

Know Your Schools

Important Information for the Residents of Lower Dauphin School District

Superintendent Message

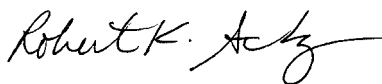
We talk a lot about Falcon Pride with our students. In addition to the pride we want our students to feel as a member of our schools, we use "PRIDE" as an acronym to stand for Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence.

This newsletter is filled with Falcon Pride of both varieties!

You will find stories of students overcoming difficulties, showing respect to others, acting with integrity and discipline, and demonstrating excellence. As superintendent, I am proud of the accomplishments of all of our students and I am pleased to share these stories with you, our community.

Without the community, none of this is possible. The top story on the front page is about the 2019-20 budget and as you can see from the headline, we will not raise taxes for the eighth year in a row. It's not easy to find the balance between increasing costs, increasing mandates and the desire to limit spending. We've been fortunate to maintain that balance, but as you'll read, it's becoming more difficult.

As this year winds to a close, please accept my thanks on behalf of our students, faculty and staff for making Lower Dauphin such a special place. It's all about pride.



Robert K. Schultz, Ed.D.
Superintendent

No tax increase in 2019-20 budget

Lower Dauphin taxpayers will not see property taxes increase for the eighth consecutive year, and in 11 of the past 12 years, under a preliminary budget adopted Monday, May 6.

This budget of \$66,167,000 will hold the millage rate at 18.42, which equates to a \$1,842 property tax bill on a property assessed at \$100,000.

The spending plan represents a 2.3 percent increase from the current year's budget.

(Continued on page 2)



Lower Dauphin STEM team heading to nationals

Lower Dauphin High School's team of Kelly Barr, Morgan Cummings, Annie Dickinson, Hailey Foreman, and Abbie Natkin took first place in the state and also won first in the People's Choice category at the annual Pennsylvania Invention Convention in State College.

The team's winning project created a tapioca-based plastic to substitute for traditional polymer-based plastics. Their product can be used to make beverage can six-pack holders which will be biodegradable and not contribute to plastic pollution in oceans. As they explained, plastioca is a biodegradable, renewable and green alternative to traditional polymer-based plastics. In addition to a lot of trial and error experimentation to come up with the right tapioca-based formula for their plastic alternative, the team used 3-D printers to create the molds in which to make the final product.

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The molds the team created for their project.

STEM

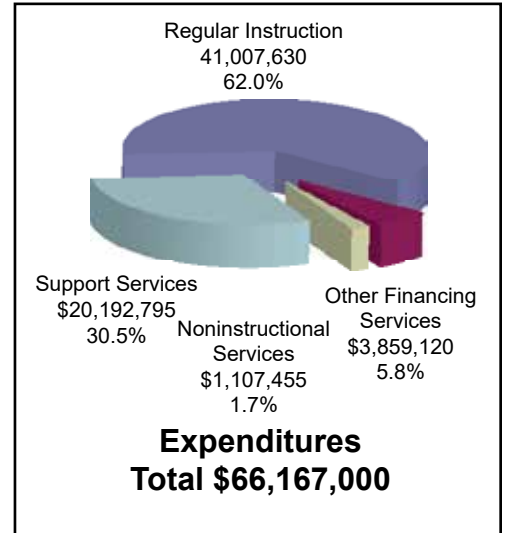
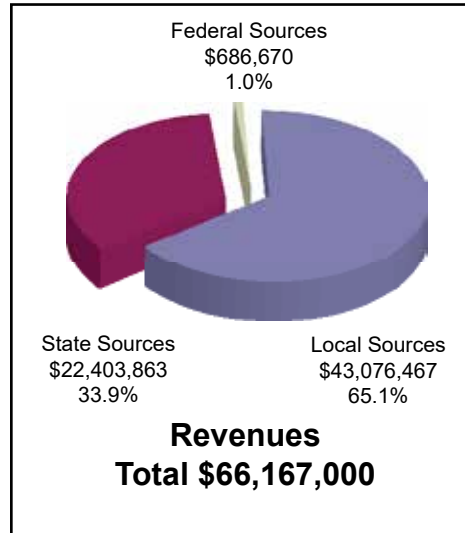
(Continued from page 1)

The team is coached by Lower Dauphin science teacher Elizabeth Kirman.

By virtue of their state win, they're eligible to compete at nationals which will be held at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, in Dearborn, Mich. in late May.

Their trip to nationals is made possible through generous donations from the community. Donors include Harrisburg University (\$2,500), Capital Area Intermediate Unit (\$2,500), Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation (\$1,000), the Reece Kelley Foundation (\$500) and an anonymous \$1,000 donation.

