



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

February 8, 2024

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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Introducing Alexander the Athenian

After months of brainstorming and planning, Crawfordsville Community School Corporation and Crawfordsville High School debuted the newest Athenian in town, Alexander the Athenian mascot, at the home basketball game on January 26.

Alexander was announced and welcomed as he entered the gym under the spotlight. He joined the Blue Illusions Dance Team, cheered with the cheerleaders, tossed t-shirts to the crowd, and was a high-spirited mascot for everyone watching! Alexander was available for photo opportunities with fans during half time.

Leading up to the reveal, were video clips, produced by Blue Marketing, which circulated social media featuring Alexander's favorite subjects, hobbies, and showed him throughout the corporation's school buildings.

All of the videos led to the excitement to finally see Alexander in person at the game.

Also prior to Friday's game, Alexander and a couple CHS cheerleaders visited elementary classrooms to high five and spread school spirit and invite students to the game.

"I am proud of Alexander because of the true team effort that went into his creation and presentation. He embodies the many strengths and the diversity of being an Athenian. When I see Alexander, I see the shared vision of a team caring for our schools and wanting an excellent experience for all of our school community; I see the Athenian Way," CCSC Superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker said.

Ryker said that for years, leaders of CCSC heard in passing conversation about the need of a

mascot. The idea and suggestion came to life during the 2023-24 new administration's meetings where goals and initiatives of a safe, learning-focused, and fun school environment were established. While the mascot is definitely part of the fun category, Ryker said Food Service and Student Services Director, Ms. Amber Reed, had the idea for Alexander to promote CCSC's nutrition programming

Ryker said naturally it was determined that the mascot should follow historical Athens for inspiration since Crawfordsville is the Athens of Indiana. It was settled that Alexander the Athenian would be named after the greatest historical Athenian, Alexander the Great and be known as the mythological son

of Athena, the god of wisdom and war. Beyond the nutrition promotion, Alexander will welcome students at events like kindergarten round-up, present awards at elementary schools, and of course cheer for our Athenians at home events.



Robotics team a great representation of CHS

The CHS Robotics team competed recently at the FTC Competition in Lafayette and were commended on being an excellent example of a FIRST team. The program manager for FIRST Indiana Robotics, Trisha Thompson, said she was impressed by the CHS team noting they display the six core values of the robotics program including Discovery, Impact, Innovation, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun, and the top core value of "gracious professionalism."

"Your students, coaches, and parents are above and beyond

our expectations in displaying these characteristics," Thompson said. "I get to interact with thousands of students and hundreds of mentors in Indiana every year. You should be very proud of this team and how they represent your school."

In addition to the impressive representation of these values, the team came home with a 2nd place finish in the Design Award and they were also an Alliance Captain in the finals.

Well done, Athenians! Thank you for representing CHS well!



The seniors representing CHS are Simon Galbert, left, Elizabeth Jeffries, and James Novak.



Athenian wrestlers in record-breaking season

Two sectional champions, 8 to regionals, and 3 going to semi-state

The Athenian wrestling team finished off the dual meet season undefeated with a record of 25-0! The 25 wins ties the school record with the 2017-18 school year for most dual meet wins in a season. The 25-0 record breaks the previous school record for best dual meet win percentage. This breaks the previous record of 16-1-1 set in 1990-91.

The Athenians also competed well at sectionals with two wrestlers named Sectional Champions, Taiga Koyanagi at 106 weight class and Braeden Hites at 165 weight class. Hites also remains undefeated this season.

In addition, eight others wrestlers advance to regionals including 2nd place winners: Landon Vaught at 138, Jaziel

Gil-Herrera at 150, Ashton Wilson at 175; 3rd place finishers: Camron Teeple at 113 and Blayze Robbins at 126; and 4th place finishers Armando Munoz at 120, Keegan Cokel at 215, and Isaiah McNorton at 285.

