



March - April  
2025

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- Trades Day



[www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us](http://www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us)

### Superintendent

*Jo-Ellen Fairbanks*

### Principals

*Peter Kline,*  
Primary School

*Heather Mleziva,*  
Intermediate School

*Todd Chandler,*  
Middle School

*Tyson Tlachac,*  
High School

# The Spartan Impact

With the 2023-2025 Wisconsin State Biennial Budget winding down, legislators are busy building the 2025-27 State Budget.

The State surplus is \$4.3 billion which is in addition to a \$1.9 billion rainy day fund. The State is in a good position to address many priorities and has the opportunity to support needs of both taxpayers and students in public schools. If not now, when??

Key state budget priorities that benefit ALL public schools are being supported by school districts and education organizations across the State.

- 1) Special Education: Categorical aid reimbursement is currently 33% leaving 67% of special education costs to be funded from a school district's general fund. Last year L-C transferred over \$2.3 million from the general fund to cover special education services.

A budget priority is to **increase special education categorical aid to at least 60%**. This would allow districts to retain more funding for general operating expenses.

- 2) Increase general, flexible, spendable dollars through a combination of **inflationary revenue limit adjustment and a per pupil aid increase**.

- a. Revenue Limit: \$415 (+\$90) year 1; \$430 (+105) year 2
- b. Per Pupil Adjustment: \$100 in each year
- c. With enough general aid to offset as much property tax impact as possible

- 3) **Address teacher shortages** with a multifaceted approach:

- a. Support incentives, reimbursements, and early career teacher programs

Additionally, L-C is advocating legislators to **increase funding for career and technical education certificates and youth apprenticeship programs**.

As we look ahead, this biennial budget will help determine L-C's need to continue with an operational referendum in 2027 and if so, what additional funding will be needed.

I urge you to have conversations with your area legislators in regards to school funding and advocate for adequate school funding.

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Dr. Jo-Ellen Fairbanks, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

# Primary School News

## Music at the Primary School

The Primary School Music Room is hitting all the right notes this spring with a lineup of exciting activities and events. Students are celebrating the 40th anniversary of “Music in Our Schools” month by exploring the power music has in bringing people together through this year’s WSMA theme, “United Through Music.”

To mark the occasion, each student has signed their name on a pair of music notes, which are now proudly displayed and interconnected around the school entrance — a visual reminder of how music brings us together.

Our 2nd grade classrooms are getting creative with AI technology to explore different music genres, while the rest of the school is joining the fun by voting for their favorite songs in the “March Music Genre Madness” tournament. Let the musical battles begin!

March and April will crescendo with the 1st and 2nd Grade Spring Concert on Friday, April 25th at 1:30 PM in the Primary School gym. This year, the 2nd grade will shine a spotlight on trying new things and discovering hidden talents by creating a unique soundtrack to the book, “Chicken Dance” by Tammi Sauer. Families and friends will enjoy a lively mix of songs spanning from Elvis to Shakira.

Meanwhile, 1st grade will take the audience on a musical safari through the animal kingdom, featuring songs about creatures of the land, sea, and sky. They’ll even showcase their skills by making animal sounds in Spanish.

It’s shaping up to be a memorable season of music, learning, and fun. We hope to see you there!



# Primary School News

## Spring Events @ the Primary School

The end of the school year is quickly approaching, but there are still quite a few things happening at the Primary School!

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 2nd grade field trip to Barkhausen              | Week of March 10       |
| FFA Petting Zoo                                 | Friday April 4         |
| 4K make up day                                  | Friday April 4         |
| 1st and 2nd grade Spring Concert                | Friday April 25        |
| Missoula Children's Theater tryouts             | Monday April 28        |
| Missoula Children's Theater public performances | Saturday May 3         |
| Careers on Wheels                               | Thursday May 15        |
| 1st grade field trip to WildLife Sanctuary      | May 13, 14, 15         |
| Kdg field trip to Barkhausen                    | Apr 28, 29, May 13, 21 |
| 4K field trip to Bruemmer park                  | Tuesday May 20         |
| 4K graduation Thursday                          | May 22                 |
| Last day Field Day                              | Friday May 23          |





# Intermediate School News

## Luxemburg-Casco Community Makes a Splash

On Saturday, February 22nd, Luxemburg-Casco Schools Team B.O.S.S. was proudly represented at the 2025 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Wisconsin in Green Bay.

