

# LAKE SHORE LIGHT

June 2011

## From the Superintendent



Cindy Vujea  
Superintendent

## Moving Forward...

On May 3, 2011 our community had the opportunity to vote on a matter of significance for the children who attend our schools. In that election, the Board of Education asked voters to approve a proposal that would have transformed all of our schools for decades to come. It was wonderful to see such a large number of our community members vote in this election. For a variety of reasons, the bond proposal was defeated by a margin of more than 2 to 1. The board, administration, and steering committee will be reviewing the election results and making a decision about how to move forward for the future. We will keep you posted as that process unfolds. Thank you to all who have taken the time to follow-up with us after the election to share thoughts, concerns, comments and questions. By working together, we will

find a way to continue in our mission of moving from good to great and bringing a world-class education to the children of Lakeshore Schools.

## On another note...

As I write this letter, the legislators are working hard to balance the State budget. As Lieutenant Governor Calley suggested, the outcome will be a painful for everyone, including public education. School districts in Michigan are facing unprecedented reductions in revenue from the state, along with unprecedented increases in the area of health insurance and retirement costs.

Many Lakeshore residents spoke to me about this in the bond informational sessions held across the district, suggesting that they could not support the bond proposal because they anticipated they would need to support a millage request for operating costs this spring. However, with the passage of Proposal A, school districts lost the opportunity to ask voters for operating millages. School districts are now dependent upon the state of Michigan for 70% of their funding and MAY NOT ask voters for as-

sistance through an operating millage.

**The legislatively proposed reduction in our state funding allocation for the 2011-2012 school year is still unclear. The possibilities are as follows:**

- \$340 per pupil reduction proposed by the Senate (\$999,600)
- \$426 per pupil reduction proposed by the House (\$1,252,440)
- \$470 per pupil reduction proposed by the Governor (\$1,381,800)

In addition, the state has increased the required retirement contribution by the district to 24.4 %, which results in a loss of another \$527,000. Insurance rates are anticipated to increase by at least 10%. Per our current contracts, our employees will share in at least 40% of this cost increase.

## Bottom Line...

The budget problem that the district is facing for the 2011-2012 school year is about 10% of our total budget. We hope that the legislature will pass a final school aid budget with fewer cuts to school aid. However, as I write this letter

we have to plan as a district to balance our budget. Due to the fact that the district does not have any way to increase revenue (other than by increasing the number of students), if these proposed State revenue reductions are put in place, we will have to reduce our budget by that amount.

Rest assured, we have outstanding staff members who will continue to provide your children with an excellent education. I am confident that we will rise to the challenges facing our school district and that this adversity will make us even stronger in the future. However, just as many of you have had to do in your homes, we will have to find a way to "do more with less."

**I encourage you to contact your legislators and the Governor to let them know that adequate funding for schools must be a priority for our children. The future of our community and state are dependent upon it.**

Very sincerely,  
Cindy Vujea



## Lakeshore Public Schools

5771 Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, MI 49127

Phone: 269.428.1400 Fax: 269.428.1574

Website Address: <http://www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us>



## COME TEE OFF FOR EXCELLENCE

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is currently planning their 9th Annual Golf Outing. The event is set for Monday, August 8, 2011. The scramble will be held at the Berrien Hills Golf Course with four-person teams teeing off for 18 holes of golf followed by lunch. Prizes, raffle items, and a good time are promised!

LEF relies on monies raised at this event to fund programs that enrich and supplement learning opportunities for students, staff, and community members in the Lakeshore School district. This is LEF's primary fundraiser of the year, so please consider supporting the Foundation by playing, sponsoring a hole, volunteering, or making a donation. Please visit our website for registration forms and additional information at [www.l-e-f.org](http://www.l-e-f.org).

## Non-Discrimination Policy

*Lakeshore Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:*

*Ellen Rudy, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning  
Lakeshore Public Schools  
5771 Cleveland Avenue,  
Stevensville, MI 49127  
269.428.1400 ext. 2911*



## Lakeshore Preschool

Spring has sprung ... and so have opportunities for families to come together and be creative. This May, preschoolers have had the opportunity to spend quality time with "Guys & Gals" who are special in their lives. May 5th, preschoolers invited their special gal to "My Gal & Me," an evening activity held at Hollywood Elementary. On the 19th, preschoolers invited the special guy in their lives for yet another activity together as families.

