

# Community Link

*The Newsletter of the School District of Lodi*

May 2023

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**Lodi Pride**





## Perspective

by Vince Breunig  
District Administrator

In the spring of 2020 the District worked with the community to develop a strategic plan. That plan, which outlined the community's priorities for the school district for the next five years, was the result of over 100 community members coming together for two "*Conversation for our Future Events*" which were planned and facilitated by community members. The Board unanimously adopted the strategic plan in July of 2020 while charging the administration with the implementation of the plan.

### District Mission:

In partnership with our community, nurturing every student's potential for growth and opportunities; socially, mentally & academically in a safe, respectful, and an inclusive environment to create innovative problem solvers.

Preparing for the Future	Nurturing the Whole Student	Innovative Communication Connection	District Workforce	Operational Excellence
Exploring academic and career excellence for diverse futures through opportunity, relevance, & readiness	Creating a sense of belonging by growing empathy and compassion, inspiring the emotional and physical wellbeing of each student	Committing to stakeholders to provide clear and transparent communication and opportunities for engagement	Attracting and retaining exceptional team members and engaging them in continuous improvement	Planning for the district, incorporating innovation, budget forecasting, building maintenance & future needs for the district ensuring operational viability

The community gave the District the gift of setting our priorities. The community then followed with a second gift of passing a referendum in the spring of 2022. This allowed the district to continue to implement the strategic plan and work on the priorities set for us by the community.

In this edition of the Community Link, you will have the opportunity to read about how the strategic plan is being implemented across the District. This plan was not developed and put on a shelf, but is a living, breathing document that guides the work we do on a daily basis. Work on priorities that were thankfully set for us by the community.





## Board of Education

*Regular meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at  
5:30 pm closed session /6:30 pm regular session in the District Office, unless posted otherwise.*

Heather Baron - President  
Kristi McMorris – Vice President  
Scott Bilse - Treasurer  
Terry Haag - Clerk  
Angela Lathrop - Director  
Sarah Raemisch - Director  
H. Adam Steinberg - Director

Board of Education members' names, contact information, committee assignments, meeting agenda and minutes are included on the School District of Lodi's website at [www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us), Board of Education link. If you do not have access to the district website, contact Maureen Palmer at 592-1060 to request this information.

### *District Phone Numbers*

Primary School .....	592-3855
Primary School Fax .....	592-1015
Elementary School.....	592-3842
Elementary School Fax.....	592-1025
Middle School .....	592-3854
Middle School Fax.....	592-1035
High School .....	592-3853
High School Fax .....	592-1045
District Office .....	592-3851
District Office Fax .....	592-3852

## Save the Date

### Connection and Community Conversation with Tom Farley

New York Times Best Selling Author and  
yes, Brother of Chris Farley

Monday, September 18th, 2023 @ 6:30 PM  
Lodi High School Performing Arts Center  
Daycare will be provided



Sponsored by LCAT and Lodi Rotary Club



## **A Trip of a Lifetime**

### **Lodi Middle School Visits Washington, D.C. – March 12-18, 2023**

In early March, 70 students and chaperones loaded two busses in the Lodi Middle School parking lot and set off for an adventure of a lifetime!!!

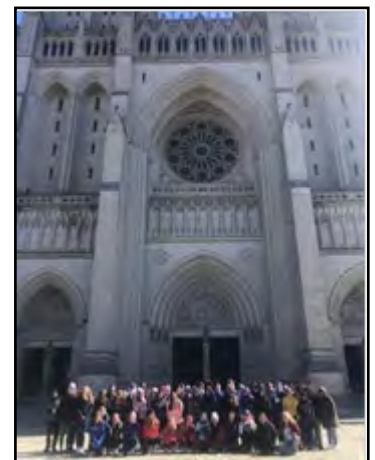
The trip began in Washington, D.C., then continued to Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg, and wrapped up in Jamestown and Yorktown!

We visited many memorials: Vietnam, Korean, Lincoln, FDR, Martin Luther King Jr., Air Force, World War II, and Jefferson. We also toured many museums and buildings: Capitol, National Archives, Ford's Theatre, Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Museums, and National Cathedral. WOW!

Then we began the long haul back home!

When we arrived back in Lodi on Saturday night, we were all exhausted, but also sad that the trip had come to an end. A big thank you to Mr. Vince Breunig, Mrs. Kori Clemens, Mrs. Patty Heinzmann, Mrs. Melissa Walsh, and Ms. Ceanna Caelwaerts for chaperoning this year. The trip couldn't have happened without them.

**Current 7th Graders: Look forward to information being shared with you soon about next year's trip!**  
-Mrs. Christiansen



### ***We have added Peachjar to our communication plan!***

Peachjar helps keep all those flyers that use to come home in backpacks in one neat spot. Anyone can access them, even grandparents, aunts, uncles and community members. You can find links to the flyers on all the main webpages of the district and schools' websites.

Flyers are submitted by school and community organizations that offer educational opportunities. Anyone can sign up at [peachjar.com](https://peachjar.com) to get notifications when new flyers are posted (on Wednesdays).