First Day of School for 2019-20 will be Monday, August 26, 2019



Budget will not increase property taxes

(Continued from page 1)

On the revenue side of the budget, Superintendent Robert Schultz explained that federal funding will decline \$12,401 for next year. State sources will increase \$226,723 from the current year. Local sources are projected to increase \$636,801 with the growth predicted in property taxes, earned income taxes and interest on investments. The growth in revenue won't be enough to cover all the expenditures so the district will use \$2.78 million in assigned and unassigned reserves to balance the budget.

"We've been using reserves for several years to cover one-time expenditures like roofing projects and building and grounds expenditures," Dr. Schultz explained. In the 2017-18 school year the district used \$2.45 million in reserves and, in 2018-19, the district is budgeted to use \$2.48 million.

The 2019-20 budget continues this trend of using reserves for building expenses including \$304,000 for upgrades to the HVAC controls in the high school and \$168,000 for renovations to Nye Elementary School. Other cost-drivers for the revenue side of the budget include pension costs, special education costs and health care costs.

The district's state-mandated pension rate for the 2019-20 school year will be 34.29 percent of payroll – a \$427,770 increase from the year before. Special education costs, which the district cannot control as students with special needs move into the district, will increase \$286,759 next year.

"Costs increase," Dr. Schultz said. "We've done a good job of keeping our expenditure increases close to the rate of inflation, but it's becoming increasingly difficult to hold the line on taxes."

The proposed budget also contains a full-year of payments for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, but he acknowledges that may be the last year for that revenue stream since TMI's payment in addition to taxes agreement expires at the end of the year.

Overall, the local taxes contribute nearly two-thirds of the revenue to the budget. Relying on local taxpayers to fund state and federal mandates is unfair, he says.

The final budget is expected to be adopted at the Monday, June 10, meeting of the school board.

Students flex their math muscles

The card had four numbers printed on it and in seconds students calculated how the numbers could be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided to reach the answer of 24.

For example, a card had the numbers 1, 6, 9 and 21 printed on it. The first student to touch the card got a chance to solve it – 9 minus 6 equals 3, 3 multiplied by 1 equals 3, and 3 plus 21 equals 24. That’s the way to solve the cards in the 24 Challenge game.

On April 5, the top five students from each Lower Dauphin elementary school competed at Londonderry Elementary. The schools battled for bragging rights and a traveling trophy for the school office. The students were also individually competing for the right to represent the district at a regional competition May 13, at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit.

East Hanover Elementary School’s team of Herth Patel, Avery Yuncker, Christian Madden, Gideon Fisher, and Lila Markowitz won the school competition.

Earning the right to represent Lower Dauphin at regionals were Herth; Avery; Rithvik Reddy and Praveen Prabakar, South Hanover Elementary; and Anthony Bruno, Nye Elementary. At regionals, Herth placed first out of the all schools competing and the Lower Dauphin team placed third.



East Hanover won the team title in the Lower Dauphin Math 24 challenge.



Civil War comes to life for LD Middle School students

When asked how they woke up on May 10, Lower Dauphin Middle School seventh- and eighth-graders had various answers – alarm clock, phone alarm, their parents, or their pets.

Then Jeremy Brandt picked up his drumsticks and blasted out a rapid-fire staccato of notes.

“How would you like to wake up to that?” he asked as some students laughed and others plugged their ears.

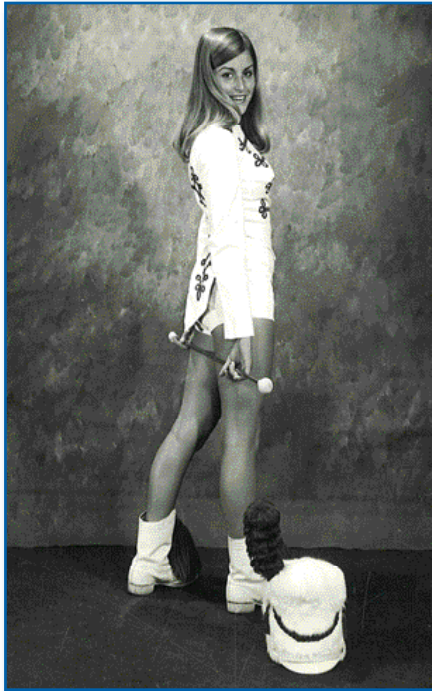
Dressed in the uniform of a drummer in the 93rd Pennsylvania Volunteer

Infantry, Brandt explained that 10 drummers with an accompanying fife player would wake up the regimental camp every morning. From the first beat of the drum, Civil War soldiers would have 15 minutes to get dressed and join the military formation.