The "gals" included moms, grandmothers, aunts, and special friends. Preschool students and their special ladies enjoyed spring as they used adult and child handprints to create a painted, patterned flower. Each participant chose a color of paint they wanted to use to create their unique handprint. They then placed their painted hands around the center of a flower to create the petals. Construction paper was used to make a stem and leaves for each springtime creation. Following the painting activity, everyone got down and dirty as they decorated a flowerpot, and then planted a purple or yellow pansy in each pot. We finished our evening with a tasty snack and lots of hugs and excitement for the opportunity to make wonderful connections as families!



## ACES = All Children Exercise Simultaneously

On May 4th, at 10:00 A.M., Hollywood Elementary students celebrated ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously). At that time, approximately 400,000 kids in Michigan and millions of kids from around the world all exercised at the same time. Students at Hollywood danced outside on the playground to songs like *The Papaya*, *YMCA*, *Cha Cha Slide*, and *The Hokey Pokey*. It was a fun event that helped promote lifelong healthy habits. ACES was held on the same day as the *Hollywood Arthritis Walk*.



**Bake Sale for Japan**

The Hollywood 2nd graders wanted to help the people of Japan. The students decided to have a bake sale on Friday, April 15, 2011. To prepare for the bake sale, the 2nd graders learned about Japanese culture, found Japan on a map, created posters, and wrote an announcement to advertise the bake sale. The night before the bake sale, the busy 2nd graders helped their parents make delicious baked goods. Wow! When 2nd graders get baking, they go crazy! There were so many treats to sell that they had to extend the bake sale an extra day.

The 2nd graders weren't the only amazing helpers; many of their parents volunteered during the bake sale. The 2nd graders helped the parents by taking money, making change, and thanking their customers for helping their cause. The lunch room buzzed with excitement as Hollywood students of all ages, teachers, cooks, and community members joined in to raise money for Japan. The 2nd graders raised a grand total of \$580. 60!



**Arthritis Foundation Assembly**

Hollywood Elementary has continued their focus on awareness by welcoming the *Arthritis Foundation* in an assembly on April 12, 2011. Samantha Mertins did a fabulous job of educating the students about the many types of arthritis and how it affects 46 million Americans, including 300,000 children. 5th grader Anna Molloy told her story of being diagnosed with *Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis* at age 5, and how the disease impacts her life. PTO President Krista Wolf shared how her arthritis has led to multiple joint surgeries and lifelong medications. Congratulations go out to all Hollywood students who participated in the "Walk for Arthritis" and raised \$2,500 for arthritis research and education.



**Big Bad Wolf Put on Trial**

Mrs. McLean's 2nd grade students transformed their classroom into a courtroom and put the *Big Bad Wolf* on trial. Mr. Wolfram, a local attorney and Junior Achievement volunteer, played the part of the judge. Different students acted out the parts of the jurors, the pig, witnesses, prosecutor, court clerk, defense attorney, bailiff, the wolf, and even the wolf's granny. The prosecution and the defense asked a lot of questions of the witnesses. Then the jurors deliberated. In the end, we had a hung jury, but we still had a lot of fun while learning.

This was a lesson that tied together student lessons on liberty and justice during social studies with our Junior Achievement project. Instead of taking the students on a field trip, we brought the courtroom to the students. With Mr. Wolfram's direction, students were able to learn about the justice system at their level. It was an exciting day; students took their parts seriously while enjoying what they had learned.



**Mrs. Ashley's Kindergarten Class "Tea With the Queen and Her Court"**

Miss Blossomtime (*representing the community of Baroda*) and her Baroda Court came to have tea with the kindergarten students. The class has been working on their manners and invited the Queen to help them practice. The class made tea and cookies and used their very best manners to impress the Queen.

**Roosevelt Elementary** [www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/roosevelt](http://www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/roosevelt)  
2000 El Dorado Drive, Stevensville, MI 49127

## Alphatown Mini-Society



Miss Kliemchen's fourth grade class created a mini-society where students were challenged to create a better world. Students decided on the type of gov-

ernment, the decision making process, the flag design, the currency, civic jobs, and other specific jobs needed for classmates to earn the funds necessary to start their business. Businesses were kicked off after performing a market survey. *Alphatown* businesses were open for three days; the products were not store-bought. All products were made by students using store-bought or homemade items, or providing a service.