***Check it out!***



## **2023 Summer School**

### Session 1

June 12th ~ June 29th, Monday ~ Thursday

Morning Session Primary School Campus: 7:50 am ~ 10:50 am

Morning session High School campus: 8:00 am ~ 11:00 am

Afternoon Session (high school campus only during Session 1) 11:30 am ~ 1:00 pm

### Session 2

July 10th ~ July 27th, Monday ~ Thursday

Morning Session Primary School Campus: 7:50 am ~ 10:50 am

Morning session High School campus: 8:00 am ~ 11:00 am

No Afternoon Session

**Summer School Open House: Thursday June 8th, 4:30 ~ 6:00 pm**

*Students can walk through the buildings and see where their classes are located.*

*Any questions contact Emma Neumaier, Summer School Coordinator:*

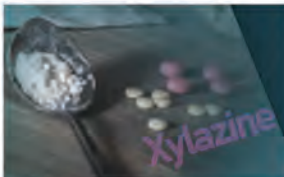
*[neumaem@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:neumaem@lodischoolswi.org) (608) 592-1026*



# Lodi Community Action Team

*Promoting Healthy Lifestyles for Youth!*

## XYLAZINE FACT SHEET



Xylazine is known as "tranq" or "tranq dope" in the illicit drug market.

When combined with fentanyl or other synthetic opioids, xylazine can increase the potential for fatal overdoses.



Fentanyl is really strong but it is fast on fast off. Xylazine prolongs the effects of fentanyl.

### What is xylazine?

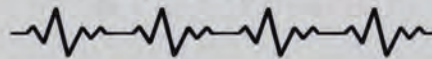
XYLAZINE is a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer not approved for human use and has been linked to an increasing number of overdose deaths nationwide in the evolving drug addiction and overdose crisis.



Xylazine is a central nervous system

**DEPRESSANT**

It can cause drowsiness and amnesia, and slow breathing, heart rate and blood pressure to dangerously low levels.



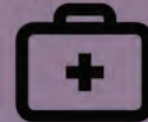
### SEVERE

### WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

may develop from xylazine which are, by themselves, unlikely to be managed by medications for opioid use disorder (methadone or buprenorphine).



People who inject drugs containing xylazine can develop severe skin wounds and patches of dead and rotting tissue that easily become infected and, if left untreated, may lead to amputation.



Xylazine is often being added to illicit opioids such as FENTANYL



People report using xylazine-containing fentanyl to lengthen the euphoric effect.



Lodi Community Action Team (LCAT)

*Building Community To Empower Youth  
To Make Healthy Life Choices*



[www.LodiAction.org](http://www.LodiAction.org)



@Lodiaction

Because xylazine is not an opioid, it is **NOT** reversible with Narcan®

The above information was obtained from the following sources:

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/xylazine>  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)  
[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)

## NEED HELP?



24/7 Mental Health and  
AODA Crisis Line  
(Northwest Connections)  
1-888-552-6642



Please Note: If you suspect an overdose, call 911 to get the person medical attention immediately!





# Lodi C.R.E.W. and Pool

Lodi CREW and the Indoor Community Pool is the place to check out if you are looking for something to do. We offer programs for all ages and abilities. Our community collaborations bring out the best instructors and programs for the Lodi Community.

**Here is a list of some of the upcoming CREW programs:**

- Boot Camp
- My First Sport
- No School Days
- Fall Flag Football
- Fall Cheer
- Movement and strength
- Wellness programs for all ages

**The Lodi Indoor Community Pool is the place to come for all your aquatics needs.**



**Here are some of the offerings at the Pool:**

- Swim Lessons (including private lessons)
- Parent/tot swim lessons
- Aqua Fitness classes
- Private lessons
- Open lap and family swims
- Pool rental opportunities (such as birthday parties and more!)
- Pool memberships
- Red Cross Lifeguard and WSI certifications

**The pool is also a great place to help with recovery from sports injuries for both students and adults!**

To see current and upcoming programs check us out on the school website Page: [www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us) click on the community tab and go to CREW or Indoor Community Pool

Friend us on Facebook (Lodi CREW)

**Be sure to check out Peachjar on the school's web page for program fliers!**

Indoor Community Pool website:

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/community/community-indoor-pool>

CREW Website:

<https://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/community/community-resource-enrichment-wellness>



**Like us on Facebook: Lodi CREW**



## Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Nicholas Karls – Director of Curriculum & Instruction ♦592-3851 ♦[karlsni@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:karlsni@lodischoolswi.org)

School District of Lodi Families and Community,

As we conclude another school year, we are delighted to report that the Lodi community remains deeply engaged and invested in our schools. We're immensely grateful for the collaborative strategic plan the community created in partnership with the School District of Lodi. This plan has played a significant role in shaping our priorities and will continue to guide us as we strive to create the most exceptional district in the region. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to all who are dedicated to ensuring that every student in the School District of Lodi receives an excellent education. As we look ahead, we have much to be thankful for, and we're excited about the bright future that lies ahead for Lodi.

### **Pillar 1 - Preparing Our Students for the Future - Core Phonics Program Shows Promising Early Results**



It gives me great pleasure to share with our community the exciting success we have witnessed after implementing our new Phonics to Reading program at the K-2 level. The majority of students who have participated in the program, which is in its first full year of implementation at the Primary School, are showing remarkable progress in their reading abilities and overall language development. This success is a testament to the importance of phonics education in laying the foundation for strong reading skills. By teaching students how to break down words into their individual sounds and understand the relationships between letters and sounds, we are empowering them to become confident readers and communicators. This program not only focuses on teaching phonics skills in isolation but also ensures these skills are paired with connected texts that mirror the skills being taught. This approach helps students to see the practical application of phonics in real-world reading situations and reinforces their learning in a meaningful way.

