Unlikely Pairing:
2nd Grade Inspires Collaboration

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SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

GREETINGS, LSR7!

I hope you are having a happy and healthy summer.

While I enjoy summertime activities with family and friends each year, I also look forward to the summer months as a time to work with our LSR7 administrative team to prepare for the next school year.

This past year, we focused on helping students succeed academically, connect with their peers and find their passions. This issue celebrates some of these exciting moments.

On page 2 and 3, we celebrate a student and staff member’s passion for music. Incoming freshman and former Summit Lakes Middle School eighth grader Addy Gardner is a musician and composer who participates in choir and shares her passion for creativity on page 2. Addy is also a former student of our LSR7 Teacher of the Year Holly Dahn. Learn more about Mrs. Dahn’s teaching philosophy on page 3.

One of the “peak priorities” of our strategic plan is career and college preparedness. Our LSR7 educators create meaningful classroom opportunities to model ingenuity and entrepreneurship. Take Richardson Elementary second graders, who tasked Summit Technology students to create nameplates for their classroom and then gave high schoolers feedback on their products. Read all about this elementary/secondary partnership on pages 4 and 5.

Our incredible Nutrition Services team is always a leader in our mission of supporting all of our students’ needs. And they are working hard to remind families who qualify for free and reduced lunch to complete an application after July 1 in order to be covered for the 2022-23 school year. Page 6 explains where families can find more information about free and reduced meals for our kids.

BEHIND THE COVER

Richardson Elementary 2nd graders Kamryn H., Adam B. and Charlize N. hold up nameplates they helped curate from Summit Technology Academy students.

Finally, we are incredibly proud of our three high school robotics teams, whose hard work and dedication earned them competing spots at the World Championships this spring. Jump into the competition and learn more about students making us #R7Proud on Pages 7 and 8.

Have a wonderful summer, LSR7. We can’t wait to see you.

With much appreciation,
DAVID BUCK, Ed. D
SUPERINTENDENT
I’m excited for more opportunities in high school when it comes to first of all meeting more people. I was pretty scared of that in middle school but it’s turned out to be really great.

My favorite genre is realistic fiction. I really like John Greene because, yeah the books are really sad, but it proves that this is what life is really like instead of something that’s happy and fluffy the whole time.

My favorite thing about choir is just singing with so many people. I write music and I play guitar by myself all the time, but it’s something totally different to be singing with 60 other people.

We had a Winter Concert where we went to a cathedral downtown and we were all dressed up and it sounded so beautiful and we were so prepared and it was this culmination of all our hard work.

(2022 Teacher of the Year) Mrs. Dahn has made me, and I know so many other kids in the choir, more secure in their voices. Because singing is something that a lot of people are very, very nervous about but she makes an environment where everyone is at least trying to sing out and I think that’s really special.

I think naturally I’m a creative person. Every single time that me and my sister are getting ready in the morning, my mom plays Pandora all morning until we leave.

There was absolutely no way that I would not gravitate toward music because everything that I love, everything that’s important to me, is attached to music. Music is my entire life.

I really like Fleetwood Mac my mom really likes Fleetwood Mac so that’s where I get that from. My dad is more funk so Earth, Wind and Fire… I listen to a lot of them as well.

Addy Gardner is a former eighth grader at Summit Lakes Middle School. She is in the Summit Lakes Middle School Choir and loves anything that allows her to be creative.
I grew up having many educators in my family who showed me how rewarding it can be to educate kids.

The power of one teacher can inspire you to think about your future in new ways. I had amazing educators that not only believed in me, but inspired me to want to go into music education.

I want my students to be supported and inspired to find where their strengths and talents can align to help them succeed in their future. Teachers and mentors played a crucial role for me in my journey and I hope to provide the same to my students.

Growing up in LSR7 was amazing because I was provided opportunities in my education and extracurricular activities to really thrive and grow.

After getting my degree, I interviewed in several districts but really wanted to teach in LSR7 alongside the very people who helped inspire me to do this job.

As I sat at the Teacher of the Year reception listening to all of the information about the other 14 Excellence in Teaching Award winners, I thought how amazing it would be to sit in their classrooms and learn from them.

Once a child is in my class, they are always my “kid”. I love cheering them on when they head to high school, celebrating them in their academics, activities, high school graduation and beyond.

