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The LITCHFIELD PRIDE

SPRING 2023

Official Newsletter of Litchfield Public Schools

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

CENTER SCHOOL • INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL • MIDDLE SCHOOL • HIGH SCHOOL

Region 20 Update

Dear School Community,

Happy official start to spring! With this milestone, we are also moving closer to the start of Region 20. Just over 15 months to go, a lot has been accomplished, and there is much more work to be done.

Below are some updates:

Mascot Madness

What an amazing response! Each week the field of 64 was narrowed down to a finalist. Over a thousand votes were submitted in every round. Please visit: <https://www.litchfieldschools.org/o/lps-and-rsd6/page/mascot-madness> to find out the winner.

Superintendent Announcement

At this time, we are pleased to share that the Board of Education and Chris Leone have reached an agreement through 2026-2027 with two years of additional options for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029. We are extremely grateful for the time and dedication Chris and his team have given to Region 20. We are excited to officially continue this journey with him.

Committee Updates

Communication Committee - has built a social media presence and is finalizing options for a website/daigital app. You can follow Region 20 at the following:

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089178762566>
- **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/region20_ct/
- **Snapchat:** https://www.snapchat.com/add/region20ct?share_id=lmUrwMSWVGE&locale=en-US
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/Region20CT>

Curriculum Committee - has reviewed plans for curriculum writing to be completed during the summer of 2023.

Facilities Committee - is refining the long-term capital needs plan and has approved the asset inventory list.

Finance Committee - is finalizing recommendations on an Athletic Apparel company and also an Insurance Broker.

Long Term Planning Committee - has approved a plan for the selection of colors, imagery, and school names that will span from April-June.

Negotiations Committee - has begun negotiations with the newly recognized Region 20 Education Association. The goal remains to finalize that agreement this spring.

Policy Committee - is on the final policies of the 6000 series and will finish the 7000 series this month. In the coming months, they will turn their attention to administrative regulations, forms, and appendixes.

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Education – April 20, 2023 – Wamogo – 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Education – May 4, 2023 – Goshen Center School – 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Education – May 18, 2023 – Litchfield Center School – 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Education – June 1, 2023 – James Morris School – 7:00 p.m.

Regards,
The Region 20 Board of Education



Stay engaged in local education: www.litchfieldschools.org

Litchfield Public Schools

Board of Education

Matthew Terzian, Chairman
terzianm@lpsct.org

Daniel Clock, Vice Chairman
clockd@lpsct.org

Steve Malo, Secretary
malos@lpsct.org

Tim Breslin
breslint@lpsct.org

John Morosani
morosanj@lpsct.org

Lynn Murphy
murphyh@lpsct.org

Tina Reardon
reardont@lpsct.org

Wayne Shuhi

Lynn Stone
stonel@lpsct.org

District Office

Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Leone
860-361-9033 • leonec@lpsct.org

Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Kristen Della Volpe
860-361-9033 • dellavolpek@lpsct.org

Director of Pupil Services
Julie Haggard
860-567-7505 • haggardj@lpsct.org

Accounting Manager
Craig Robillard
860-361-6409 • robillardc@lpsct.org

Human Resource Manager
Debbie DeLisle
860-361-9022 • delislede@lpsct.org

Administrative Assistant
Christine Escobar
860-361-9012 • escobarc@lpsct.org

District Liaison/Administrative Assistant
Debbie Hodges
860-361-9694 • hodgesd@lpsct.org

Litchfield Middle/High School

Principal: Dr. Michael Pascento
860-567-7530 • pascentom@lpsct.org

Litchfield Intermediate School

Principal: Michael Valerio
860-567-7520 • valeriom@lpsct.org

Litchfield Center School

Principal: Lisa Deltano
860-567-7510 • deltanol@lpsct.org

Litchfield Intermediate School

Random Acts of Kindness Week

By: Danielle Eichman and Kathy Johnson, LIS Administrative Assistants

February is host to National Random Acts of Kindness Week. LIS is no stranger to kind deeds and lessons in being kind. The week was planned by a small group of LIS "AOK" Acts of Kindness students along with the support of the LIS student council. It was spearheaded by LIS Instructional Assistant, Malissa Harber, and the week was filled with different activities, themed days, and kindness challenges for students and staff.