Following regionals, three juniors advance to semi-state on Saturday, Feb. 10 - Taiga Koyanagi, Landon Vaught, and Braeden Hites.



Sectional Champions!

Congratulations to the CHS girls swim team who won the Sectional Championship title for the first time since 2019.

In addition, there are six swimmers who will advance to the state final prelims at the IUPUI Natatorium on Friday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Those swimmers include Maesa Horton, Marie Hesler, Ellie Walker, Sophia Melevage, Melanie Dowd, and Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert.

Walker, Schmitzer-Torbert, Hesler, and Dowd won the 200 medley relay; Horton, Melevage, Hesler and Schmitzer-Torbert won the 200 Freestyle, and the 400 free relay winning team is Horton, Walker, Dowd and Melevage. Hesler was also the individual sectional champion for the 500 Freestyle.



Dynamic Expression wins Grand Champion, best vocals

CHS Dynamic Expression won Grand Champion and best vocals on their competition performance at the recent competition at Lebanon Show Choir Invitational. Four members also participated in the solo portion of competition and senior Thomas Bowling won third place.



Dynamic Expression will compete again on May 10 at Music in the Parks.

Willson Preschool Academy

MCCF Grant provides Willson with fresh new look, supplies

Willson Preschool Academy recently received a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation that allowed for the purchase and installation of new carpet, new furniture, and additional learning materials for four classrooms.

The carpet and furniture were all installed over winter break giving the space a new and refreshed appearance. The students were excited to explore the classroom after returning from break. New student favorites include the soft rug, new kitchen set, new tables, and of course, new toys.

Willson named top quality program by Indiana

Willson Preschool Academy recently earned the Legally Licensed Exempt Status (LLEP) and the Paths to Quality (PTQ) Level 3 Certification which is Indiana's state-wide quality rating and improvement system. This is a significant achievement that reflects Willson's commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education!

This recognition was given following necessary application processes and state walkthrough evaluations before being named a state-recognized, high-quality program.

With these achievements, Willson Preschool Academy is now eligible to accept Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Vouchers for all 3-year-old preschool students, and On My Way Pre-K Vouchers for 4 and 5-year-old students, provided their families meet the income eligibility criteria and complete the necessary voucher paperwork. Willson Preschool continues to grow its program by having the ability to offer a full-day preschool for the four community classrooms.



Top left: Chase Villalpando and Kaleb Peacock are playing with a new set of castle blocks. Top Right: Dayana Hernandez Flores enjoying the kitchen set. Bottom Left: Jackson Ware playing with magnetic blocks at the light table. Bottom Right: The new carpet and furniture looks great and students are enjoying it all.

Enrollment is now open; Join us for an open house

Willson Preschool Academy is now enrolling students for the 2024-25 school year. [Click the registration link to get the process started.](#)

Get started now to take advantage of full-time preschool, before and after school childcare options, high ability options, voucher opportunities, and just \$250 monthly tuition.

Willson Preschool Academy is hosting an open house on Monday, Feb. 12 from 5:00



p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come on out to learn about preschool options and curriculum, explore classrooms and see the new additions made possible by MCCF, receive help with voucher procedures, and have the opportunity to have your questions answered.

For more information, visit [Willson Preschool Academy page on the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation website](#) or call the school at 765-362-0005.

CCSC elementaries debut combined newsletter

You may have noticed a new email in your inbox recently from Mrs. Brittany Cooper, Director of Elementary Education. The email featured a new communication link for one newsletter providing information for Hose Elementary K-1, Nicholson Elementary 2-3, and Hoover Elementary 4-5, and Willson Preschool Academy. The newsletter will come out bi-weekly and will be a one-stop location for your elementary school news and updates.

Located along the sidebar will be a table of contents so you can quickly navigate to your child's school for applicable news.

If you missed the email, you can also find the elementary newsletter on each elementary school website on the ["For Parents" page](#).



