

NEWSLETTER OF GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE
SCHOOL DISTRICT #2859

Panther News

November 2016

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BISCAY, BROWNTON, GLENCOE, NEW AUBURN, PLATO, AND SILVER LAKE

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15 GSL's Elementary PTO is off to a great start this year. One of the first projects was to collect non-perishable items for the McLeod County Food Shelf. They were able to collect 667 pounds of items.

Making progress and moving forward with the school district's building project

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF OUR STAKE-holders at GSL. We are getting closer and closer to the start of the official holiday season and, as you can see, the school year is flying by.

A main topic that I get to talk about quite often is our building project. To summarize the many moving parts of this, we are making progress and things are moving forward. The block work continues, and it is our hope that we will have all areas enclosed in the next couple of months. Things are really starting to take shape and it is exciting to see the plans come alive.



CHRIS SONJU

You can start to see where our new classrooms are going to be, the new flexible learning areas, and how the buildings are going to connect. It is exciting to see the progress each day. The weather has been a factor and it is safe to say that

"You can start to see where our new classrooms are going to be, the new flexible learning areas, and how the buildings are going to connect. It is exciting to see the progress each day."

we are behind schedule. However, at this time, our plan is to have our project completed in August 2016. As the project moves forward, we will be able to have a better gauge of things as the weeks and months move along.

As far as our school year is going, I can't be more excited about the teaching and learning that is happening on a daily basis. Our new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program in our elementary school, along with the continued expansion of STEM in the junior high and high school, have been a complete success. It is so fun observing our students problem solve and use critical thinking skills to complete their assignments and tasks. Learning should be fun and challenging all at the same time, and I am excited to say that this is happening all over at GSL.

As we move into our winter season, please note that if we have a school cancellation due to weather, the first two days will be Digital/Different Days where students will be given their assignments in a variety of ways, including using technology to support the learning. If there is a third day missed, we will be making that day up.

We have a copy of the school calendar available on the district's website at www.gsl.k12.mn.us or you can obtain a copy by contacting the District Office. If you still have questions, please give the District Office a call at 320-864-2491.

Until next time, thank you all for your support of our school and here's to the continued success of our students.



Chris Sonju
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The walls of the building project are up. The block work continues, and it is hoped that all areas will be enclosed in the next couple of months.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT PATRON



PANTHER NEWS
Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools
1621 East 16th Street
Glencoe, MN 55336

Buildings, water, and audit are on our minds

IF APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, WHAT DO AUGUST showers bring? Well, I probably shouldn't answer that directly, but as most of you know if you have been watching any of the projects in town, reading the paper and watching the farmers' fields, you know exactly what August showers bring. A whole lot of stress and then some.

The extensive rainfalls this summer and fall have certainly slowed things down on our project, but we feel like we are finally getting our heads above water and above the ground. As you drive by our construction site you will notice a lot of activity has taken place over the past two months. We finally have walls that have gone up and a lot of block work and iron work has been started. Although we are still behind schedule, the contractors have been able to make up a lot of progress, so our hope is that, at some point, we will be back on schedule. My hunch is that we will next be battling snow because nothing seems to come easy! We hope before we see too much snow fly we will have some roofs in place so a lot of the interior work can keep moving forward.



MICHELLE SANDER



The new boilers in both Lincoln and the high school have been installed. I hope by the time you read this that we actually have heat. The new electrical panel at Lincoln was also completed over the MEA break, along with the remaining doors/windows at the high school and at Lakeside. Even with the headaches and just a little stress, the project is so exciting as we look to improve our facilities for our students, staff, families, and community.

As you are aware, we have been working diligently to solve the water drainage issue at the high school. The new project is tiled and is drained to the holding pond north of the school by the tennis courts. From the tennis courts it drains east to the school wetland. A couple of issues due to the extensive rain is that the holding pond has been beyond full, and the wetland does not have a good working outlet. So, we are working on the installation of a pump to the pond that will connect to the current irrigation system at the athletic complex.

We are adding irrigation to the northeast part of the complex that has never had irrigation. This part of the solution enables us to be able to pump water out of the pond, while getting water to those areas of the complex and saves us on having to use our well water. The second part of the equation is getting the water out of the wetland to a manageable level. The tiling part of the project is what we are in the process of working on. It is unbelievable how many statutes, regulations, permits, engineers, lawyers, and contractors it takes to move water. Not to mention how many meetings, phone calls and hours. But, we continue to strive to find the best solution for our building site now and for a long time into the future.

If you drive by the north pond you will also notice that we are trying to get some of the trees and brush cleaned up so that the pond is draining like it needs to be. We would love to enhance this water feature so it can be an improvement to the district and look inviting. I'm not kidding when I say the school was built on swamp land!

At the October board meeting, the board heard the annual audit report presentation of the 2015-2016 financial statements. We are happy to report that the district's financials are in really good shape and that we were able to slightly increase our fund balance. Part of the increase is reflective of our operating capital budget. The school's fiscal year ends June 30th, but we are never able to complete all of our summer projects by June 30th, so some of those costs or projects are carried over to the next year. This is typical of what happens every summer, but this year we had our extensive door and window project at the high school that was not part of the building project that we had accounted for, and the bills were not all paid by the end of the fiscal year. So, this is one of the reasons why the general fund balance increased. The district's unassigned fund balance ended at 29 percent.

We do acknowledge the fact that we have some unknowns with the building project and have some reserves set aside to account for those unknowns as part of the 2016-2017 budget (like tiling the wetland). A full copy of the audit can be found on the district's website under the district office page. If you have trouble finding it and would like to see a copy, please let me know.

Please give me a call or stop in if you have any questions regarding the project or the financials. I would love to be able to answer any questions that you might have.



Michelle Sander, Business Manager
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BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Stop in to apply at the
GSL Bus Garage,
1203 12th St E,
Glencoe, or call
320-864-3032



Must have a good driving record. We will train.

**4.0 School Services of
Glencoe-Silver Lake, Inc.**

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE Helen Baker Elementary School ~ Glencoe

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Independent School District No. 2859, Glencoe-Silver Lake, will be selling the Helen Baker Elementary School and surrounding property located at 405 E. 16th Street in Glencoe, Minnesota 55336.



Approximately 8.6 total acres, including 37,214 square foot building built in 1953 and a building addition of 3,100 square feet built in 1996. Garage out-building and playground equipment are negotiable in sale. Legal description of the property is available through the School District.

The School District reserves the right to consider the proposed usage of the property by the buyer in its decision-making process and may include a provision in the deed restricting the use of the property for a term of fifteen years. Purchasers are required to include in their offer their proposed use of the property for this purpose.

Property will be available for use in November of 2017. Any party wishing to inspect the building and grounds may do so by contacting Chris Sonju, Superintendent of Schools, at 1621 16th Street East, Glencoe, Minnesota 55336, by calling 320-864-2498 or at csonju@gsl.k12.mn.us.

Tips for monitoring teens' use of social media

HELLO! I HOPE THIS NEWSLETTER finds you well! I wanted to take some time to discuss social media and use of social media by teenagers. Last year, we did some social media presentations for our students and did an evening session for our parents. Because this is an issue that is always in front of us, I wanted to share a few statistics and some tips for assisting parents. The information in this article is taken from the parenting.com website.



PAUL SPARBY

Social networking is on the rise, and the study found that 22 percent of teenagers log onto their favorite social media sites more than 10 times a day, and that 75 percent own cell phones. This level of engagement online increases the risks of cyberbullying, "Facebook depression" (a new phenomenon where "de-friending" and online bullying lead to symptoms of depression), exposure to inappropriate content, and sexting.

Just as we prepare our kids for life in the real world, we should prepare them for life in the online world. Here are 13 tips for monitoring social media.

NO UNDERAGE FACEBOOKING

Did you know that no one under the age of 13 is permitted to join Facebook? However, there is no real way for Facebook to truly enforce it, because anyone can lie about their year of birth. You need to make sure that your child stays away from Facebook until 13 AND until you are comfortable with him or her having an account. There are measures put in place, such as reporting an underage child, but ultimately, it should be the parent who has the

say on when and if that account gets created.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

Check that your privacy settings for the Internet and Facebook are set to the strictest levels. Depending on which browser you are using, you can adjust the settings directly from the options tab and adjust levels around cookies, third party sites and more. This not only protects the computer user, but also the computer from the threat of viruses. Checking your Facebook privacy settings is easy as well.

