

STATE CHAMPS!

The story of the Lancaster girls cross country team's unprecedented run to a state title, as told by the student-athletes

Plus:

Picture perfect

New document cameras are a hit at Winskill Elementary School

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A discovery every day

David Murphy still learns after nearly three decades on the job

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Fresh faces

Meet Lancaster's 12 new teachers

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Flying Arrow Pride

Lancaster High School's Class of 2021 was overjoyed to win the Spirit Stick at the conclusion of Homecoming's Spirit Night.

Robert Callahan photo

Hoping to be more 'Godfather' than 'Bernie's'

I'm not sure how Ted Jonas feels about it, but many consider "The Godfather: Part II" to be one of the greatest sequels ever.

I was grateful when Mr. Wagner told me *Flying Arrow* would have a second issue. A sequel, of sorts. He had to rein me in though: rather than 80 pages, the second edition would be 16 pages. Sixteen pages? Piece of cake! Or so I thought.

As the magazine began to take

shape, I realized I might have trouble fitting all I wanted into 16 pages. I put myself in Francis Ford Coppola's shoes (he directed "The Godfather," "The Godfather: Part II," and "The Godfather: Part III") and attempted to come up with a solution. That solution? No table of contents page.

What can you expect in the 15 pages ahead? An interview with members of Lancaster's girls cross

country team, which won its first state championship this season; a feature of new document cameras thanks to the hard work of a new staff member and an area Foundation; profiles of Lancaster's 12 new teachers; and more!

Enjoy! I hope you find it better than "Weekend at Bernie's II."



Robert Callahan | Editor

LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



FLYING ARROW

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GIRLS' 5000M D3
FINISH TEAM SCORES

1ST PLACE

LANCASTER

4 POINTS

GO FOR THE
GOLD
LANCASTER CC

GOLDEN GIRLS

With a mix of senior leaders and rising stars,
the Lancaster girls cross country team
ran to the program's first state championship

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Unprecedented. Unparalleled. Undefeated.

The 2018 season was unlike any other for the Lancaster girls cross country team. The Flying Arrows won the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 3 championship (the first in program history) to complete a perfect season. Lancaster's name was atop the results in each race in which it competed in 2018, including the Southwest Wisconsin Conference championship and WIAA Division 3 Boscobel sectional.

Lancaster's 74 points at the state cross country championships in Wisconsin Rapids on Oct. 27 was 17 points better than runner-up Auburndale. Senior Lydia Murphy led the Flying Arrows with a 13th place finish (19:54). Four teammates crossed the finish line in the one minute and five seconds that followed: freshman Bridee Burks (20:07), sophomore Kristin Muench (20:37), senior Hanna Cohen (20:54) and freshman Anna Murphy (20:59). Senior Crystalyn Mish (21:45) and freshman Meg Walker (23:24) rounded out Lancaster's magnificent seven.

"There are so many times you hear coaches talk about, 'Well, we got this group of sixth graders that are really awesome,' or 'there is a group of middle schoolers, when they get here next year...' and then something changes. They don't come out. I have learned quickly not to count any chickens until they are hatched," Lancaster head coach Taylor Reynolds said. "I told all the freshmen at the May meeting, here's what typically happens: when you go from eighth grade into ninth grade, you usually don't do enough running your eighth grade summer. You complete your first season and then you say, 'ah ha, lightbulb moment, next summer I am going to do more,' and then all of a sudden, your sophomore year, is usually when we see a big bump in the quality and quantity of training."

It was now or never.

"I told [the freshmen], we only have these seniors only for one more year. I would really, really hate for you to have this learning curve, then figure it out, our seniors graduate, and then say, 'I wish I would have done this before these seniors left,'" Reynolds recalled. "We had a combination of great leadership—athletes talking and making phone calls and messaging the freshmen—and the freshmen themselves.

"I think pretty much every single freshmen hit their summer targets and goals for running, dead on. It was one of the best we have ever had. I think that really set us up, the fact that the freshmen just believed and trusted, and the seniors did a great job leading them. They got exactly what we needed for the summer. We

got it done."

Lydia Murphy, Burks, Muench, Cohen, Anna Murphy, Mish, Walker and Finley Knapp, who substituted for Mish at the Boscobel sectional, recently visited with Flying Arrow regarding their championship run.

What was going through your mind immediately following the race?

Burks: Well, when I turned around, I immediately saw Anna and Hanna and I was like, "Oh yeah, here we go." Lydia had already made her way to the other "holding pen." I grabbed Anna because she was dying. I saw Hanna, and then we walked through to the other holding pen. Lydia was crying and I was like, "Oh Lydia, it is OK." Then we all just kind of sat there and hugged and cried.