That lesson and dozens of others are why the middle school hosts Civil War re-enactors every other year. Students heard from Abraham Lincoln and a Union Cavalryman. Two field artillery pieces fired blank rounds across the school campus. Students even learned how to march in formation (with

varying degrees of success) under the watchful eye of noncommissioned officers in the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

“These living historians help to provide our students with the opportunity, for one day, to live through the eyes of the Civil War soldiers and civilians,” said eighth-grade social studies teacher Derek Shaffer. “This event has always enhanced the understanding of the Civil War for these seventh- and eighth-grade students while bringing history to life.”



Alumni looking ahead to fall gathering

Jeannine Lehmer Gross, Lower Dauphin Class of 1969 to be honored.

The Lower Dauphin Alumni Association invites all alumni and friends of Lower Dauphin to attend the 12th Annual Alumni Celebration at Hersheypark Stadium on Friday, September 20.

On the field at halftime will be a parade of musicians,

majorettes, cheerleaders, mascots, and sports stand-outs with vintage pep songs led by the Alumni Cheerleaders, Alumni Band, and the introduction of the LDAA 2019 Alumni Honoree, Jeannine Lehmer Groff, Class of 1969.

Following the game will be an alumni gathering at a ticketed event for alumni to gather to reconnect, enjoy light fare, beverages, music, a raffle, memorabilia, shared fellowship, stories, and memories.

Honoree Jeannine Lehmer was the featured drum majorette and baton twirling champion both her junior and senior years at LD. Excelling in both the athleticism and the artistry of twirling, Jeannine was known as one of the finest majorettes in the state. This was followed by her selection as the solo head majorette for the Sweet 16 and as featured performer at the half-time ceremonies of the Big 33 game, delivering a flawless performance which included fire batons. In the fall of 1969, she was heralded as the solo majorette for the Franklin & Marshall College Band, a position she held for four years.

Jeannine was LD's 1969 Teen Queen, as well as a top student, and a member of the first class to include women at Franklin & Marshall College, where she was heralded as the solo majorette for the F&M College Band. Following a career in laboratory research, then as a science teacher, in 2007 Jeannine earned a M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies and began a new career in Pediatrics. A tennis player and runner, in 2011 she won the Dartmouth Relay in her age group.

All alumni and friends are invited to the game and the ticketed gathering following the game to celebrate LDHS friendships, most of which last a lifetime. Details about tickets are coming soon!

For more information about the event and all of the other contributions the Alumni Association makes to the school, find them on the web at www.ldsd.org/alumni or www.facebook.com/LDALumniAssn or contact kweber@ldsd.org.

District begins enforcement of new policy

When School Board Policy 808.1 was adopted in December, families had outstanding balances on their students' cafeteria accounts totaling more than \$25,000.