Photo by Susan Ehrlich



Team members are front row: Taylor Pruett and Madison Ellingwood. Back row: Lizzie Willis, left, Campbell White, Lacie Bush, and Maddie Lewellyn.



Photos by Susan Ehrlich

King crowned by Alexander

The Snowcoming Court was announced during half time of the boys basketball game at the end of January.

Zion Zacarias was crowned Snowcoming King by Alexander the Athenian. He was escorted by Gabby Warren.

King candidates included seniors Ryan Miller, Ethan McLemore, Tyson Fuller. Underclassman representatives were freshman Jaiden McMullen, sophomore Alfonso Riano Escobar, and junior Chet Kincaid.

CHS bowling team undefeated, conference, sectional champs

The CHS girls' bowling team finished a great season and were undefeated. The Athenians were Conference Champions and also Sectional Champions. In addition, four members advanced to the Regional competition and Campbell White was the Singles Sectional Champion.

At Regionals, White was once again the Singles Regional Champion which advanced her to the semi-state competition.



Campbell White

Hoover's Lafever to honor dad with grant award

Hoover Elementary music teacher Hannah Lafever is one of the 2024 recipients of the Lilly Endowment grant for the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program (TCFP). The TCFP is one of Lilly's longest standing programs created to support educators, promote renewal, and offer financial resources to complete the unique and desired experiences. The direct outcome is believed to rejuvenate teachers and reignite energy so they can return to the classroom to continue shaping today's students.

"I'm incredibly excited and grateful to have been awarded the Lilly Grant," Lafever said.

Lafever's project is titled, "Searching for Caches and Closure: Geocaching Across Indiana" which will focus on finding a geocache in each of Indiana's 92 counties, ultimately fulfilling a bucket-list challenge in memory of an adventurous father.

Geocaching is an outdoor activity using GPS coordinates and mobile app to locate containers, small or large, with various items inside. Always included is a log entry book to write your name and date of discovering the cache. Other trinkets or items are inside and can be exchanged with your own item upon finding a container.

Her father and avid geocacher, Bill Ramey, is the inspiration for the project. Ramey discovered a love for geocaching following a cancer diagnosis in 2013. He introduced Lafever to the outdoor hobby and it was something they enjoyed

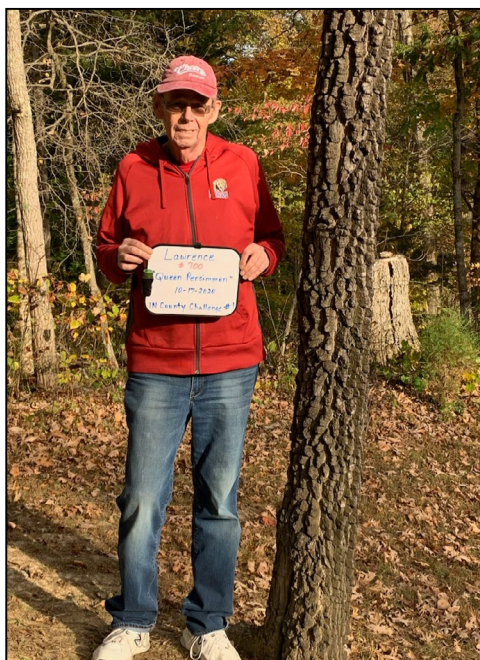
doing together.

"I loved to go on day trips with him to find them," Lafever said.

Lafever was always encouraged and supported by her father and she was inspired by how he lived life following the difficult diagnosis.

"After his diagnosis, Dad did his best to live his life to the fullest each and every day. He was always positive, vibrant, and encouraging of others to be the same," she said.

Even through his own cancer journey, he was part of online and Facebook Colon Cancer groups to learn and encourage



Lafever's father, Bill Ramey, on a geocache trip.



Lafever as a child fishing with her dad.



Hoover Elementary music teacher Hannah Lafever with her Dad, Bill Ramey

others to take charge of their health.

