

LAKESHORE LIGHT

October 2011

What's Inside?

Calendar	2
Listening & Learning Meetings	2
Hollywood Elementary	3
Roosevelt Elementary	4
Stewart Elementary	5
Middle School	6
High School	7
Lakeshore Excellence Foundation	7
Advertisers	8

From the Superintendent



Cindy Vujea
Superintendent

Lakeshore Lancers: Centered on Excellence in Education

The 2011-2012 school year promises to be another incredible year in which everyone works hard to achieve educational excellence! In fact, it is such a strong commitment, we are using the above statement as our focus this year.

In the August edition of the Lakeshore Light, I introduced the three areas of focus for this school year, as we move forward in our quest of continuous improvement in our service to students, families, and the community:

Lakeshore Lancers: Centered on Excellence in Education

1. Strong partnerships among staff, students, and parents, and between the district and the community
2. Fiscal responsibility and good stewardship of educational resources
3. Outcomes that ensure our children are competitive locally and globally

"In order for the school district to plan for the future, we need to know more about your hopes and dreams for Lakeshore children and the school district."

This month I will be focusing on areas one and two.

1) Strong partnerships among staff, students, and parents, and between the district and the community

The focus of this goal will be to dedicate time to listening to and learning from people across the school district. This will happen in a variety of ways that include but will not be limited to: surveys, public forums, parent/teacher conferences, informal conversations that take place at school and community events, and through advisory group discussions.

In order for the school district to plan for the future, we need to know more about your hopes and dreams for Lakeshore children and the school district.

Therefore, I will be scheduling time to meet with parents and community members in small

groups throughout the school year. Those meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of the month. You will see in the schedule on page two that the times will alternate (days and evenings) by month so that it is more convenient for people to attend. Each meeting will be directed toward one of the three mentioned themes for this year: Home/School/Community Partnerships, School Finance, or 21st Century Learning and Outcomes.

See: Listening and Learning Meetings PAGE 2.

I understand that many of you have incredibly busy lives so we will keep the meetings to a one hour time period.

I believe these meetings will enable us all to learn from one another. While I can certainly help you understand the strengths and challenges facing the school district today, I have a lot to learn from all of you because I have only been a part of the Lakeshore community for a year. In addition, Board members will be in attendance and involved in the discussions as their schedules allow.

In order to plan appropriately, please RSVP to Judy Benjamin, my Administrative Assistant, at:

jbenjamin@lakeshoreps.org or 269-428-1400 and let us know you will be attending.

There is no requirement as to the number of meetings you may attend. The more people who attend the meetings, the more likely it is that we will understand the wishes and dreams of our community. We are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with you!

2) Fiscal responsibility and good stewardship of educational resources

Continued PAGE 4.



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>

2011 - 2012 Calendar

October 25

MS/HS Fall Choir Concert,
7:00 P.M., LHS

November 4

End of 1st Marking Period
½ day for Grades K-5

November 7

Professional Development Day
No School

November 17

Parent/Teachers Conferences
½ day for Students

November 23-25

Thanksgiving Recess No School

November 25

Men's Basketball Alumni Event
following Meet the Team Night
Want to be involved? email:
LHShoopalum@yahoo.com

December 2

HS Holiday Choir Concert, 7:00 P.M.,
1st Congregational Church, 2001 Niles
Ave., St. Joseph

December 8

Elementary & MS Holiday Choir
Concert, 7:00 P.M., LHS

December 16 & 17

Berrien County Dancers
Winter Concert, 7 P.M., LHS

December 23

½ Day Teachers and Students

December 26-January 6

Winter Recess No School

January 16

M.L. King Day ½ day Students/ ½ day
Professional Development teachers

January 21

Berrien County Dancers
Dance Marathon, 9 A.M.-9 P.M., LHS

January 25

End of Semester full day for ALL
students

January 26

Teacher Record Day
Students not in attendance



in this 24-hour event on June 25-26th. If you are interested in participating with the *Lakeshore Relay for Life* team, please contact Katy Carpenter at: kcarpenter@lakeshoreps.org.