Cohen: I was just really scared because, I don't know. A lot of people didn't have their best races. I don't think any of us really had any of our best races. I was very nervous that we didn't do it.

Burks: When we saw Boscobel get seventh, my gut dropped.

Cohen: I think we all felt that.

Burks: We all thought they were going to get second.

Lydia Murphy: We had been close to them all season. To see them all the way down there and have our goal be first, was kind of nerve-wracking.

Burks: Having them ranked number two all year, it is a cool deal. When they got seventh, were were all like, 'Oh my gosh, what did we do?'

Cohen: But it kind of gave it away when we saw all the photographers pile up in front of us.

Mish: I also think it was a mixture of the seniors, being our last one, our very last last race.

Cohen: It still hasn't hit me, I don't think.

Burks: Then we went over to see the family and Finley [Knapp] came over, and I hugged her, and then we both started crying. I think it was just because we have been so close all season, that it was hard to think I won't get to race with Hanna or Lydia or Crystalyn ever again, and that was kind of hard.

Anna Murphy: I thought it was a really cool experience. It was really fun to run with all the seniors and it will be really sad that they are not here next year.

Walker: When I finished I just kind of walked to the other holding pen and went over everything. I couldn't really remember the race, but I kept remembering this was the last race with this team, and I got pretty sad. We were all crying and hugging and tears and sweat and everything. It was worth it, but it was a sad time I think, but also happy.

Lydia Murphy: It was almost like a sense of relief, I feel like. We worked so hard all season, no matter how

we did when we crossed the finish line, we gave it our all and that was the end of the season.

Burks: Just like coach always says, no matter what, your best effort every time you race, no matter what you do. Not everyone felt like they had their best race, the whole season, the whole summer training, we all just gave it our best effort every single time. That was really special.

Muench: It was a lot of suspense waiting for the board to come up. It took forever. We didn't really know for sure. Did we win? Did we not?

Knapp: I wanted to be in there with the girls, but I was on the other side of the holding pen. Everybody came over and we hugged. I went over to the board and saw they got first. Then Hayley [Timmerman] and I hugged.

Lydia Murphy: You were a huge part of that too. Everyone on the team was part of that gold.

Burks: Even though Finley didn't run at state, she ran at sectionals when Crystalyn couldn't. It was cool to see her be like, 'All right, I have to do this for the team.' She totally stepped up.

Lydia Murphy: Instead of panicking or freaking out, she just did it.

Mish: You have to give credit to the whole team, even the guys. They pushed us through practice. The boys are pretty hyper about practice.

Cohen: They made it fun.

How does it feel to be a state champion?

Lydia Murphy: It hasn't really set in, I guess. Right after the race, after we found out got first, we were all on a high, basically.

Cohen: It doesn't really feel any different. I don't know.

Lydia Murphy: It is cool to be able to make history. But, back to normal.

Burks: I was kind of talking to my dad about it. He said, that Saturday, after you were on a high, then you come back Sunday, you celebrate here with everyone, and then Monday it is back to reality.

Cohen: I think it is just because we have won so many times. You know what I mean? It is bad to say, but, we just don't really know the feeling of losing.

Lydia Murphy: It is definitely a huge accomplishment. That was our main goal and we accomplished it. It feels good to have reached all of our goals this year.

Cohen: Honestly, I would have never guessed.

Lydia Murphy: I would have never guessed—my freshman year coming in, I would never have guessed.

Mish: I would have never guessed we would make it to state freshmen year, or junior year.

Cohen: Or even winning senior year.

Mish: I would have never thought about getting run-

ner-up last year and then state champs this year.

Lydia Murphy: Runner-up last year was a huge surprise.

Cohen: Oh, for sure.

Lydia Murphy: I knew we were going to get some good freshmen and we were going to have a really good team. It still seemed a little bit unrealistic to me. I know coach is always setting these high goals and I'm always kind of like, "Really?" But, they happen. It is surprising.

Cohen: Especially going from that, to this.

Twenty years from now, what will you remember about this season?

Cohen: The best team ever, honestly. I think, honestly, my senior year, this is the best we have ever had throughout the years. Strong. Everyone. You could always count on everyone. You knew everyone was going to push it, even though they are hurting.

Lydia Murphy: It was honestly the perfect mix between having fun and working hard. I never saw any girl on the team, any guy, slack off, make excuses for what they were going through. We all helped push each other and we had so much fun while we were doing it.

Burks: I think it is crazy how deep we were in talent. It was crazy. Someone would have a bad race and we would still win by 30 points.

Mish: Like Platteville, when we were missing three of our four starters.

Lydia Murphy: Honestly, that was like almost as huge of accomplishment as state was. Just to see, there is more. That, I feel like, also showed, cross country isn't just the top seven runners, it takes the whole team to get the job done and get that trophy.

