

# Living History



**Plus:**

**Side-by-side**

*Winskill playground equipment is the first of its kind in the area*

**Living history**

*Why National History Day is a favorite of LMS students*

**The tradition continues**

*The Lancaster FFA chapter remains one of the state's best*

# CLOUD NINE

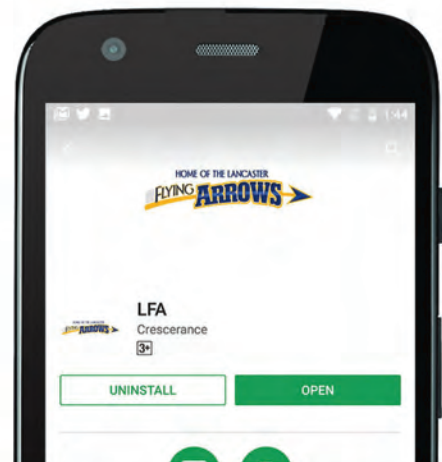
*Inside the Lancaster girls cross country team's most successful season yet*



SEARCH AND DOWNLOAD

THE LANCASTER COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS APP

SEARCH: LANCASTER FLYING ARROWS





## Flying Arrow Pride

*Lancaster High School's Class of 2019 celebrates a contest victory during Spirit Night festivities as a part of Homecoming Week 2017.*

Robert Callahan photo

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*The Lancaster girls cross country team excelled like never before in 2017, p.46*



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It wasn't always easy, but the message of 'Here and Now' was one Lancaster High School students wanted to tell.

# You have much to celebrate, Lancaster Community Schools

A little more than a year ago, the Lancaster Community Schools Board of Education purchased a new service from CESA 3: Communications and CIPA Compliance. The goal? Share the good news of Lancaster Community Schools.

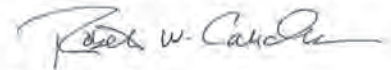
I graduated from Lancaster High School in 1998. Less than a year later I was elected to the Board of Education. I had the opportunity to learn first-hand—as a student and Board member—what makes Lancaster Community Schools great.

What was true 20 years ago remains true today: Lancaster is home to great administrators, teachers and students. A testament to their longevity, a few teachers that taught me (Mrs. Zabel, Mrs. Pross, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Curry, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. Flynn) are still going strong. And just to make me feel old, two young men that were LHS students when I was (Mr. Haas and Mr. Sturmer) are now great teachers themselves.

Before you is a collection of stories and images of the 2017-2018 school

year. I will be the first to tell you this is just scratching the surface.

In closing, I have a favor to ask of you. If your son or daughter is a Lancaster student, ask them what they did in school each day when the 2018-2019 school year rolls around. If they reply “nothing,” ask again the next day and the day after that. They are doing something, I’ve seen it with my own eyes.



Robert Callahan | Editor

## LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



### FLYING ARROW

Vol. 1 • No. 1 • Issue #1

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Robert Callahan photo

Winskill Elementary School students and staff joined members of the Lancaster Community Fund and Lancaster Mayor David Varnam in a ribbon cutting for their inclusive playground in September.

# Side-by-side

## New inclusive playground equipment at Winskill Elementary School is the first of its kind in the area

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster Community Schools celebrated the addition of inclusive playground equipment when the 2017-2018 school year began.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held near Winskill Elementary School's Kids Courtyard on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 5. Winskill Elementary School students and staff attended, joining members of the Lancaster Community Fund Advisory Board and Lancaster Mayor

David Varnam.

Joe Krantz is a member of the Advisory Board. The night before the ribbon cutting, his son asked him

**“It symbolizes that this playground is now ours. It is a playground for all, for everybody to play side-by-side together, which is what it should be all about.”**

what “united” meant.

“When everyone comes together as one,” Krantz told Winskill students prior to the ribbon cutting. “A perfect example is today, when all of you are united as one. We have the inclusivity with this playground and together all of you will be able to play together now.”

Winskill Elementary second grade teacher Melissa Sperle explained to students what a ribbon cutting ceremony was.

“It symbolizes that this



Robert Callahan photo

*The Lancaster Community Fund supported the inclusive playground effort through grants. Approximately \$60,000 was raised through grants, the 5K fundraiser and pizza sales.*

playground is now ours,” she said. “It is a playground for all, for everybody to play side-by-side together, which is what it should be all about.”

Discussion of an inclusive playground began a few years ago.

“We had talked about just making the playground more inclusive for a while. We do a 5K every year, so I think it was three years ago we talked with the kids about trying to raise money to make our playground more inclusive,” Sperle said. “That is kind of how it started. We ended up raising I think it was about \$5,000 or so.”

The Lancaster Community Fund supported the playground effort through grants. Approximately \$60,000 was raised through grants, the 5K fundraiser and pizza sales.

“It was between the Friends of Winskill and the Community Fund and basically our kids. Our kids are the ones that sell the pizzas,” Sperle said. “Our kids really had a huge

part and they are the ones that raise the money for the 5K. It really was a combination effort of our kids and the Lancaster Community Fund. It was awesome.

“When the Community Fund agreed to the grant I remember I am pretty sure I cried.”

Sperle credited Lancaster Community Schools Maintenance Supervisor Dan Yoose for his assistance on the project.

“Dan Yoose was a huge help. Dan Yoose was the one that knew what we needed to do to prepare the site, what we needed to tell the people when they come to set it up, etcetera,” she said. “Without Dan Yoose, there is no way the project would have happened.”

Sperle said the playground has earned rave reviews to date.

“The kids love it. It is really cool to see all of the kids playing together,” she said. “You don’t have to be in a wheelchair to enjoy it, but you

could be in a wheelchair and enjoy it. It is not just a playground for our kids with special needs, it is for everybody. That is the one area of our playground every kid can enjoy.”

It only makes sense an inclusive playground was truly a community effort.

“Everybody that I ever talked to made it work. Everybody believed it was something not just our school, but our community, needed,” Sperle said. “We look around our school and community, and there are a lot of kids with special needs in our community. You take for granted being able to push your children on a swing. What parents shouldn’t get to push their child on a swing or play with them in a park? That is something so many of us take for granted until you have a child that can’t do that.”

MRS. CAMPBELL  
MRS. McWILLIAMS  
KINDERGARTEN BERS  
KINDERGARTEN

MRS. MEZERA  
KINDERGARTEN



# Our heroes

A salute by Winskill Elementary students  
to Lancaster's fire department, police department and  
EMS personnel brought smiles to the guests of honor



BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

**W**inkskill Elementary School celebrated Lancaster's heroes during its inaugural Hero Walk last September.

Members of the Lancaster Police Department, Lancaster Fire Department and Lancaster EMS were greeted with high fives, fist bumps and handmade messages during the event, held Sept. 11.

"I had originally thought of the Walk because we have done other Pride Walks, first with state bound athletes, and then I saw that Fall Creek did a Senior Walk for their graduates, so I proposed the Senior Walk idea to our administrative team two years ago," Winkskill Elementary School Principal Leah Whitford explained. "It was a huge hit, with both the seniors and our kids. It makes complete sense: we have the Pride Walks to show our pride in our students' accomplishments, and what accomplishment is greater than graduating from high school, in terms of why are we here as a district?"

Whitford believed holding a Hero Walk to celebrate Lancaster's law enforcement, fire fighters and first responders made perfect sense.

"I approached Missy Sperle with the idea. Missy really got the ball rolling by reaching out to the police and fire de-



Robert Callahan photos

*Lancaster Police Chief Deb Reukauf (top) took part in the inaugural Hero Walk, as did Pastor Mark Hoehne, a member of Lancaster Fire and Rescue.*



**"It was nice to share this with the other first responders. We normally only see each other on a call or at a meeting and do not get to experience positive things as a group. We appreciate the students for thinking of us. The cards and signs were great."**

partments, and it all came together because of her efforts," she said. "Staff were very supportive in terms of having their students create cards, letters and pictures to give to

our heroes as they walked through the building."

Sperle was pleased with the inaugural effort but already has ideas to improve the event in 2018.

"Next school year I

would like to include dispatchers and the sheriff's department," she said. "I feel it is important to honor and celebrate the important jobs these community members do to keep us out of harm's way and help in emergencies. They sacrifice a lot for all of us and should be celebrated."

Lancaster Police Chief Deb Reukauf was among the many participants in the Hero Walk.

"It was nice to get together with the other first responders to be recognized by the students. They were so excited to see us," she said. "It was nice to share this with the other first responders. We normally only see each other on a call or at a meeting and do not get to experience positive things as a group. We appreciate the students for thinking of us. The cards and signs were great."

James McCartney, a 1994 Lancaster High School graduate at member of the Lancaster Fire Department, also took part in the Hero Walk.

"The Hero Walk was fun. I know many of the kids from doing fire prevention tours over the years. They do look up to us for what we do because as a kid it is 'cool,'" he said. "It's always great to see the smiles on their faces. All the high fives, thank you notes and pictures

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Robert Callahan photo

Winskill Elementary School was well-represented at the Driftless Area Art Festival last year. Pictured, from left: Brenna Reed, Vincent Ubersox, Ellsie Vondra-Kirschbaum and Abby Timmerman. Ubersox, a fourth grader, won first place in the K-3rd grade category.

# 'You dream it, we'll try it'

**When Lancaster Community Schools art students earned accolades at the Driftless Area Art Festival, no one was happier for them than their teachers**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

The artwork of several talented Lancaster students was on display at the 13th annual Driftless Area Art Festival in Soldiers Grove in September.

Winskill Elementary School's Ellsie Vondra Kirschbaum, Brenna Reed, Leah Muench, Vincent Ubersox and Abby Timmerman were featured artists, as were Lancaster Middle School's Bryce Bastian, Abby Burr, Summer Buss, Mad-

ison Clauer, Katie Doll, Michael Ihm and Hannah Pierce. Lancaster High School's Alisha Eastlick, Jacob Kindrai, Kylie Luckey and Carly Chadd were featured as well.

Ubersox, a fourth grader, won first place in the K-3rd grade category.

Muench's artwork included multiple Zentangle designs.

"We were studying about a certain artist and we had to draw ourselves in a blanket," she explained. "Then we did different Zentangles in each

square and added gold paint."

Middle School art teacher Patty Francis pointed out the artist in question was Gustav Klimt.

"Gustav Klimt used a lot of real gold leaf in his artwork, so we used gold paint to highlight certain areas," she said.

Bastian created a very colorful ceramic fish, which may remind those that see it of the title character in "The Rainbow Fish."

"I like this part of the glaze so it



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster Middle School students honored at the Driftless Area Art Festival were, from left: Michael Ihm, Bryce Bastian, Leah Muench, Abby Burr and Hannah Pierce.

reminds me of the childhood book about the fish with all the shining fins, and he shares it with all of his friends and then he has none left," Bastian said.

Burr's time and talents resulted in artwork featuring a boot. The boot is filled with different fabrics and rope. She estimated the work took "a week or so" to completed.

"I love that she says a week, because time flies in the art room," Francis said. "It actually took about a month, easily."

"It felt like a week," Burr said.

Middle School students attend art class every third day.

"In reality, it was probably a week if you took all those days in that month and smushed them together," Francis said.

Ihm's featured artwork as a collection of contour drawings.

"One day we did contour line drawings of faces and they had to save their favorite. Then they did

**"I always feel like my art is their art. I live vicariously through their artwork. So when I have the opportunity to show it off at the Driftless Area Art Festival, I do. And then when I go and see that we have a ribbon here, a ribbon there, a ribbon here, it is very thrilling. I feel very proud!"**

contour lines of a boot, and I asked them to save their favorite drawing," Francis explained. "We followed that with contour lines of their hands holding something. Then they had to take their favorites and

put them into one composition."

Pierce created her entry, a ceramic penguin, in four days. The penguin sits on water that she created using glass often used to decorate terrariums.

Francis cannot help but feel proud when her students are honored.

"I always feel like my art is their art. I live vicariously through their artwork. So when I have the opportunity to show it off at the Driftless Area Art Festival, I do," she said. "And then when I go and see that we have a ribbon here, a ribbon there, a ribbon here, it is very thrilling. I feel very proud."

Kindrai's horsehair ceramic piece earned a third place ribbon among all the area high school artists.

One might wonder, what is horsehair ceramic?

"You take a thing, you glaze it, you heat it up a lot and then you take it out and you have about 30 seconds

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# All aboard!

Friends of Winskill held their Winskill Express event on Monday, Dec. 11 at Winskill Elementary School. Attendees of all ages enjoyed cookies, creating crafts, sing-alongs, photo booth and a showing of the "The Polar Express." Hundreds braved frigid temperatures to enjoy the second-annual event. Photographer Robert Callahan went along for the ride.



*The first stop for many passengers was the cookie creation station.*



*True to "The Polar Express" story, some passengers wore their pajamas.*



*Passengers had the opportunity to create their own souvenir ticket, complete with bell.*



*This passenger was proud of one of the crafts she made.*



*Each passenger was given the opportunity to take home a free book.*



*One could say the conductor had a striking resemblance to Mr. Patrick Ralph.*



*Passengers stopped to have their ticket punched at each stop on the route.*



*Jim Addison joined his sister, Jody Sturmer, to lead passengers in festive tunes.*



*The photo booth was a popular stop. Green screen technology allowed subjects to have their photo taken at the North Pole or in a sleigh.*



Robert Callahan photo

Melissa Sperle and Patrick Ralph joined to form a new co-taught classroom at Winskill Elementary School. The co-teaching model has received high praise. Sperle called the initiative “amazing” and Ralph deemed it “best for kids.”

# ‘Life-changing for kids’

**The addition of a co-teaching model at Winskill Elementary School has earned rave reviews from educators**

**W**inskill Elementary School implemented a co-teaching model in kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms prior to the 2017-2018 school year.

“Co-teaching is generally defined as two licensed educators, often a special education teacher and a general education teacher, sharing equal responsibility for planning, delivering, evaluating instruction, and learning to meet the diverse needs of students in a shared space,” according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Co-teaching team members Stacey Campbell, Diane McWilliams, Whitney Allbee, Alison Klein, Melissa Sperle, Patrick Ralph, Faye Demes, Miranda Fuerstenberg, Chastity Kinney and Jim Addison shared their thoughts of the initiative prior to the school year’s end.

**We are at the end of the first year of co-teaching. What do you think?**

**Chastity Kinney:** We are still smiling. We survived. It was definitely a busy year. A lot of work. I can say as a teacher I have grown more than I think I ever have this year.

**Jim Addison:** It definitely challenged us professionally, looking at things in a whole different perspective. Just the collaboration piece, of adding special education and general education together I think made a huge difference.

**Chastity:** And coming in from my department, to know expectations for a child in fourth grade, what that looks like as an outcome and where they need to be for the following year. That has been really helpful to me to know how to raise the bar a little bit higher for them and for every child.

**Jim:** One of the most important things too, we had a [substitute teacher] one day who couldn't tell you who had an IEP and who didn't. Just the inclusiveness that this opportunity and new method provided has been really powerful in that aspect.

**Faye Demes:** It's awesome.

**Miranda Fuerstenberg:** Yeah, it is awesome. It is great to have two people working together for one common goal and able to meet with kids in that small group setting, versus whole group, and really get to the root of what they need, and what is going to help them grow and help them learn.

**Faye:** It extends the learning too for kids that want to and need to be challenged.

**Whitney Allbee:** As a special education teacher, I have a better understanding of what is going on in the general education room a lot more.

**Alison Klein:** From the regular education side of it, it is awesome to see the interactions of the children who have special needs and ones that don't, interacting and working together and not even realizing who is who. The connections between the peers is amazing.

**Melissa Sperle:** Amazing. It is life-changing for kids.

**Why is that?**

**Melissa:** Because every kid feels like they are met where they are at and they are pushed to where they can become better students, no matter where they are at. It is geared toward everyone, low to high.

**Patrick:** It is best for kids, plain and simple. I don't know what else to say.

**When you say it is best for kids, what do you mean by that?**

**Patrick:** It matches their everyday needs, I would say. Not just their needs in the long-term, but on each individual day you never know what is going to happen with a kid, what they might need, what supports, whether it is emotional, academic or behavioral. When

there are two people, you have more mental stamina so that you can both split those duties: one of you is better in certain areas than others, so then that one person can be kind of in charge or spearhead that kid who needs that support and then the other one can better support others. There are no kids that end up missing or even slipping through the cracks for a day.

**Melissa:** I feel like every day I walk out of the room thinking I did everything I could for every single kid. In the past, I would always walk out the door going, 'I think I did a really good job today but man if I would have had just a little bit more time with this kid,' or 'Oh, this kid walked out the door and they looked pretty sad and I didn't even get a chance to ask them why.' You get to meet every kid every day and be a bigger part of their life, I think.

**Patrick:** There are those days where I think you both feel worn down, whereas as in the past though, when it is just by yourself, you tend to isolate yourself and you start to lose confidence. You'd be really hard on yourself and then that just spiraled into the next day and you'd have a week where you feel like the wheels start

to fall off. And with two people you can sit down at the end of the day and say, 'Oh my gosh.'

**Melissa:** A different perspective. If I say, 'Oh man, today was really rough,' you could say, 'Yeah, but look what happened here.' Or you might say, 'I just couldn't reach this kid today,' and I could say, 'Yeah, but when I was with them they did this.' Two minds together, in-

stead of one, all the time.

