

"No matter our backgrounds, we all have one common thread: our students and their success."

Great Start to the Year

Stellar Students

This school year we have implemented a creative way to showcase our students and share their dedication, leadership and contributions to their schools and communities. The Stellar Student Award Program will include recognition for students from each school and grade levels across the district. The program began in October and will run through May with each month acknowledging a different student from preschool/elementary, middle and high school. So far this year, 10 students have been recognized for their accomplishments and dedication to their schools. To see this edition's Stellar Students, turn to page 7. Stellar Students will be shared on the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Facebook page at the beginning of each month. For more district information and happenings throughout the year, please visit the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Facebook page.

L'Anse Creuse Hall of Distinction Inducts Two Dedicated Teachers

The L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Hall of Distinction exists as a visual embodiment of the achievements from the district's past and present. Dedicated in November 2015, the Hall of Distinction was created to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the district who have not been recognized by other means, and to provide a tangible way of presenting the history of the district to the community.

On October 2, the Hall of Distinction inducted the twelfth and thirteenth members, Melvin Miller and Cynthia Ann Broad, for their dedication to L'Anse Creuse and the greater community. The ceremony was a wonderful event, with over a hundred family, friends, and colleagues. More information on inductees on page 2.

From the Superintendent

Dear L'Anse Creuse Community,

As the holiday season is upon us, I would like to express how grateful I am for all that we have accomplished in the first part of the 2023-2024 school year. The stories, experiences and achievements of our students throughout this newsletter demonstrates what this great district is made of and it is evident that we all care about our students and community.

You may have noticed recently that many districts are advertising various vacant positions in education throughout Macomb County. L'Anse Creuse, along with many neighboring school districts, are working to fill vital positions in their schools and we continually strive to recruit new staff. I would like to take a moment and speak to my personal experience here at L'Anse Creuse, and encourage individuals to join the team I have been a part of for over 25 years. I began as a Science teacher in the district and, to this day, feel L'Anse Creuse is and will continue to be an academically successful and forward-thinking district for students of all ages. L'Anse Creuse offers mentoring and leadership programs for internal

promotion and professional development; we strongly believe in supporting personal growth. The family culture in this district is very evident and is a driving force when advocating for the best interest and well-being of both students and staff members. I am proud to be a part of this great district, and encourage others who are just starting out or looking to make a change to choose L'Anse Creuse. If you, or someone you know, would like to make a difference in the lives of students while working with highly talented staff, please consider joining L'Anse Creuse and shape the future with us! Please visit our Human Resources page for open positions that are available: [https://www.lc-
ps.org/departments/human-resources/](https://www.lc-ps.org/departments/human-resources/).

I am also happy to share with you the newly adopted Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board of Education in September. With the help of our parents, staff, and community members, we identified seven focus areas and developed a long-term plan for the district. The areas of focus are: Curriculum, Instruction & Learning, Student & Staff Inclusion & Well-Being, Safety & Facilities, Fine Arts & Extracurricular, Community Engagement & Education, and Technology. The new plan outlines our commitment in providing a successful learning environment for our students, while also ensuring the well-being of our staff and community. I am proud of the work that has been done and I would like to thank those who participated in the Strategic Plan process. Please visit the website to view the new Strategic Plan brochure.

2023-2024 Hall of Distinction Inductees

Cynthia A. Broad

"I Touch the Future: I Teach." Cynthia Ann Broad profoundly touched the future of special needs students. In 1970, she accepted an offer from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, intrigued by the opportunity for her vision of bringing special needs and regular education students together to learn. She spearheaded the development of a Special Education Elementary Curriculum Guide, the first in Macomb County, and wrote the program "Language Experience for Middle School Non-Readers." Cynthia was the State of Michigan Teacher of the Year for 1989, becoming the first special education teacher to receive the honor. In 1990, she was honored with the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, and in 1994, the publication *Women's Voices in Our Time: Statements by American Leaders* featured Cynthia and her accomplishments.

Melvin A. Miller

Melvin "Mel" A. Miller exemplifies what it means to be a true educator. In 1974, Mel joined L'Anse Creuse Public Schools as a social studies teacher at Middle School – North and quickly became an incredible role model for his students and colleagues. His dedication to students and social studies resulted in him being chosen as the 1981 Michigan Teacher of the Year, becoming the first L'Anse Creuse teacher to receive the distinction. Mel's passion for social studies led him to the MISD in 1984, where he became the Coordinator for Social Studies Curriculum and helped improve instruction for students and educators across the county. Melvin Miller has an incredible history of encouraging and supporting his colleagues and students, as well as working at the district, local, and state level to help promote and develop the social studies curriculum for the school community.