Monday's theme was "Shine Bright With Kindness." The AOK students delivered hot chocolate to everyone in the morning. Tuesday's theme was "A Kind Heart Speaks Kind Words." Students and staff wore red, pink, or white. Paper hearts were hidden around the building for students to find. When they found a heart, they turned them in for a prize and received an inspirational sticker. The hearts were displayed on the Kindness Tree near the LIS main office. Wednesday's theme was "Team Up with Kindness." Students and staff wore team shirts and AOK decorated the mirrors in student bathrooms with inspirational messages. On Thursday, students and staff participated in "Cozy Up With Kindness Day." On this comfy day, students and staff brought their favorite children's books to be donated to the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries Soup Kitchen and Family Shelter. Friday's theme was "Share the Spirit of Kindness." The LIS student council displayed a poster across from the Kindness Tree. It read "Be the I in Kindness." Kindness quotes were also read every morning with the morning announcements and have continued each morning since!



On "Cozy Up With Kindness Day" students and staff brought their favorite children's books to be donated.

Mrs. Harber and Callan D. collaboratively create the I in KIND.

Students enjoying fresh hot chocolate delivered by the AOK club.

"Kindness Blooms" - Students love to stop and find their own names on the leaves.

Valentine's for Veterans

By: Danielle Eichman, Administrative Assistant at LIS

The students of LIS wanted to do something special for a very important group of people - veterans! Students handcrafted some beautiful and creative valentines cards and notes for veterans. We were honored and thankful to have Representative Reddington-Hughes come to LIS to collect the cards and deliver them to local veterans. Sixth-grader Audrey Pickert said it felt good to do something kind for the veterans because "they are a very important part of our community." Our brave men and women who sacrificed so much for our country should be honored every day, not just on Veterans Day, and this was an amazing way to show love and support to an amazing group of people.



Back row, left to right: Reddington-Hughes, LIS Instructional Assistant Malissa Harber, LIS Principal Michael Valerio. Front row left to right, Danika P, Eibhlin P, Scarlet M, Mila M, Charlotte F, Chailyn F.



Students created many cards and notes to give to veterans.



Members of the LIS student council creating Valentines in the LIS Art Room.

The Wild Robot Returns to LIS

By: Jamie McDevitt, Library Media Specialist

Litchfield Intermediate School participated in a One School, One Read Project this January! In keeping with our themes of kindness, helping others, and celebrating our differences while working together, we selected *The Wild Robot*, by Peter Brown, for our shared reading experience, a second time! This book and project were so successful when we ran it years ago, we couldn't wait to bring it back!

After returning from winter break, every student received a copy of *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown! Students participated in a variety of activities to kick off the project starting with a collaborative poster design and a read-aloud with the LIS Specials teachers! Thanks to the Litchfield PTO, students also had the opportunity to learn about the writing and illustrative process directly from author Peter Brown! During his virtual visit, students learned the inspiration behind writing and publishing *The Wild Robot* and



Brett Farkas, a 6th grader, consults with V-Bot 2.0. V-Bot not only sports a Litchfield t-shirt, but also has his own laptop, pen holder, standing desk, and "#1 Principal" mug

illustrated their own robot along with the author! As we continued to enjoy the book, students also participated in science and art projects directly related to our reading. 4th-grade students experimented with circuits and LED lights to create a circuit bot, 5th-grade students connected small motors and batteries to build brush bots, and 6th-grade students worked in small groups to build more complex robots: recycled cable cars, table-top edge detectors, and doodle bots! Students also created robot designs with tin foil and Sharpies, paper robots, stop-motion animations, and code! Finally, each homeroom designed a robot made entirely of recycled materials! For the culminating event, families were invited to LIS for an evening celebration of creativity and engineering at *The Wild Robot Showcase*! We were thrilled for students to show off their work to their families and enjoy STEAM activities in the library. We could not be prouder of our students, especially their ingenuity and perseverance, throughout our One School, One Read Project. If you ask us, *The Wild Robot* was a wild success!