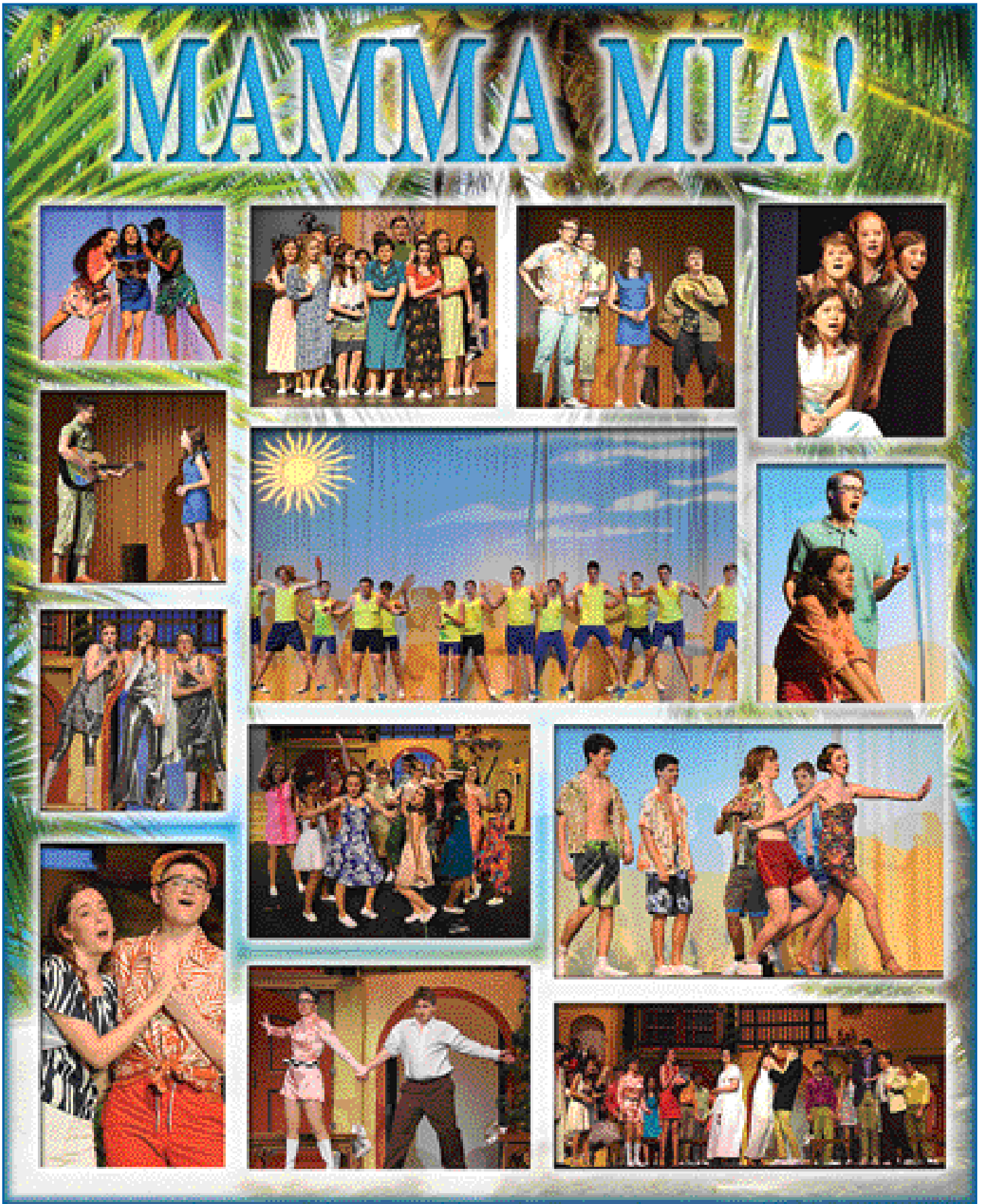
Under the new district policy, parents will receive a letter from the school principal when the outstanding balance on the cafeteria account exceeds \$25. For accounts with a negative balance of more than \$75, parents will receive a letter from the district superintendent and a notice that if payment arrangements are not made within 14 days, the balance will be turned over to a collection agency.

"It's not fair to the families that pay their obligations and it is not fair to the taxpayers to subsidize people who do not pay on their lunch accounts," Superintendent Robert Schultz said. "We take no pleasure in these actions, but repeated letters were not having the desired effect."

State law prohibits school districts from refusing to provide a meal to a student with an account in arrears. The unintended consequence of this law is that people who are able to pay for their meal simply do not have to – one account was over \$1,100 in arrears.

Since the policy went into effect, the district has collected \$18,484. For families qualifying for free or reduced meal who had negative balances, a community benefactor paid their debts.

Everyone who receives a letter for a negative balance also receives a free or reduced lunch application in case their family finances have changed and they are unable to pay full price for lunches.



The high school's spring musical, *Mamma Mia!*, played to sold-out audiences February 28 and March 1-2. The show was nominated for an Apollo award for Outstanding Musical and three honorable mention nominations including one for best dance number for the show's "Money, Money, Money" number.

CTC, Connections Club try to make LD a little kinder

Fred Rogers inspired a generation with his quiet manner and gentle spirit. Once he pondered, “Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered... just one kind word to another person.”



For the month of April, the high school’s Connection Club and Lower Dauphin Communities That Care accepted Mister Rogers’ words as a challenge to make Lower Dauphin a better place through kindness.

Kindness has been shown to cause a ripple effect,” said LD Communities That Care Program Director Angela Durantine. “If you show kindness to one person, that person will show kindness to four people and those four people will show kindness to four more people and so on – these exchanges of kindness can change the world!”

The groups created a t-shirt which was sold prior to April and then encouraged students and staff to wear those shirts every Friday. The shirt campaign was a visible reminder, but every day of the month of April had a different, age-appropriate theme – for example, on April 8 elementary students were reminded to say “please” and “thank you” all day and on April 15, secondary students were encouraged to let someone ahead of them in line.

Elementary students also had guest readers visit their classes on Fridays in April to share books about kindness and the importance of being kind to others. Readers included Superintendent Robert Schultz and other district administrators, school staff, high school students, police officers, parents and community members.