We are thrilled to see the positive impact of this program on our students and are committed to continuing to provide them with the tools and resources they need to succeed.

*90% of kindergarten students hit our end-of-year Phonics benchmark on the iReady Reading Assessment!*



### **Pillar 2 - Nurturing the Whole Child - Supporting English Language Learners**



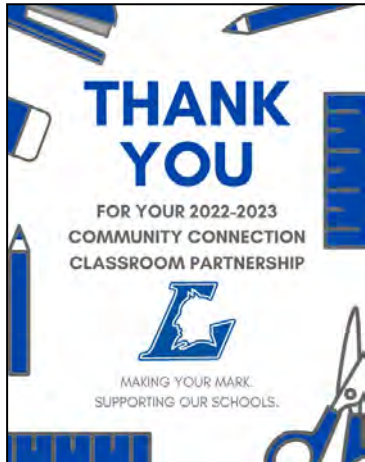
Our district takes great pride in serving and supporting our growing population of English Language Learners (ELLs). English Language Learners can be defined as students whose native language may be a language other than English. We recognize the unique needs of these learners and strive to provide them with the necessary resources and tools to succeed academically and socially. Our district is committed to creating a welcoming environment that celebrates and values the multilingual skill set these students bring. In the School District of Lodi, we currently serve approximately 45 English Language Learners across our four buildings. This population is up from approximately 30 students during the 2018/2019 school year.

**Jennifer Morgan (K-12 ELL Teacher)**, is a great resource for new families with English Language Learners who may require registration or translation support. She can be reached by email at [morgaje@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:morgaje@lodischoolswi.org) or by phone at 608.592.3851 ext. 2106



Our goal is to empower our ELLs to achieve their fullest potential, become proficient in English, and excel in all areas of their education.

### **Pillar 3 - Innovative Community Connection - Business Community Connection Classroom Partnerships**



The 2022/2023 school year was the second year of our focused efforts to establish classroom business partnerships that foster regional community connections. This initiative offers businesses and service organizations the opportunity to engage with our students by sharing insights and information related to their respective fields of employment or service. Through these connections, students gain valuable skills that are essential to thriving in today's workforce. Our community connections are organized around three core structures: Individual Classroom Community Connections, the School District of Lodi Jobs Fair, and the School District of Lodi Career Fair.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of this strategic plan area. If you represent a regional business or service organization and are interested in learning more or participating in our program, please visit our webpage at: <https://tinyurl.com/35ebtpfz>

*Here are just a few photos from various 2022/2023 classroom connection opportunities!*



# Student Services

Adria Schroeder, Student Services ♦592-3851 ♦[lokenti@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:lokenti@lodischoolswi.org)

## Pillar Two - Nurturing the Whole Student



Pillar Two of the Strategic Plan is titled Nurturing the Whole Student. The goal of Pillar Two is to create a sense of belonging by growing empathy and compassion, inspiring the emotional and physical well being of each student. Morning Meeting is a strategy used in 4k through 5th grade and Advisory is a strategy used in 6th through 12th grade to help reach this goal.

Both Morning Meeting and Advisory play a significant role in fostering a sense of community within the classroom, school, and community. This creates a supportive and inclusive classroom culture, where students feel valued, respected, and connected.



Morning Meeting and Advisory provide a structured time for students and teachers to come together, establish a positive tone for the day, build relationships between peers and teachers, and set the stage for a productive learning experience. Strong relationships between teachers and students are essential elements for academic success.



Morning Meeting and Advisory provide a consistent opportunity for teachers to connect with students by engaging in conversations, sharing experiences, and actively listening. The classroom community is able to develop a deeper understanding of each other and create a supportive learning environment for all of its members.



There are additional benefits for implementing Morning Meeting and Advisory in our classrooms. They provide an opportunity to set goals and establish clear expectations for the school day. Also, the strategies offer a structured environment for students to practice speaking and listening skills which positively impact students' confidence and active listening skills.



Morning Meeting and Advisory are not just a routine but they are a powerful tool for cultivating engagement, connection, and academic success. Incorporating these meaningful strategies make our classrooms a place where students feel seen, heard, and motivated to learn.

## **Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee (PCOW)**

In recent years, mental health has gained recognition as a crucial aspect of overall well-being. As our school district strives to prioritize the mental health needs of our students, partnering with an outside mental health provider has emerged as a beneficial resource for our community. At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, the School District of Lodi partnered with the Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee to meet the needs of our students and families.

Partnering with the Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee has significantly expanded the accessibility of mental health services for the Lodi community. Many individuals faced barriers like time, transportation, and long wait lists when seeking out a therapist. Our partnership has lessened these barriers for our students and their families.

PCOW operates as a satellite clinic. This means that the therapy services are the same as you would receive if you would go to an outside professional at a clinic. They just take place in

the school setting. Parents are active participants in the initial intake process and throughout the therapeutic process. The partnership between parents, school, and therapist allows us all to be working together for the common goals of each individual student.



Since officially beginning our partnership in November of 2022, our district has received 63 referrals for outside services. This resulted in students receiving 164 sessions with therapists from PCOW. These are needs that may have gone unmet if our partnership with the Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee was not established this fall.