**How is this different than last year in third grade?**

**Miranda:** Well last year I had three grade levels and I was pulling kids out into my classroom and for specifically the students who struggle with behaviors it was really hard, because something would happen at 8:30 in the morning and I would have to wait until 12:30 when they had their social skills time with me to 'Oh, let's talk about that then.' Whereas now, I can in the moment, address it and teach replacement behaviors and put tools in place that are going to help them in the long run.

**Faye:** I also feel like relationships have been built more as well. Like last year I had one student in my classroom who got pulled a lot and I wasn't able to build that relationship with them because I never saw them.

**So your literacy groups is something I want to ask about. Can you please tell me how your literacy**

### groups in your kindergarten class look?

Stacey Campbell: We have the kids broken up into four groups. Each group ranges 12-15 minutes and then we do four rotations.

**Diane McWilliams:** During the rotations we are working on the target skills and each group is leveled by their ability, so every student, regardless of who they are, rotates through Mrs. Campbell's group, an independent group, an independent group and a Mrs. McWilliams' group every day. It is very successful. We found that we were not having a huge amount of success as a whole group time because we have a lot of needs. So when we are able to make a smaller group we have had more impact on their learning. The boys talk about how it is their favorite part of the day, a couple of them. It has been a successful literacy time for the kids.

### One of the questions that comes up to me once in a while is, how has this been for students that don't have a disability?

**Jim:** Actually, initially, we saw the most growth from students who didn't have an IEP. Since then we have seen growth from all students, but it is just great to see that even our higher students—because we have definitely a pocket of students that need that extra challenge—that they are still growing.

**Chastity:** I don't know if they know I'm a special education teacher because they come to both of us. It doesn't matter the level of the child. Every child has a question somehow, in some way. It is just nice having two of us there. In math today we were doing math minutes and everything is leveled, but even the high kids needed help and support. I don't know of a situation where they have ever had that much guidance and support on-hand.

**Diane:** They are progressing as well, because they get a double hit, just as every other child gets a double hit. They are progressing well, they are beyond their expectations of a kindergarten reader, writer and mathematician, all those areas. Because we have the two teachers, we don't just teach to the middle. We are teaching high levels and we are teaching those who need the re-teach and those high levels are continuing to get higher and higher, and not become bored and misbehave.

Has this been a good thing for our students without disabilities?

Whitney: For sure. They are able to see these kids are part of the class. They are not the outlier. They are also seeing their strengths can help other's weaknesses, and they like to buddy up a lot. We see a lot of it.

Alison: Those regular education students are finding ways to work with peers they might have never ever been partnered with before, or have the opportunity to see other people and strengths that they might have, and finding strengths in each other.

Do you think it has had a negative impact on those students without disabilities?

Alison: Absolutely not. If anything it has benefited them because we have two teachers—if there is one situation going on, one of us can deal with it and then the other one is still continuing the lesson or extending things or still working with small groups. There has never been a time where it has ever been a negative to have two teachers in the room.

What have you found that has been a benefit academically for kids with and without disabilities?

Faye: More one-on-one time with them to meet their needs and challenge them where needed and help them grow.

Miranda: I would say one-on-one in the small group time that we are able to really get down to the nitty-gritty with them.

Tell me about what you have seen as academic progress in this year and maybe compare that to previous years.

**Patrick:** I think the growth overall has been huge, especially amongst our learners who have more academic needs toward the beginning, our kids who receive special education services. I have never had my kids that receive special education services grow as much as they have this year. But even our kids on the other end, on the other spectrum, who already came in high, have just exploded. Usually, that is a really tough group to continue to grow.

**Melissa:** I think they have grown because—there are some kids in our class that last year may have had some behavior issues because they weren't being challenged and that really impeded what they could end up doing because their behaviors were getting in the way—now they are engaged every single day, whether it is making those tricky mistakes in the morning meeting to teaching them double-digit multiplication when the rest of the kids are working on place value. They are being challenged and I think they appreciate being challenged, and then it just makes them want to learn that much more. I see it on both ends. And even our core kids, I feel like our core kids are moving along at a higher rate than they would before.

**Patrick:** You talk about it being a safe environment, I feel like the kids really like to push each other too. It is a very growth-oriented mindset. They all have a good growth mindset and kind of push each other.

**Melissa:** They want each other to do well.

### Are you happy with the progress that students both with and without disabilities have been able to make?

**Jim:** Yeah, I definitely think so. Excited to see how the end of the year finishes off, but so far we have been very excited with what our students have done both socially and academically.

**Chastity:** Yeah, numbers are one thing, and I know

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# STEAM Night

Winskill Elementary School hosted its first STEAM Night on Thursday, April 19, celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Attendees visited 10 different stations, enjoying Dash and Dot robots, a Dixie Cup Challenge, Musical Creations, Easter Egg Rockets and more. Photos by Robert Callahan.



# IT'S A CIRCUS!

The annual Winskill Elementary School Kindergarten Circus entertained a delighted Hillery Auditorium audience on Friday, May 4. Seventy five- and six-year-olds dressed in beautiful costumes entertained family and friends. Photographer Robert Callahan was lucky enough to have a seat close to the fun.



*The acrobats skillfully used several props.*

*Not one, not two, not three, but four ringmasters oversaw the excitement in the Hillery Auditorium. A move to the Auditorium in 2016 marked a new era for the Kindergarten Circus.*



*The seals and seal trainers put on a great performance.*



*Send in the clowns! The first Kindergarten Circus was organized by Mrs. Joan Wilcox in the mid-1960s.*



*The ponies and their trainers were a crowd favorite.*



*The strongmen made it look easy!*



*The monkey trainers were just as silly as the monkeys!*



*A talented team of poodles displayed their talents in tandem on tricycles.*



*The dancers performed in picturesque gowns.*

# Run for Fun!

The Lancaster Community Schools annual 5K Run for Fun was held on Wednesday, May 16 at Winskill Elementary School. Each year, students earn pledges for an initiative. More than \$5,000 was raised. Winskill's Fuel Up to Play 60 Student Ambassadors helped organize and run the event. Photographer Robert Callahan logged a few steps following the fun.



*A post-race dousing felt good on a warm day.*



*Camaraderie was on display throughout the Run for Fun.*



*First graders ran four times around Winskill, with the option to run more.*



*Fourth graders ran the entire 5K route, which equals six laps around Winskill.*



*Parents were encouraged to run with their child to make the event bigger and better than ever.*



*Each runner received a commemorative finisher's medal.*



*This year's 5K Run for Fun fundraising supported bringing more books into Winskill and classrooms, as well as expanding the Maker Spaces options for students in the library.*



*These four-year-old kindergarten students were excited to cheer on their classmates as they crossed the finish line.*



Robert Callahan photo

*Winskill Elementary School teacher Jeff Pross (center) shares an embrace with two students on the last day of school. Pross has retired after 32 years spent in Lancaster Community Schools.*

## **BIG** shoes to fill

### **More than 100 years of experience and big shoes to fill are left behind by four Lancaster Community Schools retirees**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**  
**T**hese are big shoes to fill. Lancaster Community Schools is bidding farewell to more than 100 years of experience following the retirement of four educators.

Marcia Chambers, who most recently served as a kindergarten teacher, also taught fourth grade for several years.

Chambers spent more than 30

years in Lancaster Community Schools.

"My career and experiences here have been challenging, demanding and worthwhile," she wrote in her retirement letter.

Patricia Francis taught art for 39 years, including 15 years in Lancaster.

"During my time here in Lancaster, I had the pleasure of sharing the

joy of creative expression by hundreds of students," she wrote in her retirement letter. "Art is inspiring and important for our young people. It is essential to the human spirit. Please continue to provide art in our curriculum. I plan to remain in Lancaster, so I will be available as a resource for all future endeavors in

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# GOT PEP?

Lancaster High School hosted a Marching/Pep Band Concert on Oct. 16. The Middle School and High School bands rocked the night away by performing their marching and pep band greatest hits.



Not only was the fall Middle/High School choir concert music to the ears, it also included many visual effects, including cowgirl hats, bandanas, umbrellas and a unique cow hat.

# Special effects







# FUEL UP TO Play 60

Lancaster Middle School students enjoyed a Fuel Up to Play 60 kick off event on Oct. 25, which promoted the importance of physical activity and kick off Fuel Up to Play 60 activities for the school year.



Robert Callahan photos

Lancaster Middle School's very own Fuel Up to Play 60 student team organized a "field-day" style event. With the help of Lancaster High School student-athletes, middle schoolers had the opportunity to participate in many stations, including football, basketball, volleyball, cross country, soccer, and softball/baseball.



# No ordinary

Lancaster Middle School presented "The Snow White Variety Show" in December. Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., the performance included a cast and crew of more than 30 students. Jason Smith, Ashley Miller and Torie Leslie served as directors. Photos by Robert Callahan.



The "fairest of them all," Snow White, was played by Rianna Straka.



Sadie Hollander played the role of the Big Bad Wolf, as well as Snow White's mother.



The "real Snow White," played by Kelly Freymiller.



Maddie Tracy (left) and Madi Reukauf were CSI draws on the case of Snow White's murder.



"I always love seeing kids outside the classroom shine. I love seeing their growth as actors, and watching them open up and come out of their shell," Miller said. "This was such a fun play with this group of kids!"



Paige Lowling was delightful as the Evil Queen.



Makenna Graney played the roles of the King (pictured), Igor and a Troll.

# variety show

"The middle school play is one of my favorite activities of the school year, and this year has been particularly enjoyable," Smith said. "We have had a large stage crew of enthusiastic young students who wanted to be involved, and that is exciting to see. This gives me hope for the future of our program."



*"The thing I love most about middle school students is their zest for...pretty much everything," Leslie said. "They will do whatever we ask out of passion and the desire to experiment."*



*The battle between the Huntsman (Will Taylor) and the Swamp Ogre (Avery Crooks) was one for the ages.*



*And they all lived happily ever after...*



*Things did not go exactly as planned for the prince (Kylie Larson).*



*Chloe Crapp was superb in the role of "Rowdy."*



*Spoiler alert: Snow White dies in "The Snow White Variety Show" and the drawfs don't take it well.*



Robert Callahan photo

*Lancaster Middle School educators Sandy Kalnins (left) and Patty Francis (middle) dined at the Snowflake Cafe in January.*



**The Lancaster Middle School Cafe offers  
a five-star experience thanks to  
Mary VanDeHey's hard-working students**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**T**here is a right and wrong time to apply salad dressing prior to serving. Students in Mary VanDeHey's Lancaster Middle School class have learned this lesson firsthand.

"We are still working on the salad technique. If we add the salad dressing too soon, it gets soggy and wilts," VanDeHey explains. "We are learning that you should almost put on the dressing right before we serve. The first time we whipped it up ahead of time and it came

out looking like cooked spinach. It still tasted OK, but we want to have it visually pleasing."

VanDeHey's class hosts a cafe experience four times each school year. The inaugural meal, the Snowflake Cafe, was held in January 2017, followed by the President's Cafe, the Luau Cafe and Star Wars Cafe last May. Each cafe has its own theme, based on the month.

Lancaster Community Schools staff pay just \$3 for a multi-course meal of a soup or salad, entree and dessert. Each meal is prepared by VanDeHey's students,



Robert Callahan photos

*The Snowflake Cafe menu included a cranberry orange creme trifle (left) and pretzel sticks wrapped in bacon and topped with cheese (right).*

which number 11 in all.

January's Snowflake Cafe featured a menu of wild rice turkey soup, winter fruit salad, and a cranberry orange cream trifle.

The Cafe experience has given VanDeHey an even greater appreciation for the Middle School kitchen staff.

"The food is darn tasty," VanDeHey said. "I don't know how our cooks can get all that food prepared every single day. This wipes me out."

Students staff each cafe, filling the roles of cashier, server or dishwasher.

"All are important jobs to have," VanDeHey said. "You cannot do it alone."

Anna enjoys serving, while Brooke enjoys making the food and the decorations that adorn each table and the classroom. Samantha excels as cashier. Mehki enjoys placing the food on each dish and serving.

Not surprisingly, dish washer is not high on anyone's list.

"We all have to take turns," VanDeHey said. "We do have a dishwasher that works. We didn't use the dishwasher last year and I thought I should check and see if it works. By Job, it did. I had to clean it out a little. It still had Mrs. Pross' science equipment in it. Who knows how long that had been in there."

"We also have a garbage disposal. This is just like a high-end restaurant in this place."

Students have learned to set each table properly, with every fork, spoon and knife in its place. Students have also learned to serve each guest from the left side.

**"We all work together and the teachers enjoy it. And I think we like it as much as they do or more so, because we can eat some of the leftovers the next day."**

Lancaster Middle School educator Lisa Zabel is a frequent Cafe guest.

"I like everything about the cafe," Zabel said. "First of all, the food is delicious and plentiful. It is nice to see the students in a different capacity. They get a chance to show off their skills of polite manners and serving techniques."

"Eating lunch in a different setting that has been themed makes the meal more special than the normal brown bag lunches we normally share. I truly appreciate all the care and time Mrs. VanDeHey, her staff and students put into making my quick lunch period a bright spot in my day from time-to-time."

Neil Campbell is also a frequent Cafe guest.

"The Cafe gives the students the opportunity to not only work on their life skills, but also more importantly, their communication skills with known and lesser-known adults," Campbell said. "I enjoy

seeing the kids overcome their own challenges of being able to address an adult in a formal way in their role as servers of the meal. That is—for a lot of the students—a challenge, so seeing them overcome that challenge is pretty rewarding."

VanDeHey's classroom was previously a family and consumer education classroom.

"I thought, well, I am in this room, I have all the equipment, let's do the cafe," she said. "And it is everybody helping. All the adults have jobs. All the students. We all work together and the teachers enjoy it."

"And I think we like it as much as they do or more so, because we can eat some of the leftovers the next day."



Robert Callahan photo

David Daniel of American Players Theatre shared the “Potency of Poetry” with Lancaster Middle School students for a week in February.

# Poetry in motion

**American Players Theatre workshop provides Lancaster Middle School students with a memorable learning experience**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**D**avid Daniel wows audiences with his talents as a member of American Players Theatre (APT). He is a star in the classroom as well.

Daniel, American Players Theatre’s Education Director, spent a week in Lancaster Middle School in late February. He led a “Potency of Poetry” program with seventh and eighth graders.

“The Potency of Poetry invites students to confront language and discover what it has to offer them,” explains American Players Theatre’s website. “This program goes beyond ‘decoding’ language to make it personal, purposeful, provocative and entertaining for the

students. It is a dramatic experience that allows them to explore the printed word’s total range of possibilities.”

Daniel has been sharing his time and talents with students throughout Wisconsin for more than a decade.

“David Frank was the artistic director of American Players Theatre when this first came about. He charged me, the education director, with creating a program that was uniquely something that APT could offer, that nobody else could,” Daniel recalled. “Lots of theaters do theatre games and learning through drama and things like that. But what was it that APT does very well that nobody else can?”

Thus began hours of discussion regarding what, and

who, APT is. Language came to the forefront.

"Shakespeare, the way APT does it, we are a language-based theatre," Daniel said. "So how do we take our skills at language and instill, not transfer, but instill, them?"

"So we said, 'OK, let's talk about poetry.' Then, over a year, I developed this workshop. I kept taking it back to [David Frank] and his expert skills as an educator himself, but also as a leader and an artist, helped me to refine and focus what the program was. It took us about a year to work out all the things. There are so many things we could do, what do we want to do and how do we do that thing that we want to do?"

Daniel's week in Lancaster Middle School was made possible in part by a Lancaster Community Fund grant (Morse Family Fund). Lancaster Middle School Special Education teacher Mary VanDeHey, a former English teacher herself, wrote a grant last year and was awarded \$1,500.

Daniel is so good at what he does, students in Torie Leslie and Mandy Whitaker's English seventh and eighth grade class laughed until they cried.

"I can teach all the facts of poetry. But that is not teaching," Daniel said. "Teaching is passing that on, getting that person hungry for it. That means engaging the emotions as



Robert Callahan photo

*There were smiles abound during David Daniel's visit to Lancaster Middle School.*

**"I can teach all the facts of poetry. But that is not teaching. Teaching is passing that on, getting that person hungry for it. That means engaging the emotions as well. We engage all the emotions. To see a kid laugh, it is joy incarnate. It is joy in front of you. It is a lot of fun."**

well. We engage all the emotions. To see a kid laugh, it is joy incarnate. It is joy in front of you. It is a lot of fun."

Lancaster Middle School has had the good fortune to host Daniel several times.

"Each year David Daniel is able to come, I look forward to it. I love the way he gets all of the kids involved right away and the way they come into

my classroom, so excited to laugh and learn every day that he's there," Leslie said. "David Daniel gets kids up out of their seats, and through humor and involvement, really gets kids to think about what they're learning. I know even the students who struggle the most in my classroom hold a vast knowledge of poetry now that he's been here.

"My high school stu-

dents still ask if they can come to my middle school classes when they know Mr. Daniel is here. It is an experience they don't forget and one that they hold with them throughout their educational career. I hope we are able to continue bringing Mr. Daniel back to LMS. It is one of the highlights of the year for everyone involved."

"Potency of Poetry" also serves as a learning experience for teachers, Daniel explained.