Students voted to have a pure democracy. The students were invested in learning about economy, supply/demand, government, and how the subjects of school are used in real life.



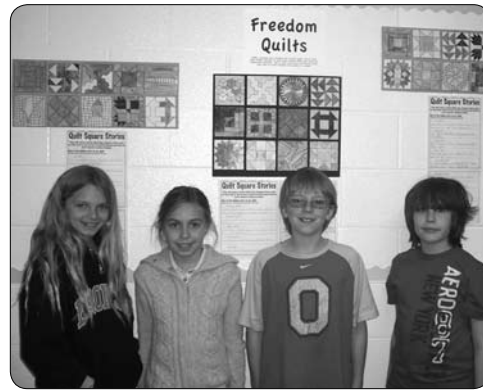
## Reading is Fun

Students in Mrs. Chorny's class enjoyed a reading activity with an indoor camping read-in. Students took turns eating s'mores in a tent while other stu-

dents read in their sleeping bags. Pictured in the photo are retired teacher and volunteer helper Mrs. Foxworthy, Tyler Westfall, Jordan Ramirez, Brooke Bowerfind, Samantha Zavoral, and Margaret Grover.



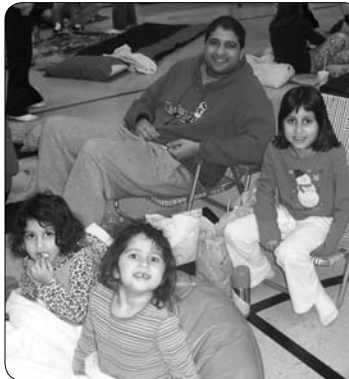
Roosevelt fourth graders dressed as "jazzers" get ready to perform their concert "Jazz." The third graders also performed.



## Freedom Quilt Project

As part of our 4th grade Social Studies curriculum, we study regions of the United States. During our study of the Midwest region our class read the novel *Train to Midnight* by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos. This historical fiction novel sparked students' interest in learn-

ing more about the *Underground Railroad*. We researched how it could be possible for fugitive slaves to communicate secretly and with ease. We discovered that slaves would carefully stitch picture symbols and patterns on quilts that served as a map for escaping slaves. Students then worked in small groups to create their own unique freedom quilts. Groups chose specific symbols and patterns that would help someone navigate their way from the southern states north to freedom in Canada. Each quilt is a beautiful work of art and helped students further their understanding of our region's history.



## Family Movie Night

Friends and family gather once a month to enjoy *Family Movie Night* at Roosevelt Elementary. The Roosevelt PTO has been hosting this family event for the past three years. Building school community is essential for positive student growth and learning. Bringing families together is one way that we have been able to do this. The PTO

shows a full length feature film and offers free popcorn and lemonade. This event usually attracts more than 150 participants!



5th Graders celebrate Earth Day



1st Graders celebrate Earth Day

## Earth Day Celebrated

Students celebrated Earth and its resources while participating in meaningful activities centered around "Reducing, Re-Using, Recycling, and Re-Buying." In honor of *Earth Day*, first graders received white pine tree saplings to plant at home. The trees were donated by *Berrien County Soil Conservation District*. First graders also took a field trip to the *St. Joseph Recycling Center*, where they dropped off and sorted newspaper, cardboard, phone books, batteries, and aluminum.

## Learning Respect for Others

At Stewart, and all the Lakeshore schools, students are taught respect for others. It is part of our daily routine and is integrated throughout the curriculum. Mrs. Christiano, our guidance counselor, with the support of all staff, teaches students in each grade level what it means to be respectful to others, and also the definition of Mean Behavior. "Mean behavior is ...mean looks, mean gestures, mean words, and mean actions that will hurt another student's...body, feelings, reputation, friendships, or property. It's NOT how you meant it, but how they felt it."

This definition is posted in the student handbook and in all classrooms. We strive to eliminate all mean behavior at school, and ensure that students are safe. A large part of what we do is help students learn about mean behavior and bullying and how to stop it. Under the guidance of adults, students often act out different scenarios to help them have the tools to stand up to a bully.

All staff have had extensive training in promoting safety and stopping mean behavior. One effective tool is the 15 Second Intervention.