Burks: Coming in on the camping trip. We were sitting on the bus, with all upperclassmen behind us. We were like, I am so scared. This is so nerve-wracking. Then we got to the last day of the camping trip. We were making fun of each other. It was really cool how close we got. Look at us now, we are all just literally best friends. I can always talk to them about anything.

Walker: This will always be the first team for me, so it will definitely be one of the ones I remember when I look back. It is just such a special team because we did everything we wanted to and more.

Burks: We can also say we are state champions.

Anna Murphy: When I grow up and sit my children down, I'll be like, "Guess what I did when I was in high school?"

Knapp: Just how close we were. I will always remember the upperclassmen pushing me to be the best. And Hanna, at the sectional race, when I got put in, she just

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Robert Callahan photo

Winskill Elementary School fourth grade teacher regularly utilizes a document camera in his classroom. Winskill received 15 new document cameras earlier this year.

Picture perfect

Thanks to the efforts of a new teacher and the Lancaster Community Fund, Winskill Elementary is home to new document cameras

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Winskill Elementary School is home to 15 new document cameras thanks to the hard work of a new staff member and the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin.

Title I Reading Teacher Josh McLimans joined Lancaster Community Schools this summer. He previously taught at Fennimore Elementary School, where he used document cameras regularly.

"I used document cameras in first and second grade, every single day," he said. "If students had their own math workbooks, I had a blank one [on the document camera] and we would work through it together. It is kind of the old transparency thing that we had when we were in elementary school, just more interactive and user friendly."

When he joined Lancaster Community Schools, he asked new Winskill principal Brad Sturmer if

purchasing document cameras was possible.

"When I hired Josh, I knew that we had scored a wonderful teacher. He has proven it over and over," Sturmer said. "I didn't need proof, but when two days after Josh was hired he was asking if he can write a grant to get document cameras for our classrooms, I thought, 'Yes, this is great.'"

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Robert Callahan photo

Brad Sturmer is enjoying his new role as Winskill Elementary School principal. A 1997 graduate of Lancaster High School, he previously served as a math teacher and assistant principal at his alma mater.

All signs point to...

**Brad Sturmer followed the signs,
which led him to
Winskill Elementary School**

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Brad Sturmer is no stranger to Lancaster Community Schools. A 1997 graduate of Lancaster High School, he served as a math teacher and assistant principal at his alma mater before he was named Winskill Elementary School principal earlier this year. Sturmer visited with *Flying Arrow* just days into the new school year to discuss his new role.

What interested you in becoming Winskill Elementary School Principal?

Well, I kind of had an interesting, I would say journey, to this spot. You know, if you'd asked me five years ago, I would have probably told you that I was going to continue my career as a high school math teacher at Lancaster High School.

I just had things that were kind of pointing me in

the direction of getting into administration—and I won't get into all of those little signs that were pointing me—and I just pursued that, and ended up getting a high school/middle school assistant principal role for three years and I really enjoyed that. I felt the impact that an administrator can have on a school, the positive impact—and unfortunately you can have a negative impact if you're not doing your job correctly as a leader—and I make sure to focus on leadership and relationships and connecting. I feel because it's such a potential impact on a school, that I really just need to hit this hard and get after it.

And then there's an opening at Winskill Elementary for principal, and again, I just felt like it was one of those signs that, hey, you know, even though I've been mostly a high school person and really never spent any

time in the elementary school, here was a job—not a job, a career, such a meaningful career in my hometown—with the potential to make that vast impact, and I just ran after it. Here I am, very excited to be here only eight days in doing the work but there’s been a lot of preparation into it and it’s just, it’s a meaningful role. I’m happy to be here.

What do you enjoy most about your new job?

What do I enjoy most? Well, it’s the relationships, and creating the relationships with my staff and with the kids. I mean, like I said, I’ve been with the high school and middle school level kids, and now being with the younger kids, it is really enjoyable to make those relationships. It’s so much different from a 4K student to a fifth grade student, but we do have a bunch of great kids here and I enjoy that, but like I said at the beginning too, I enjoy all the relationships with our great staff.

What is Winskill Elementary School’s greatest strength?

Our greatest strength is undoubtedly the people that work here. You know, when I applied for this position, I, being in the district, knew some of the staff that we had down here and it really, definitely pulled me to this school because I knew that there was such great people here. And we’ve brought some new people in, and really just have a great group of all staff—our teachers, our paraprofessionals, our bus drivers, our custodians, cooks, secretary—you name it. Any adult in the building is undoubtedly our greatest strength.

What goals do you have for your school in 2018-2019?