USE FILTERING SOFTWARE

There are software suites you can purchase to monitor your child's Internet usage; many even enable you to view the exact keys that were typed, time spent online and all computer activity in general. Popular programs such as Net Nanny and PureSight PC let you monitor social media sites, block chats, filter content and much more. You can even monitor your child's cell phone with a software program like My Mobile Watchdog.

CREATE GROUND RULES

If your kids are old enough to be using the computer on their own, they are old enough to understand that there are rules they need to abide by. Breaking them should not have a lesser consequence than if they broke a rule in the offline world. The best way for families to agree on ground rules is to create a contract that all parties must sign. The Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) encourages parents and kids to have an open discussion about what these rules mean.

GET TO KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD'S HABITS ARE

You don't need to be a super sleuth and spy on your kid's every online move, but it is important to be aware of the kinds of sites he is frequenting and the people he is associating with. You get to know the friends he's hanging out with at school, and his online friends shouldn't be any different. One of the contract rules should be that you have full access to his Facebook friends and can take a look whenever you wish.

KEEP THE COMPUTER IN A CENTRAL LOCATION

It's much easier to keep tabs on any online activity when the computer is located in a high-traffic zone than if your child is using a computer in the privacy of her own room. Place the computer in a central location like your kitchen or family room so that everything is out in the open.

URGE YOUR KIDS TO AVOID QUESTIONNAIRES, FREE GIVEAWAYS AND CONTESTS

A pop-up ad appears and tells kids they can win a free iPad by simply clicking the link. Anyone would be tempted by this kind of offer, but kids are particularly susceptible, so it's important to warn kids against falling for this kind of Internet trick. Many of these ruses are attempts to glean personal information. Inform kids that even if they are forwarded a fun questionnaire from a friend, it's best to close the window and not participate.

MONITOR THE PICTURES YOUR CHILD POSTS ONLINE

In an ideal world, your child would never post a

photo of herself online, but that might not be entirely realistic. If she wants to share photos with her friends via email or a social networking site, be sure you know exactly which pictures are being posted. Make sure the content of the photo is completely innocuous and that no identifiable locales in the background are noticeable.

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA

If you are tweeting and updating your Facebook page at a stop light and taking every opportunity to "just check something," you're setting a poor precedent for social media usage that your child will surely follow. Always remember to ask yourself if you're setting a good example and demonstrating proper technology etiquette as well.

LIMIT CELL PHONE USE

Just as you would limit use of a computer, TV or gaming system, you can do the same with a cell phone. Set rules for the device, only allowing cell phone usage at certain hours in the evening or after homework has been completed.

If you have teens of driving age, the most important rule to enforce is that under no circumstances should cell phones ever be used while driving. Phones should be kept off so incoming text sounds aren't a distraction or should be kept in the glove compartment, out of reach.

TEACH KIDS ABOUT AN ONLINE REPUTATION

Many kids don't seem to understand the permanence of the online world. Make sure to stress to your kids what a digital footprint is and the impact inappropriate messages or images could have if a future college administrator or employer were to stumble upon them. As stated in the APP study, what goes online stays online.

TALK TO KIDS ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

You may feel like you're scaring your kids when talking to them about the dangers of being online, but it's better for them to be scared than to be unaware. Having an open line of communication is crucial the minute your kids start using the Internet more independently. Parry Aftab, noted online safety and privacy expert and Executive Director of WiredSafety, says, "Who's a stranger online? Everyone is! You need to remind your children that these people are strangers and that the standard rules always apply."

GET TO KNOW THE TECHNOLOGY

Kids have gained a mastery of technology so quickly and can easily pick up on the nuances that any new gadget has, far more easily than we can in some cases. It is every parent's responsibility to know exactly which key features are included in the gadgets our kids are using. Stephen Balkam, founding CEO of the Family Online Safety Institute, says, "This can be a humbling experience. You may find that you had no idea that the Sony Playstation Portable that you bought your 11-year-old last Christmas had a web browser."



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Local scholarships available

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS will be available to seniors from January 2 through February 14, 2017. Scholarship information and applications will be available on the GSL Counseling Office webpage.

Non-local scholarships are currently available on the GSL Counseling Office webpage and updated weekly.



American jobs are not what they used to be

AS I WAS PONDERING WHAT TO WRITE about for this installment of the Panther Newsletter I came across this article from Market Watch. It addresses the skills you need to find a job in America in 2016. As Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools have continued down the path of implementing the Project Lead The Way STEM curriculum K-12, this article just reinforced my conviction that this is a great step forward for our district, our students, and our community. Here is the article from Market Watch:



DAN SVOBODA

These are the skills you need to find a job in America in 2016.

U.S. workers cannot rest on their laurels and expect to still be employed in the same job 10 or even 20 years from now. Employment opportunities increasingly lie in jobs requiring higher-level social or analytical skills, while physical or manual skills are fading in importance, according to a major new report, “The State of American Jobs,” by the Pew Research Center, a nonprofit, Washington, D.C.-based think tank, and released in association with the Markle Foundation, a charitable organization focused on technology, health care, and national security.

Since 1980, employment in jobs requiring stronger

social skills — namely interpersonal, communications or management skills — increased by 83 percent to 90 million. And employment increased 77 percent to 86 million for jobs requiring higher levels of analytical skills, including critical thinking and computer use. Social skills are crucial in jobs that require a lot of writing, speaking, managing and negotiating, particularly in educational services (which has seen a 105 percent jump in jobs from 1990 to 2015) and health care and social assistance (up 99 percent over that period).

What’s more, employment in “hybrid” occupations that require both social and analytical skills — such as managerial or teaching jobs — has grown 94 percent to 76 million since 1980. Examples of analytical skills are critical thinking, mathematics and computer programming, often found in science, technology, engineering and mathematic or STEM fields, often dominated by men. (Many occupations have overlapping skill requirements: Postsecondary teachers likely have higher levels of both social and analytical skills.)

By comparison, however, the number of workers in jobs requiring higher levels of manual or physical skills, such as machinery operation and physical labor, has changed relatively little over the same period. Physical skills include operating vehicles and machinery and repairing electronic equipment. One theory: More manufacturing jobs have been out-sourced overseas over the last 25 years. (The report is based on an analysis of Department of Labor data and the monthly U.S. Census Current Population Survey, which covers 60,000 households.)

“The shifting demand for skills in the modern work-

place may be working to the benefit of women,” the report found. Women, who represent 47 percent of the overall workforce, make up the majority of workers in jobs where social skills (where 55 percent are women) or analytical skills (where 52 percent are women) are relatively more important.” Men tend to be more engaged in jobs calling for more intensive physical and manual skills, making up 70 percent of workers in those occupations.

This is likely to have contributed to the narrowing of the gender pay gap from 1980 to 2015, given that wages are rising much faster in jobs requiring social and analytical skills. Women dominate fields like education, which are not typically high-paying. Men dominate in STEM fields, which tend to pay more. But as more women received a college education and entered the workforce over the last half-century, the gender wage gap improved. In 1960, women were paid around 61 cents on the dollar compared with men versus 79.6 cents on the dollar in 2015.

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National Honor Society is in full swing at GSL

MEMBERS OF GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE HIGH SCHOOL’S National Honor Society are actively involved with volunteering at and organizing many events. This year’s society will potentially consist of 30 seniors and 27 juniors. Applications for new members were due September 15th. New members will be announced in the near future.

After only two meetings, Advisor Carol Silus is excited about the willingness of this group of students to participate and volunteer for various activities. Jacob Fehrenbach, Jordan Kaczmarek, Morgan Mathews, Maggie Petersen, and Dini Schweikert have brought many new and exciting ideas to NHS and will be serving as our Presidential Committee.

So far, the NHS students have planned many activities and volunteer events including: mentoring at Lincoln Junior High; a candy drive involving all of our district schools; reading to students at Helen Baker Elementary; aiding in the community blood drive; and participating in the local backpack program which provides food and snacks for students over weekends and holidays.