- \*I saw you \_\_\_\_\_. Describe exactly.
- \*This behavior is mean/hurtful.
- \*I would never let someone disrespect/hurt you in that way if I saw it, and it's not OK to do what you just did to \_\_\_\_\_.
- \*We don't do that here.
- \*This needs to stop!

Students K-5 are taught how to be a helpful bystander to shut down bullying. This means that they will NOT get in the middle of a fight, but WILL go get help. In addition, they are learning to support the person being picked on by learning the following script: "I saw/heard what \_\_\_\_\_ did and that isn't cool, are you O.K.?" Then they are encouraged to include that student in an activity or help report the mean behavior to an adult. Students are taught that strength in numbers is a valuable tool in shutting down mean behavior, and how positive peer pressure can make a big difference. Ultimately, we focus on how each individual is responsible for his/her words, actions, and body language, and can choose to do the right thing.



## Protect Our Animals

Conservation Officer Bauer came to visit the third graders to help them learn about animal homes and how to protect them. The students were able to learn about laws for hunting and fishing, and ask questions to help them better understand how to take care of and respect animal homes.



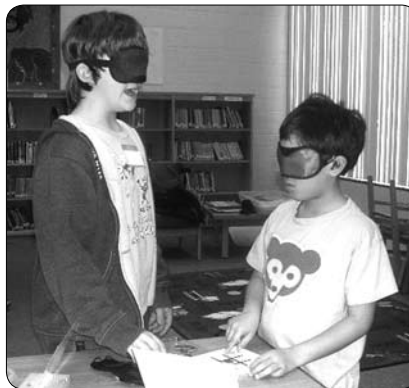
## Living Painting

The children in Mrs. Merrill's second grade class studied the urban community of San Francisco from 1846 through 2011. The children created a "living painting" of the city in 1846. They learned how an earthquake in 1906 changed the city. After studying the special events that formed the history of San Francisco, the children created a timeline to show the events in the order in which they happened.



## Respectful and Responsible

Students in Mrs. Harrison's class sang the National Anthem at the Blessing of the Blossoms on May 1, at the Blossom-time Youth Parade on May 5, and also at the Grand Floral Parade. They love the USA, can recite the Preamble to the Constitution, and list the names of all the presidents. At Stewart we are respectful, responsible citizens.



## Abilities Awareness Day

As part of Abilities Awareness Day at Stewart, fourth grade students found out what it is like to have a challenge to their lives like being blind, hearing impaired, needing crutches or a wheel chair, or learning differently. Pictured above, students wear masks while trying to play tic-tac-toe. They now have a greater appreciation of the trials many children encounter.

▶ Visit our website at: [www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/stewart](http://www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/stewart) to view a great reading list for parents focusing on bully prevention and so much more!



## eXtreme and Starz Team Poetry Slam

Students chose one poem to read that was written “from the heart” for the team’s Poetry Slam. The classmates voted for their top three choices within each hour, and ten middle school staff members chose the top three poems. The top eXtreme team poets are Alexis Hoffman with first place for “Special Moments,” Evan Ziebart with second place for “The Lonely Little Leaf,” and Mallory Mishler with third place for “Rain.” Sam Effa, Becca Meyer, and David Upton were top winners for the Starz team. Congratulations to these poets, and thank you to *Dairy Queen* in Stevensville and *Forever Books* in St. Joseph, who both provided prizes to the winning poets.

## Middle School Vocal Solo Ensemble

Congratulations to the Lakeshore Middle School Honors Choir and the individual choir students who participated in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) District 6 Middle School Solo Ensemble Festival. Nine of our events earned Division I ratings, three earned Division II ratings, and three events elected to participate for comments only.

Participants included: Tanya Blaylock, Janet Kaeding, Kate Lafrenz, Hailey Malone, Sofia Moreira, Abby Austin, Skylar DeLaTorre, Ly’Dia Ford, Ella Larson, Kristen Shepard, Courtney Vieau, Keiley Vieau, Michael Portis, Audrey Smith, Jalend Coleman, Patrick Hill, Charlie Hoch, Jaxson Lybbert, Matt Montgomery, Andrew Nasstrom, Nick Orlando, David Shane, Trey Cuellar, Mallory Mishler, Sara McGilvra, and Deanna Fife.



## Poetry Idol Video-conference

Twenty 8th grade students participated in a *Poetry Idol Video-conference* with students from Mt. Morris Schools near Flint.