"In the classroom, we teach a teacher how to take what they have to do—the lesson plan—and let in some spontaneity, whether it is real or not it doesn't matter, as long as it is perceived as spontaneous," he said. "It is what you want on stage. You want your audience going, 'What is going to happen next?' That is all it is. It is what actors do. As the educator, it is about balancing the information with the atmosphere. Students are always doing better when they are laughing. Emotion helps memory."

Daniel enjoys his guest star role in Lancaster's classrooms, but gives all credit to the teachers.

"The teachers in a school like Lancaster are teaching generations of family. That is a huge responsibility and an honor," he said. "I can come in, I can get the kids laughing and

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Contributed photo

*Every Lancaster Middle School eighth grader participates in National History Day, under the direction of social sciences teacher Andy Haas. Seventy eighth graders took part in this year's annual event.*

# Living history

**Lancaster Middle School is one of only a handful of schools in the area to take part in National History Day. The annual event is a highlight for eighth grade students and their instructor**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**Y**ou may be hard pressed to pick who enjoys Lancaster Middle School's National History Day more: the teacher or the students.

Lancaster Middle School social sciences teacher Andy Haas has oversaw National History Day for 11 years. The program began at LMS under the watchful eye of Doug Anderson.

"Doug had the foresight to do

something like this while there was nobody within a 60 or 70-mile radius participating in the program, meanwhile Madison, Milwaukee, Fox River area and La Crosse were all participating in it," Haas said. "Nobody around here was but Lancaster. It has a pretty good history at our school. Eighth graders come in and they know, it is National History Day here. It is kind of nerve-wracking."

National History Day incorpo-

rates approximately a dozen revolving themes, from famous inventions to individuals in history to geography in history, Haas said. The 2017-2018 theme was conflict and compromise.

"We introduce the theme right at the beginning of the year, but I try to not start until around the start of the second quarter. So we go from November until February," Haas explained. "Like any project-based learning, you kind of build a



foundation with it. I introduce the theme, then we start to learn research techniques, then they start to look for those topic ideas. We try to shoot for Wisconsin ideas, but also anything national that will have a ton of sources that they can look for.

"If the students can localize it, that is fantastic. But that is one of the harder things to do because it takes a little more scope and determination to do that. We have had people do topics like Dave Schreiner fighting in World War II and being a Badger. That was pretty cool. I try to push the Wisconsin topics. If they can pick a Lancaster topic, that is even cooler."

A partnership with Lancaster's Cunningham Museum has offered the opportunity for local research. Students have visited the renovated Schreiner Memorial Library as well.

"I think that is going to be a great partnership that we can build upon," Haas said. "It is such a great resource. Just to introduce the kids to that building and what you can accomplish there is pretty cool."

Haas is the first to admit that National History Day is not for the faint of heart.

"The thing I love about this entire program is that it is an upper-level research project that you would see in high school or at the college level. You are really introducing these kids to what it takes to research and analyze sources and history," he said. "I couldn't imagine being an eighth grader and doing this project when I was in school. I have had students find 60 sources and they are in a works-cited format with a bibliography. There are some pretty amazing ones out there."

"The students have to do this project, but they also have to incorporate English with a four-paragraph essay, which is called a process paper. In that process paper there is a work-cited page at the end that shows all their research."

Haas did not complete an annotated bibliography until he was in



Andy Haas photo

*Michael Ihm (left) and Carter Vesperman shared their knowledge of Dachau Concentration Camp during Lancaster Middle School's National History Day.*

college. His students are accomplishing the feat as eighth graders.

"To see a kid do that, it is eye-opening. Definitely, you see kids excel in it that are usually pret-

ty driven anyway academically, but you see your students that struggle at times also doing really well in this," he said. "That is the beauty of the whole program. It really sparks



Andy Haas photo

Lancaster Middle School eighth graders Isaac Dhyanchand (left) Matthew Hughey (right) created a documentary detailing the East Coast versus West Coast rap battle of the mid to late-1990s for National History Day.

an interest in students to go out there and research something and complete a task.”

Haas proudly reports a LMS students’ project advances to the National History Day state contest approximately every other year. Lancaster competes in the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse regional against the likes of Fennimore, Potosi and several La Crosse-area schools.

“We take a lot of pride in sending someone off to Madison if they can make it through that regional,” Haas said.

Students choose from one of five categories: writing a research paper, creating a website, creating a video documentary, creating an exhibit, or performance.

“The students have ownership over what they are learning, but also how they are going to deliver that information. That is why this is the best project-based learning. That is the whole point of education, let kids find something they are interested in and just run with it,” Haas said. “I am not really the teacher,

**“The students have ownership over what they are learning, but also how they are going to deliver that information. That is why this is the best project-based learning. That is the whole point of education, let kids find something they are interested in and just run with it.”**

I am facilitator of it all. I am there to guide them, but they are 100 percent in charge of their learning and pacing, and if they are meeting deadlines, and if they are not. It gives them a sense of responsibility to even partake in something like this.

“That is why I think it is so beneficial. It is something I don’t see us ever getting rid of, even if the program shuts down. It is something that definitely helps us academically and gives the students a sense of pride in what they are doing.”

Matthew Hughey and Isaac Dhyanchand completed a documentary concerning the East Coast versus West Coast rap battle of the mid to late-1990s.

“I didn’t know how tense it was and that they used lyrics to fight against each other,” Hughey said.

Hughey enjoyed the opportunity to learn in a new way.

“I like getting out of normal classes and specializing in what topic you are interested in,” he said.

Makenna Graney studied Temple Grandin and the Humane Slaughter Act of the 1970s.

“I enjoyed working and researching a subject that I cared about,” Graney said.

Avery Crooks explored the newsboys’ strike of 1899.

“I like the challenge of it,” she



Andy Haas photo

*National History Day incorporates approximately a dozen revolving themes, from famous inventions to individuals in history to geography in history. The 2017-2018 theme was conflict and compromise.*

said. "I most of the time get bored in English class, so I like the challenge of being able to do something further."

Anna Murphy and Meg Walker teamed to delve into the story of radium girls.

"These girls were supposed to paint watch dials with radium-induced paint and they had to use this method where they licked the brush, dipped it in the paint and then painted it," Murphy explained. "So the radium that was inside their bodies was eating them inside out."

Walker enjoyed the opportunity to work cooperatively with one of her classmates.

"All of the new things that we got to learn and the trip up to La Crosse was a really fun thing to do with all the other people," she said.

Macie Bender studied women in the military.

"I liked being able to get out of school and travel up to La Crosse with my other classmates," she said. "We were able to bond more and learn about other people's projects."

Haas applauded the efforts of Mi-

chael Ihm and Carter Vesperman, who presented his findings concerning the Dachau concentration camp.

"Michael took barn board from his farm and made barb wire at the top and made it kind of look like it would have come straight from Dachau. Instead of using the tri-fold boards, he made it made out of barn board and it just looked fantastic," Haas said. "To see not only him come up with that conceptual design of what he wanted it to look like but to step outside of the box and use his creativity and his craftsmanship to come up with something like that was pretty cool."

Every single eighth grader—70 in all—participated in National History Day in February.

"I absolutely love the day of. The event is 2 1/2 hours of just history. Students dressed up, showing off their hard work. Just being involved. I think it makes history come alive. I really do. I love that," Haas said. "My favorite thing about history is the research. I love seeing kids getting their hands dirty with research.

They find a source that they really are into and to see them kind of get excited about finding something to prove, 'Hey, this connects to the theme now.'

"I love seeing them having the ownership too. For them to pick a topic that they are interested in and to run with it is just amazing to me. I love it. It is not your traditional history class. It makes it more realistic. You can take history and say, this is tangible now. I am making a connection with the past and I am applying what I know as a student and showing what I can do. It is the ultimate program."

When the dust has settled, Haas hopes his students have achieved their goals.

"My number one thing I tell my kids is, 'Did you learn something? Were you passionate about it, and did you complete your goal? That is what it is all about,'" he said. "It is a long, arduous process. Normally what I hear is when it is done they are kind of bummed to go back to

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*Laura Orth shared her time and talents in the Cooking for Kids session. Students made quinoa energy balls, a healthy mid-morning snack.*



*Students learned karate with Master Brian Wellington of America's Best Karate Education Center.*



*Brandi Dreher of Gotta Dance Academy taught students some fancy footwork.*



*Students learned the importance of team building thanks to Scott Ringgenberg and University of Wisconsin-Platteville Health and Physical Education students.*

# Well(ness) Done

Lancaster Middle School hosted its inaugural Wellness Day on Thursday, March 30. Students enjoyed 13 different sessions, including archery, cooking with kids, police fitness, dance, music therapy, and core camp and functional movement assessment. Photos by Robert Callahan.



Sergeant Justin McLimans of the Lancaster Police Department (left) joined forces with Grant County Sheriff Nate Dreckman for the Police Fitness session.



Carrie Ingebritsen shared her knowledge of music therapy with students, who reacted to several music selections.



Students took aim during an archery session with instructors from Angler's Nook.



Jen Wagner of Grant Regional Health Center gave students the opportunity to try out the core camp and functional movement assessment.



Joe Krantz shared his love and knowledge of deer antler shed hunting with students.



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster Middle School students with a hand in creating a new table for the Grant County Courthouse break room were, from left: Mason Streif, Thomas Bennett, Jaden Giesen, Cody Cummins, Benaiah Klar, Michael Ihm, Skyler Burkholder, Paxton Hanke, Mehki Orange, Alex Irish and Kyle Klein.

# A WIN-WIN situation

**Nearly a dozen Lancaster Middle School students made the most of their new WIN time, which paid off for the Grant County Courthouse**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**  
A break room at the historic Grant County Courthouse welcomed a new piece of furniture last month thanks to a few hardworking Lancaster Middle School students.

Eleven students joined forces in Brian Knapp's Technology Education classroom each Tuesday and

Thursday for nearly two months to build a table.

"My wife works at the courthouse, so they contacted me and wanted to know if I had a group of kids that would want to build a table for their break room area," Brian said. "Then we have the WIN on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so I thought I would get a group of kids and that is what we

would do."

Brian's wife, Jessie, is a judicial assistant at the Grant County Courthouse. Brian met with Grant County Clerk of Courts Tina McDonald and discussed with her the plan for the project.

"We thought of what should be built first, and what other steps should follow," Brian said.

WIN, or What I Need, is a new initiative at Lancaster Middle School this school year. It allows students to seek assistance, if necessary, from their teachers.

“Not all 11 students were here all the time. Some days we would have three or four because they would have other school work to work on,” Brian said. “But they were very good about coming in and working, and were anxious and excited to work on it.”

Students Mason Streif, Thomas Bennett, Jaden Giesen, Cody Cummins, Benaiah Klar, Michael Ihm, Skyler Burkholder, Paxton Hanke, Mehki Orange, Alex Irish and Kyle Klein all had a hand in the project.

Brian said some students worked on the project during their study hall time as well.

The students’ first task was to determine which lumber available in the shop would be suitable for the project.

“The boards had to be a certain length, a certain size,” Brian explained. “The students were required to measure and make sure they were long enough to use.”

In the eyes of Jaden Giesen, the onset of the project was the most challenging.

“I think at the beginning, getting all the boards glued together and straight,” he said. “That was tough.”

“In my eyes, the hardest part was the measurements and getting the cuts straight,” said Kyle Klein.



Brian Knapp photo

Lancaster Middle School students delivered a table they created to the Grant County Courthouse in early May. Pictured, front row from left: Mehki Orange, Alex Irish and Kyle Klein; middle row: Michael Ihm; back row: Cody Cummins, Skyler Burkholder, Jaden Giesen, Benaiah Klar and Grant County Clerk of Courts Tina McDonald. Not pictured: Mason Streif, Thomas Bennett and Paxton Hanke.

**“Not all 11 students were here all the time. Some days we would have three or four because they would have other school work to work on. But they were very good about coming in and working, and were anxious and excited to work on it.”**

The most enjoyable part of the project? All agreed it was a visit to Lancaster High School to utilize equipment in the Technology Education shop there.

“When they got it partially put together they had to take it over to the high school, run it through the big belt sander and sand it down,” Brian said.

The opportunity provided each student with hands-on experiences throughout.

“They had to learn how to use a biscuit joiner, gluing stuff together and ripping the boards to size, among other things,” Brian said.

The table was delivered to the Courthouse on May 3.

“I just want to thank the Tech Ed students for the excellent job they did with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 74



Ashley Miller photo

Members of the Lancaster High School Band attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison's High School Band Day last September.

# A high note

**Lancaster High School graduate Ryan Ingebritsen is living the dream as a member of the UW Band. As a result, the LHS Band is given the opportunity to attend High School Band Day**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**M**embers of the Lancaster High School Band traveled to Camp Randall Stadium in Madison for the University of Wisconsin-Madison's High School Band Day on Saturday, Sept. 9.

"Participation in High School Band Day remains by invitation only," explains badgerband.com. "Each May, invitations are sent to the alma mater of the members of the current Wisconsin Band."

Ryan Ingebritsen, a 2015 graduate of Lancaster High School, is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"It has been a pleasure to see so many Lancaster High School band members make the trip to Madison the last two years on High School Band Day," he said. "I hope they all enjoy seeing the UW Marching Band per-

form and are inspired to come to UW-Madison when they graduate, to join the band."

Ryan has been a participant in the Band since his freshman year in college.

"It is hard to fully encapsulate what it is like to be a member of the Badger Band," he said. "Most of the time it is a lot of work — during the summer when we have practice twice a day and the heat index seems to never stop rising, or in December when it is so cold our instruments and toes start to freeze — but sometimes we get to experience a 'moment of happiness,' a moment where you realize that all the hard work is worth it."

The Badger Band practices for nearly two hours on Tuesday through Friday each fall, fine tuning their musical performance and marching drill for the next scheduled performance. The Band performs a new



show for each Wisconsin home game.

"That can make learning and trying to perfect each show chaotic when the Badgers have two or three home games in a row," Ryan said.

Ryan considered joining the Badger Band as he applied for enrollment at UW-Madison, but it was not something he knew he wanted to do.

"The summer before going off to college I was back and forth about whether I should try out or not because I thought it would be too big of a time commitment for an incoming freshman, but it also seemed like a great way to get involved and meet new people," he said. "My family told me to give it a try and if I did not like it, I could quit before school even started. Thankfully I listened to them and being a member of the Badger Band has enhanced my college experience more than I could imagine."

Ryan's experience included a trip to the Orange Bowl in Miami in late December. Wisconsin defeated Miami, 34-24.

I had a great time in Miami for the Orange Bowl. We were able to trade the sub-zero temperatures of Wisconsin for 70 degrees and sunny beaches of Florida for a couple days," he said. "Most importantly, the Badgers came away with a great win, which was a wonderful end to a historic season."



Ashley Miller photo

*Ryan Ingebritsen (right) is a 2015 graduate of Lancaster High School and a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Badger Band. The Lancaster High School band attended UW-Madison's High School Band Day last September.*

**"My favorite part is when we walk into the stadium and seeing kid's faces who have never been to Camp Randall before. I also like getting to watch the UW Band rehearse before the game starts and again, especially if the kids have never seen them before. It is cool to see Ryan on the field too."**

What does Ryan enjoy most about being in the Badger Band?

"There are so many things to enjoy being in this Band," he said. "We travel around the country and the state performing wonderful music, are a part of every Badger football home game and all of the special moments that go along with those games, all the friends we meet and grow close to, and many others."

Lancaster Middle School Band Director Ashley Miller served as a chaperone for last September's Band Day.

"It was so awesome to have our kids there, super-stoked to go," she said. "We get to be at a Badger game, we get to sit at the end zone. The other team walked right past us. They were such good seats. The excitement is palpable."

Lancaster High School Band Director Rebecca

Vogelsberg acts quickly when she receives the Band Day invitation.

"I reply as soon as possible because you have to," she said. "Because I am from Wisconsin and I had the opportunity to do this when I was in high school, I know what it is all about."

What does Vogelsberg enjoy most about Band Day?

"My favorite part is when we walk into the stadium and seeing kid's faces who have never been to Camp Randall before. That is my favorite part," she said. "I also like getting to watch the UW Band rehearse before the game starts and again, especially if kids have never seen them before. It is cool to see Ryan on the field too."



Robert Callahan photo

Erin Alberty, lead reporter on *The Salt Lake Tribune's* 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of campus sexual assault, visited Lancaster High School last semester.

# A story to tell

**Award-winning journalist Erin Alberty took Lancaster High School students inside *The Salt Lake Tribune's* Pulitzer Prize-winning work**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

One of the first semester highlights of Amy Flynn's Intro to Law class was a visit by journalist Erin Alberty. Alberty was the lead reporter on *The Salt Lake Tribune's* 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of campus sexual assault.

A 2001 graduate of Luther College, Alberty was college roommates with Lancaster High School band director Rebekah Vogelsberg. Alberty visited Lancaster High School while in the area to speak at her alma mater, located in Decorah, Iowa.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to have Erin speak to my Intro to Law students. She provided great insight on what it is like to investigate a very emotionally-charged crime all while fighting the road blocks put up by powerful leaders and institutions within a community,"

Flynn said. "As consumers of information we all want to have the most up-to-date and accurate information possible on current issues and topics. What we don't know is the ways news reporters go about gathering that information. Erin was able to provide for the students a look into the world of a 'crime beat' reporter and how they identify, gather and finally present to readers their stories!"