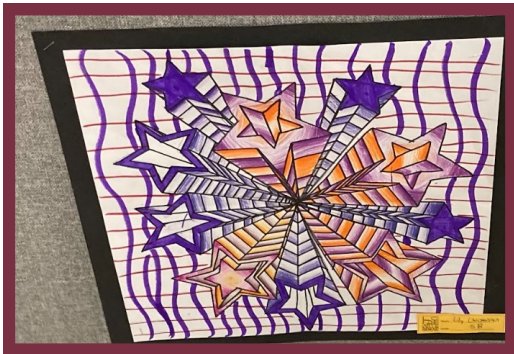
Our team, consisting of four staff members, three high school students, and a community member, took the plunge to support an incredible cause. As a district, we raised over \$4,400!

180 plungers total throughout the area bravely faced the frigid waters of the Fox River, collectively raising nearly \$70,000 for Special Olympics Wisconsin.

Contributions can be made through the following link:  
<https://plungegreenbay.funraise.org/>



## Future Event: Fine Arts Showcase



Please join us Monday, April 14th @ the HS lobby between 5:00-7:00 PM for our annual art show. Visual arts awards will be presented at 6:30pm. The show will be on display from the evening of April 11th-21st for viewing.

**Weekend hours: 10AM-2PM**

**Weekday hours: 7AM - 6PM**



# School Safety is a Top Priority

The Intermediate School continues to pride itself on school safety, talking through monthly ALICE based scenarios and engaging in live drills. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for:

- **ALERT:** Teach them the importance of paying attention to their surroundings. Tell them if something feels wrong, they should listen for an announcement or an adult telling them what to do.
- **LOCKDOWN:** Explain that if they hear a siren or see an adult locking doors, it means they need to stay hidden and be very quiet to stay safe.
- **INFORM:** Help them understand the importance of sharing information with trusted adults or calling 911 if they can do so safely. For younger kids, you can simplify this by saying, "Tell an adult what you see."
- **COUNTER:** For older elementary children, talk about what to do if they need to protect themselves (only if it's safe to do so). This might include distractions like making noise or throwing objects to create a safe escape.
- **EVACUATE:** Teach them that sometimes the safest thing to do is to leave the building quickly. Practice how to exit the building calmly and safely.



We take ALICE scenarios and drills seriously to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of our students and staff. In addition, we want to be as prepared and knowledgeable in case of an actual safety event. Safety situations or scenarios can be scary, but being prepared will help with decision making skills and better outcomes.

Consider some of the following topics of conversation to engage in with your student to ensure they are prepared, not scared.

- ⇒ **Encourage Open Communication:** Reassure your child they can ask questions and talk about safety concerns.
- ⇒ **Practice Safety Plans:** Regularly review safety procedures like fire drills, lockdowns, and evacuation routes.
- ⇒ **Teach ALICE:** Simplify the ALICE protocol (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and explain it in age-appropriate terms.
- ⇒ **Identify Trusted Adults:** Help your child know who to turn to for help at school and in public.
- ⇒ **Discuss Personal Safety:** Reinforce rules like not talking to strangers and telling an adult if they feel unsafe.
- ⇒ **Teach Calmness:** Show calming techniques like deep breathing to handle fear or stress.
- ⇒ **Review Emergency Contacts:** Ensure your child knows key phone numbers and their address.
- ⇒ **Role-Play Scenarios:** Practice what to do in various safety situations, like evacuating or locking down.
- ⇒ **Create a Family Safety Plan:** Set up a plan for emergencies and meeting spots, and review it together.

# Intermediate School

## Upcoming Dates to Note

- April 8th—April 16th - WI State FORWARD Testing
- April 10th - Statewide Tornado Drill Practice
- April 14th - Midterm Grades are Issued
- April 17th - Fire Drill
- April 18th - No School - Good Friday
- April 28th - May 3rd - Missoula
- May 23rd - Last Day of School

FORWARD Testing Dates - We kindly ask that you do not schedule any vacations or appointments for your student during the following testing days. It is very difficult to make up FORWARD testing. If students do miss the original FORWARD dates, the make up window will be April 17th-23rd.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>3rd Grade Testing Dates</b><br>April 9th<br>April 10th<br>April 14th<br>April 15th<br>April 16th | <b>4th Grade Testing Dates</b><br>April 8th<br>April 9th<br>April 10th<br>April 14th<br>April 15th<br>April 16th |
| <b>5th Grade Testing Dates</b><br>April 9th<br>April 10th<br>April 14th<br>April 15th<br>April 16th | <b>6th Grade Testing Dates</b><br>April 8th<br>April 9th<br>April 10th<br>April 11th<br>April 15th<br>April 16th |



# Middle School News

## Youth Art Month

Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Wisconsin Art Education Association (WAEA) encourages teachers throughout the state to submit up to 5 works of their students into regional shows. They can earn awards and possibly be selected to advance to the state exhibition in Madison. There were over 160 pieces in the Northeast Regional alone, and LCMS had one middle school award winner at the regional level and 3 state qualifiers!

