



FEBRUARY, 2022

Full STEAM Ahead for DE and LP

It was one of those moments a teacher will always remember. Katie Van Eps, who heads the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) classes at Durand-Eastman, had just doused herself with some water she was carrying to her classroom.

"One of my students said, oh Mrs. Van Eps, that's an unbalanced force there, and he laughed about it, but that was exactly what we had been learning about in class the week before."

For Van Eps and Jason DeJohn, who runs the program at Laurelton Pardee, things like this happen all the time. Students are taking what they learn in class and applying it in the real world.

"When I show them something they tell me they went home and spent time doing it. Or I make something and they show me what they made at home, that's a new one for me and I get to celebrate it with the kids," said DeJohn.

The STEAM curriculum is relatively new but it has definitely struck a chord with a number of students. Kids who might not feel like they are the best when it comes to math or English have been able to apply themselves to this work, and sometimes are surprised by what they are

actually doing.

"They come in here and they can do the activities, and they're not easy," DeJohn says. "Then you say-you just did math, and you had to be creative with it."



The projects being done cover a wide range of skills and subjects, including coding robots, graphic design and 3D printing. The work they do isn't just limited to the classroom either.

"If they show a talent or an interest in it, we have challenges for kids to tap into so there's an opportunity for them that they might not have

realized was a talent or a strength of theirs prior to this program," explained Van Eps.

She says the kids are learning plenty, but at the same time they are having plenty of fun.

"You really see the kids' ownership, passion, excitement and energy come out. That is so neat for us to see, their classroom teachers and their parents."

She really sees that energy come out in an unlikely place, when one of their projects fails.

It's not just the end results that excite these teachers, it's the process and the way the kids have embraced it.

"They have to be creative and come up with an idea, they have to make a plan and then create something, test it and go back and fix it if it didn't work out. We get to give that to the kids with every project we do with them," said DeJohn.

In fact, according to Van Eps, some of the best moments come out of things gone wrong.

"In the classroom if they fail on a multiplication problem it isn't so exciting that they want to go back and correct it, but in the STEM lab if you're building something and there's a fail, you really want to go and fix it."





LANCER PRIDE

New Principal Ready to Take EIMS to the Max

If you're a fan of the TV show *Ted Lasso*, you would recognize the one word sign hanging above Max Zeller's office at the Middle School. It simply says "believe."

The made-for-TV soccer coach uses it as encouragement for his underdog team, but for Zeller it's more of a reminder than a motivator.

"Just knowing that I believe in every one of our kids here and that they are capable of doing amazing things."

As of March 1st Zeller's message will be getting delivered from a new position, when he takes over as principal at EIMS.



"I feel like everything we've done, we've done as part of a team. I was a team member and now I'm more of the coach. A lot of the questions will now come to me and then we work as an entire team to figure out

what is best for all of our students."

Max has served as assistant principal for the last three years and has been with the district for 12. He knows that middle school can be a tough time to navigate, but likes to look at things through a more positive lens.

"Challenges are more opportunities. I think our biggest goal here is to just build the skills of our students so they are ready for the high school."



After a two-year absence, Eastridge High School is proud to present this year's musical, *Pippin*, March 24-26 at the Harold O'Dell Auditorium. Senior citizens get into the 6:15pm show free on March 24th and get a free to-go dessert. To reserve a senior citizen ticket and dessert, call 585-339-1234 or email communications@eastiron.monroe.edu

Tickets for all other performances are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Performances are at 7 PM on March 25th and 2 PM and 7 PM on March 26.



Opportunity is Knocking

The East Irondequoit School District has numerous job opportunities in a variety of positions. From the classroom to the bus garage, we are hiring!

For information on current openings, head to our website: <https://www.eastiron.org/page/employment-opportunities>



Percussion Ensemble Sparkles at Home Show

The East Irondequoit Indoor Percussion Ensemble opened their season the best way possible, by winning their own home show, Rhythms on the Ridge.

They were one of nine groups in their classification and beat their closest competitor, New Hartford by just over half a point. The win comes at a significant time in their history, this is the tenth anniversary of drum line returning to Eastridge.

We would especially like to congratulate the seven seniors who are part of the ensemble-Taylor Ostrowski, Corinne O'Brien, Megan Wilson, Krysten Comstock, Aaron Bostick, Selena Ortiz and Jon Tarbell.

The season will conclude with the State Championships in Syracuse on April 3rd.

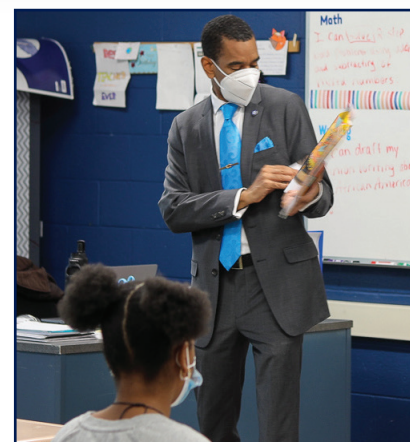


LP Puts Spotlight on Reading

February 2nd was World Read Aloud Day, which is celebrated by millions of people in over 170 countries. It's an annual event intended to highlight the importance of sharing stories as a way to create community.

Laurelton Pardee was one of the schools participating and they had an impressive roster of celebrity readers joining them including Rochester Mayor Malik Evans, and Irondequoit Town Supervisor Rory Fitzpatrick.

This year's book was *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem* by Amanda Gorman.



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LANCER PRIDE

East Irondequoit Board Corner

In each edition of this newsletter we will profile a member of the East Irondequoit Board of Education. The Board is comprised of nine district residents who volunteer their time to serve three year terms. In this issue we meet Jill Ricci.

What made you want to become a board member?

I grew up in a family that valued education and I want to give back to the district that has given so much to me. My time as a student in East Irondequoit was memorable due to the caring relationships that were fostered by teachers and support staff that allowed me to be a successful adult. I want to be part of the district that allows students to have the same experiences.

What do you gain as a board member by being a teacher in another school district?

It's given me valuable perspective on the current state of schools. I

have insight and experience on how to help students reach their fullest potential, as well as how to support teachers to ensure student success through teamwork and collaboration at all levels.

What do you think are the most important features of a successful board member?

It is important to be an open-minded listener and an advocate for all students and community members. It is also key to be an active, visible participant in the school community and to build relationships.

What do you think people in the community might find surprising about being on the school board,



something you weren't aware of until you were elected?

The spectrum of my ability to be involved was greater than I anticipated. It has provided endless opportunities. I am involved in the district in various roles such as being a liaison to schools and being part of committees both inside and out of the district.

What is it about East Irondequoit that makes it such a special school district?

East Irondequoit is a diverse, multi-generational town where families and members of the community invest in the growth and happiness of our children. East Irondequoit is filled with students who are excited to learn and teachers who go above and beyond to support students' academic, social, and emotional well-being.

Dates to Remember in March

March 4-Lancer Band Information Night

March 4-LP Science Fair, Book Fair, Ice Cream Social

March 8-Board of Education Meeting

March 9-EIMS and Eastridge Third Quarter Interim Reports

March 14-Varsity/JV Spring Sports Begin

March 22-Board of Education Meeting

March 24-26 Eastridge Musical, *Pippin*

A complete calendar of events can be found on our website

www.eastiron.org