This year, students volunteered to assist with the GSL Booster Club’s Color Run on October 1st. Also on the docket was volunteering to have stops at the Trunk-Or-Treat event at the Glencoe City Center; volunteering at Glencoe Regional Health Services Long-term Care, the McLeod Food Shelf, and the Glencoe Public Library. Fundraising events will include raffle sales of signed gear from a variety of GSL school organizations, carnation sales and cookie grams.

Many of the new and returning members are looking forward to helping our school and community in any way possible, spending their time to make others’ lives easier. Our members bring a plethora of talent to our community and look forward to serving you.

If your organization is in need of volunteers, please contact Carol Silus, at csilus@gsl.k12.mn.us. You can find our organization on Facebook and Twitter at Glencoe-Silver Lake National Honor Society.

Morgan Mathews, National Honor Society Member
NHS Presidential Committee Member
Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools



Members of Glencoe-Silver Lake National Honor Society’s Presidential Committee are pictured above, left to right: Jacob Fehrenbach, Maggie Petersen, Dini Schweikert, and Morgan Mathews. Carol Silus is advisor to the NHS.

“Legally Blonde” is performed at GSL High School

THE AUDIENCE WILL BE TICKLED PINK by “Legally Blonde the Musical,” according to Kay Wilson, director of GSL High School’s fall theater production. “The musical entertains, but also conveys a valuable message: Be true to yourself!”

Based on the hit movie, “Legally Blonde,” the musical is an invigorating gift of musical fun, wrapped up with a snappy pink bow! Elle Woods is the southern California co-ed cutie, who is accustomed to getting what she wants. When her boyfriend, Warner, calls it off because she is not serious about her future, Elle turns her attention from fashion to the books and enrolls in Harvard Law School. Along the way, Elle proves that kindness and compassion never go out of style.

The show features Emmi Jerabek as Elle Woods. Elise Petersen plays the beautician who encourages Elle to be true to herself and her natural hair color. The handsome but self-centered Warner, Elle’s college boyfriend, is played by Jacob Reichow. The main cast is rounded out with Anthony LaPlante as Emmett, the Harvard Teaching Assistant who sees Elle’s true potential, Marissa Kirchoff as the formidable Professor Callahan, Katie Twiss as Vivienne, Elle’s prestige-seeking nemesis, Marisa Luchsinger as Brooke Wyndom, the fitness queen, and Leah Bettcher, Bethany Cross, Morgan Dahlke, Bryanna Paul, and Maren Warner as Elle’s loyal muses.

Supporting roles are filled by Dan Cross, Izzy Elias, Shawna Goettl, Elsie Graupmann, Molly Green, Summer Hayes, Megan Jochum, Mackenzie Kantack, Lily Kirchoff, Kendra Klobe, Eli Kuehn, Haley Lukes, Rachael Meyer, Emma Petersen, Izzie Petersen, Brandi Pikal, Elida Roskamp, Anna Salgado, Sarah Schmieg, Ben Siers, Jonah Tankersley, Jake Vasek, and Grace Witte.

In addition to cast members, the show will feature members of the Concert Choir and SA Singers.

Performances will be on November 10-12 and November 17-19 at GSL High School Auditorium. All begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and are available at the door.

~ ACT ONE ~

Elle.....Emmi Jerabek
Delta Nu Quintet:
KateBeth Cross

Elle (Emmi Jerabek) introduces herself to her Harvard classmates, left to right: Emmett (Anthony LaPlante), Grandmaster Chad (Haley Lukes), Erin (Molly Green), Elle, and Enid (Grace Witte).



The Delta Nu Quintet: left to right: Morgan Dahlke, Bethany Cross, Maren Warner, Bryanna Paul, and Leah Bettcher.

MargotMorgan Dahlke
AinsleyBryanna Paul
SerenaMaren Warner
PilarLeah Bettcher
Delta Nu Sorority:
Kendra Klobe, Molly Green, Mackenzie Kantack, Izzy Elias, Isabel Petersen, Megan Jochum, Emma Petersen, Rachael Meyer, Lily Kirchoff, Summer Hayes, and Elida Roskamp
GaelenEmma Petersen
MelaniaIsabel Petersen
CourtneyBrandi Pikal
Store ManagerSarah Schmieg
WarnerJacob Reichow
Elle’s DadBen Siers
Elle’s MomMarisa Luchsinger
Grandmaster Chad.....Haley Lukes
WinthropDan Cross
Lowell.....Eli Kuehn
PforzheimerBen Siers
Jet Blue Pilot.....Anna Salgado
EmmettAnthony LaPlante
ErinMolly Green
PadamadanHaley Lukes
Enid.....Grace Witte
VivienneKatie Twiss
Ms. CallahanMarissa Kirchoff
Paulette.....Elise Petersen
Whitney.....Izzy Elias
BritneyMackenzie Kantack
Harvard Boys:
Jonah Tankersley, Dan Cross, and Eli Kuehn
DeweyJake Vasek

~ ACT TWO ~

BrookeMarisa Luchsinger

Inmates:
Kendra Klobe, Molly Green, Mackenzie Kantack, Izzy Elias, Isabel Petersen, Lily Kirchoff, Summer Hayes, Elida Roskamp, Shawna Goettl, and Elsie Graupmann
Guard.....Jonah Tankersley
SalesgirlsBrandi Pikal and Emma Petersen
Kyle.....Adam Garouette
Manager.....Rachael Meyer
CashierSummer Hayes
Kiki.....Lily Kirchoff
TV ReporterElida Roskamp
D.A. Joyce ReileySarah Schmieg
NikosBen Siers
CarlosDan Cross
Prosecution:
Eli Kuehn, Emma Petersen, Rachael Meyer, Anna Salgado
Judge.....Haley Lukes
ChutneyKendra Klobe
StenographerMegan Jochum
Strolling ViolinHaley Kirchoff
Dogs:
Brutus – Belle is owned by David and Laurie Dummer, Katilyn and Katrina
Rufus – Peterbilt is owned by Vicki Weber
Crew:
Alyssa Ebert, Mason Husted, Taryn Reichow, Shania Rose, and JoAnna Nowak, Theresa Siers
Student Directors:
Sarah Schmieg and Brandi Pikal
Captains:
Marissa Kirchoff, Marisa Luchsinger, and Katie Twiss
Pit:
Robin Swift, Amanda Husted, Laura Popelka, Bennett Lepel, Becky Peterson, and Holly Corrick



Harvard admissions discusses Elle’s ap- plication: left to right: Pforzheimer (Ben Siers), Winthrop (Dan Cross), and Lowell (Eli Kuehn).



Elle meets Warner’s new girlfriend: left to right: Elle (Emmi Jerabek), Vivienne (Katie Twiss, and Warner (Jacob Reichow).



A class at Harvard Law is run by the very intimidating Professor Callahan (Marissa Kirchoff): left to right: Anthony LaPlante, Eli Kuehn, Jonah Tankersley, Mackenzie Kantack, Brandi Pikal, Emmi Jerabek, Katie Twiss, Jacob Reichow, Marissa Kirchoff, Sarah Schmieg (partially visible), Grace Witte, Anna Salgado, Haley Lukes, Megan Jochum, and Molly Green.

Minnesota History class visited by the hosts of public television's "Almanac"

TOM SCHOPER, HISTORY TEACHER AT GSL High School, welcomed Eric Eskola and Mary Lehammer, hosts of Twin Cities Public Television's "Almanac," on October 4th. They came to visit the 4th and 7th hour Minnesota History classes. Gene Lehammer, Mary's father, accompanied them. "Almanac" is the weekly public affairs show which airs on Friday evenings.

Mr. Eskola, a journalist and television personality, is known for his coverage of Minnesota politics and government. He spent 30 years as a political reporter for WCCO Radio before moving to "Almanac." He told students, "If you find out what you want to do early on in life, you can really focus on it."

Ms. Lehammer is a reporter and program host for Twin Cities Public Television and has been a political reporter in Minnesota since 1998. She told students she always wanted to be a political reporter and she fell in love with Minnesota politics because they were so colorful."

Mr. Lehammer was a country school teacher for three years before switching careers and becoming a political reporter for the Associated Press for 34 years. The last 24 years were spent covering the Minnesota State Capitol.

The trio stopped to visit State Representative Glenn Gruenhagen at his office before their visit to the high school.