Shining a Light: Special Education

Showcasing the Special Education staff and the work they do for students.

The Special Education staff in L'Anse Creuse contribute so much time and effort year-round to support a variety of students with differing ability levels, however the work they do often goes unseen. Despite this, the 178 Special Education staff members support, engage, and encourage their students every day, yielding results that last a lifetime.

There are 1,388 students who currently fall under the Special Ed. Department's care. The department's wide range of positions, including social workers, speech pathologists, paraprofessionals, and teachers, aim to educate each student and support their academic, social, and emotional needs.

Social workers make up one branch of the department and work with both Special Education and general education students. For Crystal Polderdyke, social worker at Middle School – Central, the field is about advocating for students and providing both a figurative and literal voice for them.

"Kids just need breaks," she said. "They get upset, they don't know how to regulate their emotions, so they just need a safe space to decompress, talk about what happened, and then go back to class."

Polderdyke's caseload of roughly 70 students consists of autistic and cognitively impaired children, as well as gen. ed. students dealing with grief, divorce, depression, and anxiety. Students come to her office as needed for help, and she assists them with their issues and provides coping skills to help get them through their day.

A large part of a social worker's job consists of teaching social and emotional skills and coping mechanisms. Social skills include being able to hold a conversation and make friends, while the emotional aspect is meant to help students understand and regulate their emotions to thrive in different environments.

For Carrie Thompson, social worker at L'Anse Creuse High School, the impact of the social and emotional learning is incredibly rewarding to witness.

"I had some freshman last year that wouldn't even talk in group—they'd sit there and observe," she said. "But they're talking this year, and they have friends, and they know how to interact with their same-age peers. The long-term is just seeing them grow into young adults that can be successful in the real world."

Even with her large caseload of 90 students, Thompson loves what she does, loves all her students, and loves seeing the progress they make. The work of social workers, she said, is super important for students dealing with mental health problems and students with disabilities, particularly autism, to succeed both in and out of school.

The field of Special Education is ever-expanding, meaning the staff are always learning new ways to help their students. Rebecca Campbell, a speech pathologist at Marie C. Graham Elementary and Middle School – North, said her job has made her a "Jack of all Trades" since the field is so diverse.

On her caseload, she sees students who have articulation disabilities, language disorders, fluency disorders, and voice disorders, all of which impact a student's ability to communicate and socialize with their teacher and peers.

"Every kid is so different," she said. "It's just like a puzzle trying to figure out what exactly is going on. It makes every day exciting."

At the elementary level, Campbell regularly calls down several groups of kids during her day to participate in activities and games to strengthen their communication and comprehension skills. During her days at Middle School - North, she focuses more on providing tools for teachers and students to support classroom learning without taking a student out of class.

Campbell enjoys seeing her students and watching them progress, but she also really loves meetings with parents. She said she will often have a student from kindergarten through 5th grade, sometimes even having a student's siblings, and gets to know a student's family very closely.

"I enjoy being able to talk to parents," she said, "educating them on things they can do, educating them on what their student's disability really is. When parents are on board and they're helping at home, that's when you actually see progress in students."

Some students with more extensive needs qualify to be placed in a Cognitive Impairment (CI) or Emotional Impairment (EI) classroom. These classrooms are run by a teacher and several paraprofessionals who are there to provide the extra support a student is not able to receive in a general education classroom.

Lyndsey Lawrence is an EI teacher at Green Elementary and said emotional impairment is seen by many as a textbook label, but the team at Green understands that EI students just experience their emotions differently than other kids.

Typically, their day involves a lot of small groups, occasional one-on-one work, and breaks between each activity to help take pressure off the kids and help them self-regulate their emotions better. Students also participate in specials, like gym class, and even have gen. ed. buddies who play, socialize, and help them throughout class. This partnership helps the EI students, but also helps Gen. Ed. students understand their peers better.

"We're trying to change the narrative; it's not where the bad kids go, it's not where the behavior problems are dumped," she said, "it's where relationships are formed, and love is grown, and understanding is fostered."