Alberty admitted she had "nosed around" the story of sexual assaults at Brigham Young University (BYU) for a while, "but really struggled to find sources that had personal experience with being an assault victim and then dealing with the Honor Code, either not reporting because they were afraid of getting in trouble, or reporting and getting in trouble."

That changed in spring of 2016, when a BYU student

spoke out during a campus forum regarding sexual assault.

"[The student] went and publicly confronted the Title IX coordinator and was like, I was sexually assaulted and now I am being kicked out of school, what do you have to say to that? And the Title IX coordinator gets up and says, we have a Honor Code and we know it may have a chilling effect on reporting, but we don't apologize for our Honor Code, and that was it," Alberty recalled. "After that woman got up in that forum, I had found one person that I thought might have been central to the story but I couldn't tell when she had gone to school, and it was important to me to find more recent students and current students. If these were students from 20 years ago, their stories are still important, but it doesn't show me that is what is going on now. We wanted to know what was going on now.

"I didn't know how systemically supported this practice would be. I thought maybe it would turn out to be one or two very zealous personalities in the Honor Code office responsible for this. I kind of assumed after that first story that we wrote that BYU's reaction would automatically be, OK, we are ceasing all Honor Code investigations until we find out how this relates to our sex assault reporting protocols. And when then that didn't happen, I was like, OK, I don't think this is about just one or two people."

In the days following the forum, victims began sharing their stories.

"On social media after the forum, there was a lot more conversation and it became much easier to find people. We began tracking some of these conversations and then very immediately reaching out, as they were all kind of realizing that what happened to them wasn't a one-off, that it was a pattern," Alberty said. "And for the first time for a lot of people I talked to, it was occurring to them that maybe it wasn't right. They had just internalized the self-blame at that point and the messaging from the school was consistent with that, so they hadn't really questioned it, initially.

"In that first weekend after that forum I interviewed 12 people who said they were assaulted at BYU. I worked constantly. We identified four cases where there were police records of the complaint in addition to school records, so we could have a better corroborated story. We didn't want to start off with people if we didn't have

the chance to do solid due-diligence."

Alberty had no idea she and her colleagues might win a Pulitzer Prize.

"My editor thought we might win a finalist mention. My co-worker and I were kind of embarrassed that we had even entered the stories. The Salt Lake Tribune is not a big paper. We think of Pulitzers as being for the New York Times and the Washington Post and the L.A. Times and the Chicago Tribune and the Boston Globe and all that," she said. "On the day they made the announcement everybody was watching the live feed of the announcement in the news room and I wasn't. I was kind of glowering at my desk. Everybody is watching this and we've done all this work and I think that we have made a difference in our community and now it is going to be all about how we didn't win a Pulitzer.

"And instead, people started yelping. The Academy Awards had just happened, where they gave the wrong name, so I was like, this is going to be a "La La Land" situation, I am not going to start celebrating just yet."

Alberty later watched the presentation and learned firsthand it was not "La La Land" redux.

"It was very surreal. And I did not expect it. As much of an honor as it is, I think to me that is secondary to whether we were able to make a difference in our community," she said. "I knew it was likely on that first day that we put these stories out there that there would be a reader some-

where that was assaulted and tried to tell somebody and the person they told, told them it was their fault, and told them what they shouldn't have done, and that they had internalized that and were carrying that around. A reader that would look at these stories of people even willing to use their names and get their picture taken, objecting to that reaction, and feel that maybe it was OK to reopen that and scoop out that guilt and not have to carry that around.

"And just knowing that there would probably be some readers out there that would have that experience reading it, I was like, I think we can make a difference. And I think culturally, where you have some religious ideas and ideologies that are very widespread and not often questioned, that it could turn into sort of change how people see sexual assault on a cultural

CONTINUED ON PAGE 73

A young man with short brown hair is shown from the waist up, wearing a grey and white varsity jacket with "STAR WARS" printed on the chest. He is looking to his left with his mouth open as if speaking. The background is dark.

# An important message

Lancaster High School students knew the subject matter of 'Here and Now' was not easy, but agreed the message needed to be heard

By ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster High School students presented David Rogers' "Here and Now" last October. It wasn't always easy, but it was worth it.

Rogers' "Here and Now" has been called a modern day "Breakfast Club." The play takes place in a high school auditorium and tells the story of a human relations group consisting of parents, teachers and students. Suicide, substance abuse and body image — all very real to teenagers and to the characters in the play — are among the topics discussed.

"When I first picked the play, it was kind of frightening. I read it and I really liked the message it was sending, but it also talks about some issues that are pretty controversial and some things that might make people uncomfortable," Director Torie Leslie said. "So I kind of went back and forth. I thought the message was really important, but I didn't want anybody to get offended. And I didn't know if I wanted to my kids in those uncomfortable situations, even though they would just be acting. I felt like it was super-relatable, so I didn't want to hurt anybody."

Leslie spoke to the theater club at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year and mentioned she was considering "Here and Now." The response



Robert Callahan photo

Owen Wolf (left) played the role of Shelby "Sheb" Morton. Quiet and shy, Wolf relished the opportunity to play the role of a jokester.

**"They pretty much said, we have to do this. This is something our community needs to see. This is a message we need to get across to our friends and our family and our community members because this is what it is really like, and we need to tell them what it is really like."**

was overwhelming.

"They pretty much said, we have to do this. This is something our community needs to see. This is a message we need to get across to our friends and our family and our community members because this is what it is really like,

and we need to tell them what it is really like," Leslie recalled. "So they were the ones that convinced me that this was the play that we needed to do.

"We have had a lot of fun, but we have had nights where there have been tears if a scene hit

somebody a little too hard, or if something happens that is a little too close to what is going on in the play. It has been an emotional roller coaster. But I think they really understand it. It speaks to them. So I hope that they can make it speak to our audience."

Nearly 40 students were involved in the production, as actors and actresses or crew members. "Here and Now" was the second largest production Leslie has directed.

What goes into choosing a play?

"I have to take into account how many actors

I think that I am going to get and then what genders they are, that is a lot of it," Leslie explained. "Then I try to find a play that has a cast that is a little bit bigger, so that I can get more kids involved. That is important to me. I want the theater department to grow."

Preparations for "Here and Now" began the first week after students returned from summer vacation.

Sydney Kwallek, a senior, was a member of the cast. She also participated in the play as a junior, and was a part of the Middle School play as a seventh and eighth grader.

"I like the relationships we build with each other and how you get to be somebody else for once. This year it is a little different because everybody in the play is somebody out there, so you kind of can relate," she said. "I just like that you get to be somebody else for once and you can try so many new things, and theater takes you so many different ways."

Kwallek also serves as Lancaster High School's Student Council President and was a member of Lancaster's girls golf team.

"I am involved in a lot, but the play is one of my main priorities when it is play season, so I like to prioritize that," she said. "I make sure I get everything done during the school day or before school or



Robert Callahan photo

*Allie Stader's Kim Lockwood (left) and Maddy McWilliams' Claire Newell were often at odds in "Here and Now."*

right after, since we have practice from 7 until 9. I get stuff done on the weekends, so I have time for the play too."

Collin Lull, a junior, took on a role two weeks prior to performances when a cast member was forced to withdraw. Lull was part of the light booth crew prior to that.

"Ms. Leslie asked me to come early one night. I figured I knew what it was," Lull said. "She pulled me aside and asked if I would [join the cast]. There is re-

ally no option. You kind of have to do it so the play can go on."

"Collin helped us out on crew. Whenever someone was gone, Collin would read the lines," Leslie said. "So he knew the play, but I don't think his intention going into this was that he wanted to be an actor."

How did Lull feel as an actor?

"It is pretty cool," he said. "You get to be on stage with the people and you are not just watching it and doing the lights for

them, you are actually part of it. You get to feel what it is like to be out in front of people."

Owen Wolf, a junior, was a part of the Middle School play as a seventh and eighth grader, and the high school play as a sophomore.

"In Middle School I tried to do as much as I could and that is what I did," he said. "So I tried out for the play — something different and new — and it was really fun. We met and we did the play,



Robert Callahan photo

Nearly 40 Lancaster High School students were involved in the production of “Here and Now.”

and we had a lot of fun in the back. I personally still have pictures of us messing around.”

What is Wolf’s favorite part of the creative process?

“Probably in the very beginning when you are just learning the parts because we just — we mess up but we act crazy and it is fine, it is fine for the first couple practices — then we have to get down to business,” he said.

Wolf also enjoys the opportunity to step into someone else’s shoes.

“I enjoy being the other person. Because you are taking yourself and then you are trying to be someone else,” he said. “So you have to look at how they feel, how they see things,

**LHS PRESENTS “HERE AND NOW”**

**CAST**

Sydney Kwallek	Owen Wolf	Erin Walker
Jon Farrey	Collin Lull	Erika Birkett
Devany Dreckman	Payton Lolwing	Kylie Hale
Kyla Vaughan	Ben Withey	Isaac Oyen
Carli Jerrett	Lydia Murphy	Keiran Jahnke
Allie Stader	Abby Whitford	Hunter Moore
Megan Volkmann	Maddy McWilliams	Abby Hartline
Felicia Holmes	Aaron Murphy	

**CREW**

<b>Stage Manager:</b> Tamara Dilley	<b>Lights and Sound:</b> Joey Recker, Alexandria Stone, Shelby Smith
<b>Stagehands:</b> Kayla Klein, Hannah Riley, Maia Ryman, Calvin Mantay, Owen Mook	<b>Special Thanks:</b> Chris Smoody, Brandon Larson, Nick Seiler

then what you would see things. I am a quiet, shy person, and the person I am playing, he is a comedy person. He jokes, does bits. Someone who I am

not. It is really fun.”

Carli Jerrett, a senior, was a part of the play for the second time.

“Ms. Leslie is one of my favorite teachers and she

needed a lot of people to try out because it was a big cast last year. She convinced me to try out and I fell in love and thought I would do it again,” she said. “I fell in love with acting and being someone else and in front of people. I did forensics, so I don’t mind speaking in front of people. Just everything about it is great.”

One of Jerrett’s favorite parts of the experience is “tech weekend.”

“Tech weekend is the weekend before the play. Saturday and Sunday we have a 12-hour play practice both days,” she explained. “That is when we get all the technical stuff done like lights and

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A photograph of a coach and four athletes outdoors. The coach, a man with a beard wearing a blue t-shirt, is holding a clipboard and looking at it. Four young women, also in blue t-shirts and yellow athletic gear, are gathered around him, looking at the clipboard with interest. One woman is holding a water bottle. The background shows a grassy field and some trees under a clear sky.

# Simply their best

Taylor Reynolds asked only one thing from his cross country team in 2017: their best effort. The team responded with their best season ever



BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

The goal was not to finish first or second in all but one race, or win just the second sectional championship in program history, or return from the state championships with a trophy for the first time.

Coach Taylor Reynolds wanted one thing from his Lancaster girls cross country team in 2017: their best effort.

"In 2016, the way we measured success was how we placed. In 2017, we decided we were going to measure success by if we gave our best effort or not, and then let the places fall where they may. We changed how we measured if we had a successful race or not," Reynolds said. "I thought it made it calmer on the race line because the girls knew, 'Coach isn't going to harp on me, or I'm not a failure if we get second or third place. I will only be disappointed if I don't give my best effort.'

"It seemed like they raced with that mentality, as long as I give my best effort, everything else will work out. That was the pre-race speech before most meets, just give your best effort. Cross the finish line satisfied. Cross the finish line with no regret. Statements like that. That is all you can do anyways. If you are so focused on the other teams, you are probably not focused on giving your best effort."

Lancaster's best effort made the Flying Arrows one of the best teams in the state in 2017.

The season began with the Darlington Invitational on Sept. 2, but Reynolds' squad began their run to

history weeks prior.

"Honestly, most coaches would agree that a lot of championship trophies and awards are won in the summer," he said. "It takes you six weeks to really get into shape. The season is 10 weeks long, 11 if you go to state. You can't underestimate how critical or important the summer is.

"If you want to be state trophy good, summer running is usually a big part of the picture. And we had a lot of girls that did that this year."

Reynolds' summer program con-



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster's Lydia Murphy (middle) finished second at the Golden Eagle Relays last September.

sists of multiple benchmarks tied to a total number of minutes ran. The first is the 900 Club, which means an athlete ran 900 minutes in the summer. The pinnacle is the 2,100 Club, a staggering 2,100 minutes of summer running.

"The summer runners are typically some of your faster runners, which makes sense because they are the most trained," Reynolds said. "They are the most durable

and you don't see them getting tons of shin issues. If they do get injuries it is usually minor and they rebound much quicker."

Lancaster finished fifth at the Darlington Invitational. From there, the Flying Arrows went on to finish first or second in each race the remainder of the season.

Was there a point in the season that Reynolds realized the 2017 Flying Arrows were on the precipice of greatness?

"It is hard to say. I think in 2015

when we made it to state—it was the first time I had to coach a team there—we were pumped," he said. "In 2016, we learned a lot. I think that we underperformed. I thought since we made it to state in 2015, I could do more to help them. We could do more strategy, I could do water logs, I could do race plan logs, I could do race evaluation sheets. We did so much I think it was actually detrimental.

"So we actually backed off a whole bunch this year. We kept it simple, a lot simpler this year. There were less meetings and if we had a meeting it was literally a half to one-fourth the time it would have been in 2016.

"Sometimes we need to educate and do some more, and then now we are reaching a point in the program where it is, 'You're trained, you're tough. Make sure you are ready to do your best and go out there and just do it.' That is literally the focus."

Lancaster's focus led to winning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 3 Fennimore sectional. The sectional title



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster won the WIAA Division 3 Fennimore sectional last October, its second sectional title in program history. Pictured, from left: Hanna Cohen, Maddie Hampton, assistant coach Carrie Olmstead, Megan Volkmann, Felicia Holmes, head coach Taylor Reynolds, Kristin Muench, Lydia Murphy, assistant coach Stuart Harper, Kylie Hale and Crystalyn Mish.

was the second for the girls cross country team. The Flying Arrows previously won a sectional crown in 1993.

“Albany, Boscobel, Darlington, Marshall and ourselves were all ranked at the sectional meet. Darlington was the defending state champion,” Reynolds said. “Winning was really satisfying. We set goals a little bit early in the season, but we didn’t pressure the goals. The girls talked about, let’s set the goal to win sectionals, but let’s just make sure we make it to state.”

“To win one of the toughest sectionals in the state, a loaded field, just makes it all that much sweeter. It was an indescribable feeling.”

Lancaster freshman Kristin Muench believes winning the Southwest Wisconsin Conference title set the stage for a strong sectional performance.

“After our conference win, we were ready for the sectional course. The sectional race was probably

one of my toughest races of the season. My focus for that race was to have good mental toughness,” she said. “That’s something that Coach always tells us. We were nervous standing at the start, but knew what we had to do to get to state. When we were in our huddle, Coach re-

**“To win one of the toughest sectionals in the state, a loaded field, just makes it all that much sweeter. It was an indescribable feeling.”**

mind us to ‘Just do it.’ Having so many people there cheering us on definitely helped us push through to the end. There were several really strong teams in our sectional, so it was a big accomplishment to be called up to the podium as Sec-

tional champs. During practice the week of state, we worked hard, but still had a lot of fun. I think that Coach did a really good job of getting us ready.”

Lancaster continued its remarkable run at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association state cross country championships in Wisconsin Rapids on Oct. 28. The Flying Arrows earned second place in Division 3, returning to Lancaster with their first trophy in program history.

“The state course was one of the fastest courses I’ve ran. The 2017 state meet was the first one I had ever been to, and I couldn’t believe how many people were there cheering us on,” Muench said. “All of us had great races that day. When Lancaster came up on the screen as second place, we couldn’t believe it. It was really emotional for all of us because we earned the first cross country state trophy in Lancaster history. It showed us how much our

hard work paid off. The state meet is something I'll never forget!"

"The day was incredible. Everyone was jumping up and down and high-fiving and hugging and it was an indescribable feeling," Reynolds said. "It was like you are on cloud nine for the next two months, to reach a goal, to bring home a state trophy, to be able to watch the girls hold up the trophy.

"It almost feels surreal. You work really hard. This is my ninth year, so I am getting close to a decade of work, and I'm like, 'Is it ever going to happen? Maybe it is just for the Dodgevilles and the Darilngtons. It is almost kind of like a foggy dream. It is awesome to walk past the trophy at the high school and take a glance at it."

Muench had no idea when the season began just how it would end.

"Coming in as a freshman this past season, I had no idea that we'd be standing on the state podium in a few months. We all worked hard in the summer to be in our best shape, so I think that was a big part of our success throughout the season," she said. "On race days, I think having the focus on doing our best made us more aggressive. It let us set new goals throughout the race instead of having one runner that we were supposed to stay with. After the first few meets, we could see from our race times that we were a strong team. That didn't stop us from working hard though. We spent plenty of days running out in the rain or in hot sticky weather which made us stronger in the end."

Lancaster senior Megan Volkmann has had many great experiences in her career, but the 2017 season topped them all.

"After being injured, I knew I had to work harder than ever before. If you've never met the other girls on the team or our coaches, then you don't get to see how amazingly tal-

ented and positive each and every one of them is," she said. "I knew we had the dedication and compassion to take home that state trophy, but you never truly believe it until you watch your name pop up on the board. So when it did, my heart nearly stopped. I was and still am so proud of every single girl on our team whether they ran or not. Everyone put so much effort and dedication and it finally paid off and I couldn't be happier.