Jack and Cayden check out all the amazing designs created by their classmates in the Library Media Center.



6th Grader Tori Gagnon and Scrapy 007. Scrapy was created with real elements from nature.

Litchfield Center School

Special Days at Center School

By: Stephanie Betz, Library Media Specialist, Kristina Olmstead, Science Teacher

Fancy Day

February 14th was celebrated at Center School in style, as students dressed in their fancy clothes. Fancy Day kicked off with the students creating Valentine crafts and cards with meaningful messages during their specials time. The team building activity ended with a fun singing game of I Wrote a Letter to My Love. This fun day of bringing everyone together is a continuation of the monthly school wide Specials Team STEAM activities.

STEAM Day

In order to celebrate our love of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) all students participated in a STEAM Academy. The goal of the academy is to provide students with a unique learning opportunity to explore their current interests and/or learn about an entirely new topic. Students used parts of the Engineering Process to create a takeaway during each session. Sessions included: Build a Bot, Domino Reaction, Lego Marble Maze, Cardboard Construction, Carpentry, Songwriting, Paper Flower Designs and Design a Life-Sized Friend



Riley Norris, Bennett Swanson, and Emersyn Litwin (l-r) from Mrs. Gangell's PM PreK Class show their Valentine creations.



Celia Holtman, Michaela Makuc, and CharleeMae Doherty (l-r) from Mrs. Johnson's Third Grade Classwork hard on their Valentines.



Beautifully created and heartfelt Valentine's cards created by Third Graders!

Litchfield Center School

Fit Fun Bags for Litchfield Center School

By: Laura Pieger, Instructional Assistant and FIT Together Liaison

This fall, we received a grant from Fit Together of Northwest CT. Fit Together's mission is "to build the healthiest kids, families, and communities through sustainable strategies that foster healthy eating and active living."

We have had great success with the first month of introducing the Fit Fun Bags to the students and families! Each classroom has a tote bag with fun fitness items for each student to enjoy on a weekly basis. The student gets to take home the bag for one week and play with all the items with their friends and families! Each bag includes a playground kickball, a small gator dodgeball, a bean bag ring toss game, a jump rope, a frisbee ring, a set of stacking cups, and a set of yoga pose cards.

Vance LaBonte said, "I liked playing soccer with my mom and I liked the jump rope! We did them a bunch of times! I could do the bean bags, jump rope, and stacking cups myself if I didn't have a brother, sister, or friend to play with."

Xavier Deleston-Weiss said, "I played frisbee with my dog, ball with my sister, played jump rope and bean bag toss with my sister too, and had lots of fun!"

All students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 will have an opportunity to take the bag home this year. We look forward to partnering with Fit Together to support our students and families.



Grade 2 students Everly Galgano and Mabel Parker (l-r) demonstrate yoga poses for the Fit Bags.



Grade 2 students Everly Galgano and Mabel Parker (l-r) demonstrate the cup stacking for the Fit Bags.

Nebraska Mystery Skype

By: Chloe M. & Mia P., Student Reporters, Mrs. Smith's 3rd Grade Class

We met a sixth-grade class that was in Nebraska. We were so happy that Mr. Leone, our superintendent, came in for the Mystery Skype. It was so much fun! We learned that their state mammal is a white-tailed deer, and did you know that there is a lighthouse in the middle of nowhere? Isn't that weird? Their school is called Leonard Lawrence Elementary. Did you know that they have school from 8:00-3:10? Something really cool is that they play Mystery Skype with schools around the world, not just in our country. A really cool fact about Nebraska is that their state invented Kool-Aid. Their state flower is the Goldenrod flower.

