

Community High School District #117

ACHS

Headlines

April 2009

LCHS



*From the Desk of
Dr. Jay Sabatino, Superintendent*

Into every life some rain must fall...April showers bring May flowers...perception is reality. These quotes reflect everyone's philosophy of life at some time. When it's stormy outside, it's hard to see the silver lining in the clouds, despite our knowing that spring rain feeds the vegetation and replenishes our water supply. In our district, and others around us, we find ourselves in some stormy weather. I'm sure the economy has affected you and will continue to affect you, particularly if the proposed state income tax increase is approved. Nevertheless, I choose to focus on all weather patterns, not just the storms.

For example, Lakes' gym floor, as most of you know, began warping in January; and we've had to close the facility since that time. Our staff and students responded positively by making use of alternative sites, some inside the building and some at locations miles away from Lakes. Despite being inconvenienced, they have not complained. Rather, they've cooperated with the staff at ACHS and other sites; when they get their gym back this summer, they will have weathered the storm and will understand that great facilities can't always be taken for granted.

Another example is how Lakes and ACHS have continued to educate their students despite some alarming economic news impacting us and many school districts in our area. Walk through the buildings and you'll see students working hard in class, teachers improving their curriculums and the delivery of instruction, students performing well in the fine arts, and teams competing to the best of their abilities. At the time of this writing, we even have one student running for the office of Mayor in Antioch! Everyone here is choosing to focus on the areas they have some control of, knowing that storms simply make the sunny days more enjoyable.

So, enjoy the stormy spring weather, anticipate the sunny summer, and consider what it must be like to be a Cubs fan!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay Sabatino
Superintendent

Project CRISS



Dr. David Moyer
Assistant Superintendent

The acronym CRISS stands for CReating Independence through Student-owned Strategies. Project CRISS is an organization by teachers for teachers whose purpose is to promote research-supported instructional strategies for both students and teachers. These strategies primarily focus on literacy but are applicable to all subject areas. While CRISS provides teachers with a wealth of ideas to utilize when planning instruction, it emphasizes a metacognitive approach to learning, with the ultimate goal being that students take ownership of their own learning and actually learn how they learn best.

District 117 is close to achieving its goal of having 100% of its teachers CRISS-trained. Prior to my arrival, trainings were held on Saturdays, and teachers were paid with grant money to attend training. Now that the majority of our experienced teachers have been trained, the method of training has been changed. Currently, all second-year teachers automatically receive training on Institute Days. This ensures that all of our teachers will eventually be trained and frees up grant money to be used for other purposes.

Lakes Principal, Jim McKay, and Guidance Director, Cheryl Cox, are certified trainers and facilitate the training for the district. Departments and buildings intermittently share and reinforce CRISS strategies during meeting and staff development times. Additionally, I send out a monthly E-mail highlighting a specific strategy as a means of helping teachers to continue to focus on trying and implementing new strategies.

Recently, Donna Corcoran, Amber Cornelius, and Kristen Paul attended Level II training and lead the on-going, internal efforts in each building. These three teachers are aiming to become certified CRISS trainers in the near future.

Some examples of CRISS strategies include pre-reading, graphic organizers, summary writing, and partner and group activities. This is a mere sampling of the strategies available to CRISS trained teachers. CRISS is a very practical and powerful framework for effective instruction, and a very important part of the district's efforts to improve student achievement.

Antioch Community High School



GOOD TO GREAT AT ACHS

*Mike Nekritz
Principal*



With the weather finally changing, we can enjoy nature's rebirth and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us. We can easily forget how simple pleasures can inspire us. Spring symbolizes growth, energy, and hope. The young people at ACHS inspire these same sentiments. ACHS students have been busy in the classroom, in extra-curricular activities, and within the community. Their actions have continued to promote a great school climate where success leads to personal growth and more success. Enjoy the recent happenings described below. *Every day is a good day to be a Sequoit.*

ACADEMICS:

- Our School Improvement Plan continues to direct our efforts. Departments have focused students' efforts to write 'one sentence summaries' and interpret charts and graphs. Recently, students have developed and administered a climate survey to our student body. This group, led by **Dalton Lukasik, Luke Toczek, Kelsey Green, Amber Dalgaard, Ariel Pontikes, Mignon Rademan, Blythe Roberson, Amanda Rominiecki, Katie Brito, and Nikhita Gupta**, will present their findings to our faculty in late April.