"This year definitely had a different feel going into it. I know speaking for myself, and our girls as well,

**"The day was incredible. Everyone was jumping up and down and high-fiving and hugging and it was an indescribable feeling. It was like you are on cloud nine for the next two months, to reach a goal, to bring home a state trophy, to be able to watch the girls hold up the trophy."**

we definitely had a more positive and fun time training than we did the previous year. We took every win or achievement as it came and we went from there. We never set our goals too high, but set them high enough to reach and I believe that's what made this year such an amazing and successful year."

Lancaster senior Kayla Klein was proud of her team's fight throughout the season.

"We were dedicated for each fight we had to get what we wanted:

state. We had our ups and downs, but with each of us pushing each other to our limits we eventually got there," she said. "I might not have gotten to go to state, but I do have to say that this year's season was one of my top favorites. I can't wait to see what next year brings. But next year's team, do remember Nike, 'Just do it!'"

The 2017 season is one senior Felicia Holmes will not soon forget.

"Not only did we succeed throughout the season, but we grew from a team into a family. This year was different from all of the other cross country seasons I have ever done," she said. "During my sophomore year of cross country, we were able to go to state. That year we did not think we had a chance at getting a trophy. This last year, getting a trophy was all we could see at the end of the finish line.

"Not a single one of us on the team had any doubt that we could accomplish something like winning a state trophy. All of us wanted to stand on the podium and none of us wanted to be the reason why our team didn't."

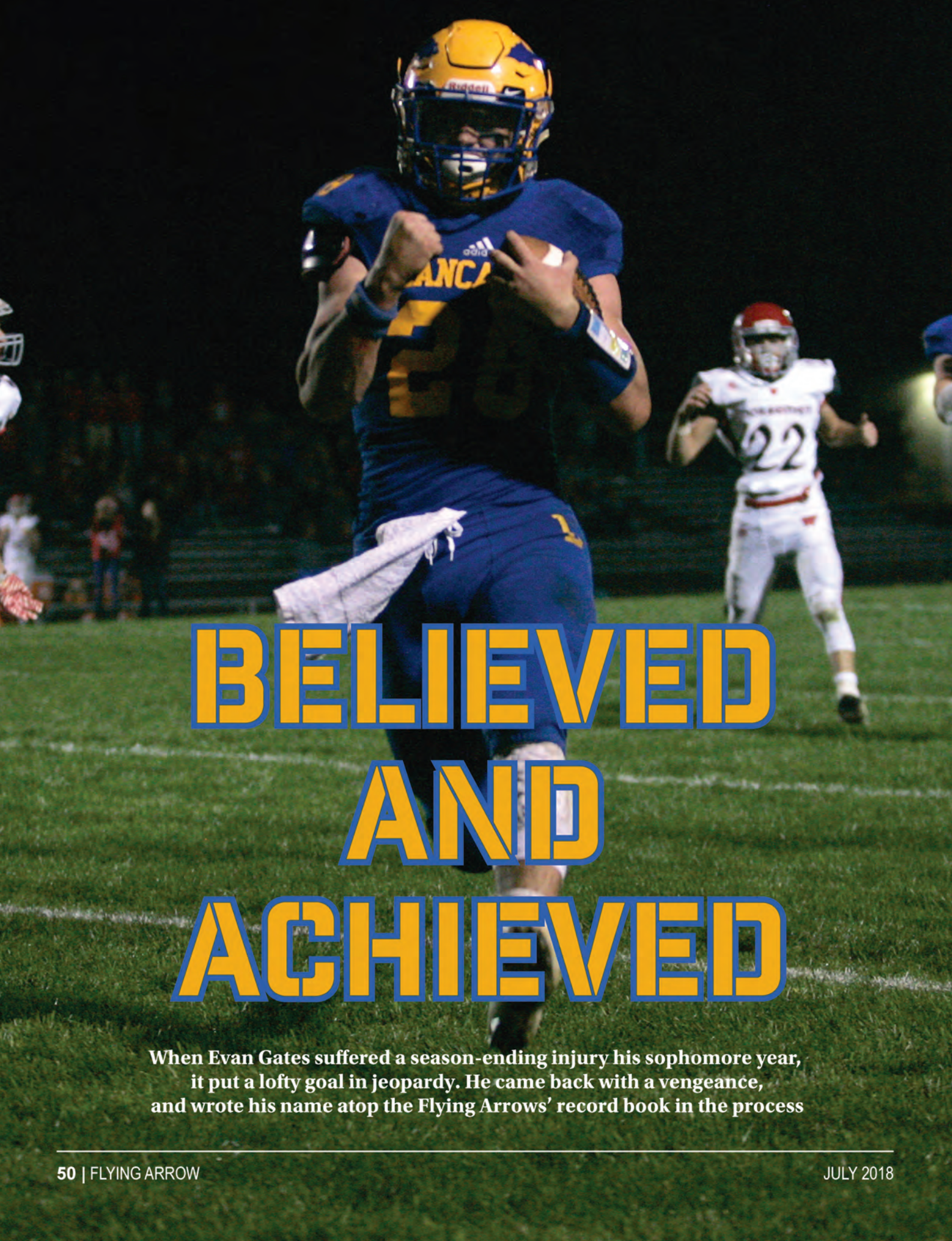
The team became a family for Muench as well.

"We spent a lot of time together as a team outside of cross country practice. We all got to know each other so much better," she said. "Our team won't be the same next year since the seniors won't be running with us, but I know they'll be there cheering us on as much as they can. With the incoming freshmen, I think we definitely have another chance at state if we work hard."

Holmes believes the change in mindset Reynolds stressed at the onset of the season helped the Flying Arrows soar to new heights.

"Instead of going after a certain team and making sure we were

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# BELIEVED AND ACHIEVED

**When Evan Gates suffered a season-ending injury his sophomore year, it put a lofty goal in jeopardy. He came back with a vengeance, and wrote his name atop the Flying Arrows' record book in the process**

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

When he was a fifth grader, Evan Gates set a lofty goal for himself. He shared that goal with his father. The goal? To be the greatest fullback in Lancaster football history.

"My dad taking pictures and stuff all the time, I would always go up to the games and watch all these great fullbacks like Trae Mezera and Tyler Glass and even Nic Wood," Gates said. "And I was a big Adrian Peterson fan growing up, so I tried modeling my style after him and that is where I actually got 28 from."

Today, number 28 is number one.

Gates rushed for 2,051 yards in 2017 and in the process became Lancaster's all-time leading rusher with 4,729 yards. Trevor Landon previously held the mark, amassing 4,277 yards.

The run to 4,729 started with a bang. It was Oct. 24, 2014. Lancaster was hosting Osseo-Fairchild in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 5 Level 1 playoff. With the game in hand, Gates, a freshman, took the field.

"Our freshman coach at the time was begging coach [Hoch] to give me a chance and put me in for a little bit," Gates recalled. "Coach Hoch pulled me over one time and he was like, you are going to go in on this next play."

"So I ran in and we threw the ball two or three times. Then I was given the ball and I actually bounced it back right and busted like a 60-yard touchdown on my first carry."

Gates earned the starting fullback spot as a sophomore and racked up 337 yards in three games before suffering a season-ending injury early in the fourth game of the 2015 season.

"My mindset after that was I knew that if I could get that starting spot that year I could still do it. And I knew that injuries happen and stuff, so I couldn't keep that in my head," he said. "I just used that motivation from the time that I lost from that season to push me more during the offseason to come back even stronger."

He did.

Gates ran for a school-record 2,287 yards in 2016, which also made him the top rusher in Wisconsin.

"I knew after that season there were still more goals that I wanted to reach, so those were able to push me

even farther," he said.

Gates' 2017 encore was equally impressive as his 2016 effort. He tied a 66-year-old school record when he ran for seven touchdowns in a 56-34 win over Westby. Three weeks later he played in what he calls his favorite game as a Flying Arrow.

Lancaster visited undefeated Prairie du Chien on Sept. 29. Gates ran for a single-game Lancaster record 387 yards. He totaled 403 all-purpose yards and 50 rushing attempts, also school records. Lancaster won the game, 62-27.

"Honestly, I don't think too many people around here like Prairie du Chien too much and the little rivalry we have going," Gates said. "Them coming in as an undefeated team and it being their Homecoming, I think everybody was a little bit more amped up. For me to go off for a game like I had that night was pretty special."

Gates ran his way to the top of the Lancaster record book just a week later. On a rainy Homecoming night,

he ran for 238 yards and four touchdowns in a 37-12 win over Dodgeville.

"I knew coming into the game that I needed so many yards, I think it was close to 200 I needed, but I wasn't able to keep track of that in my head and all that," he said. "I remember my dad telling me after the game, 'You got it,' and I guess at that point I was able to check that one off."

In his mind, Gates shares the rushing record with the offensive linemen that paved the way for him during his career.

"I have always said that they are obviously a huge part. Without them, you are not going to get anywhere," he said. "And as a lineman, there is not really too many stats or records to get. I have always told the guys, my name may be under the record, but you guys have helped me a heck of a lot to get here, so it is their record too."

Gates also credited his head coach, John Hoch.

"He taught me a lot, obviously all about the offense and all that, but he has always motivated me and pushed me to go farther," Gates said. "He never gave up on me. If I was having a good game, then just giving me more."

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Contributed photo

Lancaster High School students and staff participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the school's new Little Free Library on Nov. 7. Pictured, front row from left: Jason Smith, Tyler Hale, Alexandria Stone and Morgan Seippel; back row: John Wagner, Cade Lenz, Dawson Bowen, Brooke Schwab, Dawson Wilson, Michelle Uppena and Abby Whitford.

# A labor of love

**Thanks to the generosity of the 2017 LHS graduating class, two determined staff and three skilled students, Lancaster High School has its own Little Free Library**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**L**ancaster High School held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the school's new Little Free Library on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Library Media Specialist Michelle Uppena and Lancaster High School English teacher Jason Smith visited Books4School in Madison earlier this year and returned with approximately 600 books.

"During the first or second week of school we laid all the books out in the library and brought the students in one class after another and they picked whatever book they want-

**" Literacies of all types need to be promoted and accessible. As the students were getting their Chromebooks, they also visited the library to choose their first book to build their library at home; 1:1 Chromebooks and 1:1 books together."**

ed," Smith said.

"We really felt a need to push out our project at the beginning of the year, with the 1:1 Chromebook roll-out," Uppena added. "Literacies of all types need to be promoted and accessible. As the students were getting their Chromebooks, they also visited the library to choose their first book to build their library at home; 1:1 Chromebooks and 1:1 books together."

A 20-year international study published in *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* revealed regardless of nationality, level of



Michelle Uppena photos

*Lancaster High School students Maia Ryman, Colton Freymiller and Kayla Klein were among those who chose a book to keep when the 2017-2018 school year began. Michelle Uppena and Jason Smith purchased approximately 600 books at Books4School in Madison. Leftover books were placed in the high school's new Little Free Library.*

education or their parent's economic status, children who grew up with books in their homes reached a higher level of education than those who do not.

The purchase of the books was made possible thanks to a donation by Lancaster High School's 2017 graduating class. The Little Free Library is the class' legacy project.

"We tried to get grant funding but were unsuccessful. We had to think of a different way to develop this process that we were so passionate about," Uppena said. "Mr. Smith connected with the senior class of 2017 because he was their class advisor. They had extra funding and he pleaded the case for this project. Mr. Smith came to me for support in finding books and promoting our project."

The search for books led Smith

and Uppena to Books4School and the rest, as they say, is history. Of the approximately 600 books brought back to Lancaster, any not chosen by a student at the start of the school year will be placed in the Little Free Library.

"The kids will be able to take the book they picked at the start of the school year and swap it out for another one or if they love that book, the book is theirs to keep," Smith said. "Part of our goal is to just help kids build their own personal home libraries. We think that is such an important thing. So many kids have homes where reading is not valued in the same way. This is an opportunity for them to have a book of their own, of their own choosing, that becomes their book. They can choose to keep it, or switch it out for another book."

The Little Free Library was built by three students in Lancaster High School Technology Education teacher Eric Mumm's Building Trades class: Tyler Hale, Ethan Klar and John Wagner.

"I think they are beautiful," Smith said of the bookcases. "I found the design online and the students built the six that make up the Little Free Library and four more that are throughout the school in different classrooms."

Lancaster High School's Little Free Library is charter number 60434 and can be found on the world map: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>.

"I check the library weekly to straighten [the books] and to add new reading material,"

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Robert Callahan photo

*Lancaster High School students gather each Friday throughout the school year to play floor hockey. Lancaster Community Schools staff and members of the Lancaster Police Department join the action as well.*

# Hat-Trick

**Hockey Club brings students, staff and community together while providing valuable student engagement**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**M**ore than a dozen students gather at Lancaster High School on Fridays during the school year at 7 a.m. What brings them together at such an early hour?

A love of hockey. Lancaster Community Schools' Hockey Club was formed 12 years ago.

"Those 12 calendar years have put about 24 years on my body," said Club founder and Lancaster High School Guidance Counselor Tom Hughey.

While the Club typically plays

on Fridays, members also enjoy "specials." Examples of specials are when staff play against students on Wednesdays. Lancaster Police Department members join the fray once a month for a "special."

"The Fighting Saints were certainly a special," Hughey said.

Members of the United States Hockey League's Dubuque Fighting Saints joined the action on a Friday in December. When the owner of the Fighting Saints saw news of the Club in a Telegraph Herald story, the team reached out to the school district. Head coach Oliver David,

players and team staff experienced Hockey Club for a day.

"We marvel at the skill level of the Fighting Saints. As their coach pointed out, they are recruited worldwide," Hughey said. "One of the players who came was from Sweden, another from Germany, we had a Canadian, one from Pennsylvania, one Indiana, all the best in their age group.

"When they go to Dubuque they are living with host families and they are working real hard at their hockey craft, but also continuing their education on the side because



their goal is to get a Division One hockey scholarship and then maybe to aspire to play professional hockey.”

Adam Tisdale, a Fighting Saints forward, played with Club members. A native of Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, Tisdale has recorded a pair of hat tricks this season. He has committed to Clarkson University in New York.

“It amazes me every day to see how hockey plays such an important role in our friendship and passions,” he said. “Playing hockey with the Lancaster Hockey Club was such an amazing experience, to see their love and passion for the game of hockey. I had a great time, and as always, loads of fun.”

Scott Corbett, a native of Carmel, Indiana, is also a Fighting Saints forward. He also enjoyed his interaction with the Hockey Club.

“It was truly an eye-opening experience to see how hockey plays such a big role in everyone’s lives,” he said. “It brings you new friendships, teaches life lessons, and most importantly is extremely fun.”

Rachel Pfantz, a Lancaster High School special education teacher, serves as co-advisor of the Hockey

**“Part of what made it awesome was the fact that those athletes bent over backwards to reach out personally to the kids. The coach explained a bit about the background. He is kind of like Rachel and I in that you take your job seriously, but as kids at heart, we have fun when we play. And you could tell he was having fun that morning. Their players were talking to our kids and interacting and complimenting them, and vice-versa. They just kind of blended in seamlessly.”**

Club.

“I came the first time on a staff game day, but I had never played hockey before. Ever,” she said. “I had a lot of fun. I wasn’t sure if I should play again on Friday because I didn’t want to intrude on the students’ fun, but Tom invited me back and so I started attending regularly and have continued.”

Both Hughey and Pfantz were wowed by the Fighting Saints’ visit.

“I thought it was absolutely awesome, for a couple of reasons. One is, again, you can see the skill level they have. You take our best players and they look like they are one-armed, one-legged amateurs compared to them,” Hughey said. “Secondly, and more importantly, was the excitement of our high school kids. They were bouncing off the walls for about two weeks before. ‘The Saints are coming. The Saints are coming.’ Afterward, that day [of the visit] I had teachers coming to me saying, the kids were buzzing, they were saying the Saints were here today and talking about how awesome of an experience it was.

“Part of what made it awesome was the fact that those athletes bent



Contributed photo

*Members of the Dubuque Fighting Saints, including head coach Oliver David, joined the Hockey Club for a “special” last December.*

over backwards to reach out personally to the kids. The coach explained a bit about the background. He is kind of like Rachel and I in that you take your job seriously, but as kids at heart, we have fun when we play. And you could tell he was having fun that morning. Their players were talking to our kids and interacting and complimenting them, and vice-versa. They just kind of blended in seamlessly."

"I thought it was awesome for them to come in. I had a lot of fun," Pfantz said. "I think it was really good for the Fighting Saints to come in and be role models for our students because there is not very much of an age difference between them, and to see how good the Fighting Saints were and be able to have that interaction with hockey players who are so close in age, I thought that was really cool for them."

Lancaster's Hockey Club began as a student outreach effort.

"We had a couple kids about 12 years ago who were just not coming to school. We couldn't get them here in the morning. When we got them here, they would be asleep or totally unengaged," Hughey recalled. "They were just sitting in here and I said, 'What makes you guys tick? What do you like about school? Any one thing?' And they said, 'phy ed, if we play hockey.'"