Mr. Eskola told students, "If you go to the capitol, you'll see an enormous group of young people because you work cheap and fast." He said, "Politics and government for young people is an overlooked opportunity. It can really benefit you as you start your careers." He added, "You young people have an unbelievable opportunity to make a difference."

Students were able to ask questions they had prepared in advance. Questions ranged from how people apply to be a United States citizen, what they thought about taxes and the gun issue, and what their thoughts were on legalizing marijuana.

The Lehammers and Mr. Eskola had many stories about Minnesota politics to share with the class. Regarding the immigrant question, Mr. Eskola said, "Eleven million immigrants are not going to be exported. There are 11 million people in the entire states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. These folks aren't going anywhere, so we might as well get along."

"Trump has capitalized on people's fears. There are many industries that would collapse without those people," Ms. Lehammer added.

Mr. Eskola told students, "Unless there are any Native Americans here, our ancestors all came from somewhere else. In this modern economy, you need to be a self-starter."

Mr. Schoper said, "Some of these kids have two jobs. You can't say these kids aren't hard workers."

When asked about paying taxes, Ms. Lehammer told the students, "Our job as political reporters is to analyze the situation. Nobody wants to pay taxes. The government and media don't do a good job of explaining what taxes do."

Mr. Eskola's response to the gun question was that "it's part of our culture going back to the 1600s. They're not going to take the guns away."

Mr. Lehammer told students, "The plow and the gun sort of

define western progress. Guns insured they could farm safely. Our western movies romanticize the six-shooter. Zane Grey's novels were all about guns."

Ms. Lehammer said, "I like to think about it globally. I married into a European family. They are perplexed about why we have this problem in America. It's America's love for guns. The founding fathers used them to overthrow a government."

When asked about the legalization of marijuana, Ms. Lehammer said, "We have the most conservative law of any state. Only the use of marijuana for medical situations has passed here, and there are only two companies that legally grow it. They have invested millions of dollars, and right now, they are losing tons of money."

"In most of the townships it is considered a noxious weed," Mr. Schoper added. Ms. Lehammer said, "It is really an interesting situation to watch." "I think it will take several generations," Mr. Lehammer added.

Mr. Eskola told students law enforcement and county attorneys are against it. There are a couple of states that have legalized marijuana and we will have data to watch."

The visitors also spoke to the Mock Trial Team, a group of students who will be serving as election judge trainees for the general election on November 8th, and the 4th hour Minnesota History class.



Eric Eskola (second from left) and Mary Lehammer (right) from Twin Cities Public Television's "Almanac" show, visited Tom Schoper's Minnesota History classes on October 4th. Mary's father, Gene Lehammer (center), accompanied them.

Protect yourself from colds and flu

FLU AND COLD SEASON IS here, but the peak season is in January and February! If you haven't already received your flu shot now is a great time. What else can you do to protect yourself day to day? Here is a list provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.

If your child is home sick during the day, please be sure to call our attendance line:

High School	320-864-2421
Lincoln	320-864-2455
Lakeside	320-864-2503
Helen Baker	320-864-2665

Beth Jerabek
Licensed School Nurse
320-864-2446
BJerabek@gsl.k12.mn.us

BEAT the Flu BUG



Get your Shot!

Did you know....?

- Flu is the 6th leading cause of death in persons 65 and older
- You cannot get the flu from the flu shot!
- It takes your body two weeks to gain protection from the flu shot, so you are still vulnerable during this time. The earlier you get your shot the better!!!

Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA chapter offers many activities and events for members in the fall

FALL IS A VERY BUSY TIME OF YEAR for FFA, and we couldn't be more proud of our FFA members for all they put into growing this fantastic organization! Fall means the rounding off of our garden season, and we couldn't be more thankful for the support we've received throughout this project.



REBEKAH HADDAD

A big thank you to our donors, sponsors, parents, and members for helping us reach many of our goals! Over 150 pounds of fresh produce went into the GSL High School cafeteria and McLeod County Food Shelf thanks to the efforts of those involved.

Fall also bring with it contests, conventions, and a plethora of other activities. At the State Trap Shoot, Braydon Goebel placed as a Top 50 Individual and our team placed 57th out of 65 teams. Soils (Blake Ortloff, Josh Kuehn, Adam Thalmann, and Eli Kuehn) placed third in our region. They have opted to compete in crops. The Horse team (Hayley Bolland, Abby Maunu, and Emily Thalmann) placed 15th. Upcoming contests include Fish & Wildlife, Milk Quality, and the winter speaking event season.

Other fall activities include 7/8 Grade Recruitment, GITS and CLC, Drive Your Tractor to School Day, preparing the FFA Homecoming float, Fall U of M Invitational, Corn Drive, H2O, and our 5th Grade Safety Program. Among our favorites, Corn Drive raised \$3,000.00 for True Friends Camps (Friendship Ventures/Camp Courage). Twenty members participated in the day-long event on October 25th, delivered lunches to local farmers, and raised money to help people with physical and cognitive impairments attend camp. One of our favorite annual fall events is National



FFA members' tractors are lined up and ready for the Homecoming parade on September 30th. The parade started at Helen Baker Elementary and ended at the High School. Pictured above, left to right, are Kole Polzin, Blake Ortloff, Eric Villnow, Jon Bolland, Kyle Wanous, Jakob Siewert, and Logan Clouse.

FFA Convention. On October 29th over 60,000 FFA members converged on Louisville, KY for the 88th National FFA Convention. Among those 60,000 were nine members of the Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA Chapter: Kole Polzin, Blake Ortloff, Ben Donnay, Abby Maunu, Haley Kirchoff, Hayley Bolland, Hattie Dreier-Schultz, Emily Thalmann, and Brandi Pikal were selected through an application and interview process to represent the Glencoe-Silver Lake Chapter as delegates.

The trip was made possible through immense community support. Without this generosity, the trip would not be possible. (More details about the National FFA Convention will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.)

But we're not even beginning to slow down! As we head into winter, we look forward to fruit sales (October 12 through November 9), winter speaking events, Leading the Challenge, and Leadership Rally Night. Be sure to get in touch with the agriculture department if an FFA member hasn't already visited about fruit sales!

We're excited to see you at our winter events, and are looking forward to celebrating National FFA Week with you in February (19-25). From the GSL FFA Chapter, we'd like to thank you for your support in 2016 and wish you all the best for the New Year!

December events:

December 16: December FFA Meeting
December 15: U of M Winter Invitational
December 16: Fruit Sale Delivery

January events:

January 11: January FFA Meeting
January 16: Leadership Rally Night
January 20: Crops, Poultry, Discussion Meet, Small Animals, Ag Sales
January 27: Leading the Challenge (Morris)

For the full FFA calendar, please visit the FFA website: www.gsllffa.theaet.com.



*Rebekah Haddad,
Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor
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RHaddad@gsll.k12.mn.us*



Participants at the State Trap Shoot on September 23rd at Marshall are pictured, left to right: Braydon Goebel, Haley Kirchoff, and Emily Ward. Braydon placed as a Top 50 Individual and GSL's team placed 57th out of 65 teams.



During the FFA Fall Recruitment event new members enjoyed group activities at the High School. Pictured above, left to right, are: Caleb Schmieg, Brandon Hesse, Hattie Schultz, Zoe Ruschmeier, Emily Thalmann, Kole Polzin, and JoAnna Nowak.

Glencoe-Silver Lake Homecoming 2016 was



Homecoming Coronation was held on September 26th. Austin Field was crowned king and Madison Posusta was crowned queen. Royalty is pictured above, left to right, front: Crown Bearers Taten Frahm and Angelina Arandia; behind them are Elsie Graupmann, Tyler Ehrke, Molli Cacka, Ben Donnay, King Austin, Queen Madison, Luke Frahm, Rachael Popp, Peyton Sell, and Madison Monahan.



Above center: Activities Director Dean Schwirtz spoke to students at Helen Baker's pepfest on September 30th.



Above right: Kinder-garten teacher Anne Uselman and her students were full of school spirit.



Left: The Homecoming king and queen and fall activities captains sat among the students at Helen Baker's pepfest.

Right: The Homecoming court at Helen Baker.



Above and lower right: The football team defeated Watertown-Mayer at their Homecoming game.