What goals? That’s a good question. I think that the biggest goal for me this year is to focus on our culture. I talk a lot at staff meetings and just one-on-one conversations about relationships, and connecting with your team and growing as a team. Because to me, culture is not just one thing, it’s everything. I mean, it’s got to start there, and we just keep building on that with those relationships in mind and relationships amongst the team members here, but more importantly, relationships with our kids. And once you establish that, you really can start moving in a positive direction. So that’s one goal. I mean, I have all kinds of goals, but that’s where it starts.

When you look at education, just like life in general, there’s challenges that are going to come about and some days might be tougher than others. And that’s why it’s good to have those positive goals.

Another thing that I focus on and talk a lot about is positive energy and continuing to fuel yourself, and your team, and your kids with that positive energy day after day because then those challenges that come

along, you can handle them, and you handle them with relative ease because that positivity will beat out negativity every single day. So culture, relationships, and just continuing to fuel yourself and your team with that positive energy will move us in a direction too.

One of my, whether it’s a long-term goal or short-term goal, I don’t know when it’s going to happen, but one goal I’ve set out there is I want my phone in my office to ring at some point where other people from other schools—whether it’s a principal or who knows—calls me and says, “Brad, what’s going on at Winskill Elementary at Lancaster? We want to know what you’re doing because we want some help in our school,” and I’ll be more than happy to help other schools, undoubtedly.

The reason I put that out there as a goal—and maybe it’s kind of a different goal than what people are used to—is that if people are calling here and asking me what we’re doing, then we’re doing some really good things. And that is an indicator to me that if we’re doing really great things our kids are benefiting immensely from that and our staff is happy to work here.

A second goal of mine that kind of parallels with that is I want people knocking on our door wanting to work here because the positive energy that they feel or hear from others because of that being spread that they want to work here. And again, I have a great staff, I don’t want to replace anybody, but I want people that want to work here because of the fact that means we’re doing some really awesome things.

What expectations do you have of your students in 2018-2019?

I’d say one thing that, you know, piggybacking off the goals, is we’re focused on as a school and with the kids and culture and relationships. When I think when I talked to the kids the first day, and our teachers are doing this daily, we kept it simple for them. We said: kids, this is what we expect out of you.

It is two things: one, I expect you to be kind. And every student wants to be kind, and treated kind, so it’s an easy thing to talk about. But one, I expect you to be kind. And two, I expect you to work hard.

So those are two things that we focus on this year. Because if you think about it, if you are being kind to others and you’re working hard, there’s going to be some really great things happening and it’s a simple approach but very, very meaningful, and our kids are going benefit to immensely from just that simplicity of: here’s what we expect out of you guys and let’s make it happen.



Robert Callahan photo

David Murphy has received an Influential Educator Award from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's School of Education. He is enjoying his 27th year as a member of the Lancaster Community Schools faculty.

A discovery each day

Honored by UW-Platteville, Middle/High School choir director David Murphy reflects on discoveries made in his career

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster Middle/High School choir director David Murphy has received an Influential Educator Award from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's School of Education.

A former student of Murphy's was enrolled in an Introduction to Education class at UW-Platteville last semester. Through discussions and class activities, students discuss educators who have been an influence upon them and those who are largely responsible for their deciding to pursue a career in education.

"You were chosen for this award because of your dedication to your

teaching, your enthusiasm for your career, and your caring, respectful relationship with your students," wrote Introduction to Education instructor Dale Henze in a letter to Murphy. "We are indebted to teachers like you."

The honor nearly left Murphy speechless.

"It was great to get that honor," he said. "I contacted [the student] I told her that was very kind. You don't have any idea what kids notice. That is really nice. I don't know what to say about that."

Murphy began his 27th year as a member of the Lancaster Community Schools faculty earlier this year.

He grew up in Kendall, Wisconsin, a town of "not quite 500," and graduated from Royall High School.

"I always liked singing," Murphy said. "I always thought, well, if certain things don't work out, I would maybe just fall back and do music or something like that."

"I was involved in choir all through high school and the choir director I had my senior year had done some music with us that really kind of showed me that was an interest of mine."

Murphy attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I got into college and the choir directors there were really quite



Four Lancaster High School students qualified for the State Honors Project this year. Senior Lydia Murphy was named to the High School State Honors Mixed Choir. Freshmen Braeden Bausch, DJ Kelley, Anna Murphy and Rianna Straka were named to the Middle Level State Honors Choir after auditioning as eighth graders. "I am particularly excited about the Middle Level Choir because Lancaster has a student in each of the four sections of the choir—soprano, alto, tenor and bass— I have not experienced this before," David Murphy reported. Pictured, front row from left: Braeden Bausch and DJ Kelley; back row: Rianna Straka, Lydia Murphy and Anna Murphy.