"I said, 'I am kind of a hockey buff. I will tell you what. You talk to some people, I will talk to some. Let's see if we can have a pick-up game Friday morning at seven.' We started out with enough to have a good, solid game that morning and it just took

off. I was expecting it to be an every once in a while kind of thing and it became every week. And those two kids, their attendance turned way around. Their grades didn't get into them into Harvard, but they graduated, and that was ahead of where they would be. It really took off from there."

In the Hockey Club's heyday, there were as many as 18 members. For many of its members, the Club is their niche.

"They don't do a lot of other

er activities, we see them when they aren't as busy. We welcome anybody who wants to come. No experience necessary. Just a lot of fun."

Brendan Turben, a Lancaster High School senior, has been a member of the Hockey Club since he was an eighth grader.

"I enjoy the competitiveness of it," he said. "It is not like a normal hockey game. It is more of a fun relief, in a sense, of stress."

Hughey and Pfantz hit the road before sunrise on Friday mornings to pick up the student-athletes and still make it to the high school when the puck drops at 7 a.m.

Floor hockey is played the length of the high school basketball court and the width of the gymnasium.

"You get a lot of running. If we have 16 people on a regular Friday, we will just play everybody," Hughey said. "If it is more of a special game we might go 7-on-7 and have substitutes or something. But you get a workout, no doubt about it."

Lancaster High School physical education/health teacher Kyle Stiklestad takes part in the staff versus students games.

"It is really nice to interact with the kids in a different way," he said. "You kind of get to be competitive, and at the same time be kind of silly and goofy with them."

"Being a phy ed teacher it is really fun watching the kids do stuff when it is not required of them. They show up and have fun and do it on their own, which I like as the phy ed guy."



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster High School Guidance Counselor Tom Hughey (right) is an avid Chicago Blackhawks fan. He started a Hockey Club at LHS more than a decade ago.

things outside of this. They get very excited for it," he said. "We came up with a logo. We buy them all T-shirts with their name and number on the back. That is our gift to kids who play. We want them to be excited for it."

"You have your hardcore, the kids who never miss. Then you have some that are in and out. And some of them, if they are involved in oth-

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Robert Callahan photo

*Margaret Jonas leads one of several book clubs at Lancaster High School. Sam Jonas and Lori Cathman also lead book clubs, and others are student-led.*

# ‘Bursting with book clubs’

**Home to multiple book clubs,  
literacy is an emphasis  
at Lancaster High School**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**

**L**ancaster High School’s new Little Free Library is by no means the school’s only initiative to promote literacy. A dedicated group of students meet throughout the school year as part of multiple book clubs at the school.

Leading one of the book clubs is Margaret Jonas, a first ballot hall of famer in the Lancaster teaching hall of fame, if there were such a thing.

“One of my goals when I retired was to read more. This encourages me,” Jonas said. “It puts me on a deadline. I can always find an excuse like, ‘Oh I should do this, I should do that, I should do some-

thing,’ instead of sitting down and enjoying a book. This has really helped me maintain my goal of reading more.

The club meets once a week in a small conference room in the high school library. Jonas brings homemade treats, which are just as popular as the literary selections. As January came to a close, I was invited to join a club meeting.

“This is an unusual week. We all have a different book,” Jonas explained. “We decided that I didn’t have a book that just popped out that I wanted to read, so Ms. [Pam] Curry ordered several copies of several different books. We thought we

would all pick one and then we will report today on what we think and then choose a book to read together.”

Each club member—Kylie Hale, Brooke Schwab, Alexa Weber, Lyndsey Pohle, Hailey Doyle and Jonas—made a case for their book. Hale read “Every Last Word” by Tamara Ireland Stone, Schwab read “Out of the Easy” by Rita Sepetys, Weber read “Fat Angie” by E.E. Charlton-Trujillo, Pohle read “We Were Here” by Matt de la Peña, Doyle read “Ashfall” by Mike Mullin, and Jonas read “Code of Honor” by Alan Gratz.

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Robert Callahan photo

Nearly 40 area businesses took part in the fourth annual Lancaster High School Career Exploration Day at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

# Choose your adventure

**Fourth annual Career Exploration Day gives students the chance to gain insight into several area careers**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**  
**T**he Lancaster High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department held its fourth annual Career Exploration Day at the Grant County Fairgrounds on Feb. 27.

Leslie Kruempel, Mission Executive for CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley, served as the 2018 keynote speaker. Brent Kindred of the Wisconsin

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) provided a brief welcome prior to Kruempel's keynote address.

Kindred told his captive audience he failed English as a high school freshman and "wasn't breaking any records," his sophomore year of high school either.

"What career and technical education helped me to do was it helped me to dream," he said. "It

helped me to figure out, what do I want to do? So while I was junior and I was a senior taking our career and technical education classes at my high school, I had a dream."

Kindred dreamt of attending a technical college. He did so, and dreamt again. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Kindred taught technical education for several

years before joining the Department of Public Instruction.

"You have a fantastic opportunity here. You really do. I really haven't seen many opportunities like this for students in high schools around the state of Wisconsin," he told the students gathered. "I don't want you to take this for granted. You have an opportunity to dream big. I want you



Robert Callahan photo

*Katie (Friar) Glass, a 2003 Lancaster High School graduate, serves as Southwest Tech's Marketing Manager and Public Information Officer.*



Robert Callahan photo

*Grant County Sheriff Nate Dreckman shared plans for the new County Jail at Career Exploration Day.*

to dream about what you want to do for a career. Whatever you choose, career and technical education is a powerful, powerful tool for you to be able to dream."

Kruempel shared the value of soft skills and specific soft skills she looks for as she hires new employees: an ability to collaborate, learning from those that come before you, an ability to adapt and flex, an ability to challenge the status quo and practicing being a good communicator.

A Minnesota native, Kruempel recalls taking a career aptitude test as a high school student.

"I don't even remember what I got but I remember not liking it and not agreeing what it said would be the right career for me," she said. "I love the fact that they are thinking about a lot of career paths today, which I think is re-

ally cool too. I think this is a really, really cool experience for them."

A total of 38 area businesses attended Career Exploration Day. State Representative Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) at-

**"I think it is awesome what they are doing now. It took me three years of college to decide and explore career opportunities. An atmosphere like this where you can actually talk to the employers, it shines in a different light. I think it would have been really helpful to me as a high school student."**

tended as well. Students had the opportunity to speak with local businesses and organizations about future careers and opportunities in a career fair-style format in the Fairgrounds' Eckstein Building.

Nicole (Olmstead) Laufenberg of Smile Out Loud Daycare was one of the vendors in attendance. Laufenberg is a 1995 graduate of Lancaster High School. She pursued a career in nurs-

ing after graduating from high school, but opened her daycare 14 years ago.

"I absolutely love this," she said. "It is so rewarding."

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Marketing Manager and Pub-

lic Information Officer Katie (Friar) Glass graduated from Lancaster High School in 2003.

"I think it is awesome what they are doing now," she said. "It took me three years of college to decide and explore career opportunities. An atmosphere like this where you can actually talk to the employers, it shines in a different light. I think it would have been really helpful to me as a high school student."

Aaron Peterson, Bard Materials Central Batch Manager, attended Career Exploration Day as well. He is a Fennimore High School graduate.

"Me growing up, I was a smart kid, I was an intelligent kid, but four-year college was never going to be my thing. It just wasn't what I wanted to do," he said. "I wanted to be outside, I wanted to

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David Wright photo

The Lancaster FFA chapter's Agronomy team finished second at the Wisconsin FFA Career Development Event (CDE) State Contest at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on April 27. Pictured, from left: Austin Mumm, Tanner Oyen, Troy Klein and Cole Zenz.

# The tradition continues

**While the names and faces may change, the Lancaster FFA chapter remains one of the state's best in Career Development Events**

**BY ROBERT CALLAHAN**  
 A tradition of excellence continues at Lancaster High School. The Lancaster FFA chapter was among the state's best at the Wisconsin FFA Career Development Event (CDE) State Contest at the University

of Wisconsin-Madison on April 27. Tanner Oyen, a junior, won the Agronomy state contest. Lancaster's Agronomy team finished second, and its Farm Business Management and Ag Mechanics teams both finished fifth.

Lancaster's Agronomy team includes Austin Mumm, Troy Klein, Cole Zenz and Oyen. Lancaster's Farm Business Management team includes Dalton Gardner, Jalen Schmitz, Sam Streif, Jarin Crapp and Blain Barr. Lancaster's Ag Mechanics

team includes Tyler Hale, Morgan Seippel, Carter Lull and Dylan Tydrich. The CDE State Contest includes 17 specialties: Ag Sales, Ag Technologies and Mechanical Systems, Agronomy, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Handler, Environmental Science, Farm

Business Management, Floriculture, Forestry, Horse Evaluation, Meats Evaluation and Technology, Milk Quality and Products, Nursery and Landscape, Poultry Evaluation, Veterinary Science and Wildlife Management.

"Some of the contests are a little more straightforward than others and can be covered in class. Like Wildlife Management, obviously that would make sense to cover that in Wildlife class," explained Lancaster High School Agriculture Education instructor David Wright. "The way I always approach that is, I can cover the basics in class. If they want to form a team and go to a competition, it is up to them to take the next step.

"So what I teach them in

class, my joke about that is, they know enough to be dangerous. They can go to any of those contests and do OK. But to win it or to be competitive, they need to put some extra time in."

Oyen made the most of an Agronomy class he enrolled in during the first semester.

"We took an agronomy class the first semester and that helped a lot," he said. "Mr. Wright helps us more with ID and on our own time we do more of the test stuff. On the weekends we kind of got to work on doing the written tests."

Oyen admitted he enjoys the CDE test above all.

"The identification, just because all the hard work, that is when it pays off," he said. "When you see

something and you know that is what you studied for and you know that is it, it is kind of fun knowing you got that one right."

Students choose their CDE specialties after returning from winter break.

"I will give the seniors the first crack at signing up for whatever contest they want. If they want to have an all-senior team, they can, in basically any contest they want," Wright said. "That gives them a chance to work with their friends, but more importantly it gives them a chance to pick an area that they have an interest in or they have had a class in.

"We have them all signed up by the end of January. We know what teams we are going to have. Mrs. [Jessica] Schae-

fer and I then have to do the preparation."

"There is a lot of work that goes into setting up a practice, but I know that just watching them learn those skills, that is rewarding," Schaefer said. "When they come back from a contest they are very excited."

Lancaster's Agronomy and Farm Business Management teams also finished second at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville CDE in March. Klein won the Agronomy contest at UW-Platteville and Morgan DeBuhr finished seventh in Horse Judging.

"We have been doing agronomy for three years now, so we have been practicing. But we have Chuck Rasmussen come in and he helps us," Oyen



Robert Callahan photo

The Lancaster FFA chapter's Farm Business Management team finished fifth at the State Contest. Pictured, from left: Dalton Gardner, Jalen Schmitz, Sam Streif, Jarin Crapp and Blain Barr.



David Wright photo

*The Lancaster FFA chapter's Ag Mechanics team finished fifth at the state contest. Pictured, from left: Tyler Hale, Morgan Seippel, Carter Lull and Dylan Tydrich.*

said. "We do about hour and a half practices and we usually do them on Wednesday nights. This year, since we were so busy, we just hit it hard for one week the week before state."

Rasmussen was an Agriculture Education instructor at Lancaster High School for 33 years. He oversaw Lancaster FFA's Land Judging teams as they qualified for the National FFA CDE for several straight years. Wright was a member of a national qualifier in 1985.

"We were right in the middle of it," he recalled.

**"It is a tradition. If you ask other ag departments in the state too, what is Lancaster known for as far as FFA, I bet most of them would say Land Judging, Agronomy, a few things like that come to mind."**

"There are a few schools, and Lancaster is one of them, that has kind of made a name for itself as far as Land Judging and soils."

Wright noted his students are well aware of Lancaster's track record.

"Most of them are very aware," he said. "As a mat-

ter of fact, many of the moms and dads of these kids were on those teams. Joe Zenz, Cole's dad, was on a team in 1983 that won the state contest. He gets reminded of that every now and then from dad as well as Mr. Wright.

"It is a tradition. If you ask other ag departments

in the state too, what is Lancaster known for as far as FFA, I bet you most of them would say Land Judging, Agronomy, a few things like that come to mind."

How does Oyen feel about continuing Lancaster's tradition of success?

"It is kind of cool I guess. We know we are all coming back next year," he said. "We are losing Austin, but we placed pretty good this year and we have gone to state all

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# SLAM 2018

Lancaster High School held its second annual SLAM on Monday evening, April 30. S (Shop and technology) L (Live theatre) A (Arts) M (Music) celebrated the time and talents of nearly 100 LHS students and staff. Photos by Robert Callahan.



*The Cupcake Wars were a popular attraction.*



*Students had the opportunity to put their trebuchet designs to the test.*



*Aubrie Weydert displayed her dancing skills.*



*The evening's theatrical performances included great audience participation.*



*Latronis Covington (left) and Carli Jerrett served as emcees.*



*Kaitlyn Rice's remarkable chalk mural titled "Starlord."*



*The 3D printer caught the eye of this attendee.*

# 'Always persist'



Lancaster High School's 2018 graduates heard messages of values, choices and persistence as they closed the book on their time at LHS

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster High School celebrated its 2018 graduating class during a commencement ceremony on Sunday afternoon, May 27.

Seventy-four students joined the ranks of Flying Arrow alumni, including co-valedictorians Evan Straka and Kyla Vaughan.

Delanie Breuer, Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel's Chief of Staff and a 2000 graduate of Lancaster High School, served as guest speaker. It was the first time in recent memory LHS commencement featured a guest speaker.

"I work for you guys," she told the graduates. "As each of you turns 18, you become my bosses. The unsolicited advice here is to take your civic duty seriously and get out and vote, or you are going to end up with someone from Beetown in charge."

When Breuer departed Beetown for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the fall of 2000, she was intimidated, worried and to some extent embarrassed by her rural upbringing.

"I was concerned about the kids coming from Milwaukee and the bigger cities, kids who had gone to private schools, the kids who had traveled and had more exposure than I had," she admitted. "But I learned pretty quickly I had been expertly prepared for all of them by going to school here, with a few core values: work ethic, respect and integrity.

"These values—work ethic, respect and integrity—those are your roots. They come from generations of farmers and teachers and factory workers and miners that have built this area. And those values—work ethic, respect and integrity—those are all key reasons. They are the values of every good leader and they are the values I look for in every employee I hire."

Breuer encouraged the graduating class to cherish their time.

"What everyone tells you is true: time goes really fast," she said. "So soak up each and every second of today and this summer and the excitement that will come

in the next few years. Put down your cell phones, stop taking pictures and enjoy it."

In his co-valedictorian address, Straka recalled a summer 2016 trip to the Rocky Mountains, which included an 11-mile round-trip hike at Rocky Mountain National Park.

"My Rocky Mountain hike was like the last four years of high school," he said. "The climb was filled with amazing sights along the way. We passed by a roaring river going down the mountain, a crystal clear lake, rocky peaks against blue skies, and an amazing 100-foot waterfall.

"Throughout high school, we have been able to experience many beautiful sights as well. Football games, Homecoming dances, Cabaret, Prom, and weekends with friends all are the moments we remember along the way."

The Rocky Mountain hike wasn't easy. The climb was full of steep stretches, the air was dry. Evan admitted his Midwest lungs were not used to being 10,000 feet above sea level.

"Just like my hike, our hike through high school has not been easy. We all struggled through tests, homework, late night practices and games, finals, and relationships with our peers," he said. "Some of us—Garrett, Theron and myself—decided it was a great idea to break a leg during the football season. These

are the moments that tests us on our ability to persist through hard times."

Thanks to encouraging words from strangers and the help of his family, Evan persisted on his hike. Within the walls of LHS, it was teachers, administration, custodians and coaches lending a helping hand. Years of persistence paid off with a walk across the commencement stage and a diploma, Straka told his audience.

"As you leave today, remember these three things: first, always take a minute to appreciate the beautiful sights and moments throughout your life," Straka said. "Second, thank those who have helped you in your life. Lastly, always persist through the hard times because



Robert Callahan photo

*There were 74 students in Lancaster High School's 2018 graduating class.*



Robert Callahan photo

*Many jubilant Lancaster High School graduates tossed their graduation caps skyward as commencement ended.*

like my mom always tells me, 'It will be worth it in the end, I promise.'

"Congratulations Class of 2018 for reaching the top of the mountain. Good luck on the future hike of life."

In her co-valedictorian address, Vaughan shared Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," followed by a detailed explanation why it has been consistently misunderstood. Vaughan noted the meaning of the poem was very pertinent to the day, but not in the way one might think.

"People usually judge the entire poem's meaning by the last two lines," she explained. The meaning—that even I was taught—of this poem is that you should be an individual and take the road 'less traveled by,' but this is not actually the meaning."

Vaughan cited a New York Post article by Stephen Lynch titled "The Famous Robert Frost poem we've read wrong forever," which details why the true meaning of the poem is one of regret, choices, and not always being able to do everything one wants to do.

"In our lives, we simply do not have enough time to do everything that we want to do," she said. "So as

choices come up, as they certainly will in the following months as we start in college, technical school, or the workplace, remember that your choices can destroy opportunities.

"However, don't let this discourage you from making choices, and hopefully you won't regret yours. The choices you have made thus far have led you to this moment, of graduation, a time of mixed emotions, but a time of celebration. Choices will continue to be an important part of all our lives, and will shape who we become. Just remember to consider that we don't have all of the time in the world."