"He was very vocal about colorectal health advocacy, to the point where the officiant at his funeral encouraged those in attendance to, 'check their butts' in honor of Bill," Lafever said.

Ramey's big bucket list item was to explore Indiana's 92 counties and find a geocache in each of them. Unfortunately, Ramey passed away from colon cancer in April of 2022 and was unable to complete his goal.

"My plan for the Lilly Grant is to complete this bucket list challenge in his memory," she said.

Her application was finally finished after being inspired following a family geocaching trip in his honor last June. Lafever also gives credit to Ann Stanley, Hoover art teacher, who received the grant in 2017 and pushed her each year to apply.

Lafever's project will begin at Geocaching HQ in Fremont, Washington where she will complete the Fremont Geocaching Tour of six different caches and a refresher course, gaining knowledge to help her in her project. Following the tour,

she'll have the opportunity to ask the experts for their advice for her own adventure.

With such a large amount of ground to cover, Lafever has split the state into nine sections. The northern and southern third sections of the state will require longer trips and short day trips are planned for central Indiana since it's closer to where she lives.

While there are current geocaching challenges for the 92 counties, Lafever is planning to do her own and find the most unique caches in each county. With her awarded \$15,000, she has until July 31, 2025 to complete the project.

Once the project is complete, Lafever will create a photo display book filled with photos of each geocache site. She plans to leave Travel Bugs inside some of the caches she finds so she will include those maps and track them as they travel around the state and globe.

"Dad was always my number one supporter, he never hesitated to help me achieve my goals. While I know he isn't here to see me accomplish this, I have no doubt he would be proud of me and my efforts," Lafever said.

Whicker travels to Alaska on unforgettable trip

Last year's Lilly Grant recipient reports back on learning opportunity

By Trisha Whicker
Hoover Elementary teacher

I am a beach girl, I do not like cold weather and I certainly am not a “dog person.” However, when I was awarded the Teacher Creativity Grant from the Lilly Foundation, I was ecstatic to make a dream of mine come true: to visit Alaska and go sled dog mushing on a glacier.

Several years ago, a friend and colleague of mine introduced me to the Iditarod sled dog race, known as “The Last Great Race on Earth.” She had done a cross-curricular unit with her class in the past. She asked me if I would like to join our two classes and study the race and Alaska together. From our first read aloud that we used to introduce the unit to watching the winner cross the finish line in Nome, I was hooked. I found the whole idea of running a dog sled across the wilderness of Alaska for 1000 miles fascinating. It didn’t take long and I decided that someday I would like to go to Alaska and see some of the things I had been learning about in person.

When I heard about the grant from the Lilly Foundation, I decided I would give it a try. I certainly never expected to be awarded the grant. When I found out in March of 2023 that I had been chosen, I was beyond excited and thankful. My husband and I had already decided we would go to Alaska in July of 2024, the gift of the grant made our trip a dream come true.

We spent two weeks in Alaska exploring from Anchorage to Fairbanks. We visited Front Street in Anchorage where the Ceremonial start of the Iditarod takes place. We toured the Iditarod Headquarters and rode a cart pulled by the Iditarod sled dogs of musher Riley Dyche. We went to Seward which is the home of one of the founders of the Iditarod: Dan Seavey. His son

Mitch lives there and is a three-time Iditarod Champion. We also visited the location of the start of the original race. While in Seward we also did an eight-hour whale, wildlife, and glacier boat tour that was fabulous.

We were able to experience other things besides Iditarod sites. We visited and hiked in three National Parks, including Denali, Kenai Fjords, and Katmai. We went white water rafting in Denali, met Santa and Mrs. Clause in North Pole and also visited a reindeer farm. These are just a few of the things we were able to do.

Katmai was something I will never forget. We had to take a three hour float plane ride to Katmai, where we were able to visit Brooks Camp. This is famous for its bears who fish the live salmon run. The bears walk around and you encounter them on the walking paths. We were able to watch them fish and catch the jumping salmon.