Relay for Life

The *Lakeshore Lancers to Cure Cancer Relay for Life Team* would like to thank staff, students, families, and community members who supported fundraising efforts this year. As a team, we raised over \$16,000 for the American Cancer Society! Lakeshore staff members and LHS National Honor Society students, along with their friends and families, participated



RECESS: Fun and So Much More...

Ask any first grader, "What's the best part of your day?" and you will hear an enthusiastic reply, "RECESS!" Besides fun with friends, recess provides important opportunities. Children learn to work together and solve problems, take care of each other and their school, and build healthy habits for physical fitness. Confidence and pride grows as kids

challenge themselves to go farther or reach higher than they did the day before. Recess certainly is fun AND it is an essential part of a child's day!

Listening and Learning Meetings

Please plan on attending the Listening and Learning Meetings. These meetings will focus on: *strong partnerships among staff, students, and parents, and between the district and the community.*

Date:	Time:	Place:
October 5, 2011	9 A.M.-10 A.M.	Superintendent's Office
<i>Theme: Home/School/Community Partnerships</i>		
November 2, 2011	6 P.M.-7 P.M.	Superintendent's Office
<i>Theme: Home/School/Community Partnerships</i>		
December 7, 2011	9 A.M.-10 A.M.	Superintendent's Office
<i>Theme: School Finance</i>		
January 4, 2012	No Meeting	Winter Recess
February 1, 2012	6 P.M.-7 P.M.	Superintendent's Office
<i>Theme: School Finance</i>		
March 7, 2012	9 A.M.-10 A.M.	Superintendent's Office
<i>Theme: 21st Century Learning and Outcomes</i>		
April 4, 2012	No Meeting	Spring Recess
May 2, 2012	6 P.M.	Superintendent's Office
<i>Theme: 21st Century Learning and Outcomes</i>		

The Amazing Hollywood Garden

Hollywood 5th graders spent time investigating our amazing Hollywood Garden on the first day of school. They were



asked to observe the garden this fall with the goal of noticing any changes that took place over the last three months. After spending time making observations, the students were able to share their findings with the rest of the class.

We noticed that Trumpet Vines were exploding with blooms and seed pods. -Veda and Cookie

We noticed that the twin-sized flower "bed" has grown to a king size, and that the red blooms look like a blanket on top. -Tyler, Anthony, and David

We noticed that the tomato crop was a mixture of red ripe and orange almost ready. -Mason and Stevie

I noticed that the red raspberries were delicious... -Chase

GARDENING WITH MRS. ROSE!

Hollywood 4th graders enjoy garden time with Mrs. Rose once a week throughout the fall season. Mrs. Rose is a retired teacher from Hollywood who has a vast knowledge of gardening. The focus this school year will be the Butterfly Garden, an Eagle Scout project that her son created. As students work in the garden, Mrs. Rose emphasizes the 4th grade science curriculum relating to plants. Students will be mapping and weeding the garden. The students will also learn about the basic needs of plants and animals, along with the physical characteristics that help them survive and reproduce.

Constitution Day - Hollywood third graders celebrated



Constitution Day using 21st Century Technology. Students explored different locations in the United States using Google Earth then watched a great video and listened to a rhythmic song

downloaded from YouTube. Finally, students tested their Constitution knowledge by using the SMART Response "clickers."



Daily 5 -- Many elementary classrooms in Lakeshore are implementing "Daily 5," a program that promotes maximum growth in literacy for young students. In Daily 5, children are provided a quiet environment in which to practice reading and writing skills. The Daily 5 components are: *1. Read to Self, 2. Read to Someone, 3. Listen to Someone Read, 4. Word Work, and 5. Writing.* The children learn to choose "right fit" books that are neither too easy nor too hard and given time to concentrate on reading, either to themselves or with a partner. The children may also choose to listen to a recording of fluent reading as they follow along in their books. Opportunities to practice spelling and writing are also provided during Daily 5. At the same time, the teacher will be teaching individual students or small groups, based on assessment data. The activities of Daily 5 are founded on serious educational research in effective instruction, but the children just know that they love their Daily 5 time!