Vaughan, who plans to study political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, concluded her address by kicking off what will one day be a stellar political career.

"When I do run for president of the United States of America, and before that, governor of Wisconsin, please vote for me," she said. "This way you can say you know the president!"

## 'You dream it, we'll try it'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

to stick stuff to it an hopefully it burns," Kindrai explained.

How did Kindrai feel when his artwork was celebrated?

"It was pretty cool. Unexpected," he said. "It was just something I did for fun."

Luckey's wood burning was a labor of love, as she completed it in 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

"I used like a thin tip that I just got. It is like a sharp piece of metal," she explained. "Mrs. Fuller gave me a wood burner and it has a thicker tip that goes down to a point, but that gave really dark lines. I use my needle-kind-of-thing. It allows you to get more detail in there. I could have used a rounded one to get the stars a little more rounded."

Luckey was happy to have her artwork selected for the Driftless Area Art Festival, as it was an opportunity to have her work displayed on a grander scale.

"I like art. It would be nice if more people would get to see my art," she said. "I just spend time on it and keep it locked up. I have thousands of wood burnings at home."

Eastlick's entries included pottery and a photograph.



Robert Callahan photo

*Left: Lancaster High School's Jacob Kindrai's horsehair ceramic piece earned a third place ribbon among all the area high school artists at the Driftless Area Art Festival. Right: Kylie Luckey (left) and Alisha Eastlick also had their work on display at the Driftless Area Art Festival.*

**"The students are always trying to think something up that we have never done. That is exciting for me because then when we go to a show like this, nobody else has tried something that we developed. It is exciting and amazing, all wrapped into one."**

"I have a lot of art projects. My mom keeps everything that I make," she said. "I like to challenge myself with detail. As much detail as I can get."

Gloria Fuller began teaching art in Lancaster Community Schools more than 25 years ago. Nothing compares to the joy of her students' artwork being celebrated.

"It is amazing feeling. I watched Jacob as a freshman explore and be cre-

ative and experiment. That is what I try to promote. If it is something you can dream, we can do it. We will find a way," she said. "I love trying things that are out of the ordinary that wouldn't happen. To go to a show where nobody else had horse hair ceramic — they don't do it, period — it felt amazing because even the professional artists commented, 'Oh, I saw that. That was yours?'

"In a sense, his accomplishments become my joy, really, because I see it develop. I saw Jacob as a freshman wanting to try to burn bugs on. Well, OK. Let's try it. You dream it, we'll try it. We have never done it before, but that doesn't mean we can't try. I try to promote the spark of the fire inside of the students. If they can think it up and I have never tried it, well, why not? Let's do it.

"The students are always trying to think something up that we have never done. That is exciting for me because then when we go to a show like this, nobody else has tried something that we developed. It is exciting and amazing, all wrapped into one."



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster High School's new Laude System will encourage students to enroll in upper-level courses, such as Amy Flynn's AP Psychology class.

# Up to the challenge

## Lancaster High School's Laude System will challenge students academically and reward them for meeting that challenge

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

With the ink recently dried on the diplomas for Lancaster High School's 2018 graduating class, some students are looking ahead to 2020.

Lancaster High School's 2020 graduating class will be the first to recognize seniors through the Laude System, approved by the Board of Education in August 2016. The Laude System is a point-

based system which combines honors points with a student's grade point average. A valedictorian and salutatorian will be a thing of the past.

"After having staff review the Laude System and going through the process, it was determined by staff that the ultimate goal of the Laude System is to recognize more students for their hard work and encourage students to take upper-level, challenging

courses to better themselves and better their chances to be successful," explained Lancaster Middle/High School Principal Mark Uppena.

The Laude System will reward students for enrolling in and successfully completing designated Laude honors courses. Students will earn one honor point per semester for each advanced placement, transcribed or Project Lead The Way

(PLTW) course completed. Students will earn half an honor point per semester for completing advanced standing or department-designated honors courses.

Courses newly designated as honors courses include:

Foreign Language—Spanish 3, 4, 5; French 3, 4, 5

Math—Pre-Calculus, Algebra 2

Science—Physics,

Biology II, Chemistry 2

Music—Honors Band,  
Honors Choir

Art—Honors Studio  
Art, Advanced Ceramics  
Sculpture

Agriculture—Advanced  
Welding/Vet Science

Advanced Placement (AP) courses include U.S. History, English Literature, Biology, Calculus, and Psychology. Project Lead The Way offerings include Introduction to Engineering Design (IED), Principles of Engineering (POE), Engineering Design and Development (EDD), Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA), and Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSE). Transcribed classes include Accounting I, Intro to Economics, College Composition, Speech, and Human Social Behavior.

"We had all the departments come up with Laude classes that would be acceptable," Uppena said.

Students earning 50 Laude points or more will be awarded Summa Cum Laude status and will wear gold cords at graduation. Students earning 32-49.9 Laude points will be awarded Magna Cum Laude status and will wear silver cords at graduation. Students earning 16-31.9 Laude points will be awarded Cum Laude status and will wear white cords at graduation. Minimum qualifications for Cum Laude status are a 3.2 cumulative grade point average and 16 Laude points.

"The whole goal of the Laude System is to hope-

fully challenge students to push themselves and take rigorous courses in all areas to improve themselves. We are trying to get kids to challenge themselves academically," Uppena said. "Even in the areas they enjoy, like art and music, we have opportunities for kids to earn Laude points if they meet the criteria. It is about students challenging themselves to explore opportunities, work hard and prepare themselves for the workplace or prepare themselves for the next step in their lives, whether that be college, technical school, the workforce,

**"The Laude System fits nicely into our vision statement as far as striving to create high levels of learning. If you look at high levels of learning, and if we can get more kids to take those high-level courses in all subject matter, it is going to be better overall for our students."**

military, or whatever it might be."

Uppena pointed out the Academic Excellence Scholarship will continue to be issued to a Lancaster High School senior.

"There is a specific set of criteria for that scholarship," he advised. "That is based on grade point average, it is based on ACT tiebreakers and stuff like that, that is different—it is state set—versus what we are doing to recognize our students for academics through the Laude System.

"The state's Academic Excellence Scholarship is different and has different criteria than how we will honor our students academically when they graduate."

Brad Sturmer, a 1997 graduate of Lancaster High School, teaches AP Calculus. He is a proponent of the new Laude System.

"I like how it encourages students to take upper-level courses and not have that fear of, 'If I get a B-plus because I took AP Calculus, that is going to affect my GPA to the point where I might not be valedictorian or salutatorian,'" he said.

"Now students can change their thought process to 'It is two laude points, and if I do get a B-plus my GPA might go to a 3.9875 or whatever, but because I get to multiply it by more Laude points, I will still be near the top.' The best part about it is it encourages kids to take those upper-level courses and for those that do, it rewards them for it.

"Three or four years down the road when kids go to graduation ceremonies and they see Laude students being honored

instead of the traditional valedictorian and salutatorian, I think it is something that will grow. As it becomes more of a tradition here I think we will see more kids really getting after it."

Sturmer encourages students to begin planning their academic future as soon as possible, even as freshmen.

"If I could offer any advice, it would be to make sure students are getting their schedules designed their freshman year that will allow them to take those Laude courses later on. There are some opportunities for freshmen to earn Laude points," he said. "Maybe not many, but there are some. Mainly we see kids in PLTW classes or the music classes at that freshman age.

"But also, getting that grade point average as high as you possibly can—the GPA is not year-to-year, it is cumulative—so if you can get it as high as you can your freshman year and keep it that way, that multiplier is going to pay off later on when you earn some points.

"The Laude System fits nicely into our vision statement as far as striving to create high levels of learning. If you look at high levels of learning, and if we can get more kids to take those high-level courses in all subject matter, it is going to be better overall for our students."

# FLYING ARROW SCOREBOARD

The Lancaster football team was 4-1 in the Southwest Wisconsin Conference (SWC) and shared the conference title with Platteville. In all, 17 Flying Arrows earned All-Conference recognition, led by SWC Offensive Player of the Year **Evan Gates** and SWC Defensive Lineman of the Year **Dalton Gardner**. Joining Gates on the first-team All-Conference offense were center **John Wagner** and offensive tackle **Ty Mayne**. Offensive guard **Theron Schindler** earned second-team honors, and offensive guard **Cole Zenz** and offensive tackle **Joseph Recker** earned honorable mention status. Quarterback **Evan Straka** also earned second-team All-Conference honors. Joining Gardner on the first-team All-Conference defense were inside linebacker **Troy Klein** and cornerback **Garrett Birkett**. Defensive lineman **Gabe Hudson**, defensive end **Ethan Klar**, defensive back **Damian Kauffman** and inside linebacker **Caden Straka** were named to the second-team defense. Defensive back **Jacob McCabe** earned honorable mention defensive recognition. Punter **Jordan Reuter** earned first-team All-Conference honors and kicker **Tanner Oyen** was named to the second team. **Kyle Stiklestad** was named SWC Assistant Coach of the Year.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster volleyball team played to a 0-10 record in the SWC. Setter **Katie Martin** was named to

the All-Conference honorable mention squad.

\*\*\*

The Platteville/Lancaster boys soccer team rolled to a 5-0-3 mark in conference play to earn the SWC title. Defender **Everett LaBudda** was named to the All-Conference second team, as was midfielder **Aaron Murphy**. Platteville/Lancaster coach **Brandon Pink** was

first team honors.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster girls cross country team was well-represented on the SWC All-Conference team. **Lydia Murphy**, **Kristin Muench** and **Hanna Cohen** earned first team honors, while **Crystalyn Mish** and **Maddie Hampton** were part of the second team.

\*\*\*

The Platteville/Lancaster boys swimming team finished 3-5 overall, 2-4 in Southern Lakes Conference duals. The Hillmen then placed fourth at the Southern Lakes conference meet and finished fourth in the final SL standings.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster girls basketball team finished 1-9 in the SWC, but fared better outside the conference and ended the season 8-15 overall. **Devin Wagner** earned All-Conference second team accolades, while **Lydia Murphy** was named honorable mention.

\*\*\*

The Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster gymnastics team finished 3-1 in SWC duals during the regular season, then

placed third at the SWC conference meet. **Allison Stader** earned All-Conference first team honors in the all-around, uneven bars and balance beam; and second team on vault and floor exercise. **Lindsey Wolf** was named to first team in the vault and floor, and second team in the all-around, bars and beam. **Brooklyn VanNatta** earned first



Robert Callahan photo

*Lancaster's Allison Stader earned SWC All-Conference first team recognition in the all-around, uneven bars and balance beam, and second-team on vault and floor exercise.*

named SWC Coach of the Year.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster girls golf team finished second at the conference championships. The Flying Arrows were fifth at the WIAA Division 2 Jefferson regional. **Lindsey Wolf** shot a 96 at the regional and advanced to the Edgewood Sacred Heart sectional. Wolf earned All-Conference



# FLYING ARROW SCOREBOARD

team honors in the vault and second team in the all-around. She was a honorable mention selection in the bars and beam. **Hailey Doyle** earned honorable mention in the beam and floors.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster boys basketball team was 2-8 in the SWC, but also fared well outside of the conference and finished 11-11 overall. **Dawson Bowen, Austin Mumm** and **Jordan Reuter** earned All-Conference honorable mention status.

\*\*\*

The Platteville/Lancaster girls swimming team finished 1-11 overall, 1-6 in Southern Lakes Conference duals. The Hillmen then finished sixth-place at the conference meet and sixth in the final Southern Lakes standings. **Brooklyn VanNatta** was named All-Conference second team in the 50 freestyle and honorable mention in the 100 freestyle. Platteville/Lancaster's 200 freestyle team (**Maddy Albert-Nelson, Allison Brehm, Erin Walker** and **VanNatta**) earned All-Conference first team accolades.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster wrestling team finished second in the SWC. Two Lancaster wrestlers—**Remington Bontreger** and **Tyler Hale**—won WIAA Division 3 regional championships and four more (**Carter Lull, Collin Lull, Troy Klein** and **Caden Straka**) advanced to the WIAA Mineral Point sectional. Bontreger, Collin Lull, Klein and Hale advanced to the WIAA individual champion-

ships, where Klein finished fourth at 182 pounds in Division 3. Earning first-team All-Conference honors were Bontreger (106 pounds) and Klein (182 pounds). Carter Lull (113 pounds) and Tyler Hale (285 pounds) were named to the second team, while **Caleb Lucey** (120 pounds), **Logan Schneider** (138 pounds), **Collin Lull** (145 pounds), **Morgan Seippel** (152 pounds), **Owen Wolf** (160 pounds), **Clay Mc-**

mention squad.

\*\*\*

The Platteville/Lancaster girls soccer team continued its reign in the SWC. The Hillmen had a 9-0-1 conference mark and won their third straight SWC title. Midfielder **Lydia Murphy** was named SWC Player of the Year. Defender **Abby Whitford** was part of the All-Conference second team.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster baseball team was 2-8 in SWC play. Pitcher **Noah Hromadka** was named to the All-Conference first team. Outfielder Evan Straka earned first team honors as well. Infielder John Wagner and outfielder Jordan Reuter were selected honorable mention.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster boys golf team finished third at the WIAA Division 3 Mineral Point regional to earn a sectional berth. **Dillon Marshall** shot a 76 at Mineral Point, tied atop the leader board. The Flying Arrows finished seventh at the New Glarus sectional. Marshall earned All-Conference first team honors. Isaac Farrey was named to the second team.

\*\*\*

Three Lancaster track and field athletes ended their 2018 seasons at the WIAA track and field championships. **Dalton Gardner** placed fourth in the discus in Division 2. He was 16th in the shot put. **Devin Wagner** finished seventh in the long jump. **Hunter Liddell** finished 16th in the 400-meter run.



Robert Callahan photo

*Lancaster's Tyler Hale, a champion at the WIAA Division 3 Mineral Point sectional, qualified for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association individual championships (285 pounds).*

**Cartney** (170 pounds), **Caden Straka** (195 pounds) and **Cole Zenz** (220 pounds) earned honorable mention status.

\*\*\*

The Lancaster softball team was 5-5 in the SWC, earning them fourth place. Third baseman **Morelia Galvan** was selected to the All-Conference first team. Pitcher **Hannah Riley** earned a spot on the honorable

## Our Heroes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

make everything you do, to train and see, all worth it. There are sights, sounds and smells you will never forget and will haunt you for the rest of your life. But for a few moments, looking at the smiles of these young kids you forget about it and remember why you chose to do it: to help those in need.

"Whether it be a firefighter, EMT or police officer, I'm sure if you ask anyone that was there, we are not heroes. We are everyday people that live (somewhat) normal lives. We don't ask to be thanked or appreciated. So when someone does thank us or shows their appreciation, it truly means more than they know. As with many

others I have questioned myself and God as to why I 'chose' to do this sometimes. One smile reminds me every time!"

Music played through Winskill's intercom system during the Hero Walk, but you would be hard-pressed to hear it over the clapping and cheering of its students.

"Our local heroes deserve recognition for all they do and I was struck by how meaningful this event was for them," Winskill Assistant Principal Nikole Smith said. "We have an awesome opportunity to teach children about how communities support each other. I watched as the adults' faces lit up at all the love they received from our students at Winskill. I saw some hugs and tears as well.

**"We are everyday people that live (somewhat) normal lives. We don't ask to be thanked or appreciated. So when someone does thank us or shows their appreciation, it truly means more than they know."**

"When our children get the chance to interact with the people who help our community, many of them as volunteers, it really sparks an interest in what they want to be when

they grow up as well."

Whitford agrees wholeheartedly.

"These people are the unsung heroes of our community. They respond to some of the most challenging of situations, and to have the opportunity to see the smiles of joy on their faces as our kids cheered and showered them with thank you cards and pictures was such a special moment," she said. "Our community is incredibly blessed to have these people here to help and protect us, and by highlighting their service to our children, we are hopefully instilling in them an understanding of the importance of expressing appreciation and gratitude to those who help others."

## Here and Now

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if there is sound, and then we make sure that everyone is memorized, hair and makeup and outfits are good to go. It is a long day and you start to hate everyone, but it is really fun and definitely a highlight of the play."

Jerrett is thankful for the opportunity to perform in the Hillery Auditorium.

"Our auditorium is great. It is really big, so lots of people can come and watch," she said. "And the backstage area, every-

thing about it is great. The crew is great. The auditorium is really nice. We are blessed to have this nice of an auditorium."

Jon Farrey, a senior, was involved in his second production.

"I just started doing the play last year and it is kind of something that came pretty easy to me," he said. "I have just always been really loud and I like reading. I always read a lot as a kid and stuff like that. It just kind of came naturally to me."

Farrey admits memorizing his lines did not come easy.

"That is probably the one thing that I have the most trouble with, is memorizing my lines. I am pretty irresponsible when it comes to doing things I am supposed to do," he said. "Memorizing, I wasn't memorized until maybe a week and a half [prior to performances]. I kind of procrastinated on that a little bit."

As Tony Baldwin, Farrey endured some emotionally draining days on set.

"There were a couple tougher days where a scene just got to me. It is always a challenge to kind of find the happy mid-

dle," he said. "You don't want to go overboard with some of the scenes and you don't want to put too little into it. It is really hard to find that happy middle and if you can't, it can be frustrating."