The partnership has reduced the barriers our students and families were facing. Students miss less school because there isn't additional travel time to an outside

appointment. Transportation is no longer a barrier because therapists come to all of our school buildings. The Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee is committed to providing services and continuing to add therapists when needed to serve the Lodi community.

Our partnership with PCOW will continue through the summer for students and families in need of these services. In addition, we are fortunate to be able to maintain this partnership for the 2023-2024 school year. Our school guidance counselors and social workers at each building are the point of contact for anyone who is interested in exploring this option for their child(ren).

Val Bilkey - Primary School  
[bilkeva@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:bilkeva@lodischoolswi.org)

Mikaela Lee - Elementary School and OSC  
[leemi@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:leemi@lodischoolswi.org)

Ceanna Caelwaerts - Middle School  
[caelwce@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:caelwce@lodischoolswi.org)

Josie Kirkpatrick - High School  
[kirkpjo@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:kirkpjo@lodischoolswi.org)





*Joe Jelinek – Principal*  
592-3853 ext. 4402

# High School Highlights



*Jason Marshall- Associate Principal*  
592-3853 ext. 4403

As the school year winds down, we would like to take time to appreciate all the work our high school staff has done to create learning opportunities for our students. Much of this work is in direct correlation with the school district's Strategic Plan.

## **Pillar 4: District Workforce**

One area of focus at the high school this year involves the fourth pillar, *District Workforce*. The goal of this pillar is to continue to maintain a positive experience for staff. At the high school, Mr. Marshall and I conducted a “stay interview” with each staff member to find out how we can continuously promote a positive culture in which people feel valued. We asked staff why they chose a career at Lodi High School and why they have stayed. We asked what would make their job more satisfying, whether they would recommend Lodi High School as a place to work, how they would like to be recognized, and what we could do to help maintain work-life balance. Positive takeaways from the interviews included comments about our great students and staff, supportive families and community members, variety of programs and athletics, and supportive administrators and Board of Education members. As a follow-up to the interviews, the high school Impact Team reviewed the answers in search of commonalities, with the goal of devising action steps toward continuous improvement.

## **Pillar 1: Preparing for the Future**

Another area of focus at the high school supports the first pillar of the district's Strategic Plan, *Preparing for the Future*. Lodi educators believe that in addition to learning content area skills in the classroom, students benefit from interacting with people in the workforce who can share their knowledge about careers. We accomplish this in a few ways. First, many teachers have established relationships with community members who are willing to come into classrooms to share their experiences and expertise. This year, we made an effort to increase the number of these school-community partnerships, and as a result more than a dozen teachers connected with over forty businesses. More students than ever before had the opportunity to talk to area business leaders and learn about career options. We are grateful to have supportive people in our community who make this partnership possible.

Additionally, to encourage students to prepare for the future, the high school hosts a job fair. The second annual Spring Jobs Fair took place in early April, and around 25 area businesses participated. The event provided an opportunity for businesses to share information about jobs with potential employees. Participating businesses were able to hire student workers, and they commented that it was very helpful to reach out directly to youth in the community at this well-run event. Almost every high school student had the opportunity to practice interpersonal skills with potential employers and apply for jobs.

Before we know it, the Class of 2023 will be graduating, and students will be starting summer jobs. We would like to thank the following businesses for their willingness to visit classrooms and/or participate in this year's Jobs Fair. Our students will be much more prepared for what is ahead of them thanks to these valuable experiences.

*Piggly Wiggly	*Treinen Farm	*Graham's Auto and Truck Clinic	*Fitz's on the Lake
*Mueller Sports Medicine	*Ness Auto	*Kalscheur Implement Co. Inc.	*Sunshine Playhouse
*Lodi Canning Co.	*CREW	*Crystal Lake Campground	*Lodi Veterinary Care
*Youth Apprenticeship - CESA 5	*Lodi Curling Club	*Automation Components Inc.	*ALKAR
*Leon's Roofing & Siding Inc.	*Nami	*Lucky's Bar & Grill	*ABS Global
*Kiddie Corner Daycare	*Kwik Trip	*Love's & Hardees	*Bank of Prairie du Sac
*Sheri Birchler Photography	*Ecofins Labs	*Manke Enterprise	*Buchanan's Mowing
*Stranders Roofing	*WI DNR	*Artist - Mark Arnold	*Dean Bloedorn
*Musician - Casey Olson	*Cullen Construction	*Prairie Winds Flower Market	*Culvers Franchising
*Lodi Sausage Company	*Slack's Jams and Jellies	*Entrepreneur - Pete Tonn	*Isthmus Partners - Brandon Cloete
*Windsor Breads	*Burhop's Lakeside Lodge	*Lodi Fire Department and EMS	*Nonn's Flooring
*Smokey Hollow Campground	*Channel 3	*WI Army National Guard	*Peaceful Valley Outdoors
*Ideal Builders	*McGann Construction	*UW Badger Football - Nate Jelinek	

## Retirement:

We have one staff member retiring this year, Michelle Bravick, High School Spanish Teacher. Michelle started with Lodi in 1998 at the middle school moving to the high school in 2011. She has found many lifelong friends in both colleagues and former students here in Lodi. Michelle appreciates the support of the board in the exchange programs and the great opportunities offered to the students. She has always felt like Lodi was a second home.