Robert Callahan photo

good, and inspirational," Murphy recalled. "I did a seven-year undergrad. I didn't just walk right through college."

Music wasn't always necessarily Murphy's path.

"I didn't go right away for music. I had to earn that," he recalled. "I didn't get into the school of music right away. Then I discovered that I could explain music: how I did it or how it worked. The idea of teaching was not out of the question, I guess.

"But it took a while to get it, to get to the teaching thing. It wasn't necessarily always pretty at the beginning. Even now, it is not always pretty. We all have our days."

Murphy learned on the job while a new hire in Lancaster. He did not know when hired by Gary Swanson nearly three decades ago he would remain in Lancaster this long.

"I am not going to be one of those people that just flits in and flits out. I don't do that," he said. "I am always worried about if I start something new, how long I am going to keep it going? Like, if I start doing a church choir or something, how will I know that it is time for me to stop? I don't necessarily just call it quits, usually. I usually try to persevere through things."

Murphy joined an experienced Lancaster faculty, which he considered a blessing.

"I was working with Dick Johnson and Monte Muller and Sam Jonas and Peg Jonas," he said. "All of them had a number of years of experience on me and shared a lot of wisdom."

What part of his job does Murphy enjoy the most?

"There are lots of those. When things are going well, or when some really good musical moments hap-

pen, those are the good parts," he said. "I enjoy when students come out of their shell and open up, and make discoveries with their voice. That is, for any teacher, exciting.

"I guess I have found I enjoy teaching the beginners and the kids for whom things don't come that easily. I enjoy seeing them progress as much or more as the kids who are extremely talented. I like making the high-end music and I like the discoveries."

By Murphy's side on stage throughout the years have been accompanists Mary Pat Stohlmeyer and Margaret Jonas.

"My piano skills are not that great," he said. "Both Mary Pat and Peg have really helped me through."

Margaret Jonas has served as accompanist since Stohlmeyer's re

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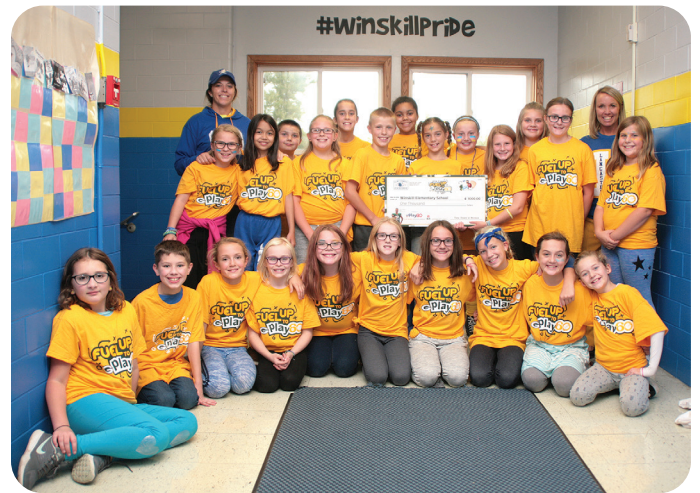
Lancaster High School student-athletes read to Winksill Elementary School students in October.



Students in Mrs. Corell's class were in awe as she utilized a chemical reaction to carve a pumpkin.



What better locale for a Book Club than a table full of books?



Winskill Elementary School received a \$1,000 grant from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board through its Fuel Up to Play 60 program.



Students in Ms. Ariss' Spanish 3 classes discussed living a healthier lifestyle during the first quarter. After learning tofu was a common meal for three Hispanic Olympic athletes, students were asked if they had ever tried tofu. The majority hadn't. Ariss felt it was the perfect opportunity to make tofu, Spanish rice and beans themselves. "I am so happy to say they handled a fun day of class so well," Ariss said. "I am so proud of them!"



Winskill Elementary second graders traveled to Schreiner Memorial Library on Sept. 27 to receive their first Library card and check out books.

quarter photo album



Winskill Elementary School staff wore yellow in support of Palmer Wilson on Sept. 21.



David Daniel and fellow American Players Theatre actors returned to LHS to lead workshops in September.



Winskill Elementary School first graders enjoyed Johnny Applesed Day on Sept. 26.



There were plenty of smiles at the second annual Hero Walk on Sept. 7.



Audience members provided laughs while playing a game of "What's This?" at the Marching Band Concert. Contestants were asked to name varied unusual objects found in band rooms.



Lancaster High School students traveled to American Players Theatre in Spring Green for a production of "As You Like It" in September.

Fresh Faces: Meet Lancaster

Lancaster Community Schools welcomed a dozen new teachers to its ranks prior to the 2018-2019 school year.