Math students work in groups on Pi Day

- All honors math students took part in **American Mathematics Competition** this past February. In the past only a select group had participated in the exam. Our **Math and Science Departments** have been working together to better align our Algebra I and Physics First curriculum. Their efforts led to the fewest failures by freshmen in these departments.



Congresswoman Melissa Bean shares some insights with our government classes

- Finesse, our award winning literary magazine, is ready for production. The group is led by editors **Jordan Palmer** and **Chelsea McCurry** and key staff members **Natalie Moore** and **Kathryn Kowalczyk**. **Alyse Mercereau** has provided exceptional editing.

- Over 150 students will be taking over 250 Advanced Placement exams in May. We are happy to see some growth in this area. Enrollment for next year continues this positive trend. A few individuals have received some great awards as well. **Blythe Roberson** and **Mignon Rademan** are National Merit Finalists and Blythe is also a finalist for the Presidential Scholarship Award. **Katie Budd** and **Katrina Holm** will be recognized by the Illinois Principals Association for their positive contribution to the school climate.

- Seniors have been busy applying to college with **Northern Illinois, Loyola, University of Illinois, and Illinois State University** being the top choices of four-year institutions. We have seen an increase in our projected enrollment at College of Lake County with many citing financial limitation as a major factor.

- The English Department offers kudos to **Brook Witt** for her outstanding presentation in Ms. Todd's class infusing technology with her speech, and to **Erica Bubolz** and **Fritz Go** for their culture project on life in the Philippines in Ms. Taylor's class.

•Academic clubs have also thrived with DECA leading the way. **Cody England** qualified for the National Competition in Automotive Service while **John Ottinger, Zach Wilfert, Greg Geddes,** and **Cade England** also performed well at the state meet. **Model UN** will compete for the first time in April. ACHS will be representing Pakistan at the competition while our WYSE club will have its science competition in May.

•To promote diversity, ACHS held its second annual blues concert. Students read about Chicago and the civil rights movement and learned about the history of music. The professional band then spent time with the ACHS musicians to discuss the industry and life as entertainers.



District #117 students jam with Vernon Harrington and the Atomic Blues Band

ATHLETICS AND THE ARTS:

•The **IHSA** announced its fall **All-academic teams** and ACHS qualified in **Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, and Girls Tennis.** Individual North Suburban All-Academic Athletes for the winter include **Alyssa Alvarez, Allie Antilla, Martha Arntson, Helena Bernardo, Katie Budd, Brennan Casey, Hannalee Go, Andy Green, Katrina Holm, Rebecca Huebner, Samantha Kraft, Miranda Linco, Samantha Paddock, Megan Petty, Jen Precht, Erin Schoenfelder, and Keeley Thode.**



The drum line thrills the crowd with their 'garbage can' show

•**Spring athletic participation increased 11%** from last year. There are more students participating in virtually every activity compared to last year.

•The Speech Team placed fifth at the IHSA Regional Competition. **Cara Lamusga,** who placed third in Radio Speaking, and **Andrew Livermore** and **Sammi Abear,** who placed third in Humorous Duet Acting, advanced to the Sectional Tournament on Feb. 14th.

•After winning the Sectional, senior wrestler **Tom Gerstner** captured second place at the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament. Seven other wrestlers advanced to the sectional with junior **Kevin Knutson** finishing fourth.