Back in the Routine - The opening weeks of school have been busy in the Hollywood Kindergarten classrooms! Students have been working hard to learn routines, procedures, and expectations. It isn't easy for young children to return from summer break and get their bodies to be still and listen—they are, however, doing a fantastic job! We are talking about how to share, solve problems, and work together. We have been practicing routines for fire drills, lining up for lunch, being respectful in the hallways, and being safe on the playground. Also, our students are learning how special they each are through our "All About Me" themes. We are excited about bringing up another great group of kids into the Hollywood Family!

**From the Principal:**

What really goes on during the first two weeks of school? The answer is ... learning!

Kindergarten

Believe it or not, our kindergarten friends are busy learning their letters, sounds, numbers, and practicing daily life skills like standing patiently in a line and washing hands.

First Grade

First grade students are busy practicing their number skills in math. Students explore many math concepts by working with geoboards, polydrons, and sorting.

Second Grade

Second grade students practice "Building Stamina" in their reading. The students in Mrs. Winsman's class have already built up to 20 minutes of sustained reading!

Third Grade

Third graders have already been composing writing pieces and analyzing literature. Students read text selections and identify key story elements using a graphic organizer.

Fourth Grade

Assessment is a large part of what our teachers do each day in order to determine the learning needs of our students. Fourth grade students have been working on a Math assessment. The data from these common assessments help us provide specific support for all students at every level.

Fifth Grade

Much of the work that is done in 5th grade has a focus on cooperative group and learning projects. Fifth grade students have created board games that are based on their science lessons. This type of activity allows children to utilize their learning and apply it in a creative, cooperative, and project based way, and it's fun too!

See photos on our website at:

www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us/roosevelt

SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED ...

Through a great deal of hard work, shared sacrifice, and a strong commitment to keeping Lakeshore schools the outstanding school district our community has come to know and love, I am pleased and proud to share information that sets us apart as great stewards of our educational resources.

Rehmann Robson has recently completed the annual independent auditors' report and has given the Board an "unqualified opinion." For those of you who are not familiar with that phrase, it is a very good outcome and indicates Lakeshore Public School District's financial statements "reflect fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the school district, as of June 30, 2011."

Other notable financial information that reflects the Board's commitment to being fiscally responsible and outstanding stewards of the district's educational resources include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Finalizing the 2010-2011 budget, reflecting a bottom line that is \$582,000 better than what was projected.
- Maintaining a fund balance of nearly 15%, as recommended by our auditors, enabling us to operate without having to borrow money for cash flow purposes. Rather than paying interest on a loan to cover our day-to-day operations, as is happening in many school districts across the state, we are able to keep our dollars focused on educating our students. As State funding for public schools continues to decrease, maintaining this level of fund

balance becomes a bigger and bigger challenge for public school districts.

- Continuing to reduce the expenditures to our budget by:
 - o Expanding the number of contracted employees in the custodial and maintenance budget through attrition when they resign or retire.
 - o Reducing all supply budgets by 12% and purchasing supplies through a regional consortium.
 - o Continuing to share our Operations/Maintenance Director with Bridgman.
 - o Continuing to share our Transportation Department with Bridgman Schools.
 - Bridgman contracts with Lakeshore for the services of the Director of Transportation, the Bus Dispatcher, and the Bus Mechanic.
 - The transportation department reduced costs by sharing the transportation of students in order to best utilize driver time.
 - Route times have been reduced while still enabling students to arrive safely to school, with enough time for breakfast, so they are ready to learn.
 - Negotiating contracts that are fair to the employees but reduce the financial burden on the school district.
 - o Administrators, secretaries, custodians/maintenance, and technology personnel all agreed to go into the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool for their 2011-2012 insurance plan. Maintaining the 2010-2011 plan would have



Constitution Day

Can first graders understand the Constitution? Absolutely!! Constitution Day was celebrated on September 16 by students learning that the Constitution is a set of rules. Then, students created a Constitution Day hat to celebrate the men who wrote the Constitution.



Welcome to Music

Stewart kindergartners move to the song "Welcome to Music." This year all Lakeshore students, including kindergartners, have Music class once a week for 45 minutes where they work on singing, steady beat, rhythm, movement, and having fun!



Energy and Ice Cream

Mrs. Rettig, an intern teacher from Western Michigan, is teaching Mrs. Holling's fourth grade class the process of energy transfer by having students make their own ice cream in a bag. Not only did the students learn first hand about energy, they got to eat ice cream as well. Yum! Then students wrote in their journals about their Science experience.