“We wanted to challenge kids of all ages, and the adults in our community,

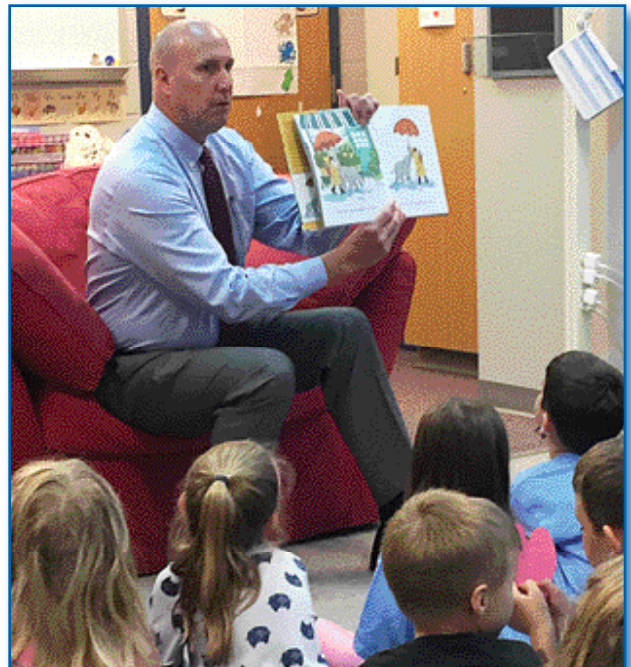
to simply be kind to one another – to be intentionally kind – by offering a smile, a high five, making a new friend or reconnecting with existing friends,” Mrs. Durantine said. “And the stories of kindness in school exceeded all of our expectations!”

That Be Kind feeling spread far and wide in the Lower Dauphin community. LD CTC created buttons and yard signs to spread the kindness message across the district’s 90 square miles. They sold and gave away more than 6,000 buttons and 150 yard signs. Just taking a drive down Main Street in Hummelstown, more than a dozen of the yard signs were on display.

Several businesses embraced the initiative as well. All the employees at Subway on Main Street wore Be Kind pins for the entire month. Bright Beginnings Child Development Center staff wore shirts throughout the month, as did the employees of D&S Tree Service.

“We can’t thank our community and our businesses enough for their support of this initiative,” said Mrs. Durantine. “It was great to see the way everyone got behind the idea of kindness and how fast it spread.”

Mister Rogers would be proud.



Top photo, South Hanover Elementary students all wore their shirts one sunny day in April. Superintendent Robert Schultz read to kindergarten students at Nye Elementary School about kindness. Bottom photo, the high school Connections Club put Positivity Post-its on all the lockers in the middle school.



High school leaders honor school bus drivers

Students from the Chick-fil-A Leadership program provide breakfast to bus drivers as part of their Impact Project.

For most Lower Dauphin students, the first person they see in the morning and the last at the end of the day is sitting behind the wheel of a school bus.

“Our students felt very compelled to honor this group because they feel our bus drivers really make a huge impact on our community,” said Dr. David Wuestner, high school assistant principal.

The drivers, who are employees of Rohrer Bus, received student-delivered invitations to a free breakfast. In late April, the 30-plus drivers enjoyed a meal of scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage, pastries and fruit.

“Every single day when we got off the bus at school, our driver would say ‘Have a good day,’” recalled Isabelle Johnson. “I wanted to show her how much of an impact that had. It was a great way to start the day.”

Olivia Sharrow spoke fondly of her bus driver, Miss Debbie. “She was a ‘tough-love’ kind of person, but you knew she cared about you and she remembered the littlest details about you.”

The high school’s Chick-fil-A leadership program, sponsored by the restaurant chain, seeks to develop leadership traits in students participating in the monthly lessons. In addition to

these lessons on topics like teamwork, innovation, communication and servant leadership, the students plan service projects in the community and a large impact project for the spring.

This year’s group decided on the bus drivers’ brunch because many of the students had positive memories of riding the bus and wanted to give back to the people who bring students to and from school and after-school activities.

In addition to their impact project, this year’s group filled Christmas stockings and provided a meal at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey.

LD Middle School students take audiences under the sea

Lower Dauphin Middle School’s spring musical, “The Little Mermaid Jr.,” was a huge hit, playing to packed houses on March 22-23.

The musical, directed by Mr. Matt Dickinson and Mrs. PJ Bigler, featured songs from the classic Disney animated film as well as colorful costumes and fun set pieces. The cast included Prince Eric, Nikolai Wagner; Grimsby, Christian Grow; King Triton, Mason Barrick; Sabastian, Evvy Adams; Flounder, Marina Weidman; Ariel, Abigail Foran; Scuttle, Lauren Wahlers; Ursula, Abbie Carter; Flotsam, Juliet Youngbluth; Jetsam, Olivia Hulstine; and Ariel’s sisters Aquata, Brenna Tressler; Andrina, Nicole Estes; Arista, Chloe Chang; Atina, Maura Tressler; Adella, Amber Abela; and Allana,

