And the Walls Came Tumbling Down

The first phase of the construction of the new elementary schools in Lancaster was completed recently when demolition crews brought down the former North Elementary School on Broad Street. For a look at the plans for the school that will replace North as well as two of the other schools, please refer to Page 7.

What’s Inside ...

Mary Gorsuch Honored for Generous Donation .... 2
Lancaster Schools Focusing on Student Safety .... 3
Eagle Scout Project helps soccer program .... 4
Math Centers Help Students Learn .... 5
Culinary Arts Students Set to Compete .... 6
Schools Unveil Designs for First Three Schools .... 7
Where Does the District Get its Money? .... 8
Scenes from LHS Winter Sports .... 9
LHS Drama Club Production Earns High Praise .... 10
From the Board of Education

Mary Gorsuch Recognized for Generous Donation

Mary Gorsuch was recognized by Lancaster City Schools for her generous donation to the district at the January Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Gorsuch donated approximately 16.5 acres of land in the Hunter Trace area for the construction of one of Lancaster’s new elementary school buildings. The district recognized Mary with a plaque in the shape of a flame to represent her gift which provides the students of Lancaster with knowledge to enlighten their lives. Thank you Mary Gorsuch!
Student Safety a Top Priority for our Schools

Recent school shootings at Sandy Hook elementary school and other schools serve as a somber reminder that the safety of our students and staff are of paramount importance. The staff and administration of Lancaster City Schools work diligently to insure the safest learning environment that we can reasonably provide to our students. Our staffs are well trained in the most up to date emergency response methods in conjunction with the Lancaster Police Department, the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Department, the Lancaster Fire Department, and the Fairfield Co. Office of Emergency Management.

All of our building administrators have been trained in the Readiness and Emergency Management System as well as the National Incident Management System since 2007. In addition, Lancaster High School has a full time deputy sheriff on duty. Our buildings have safety teams in place with specific responsibilities which are rehearsed through table top drills where emergency scenarios are reviewed. These drills lead to building security improvements in our school buildings. Emergency drills are routinely practiced so staff and students know how to respond and keep everyone as safe as possible in the event of a crisis. In September, we hosted a workshop for our building administrators and members of our local safety forces to work with national safety consultants in order to improve our emergency response procedures.

Since December, all of our building administrators have taken an on line training course from Homeland Security for an active shooter in the building. We have also sent a team of administrators to the Ohio Peace Officers Training Association active shooter workshop at the Fairfield County Education Service Center. Our building administrators have also implemented tighter restrictions on adults entering schools, including the start and end of the school day.

In January we met with Lancaster Chief of Police Dave Bailey and Sergeant Mike Peters to exchange ideas to increase school security. As a result of these meetings, we will hire Lancaster City Police Officers to cover our junior high and elementary schools on a rotating basis. We also coordinated the active shooter emergency response training scenario at Thomas Ewing with volunteer staff members, students, and Lancaster City Police Officers.

Our national safety consultants will return in March to conduct vulnerability assessments in our buildings and continue to work with us on our emergency procedures. For next school year, we are planning to make modifications to the entrance ways of our buildings to prevent visitors from entering without being seen. We also hope to hold more training scenarios in other school buildings with the Lancaster Police Department.

In order to make these improvements in building safety, we have had to reallocate funds that were budgeted for other purposes. We believe that this is an investment in the safety of our students and staff is worth the money spent. The Lancaster City School District is committed to providing a safe environment for our students and staff both now and in the future.

LHS Students Invited to State of Ohio Educational Technology Conference

What started as a field trip quickly turned into a massive collaborative effort between the broadcasting, journalism and multimedia programs at Lancaster High School.

“I was awarded a grant to take a bunch of my students to the 2013 ETech Conference,” said LHS Journalism teacher Chad Sinnott. “Next thing I know, our team, along with some other kids, are the official documentarians for the whole conference.”

That team is a group of 20 juniors and seniors, all members of the three aforementioned programs. A bidding process led by Educational Information and Technology Services Director Kevin Snyder and LSN Station Manager Kyle Lewis afforded the group a contract to create a documentary covering the conference. In addition to the video, the students will use social media to give people a real-time look into the events.

“We took some students to make a documentary video about last year’s Ohio School Boards Association conference,” said Scott Burke, LHS Broadcasting teacher. “The kids did a great job then, so we jumped at the chance to do this project. Plus it gets the kids out of Lancaster for a while and lets them have some fun in Columbus.”