In retirement Michelle plans to spend more time with her puppies, and might do some Spanish tutoring and ESL teaching for adults. She also wants to do more camping, hiking, reading and looking for lots of new adventures. Enjoy your retirement Michelle, you will be missed!







# Middle School Maneuvers

Derek Pertzborn – Principal  
592-3854 ext. 3202

Peter Franklin, Dean of Students  
592-3854 ext. 3203



The 2023-24 school year is quickly coming to a close. As we work as a school and district to carry out our Strategic Plan we have lots to celebrate. Below is a brief summary of a few of our initiatives to carry out this vision.

## **Pillar 1 - Preparing for the Future**

**Ready Math** - During the 2023-24 school year Lodi Middle School did a full year pilot of Ready Math. This process began in 2021 and ultimately ended with us adopting the program in March of 2023. Staff has spent a significant amount of energy studying the curriculum materials, attending professional development, and collaborating with one another to learn the program. We are excited about the potential of the Ready Math program to improve student learning outcomes in mathematics.



**Field Trips and Community Connections** - Another opportunity that we provide at Lodi Middle School to prepare students for the future is to provide field trips to give students experiences in different career clusters. The 6th grade took a trip to the Wisconsin Science Festival at the UW Madison Discovery Center. Students were engaged in hands-on stations that covered all areas of science, life science, physical science, earth and space science and engineering. The 7th grade students attended Future Quest in November at the Alliant Energy Center to learn about different career clusters. The 8th grade has had several community members come in to provide presentations on careers, such as Mandie Busser, RN.



## **Pillar 2 - Nurturing the Whole Child**

### **Assemblies**

The 2022-23 school year brought about the return of all school assemblies. Lodi Middle School had three all-school assemblies to help us celebrate achievements and build community. Assemblies allow students to see their peers and staff in a different light that may not be evident in the classroom. Lodi Middle School had all-school assemblies where students competed in Minute to Win It games, played student vs staff volleyball games, and a bullying presentation put on by a BMX rider. All of these were organized by the Lodi Middle School Student Celebration Team. Thank you to that team for all of their work in creating a positive culture in Lodi Middle School.





**Staff Volleyball Champions!**

### **Advisory**

Throughout the 2022-23 school year students have started their day in a class called Advisory. Advisory period runs from 7:58-8:20 each morning with the goals of establishing relationships, promoting social development, and creating a positive culture for our staff and students. Students work on activities to develop social emotional skills around concepts such as self-awareness, self-management, and social awareness. We also played a lot of fun games!



### **School Dances**

School dances returned for the 2022-23 school year. Each dance had over 120 students attending and they brought some serious dance moves. School dances are a great opportunity for students to connect with each other, have fun, dance, and celebrate. They help to create a culture that is positive for our students and allows them to have some fun.



### **Retirement:**

We will be saying goodbye to David Zilker at the end of the school year. David has spent 31 years in education with the last 27 ½ as an 8th grade science teacher at Lodi Middle School. In that time, David has made the day of countless kids with his humor and has enjoyed teaching them about things like chemical bonding. His favorite memories of Lodi Middle School are making kids laugh, spending time with kids, and building relationships with colleagues. He feels blessed to have taught in this amazing community, as this has truly been a happy place for him. In retirement David will continue his hobbies of falconry, raising homing pigeons, and pottery. He and his wife, Diane, also plan to travel to Europe to explore its history. Thank you for all you have done for the students, families, and staff of Lodi Middle School. You will be missed by many!





# Elementary/OSC Excerpts

By Eric Scheunemann, Elementary/OSC School Principal ♦592-3842 ext. 2102 ♦Grades 3-5

I want to start by thanking the Lodi Community for the way you have welcomed me. Your support and care, along with your willingness to extend a greeting or share something you feel is important about the Lodi Community has not only been a help to me in my position but it has taught me what Lodi Pride is all about.

Learning ~ Always being open to becoming better

Optimistic ~ Believing there is good in each person and moment

Dedicated ~ People that are committed to investing in this community

Innovative ~ This community is creative, original, and willing to solve problems

People ~ The people make this community special and you value each other

Responsible ~ Everyone is willing to contribute and do their part

Inclusive ~ This community welcomes and cares for others, especially the vulnerable

Determined ~ People come with ideas and they are committed to seeing it through

Encouraging ~ The support and encouragement people give each other is truly special

One of the ways this community has set our district up for success is by giving us a clear vision through our strategic plan and identifying pillars to help us accomplish our mission which is:

**“In partnership with our community, nurturing every student's potential for growth and opportunities; socially, mentally & academically in a safe, respectful, and an inclusive environment to create innovative problem solvers.”**

The first two pillars focus on students, the third pillar focuses on connecting students with the community around them, and the fourth pillar focuses on hiring and keeping skilled staff. Together these pillars enable us to accomplish our mission. Just like the order of the pillars suggests, we believe that our focus starts with students and our responsibility to provide them a learning environment that meets their academic and overall developmental needs. Within the pillars listed below you will notice some key points of emphasis at LES/OSC.