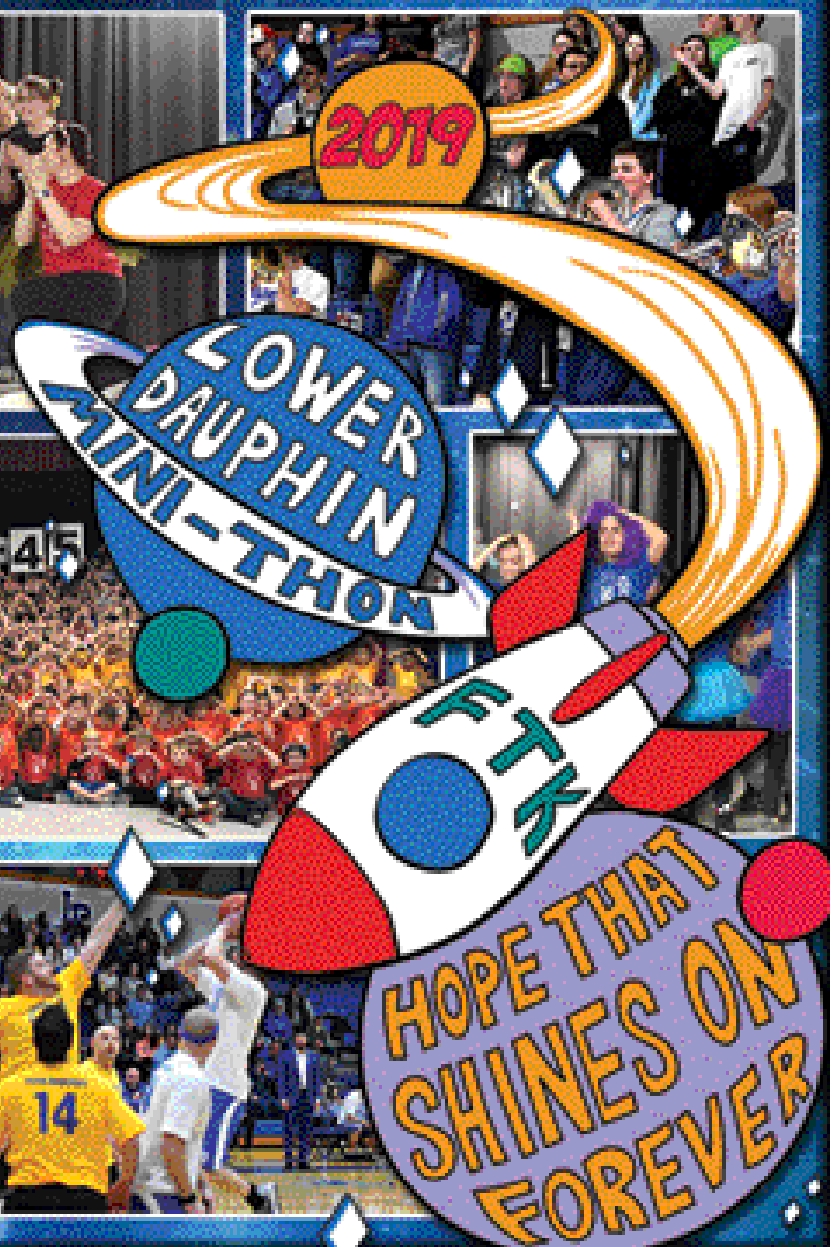
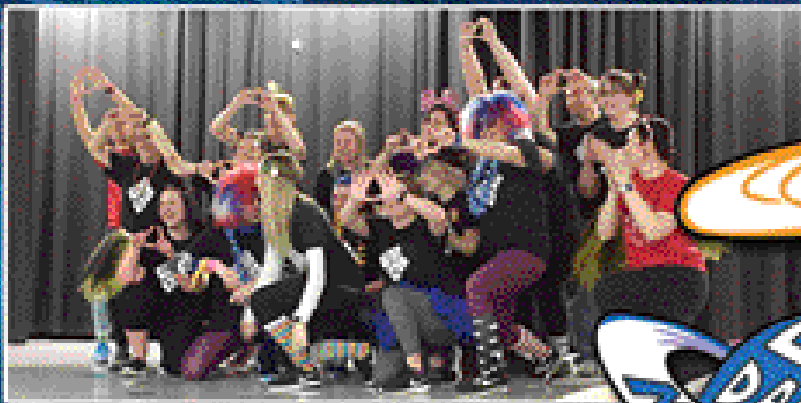
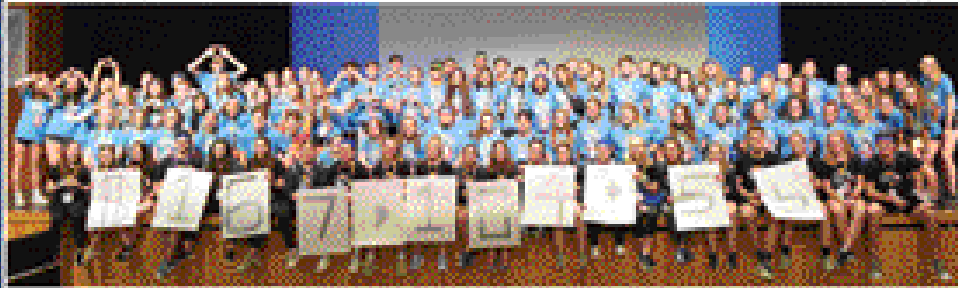
Audrey Meyers.