Photo courtesy of Aryana Lasey-Winkelman



Lakeside students also enjoyed a pepfest on the 30th. Above: Cierra Bartol-Byer's class posed for a picture. At left: Students were greeted with a gauntlet made up of high school captains and Homecoming royalty.

Right: Lincoln's RAP groups held a poster contest for Homecoming. Mike Hardy's RAP group, "Hardy's Hippies," was chosen as the winner.



Photo courtesy of Aryana Lasey-Winkelman

a celebration enjoyed by students and staff



The GSL Panther Booster Club distributed treats during the parade.



Left: Class of 1991 Homecoming Queen, Tammy Popelka, rode on a float with fellow Glencoe Eagles classmates.



Left: Grand Marshals of the parade were Cheryl Templin and Sue Magnuson. Homecoming crown bearers Angelina Arandia and Taten Frahm rode along with the Grand Marshals.

Right: Homecoming King Austin Field and Queen Madison Posusta were driven along the parade route by High School Science Teacher Jeff Delwiche.



Above left: Members of the girls' tennis team rode on a fire truck.

Above center: The Class of 2018 put the finishing touches on their float.

Above right: Kyle Wanous was part of a group of FFA members who drove their tractors down 16th Street.

Left: Cast and crew of the fall musical, "Legally Blonde," and their director, Kay Wilson, marched in the parade.

Right: The freshman Class of 2020 participated in the parade.



Tour opportunities abound for students at GSL

THE WOODS 1 AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS from GSL had an opportunity to visit Plato Woodwork October 5th in Plato. Plato Woodwork is a manufacturer of custom cabinetry products. Students had the chance to see how the process worked from design, order, manufacture and finish of the final project. Students were impressed by the CNC router operations and the amount of intricate work that could be accomplished in a short matter of time. Engineering students received additional information regarding the process of taking part drawings and converting to G and M codes for processing materials on the CNC equipment.



MIKE SUNDBLAD

Engineering students had a second tour on October 7th of MITGI of Hutchinson. Students were able to see the array of materials cutting tools that are designed and fabricated by MITGI. Tours of the design, coatings, machining, research and development and shipping departments were included. Students were able to see the 3d printer produce models of the tooling as well as the CNC mills producing the actual tools.



*Mike Sundblad
Industrial Technology and
Engineering Instructor
GSL High School
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Students from Woods 1 and Engineering visited Plato Woodwork on October 5th. Students watched as Tom Lepel demonstrated preparing code for CNC equipment.



Students toured the manufacturing floor of Plato Woodwork under direction of employees.



Students from the Engineering class toured MITGI of Hutchinson on October 7th. Students pictured above, left to right, front row: Michael Forar, Justin Dose, Roxanna Sanchez, Sawyer Varpness, Christian Thompson, and Industrial Tech and Engineering Instructor Mike Sundblad; second row: Kole Polzin, Eric Villnow, Mason Husted, Ben Siers, Dylan Breidenbach, Riley Ruzicka, and Carl Horrmann; third row: MITGI staff.

Construction students are learning about residential and commercial construction

CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS FROM GSL have been busy learning about residential and commercial construction. The students have taken a number of construction tours this fall. Students visited the site near Seneka Foods to see the new sewer and water line installation under the railroad tracks. Donlar Construction has provided the students with a number of tours of the new school project.

The students have also had their own hand in construction projects around the high school. Students prepped and poured a new concrete pad that will be used for parking trailers and equipment near the

northeast corner of the school. Students in the course include:

Dylan Breidenbach	Jackson Lemke
Tanner Chmielewski	Austin Merrill
Brandon Fronk	Andrew Nix
Logan Goette	Jacob Simons
Jacob Jochum	Ashley Teubert
Austin Keck	Mason Trippel
Joseph Knudten	Eric Villnow
Jayden Lachermeier	Ethan Wraspir



*Mike Sundblad, GSL High School
Industrial Tech and Engineering Instructor
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Donlar Construction gave students from the Construction class a tour of the school district's building project.



Students also had the opportunity to view the City of Glencoe's utility construction project.



A load of cement is dropped off for the concrete pad at the High School. Construction students worked on the project on September 27th.



Mike Sundblad directs students to level off the cement of the concrete pad at the High School.

How can you help the organizations that help our schools?

THE BOOSTER CLUB – YOU CAN BE A Panther Booster Club member for only \$25 as an individual/family and \$50/\$100 for a business. That's for the whole year and you can become a member any time during the school year. This is the club's primary source of income, so if district businesses, parents, coaches, and fans all become members, dollars add up quickly and immediately help this year's students in activities. Each year they also help financially support our athletic trainer, a very important member of the Panthers. It's a club where you can belong and only purchase a membership. OR you can also offer to help at events and be a part of a great group of parents supporting students in activities. Membership forms are available at the ticket booths or concession stand or call Mary Lemke at 612-363-6663.

You support **The GSL Panther Association** every time you purchase a pork chop at a football game, participate in the annual August golf tournament, and attend a concert they support. This year they are supporting The White Sidewalls and Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos (see ads below). Also, you can purchase a brick for the Donor Wall at the entrance to the North Athletic Complex for yourself, your family, or business. Bricks are purchased at class reunions in honor of their class, a team, or in memory of a classmate, in honor of state participants, and/or in memory of wonderful fans. They make wonderful Christmas and graduation gifts. (See ad below for more information)

The Panther Association has organized large fundraisers to help the school fund projects that may never

be high on their priority list to be funded by the school district. Yet, these projects continue to give our students and fans the best facilities in the area. Large fundraising appeals are made to individuals, businesses, charitable organizations, and foundations.

You can understand the historical and financial importance of **Stevens Seminary Foundation** – Its funds have been accumulated through bequests in wills of community members, investments, and the sale of land that was originally donated to this Foundation through the state. Stevens Seminary Foundation has made large donations to the school when there have been facility fundraisers, i.e. Stevens Seminary home stadium, the field house, and tennis courts when moved from the front of school. They also contribute toward ongoing curriculum needs each year, i.e. College in the Classroom, iPads for students, teacher initiatives, etc.

However, Stevens Seminary is best known for the



Michele Mackenthun and Shari O'Donnell, GSL Panther Association board members, took part in the Homecoming Parade on September 30th. They handed out flyers with Randall Thalmann driving his classic car, a 1959 Chevrolet Impala, along the parade route promoting The White Side Walls, one of their upcoming fundraisers. These fundraisers help the school district renovate and add new facilities.

local scholarships awarded each year to eligible seniors, with preference to students who want to become teachers. You can encourage GSL High School seniors to apply for numerous other local scholarships, available for a variety of careers, college, and vocational.

Please contact Michele Mackenthun if there are questions about brick donations and Stevens Seminary scholarships at 320-864-6232 or dmtmack@gmail.com.



The GSL Panther Association Presents...



Concert/Dance

at the **Glencoe City Center**
1107 11th St. E., Glencoe

Sunday, Nov. 13

2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

A cash bar and refreshments will be available.
Open seating.

Advanced tickets \$15.00 – available at the
Glencoe City Center or by calling 320-864-6951

The GSL Panther Association Presents...



DEUCES WILD
DUELING PIANOS

at the **Glencoe City Center**
Saturday, Feb. 4

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Fundraiser benefits the GSL North Sports Complex

A cash bar and refreshments will be available. Open seating.
Tickets are \$30.00 individual/\$50 couple at the Glencoe City Center or by calling 320-864-6951

*Tickets available now!
Makes a perfect holiday gift!*



Looking for a great gift or want to honor a special teacher or a loved one?

Consider purchasing a brick on the GSL Panther Association's Donor Wall, located at the GSL North Athletic Complex. The bricks make great gifts and could be given for:

- Graduation
- Birthday/anniversary
- Class reunion
- Christmas
- Honor a classmate
- Add your company logo
- Memorial for a loved one
- Honor an outstanding teacher or coach
- Include your family name on the brick wall
- Show your class pride
- Panther support from your business
- Commemorate a special team's winning season



The 4 x 8 individual or family bricks are \$150 and 8 x 8 business bricks are \$250 each. Interested donors can contact Michele Mackenthun at 320-864-6232 or at dmtmack@gmail.com with questions or to request an order form.

THE GSL PANTHER ASSOCIATION'S MISSION IS TO ASSIST THE DISTRICT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES FOR GSL STUDENTS.