The journalism students will be interviewing conference attendees, as well as providing first-hand reports, all of which will go out on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

“This is a real-world, client-based assignment for these guys,” Lewis said. “So far they have been doing short films, commercials for school events and stuff like that. We’re going to really challenge these kids to push themselves and what they can do. It should be a lot of fun, and they’ll get a taste of what is waiting for them when they get out into the work force.”
Eagle Scout Project to Benefit Soccer Team

By Kaci Marvin
LHS Journalism Student

Jacob Cordle's project of building a shed for Lancaster High School in late July of 2012 earned him a significant achievement – his Eagle Scout rating.

Cordle, a sophomore at Lancaster High School, is a part of Boy Scouts in Lancaster. Cordle's process to earn an Eagle Scout meant he had to complete a community service project that the Eagle Board of Review checks to make sure it has met all the requirements.

Along with being a Boy Scout, Cordle is a member of the LHS varsity soccer team. His project was to build a shed that the team could go into during half time of their games. Cordle described that Gales coach Kent Conklin had to talk with his hands during games and had no way to draw up a visual for his players before the shed.

"Players would come up to coach after halftime and talk one-on-one so they could understand," Cordle stated.

Cordle started this project in late July 2012, and it was completed in November. Cordle had help from R&B construction, his troop and his parents. The 14x16 shed also has benches for the team and whiteboards for the coach to draw up plays.

Becoming an Eagle Scout takes a lot of time and dedication from the troop. Each Boy Scout has to progress through six rankings. Only 20% of Boy Scouts become Eagle Scouts.

When any Boy Scout completes a project to become an Eagle Scout, the project has to be checked by the Eagle Board of Review. The Eagle Board of Review checks for requirements such as if the Boy Scout conducted the project himself and if the project is of value to the community.

Cordle is assistant senior patrol for his troop and is an assistant to Zachary Higgins, a junior at LHS. Their job is to check the troop to make sure projects and goals are being met.

Our local Boy Scouts do a lot for the surrounding community. Cordle's troop helps the Maple Street Methodist Church with their yearly fish fry, a dinner where anyone can come in and eat for free.

"I definitely get a lot of satisfaction from helping all the people in my community," Cordle said.

Parents Play a Vital Role in Helping Students Get Ready for Testing

The Ohio Graduation Test week is scheduled for March 11-15 for grades 10-12. For elementary school through eighth grade, April 22-26 has been set for the standardized testing. Depending on your child's grade level, those group tests will be either Iowa Achievement and CogAT Ability Testing or the State Reading, Math, and Science Achievement Test.

Many parents wonder what they can do to help their students before and during the weeks these important tests are taken. Here are some tips:

First of all, why do we test?

It's helpful for a child to understand why the state mandates that public schools give tests and to know the different kinds of tests. Talk to your child about how tests are yardsticks. Schools use them to measure and then improve education. Some tell schools that they need to strengthen or change teaching techniques. All tests determine how well "your child" is doing. So it's very important for them to do the best they can do on the test, not only to show how much they know and have progressed compared to many other students, but also to show where they may be advanced, or need extra support in a subject.

Here are some tips parents can use to make for the best "test day" ever for their child:

- **Regular Attendance.** Make sure your child attends school every day. Remember, tests do reflect children's overall achievement.
- **Talk About How Sticking To A Task And Working Hard Is Important.** The more effort and energy a child puts into learning, the more likely he/she will do well on tests.
- **But Offer Perspective.** Help children remember that no one gets all answers correct on a standardized test. Tell them not to stress out over the test, especially once it's done. Say, “If you've given it your best, that's all you can do. Worrying won't change the outcome, and this one test isn't the most important thing in the world.”
- **Give Them Calming Strategies.** Taking a deep breath or two, using positive self-talk, just tackling one problem or page at a time.
- **Ensure a Good Night's Sleep.** Make sure your child is well-rested every school day, but especially the day of the test. Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges.
- **Make the Morning of Test Days Happy.** Stress will impair your children's ability to perform their best, so getting to school on time is a must. And send them out the door with a smile and a hug!
- **Be Prepared.** Have your child choose clothes the
Math Centers Helping Students Learn

Learning centers are usually areas within the classroom where students work in small groups or independently to reinforce specific skills or concepts within an allotted period of time. Although centers, or stations, have been around for many years and there are a variety of ways to implement them, Sue Householder and Casey Rife started using math centers in fourth grade as a part of the students’ daily routine.