Both groups of students read poems that they had written, and afterwards students determined each school’s *Poetry Idol* winner. The Mt. Morris students chose the following students as LMS winners (as pictured): Finalist JT Melton with “Text,” Finalist Keiley Vieau with

“I Could Write a Poem,” and Poetry Idol Winner Chris Green Jr. with “The Keithy Rap.” These students shared their poems with the LMS student body at a school-wide assembly. This was a great opportunity to have students write for an authentic audience.

## Civil War Day



**Students from Lakeshore Middle School have been studying the Civil War as part of an interdisciplinary unit. Their knowledge about the events prepared them for a tremendous opportunity.**

Reenactors representing President Abraham Lincoln, Admiral David Farragut, and members of the Union and Confederate Army delivered Civil War information using a creative, hands-on presentation. A representative from the *Michigan Civil War Sharpshooters* also spoke to students on a variety of historical topics. Students were able to view the uniforms, Union and Confederate packs, marching, and a range of military weaponry including a mortar explosion.

**This experience was a fun and educational way to bring history alive!**



## Lakeshore High School Academic Weighted and Unweighted Top Ten

Lauren Chorny, Sarah Klug, Monique Daignault, Kali Kretchman, Brenda Hodgell, Ellen Nightingale, Denise Tarnowski, Matthew Kee, Alex Farrington, William Otte III, Melanie Green, Alexandra Soos, Christina Welch, Emily LaManna, Sean McDowell, and Brian Hull.

## Lakeshore High Schools 2010-2011 National Honor Society Inductees

Nicholas Williams, Mitch Kauffman, Ryan Avery, Nathan Dohm, Alexander Moneta, Austin Flowers, Tyler Farrington, Jordan Avery,



Henry Gleiss, Alex Klunder, Jacob Crouch, Caleb Meyer, Zachary Tuller, Tyler Smith, Kasandra Stankiewicz, Emily Bublick, Marissa Marinello, Laura O'Connor, Alyson Snyder, Danielle Grover, Elizabeth McGough, Molly Dahmer, Leah Elliott, Irene Steinke, Emily LaManna, Courtney Peter, Claire Tyler, Casey Turney, and Kelly Risk.



## ALGEBRA JUMPSTART SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

In order to help students have a successful year in Algebra I, the high school math department is excited to offer a two-week algebra preparation program for incoming freshmen. The "Algebra JumpStart" program will run August 15th – August 26th, Monday through Friday, from 8 A.M. till 10 A.M. We will meet in room 116. Cost of the program is \$75.

Information and registration forms are available at the middle school office, the high school office, and on the middle school's website.

Please contact Katie Woodard at the high school if you have any questions at:

[kwoodard@lakeshoreps.org](mailto:kwoodard@lakeshoreps.org)



was to help prepare for the AP U.S. History test they took on May 6. If the students do well on this test, they can earn college credits as sophomores.

## Historical Chicago

The Advanced Placement U.S. History classes at the high school went on an exciting field trip to learn about various historic sites in Chicago. Fifty students and six chaperones toured *Pullman*, site of the *Pullman Strike* in 1893, the site of the *Great Chicago Fire*, the *Jane Addams-Hull House*, the site of the *1886 Haymarket Riot*, the *1893 Chicago World's Fair*, and even *President Obama's house*. The trip

## After Prom Thank You

Lakeshore After Prom was held on May 15, 2011. Approximately 400 students attended an evening of fun, food, games, and prizes. The 2011 After Prom Committee would like to thank the local businesses who sponsored this event. After Prom would not be possible without the generous support of our community donors.

The Committee would also like to thank the Lakeshore parents and supporters who have made monetary donations and volunteered their time, energy, and resources while performing the numerous duties that made this event possible. We thank Lakeshore High School and the maintenance staff for their continuing assistance. Please see the Lakeshore website for a list of After Prom Sponsors at: [www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/high](http://www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/high)



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# Upcoming Events

June 5 High School Graduation Ceremony  
 3:00 P.M. Al Stockman Stadium  
 June 8 End of Semester Last Day for Students ½ day  
 June 13 Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 P.M. MS Media Center

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## Lakeshore Summer Camps


There are a variety of fun and affordable summer camps available for your student through the summer months.

Visit the Lakeshore Website for more information and registration forms:

[www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/summercamps](http://www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/summercamps)


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