GSL students are growing with STEM

GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE PUBLIC Schools are excited to implement the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch program to their K-5 students. Every K-5 student in the GSL district will have a nationally known and respected STEM program implemented right in their general classroom setting. PLTW is a hands-on, interdisciplinary, collaborative STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program. Students will receive instruction in four modules during the 2016-17 school year. Two modules will focus on engineering, one module on computer science, and one module on biomedical science.

At the conclusion of each Launch module, the students will have designed a solution to a real-world problem. Through the first part of the school year our kindergartners built multi-function painting tools, 1st graders had to design and build a communication device to project sound or light over a distance, and 2nd graders designed and built an insulator to keep a popsicle from melting. Lakeside 3rd graders designed and built a model glider to carry supplies to a natural disaster site, 4th graders designed and built a model of a restraint system to keep an egg safe in a collision, and our 5th graders



designed and constructed a robot to move hazardous waste into a specific collection zone.

Both Helen Baker and Lakeside Elementary have also begun a monthly family STEM project. Each month the students bring home a STEM packet that provides information on that month's project. In October, the family STEM project at Lakeside was to create something using only materials found in nature. At Helen Baker, the kindergartners created something using materials in nature and the 1st and 2nd graders created an object that could move. The November family STEM projects are: Helen Baker kindergartners are creating something using only paper goods, while the 1st and 2nd graders are creating an object using candy. At Lakeside, the students



are using only recyclable materials to create an object. The students have been having a great time creating and using their imaginations to make one-of-a-kind objects. The students at Helen Baker get to show off their creations during morning meeting and the Lakeside students have their projects displayed in the library as well as having some featured during our video morning announcements.

If you have any questions or would like to become involved in our STEM initiative, please contact:



Heather Peirce
PLTW Lead Teacher
Helen Baker Elementary
320-864-2668
HPeirce@gsl.k12.mn.us

Scott Picha
PLTW Lead Teacher
Lakeside Elementary
320-864-2556
SPicha@gsl.k12.mn.us



New lead teachers for PLTW present to Community Schools

THE TWO LEAD TEACHERS FOR THE Elementary Project Lead the Way (PLTW) programs (STEM Launch program for grades K-5 and STEM Gateway program for grade 6), Scott Picha and Heather Peirce, were the presenters at the September 22nd meeting of Community Schools in the GSL High School Media Center.

Picha is the Lead Teacher at Lakeside Elementary and Peirce serves as Lead Teacher at Helen Baker. They received training over the summer months to prepare them for implementing the new curriculum this fall. Both of them are excited about the possibilities for GSL students.

PLTW is the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. Through PLTW Launch-designed modules, kindergarten through 5th grade students become problem solvers. Students will use structured approaches like the engineering design process. Students will apply STEM knowledge, skills, and habits of mind, and discover that trying different approaches and solutions is a critical part of the learning process. As teachers and students learn and discover

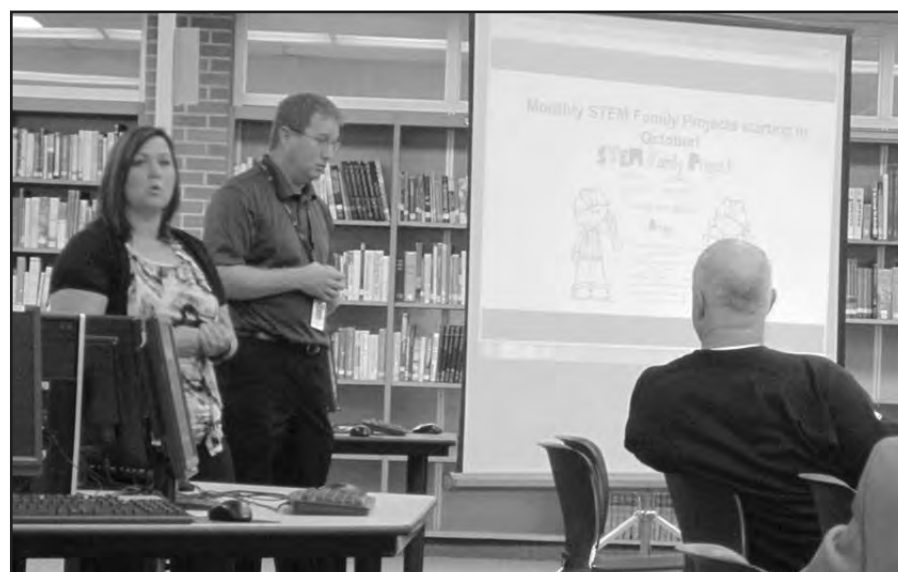
together, education becomes more engaging and meaningful for everyone.

There are four models in each grade K-5. Each module takes approximately 10 hours to complete. Through the course of the module the students will work through activities and projects that will lead them to solving the problem at the end of the module.

Two PLTW Gateway courses will also be implemented in Grade 6 this school year, "Magic of Electrons" and "Design and Modeling." This curriculum has already been in place for students in grades 7-12.

For more information about what the students

will be learning, or to volunteer in a classroom to assist with the program, contact Scott at 320-864-2556 at Lakeside, or Heather at 320-864-2668 at Helen Baker.



PLTW Teachers Heather Peirce and Scott Picha presented information about the program during the September 22nd Community Schools meeting.

Beginning band starts school with a bang!

THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEEN IN session for over two months, and there are many activities the students are involved in. Some of these activities start before school starts, and beginning band is one of them.

The band department in Glencoe-Silver Lake offers opportunities through Community Education to start beginning band students on their instrument before school begins. Students enrolled in the beginner kick-off lesson program receive one lesson per day for one week. The lessons usually take place the second or third week of August. This way, the students and staff can prepare for school the following week.

“Beginner kick-off lessons helped me learn the notes. It made band a lot easier those first few weeks of school!” – Marissa Brinkmann, 5th grade student

During the beginner kick-off week, the lessons include how to put your instrument together, how to produce a proper sound, how to hold the instrument, how to take care of the instrument, and learning the few first notes. Students who have enrolled in the lessons feel they are better prepared for band instruction once school begins.

Band lessons are also offered for students in grades 6-12. These are the band lessons offered once per week for five weeks over the months of June and July. During these non-beginner lessons, students are working with Peter Gepson or me on continuing their instrumental growth through the summer months. This has been a positive experience, and we look forward to seeing increased enrollment in the next few years.

HOW DOES PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IMPACT A STUDENT’S LIFE?

“Band has taught me how to work hard and never give up!” – Ellie Sonju, 6th grade

Ask yourself: What would life be like without music? It would be difficult to live without music because music has been hard-wired into our daily lives. You hear it while you shop, ride in an elevator, and wait for a phone call to go through. Everyone enjoys listening to music, but many of us are not what the world classifies as a “musician.” Many of us are not able to play a musical instrument. This could be due to lack of inclination, proper instruction, or simply because we didn’t have the opportunity as a young student. It is never too late to learn a musical instrument! Here are eight good reasons playing a musical instrument will benefit a person’s life:

1. Boosts creativity – When there is a strengthened connection and developing communication between both hemispheres of the brain, creativity is increased. When you connect all the various parts of your brain in ways that other people do not, you see connections that they do not.

2. Strengthens social skills – You will meet many people when playing a musical instrument. Your social circle increases due to playing in various large ensembles. While I was a student, I had the opportunity to meet other musicians from all over the state in honor bands. I made many lasting friendships while attending these events and I have kept in contact with many of my musical friends since then!

“Band has been a rewarding experience for my kids! When my son, Jesse, played in an honor band, he had the opportunity to experience multiple directors, challenging music, and meet new people.” – Val Dahlke, band parent

3. Experiencing the sense of achievement – When you first start learning how to play an instrument, just holding a note out for a few beats or playing a high note will give you a sense of achievement. As you practice and become a more experienced musician, making beautiful sounding music is not only pleasing to your ear, but others as well.

This is a wonderful sense of achievement! You can’t help but smile after a student’s first concert. This is where they feel the achievement at full strength.

I frequently reference my son, Lucas, in my band lessons. Lucas is learning how to walk. Like many other young toddlers, walking is very difficult at first. Each step takes a lot of effort! Beginning band students are the toddlers of the musical world – with struggle, positive encouragement, practice, and time, the student will thrive!