The math class is divided in half – half of the class receives whole group instruction with the Title I teacher while the other half of the class works in math centers. Depending on the center in the rotation, students work with an assigned partner on an activity, alone on an independent assignment, or directly with the math teacher. After 30 minutes, the two halves switch.

Differentiating math instruction has become a reality. Math centers have allowed the teacher to work with students who need remediation and to enrich students who need to be challenged. Sue now has the flexibility of working with a small group or working one-on-one with a student.

By allowing the teacher to differentiate instruction, students are actively engaged in their learning and excited about math. Centers are a win-win situation for everyone!

Testing, from page 4

night before to avoid a stressful last-minute rush in the morning. If your child wears glasses, make sure they’re clean and ready to go. Also have book bag packed and ready the night before.

• Select Proper Clothing. Have your child pick out and wear comfortable clothing. Consider layering clothes to avoid being too hot or cold during testing.

• Fix Good Meals. Provide healthy, low sugar foods for breakfast. Kids test and learn better on full stomachs, but if their stomachs are full of sugary foods that make them sleepy or slightly queasy, it’s not much better than an empty stomach. Research shows good nutrition is related to improved attention and concentration.

• Get Physical. Give your child the opportunity to exercise after school, especially outside when possible. Studies have shown that exercise, especially “crossing the mid-line” exercises and being in the natural world outside, get both sides of the brain engaged, improve mood, and increase ability to focus and pay attention.

• Provide Reading Material At Home For Your Child. Through reading, a child will learn new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's teacher about a suggested outside reading list or get suggestions from the public library.

• Provide Encouragement. Always be your child's best cheerleader, because ALL children are born with gifts, no matter how they do on tests. Encourage your child to have a positive attitude, and to do the best possible work during testing. Remind your child to tell him or herself, “I can do it!”
Culinary Arts Students to Take Part in GFS Ohio ProStart® Invitational

Lancaster will take four teams to the GFS Ohio ProStart® Invitational competition. The senior management team is headed by Brenden Scott, Captain, and Shelbee Haycook, co-captain. Ben Seaver and Zach Hartman round out the team.

The junior culinary team is led by captain Brandon Foster and co-captain Katie Mohler and includes team members Joey Haren, Jamie Crist and Zoyie Golden. Two observation teams consisting of 10 juniors will attend to prepare for the 2014 competition.

Students will be demonstrating their skills for an opportunity to receive a scholarship. In 2012, Ohio gave $41,000 in cash scholarships to program students, and more than $2 million in Ohio and National ProStart® Invitational competition scholarships were awarded. In the last two years Lancaster High School students have earned as high as 40% of the state cash scholarship awards as well as competition scholarships. Lexis Hoover, co-captain of the 2011 team, received the NREA Rachael Ray scholarship.

The Invitational hosts two distinct competitions – management and culinary – that showcase the most important skills needed on either side of the restaurant and foodservice industry: the front-of-the-house and behind the scenes in the kitchen.

Management teams develop a proposal for the next hot restaurant concept and present it to a panel of industry judges. Next, the judging panel asks questions to determine their ability to think on their feet as they quickly solve challenges managers face on a daily basis. The written proposal contains everything from a complete description of their concept, concept logo, target market, menu, floor plan, interior décor and marketing. They are also required to create a presentation board and a PowerPoint presentation to accompany their 10 minute verbal presentation to the judges.

The culinary competition highlights the creative ability of the team through the preparation of a three-course meal in 60 minutes using only two butane burners with no access to running water or electricity. There’s no room for error as they’re evaluated on taste, skill, teamwork, safety and sanitation.

At the Ohio event, colleges and universities from around the nation will be available for our students to explore post-secondary options and representatives will be on-site to answer any questions students and parents may have. In addition, all competitors are encouraged to take full advantage of competing by networking with other students and industry professionals in attendance.

Culinary instructor Debbie Bates is extremely proud of the work the students are doing to prepare. A team of industry mentors are working with them. Mentors are Chef Judy Kness, Rusty Bucket District Manager Kelsey Norman, Ann Purcell and Jennifer Etherington, LHS FACS Instructor. Everyone is excited about what the students have created.

“The quality of this year’s project was enhanced when our program was awarded an $8,000 technology grant by the district to give the students the most advanced cutting edge equipment and technology to produce their product,” Bates said.