## **Pillar 1: Preparing Our Students for the Future**



Effective Instruction: Effective instruction is crucial to the success of upper elementary school students, as this is a formative time in their educational journey. Students at LES/OSC are transitioning from learning basic skills to developing higher-order thinking skills and complex problem-solving abilities. Therefore, it is essential that we provide instruction that engages and challenges them, while also providing opportunities for students to explore and develop their interests and passions. We also recognize the importance of differentiating our instruction to meet the



diverse needs of learners, whether they are advanced or struggling with particular concepts. Additionally, instruction that promotes collaboration, communication, and critical thinking is critical to preparing students for success in the 21st century workforce. Ultimately, effective instruction is a key component of ensuring students develop a strong academic foundation and a love of learning that will serve them well in the years to come.

**Ongoing Assessment:** Along with effective instruction, ongoing assessment plays a critical role in ensuring that LES/OSC students succeed. We assess student progress through ongoing assessment so that we can support student success in the five following ways:

1. Identifying student strengths and weaknesses
2. Monitoring student progress
3. Adjusting our instruction
4. Providing feedback
5. Evaluating instructional effectiveness

Assessment data is a helpful tool to either confirm or challenge the information we are gathering and analyzing daily. Ongoing assessments serve as a spotlight on areas for improvement and for celebration. They also provide us with a consistent measure longitudinally as a building, with other districts, and with the state as a whole to determine how well what we are doing is working. We take assessment results seriously because they provide a window into the impact of the education we are providing the students entrusted into our care. How we respond to the ongoing assessment data we collect is what is most important to me. I am proud of the response staff at LES and OSC have taken to our assessments and am excited to continue to see the positive impact we have on student achievement and growth overall. We have our students and their learning as our top priority and have high expectations for delivering a high quality education.

## **Pillar 2: Nurturing the Whole Child**



**SEL/Morning Meeting:** LES/OSC students receive social-emotional learning instruction once every six days and engage in a Morning Meeting daily. Social-emotional learning (SEL) instruction and morning meetings provide numerous benefits for our students. These practices help students develop vital skills like self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and relationship-building. By engaging in daily morning meetings, students learn to listen, share, and connect with one another in a safe and inclusive space. Specific SEL instruction helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while building a positive school culture. Ultimately, incorporating SEL instruction and morning meetings into the daily routine enables us to create a supportive environment where students feel valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential both academically and socially.

**Meeting Student Needs:** Meeting the basic needs of our students is crucial for their overall well-being and success in learning. To achieve this, we work together with families and our community to provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environment. We strive to create positive and inclusive classrooms where students feel valued, respected, and supported. Through these efforts, we can ensure that our students' basic needs are met, allowing them to thrive both academically and personally.

## **Pillar 3: Innovative Communication Connection**

**Coming In~Getting Out~Giving Back:** We understand the importance of connecting the learning in the classroom to the community around us. We work hard to provide opportunities for members of our community to come into school and share their experiences and expertise. Also, we seek connections that allow us to get out into our community. Lastly, we value instilling a sense of belonging within our students so that they take pride in being



members of the Lodi Community and we give them opportunities to give back to a community that does so much to support us and our students' learning.



## **Pillar 4: District Workforce**

**Skilled Staff:** One of the primary ways I can care for students is to attract, hire and retain skilled staff. We have been busy hiring at LES/OSC and have a total of 7 positions we are filling this spring. The positions include Physical Education Teacher, School Social Worker/Counselor, 4th Grade Teacher, 5th Grade Teacher, another 5th Grade Teacher, OSC/PS Music Teacher, and Administrative Assistant. We take the responsibility of hiring and training staff very seriously. We are excited about the caliber of candidates we were able to hire and can't wait to see their impact in the lives of our students and are confident they will be great overall additions to our building and district. We work hard as a building to welcome and support staff for the difficult and important work they do daily and will continue to do so.

**Retirement:** We have one staff member retiring this year. Lori Saager has been a teacher for 36 years. She has taught every grade level from 1st to 8th grade science (She was a homeroom teacher in each of the other levels). She started her teaching career at St. Luke's in Plain, WI. Then she taught in Berlin, WI for a couple of years and then back to St. Luke's before teaching in New Lisbon from 1999 to 2002 and then was hired in Lodi and has been here ever since! She has taught in Lodi for 22 years! Those that have the privilege of knowing Lori Saager respect her not only as a skilled teacher but an amazing human. She will be missed in our building but will continue to be a treasured member of the Lodi Community as she looks forward to watching her Grandson and enjoying her well-deserved retirement!



I want to thank the Lodi community for all of the support you give our students! Educating our young people is truly a team effort and I am honored to do this work in such an amazing community and school district. If you have any questions or want to introduce yourself please feel free to reach out to our school office at 608-592-3842. Thank you again for welcoming me into my new role and I truly believe the best is yet to come in Lodi!



## Primary Pride

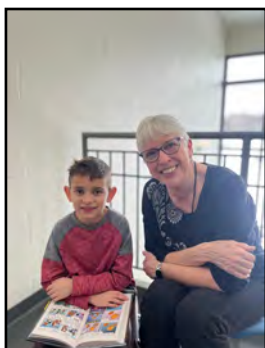
By Amy Fassbender, Primary School Principal ♦592-3855 ext. 1002 ♦Grades EC/K4-2

### Community Link: May 2023 - Lodi Primary School

We are just finishing the 2022-2023 school year and we have so many celebrations to share in regards to implementing strategies under the five pillars of the District Strategic Plan. Here are a few highlights from the last few months.

