola came in a close second. This was a double health bonus! Heart healthy oats on top of heart healthy oatmeal!

Because this event has been so popular, an oatmeal bar has been added to the menu as an option for student to choose from through the breakfast program.



Wrestling Team Off to Great Start in 2014



Lawton Wrestlers Win Home Invitational



Troy Johnson, pictured with his family, Alysha, Janine and Cameron was recognized Friday, November 8th as **Division 4 Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year** by the Michigan Wrestling Association. Troy is now our Varsity Wrestling Coach.

Concession Volunteering Just Got Easier!

If you have ever wondered how to sign up to work in the concession stand, wait no more! Go to the Lawton Community Schools website, www.lawtoncs.org, click on either the "Our School" and go to the High School drop down, or use the "About Us" tab. Then go to the Athletic Home Page. The box says, "Concession and Gate Sign up." Use the schedule of events to see where help is needed. Then use the volunteer sign up form to ask to be added to that event. You will be contacted once you are confirmed for that event. It is that simple! If you have any questions please feel free to contact Wendi Church at 760-8906 and she will be happy to add you.

We still have plenty of openings in our very busy winter schedule. Let's Go Blue! We thank you for your continued support of Lawton Athletics!

Important News for Juniors

This year we will be giving the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). This test consists of three components. Component number one is the ACT plus Writing Exam. All juniors will be taking this test and these ACT scores can be sent to colleges. Component number two is the WorkKeys which is applied mathematics and reading for information and Michigan Mathematics. Component number three is the Michigan Science and Social Studies tests. The ACT test will be done on March 4, 2014 the WorkKeys will be done on March 5, 2014, and the Michigan Mathematics, Science and Socials Studies tests will be given on March 6, 2014. Please plan ahead. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL JUNIORS ARE IN ATTENDANCE THE THREE DAYS OF THESE TESTS.** Please watch for further information coming home regarding these tests. If you have any questions, you make contact the guidance office at 624-7806.



Lawton Community Schools
Office of the Superintendent
101 Primary Way
Lawton, MI 49065



To:
Or Current Resident

Newsletter Residents: The newsletter is published four times per year by Lawton Community Schools. The Lawton Community School District complies with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, ancestry, sex, age, height, weight, color, national origin, religion, marital status, political belief, or physical or mental handicap or disability in all of its programs and in employment. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 101 Primary Way, Lawton, MI 49065. 269.624.7901



Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO is for the students, teachers and parents. We raise money for fun events or needs that are not met through the school and curriculum budget such as art supplies, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra program, and After Prom Bash. Meeting Location & Time: Elementary Library, 6:30 pm, 1st Tuesday of the month.

2013 Blue Devil Dash was a big success this year. The students raised over \$15,000. Thank you to all the families and friends for contributing to Lawton Elementary. The top pledge collectors from each grade earned a trip with Mrs. Brown and Mr. Prine to Climb Kalamazoo.

The PTO is planning other activities this year, and welcomes any ideas and help. Please watch for information coming home with your student. Other ways to help the school include volunteering in the classroom or with events, sending Box Tops to school, and using Goodsearch as your search engine when online. Every little bit helps.

For more information about ways to help, please contact a PTO member below.

Nicole Smith – nurse-nik@hotmail.com
Sarah Greenway – tsgreenway@sbcglobal.net



Grade Winners:

K—Brooklyn Richardson
1—Ethan Marr
2—Nickolas Schubert
3—Sam Keyser

4—Hailey Collins
5—Nick Marcelletti
Nickolas Schubert, earned a Kindle for collecting the most pledges