## Congratulations to L-C MS Award Winners



Ana Wolfert (8th grade) was selected at the NE Regional level to receive the **Neville Honor Award**. Ana's figure abstraction was also selected to be **showcased at the state**



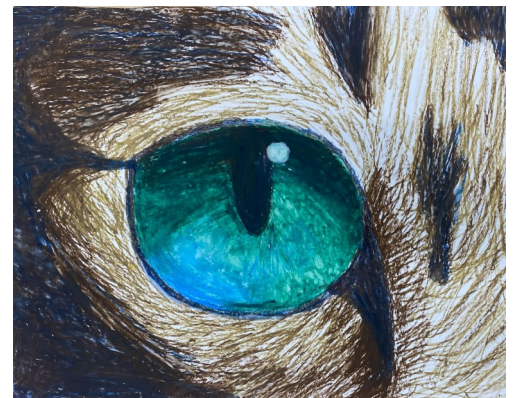
Josey Berger (8th grade) Her gestural figure drawings were selected to be **showcased at the state exhibit**.



Mari Schultz (8th grade) Her reduction print (Space Moth) was selected to be **showcased at the regional exhibit**.



Brianna Spude (8th grade) Her fractured self-portrait drawing was selected to be **showcased at the state exhibit**.



Stella Peot (7th grade) Her oil pastel animal eye was selected to be **showcased at the regional exhibit**

# Kewaunee County Economic Development Corp ( KCEDC)

## Ag Career Days

### Hands on Learning for Middle School Students

On April 29-30, 2025, local middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in Ag Career Days, a hands-on career exploration event hosted by the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation (KCEDC) at **Ebert Enterprises** dairy farm in Algoma. This event, which welcomes seventh and eighth graders from across the region, including Luxemburg Casco, Southern Door, Kewaunee, Algoma, and Denmark, provides an inside look at the many career opportunities available in Wisconsin's thriving agriculture industry.

Students will rotate through interactive stations, each highlighting a different career path within agriculture. They will learn from industry professionals about animal science, agronomy, horticulture, dairy production, milk testing, cheese making, agricultural business, and technology, to name a few. These hands-on experiences will help students discover how their skills and interests could align with future careers in the agricultural sector.

By attending Ag Career Days, students will see firsthand how the subjects they learn in the classroom apply to the real world. Math is used to manage farm resources and calculate production costs, while science helps improve animal health and crop growth. Technology plays a key role in modern agriculture, from robotics to data analysis. English language arts skills are essential for effective communication, whether in writing research reports, marketing agricultural products, or collaborating with industry professionals. Social studies also connect to agriculture through lessons on economics, global trade, and the historical impact of farming on societies. This experience will show students that the skills they develop in school have practical and valuable uses in everyday life and future careers.



Kewaunee County  
Economic Development Corporation



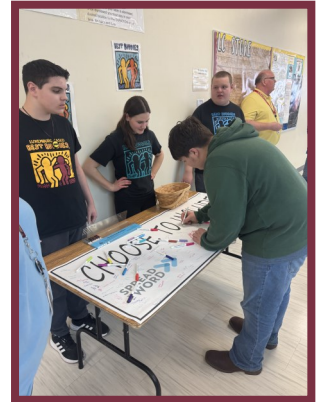


# High School News

## Spread the Word to End the Word

**Best Buddies Club** recently participated in the **Spread the Word to End the Word** campaign, a powerful initiative promoting inclusion, kindness, and respect for all. As part of this campaign, Best Buddies planned special events at each school within our district, encouraging students and staff to pledge their support for creating a more inclusive environment. The importance of words and their impact, while also fostering friendships and acceptance for individuals of all abilities. Each pledge was a step toward making our schools a place where everyone feels valued and included. The enthusiasm and participation we witnessed were truly inspiring, showing that when we stand together, we can create positive change. We extend our gratitude to all who took part in this movement and made a commitment to spread kindness. Your support helps us build a world where everyone is celebrated for who they are.