4. Aids in academic growth – When you read a music note on a page, your brain has to a) see the note, b) translate that note from an ink blot to meaning it is a G on the treble clef, c) you need the motor skills of your arm and finger to play it, and d) you hear the note by using your auditory skills. You have now used four areas of the brain and connected them. The corpus colosseum is typically much larger in the brains of musicians because of this increased communication.

5. Develops discipline – Music requires dedication and frequent practice. Allotting a specific amount of time to practice music develops discipline in the learner. This can prove to be advantageous in children. Mira Stulberg-Halpert, of 3D Learner Inc., who works with children who have ADHD, has seen music discipline children when everything else fails. She has this to say on the effect of music on kids. “Exposing kids to musical instruments is the key. They are naturally curious and excited about them – and the discipline that parents and kids learn by sticking with it is a lesson in itself.”

6. Requires patience – We live in a world of instant gratification. Learning to play an instrument is not something that happens overnight. It is the frequent practicing that can help a musician learn how to play without mistakes. This develops patience. Most musicians go through years of regular practice that includes musical exercises out of method books and the tackling of progressively difficult musical pieces, which, in turn, helps them conquer the virtue of patience.

7. Enhances problem-solving skills – The first note a beginning band student plays will be very exciting, but also sounds not so great. Musicians are constantly thinking of ways in which to improve themselves in their playing technique and ability. Musicians with proper training also know when something is not working, and their instrument needs to be repaired. I like to teach students about common problems with their instruments; this way, they are able to fix the problem on their own or help another musician out effectively.

8. Playing a musical instrument is rewarding!

“I see the benefit in the new friends my son has made within our own school as well as meeting students from other schools during band competition. The band trip to Louisiana was a wonderful experience. He never would have had the exposure of having a music class taught by a college professor or learning about music history in Louisiana if not for being in band.” – Mary Lemke, band parent

“I know my son enjoys band and it has brought him extra confidence and helped teach him the value of hard work. Also, music is a gift that can last a lifetime and I hope both of my boys can appreciate it all the more.” – Shannon Mattson, band parent

“Band has helped me come out of my shell, and also with my hand-eye coordination!” – Lexi Forar, 6th grade

“Band was important to me in school because it made me feel accepted. Everyone had an instrument that was



Pete Gepson, High School Band Director, works with a beginning brass section during a music lesson.



Courtney Mathwig and Jacob Schermann receive instruction from Lauren Greeley, 5th and 6th Grade Band Director, at Lakeside.

just right for them. I sat next to people who were not necessarily my closest friends, but we became friends anyway because of our shared experiences. I will even occasionally meet someone who has played in a school band and we automatically have something in common and can talk for quite a while about our experiences. So band was, and still is, important to me.” – Becky Peterson, Minnesota Reading Corps, GSL graduate

PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT

“The more you practice, the easier it gets!” – Emily Larsen, 6th grade

When the parents, administrators and teachers work together in a common belief system for the good of the students, the students will always benefit. When you notice your child is not practicing their instrument, remind them kindly that practice makes permanent. When the student practices, the material will get easier, and the experience in the band will be certain!

Here are some positive ways you can impact your child’s music practice at home:

- Have the student warm up carefully. There is a warm-up on the top of each page in their band method book.
- Select a time of day that is free from interruptions and use this time each day.
- Choose a place to practice that is free from distractions.
- Set a goal for the session: an exercise; specific sections of a piece; or even a measure that is giving the student trouble. Work on it slowly, then build up to speed gradually. Before leaving, put it together with the rest of the line.
- Repetition of a problem area reinforces muscle memory.
- Be their cheerleader! Stay positive!
- Celebrate your young musician OFTEN!
- Ask your child to perform for you.



Lauren Greeley
5th and 6th Grade Band Director
LGreeley@gsl.k12.mn.us
320-864-2529

Reading: One of the greatest gifts we can give to our children

I AM AN AVID READER. I LOVE TO READ anything that I can get my hands on; it's truly one of my passions. My children have seen me reading since they have entered our lives. Reading is a building block of our family and has inspired my children to become readers.



JOY FREITAG

One of my goals as the principal of Lakeside is to share my passion for reading with our students and their families. Since the beginning of the school year we have emphasized the power of reading by promoting our reading culture.

Weekly, I share with the students the title of the book I am reading on our morning announcements. Students have an opportunity to complete a weekly book recommendation where they can share a great read with their friends. By completing a book recommendation they have an opportunity to win one of the books we are giving away weekly. Teachers promote their love of reading by reading aloud to their class, participating in book clubs, and encouraging book talks. It is so exciting to listen to students discuss a book during their unstructured learning time!

As parents, one of the greatest gifts we can give our

children is reading. We can read to them, read with them, and listen to them read. Reading encourages our brains to be creative. It encourages an unlimited amount of discussion with our children.

Please take a moment and ask your child what they are reading, and talk about the books they find interesting. If your child tells you that they don't like to read, take it as a challenge to find a "just right" book that will launch their interest into reading.

Trust me, an investment in reading at a young age will be worth more than you can imagine as your children get older! As famous Minnesotan Garrison Keillor says, "A book is a gift you can open again and again."

Joy Freitag
Elementary Assistant Principal
320-864-2500
JFreitag@gsl.k12.mn.us



Students in Tammy Mrkvicka's 5th grade classroom find comfortable positions to enjoy reading a good book.



GSL Elementary Health Departments provide dental and hand hygiene education for students



Chelsey Busse, Health Assistant at Helen Baker, talks to 1st grade students about dental hygiene.



Michelle Woods, LPN at Lakeside, presents information about hand hygiene to students in 3rd grade.

GSL Schools earn "Seizure Smart" school distinction

WITH ITS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT to support students with seizures, the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) is proud to announce that Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools has earned the distinction of being a Seizure Smart School.

Seizure Smart Schools bring students, teachers, school nurses, staff, and families together to foster understanding of epilepsy in schools and teach seizure first aid. Schools and families work together with EFMN to alleviate stigma around seizures in classrooms and in the community.



More than 300,000 children in the U.S. have epilepsy, and one in ten people will have a seizure at some point in their lifetime. "Knowing how to respond to seizures is important. Supporting kids with seizures in schools so they can chase their dreams is critical and we are delighted to partner with Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools," said EFMN Executive Director Vicki Kopplin.

The EFMN envisions a world where people with seizures realize their full potential. The Foundation's programs and services cover Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota. For information, visit efmn.org.



Take-a-Break is a teaching strategy used to help students

ALL CLASSROOM TEACHERS IN grades K-6 have been trained in the Responsive Classroom framework of classroom management. *Take-a-Break* is one of the Responsive Classroom practices you've probably heard about from your child. When used calmly and consistently, *Take-a-Break* is a valuable strategy for helping students develop self-control while keeping classrooms calm, safe, and orderly.



BILL BUTLER

Take-a-Break is a teaching strategy our teachers use to help a child who is just beginning to lose control and to regain it so they can learn. During *Take-a-Break*, the group's work continues while the child taking a break regroups while still seeing and hearing what the class is doing. After returning from *Take-a-Break*, children are often focused on learning and ready to work productively with others.

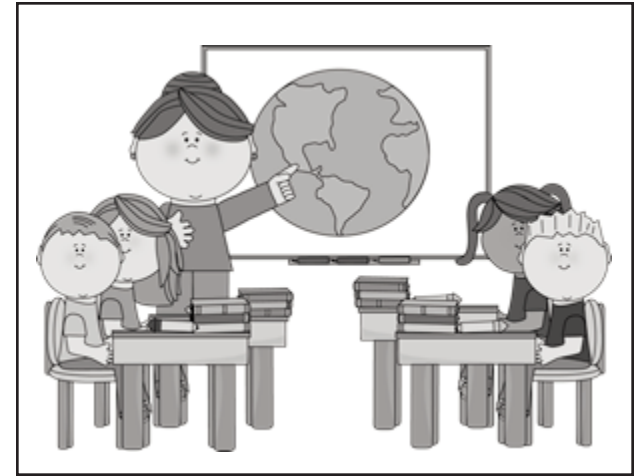
Our teachers set behavioral expectations early in the school year and then take time to regularly teach kids how to translate those expectations into action.