Kindergarten teacher Bridget Udelhofen graduated from Potosi High School before graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She previously coached youth sports, worked as a daycare teacher, and was Assistant Director of Little Saint's After School Care Program in Potosi.



Library Media Specialist Carrie Post graduated from Green Bay West High School and later attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Viterbo University, University of Wisconsin-Superior, and UW-Platteville. She pre-

viously taught middle school reading/language arts, 7th grade and 5-8th grades, all subject areas. She taught second grade last year as a long-term sub for several months and loved the experience.



Fourth grade math teacher Courtney Feller graduated from New Glarus High School before graduating from UW-Platteville. She previously worked at Little Red Preschool and as a summer nanny.



High School special education teacher Elizabeth Dressler graduated from Lancaster High School and later the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She was previously an in-home Autism Technician at Mercy Hospital in Janesville.



High School special education teacher Emily Simons graduated from Oshkosh West High School before graduating from UW-Platteville. She was a substitute teacher in Lancaster Community Schools in the 2017-2018 school year and also works at Park Place Assisted Living in Platteville.



High School special education teacher Joe Carl graduated from Fennimore High School and later the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He was previously a special education teacher at Cassville Middle/High School.

Title I Reading Teacher Josh McLimans graduated from Lancaster High School before earning his undergraduate degree at Winona State University and his graduate degree at



Viterbo University. He previously taught at Fennimore Elementary School for nine years.



High School Spanish teacher Lindsey Ariss graduated from Prairie du Chien High School and later the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She previously worked as a long-term substitute teacher at Sparta High School.



Fifth grade special education teacher Megan Hammond graduated from Laconia High

Community Schools' new teachers

School before graduating from UW-Platteville. She served as a long-term substitute kindergarten teacher in Boscobel in the 2017-2018 school year.



Middle School physical education and health teacher Nick Hicks graduated from Cuba City High School and later UW-Platteville. He previously worked at Menard's while attending college.



Third grade teacher Teresa Muldoon graduated from Lancaster High School before earning undergraduate and graduate degrees at UW-Platteville. She previously taught at Fennimore Elementary School.

11th grade English teacher Wesley Wingert graduated from Mukwonago and later UW-Plat-



teville. He previously worked at Menard's while attending college.

Get to know each new member of the Lancaster Community Schools team:

What inspired you to become an educator?

Udelhofen: "I was inspired to become a teacher by my high school history teacher. He shared with me that his goal every year was to make a difference in one student's life and if he did, then he had done his job. Those words stuck with me and are the reason why I became a teacher.

Post: "I can't remember a time when I didn't know I wanted to be an educator. I loved school and when I was young, I was fortunate enough to have wonderful teachers and many positive experiences at school."

Feller: "My love for children and my love for learning. I want to help children become and stay excited to learn."

Dressler: "While going to high school I was able to sign up for Specially

Designed Physical Education Swim. I worked with the same little boy who had Autism for all four years of high school and I saw how much he grew and the impact that I had on him."

Simons: "It started when I was in first grade and wanted to be just like my teacher, Mrs. Hanson. Since I have grown up I knew that there was no other option for me. I always say, I was born to be a teacher!"

Carl: "I enjoy working with kids and helping them grow into young adults. I also enjoy the look on a student's face when the 'light bulb' goes on when they understand a topic or concept."

McLimans: "I love being around kids and making a difference in their lives. I've had many incredible teachers who have made lasting impressions on my life, and I hope to make the same difference in the lives of the students I come in contact with."

Ariss: "I have always loved working with youth, but it wasn't until last year when I helped coach basketball at the high school level that I found out just how enthusiastic I am about working specifically with high school students. As far as Spanish goes, I have always loved learning a second lan-

guage, along with the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries, and I wanted to share that passion with others."

Hammond: "I have always enjoyed school, and when I was given the chance to tutor during my eighth grade school year, it clicked into place that this was something I enjoyed. I continued to tutor, assist as an aide during summer school and work as a classroom helper for the primary school through high school. Going into college there was never any question that elementary education was the path for me, and it has continued, unwaveringly, to be my passion."

Hicks: "I was inspired to become an educator by my mom and my previous educators."

Muldoon: "I was inspired to be a teacher after experiencing many educators who demonstrated compassion and a continued desire of learning. I love children and enjoy seeing their excitement and determination when learning new things."

Wingert: "All of the wonderful teachers I had inspired me to become an educator. Those teachers and professors who made me care about subjects that I had never previously given the time of day proved to me that

teachers make a difference. I hope to share my passion for literature and writing in the same way that other teachers have shared their passions with me."

What interested you in joining the Lancaster Community Schools team?