#### Pillar 1 Preparing Our Students for the Future -

Reading Pals - At the Primary School, we have three volunteers that are coming into the Primary School to read with students in our classrooms. This is a great opportunity to build connections with students and other adults and practice reading. We would like to share a huge thank you to Julie Schmidt, Mary Jefson, and Diana Wickham!

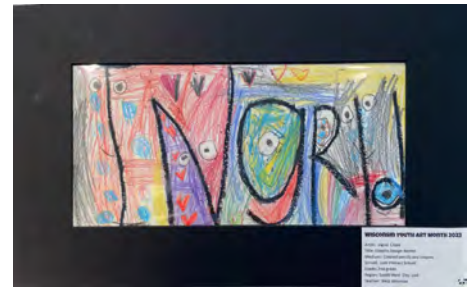


Summer School: We are finalizing our preparations for our Lodi Summer School program. Our program runs for two sessions. Each session is three weeks, Monday through Thursday. Our first session starts on Monday, June 12 and runs through Thursday, June 29. Our second session is Monday, July 10 through Thursday, July 27. With over 700 students enrolled and 80 staff, we are ready for our students to engage in a variety of activities. Students going into 4K through grade one will be at our Primary School, students going into grade two through twelve will be at our High School. Our classes are a variety of enrichment and remedial. Some of the classes we offer include: Art Around the World, Beginning Robotics, Cooking, Cheerleading, For the Love of Reading, Fishing, Girls in STEAM, Legos, Outdoor Sports, Sewing, Spanish, Swimming, Wrestling, and more.



## **Pillar 2 Nurturing the Whole Child -**

**Art Class:** February was Youth Art Month so Ms. Tekla Nimmow, the PS art teacher, celebrated by participating in a regional art show. Three Lodi students were highlighted including Ingrid Cloyd. All 3 projects will be going to the state show which is at East Towne Mall from March 5th-31st. Three students from both the high school and middle school will also have art on display. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to doing it again next year!



**Vision & Hearing Screening:** Each year our school nurses screen students in kindergarten through first grade for visual and hearing. Here are the results of these screenings. The early screening makes a difference.

### **5K: (Total 5K students screened= 97)**

- 10 students were referred for optometry
- 2 students were referred for audiology

### **1st Grade: (Total 1st students screened= 90)**

- 8 students were referred for optometry
- 5 students were referred for audiology
- Unable to screen 2 special ed students

The process is to follow up with these families one more time by the end of the year. A special thanks to Jean Winter, Janelle Sivam, Emma Neumaier, and Pam Finney for the time of completing this!

**Therapy Dog:** We are excited to share that we have a new team member at Lodi Primary School - Dillon! Dillon is Mrs. Val Bilkey's 1-year old golden retriever that is a Registered Therapy Dog. When Dillon is at school she will be greeting learners in the mornings, meeting with kids 1:1 and in small groups, and occasionally may join classrooms.



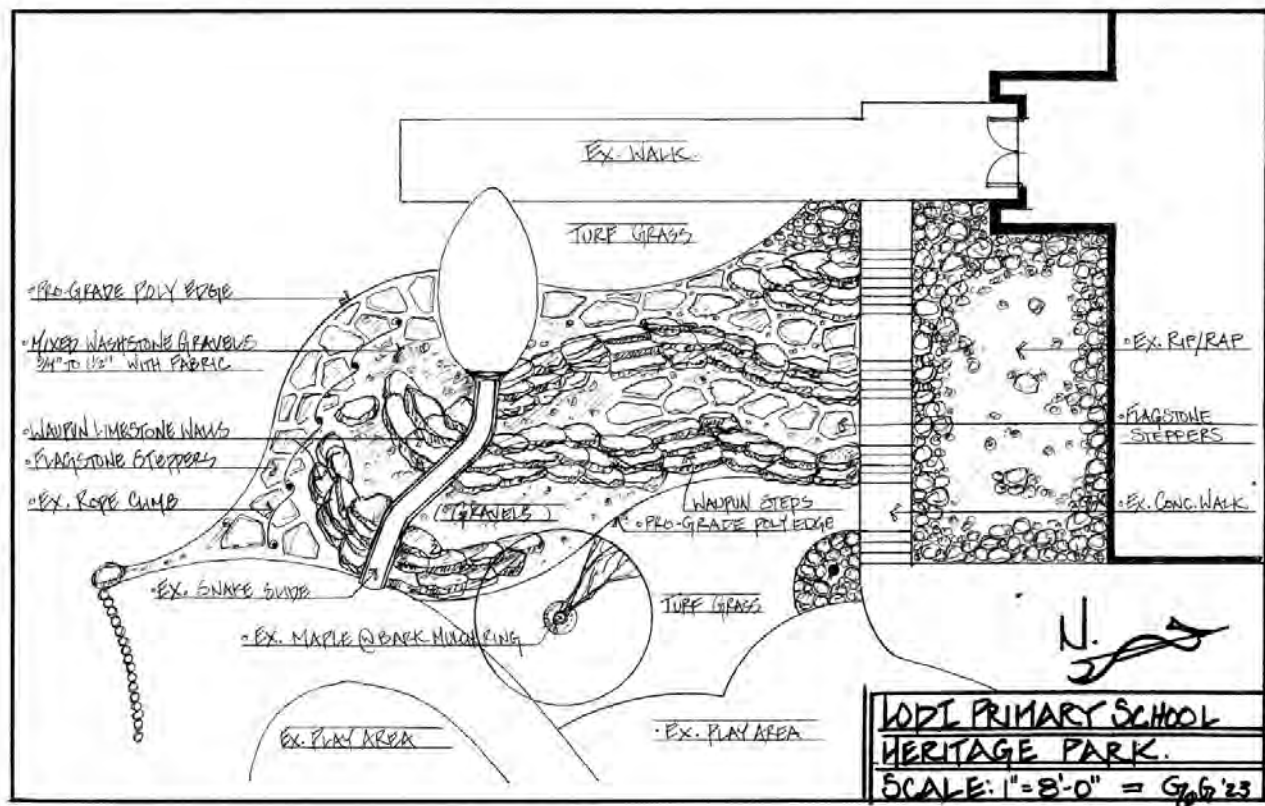
**Stride with Lodi Pride:** We held our second annual event on Thursday, May 4. Students and families were able to enjoy walking around the track to earn money for the Primary School. We want to thank all of the families that were able to join on this day as well as thank them for their very generous donations.