This teaching goes on all year. Explaining the purpose of *Take-a-Break* is part of this process. Its purpose in our classrooms is not to punish children. Rather, it is used to help students restore the mental focus and emotional control needed for learning. Children learn that they might decide that they need a break. In these cases, they go to the classroom's *Take-a-Break* spot on their own.

Each of our classrooms has one or two spots for *Take-a-Break*. These spots provide children the separation they need and enable them to see and hear what is going on in the classroom, so they can rejoin the group when they return. Teachers can see the spots from anywhere in the classroom. Children know that *Take-a-Break* is for everyone – all children will have the opportunity to experience it. Teachers sometimes put themselves in *Take-a-Break*!

All of our teachers have established a "Buddy Room" for times when students continue to be disruptive or are upset after taking a break in their classroom. At these times, we'll have children *Take-a-Break* in another teacher's classroom. This prevents situations from escalating into a power struggle and allows the teacher to continue teaching the class.

Take-a-Break is not only a teacher tool for directing



children; eventually, children will use it to regulate their own emotions and behaviors – a life-long skill that will serve them well.

Please call me at 864-2666 if you have questions or want additional information.



Bill Butler
Elementary Principal
320-864-2666
BButler@gs1.k12.mn.us

(Information in this article is adapted from printed material by *Responsive Classroom*.)

This year, GSL's Elementary PTO jumps in feet first!

YOUR GSL ELEMENTARY PTO MET THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER break, in preparation for the 2016-2017 school year. Aside from appearing in the Glencoe Days and Pola-Czesky Days parades, they assembled gift bags to welcome the teachers and paraprofessionals back to school.

After the school year began, the elementary schools collected 667 pounds of non-perishable items for the McLeod County Food Shelf! They also celebrated with their fellow Panthers in the Homecoming Parade on September 30th.

A basket raffle was held during fall Parent-Teacher Conferences in mid-October. Each classroom created a basket based on a theme. Donated items from families filled each basket, which was then displayed at the schools during conferences. Raffle chances were sold for \$1.00 each.

As always, feel free to contact the PTO with concerns, queries, or great ideas! They would like to build their resources so they can more easily support the staff and students in each building. Check out their page on Facebook, e-mail them at gslelementarypto@gmail.com, or send a note for them to school with your student. (The PTO has mailboxes at each school.)



Corinne Schmieg, PTO Officer
gslelementarypto@gmail.com



Left: Students in the elementary schools collected 667 pounds of non-perishable items for the McLeod County Food Shelf. Students at Lakeside show the food they collected.

Above right: Elementary students delivered items collected to the McLeod County Food Shelf with their Principal, Joy Freitag.

New to ECFE? Try a class for FREE!

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE) is a program of Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools. ECFE is for all families with children age zero to five years (kindergarten entry). We have a variety of ongoing classes and single session special events. ECFE programs supply resources and teach skills that support your child's growth and development from birth to kindergarten and beyond. We are here to support new parents, veteran parents, and everyone in between! GSL School Readiness Preschool offers half-day classes for three- to five-year-old children. The goals of this program are to provide learning experiences that recognize each child's unique abilities and assist families in laying a foundation for school success. GSL ECFE/Preschool benefits families through support, information, friendship, and fun.



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NEW TO ECFE? TRY A CLASS FOR FREE!

We invite you to check out a class to see if it is right for you and your child. Join us and experience what an ECFE class offers! For more information about ECFE or GSL SR Preschool: Visit us online at: www.gsl.k12.mn.us (choose COMM ED/ECFE tab) or at www.facebook.com/GSLECFESR. Call ECFE at 320-864-2681 or email at gslecfe@gsl.k12.mn.us to enroll in a class or schedule a visit!

THANK YOU TO THE UNITED WAY

We would like to say "thank you" to the United Way of McLeod County, who awarded a grant to provide funding for pre-school student indoor/outdoor play equipment, including scooters, balance stones, small and large parachutes, and more. We look forward to using the



For more information about ECFE or GSL preschool, please visit our website at: www.gsl.k12.mn.us > COMM ED/ECFE > Early Childhood Family Education & Preschool.



Parents who would like more information may also call 320-864-2681 or email GSLECFE@gsl.k12.mn.us at any time to arrange a visit. You may also check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GSL-ECFESR to see photos, upcoming events, and the latest happenings at the Early Childhood Learning Center.

new equipment this winter in our ECFE and preschool classes. The ECLC motor room and the Lincoln gym give our students lots of room to burn off energy when it is too cold and snowy to be outside for long. Please support the work of the United Way in McLeod County.

If you are interested in checking out the new indoor play equipment, we offer Run & Read (R & R) Fridays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Early Childhood Learning Center. Exercise your body and brain in our large motor room/ECFE library! You may come and go from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., and you do NOT need to preregister. Parents/grandparents can visit and hang out while kids have unstructured play time for \$1/child/time. Punch cards for multiple sessions are available for purchase in the ECFE office.

PARENT AWARE FOUR STAR RATING



Parent Aware is a state rating system that helps families find the quality care and education their children need to succeed in school and life. A Parent Aware-rated program means a preschool program uses kindergarten readiness best practices to prepare your child for school.

GSL SCHOOL READINESS PRESCHOOL

Glencoe-Silver Lake Schools offer School Readiness Preschool for children who are three to five years old by September 1, 2016 and are toilet trained. Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is open and ongoing until classes are filled. We have added a second morning section for our Cubs class (3-year-olds) and for both of our Pre-K classes AM and PM (4-year-olds)! Please call for current class availability. Transportation is



Students in GSL School Readiness Preschool visited the Glencoe Fire Department in October.



Painting with a parent is an enjoyable activity in a GSL Early Childhood Family Education class.

included with tuition. The Parent Component has changed to better fit the busy schedules of our families and work toward a smooth transition to kindergarten. Scholarships and sliding fee scale tuition are available for eligible families.

Preschool Class Schedule

Class	Days	Time
Cubs (3 years old by Sept. 1)	T/F	8:30-11:00 a.m.
Pre-K Panthers (4 years old by Sept. 1)	M/W/Th	8:30-11:00 a.m.
Pre-K Panthers (4 years old by Sept. 1)	M/W/Th	12:00-2:30 p.m.

Alicia Beste, GSL ECFE and SR Director/Parent Educator
320-864-2681
ABeste@gsl.k12.mn.us

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GSL Early Childhood Family Education Holiday Workshop

Ages: 0 - Kindergarten entry and parent. Older siblings are welcome!

We'll celebrate the holiday season by making ornaments, creating fun art, and enjoying favorite holiday stories and music. This is also a chance to play fun winter games, make memories, and of course, enjoy time with your child!



Thursday, Dec. 8

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. OR 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Early Childhood Learning Center
1621 16th St E, Glencoe

Tuition: FREE. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped game or toy for donation to local children in need.

Register online: www.gsl.k12.mn.us → COMM ED/ECFE → Early Childhood Family Education and Preschool OR register by calling the ECFE office at (320) 864-2681.

Spring Open House for ECFE/Preschool

ECFE classes start on Tuesday, Jan. 23 (Cubs) and Wednesday, Jan. 4 (Pre-K Panthers)

Join us at the Early Childhood Learning Center (1621 16th St. E., Glencoe) on Friday, Jan. 20 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. OR 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. as we kick off the Spring 2017 ECFE programming. Come to play, visit, meet others with young children, and register for spring classes. Check the website and Facebook for more details.

Please visit www.gsl.k12.mn.us (Choose COMM ED/ECFE tab) for our current course offerings, links to the online catalog, and registration information. Call 320-864-2681 for more information or help with class registration.

PIZZA & PLAY SPRING OPEN HOUSE



Ages 2 - Kindergarten entry and parent. Older siblings are welcome!

Bring your favorite little ones for some active fun. Shoot some hoops, bowl a strike, play catch or watch your child bounce the night away in the bounce house. (Siblings are welcome but some activities are designed for children ages 6 and under.) Enter through the Early Childhood Learning Center; activities will be in the Lincoln School Gym.

Friday, Jan. 20

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. OR 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Please preregister so we know how many pizzas to order.

Early Childhood Learning Center
1621 16th St E, Glencoe

Register online: <http://tinyurl.com/ECFERegister> OR register by calling the ECFE office at (320) 864-2681.