Lawrence views her classroom as a "beautiful messy little family" which could not function without the work of the paraprofessionals. She said they are an extension of herself, and the world of Special Education could not run without them.

Carla DeAngelis is an EI parapro at Green Elementary and works alongside Lyndsey Lawrence. She said being a paraprofessional is something most people do by choice; not because they went to school to do it, not because they have a long family legacy of doing it, and not because it makes any money. Paraprofessionals are here, not only to support the staff and teachers, but also to support the kids in a way no other adult they meet can do in a one-on-one manner.

"There's something to be said about falling in love, and I get to do it every single time I meet one of these kids," said DeAngelis.

Mya Taormino, a parapro in the CI classroom at South River Elementary, said there is a lot of work her and other paraprofessionals do that others might not realize. Paraprofessionals, she said, work with the students, learn how to communicate with them, figure out how best to help each student, and provide tools for the student to continue growth at home and throughout the school year.

“We are so very grateful for all of the dynamic professional staff members that make up the special education department,” Director and Supervisor of Special Education, Nancy Supanich and Kim Criner said. “Their strong collaborative work offers a continuum of care and services that is both comprehensive and effective.”

Did you know? The Special Education Department has been enriched by great leaders over the years. The Special Education office is located in the Harry L. Wheeler Center and is dedicated in honor of Dr. Harold C. Siebert who began as the Director of Special Education in 1969. Dr. Siebert was instrumental in ensuring every child in L’Anse Creuse received an appropriate curriculum.

Learning in Action

A crucial part of the learning process is to put those topics to use through fun projects, games, and experiences. This section is dedicated to showcasing all the wonderful things teachers are doing with their students to help solidify the topics they are learning about in class. Check out all the fun ways L’Anse Creuse students are learning in action!

Book Vending Machine

On October 11, Francis A. Higgins Elementary held a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new book vending machine. The vending machine is a one-of-a-kind, personalized educational tool available to all students at the school. It will be used as a positive incentive for students, encouraging reading and promoting good behavior and empathy towards their peers.

The funding for the machine came entirely from the “Hawk Walk,” with the Higgins community raising an impressive \$8,000 for the school.

“We stocked it full of picture books and chapter books, then students will earn tokens for their kindness around the school to use in the book vending machine,” Principal Susan Trebilcock said. “The students were so excited to try to earn enough to get this machine.”

Medieval Catapults

On October 9 and 10, students at the DiAnne M. Pellerin Center built their very own catapults fashioned after those built in medieval times. Students in Mr. Barck’s World History class were learning about the Middle Ages and the technology people used during that historical period. As a means of understanding this technology, students made catapults out of spoons, rubber bands, and popsicle sticks to show differing methods of launching a projectile, or in this case a marshmallow, gummy bear, or mint.

This fun project was not only a way to better understand the catapults themselves, it also led to a better understanding of how wars were fought and why defensive buildings, such as castles, needed high walls to defend against barbarian invaders.

Anne of Green Gables

On October 27 and 28, Pankow Performing Arts students put on their production of Anne of Green Gables. The production was the L’Anse Creuse debut for Gregory Trzaskoma, the new Theatre teacher at the Frederick V. Pankow Center, and included 42 students. According to Trzaskoma, the production came together in a matter of weeks, having only started the audition process at the beginning of September.

“The students came together as a fine ensemble under some pretty big-time pressure,” Trzaskoma said. “The students have been very eager to learn and cooperative, and they bring a tremendous energy and spirit.”

The production, adapted from L.M. Montgomery’s beloved novel, followed the adventures of Anne Shirley, a young orphan girl adopted by a pair of elder siblings in need of help on their farm.

Physics Roller Coaster

As part of their section on Newton's Laws of Motion, students in Mr. Michell's class at Middle School - East built their very own roller coasters. The coasters were built entirely out of cardstock and tape, and the goal was to have a marble make it all the way to the end without falling out. According to Mr. Michell, the students took the materials he provided and designed their own coasters. Some students chose a theme for their coaster, while others focused on how tall they could make the coaster.

The end result after three weeks of designing and building was a room full of roller coasters, all of which were made of the same materials, but were otherwise completely unique to each pair of students.