Udelhofen: "I had the opportunity to complete my 4K, second grade and fourth grade student teaching at Winskill Elementary School. Throughout my student teaching, I grew to love the community, the school, the teachers, the parents, and the students. I could not have imagined leaving Winskill and I am so happy and excited to be a part of the Winskill team!"

Post: "I've had the opportunity to meet some of the extraordinary staff members here. I am looking forward to collaborating with them to create amazing learning experiences for our students."

Feller: "Lancaster Community Schools has a welcoming, community feel. I could tell the school district feels strongly about its vision and is moving in a good direction."

Dressler: "I always wanted to come back to Lancaster, as I love the sense of community that this school has."

Simons: "I really enjoyed my time as a substitute teacher in the district. The district has such a welcoming feel and everyone I met was kind to

me. I like the administrators and teachers, as well as the students!"

Carl: "I have heard many good things about the district. Also, I had worked with some of the administrators prior to applying for my current position and had good experiences with them. This helped me in making my decision because working with them went so well."

McLimans: "I live in the community and have laid deep roots here. I am involved in various activities in the community, such as the Public Library Board and Foundation. Being a teacher in this school district lends itself to not only increased opportunities of becoming even more involved in the community and the incredible opportunities Lancaster provides, but also gains me the benefit of joining a tremendously talented team of leaders, educators and community members who have had such a legacy of making a difference in our community. I look forward to learning and growing with them, and I am thrilled to be a part of such a dedicated team!"

Ariss: "Being that I am from Prairie du Chien, I was always accustomed to growing up and going to school in a small town. Once I moved to La Crosse, I had the opportunity to work in larger school districts such as La Crosse and Holmen. However, I found that I

loved the sense of community and 'small town' feel that you have working in a smaller school district."

Hammond: "I had the chance to do a special education practicum at Winskill Elementary during my junior year of college. The very first day I knew this was a special place! I was able to student teach second grade at Winskill and I knew that this was a place I never wanted to leave. The staff, the families, the kids and the environment were irreplaceable. I am overjoyed to be on the Winskill staff and cannot wait for the adventure to begin!"

Hicks: "I have heard a lot of positivity about the students and staff members [in Lancaster], which was a big positive for me. I am excited to be joining this community!"

Muldoon: "Blue and Gold are my colors! I am a lifelong resident of Lancaster and I am invested in the future of this fabulous community. I see so many positive things happening within our school system and I am excited to be a part of it."

Wingert: "I student taught in both the middle and high school, and I feel comfortable with the faculty and staff. I also grew very fond of all of my students. It's wonderful that I'll be able to teach them all again (especially considering that I never thought I'd see any of them again until I was

hired!)."

What do you like to do outside of the classroom (hobbies, interests, etc.)?

Udelhofen: "I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, traveling, spending time outdoors, and reading. I also love baking and decorating cakes and cupcakes for friends and family."

Post: "I love to spend time with my family playing games, and watching them participate in a variety of athletic events. I enjoy running, reading, and organic farming whenever I can squeeze them into our hectic schedule!"

Feller: "Running, cooking, and attending sporting events."

Dressler: "Outside of school I love to do anything with art, whether it is drawing, painting, or wood burning. I also have a three month old daughter, two golden retrievers and a husband, so most of my free time is spent with them."

Simons: "I love to go on walks, hang out with dogs, cook and bake, laugh, smile, spend time with my family and friends, and I love to go see movies. My favorite TV show is 'The Office' (some might even call me a super fan), so when I want to relax I like to watch the show on Netflix!"

Carl: "I enjoy the outdoors. I like to hunt, both bow and gun. I coach high

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Picture Perfect

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McLimans was thankful for the opportunity.

“What I am really excited about is being able to work with the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, being part of Lancaster Community Schools now,” he said. “I knew that the document cameras would be something I could ask about. I was happy to write a grant and see if we could get some for Winskill.”

The Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin includes the Lancaster Community Fund. The Morse Family Fund awarded McLimans and Winskill Elementary \$4,900.

“We have 15 document cameras as right now, in third grade, fourth grade and fifth grade,” McLimans said. “We also purchased them for both of the Title classrooms, music, art and the library, to kind of get started.”

Winskill Elementary fourth grade teacher Jim Addison utilizes his document camera on a regular basis.

“I am extremely thankful we received the grant from the Lancaster Community Fund and commend Mr. McLimans in his work to make it happen,” he said. “Although we are only a few weeks into school, our document camera is a tool consistently and frequently used in our classroom. To be able to project virtually anything on a whim gives me great flexibility when I’m teaching.”

Addison believes the best use

of the document cameras comes when students are using them.

“Students love to share their work, answer questions, or read passages under the camera,” he explained. “At the end of each day, a student leader uses the camera to share what assignments to jot down in our assignment notebooks.”