Throughout the production, Leslie watches her cast and crew become a theater family.

"They become so close and they look out for each other. They take care of each other. They go out of their way to help each other," she said. "We just kind of become a little family. That is probably my favorite part."

# A Story to Tell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

level too in Utah. And the fact that BYU did end up making those changes and making those statements in their advisory report about what had been done was wrong, that it would be, it would give weight to those changes.”

Significant changes to BYU policies were made following the Tribune’s reporting.

“The advisory committee for sexual assault responses put out a report about a year ago and we weren’t sure what they were going to say. We actually wrote three different ledes: one for if they really didn’t change anything, one for if they changed kind of everything that people were complaining about and one if they made some kind of superficial changes but in the wording still left an opportunity to do everything as they had been doing,” Alberty said. “I wasn’t sure which lede we were going to be most likely to get, but I didn’t think we were going to get the lede where they changed everything. They changed everything.”

“Their recommendation was to change lots and lots and lots. There is amnesty now, officially, for sexual assault reporters from honor code discipline. The Title IX office, which had been funneling



The Salt Lake Tribune’s coverage of campus sexual assault earned the newspaper a Pulitzer Prize last year.

these reports to the honor code office to investigate potential victims, there is now a firewall between them, they are completely distinct. There is a victim advocate position. Trainings were recommended for students and faculty. They did all this stuff.”

Alberty was home sick the day BYU announced the changes.

“My phone just started going ‘beep beep beep’

and I was in a fever haze. My phone started ringing and it was my co-worker calling, asking if I had seen the report,” she said. “Then I looked at my phone and all these messages were coming up and they were all from the various victims that had spoken with me over the year. They felt that them coming forward had produced some kind of action that they were pleased with.

I totally started crying. That was a better day for me than winning the Pulitzer.”

Lancaster senior Kyla Vaughan learned much from Alberty’s visit.

“I thought that Ms. Alberty’s visit to our class was incredibly educational and interesting. The reality of the prominence of sexual assault at college campuses is one that I am going to have to face next year,” she said. “As someone who is LGBT, her comments on the honor code outlawing gay actions really hit me. She was a great speaker and had so much experience. After the class was over I got to talk more with her, and I really value that time. It was great to learn more about her and what she does.”

Lancaster senior Sydney Kwaliek was inspired by the visit.

“The opportunity to meet Erin Alberty was very inspiring to me personally because I currently hope to major in journalism when I attend Edgewood College,” she said. “Not only did I enjoy learning about the criminal case she covered, but I loved hearing about the steps she took to get the award and all the options when it comes to journalism.”

“Ms. Alberty’s visit opened a whole new door for me as to what I would

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## Poetry in motion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

entertain them, and even share some knowledge. But what the teachers do, every day, all day, all year, every year, that is a much bigger deal than what I do coming in to do the workshop. We are all teaching, but they are there for it all.”



*David Daniel's visit to Lancaster Middle School is "one of the highlights for everyone involved," said English teacher Torie Leslie.*

Robert Callahan photo

## A win-win situation

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the table for our break room," McDonald said. "It is a very small room and trying to find a table to fit our area was proving to be

a challenge. It was nice to be able to get a table constructed to fit our needs and also give the students a project.

"It means so much more knowing the table was hand-crafted by local kids. Mr. Knapp and his students did an outstanding job."

Brian is hopeful the

project is the first of many. He plans on polling staff for project ideas prior to the 2018-2019 school year.

"They did pretty well on this one," he said. "Some of the older kids were pretty good about leading and taking care of it. I am really proud of them."

The students have since received a request to cre-

ate a fish tank table for Middle School guidance counselor Erinn Brogley.

"The kids are off and running with this, as they have gained experience and confidence from our first project," Brian said. "It is great seeing them have the confidence and all working together."

## A labor of love

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Uppena said. "I have noticed that other students and staff are adding books to share."

Smith and Uppena welcome supporters to donate books or funding to purchase books.

"We hope that this is something we can continue in future years in pretty

much the same fashion," Smith said.



Michelle Uppena photo

*There were no shortage of books for Lancaster High School students to choose from.*

## A story to tell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 73

like to do after high school and I hope her visit interested the other students in the class as well. I think it's important for students

to meet people like Erin Alberty because they gain real-life knowledge about the career instead of just reading about it. It was

definitely a positive experience and I hope Lancaster continues to provide more opportunities like this one in the future!"



Robert Callahan photo

*The Flying Arrows finished second in Division 3 at the WIAA cross country championships, returning to Lancaster with their first trophy in program history.*

## Simply their best

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

where we were supposed to be, we just went out and ran with our hearts. None of us ran for ourselves. We all ran for each other," she said. "We knew that if we finished the race knowing we gave it our all, we would have been winners (with or without the trophy).

"I truly do believe that being close to your team members helps out in races. For such a challenging sport like cross country, you need to have a good support system to cheer you on at your worst and best. Having a close-knit team helps you push through any pain you have during a race because you would rather suffer through the pain than to disappoint your team. We truly ran with our hearts for all of our races."

On the biggest stage, it was business as usual for Lancaster, Holmes

explained.

"When we came to state, we knew that if we ran to the best of our abilities, we had a good chance of making the podium. There were a ton of tough teams and this one race could go either way depending on how the teams ran," she said. "When we came to the state race, we didn't change a thing about how we prepared or warmed up. We kept everything the same and still goofed around while walking the course. We were all nervous, but we knew if we ran the best we could for that day, we could walk away happy.

"When I saw the board say second place was Lancaster, I immediately felt an overwhelming amount of feelings. I felt happy, excited and relieved. We finally accomplished what we all dreamed about since the beginning of the season. The feeling of being on the podium and holding the trophy was a feeling I will never forget. The excitement of coming

back into town state runner-ups is always going to be a memory I will cherish. Even though I am sad that this year was my last year of cross country, it is a season I will always cherish and I had the best team to finish out my cross country career with."

Will the Flying Arrows' successes lead to future success?

"I hope so, but you have to be careful too. It is positive, but it is something to be careful of," Reynolds said. "When we scrapped and fought our way to state in 2015, maybe in 2016 we just thought if we showed up and went through the motions, we thought it was going to happen again.

"In 2017 they realized, if we want it to happen we have to make it happen. Just because it happens in one season doesn't mean it is going to happen in the next season. That is

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## Living history

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they dread it, they enjoy it and then they miss it.”

Ultimately, Haas would like to see more area school districts follow Lancaster’s lead and join the National History Day program.

“There are still some things that I still need to learn, but I feel like I am a seasoned veteran in how it hap-

pens now,” he said. “What I would like to see is more surrounding districts get involved. I use it as a bragging chip, ‘We do this.’”

Haas could not imagine teaching history without National History Day.

“It is a fantastic program. It has proven to raise our literacy skills and test scores in terms of historical literacy,” he said. “You are teaching cross-curricular. I get the art department involved, I get tech ed involved, I get my English department

involved. We are utilizing our fantastic Library Media Center and Michelle Uppena does a fantastic job of helping the kids with the projects and pointing them in the right direction. We get to use technology, we get to use old ways of learning and we are jotting down notes by hand.

“There is so much that is involved with it, it is almost like it is the perfect program. It really is.”

## Simply their best

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 75

my word of caution. You actually have to make it happen. In a way, 2017’s success will mean nothing in 2018.”

Thankfully for the Flying Arrows, hard work can be contagious.

“How success helps is when you put in hard work and you have young kids seeing the seniors do it,

you have two things going on. One is the norms of the teams, meaning what is normal as far as training, workouts, summer running and winter running. Compared to when I first came, it is way, way, way higher now. The norms and expectations have risen so much. It is a higher standard of what is normal.

“The other thing is when you have young people coming in and they can see the Lydia Murphys, the Maddie Hamptons, you basically

have the distinct advantage of young athletes get to shadow excellence. It rubs off on the young athletes. They see this is how we do it and this is how we always do it, so then this is the norm for the new kids coming in. They train with these elite runners. There is a good example being set. That is where success can help make future success. As long as they make it happen. It definitely makes it easier. It helps.”

## The tradition continues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 62

three years, so next year should be fun with three of us coming back. Hopefully we can get all three of us up toward the top. That would be fun.”

Schaefer enjoys seeing the commitment each student makes to be successful.

“As with any student, once they acquire that skill and really have a real interest and enthusiasm,

that is the driver for me. If you are motivated and you show enthusiasm, that is going to say to me that you are committed,” she said. “It is like any athlete or any musician, you have to put in the practice time and you really need to devote yourself to reviewing the materials. It is not like you can just walk into the room and get 500 points.

“There are practices involved and there is a teamwork component, so you know that you need to rely on your teammates as well. You can excel as

an individual, but you will to make sure that you are training your classmates, your teammates, to the level that you are at too.”

Wright takes pride in the accomplishments as well.

“To me, this is one of the things that makes my career, I don’t want to say worth it, but adds the fun and the value or whatever word you want to plug in there, you know? When you see what the students get out of it too, especially,” he said. “I guess I would compare it to sports. If you see a team

that makes it to state or you see an individual on the podium for winning the 800 in track, you are very proud of the fact that they put the time and the energy into it to get to that level.

“I tell the kids quite often one of the reasons I came back to Lancaster—I always joked and said I would never teach in my hometown—however, this is a really good school and really good kids. That was one of the reasons I came back. The quality of students here is pretty high.”



Robert Callahan photo

Gates is quick to credit his offensive line for his successes. "Without them, you are not going to get anywhere," he says.

## Believed and Achieved

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"And he has always had faith in me to give me the ball in those tough situations and kept feeding me."

Gates will continue his career on Saturdays in 2018. He received interest from NCAA Division I, II and III schools before committing to play at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

"Growing up as a kid, it has always been a dream to play college football and now that it is actually happening, it is just kind of surreal and it is like it doesn't really

feel like it is real," he said.

What advice does Gates have for young athletes who may strive to supplant Lancaster's all-time leading rusher?

"I would just say dream big. Set your goals high and don't be afraid to tell people those goals, and work your butt off for them every day," he said. "But make sure you have fun doing it. You aren't going to want to do it if you aren't having fun doing it, so don't forget to have a little fun."

## Hat-Trick

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Hughey once entertained the notion of shuttering the Hockey Club. He was persuaded not to.

"Not only did I have kids rebel, politely, they just let me know how disappointed they were. I had parents contact me and I had the police department contact me," he said.

"Sergeant McLimans came in my office about five at night and I was in here working. He said, 'I know you are stressed, but find something else. Hockey club means so much to us because a lot of the kids in the program are kids that we have some contact with. It just changes the whole dynamic, when they see you more friendly, you interact, and now all of a sudden it is more of a friendly conversation and not adversarial.' They, as a police depart-

ment, have an agenda to be in the school and promote those positive relationships and they see Hockey Club as being a big part of that."

While his body has aged 24 years in the last 12 through Hockey Club, Hughey would have it no other way.

"Honest to goodness, it gives me a legitimate reason not to act my age once a week," he said. "The other times I don't act my age are not quite so legitimate."

## Choose your adventure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 59

be hands-on. I have been very fortunate that I got in with a company and a career where I could work my butt off and achieve the things I have achieved to where I am now.

"I would have definitely taken advantage of something like this. And I honestly believe — and this is just me and I don't want to take anything away from a formal four-year education because that is great and I encourage it — however, I think that is starting to turn again. I really think trades and industry are coming back around because of the simple economics of it all. There are a lot of unemployed people out there with hundreds of thousands of dollars of school debt. We are always looking for those kids that want to work, they want to stay local, and they want to earn a good living and want to hit the ground running."

Lancaster High School senior Tyler Graney attended his final Career Exploration Day.

"I thought it was really helpful. I learned quite a bit from it. I learned more this year than other years because I have more of an idea what I want to do. I had more questions this time," he said. "Right now



Robert Callahan photo

*Brent Kindred of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction provided a brief welcome at Lancaster High Schools' 2018 Career Exploration day.*

I am going into mechanical engineering at Platteville. I want to be a mechanical engineer. I have looked at working, trying to get a job at Lancaster Machine and Tool. That is what I want to do."

Lancaster Machine and Tool was a vendor at Career Exploration Day and brought with a block sorter.

"I thought it was pretty cool. It was good to show what they do," Graney said of the block sorter. "It was cool to talk to the guy that made it.

"I thought [Career Ex-

ploration Day] was a lot better than just having no school. If I had no school, I am not doing anything all day."

Lancaster High School senior Tamara Dilley also attended Career Exploration Day.

"I think I got more out of it as I got older. When I was younger I don't really think I paid attention, but now that I am getting older, going to college, going to have to get a job that is my career, I pay more attention to it and get more advice from the vendors," she said.

Dilley, who aspires to be an OB nurse or neonatal nurse, visited with representatives of Grant Regional Health Center.

"It was really good talking to them and seeing what they suggest," she said.

Lancaster High School Technical Education teacher Duane Leeser believes each Career Exploration Day is a learning experience.

"I thought it went well. We have received pretty good responses so far from everybody," he said. "Every year we learn. Every year we learn something we can do differently. We have received good responses from our vendors and pretty good responses from our kids."

Lancaster High School Technical Education teacher Eric Mumm noted the 2018 Career Exploration Day was the largest yet. He greeted vendors when they arrived at the Eckstein Building.

"It was really cool to see how the vendors utilize that time to talk to each other and just the connection they had with each other," he said. "To be a part of that, to bring those business people together, that was neat. Obviously, to see them interact with the students is always really cool to see. They are giving up their morning from their business to come in and talk with our students, I think that is invaluable."



## 'Life-changing for kids'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

that I feel like we have worked hard on trying to have them grow in every way, but socially too, I feel like they have come together as a community and know that we are all different and we all have unique needs, but we all are one and I really feel like that is the message co-teaching really serves.

**In terms of academics, what has been the most powerful thing you have been able to with co-teaching?**

**Whitney:** We are able to really just discuss things like right on the spot or ahead of time or afterward and really think, 'This worked, let's keep doing this,' or, 'This didn't work, what do we need to change?' We are constantly evolving our education and instruction around every student.

**Alison:** Definitely. There is so much more reflection we can do because we are in the same room together. There's not that, 'Oh I have to find a time to meet with the special ed teacher,' it is already all built into our day

because we are with each other all day long. It has totally benefited our teaching and instruction and we can try so many new things."

**So your students with disabilities have gotten better services, you feel?**

**Whitney:** I feel that they have a more consistent service. It is there, all day. One thing that we are doing right now with spelling is we are seeing that some of our kids are falling behind because they are not catching on to the new trends but they still need to work on those old trends. We are able to say 'Hey, let's back up, make sure that they get this and then keep going forward.'

**Alison:** Because the regular education curriculum is so fast-paced. One week we are moving on to a new pattern and then we are noticing that they are still not getting the first few, so we have gone back. [Whitney] has been able to reach that in a small group time, where I can continue with the other students.

**Whitney:** This way, they are still getting that whole group instruction. They are not missing even the new stuff, they are getting a little bit of both. It has been nice.

## Big shoes to fill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

the arts."

Pamela Kurihara spent 30 of her 33 years in education in Lancaster Community Schools.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing my teaching skills with the students

at the Middle and High Schools," she wrote in her retirement letter. "I am extremely grateful to have worked with many talented and dedicated educators over the years. It truly has been a pleasure.

"Thank you for your continued time and effort to provide a solid and

valuable education for the youth in Lancaster. This community is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family."

Jeff Pross was a fifth grade and third grade teacher during his 32-year career in Lancaster. He also coached baseball, football, volleyball,

golf, softball, seventh grade boys basketball and eighth grade girls basketball.

"I will miss the wonderful relationships with the other staff members and the students whom I've gotten to teach over the years," he wrote in his retirement letter.

## 'Bursting with book clubs'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

While intrigued by "Ashfall," the club ultimately chose "Out of the Easy" by Rita Sepetys.

The club is a joy for all involved.

"The kids really like it. They really like it," Jonas said. "These aren't kids that you have to push to read. They push me. It is just neat to hear what they have to say. When we read 'To Kill A Mockingbird,' for example, that was the toughest book

we have read. I read it when I was in high school and I have seen the movie many times since, but I don't think I had read it since I was in high school. Reading it at my age now, it is a completely different book. I really like that too, reading books again you read a long time ago."

Also leading LHS book clubs are fellow hall of famer Sam Jonas and high school library aide Lori Cathman. Several more book clubs are student-led.

"We are bursting with book clubs, which is one of the best things

about Lancaster High School," Margaret said.

Not only does the book club allow Margaret to meet her goal of reading more, it helps her reach another goal as well.

"Another goal that I had was to stay connected to kids. This is such a good way to do it," she said. "I really like high school kids and I like being with them, but I realized that I didn't want to teach full-time anymore. This still allows me to teach, but in a much more relaxed atmosphere, once a week."



## See you in September!

*The first day of school for the 2018-2019 school year is Tuesday, Sept. 4!*

*Editor's note: Purchase of the bicycle helmets worn by the students pictured was made possible through a Schacht Family Fund grant, a part of the Lancaster Community Fund. Winkill Elementary's Sarah Williams wrote the grant. Winkill Elementary third graders, St. Clement third graders, and any fourth and fifth graders new to the Lancaster Community School District are given bike helmets through the Fit 4-Life Safe 4-Life bike program. Thank you to the Lancaster Community Fund for its support!*



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