The musical was the most ambitious undertaking in several years and provides students with a great opportunity to learn about everything that goes into a show and helps prepare them to take the stage at the high school.



Evvy Adams (in red) sings about life under the sea to Abigail Foran and other sea creatures.

2019 Mini-Thon



Several Lower Dauphin schools held MiniTHON events to benefit the Four Diamonds at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, raising over \$200,000 in the fight against pediatric cancer.

Senior Citizen Prom brings generations together

When the first notes of Chubby Checker's classic song, "The Twist," came from the DJ's booth, a gaggle of high school girls giggled and claimed they didn't know the iconic dance.

Ruth Wagner wasn't buying it and went up and got the girls dancing.

"She's spunky," said her granddaughter, 10th-grader Kasey Eldridge. "She's my spunky grandma!"

The nervous giggles turned into laughter as the girls twisted with Mrs. Wagner and it was clear they were all having a good time.

"She knows how to dance," Mrs. Wagner said. "We're really enjoying ourselves."

The high school's annual Senior Citizen Prom was held April 13, with the theme of "Around the World" and décor incorporating various countries' landmarks and flags.

Entertainment was provided by club advisor Mr. Chad Lister, who has been spinning records at the event since he attended Lower Dauphin High School. Student Annie Dickinson sang and the school's string quintet also performed.



Above, students learn line dancing with the help of Senior Citizen Prom attendees. At left, Steve and Dona Lee Naub were king and queen of the dance.

One of the highlights was when the Men's A Cappella performed doo-wop songs which brought smiles and set toes tapping.

Steve and Dona Lee Naub were crowned prom king and queen. Steve, a 1973 graduate of Lower Dauphin, danced with his wife to the Nat King Cole classic "Unforgettable."

High school artists win regional awards

Thirteen Lower Dauphin High School artists received recognition in the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Arden Baker won gold keys for her painting "Koi Fish" and for her drawing and illustration "Waiting for the Stranger." The high school junior also earned an honorable mention for her painting "Juxtaposition."

Olivia Dreon won a gold key for her painting "Marigold." Katelyn Hanft earned a gold key in photography for "Janitor." Jacob Snyder, a senior, won a pair of gold keys for his paintings "Reflection of My Future" and "A Letter from the Keys."

Mary Schofield earned a silver key

in photography for "Macro." Janel Thompson earned a silver key in ceramics and glass with "Leaf Series."

Other Honorable Mentions went to Colee Baker, painting, "Self Awareness;" Sylvana Gregg, photography, "April Showers;" Stacia Hoke, painting, "Optimism;" Sydney Koons, painting "Uniquely Beautiful;" Anna Snowden, painting, "Switzerland;" Hayley Vandenbergh, photography, "Jack;" and Sam Walker, photography, "Light Person."

The students were competing against their peers in the South Central Pennsylvania Region which is made up of Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, York,



Arden Baker's "Koi Fish" was one of six gold key winners for the high school art department.

Adams, Franklin, Juniata, and Lebanon counties. Regional Gold Key winners were recognized at an awards ceremony in March at The State Museum in Harrisburg.

Lower Dauphin students learn about art’s healing power

The adolescent wing of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute has a very institutional look – block walls and that particular hue of green found in hospitals and government buildings. Housed in the former Polyclinic Hospital in uptown Harrisburg, it’s not surprising that its retained a lot of the hospital appearance.

PPI Director of Business Development & Admissions Ruth Moore wanted to change that and reached out to the PA Council of the Arts for a unique project idea –utilize student-artists to create large art pieces to be installed at PPI.

“Research has shown there is a definite correlation between increasingly good health and viewing or creating art,” Ms. Moore said. “It has also proven to reduce anxiety and depression. We provide art therapy at PPI, however in addition, our goal is to create an atmosphere using community created artwork to improve the therapeutic environment created by peers (LSDS) that is soothing, uplifting and nurtures positive healing and well-being.”

The arts council teamed up with Lower Dauphin High School art teacher Dana Attivo who proposed bringing artists-in-residence to the school district to teach students about murals, the importance of public art installations, and the healing power of art.