“I look forward to learning even more uses for our document cameras, but I am glad to say they are already making an impact!”

McLimans shares Addison’s sentiment.

“Document cameras are very user-friendly. The kids love it. It is a motivator, it is engaging,” he said. “That is the biggest part of it for me, it motivates kids, it is engaging to kids. We have to keep up with all the other technology that is coming out. These are definitely right there.”

A discovery each day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

tirement.

“In the three years I have worked with [Murphy] I have been impressed by his breadth and depth of knowledge in so many areas, but

especially in music,” she said. “He teaches me something new nearly every day and I have been involved in music since I was eight years old. He seizes teachable moments all the time and helps expand the kids’ knowledge base.

“Secondly, he bases his instruction on good technique and that

is something that lasts forever. The kids can use that information the rest of their lives. Music is a lifetime gift and he wants all his students to use their voices as much as possible, for as long as possible.”

When Murphy began his career,

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New staff

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school football and grade school basketball. In the summer, I play as many holes of golf as I can. Also, my wife and I have a camper that we enjoy spending time at on the weekends.”

McLimans: “I love to spend time with my wife, Danielle, who is a 4K teacher for Winskill, and our three children. I also

enjoy spending time reading, working in my yard, and refinishing antique furniture!”

Ariss: “Aside from teaching, I love just about anything outdoors! I enjoy hiking, going on the river, camping, playing sports, and fishing. I spend a lot of time with my family, especially my two nieces!”

Hammond: “I enjoy spending time with my friends and family as much as possible. I am a very active person and

enjoy fitness and sports. I love to travel, read, and am a lover of all craft-related things.”

Hicks: “Outside of the classroom I enjoy hanging out with my friends, playing golf, and watching sports.”

Muldoon: “Outside of the classroom I enjoy reading, running, and spending time with my family.”

Wingert: “To be perfectly frank, I have come to accept that I am a nerd

by most definitions of the word. I love playing video games, and use them as a means to talk with my friends who live on the other side of the state. I also LOVE Batman and collect/read graphic novels, movies, memorabilia, and any other Batman merchandise I can get my hands on. Lastly, my fiancé and I adore going to the movies. Since last September alone, we have seen more than 55 movies in theaters!”

PLAY OF THE YEAR: Caden Straka comes to the aid of friend in need

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

A Lancaster High School student came to the aid of a friend in need last month.

Caden Straka, a Lancaster High School junior, performed the Heimlich maneuver on a choking friend during a dinner at a Prairie du Chien restaurant on Oct. 6.

“At first I was kind of freaking out,” Straka said. “But then I just figured out how to get it done, I guess. Afterward, we were like, ‘That just happened.’”

All Lancaster High School students learn the Heimlich maneuver and CPR techniques in their sophomore health class. Lancaster Community Schools nurse Laurie Walker and high school physical education/health teacher Kyle Stiklestad began teaching the Heimlich eight years ago.

“This past year it became state law that we teach it in health classes, but

we were ahead of the game,” Walker said. “Last year we also started teaching compression-only CPR in seventh and eighth grade.”

Walker shared an example of life-saving measures in last year’s class.

“My story for the kids last year

she said. “The person sitting right next to him got up and ran away. Another kid jumped up and did the Heimlich and saved his friend.

“We talk about people’s reactions during class. There are people who will do nothing because they are scared, they are hysterical, they don’t know what to do. The more you think about it and go through in your mind of what you are going to do, the better off you are going to be.

“That was my story last year. I am going to have a different story this year.”

Has it sunk in yet that he saved a life?

“I don’t know,” Straka said. “It is kind of scary knowing what could have happened, I guess, if it didn’t work.”

Walker was not surprised to learn of Straka’s heroic efforts.

“I was so proud of him.

He is a smart kid, under pressure he would do it,” she said. “He is a great kid. I am so proud of him.”



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster High School junior Caden Straka (21) performed the Heimlich maneuver on a choking friend in October.

was there was a high school student in La Crosse who saved a person sitting near him in the lunch room,”

Golden Girls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

gave me a hug and said, ‘love you.’ I will always remember that.

Muench: We had a really good team bond this year.

Burks: Cross country has been a big self-motivator for me. When I think I can’t do something, I think, “you just ran three miles, you can probably do anything.”

A discovery each day

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Muller was making the move to

Lancaster Middle School, after previously teaching more than 15 years at Lancaster High School.

“I thought, how do you do that? How do you teach that long? Oh my

gosh,” he said.

Murphy then snapped his fingers. “It goes by so fast,” he said.



Flying Arrow Pride

The Lancaster volleyball team provided a memorable performance during its Ace Out Cancer match in October.

Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster Community Schools
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Lancaster, WI 53813



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