**Field Day - Monday, June 5:** Mr. Sagami, our Physical Education teacher, is planning Field Day for our students. On this day, students will participate in a variety of outdoor and water activities. This will be a great way to end the year!

## **Pillar 3 Innovative Communication Connection**

**Heritage Park Updates:** We wanted to share the plan from Timothy Ripp (Graphite to Green. LLC) of what we will be using our school earnings from last year's Stride with Lodi Pride. Brian Schmidt Enterprises will be the one to do the landscaping. We apologize again to the families for the slight pause on this project but are very excited about the long-term impact this will have on Heritage Park for students to come!

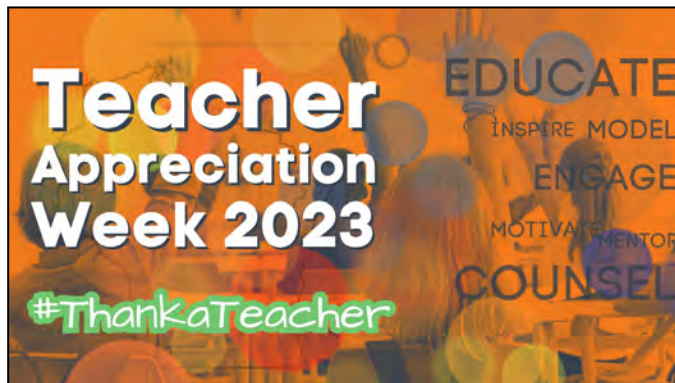




Field Trips - Blue Star Dairy: On Friday, April 21st Mrs. Kalscheur's second graders took their first-ever field trip. They visited their community connection partner Blue Star Dairy, to meet Sharlett the calf. Mrs. Kalscheur's class "adopted" and named Sharlett a few weeks ago and up until this point had only seen pictures and videos of her. They had so much fun meeting Sharlett, touring the farm by a tractor-driven wagon, and were able to end their special afternoon with string cheese and a very generous gift bag of goodies. Mrs. Kalscheur's class would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Sherri, Brooke, and the rest of the Blue Star Dairy family.



## **Pillar 4 District Workforce**



**Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week:** We celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12. This week gives us an opportunity to recognize and express our gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our outstanding educators. Teaching is a challenging and demanding profession, requiring patience, dedication, and a deep commitment to students' growth and wellbeing. Teachers serve all students, no matter their background, socioeconomic status, or ability, providing a level playing field for children from all

walks of life. They show up every day with enthusiasm and passion for helping our students succeed. We also must remember the critical role teachers play in shaping the future of our society. They are actively preparing the leaders, innovators, and thinkers of tomorrow for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

**Retirement:** We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs. Lexine Weber, the music teacher at Lodi Primary School and OSC. She has been at the Primary School for 17 years, 35 in the district. Not only teaching students to sing, dance, play piano, Lexine has orchestrated winter and spring concerts every year. Her rendition of the "Penguin Polka" with kindergarteners will never be forgotten. Lexine has also volunteered her time for the school CORE team and was instrumental in the original safety planning meetings with Mr. Breunig. Her favorite memories of teaching are when the students' light bulbs go off and you can hear the excitement that they feel in learning new things. She also loves each of the cards and pictures students share with her thanking her for being the incredible teacher she is. She is going to truly miss the faces of the students, their beautiful smiles and voices. During her retirement she plans to spend time on Lake Helen in Manitowish Waters and continuing her work with the ambulance. Lexine...thank you for all you have done for our students, families, and staff...you will truly be missed.



A huge thank you again to the Lodi community for all their support of our school! We are welcoming volunteers into the building to support our students and staff. If you have any interest in coming to do this, please feel free to reach out to our school office at 608-592-3855. We would love to have you join us

# ***Upcoming dates:***

***May 28 High School Graduation***

***May 29 No School – Memorial Day***

***June 6 Last Day of School for Students***

***June 7 Last Day for Staff***

***August 3 All Student Picture Day***

***August 23 First Day of School for the 2023-2024 school year***



***Mark your calendars***

***Picture Day for all students will be August 3, 2023 from 3 pm to 7 pm  
at the Lodi High School Gymnasium***



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