“The restaurant floorplan created with the new professional software, by Ben Seaver is nothing short of amazing to have been done by a high school student. The depth of the menu planning, costing, preparation and presentation from both teams has been exceptional and been done more efficiently using iPads with industry apps, and thanks to the grant are now loaded with wireless industry point of sale technology that is the newest trend being used in the industry.”

As part of the grant proposal, the students aren’t just creating the concept but are going to take it one step further after the competition and actually open the concept restaurant “Side Dish” for at least two reservation only dinner services in May. Details on how you can participate in that event will be posted on the LHS website closer to the event.

The culinary team menu consists of a spicy thai coconut soup with shrimp, garlic rosemary rub lamb chop with sweet potato ravioli served on a bed of Swiss chard and finished with carrots and...
Elementary Schools Plans Unveiled

Our district elementary building project is well under way. The demolition of North School is almost complete. Preliminary floor plans have been developed for the three elementary buildings which will be completed in our first phase. These buildings are designed to house 600 - 625 students each and are scheduled to be completed for the 2015-16 school year.

The preliminary floor plans for each of these buildings are provided in this edition of Chalkmarks. Our Central Site is located on the corner of North Broad and Allen streets, which was the site of the former North Elementary School. The West Site is located in the Hunter Trace area while the North Site is in River Valley Highlands.

Culinary, from page 6

parsnips. A mixed berry sugar cone crepe will finish the meal. Katie Mohler has perfected her soup. Brandon is keeping everyone on pace and working to make pasta from scratch with perfection. Everyone is still diligently working on their knife skills, especially when it comes to flawlessly cutting a whole chicken into eight parts in just 15 minutes.

The management team has created a new restaurant concept, Side Dish. The restaurant presents southern side dishes with a twist by making them the stars of the menu. Haycook can't wait to present their concept.

“Our team has created a unique concept that our research shows will be the first of its kind, and our use of a business Pinterest will also be a first in the competition,” she said. “Business marketing on Pinterest was just developed in the last six months so we know this is a new idea at the competition.”

All students agree that this 12-week project has been intense but rewarding and given them valuable insight into what it really takes to create, open, and manage a restaurant. Their goal is to do their best and not only be the Ohio winners but to go on to represent Ohio at the National ProStart Invitational which is in Baltimore, MD in April.

Lancaster High School Culinary Arts Tech Prep Program was started in 2008 and began competing in ProStart in 2011. The Lancaster High School ProStart Program is currently certified a ProStart School of Distinction taught by a ProStart Teacher of Distinction. Students earn high school and college credits for the class as well as a five-year management ServSafe industry certification. More than 80% of students who have graduated from the program have gone on to enroll in post-secondary education or are currently working at above entry level positions in the foodservice industry.

For more information on the program call Debbie Bates 740 687-7390 or visit www.lancaster.k12.oh.us/olc/teacher.aspx?SchoolID=816

ProStart Invitational® program informational statements obtained from the National ProStart Website: http://www.nraef.org/ProStart/Program-Overview and the Ohio ProStart Website: http://www.oraeef.org/aws/ORA/pt/sp/oraeef_home_page
News From Treasurer

Where Does the District Get it’s Money?

Our Revenues and Resources FY12: Where the General Fund Money Comes From

- State and Federal Revenue 44.9%
- Taxes 52.0%
- Miscellaneous 0.4%
- Tuition and Fees 1.9%
- Extracurricular 0.4%
- Investment Income 0.4%

Total Revenues: $55,803 (Shown in thousands)

Our Expenditures and Services FY12: Where the Money Goes

- Instruction 61.9%
- Extracurricular 1.8%
- Central 1.6%
- Capital Outlay 0.3%
- Other Non-Instructional 0.6%

Total Services and Expenditures: $53,239 (Shown in thousands)

Definitions
- Instruction is the largest expenditure category and relates to the direct instruction of our students. Students are directly impacted by expenditures from this category.
- Pupil Support areas comprise all guidance services, lunchroom aides, speech, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and psychological services.
- Instructional Support costs include library services, technology integration, curriculum development, instrumental staff training and audio/visual services.
- Board/Administration/Fiscal costs represent those of the Administration and Board of Education’s operation of the District. Also included in this category are school building secretarial support, financial services such as payroll, accounts payable and receivable, auditing, budgeting and report and fringe benefits administration.
- Business Support costs include business services such as risk management, construction, management and courier services.
- Plant Operation expenditures relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school, including building maintenance, grounds and custodial services.
- Transportation expenditures relate to providing transportation (mostly by bus) to all students who live in the Lancaster City School District consistent with Board of Education policy and laws of the State of Ohio. On average, the bus fleet transports 2,165 students to the LCS buildings and 23 students to non-public schools.
- Central Support expenditures include technology, maintenance, staff and computer network maintenance contracts.
- Extracurricular expenditures account for salaries, benefits and supplies for club and athletic-related events.
Scenes from Winter Sports
News From The Schools