#CHOOSETOINCLUDE



A huge thank you to Scotty's of Luxemburg for their incredible generosity! Their recent meat raffle raised funds in support of the Best Buddies Club, helping to promote inclusion, kindness, and opportunities for all. It's truly amazing to see our community.

## FFA Plant Sale

Luxemburg-Casco FFA and Introduction to Horticulture students have put a lot of hard work into our annual plant sale. Over the last few months, the Horticulture class has been diligently planning, planting seedlings, creating mixed pots, and preparing hanging baskets. They have planted over 1,000 seedlings and filled over 3,000 lbs of soil!

Please mark your calendars for the plant sale, which will be held the week of April 28 – May 3 and the week of May 5-10.

Thank you for your continued support!



## LCHS Sources of Strength Lock-In



On Friday, March 7th, 76 Luxemburg-Casco High School students participated in the highly anticipated Sources of Strength Lock-in, an overnight event filled with fun, friendship, and activities that kept students engaged from 9 PM to 6 AM. The event, held at the high school, provided a variety of entertainment options, allowing students to move between different areas throughout the night.

The Multipurpose (Wrestling) Room served as a movie-watching space for students looking to relax, while the Gymnasium hosted energetic games, including volleyball, badminton, football, Kan Jam, and intense rounds of 3-on-3 basketball at 3 AM and dodgeball at 4 AM. Meanwhile, the Spartan Heritage Room offered fun activities, including video games, board games, Just Dance, and Singo (Music Bingo). To keep spirits high, students refueled at midnight with a spread of Domino's pizza, soda, and chips, ensuring they had the energy to make it through the night. As dawn broke, tired but happy students were

picked up by their parents, closing out an unforgettable experience.

Sources of Strength is a national peer-led organization that empowers students to build resilience and promote mental wellness using the eight key areas of the Strength Wheel: Family Support, Positive Friends, Mentors, Healthy Activities, Generosity, Spirituality, Physical Health, and Mental Health. The program fosters a culture of strength and support, encour-

aging students to lean on one another and develop healthy coping strategies.



The annual Lock-in was a testament to the positive impact of Sources of Strength at Luxemburg-Casco High School, offering students not only a night of excitement but also a reminder of the strong community they have around them. Events like these highlight the importance of connection and well-being,

reinforcing the core values of the Sources of Strength program.

# L-C Bowling

The Bowling Center of Wisconsin - High School Bowling Club works with area bowling centers to compete against other high school bowlers in the state. More than 2,000 high school students competed across the state last season in varsity and junior varsity competition. Luxemburg Casco High School Bowling Club joined the Door County Lakeshore Bowling Club, 3 years ago in September of 2022. Currently, the bowling club consists of Algoma, Kewaunee, Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol and Gibraltar.

High School bowling is a different structure than that of traditional bowling leagues. Each team, both varsity and junior varsity, are comprised of a 5-man team bowling baker style. This means that each bowler is responsible for 2 frames per game of the 9-game match. The match is determined by the total number of games won against the opponent in each match set. The season consists of 14 matches between November and January. The High School Bowling Club determines the total number of teams and individuals from each club are eligible to compete at the state level each year. For the 2024-2025 Season the Door County Lakeshore Bowling Club was able to send the 2 two Varsity Teams as well as 4 boys and 2 girls to the state competition.

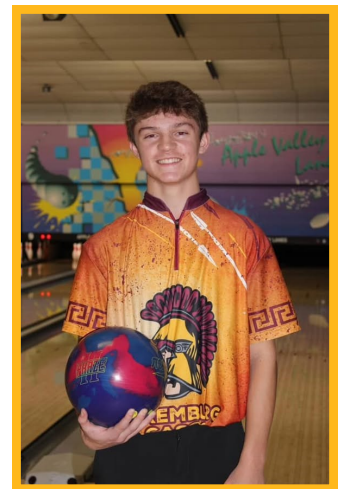
For the 2024-2025 season, Luxemburg Casco Club had 16 members this year making up one varsity team and two junior varsity teams. The varsity team finished the season in second place in the club clinching one of the two state team positions for the second year in a row, along with Lagan Whipp securing second place individually in the boy's division earning his place individually for the club. On March 7th and 8th, the state competition was held in Neenah & Oshkosh where 110 boys and 61 girls competed individually along with 53 boys/coed teams and 26 girl teams.