Our favorite part was when we guessed correctly at the end that they were in Nebraska. We also loved having Mr. Leone's company. We had so much fun playing and we cannot wait for the next time we play Mystery Skype!



Litchfield Middle School

Middle School View Powerful Film at BCAC

By: 8th-grade faculty team

LMS class of 2027 attended a showing of the film *Till* (2022) at Bantam Cinema and Arts Center. Students and teachers watched the powerful performance of a mother fighting for justice after the murder of her son, Emmett Till, in 1955. Danielle Deadwyler plays his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley in the performance of a lifetime, showing her crusade against authoritarian forces within the justice system in Money, Mississippi. Her power, grace, courage, and sadness were all on display as she challenged legal and social norms to insure that this never happened again. After the film, the students returned to school to debrief, ask questions, and reflect on what they had just seen. It was an important film for students to see on the heels of Black History Month and at the beginning of Women's History Month. Thank you to Mr. Leone and Dr. Pascento for facilitating this opportunity and to all the faculty who accompanied us to the theater including Mrs. Swanson, Ms. Plourde, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Gioia, Ms. Leigh, and Mr. Orosz. We also want to thank Bantam Cinema & Arts Center for opening their doors to us before they opened to the public to show us this piece of history!



Litchfield Middle School

Digital Media and Your Brain

By: Carrie Gibbs, LMS School Counselor

Litchfield Middle School students recently spent class time with Mrs. Gibbs, school counselor, exploring ways that different digital media are, and are not designed to help them make good media choices. Together the students inventoried their existing media choices and how they not only make them feel but how finding a balance between online and offline time is important. By the end of the lesson, students created a personalized plan for healthy media use, developed individual guidelines, and learned strategies for promoting healthy media balance.

How can you make screen time safe at home? Visit commonsensemedia.org where you can explore topics ranging from screen time to popular platforms and their safety ratings. CommonSense Media is a comprehensive resource on parenting, media, and everything in between.

Litchfield High School

Collaboration with CONCORA and Central CT State University

By: Peter Perkins, LMS/LHS Choral teacher

LHS sophomore Ailyn Tiul and her sister alumna Marilyn Tiul ('20) along with LHS Chorus director Peter Perkins recently performed with CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Artists) in a collaborative concert with singers from Central CT State University (CCSU) and selected high school students in a concert of spirituals by the famed arranger Moses Hogan. The concert was held in New Britain, titled "Hear My Prayer" which featured Connecticut's oldest fully professional chorus with members of the CCSU choral program and hand-picked singers from area high schools.

LMS/LHS Choral teacher, Peter Perkins has been a singer with CONCORA since 1985 and was pleased to nominate Ailyn for the project, especially when he found out that her sister Marilyn (currently a member of the choir at CCSU) was also singing. Both Ailyn and Marilyn had and still have successful careers in the LHS music department both of them being members of the band and chorus, and both having qualified for All-State and all-New England ensembles.



Selected high school students including LHS student Ailyn Tiul, (4th from left) with CONCORA Artistic Director Dr. Chris Shepard and Dr. Gaylon Robinson, Director of Choral Activities at CCSU.



Marilyn Tiul ('20) and her sister Ailyn ('20) with LHS Choral teacher Peter Perkins, and CCSU Choral director, Dr. Chris Shepard (L-R)

Interact Visits Local Soup Kitchen

By: Theresa Simaitis, School Nurse and Interact Advisor

Litchfield High School Interact club members spent the afternoon volunteering at the Greater Waterbury Interfaith soup kitchen and food pantry. Students distributed emergency food pantry items, prepared lunch, and distributed over 200 meals to individuals and families at the downtown Waterbury location.



Junior, Peyton Weik, and senior, Erika Curtis are stationed in the food pantry while volunteering at the soup kitchen.