Community The children in Mrs. Merrill's second grade class learned about what is found in a community. After learning that people live, work, play, and solve problems in a community, the children were sent out to create their own communities. Each community displayed a place where people live, work, play, and solve problems. The children even learned a special song about communities, which they sang as they created their poster.

The MEAP This fall, our students will be part of Michigan's MEAP assessment program. Please mark your calendars and try not to schedule appointments outside of school on the following dates: Tues. Oct. 11 Reading Grades: 3, 4, 5, Wed. Oct. 12 Reading Grades: 3, 4, 5, Thurs. Oct. 13 Writing Grade 4 only, Tues. Oct. 18 Math Grades: 3, 4, 5, and Wed. Oct. 19 Writing Grade 4; Science Grade 5.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED ...

resulted in a 33% increase in costs. The cost for the new plan will remain approximately what it was in 2010-2011. Traditionally, teachers would have received a step increase of approximately 1.68% and a wage increase for the 2011-2012 school year. However, in an effort to work with the Board to keep the district in a strong financial position and focus the funding on what is best for students, teachers agreed to freeze their step increases for the 2011-2012 school year, and further agreed to a modest 1.5% pay increase. The result was a savings of \$219,000.

- Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer for the district to refinance the 1995 bond, which saved \$686,000. This bond was already refinanced once in 2000; however, with interest rates so low, it was advantageous and appropriate to refinance again.
- Restructuring job descriptions and work day schedules for new employees in order to provide the support needed in a more cost effective manner.
- Hiring part-time teachers to support the elementary schools in the areas of language arts and mathematics, enabling us to reduce class sizes from approximately 30 children per class to approximately 20 in those two key areas of instruction.
- Using the voter approved Building and Site Fund to offset some of the general fund dollars for the repair and maintenance of our current facilities.
- Working in collaboration with

Continued SUPERINTENDENT PAGE 7.

Student Receives Military Honor

Last fall Bryce Robinson, LMS seventh grader, connected with one of his mother's former high school classmates, who was serving in the military. Sergeant Lance Reeves and Bryce corresponded through Facebook. Their relationship sparked Bryce's interest in the military. Realizing the troops would be missing their families during the holidays, Bryce decided he wanted to do something to support the troops. He began writing Christmas cards to the troops. What started out as a small undertaking ended up with Bryce writing 500 Christmas cards! The cards were sent to Sergeant Reeves, who is based at Fort Campbell in Kentucky; he distributed the cards to the Bravo Company.

On September 13th, at the middle school's first Family Meeting, Sergeant Reeves surprised Bryce. He presented Bryce with a four star military coin, a flag from Fort Campbell to fly at Bryce's home, and a certificate signed by the General in gratitude for his support of the troops. Sergeant Reeves also addressed the student body, speaking to them about heroes and the pride he has in serving his country. Bryce Robinson was one of those heroes that Sergeant Reeves spoke of that day. Bryce plans on an even bigger Christmas Card Campaign this year, which will include many of his classmates.

Middle School and the MEAP

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) will be administered to students beginning Tuesday, October 11, 2011 (see schedule of testing below). This is an exciting time for all students at Lakeshore Middle School, as it is a chance for them to shine. It also is a wonderful way to check our students' progress.

It is very important that students do not miss school during the MEAP testing. While exams and tests can be made up in emergencies, the MEAP testing window is small and it could become problematic should a student miss days of MEAP testing. Students eating a good breakfast helps jump start their body and allows them to have greater concentration. Along with breakfast, we will attempt to provide an environment that is conducive for all our students to be successful on the MEAP test. It is equally important for you to encourage your child(ren) to do their best. You can assist your child(ren) by getting them to bed early, so they get plenty of sleep. Each student will be provided a healthy snack and water. They will also do a few minutes of exercise to get the students' blood flowing during testing. Studies have shown that children have higher achievement when these steps are taken.

The State of Michigan has raised the bar this year for student proficiency on these tests. The MEAP results are used to adjust curriculum, rank schools in our community, and guide schools in long range planning to improve educational opportunities. We view these tests as very critical and ask our students to do the same. Doing their very best is the expectation we have for all our students.