Continuing in music classes during middle school, high school and college allowed me to travel and perform in the following countries; England, Poland, Prague, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland.

Overall, I am most proud of our SLMS Spring 2021 Matilda, Jr. musical because we had to overcome so many obstacles to pull it off during the pandemic.

I love choosing songs that my students can connect with and love performing! Many times there are life lessons to be learned through the process of learning the music. My students learn to trust each other, not to give up when it gets tough, gain music literacy skills and healthy vocal habits, to support each other, to grow in confidence, overcome fears, problem solve solutions and find meaning through the lyrics of a song.

On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, Mrs. Holly Dahn was named Lee’s Summit R-7 School District’s Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Dahn is a vocal music teacher at Summit Lakes Middle School and has spent her entire 18 year career at LSR7 schools. She also received her K-12 education within the district.
Second grade students at Richardson Elementary teamed up with students at Summit Technology Academy to create a new product for the entire grade level.

The second grade teachers had a need for nameplates for their students and reached out to Mr. Harper’s class at STA to partner to create a better, less expensive product than what is available right now.

Mr. Harper’s students designed several prototypes, brought them into Richardson second grade classrooms, and got feedback from the students and the teachers.

After finalizing the winning design, the Summit Technology Academy makers got final approval, and next year, the second grade students at Richardson Elementary will receive these LSR7-designed nameplates.
The final approved nameplate chosen by second grade classes at Richardson Elementary during focus groups

The STA 3-D printer producing the nameplates
ROBOTICS IS GROWING IN LEE’S SUMMIT R-7 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Team Driven 1730 (LSHS), Team Titanium (LSW) and the Broncobots (LSN), all competed in April at the World Championship in Houston. More than 450 robotics teams from around the world gathered to showcase their skills and team up to prove they were the best in the world.

TEAM DRIVEN
• Finished 3rd overall at World Championships

TEAM TITANIUM
• Finished 5th in the World Championship division
• Earned two regional victories and multiple student and team recognitions throughout the season

BRONCOBOTS
• Finished World Championship in the sixth seed alliance
• Earned two regional wins
• Won the Engineering INspiration Award
Students at all LSR7 high schools may notice the new robotics facilities being built in the next school year. The facilities will allow each school’s team to have a dedicated space to work and practice on a robotics field similar to the ones they’ll see in competitions.

Those new spaces, set to be complete by Fall of 2023, will also connect with work space for Geometry in Construction. It’s a new interdisciplinary program that bridges geometry and the construction trade to create a hands-on learning experience for math students.
Lee’s Summit R-7 School District’s Nutrition Services wants to remind families to mark their calendars if they qualify for free and reduced lunches.

The United States Department of Agriculture stopped covering the school lunch cost for everyone after the final bell on May 27. That means, anyone who qualifies for free and reduced lunch needs to apply after July 1 in order to be covered for the 2022-23 school year.

Families who qualify for free or reduced lunch can also find resources for other school-necessary expenses including Chromebook costs, physical costs and day care costs. Lori Danella, Director of Nutrition Services, wants families to understand the resource is there for anyone that could use the extra support from the district.

“Many times there are situations where families come upon some kind of illness,” said Mrs. Danella. “We’ve seen a lot of parents come in with cancer, and they aren’t receiving any short term from their jobs, and they need that extra help.”

That extra help to LSR7 families actually helps the district as well. When schools have that accurate count of students utilizing free and reduced lunches, they can devote more funds to creating special experiences for all students.

Danella notes, there are some families hesitant to apply because they feel they don’t need free and reduced lunch as much as other families.

“But it’s so important because the service is there and it benefits the children,” said Danella. “No one knows who’s free, who’s reduced, who’s paid. All of our computer systems treat every meal the same.”

No one knows who’s free, who’s reduced, who’s paid. All of our computer systems treat every meal the same.

LORI DANELLA, DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION SERVICES

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

QUALIFICATIONS FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH:

• Households with income within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (available on nutrition services website).

• Households receiving benefits from the Food Stamp Program/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

• Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court

• Head Start participants

• Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway or migrant

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For more information, contact Sandy Nelson 816-616-4301 • sandy.nelson@npgco.com

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