Members of LHS Interact Club (L-R) Bailey Pesce ('24), Shae Blasavage ('24), Emily Migliorisi ('23), Jasmina Guaman ('23), Liv Perusse ('23), Brooke Lacilla ('24), Erika Curtis ('23) and Olivia Kracht ('23)



Members of Interact club sorting food items for distribution to local families.

An afternoon of Activities Shared with Younger Grades

By: Tammy Knox, Administrative Assistant to Principal

Litchfield High School Class of 2024, put together another afternoon full of fun for 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade students on a Friday in February. Over 100 elementary students enjoyed an afternoon of games, arts and crafts, basketball, singing, and dancing! All activities were created, assembled, and run by student council members with proceeds to benefit future events for the Class of 2024.



Members of the sophomore class student council (front row) Olivia Champagne, Madison Lacilla, Zoe Leviness, Amanda Soucie, Hope Melk, Caitlyn Reiter; (back row) Class Advisor, Ray Zetye, Lauren Baker, Sophia Pang, Katherine Rodriguez, Ailyn Tiul, Avery Foss, and Emma Moore.



You're so sweet, decorations on the gym door as part of the afternoon of fun for LIS students.

Litchfield High School

Senior Piccolo Player Maya Raggio Earns All-State Honors

By: Dan Porri, LPS Band Director and Jazz Band Director

Litchfield High senior flute and piccolo player Maya Raggio, has completed two successful rounds of auditions to earn prestigious 2023 CMEA All-State honors. In November, Maya performed her audition of two advanced etudes, major scale, chromatic scale, and sight reading at Avon High School along with students from over 40 schools in the CMEA Northern Region. With that audition, Maya attained a spot as 1st flute/1st piccolo in the All-Northern Regional Band, which rehearsed and performed a concert at New Britain High School in January.

Acceptance into the All-Northern Regional Band also qualified Maya to audition for All-State, along with all of the other top scorers from the 4 All-Regional Bands. The All-State auditions took place at North Haven High School in early February, involving a professional-level solo, all 12 major scales, full range chromatic scale, and sight reading. When all was said and done, Maya scored as one of the top two piccolo players in the entire state, a truly unique and exemplary accomplishment! Maya will rehearse and perform with the elite All-State Orchestra from March 30-April 2nd at the CT Convention Center in Hartford, CT.



LHS Junior, Riley Southard, proudly holds a bowl she created in her Advanced Ceramic class.



Ceramics Inspire Student's Creations

By: Michele Murelli, LHS Art Teacher

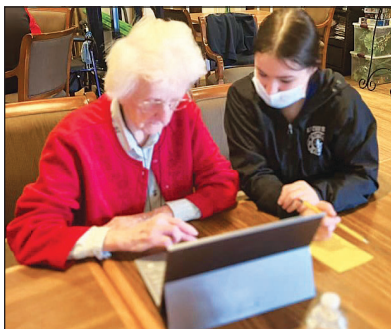
Riley Southard, a junior in Ms. Murelli's Advanced Ceramics class, says that Riley has advanced skills on the pottery wheel, and she is almost completely self-taught. Riley is inspired by ceramic pieces she sees, and like all good artists, tries to recreate the things that attract her. Riley has only been working on the wheel for about 5 months, and her skills are innate.

LHS Junior, Riley Southard, proudly holds a bowl she created in her Advanced Ceramic class.

AOK Club Tech Support to Local Residents

By: Catherine Irwin, Advisor to Acts of Kindness club

Members of the Acts of Kindness club (AOK) joined residents at Brandywine for their technology support day. Luke Gordon ('24), Zoya Guertin ('23), and John Shook ('24), assisted with setting up devices, tips and tricks, and shortcuts so residents can connect with their loved ones all over the country. Residents had the chance to ask questions, explore their devices, and connect with AOK students.



Senior, Zoya Guertin works one-on-one with a Brandywine resident.



Students with residents enjoy working together on computers.



Residents appreciate the time and support offered by students.