Tuesday, Oct. 11	Reading Day 1
Wednesday, Oct. 12	Reading Day 2
Thursday, Oct. 13	Writing Day 1 (7th grade)
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Math Parts 1 & 2
Wednesday, Oct. 19	Writing Day 2 (7th grade) Science Parts 1 & 2 (8th grade) Social Studies Part 1 & 2 (6th grade)

Life in the Middle

Another school year is off and running and for 6th graders in the middle school. It may not be as scary an ordeal as they anticipated. To be sure, life "in the middle" is different than their elementary days, but they seem to have adjusted quickly and enjoy the coming together of schools to form the Class of 2018.

"Life in the middle school is very different and exciting. You have different teachers for every subject." -- *Kendra Green*
Roosevelt Elementary to Dream Team

"Middle school is one of the best things that ever happened to me. This is because of the fantastic teachers and school community." -- *Colin Ashley*
Hollywood Elementary to Dream Team

"The first week can be confusing. But eventually you learn to become responsible. Sixth grade has become fun." -- *Sakina Neemuchwala*
Stewart Elementary to Thinkers Team

"In the middle school life is harder. We have to take more responsibility. I love the teachers and so far it's awesome." -- *Zach Sloniker*
Stewart Elementary to Dream Team

"I have more privileges as a middle-schooler. I enjoy everything from the food to classes." -- *Ryan Toering*
Hollywood Elementary to Dream Team

More commentary on the Lakeshore Middle School Website....

4th Annual Brian D. Siewert "Artists in Motion" Scholarship Award

It is with great pleasure that Lakeshore High School announces Kali



Kretchman as the winner of the 2011 Brian D. Siewert "Artists in Motion" scholarship. This is the fourth year Lakeshore alumnus and 4 time winner of the prestigious Emmy Award Brian D. Siewert has awarded the \$10,000 scholarship to an outstanding senior at Lakeshore High School. The scholarship committee reviewed and interviewed several applicants in the field of the arts

such as dancers, singers, actors, musicians, and artists.

"Kali Kretchman is a dynamic, professional young talent. The judges unanimously agreed that she possesses the elements required to succeed in her chosen artistic field," stated Siewert. Kali is currently pursuing a Fine Arts degree in the field of packaging design at Michigan State University.

LEF Stepping Stones to Enrichment



The Stepping Stones to Enrichment program provides financial assistance to Lakeshore students to pursue their interests, whether it is band, academics, language skills, athletics, and much more. Stepping Stones simply requires the student to be passionate about his/her interest and to complete the appropriate application. Grades and family economics are NOT a factor in approving the application. This LEF funded program is open to ALL Lakeshore students, from grades K-12. The deadlines to apply are November 1st and April 1st of each year. Obtain additional information and application forms online at www.l-e-f.org, or by emailing Tom Mikel at tom@tommikel.com.

Family Fun Ride

Seventy riders of all ages came out for the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation's 3rd Annual Family Fun Ride on Sunday, September 18th. There was a steady stream of bicycles on the new 5-mile route with more experienced riders taking on the 15 and 30-mile routes. The LEF is excited about this year's participation and is gearing up for next year's event.



Many thanks to our GREAT SPONSORS: Scott Berry Promotions, Martins Supermarket, Barrett & Driscoll, MDs, Right at Home, Chemical Bank, Boelcke Heating, Sunset Coast Anesthesia, Bob & Cindy Vujea, Schultz Roofing, and Pizza Hut. And a huge THANK YOU to all the pedaling FAMILIES, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS! See you next year!

SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED ...

the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, various booster groups, and PTO organizations to offset costs of athletics, the fine and performing arts, technology, etc.

- Accepting and applying the generous direct donations of several local businesses and community members to support our students.

Our Board and the staff, through hard work and shared sacrifice, have been successful balancing the district expenditures with the revenue received. We look forward to the time when our state has recovered from the financial challenges of the past 10 years and can adequately fund public education. In the meantime, please know that we will continue to:

- be great stewards of the funding we receive,
- look for ways to do more with less,
- listen to you, and learn what is most important, as we plan for the future,
- AND, we will always keep what is best for Lakeshore children in mind and at the center of our decision-making.