Did you know? The name for Emma V. Lobbestael Elementary School was chosen to honor Miss Emma V. Lobbestael, a dedicated employee of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district. "Miss Emma" as she was fondly known to many L'Anse Creuse boys and girls, began her career in 1942 as a cook and part-time custodian.

Persuasive Writing and Pies

Mrs. Christman, a 2nd grade teacher at Graham Elementary, has found a fun way to keep her students engaged in their writing. Since the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Christman has paired tasty treats with writing projects. This fun activity is more than just a reward; it’s an incentive so students look forward to their writing assignments instead of dreading them. For the month of November, students were writing persuasive pieces, with the end goal of persuading their classmates why their favorite restaurant was good. Students paired up, read their piece aloud, and gave their reading partner feedback. Afterwards, students were rewarded with their November treat – a slice of cherry, pumpkin, or apple pie!

Pankow Construction

Construction Technology is one of the CTE courses at the Frederick V. Pankow Center, introducing high school students to the construction industry. This is one of the most hands-on courses at Pankow, resulting in students having a great understanding of the construction trades. Students are also given the opportunity to earn a variety of certifications throughout the course, such as the Home Builder’s Association of Michigan certificate, as well as additional micro-credentials.

Projects include corn hole boards, a mock house, dog houses, deer blinds and more. The student projects are often up for sale at the end of the year.

Carkenord Girls on the Run

As students get closer to starting middle school, it is important for them to learn how to work on their mental, physical, and emotional well-being so they can thrive as they get older. At Joseph M. Carkenord

Elementary, the Girls on the Run club aspires to help young girls build confidence, have fun, and build strong relationships with their peers.

The after school club was new to the school this year, and included running practice and life lessons in each meeting. All their hard work led up to a 5k, which took place on November 19 at Belle Isle.

“Girls on the Run is the best after school activity that I have ever been too,” said club member, Karina D. “I made lots of new friends and had a great time doing it.”

Lunch Around the World

On November 20, students in the EL Classroom at Middle School - North filled their plates with cultural food made by the families of their classmates. Every student signed up to bring a traditional meal they enjoy with their families, their families, resulting in a lunch consisting of treats from around the world!

This feast was a great opportunity for EL students to learn about their peers and the different countries they're from. Among the dishes were Vietnamese coconut cookies, homemade Chinese dumplings, authentic Polish pancakes, Mexican tamales, and so many more!

“Everyone was so proud and excited to try everything,” EL Paraprofessional Carla Russo said. “It truly united everyone.”

The Season of Giving

This time of year is all about giving back to those around us, whether it be friends, family, or the community. The students and staff in L'Anse Creuse have been working hard since the beginning of November to give back to their community during the holidays.

At Middle School - East, student council members have been collecting cans, toys, and winter-wear since November 16. So far the school has collect over 500 cans and more than one full box of unwrapped new toys. The drive runs through mid-December, after which all the collected items will be donated to Goodfellows to be distributed to the community.

At Middle School - Central, the Lancer Villages and Houses program (LVH), worked on holiday-themed cards to send out to those in the community. Mrs. Cavalier's class made cards for ill children, Mrs. Riske's class made “Thinking of You” cards for a local nursing home, and Mrs. Gschmeidler's room made a “Today is a Good Day” collaborative poster for veterans.

L'Anse Creuse Fall Athletics

High School Accomplishments

Fall sports have officially wrapped and we are so proud of all of our high school athletes and the strides they made this year for themselves and their schools. This page is dedicated to covering the middle and high school athletes and their accomplishments.

This year, L'Anse Creuse High School - North athletes were able to play on their brand new football field and track, which was completed in September. Starting in November, the football field and track at L'Anse Creuse High School began to undergo the same transformation, and the Lancers are excited to use their new field this spring.

Cross Country

Lancer Aiden Daly and Crusader brothers Dylan and Brandon Penberthy qualified for State finals. The brothers from L'Anse Creuse High School - North placed 6th and 9th respectively.

Swim

Lancer Sophomore Miley Mieczkowski represented the Lancers at the Swim State Finals in Holland, Michigan. She swam a speedy 1:02:23 at counties in the 100 Fly to qualify for states.

Volleyball

Both high schools had a fantastic year in volleyball. The Lancer Varsity Team were the MAC Gold Division Champions and the Crusader Varsity Team were District and Regional Champions, with the High School - North team making it all the way to the quarterfinals match.