Luxemburg Casco placed 24th of 29 for division 2. Individually, Lagan Whipp qualified 17th in the first round advancing to 2nd round of qualifying, where he competed against the top 28 boys. After the 2nd round of qualifying Lagan finished 22nd overall. This was a great accomplishment as this was the first time in club history to have an individual bowler make it to the 2nd round of qualifying. On March 15th, both Lagan Whipp and Landon Kaye will represent the club and Luxemburg Casco in the All-Star team competition held at Riviera Lanes in Green Bay!

Bowling offers unique opportunities for kids to meet, compete, and build lifelong friendships with peers from different schools statewide. Scholarships are available for bowlers, and many teams participated in the Storm Doubles Scholarship Tournament during the state weekend, partnering with bowlers from Southern Door and Sturgeon Bay. Sign up for next years bowling club will start in September, so be on the lookout for the registration flyer at open house!!! This is open to all 7-12 students!!!



*2024-25 State Qualifying Team*



*Lagan Whipp—Individual State Qualifier 2024-25*



## Luxemburg-Casco High School students receive experiential career-exploration opportunity through Trades Career Day

More than 150 Luxemburg-Casco High School students from Grades 9-12 took part in Trades Career Day on March 26. Multiple industries within the Trades were on hand to guide students through hands-on activities and to provide information on potential high-earning careers within the field.

Career exploration is an important aspect of the K-12 educational experience, according to Mike Snowberry, learning services director for the Luxemburg-Casco School District. "We strive to help our students find their passion and identify potential career paths prior to graduation, and Trades Career Day is an experiential way to do that."



The skilled trades sector in Wisconsin in 2025 continues to experience rapid growth, especially with the increased reliance on technology. As existing employees retire, employers are actively seeking replacements to fill the next-generation workforce.

The American Welding Society projects that more than 320,000 new welding professionals will be needed by 2029, adding that an average of 80,000 welding jobs will be filled annually in the U.S. over the next five years.

According to the Associated Building and Contractors of Wisconsin, the average age of an apprentice has moved from age 28 to age 25, with many beginning at age 18, as more young people enter the Trades at an early age.

Luxemburg-Casco High School has the highest Youth Apprenticeship participation rate in Wisconsin with 58 percent of eligible students engaged in the program. Last May, 36 members of the L-C Class of 2024 immediately entered the workforce, many with their YA employer.

At this week's event, L-C students were exposed to the industries of six different Trade groups through hands-on activities, including pipe threading, pipe welding, demonstration of soldering, and switch wiring.

The students also heard directly from representatives of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 3, 9 & 11; Carpenters Local 1146; Engineers Local 139; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 158; Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 400; and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) 18.

Groups of 10-15 students spent 30 minutes with three different Trade groups over the course of each 90-minute class period.



"We can't thank the local Trades organizations enough for participating in Trades Career Day," says Will Simonar, technical education teacher at LCHS. "It really gives our students the opportunity to confirm if a career in the Trades is something they might be interested in. It's one thing to hear what work in the Trades is like – it's another to actually experience yourself. I expect this event to help drive a lot of positive conversations, both at school and at home."

Which, of course, is the ultimate goal: providing better clarity on career choices for L-C students.

# FEDERAL FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL TO Luxemburg-Casco School

Recent executive orders and proposed cuts threaten vital federal funding and programs that support Wisconsin's public schools and libraries. These resources support students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and families, youth mental health programs, English language learners, smaller class sizes, and help fund important initiatives like access to school meals, career and technical education, academic opportunities, and more.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has launched [a new interactive map](#) showing how federal funding affects each school district across the state.

## The federal government provides critical funding for:



School meals  
for hungry kids



Special education services  
for kids with disabilities



Learning supports for  
students experiencing  
poverty



Mental health supports,  
career and technical  
education, science, math,  
technology education, and more



Educator professional  
learning and smaller class  
sizes

## Federal Funding for the Luxemburg-Casco School District:

# \$925,809

4% of total funding

## Cuts to federal school funding jeopardizes

# \$670,110

U.S. Department of Education funding (FY 25) to the  
Luxemburg-Casco School District.

# \$255,699

U.S. Department of Agriculture funding in 2023-24  
to cover meals for hungry kids.

## 7 Educator Jobs

The funding the Luxemburg-Casco School District  
receives from the USDE is equivalent to the cost of  
hiring this many teachers and education  
professionals.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**