It is essential that you know that in spite of the financial challenges and the continued reduction in revenue over the past several years, Lakeshore has not had to eliminate any programs, due to a lack of finances. I am grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to keep Lakeshore a financially viable and strong school district. The collaboration and commitment by all stakeholder groups has enabled Lakeshore students to benefit from one of the best overall educational programs in all of Michigan and our country.

In conclusion, you can rest assured that we are all committed to keeping Lakeshore Schools financially healthy, while providing an education centered on excellence in education – our children deserve no less. The Board, administration, staff, and I look forward to working in partnership with you to make 2011-2012 the best school year ever!

Very sincerely,
Cindy Vujea

School has started...
**Let us help your kids
 catch up, keep up
 or get ahead in Math.**

Call us today and receive \$31.42 off
 assessment or program fees.
 (Tell us why we picked \$31.42
 and get another \$5 off.)

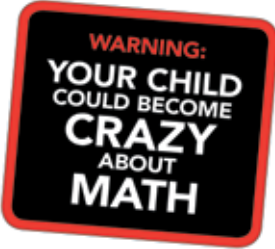
Not valid with any other offers or promotions.
 Offer expires 11/01/11.

Ask about our late start
 Wednesday morning program!

MATHNASIUM
 The Math Learning Center

(next to the new Martin's & Anytime Fitness)

Email: stevensville@mathnasium.com • Web: mathnasium.com/stevensville



Mathnasium of Stevensville
 5651 Cleveland Avenue
 Stevensville, MI

PRO

MUFFLER & BRAKE

2094 M-139
 Benton Harbor, MI 49022
 (269) 926-2006
 ProMufflerandBrake.com

**Same Day Service
 Free Estimates**

Accepting New Patients



Heidi M. Grabemeyer, MD,
 Obstetrics and Gynecology
 2690 Cleveland Avenue,
 St. Joseph, Michigan
 For appointments call
 269-428-2800 or 877-624-9648.

South Shore
 Obstetrics & Gynecology
 Women's Health Care

www.sswhc.org



Shelle Dragomer
 Realtor

**COLDWELL
 BANKER**
 ADVANTAGE



(269) 757-3999 CELL
 (269) 429-3070 BUSINESS
 (269) 429-5029 FAX
shelledragomer@yahoo.com

4333 Red Arrow Highway
 Stevensville, MI 49127

Bridgman Family Dental Care



**Great Halloween
 Candy Buy Back**

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
 4-6 P.M. Bridgman Family
 Dental Office

We will pay \$1 to your chil-
 dren, up to 12 years of age, for
 every pound of candy (up to 5
 pounds). We are sending this
 candy overseas to the military.
 Money for you, candy for the
 Troops!

NapDentistry.com
 Office: 269-465-5151

Lake Michigan Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Brad Logie, DDS, MD

Full Scope Oral Surgery
 Including:
 IV Sedation
 Wisdom Teeth Extractions
 Implants

(269) 556-9398

Lakeland Health Park
www.lakemichiganoms.com

NetDesigns

A Web Design Company

View Recent Projects:

lakeshorelancersports.com
netdesignsonline.com
berrienchild.org
buyitonmainstreet.com
blackwidowarms.com
jllandscapingsite.com
lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us

Wendy Bedell
wendy.bedell@gmail.com

Board of Education Regular Meetings

2011-2012 School Year

*Regular Meetings
 Held on the second Monday
 of the month at 5:30 P.M.
 in the High School Media
 Center*

*October 10, 2011
 November 14, 2011
 December 12, 2011
 January 9, 2012
 February 13, 2012
 March 12, 2012
 April 16, 2012 3rd Monday
 May 14, 2012
 June 11, 2012*

The Lakeshore Light

5771 Cleveland Avenue
 Stevensville, MI 49127
 (269) 428-1400

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 STEVENSVILLE,
 MICHIGAN
 PERMIT NO. 5

ECRWSS
 Postal Customer

Visit the Lakeshore website for details on how your business can
 advertise in the Lakeshore Light. www.lakeshoreschools.k12.mi.us