Tennis

Crusader Aaron Glefke was selected as a All-Macomb County Dream Team singles player, and fellow Crusaders Drew Kozel and Jack Caverly were selected as All-Macomb County Dream Team Doubles players.

Middle School Sports

The L'Anse Creuse Middle School athletic program is a great opportunity for middle school students to practice and hone their skills to prepare for high school, but it is also a chance to make friends, stay active, and engage in school spirit and pride. For their fall athletics, middle school students from each of our four schools were able to participate in girls volleyball, boys football, and even club cheerleading. Great job to all our coaches, athletes and parents for how well they all represent LCPS Athletics. Our middle school athletes had a great year of growth and the future of L'Anse Creuse athletics looks bright!

High School Highlights

The Marching Lancers competed at MCBA State Finals and placed 3rd in the state, marking the 7th time the band has medaled in program history. The color guard and percussion both placed 2nd in their individual captions.

Tennis player Aaron Glefke is the first LCHS - North tennis player to qualify for the State tournament since 2008, and finished with a record of 17-5. Morgan Jones finished 13th out of 108 at the Division 1 State finals in golf, and is the only girl golfer in the last eight years to qualify from LCHS-N.

The LCHS-N Varsity Volleyball Team defeated the Eisenhower team on November 9 to claim the title of Regional Champions. This season, Junior Kate Schneider broke the school record for career blocks and Junior Jadeyn Bisdorf broke the school record for assists, with 2,108 total career assists.

The Lancer Varsity Football Team made the playoffs for the second year in a row. This achievement followed the team's win over their rivals, the Crusaders.

L'Anse Creuse Public School presents the Stellar Students. Leading By example...

October

Atwood: Giuliana, Middle School – Central: Annie, LC High School: Mikaela

November

Anna Mae Burdi: Raelynn, Carkenord: Nora, Middle School – East: Angelina, LC High School – North: Landon

December

Graham: Nora, Middle School – North: Chance, Pankow: Lakia

Congratulations to our Stellar Students!

Community Education Classes and Upcoming Events

Are you or someone you know interested in learning a new skill, joining a fitness class, or attending fun events and tours? Look no further! L'Anse Creuse Community Education is enrolling right now for a variety of classes and events for people of all ages. Scan the QR code below to visit the Community Education page and sign up for something new and fun today!

Youth Classes:

- Music Lessons: Guitar, Piano, Violin and Voice lessons
- Babysitter/CPR/First Aid & Safe Home Alone
- Middle School Competitive Cheer
- Middle School and Youth Wrestling
- Competitive Swim program

Adult Classes:

- Variety of fitness classes
- Music Lessons including: Guitar, Piano & Ukulele
- "All in the Palm of your Hand"
- "Intro to Tarot Cards"

Trips and Tours

- Log Home & Christmas Tree tour with lunch
- Masonic Temple tour with lunch
- "Murder on the Orient" show @ WSU with lunch
- Donuts at the DSO "Lush Life with Duke Ellington"
- Donuts at the DSO "Red Carper Film Scores"

For more information visit <https://lc-ps.ce.eleyo.com/courses/category/10/community-education>

Join L'Anse Creuse and Shape the Future with us!

We are seeking passionate individuals who would like to make a difference in the lives of students. Here at L'Anse Creuse, we are known for our "family" culture and everyone is committed to the success of all students. Apply now and become part of one of the strongest districts in Macomb County, surrounded by highly talented staff who work everyday to provide the best education our future deserves! There are a wide range of positions available. If you have questions, please call the Human Resources Office at (586) 783 6300 ext. 1213 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We have a need for the following positions:

- Custodial
- Maintenance
- Crossing Guards
- Special Education
- Bus Drivers
- Food Service
- Paraprofessionals
- Clerical

For more information visit <https://www.lc-ps.org/departments/human-resources/>

The L'Anse Creuse News is published quarterly by Katelyn Hill, Community Relations Coordinator, for the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community.

For more L'Anse Creuse News, follow us on:

@livinglansecrease

<https://www.lc-ps.org/>

www.facebook.com/LanseCreusePublicSchools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hilary Dubay President

Adam Lipski Vice President

Sharon Ross Secretary

Amelia Servial Treasurer

John Da Via Trustee

Al Doss Trustee

Shane Sellers Trustee

Erik Edoff Superintendent