I loved everything about our trip and nothing was disappointing. The highlight for me however was dog mushing on a glacier! Dallas Seavey is one of only two five-time Iditarod champions. He is also the youngest person to ever win the race. Dallas lives in Talkeetna, Alaska where he has his dog kennel. In the summer, 40 of his Iditarod sled dogs are flown up to Cataract Glacier to spend the summer at “dog camp.” The purpose of the dog camp is for the dogs to spend the summer on the glacier training for the upcoming Iditarod. We were able to visit the camp. We took a helicopter ride to the glacier. This was amazing in itself. To fly over the glacier was breathtaking. We landed on the glacier and were greeted by Isaac Teaford. He works for Seavey and plans to run the “B” team from Dallas’ kennel in this year’s



Iditarod. When we landed Isaac gave us some background of the operation and instructions. We watched our musher Steven hook the dogs to a gangline that was attached to two sleds. We then took a two mile run at 9 miles an hour around the glacier. Steven talked to us while we rode and we all were able to have a turn at driving the sled. It was beyond amazing! I had so much fun and I

will never forget it!

My trip to Alaska was a dream come true. The Lilly grant allowed me to do everything that I wanted to do and more. I could go on and on about my experiences. I cannot wait for this year’s Iditarod. I am going to be able to share even more information with my class. I would recommend that everyone apply for the Teacher Creativity Grant!



It's a BIG day when Wabash football players visit!

Photos by Wabash College

Members of the Wabash College football team along with Coach Olmstead visited Nicholson Elementary last week bringing lots of energy and excitement to students. The players set up various exercise and activity stations in the gym to challenge students and get them moving. They always love when Wabash students visit!



Honor choir girls travel to Fort Wayne

Congrats to Scarlett Cawthon, left, and Hailey Sarver, right, for being selected to participate in the Indiana State Middle School Honor Choir at the 2024 Indiana Music Educators Conference in Fort Wayne. Pictured with them is choir teacher Jennie Swick



Dance teams place in top three at all competitions

The Crawfordville Dance teams are having a great year of competitions. Following are the results for January and the first weekend in February. Congratulations, Dancers!

Jan. 6 at Greenfield Central High School: CES: 1st place, Hip Hop; CMS: 2nd place, Hip Hop; CHS: 2nd place, Hip Hop and 2nd, Jazz.

Jan. 20 at Avon High School - CES: 1st place.

Jan. 27 at Homestead High School: CMS: 1st in Hip Hop, 1st in Jazz; CHS: 1st in Hip hop, 2nd in Jazz.

Feb. 3 Mt. Vernon High School in Fortville: CMS: 2nd in Hip Hop, 2nd in Jazz; CHS: 1st in Hip Hop, 3rd in Jazz



Hose Elementary celebrates hard-working students

After the first semester of hard work, students at Hose Elementary got to participate in the PBIS snowball fight between the teachers and students. The students were victorious and enjoyed putting the teachers in the penalty box!



Way to go 2nd quarter Hose Heroes!

Congratulations to our second quarter Hose Heroes: Karma, Liam, Carsyn, Mason, Tommy, Allison, Kruz, and Naksh. They received a shirt and certificate for their nomination. A Hose Hero is a student who is **H**elpful, **E**ncouraging to others, **R**espectful and **R**esponsible, and demonstrates **O**utstanding citizenship.

Kindergarten Round-Up is open

Kindergarten Round-Up is now open for future students of Laura Hose Elementary.

To [enroll in Kindergarten](#), students must be 5 years old by August 1, 2024.

Families are invited to attend the Kindergarten Round-Up open house on either March 14 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or March 15 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Hose Elementary.

During this time students will have their picture taken, take a skill-based inventory, and tour the building. While students are completing the inventory, parents and guard-



ians will attend an information session.

For additional questions, please contact Hose Elementary at 362-2886 or email Heather at hrock@cville.k12.in.us.