LHS Rendition of “Xanadu” Selected to Perform for State Theatre Association

The Lancaster High School Drama Boosters and LHS Major Productions are pleased to announce the recent musical “Xanadu” has been selected as an outstanding high school performance. As a result, the LHS performers have been invited to perform the entire musical at the Ohio Educational Theatre Association State Conference in March in Toledo.

In addition to performing at the conference, the Lancaster students will attend other exceptional performance, both partial and full, workshops in all different types of theatre such as stage craft, puppetry and film as well as all technical aspects - lighting, sound, costuming, set construction, etc. Because LHS doesn’t offer these classes, the students will have the opportunity to learn and bring back the information to others within the school.

While this opportunity is tremendous, so are the costs involved with this trip. Conference fees, rights to perform the show, equipment rental, hotel costs and food all must be paid by the students. The estimate is a cost of approximately $300 per student for a total cost of nearly $10,000.

If you would like to help make this trip possible, please contact the LHS Drama Boosters - a 503(c)3 tax-exempt organization - in care of Steve Mathias at Lancaster High School, 1312 Granville Pike, Lancaster Ohio 43130 or by e-mail at lhsdramaboosters@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendars ...

Lancaster City Schools will observe Spring Break from March 29 through April 5. School will resume on Monday, April 8.

We would like to thank our sponsors who helped provide funding to print Chalkmarks.
Rockwood Takes Pride in Providing Help to Students

By David Bickham
Parent and Community Member of the
District Communication Committee

It seems that almost daily there’s a headline that tells the story.
... “Gunman Kills 26 at Sandy Hook Elementary School” ... “Bullied Student Hurts Self” ... “Teenage Pregnancies on the Rise” ... “Hungry Students Turn to Schools for Nourishment.”

School concerns changed over the past 24 years, and school social worker Debby Rockwood, MSW, LISW-S, has taken pride in helping the students overcome those obstacles en route to obtaining a quality education.

“I think it’s so important to help children who are hurting - the hungry child, the child who moved and needs some help with that, the child who is being picked on,” Rockwood said. “Counselors and social workers can help those kids focus on their education.”

Helping the students has been Rockwood’s focus since starting as a part-time counselor in 1989. The issues facing the students has changed, but the attention she gives them has not.

“There’s been a stigma in the past about addressing mental health issues,” Rockwood said. “But more parents and more teachers have become aware that a child’s mental health and the mental health of the child’s family is just as important as their physical health. Just because you see a counselor, that doesn’t mean you’re mentally ill. There are all kinds of reasons to get help. I think it’s more accepted now for children and adults to do so.”

Some of those reasons may seem small - the student’s parents are divorcing or the student has moved. But to the student, they may be just as important as some of the bigger issues facing students today, issues like bullying and school violence.

“My job is so different all the time,” Rockwood said. “There is never a dull moment. There are many ways we support students and their families. For example, in personal body safety classroom presentations, we teach them that it’s OK to use their important voice and let your voice be heard.”

Another example is linking families with community agencies for needed resources, which could be counseling, clothing or after-school programs.

Because of the issues associated with learning today, there are many more teams in place to handle any situation that arises.

“The district staff had Emergency Response training several years ago, one component of which is the mental health piece,” she said. “We now have a District Care Team that is mobilized whenever there are issues such as death or other similar situations that affect staff, students and families. This could be district-wide or at a specific school.”

Rockwood will retire after this school year but plans to stay active in the community while spending more time with her grandchildren. She admits she will miss the staff she has worked with.

“I’m going to miss working with all the wonderful people we have in our district. I would not have moved my son here through open enrollment if we didn’t have an excellent staff. And I’m going to miss the students. The things you can learn from the kids are just never ending.

“Teaching is one of the most honorable professions there is. It’s been an honor to have been able to have supported them through the years. To be a part of supporting the teachers and the families has been a real honor,” she said.
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February 19, 2013

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