“Teaching empathy is one of the best things we can do for our students and society as a whole. When we can look outside of ourselves to help another with their needs, we will create a kinder world. That is what this project is doing for the art students at LD,” Mrs. Attivo said. “So often we push self-expression. To dig deep and find their voice. And while that is important in them growing as an individual, giving back makes just as big of an impact.”

Local artist Linda Billet worked in the high school, middle school and elementary schools teaching techniques which students used to create large mosaics with glass and ceramics. The colorful pieces include a pineapple, a peacock and an ocean wave. Students also had the opportunity to work with Beth Krumholz, a mural painter.

“This is an invaluable experience to have our students work with and learn from working artists,” Mrs. Attivo said. “It gives them an idea of what they can do with art after graduation –



Students in art classes across Lower Dauphin created amazing artwork for the adolescent wing of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute.



and in this case, provide beauty and healing to those who can benefit from it.

“Some of the students working on this project have been bravely open about their time spent on the adolescent unit at PPI. They validated the need for art in that space. To bring color, calm and inspiration to a currently institutional space. They are excited to have the opportunity to change the atmosphere in a place that needs to promote healing.”

High school recognizes eight for commitment to service

Lower Dauphin High School recognized eight seniors who have committed to serve in the armed forces after graduation in a ceremony in the school auditorium May 20.

The seniors participating in the school's inaugural Armed Forces Recognition Day were announced by Principal Justin Hanula who presented them each with a certificate of appreciation. They included Jared Byers, Air Force; Patrick Donohue, Coast Guard; Nicolas Gaspich, Air Force; Vance Mader, Marine Corps; Drayton Smith, Army; Anai Walters, Merchant Marine Academy; John Winsett III, Marine Corps; and David Witherbee, Army.

The students heard from 2nd Lt. Richard Myers (Class of 2013), who praised them for making the decision to serve their country and spoke about sacrifice, duty and teamwork as they embark on their military career.



LD High School held its inaugural Armed Forces Recognition Day May 20.

Ten Lower Dauphin student-athletes announce college choices

Ten Lower Dauphin High School student-athletes announced their decision to continue their academic and athletic careers at colleges and universities in a ceremony in the school cafeteria.

Baseball

Nicholas Bennett – The son of Amy and Roy Bennett, he is a four-year member of the baseball and football teams. He plans to attend Misericordia University and major in sports management.

Basketball

Luke Hedrick – The son of DJ and Kathy Hedrick, he has participated in basketball, golf, baseball, track & field and volleyball at Lower Dauphin. He will attend Lincoln Memorial University and major in exercise science.

Kobe Petrovich – The son of Tracy Petrovich, he is a member of the boys basketball and volleyball teams. He will attend Penn State's Harrisburg campus.

Cross Country

Dean Fulton – The son of Sharon and Robert Fulton, he is a four-year member of the cross country, track & field and ice hockey teams. He will attend Pennsylvania College of Technology.
Josiah Helmer – The son of Andrew and Sheri Helmer, he is a four-year member and captain of the cross country team and participated in track & field and winter track for three years. He will attend Geneva College and major in



Ten student-athletes announced their college choices April 24.

chemical engineering.

Lacrosse

Joe Dixon – The son of Michelle and Mike Dixon, he is a three-year varsity player and a two-year starter on the boys lacrosse team. He will attend Alderson Broaddus University and major in computer science.

Anai Walters – The daughter of Justine and Scott Walters, she is a four-year member of the girls lacrosse team. She will attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy and major in maritime logistics and security.

Soccer

Quinn McMonagle – The daughter of Tom and Amyee McMonagle, she is a four-year varsity letter winner on the soccer team and also played lacrosse

and club soccer. She will attend Lock Haven University and major in disability and community services.

Track & Field

Josh Blessing – The son of Deb and Mike Blessing, he is a Mid-Penn and District medalist in his four years on the track team. He also runs in cross country and winter track. He will attend Geneva College and major in accounting.

Volleyball

Colin Stockton – The son of Anne and Tom Salem and Stacy and Rusty Stockton, he is a team captain and a four-year member of the boys volleyball team. He will attend Wentworth Institute of Technology and major in applied mathematics.

Know Your Schools is published four times a year for the residents of Lower Dauphin School District.

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High School	717-566-5330
Middle School	717-566-5310
Conewago Elementary School	717-367-7233
East Hanover Elementary School	717-469-2686
Londonderry Elementary School	717-944-9462
Nye Elementary School	717-566-0300
South Hanover Elementary	717-566-2564
Informaline:	717-566-5320 or 717-944-1668

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Congratulations Class of 2019!