•The Cheerleading Team continued its dominating ways, capturing seventh at the state meet. This marks the fourth consecutive year they have finished in the top eight teams. Captains for the team were **Brittany Geweke, Karissa Kolle,** and **Jamie Tindall.**

•The Dance Team also qualified for the IDA State Tournament finishing fourth in kick and seventh in hip hop categories. **Emily Ortiz, Miranda Linco,** and **Keeley Thode** are the captains of this group.

•Girls Bowling won first place at the Sectional Tournament, rolling past 15 other teams to advance to the state finals in Rockford where they placed thirteenth. **Symantha Rolph, Alyssa Alvarez, Kaitlyn Trusky,** and **Kim Childress** were among the top bowlers in the tournament. Junior **Kaitlyn Trusky** was the NSC tournament medalist.



Dress Code Infraction won the Battle of the Bands

- Several ACHS athletes recently signed their national letters of intent to play college sports on full scholarships. **Cameron White** will play football for Eastern Illinois University, and **Ashley Mysliwicz** will pitch at Iowa Wesleyan.

- At the IHSA Music Solo & Ensemble Contest, ACHS students performed well. We had 50 solos and ensembles, involving around 100 students. We received 27 Division I and 21 Division II ratings. The Jazz Choir followed up these contests with performance in Branson, Missouri, opening for two main stage acts.

- All-state track** athletes traveled to compete in the Illinois Prep Top Times Indoor Classic. **Erin Schoenfelder** finished fourth in hurdles, **Brent Jones** placed fourth in the triple jump, **Tyler Woolard** finished sixth in the shot put, and **Cameron White** finished eighth in the 55m sprint. The 4x200m relay team of **Jay Hagert, Devonte Miller, Oscar Segura** and **Cameron White** placed fifth in the state.

- Under the direction of Wanda Teddy and Debbie Rummel, ACHS students performed *Endangered Species* before the entire student body. The play depicts the realities of teenage choices and sexuality. The show was well received by the whole school. Outside groups have even asked the crew to perform the show for them. Cast members include **Dylan Zobel, Mark Ano, Erik Peters, Nancy Bell, Brittany Hartl, Scott Segal, Andrew Livermore, Sam Gutmiedl, Heather Bednar, Sarah Aiello, Tiffany Stella,** and **Taylor Coull.**



Endangered Species cast portrays asked tough questions for our students to consider

SETTING THE TONE FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- The Reach Out and Read Book Drive surpassed its goals and collected more than 2,000 children’s books, exceeding last year’s total of 1,351 books. Students from four different classes joined forces to carry out the drive, which aims to promote reading by giving away books to children five years old and younger at pediatric primary care facilities. Cooperative Work Training students collected the distribution boxes on Friday and began counting and sorting books. Sales and Marketing classes devised the theme for the drive last semester, while Business Marketing and Management students carried out the plan this spring. JILG students coordinated fundraising offering prizes as incentives to donate.

- The Blood Drive continues to exceed all expectations with the latest day bringing in over 330 pints. **Nicole Worswick, Joe Utter,** and **Ashley Mysliwicz** served as student volunteers for the event.

- Our efforts to promote active citizenship seem to have resonated with students and community members. Congresswoman Melissa Bean visited ACHS to discuss her experiences in Congress, while government students have been holding mock congresses in class. ACHS senior **Erik Peters,** vying for Antioch mayor, is currently the youngest official candidate in Illinois.



The ACHS Blood Drive continues to set the bar for number of donations for the area

●ACHS coaches have been busy promoting their sports in the community. Baseball, basketball, and wrestling have all held coaching clinics.

●During our spring musical, *Guys and Dolls*, we are hosting our first 'Grandparents Day' on April 30th. Juniors and seniors can bring a mentor with them to school to share their experiences and see the musical. Student Council will be holding its annual *Sharing is Caring* 'dinner and a show' for area retirement communities.

●We are extremely pleased that **less than 1%** of all hair tests for drug use have tested positive, a trend that has remained consistent over the last four years. This is the one test where negatives are positives.

●ACHS is once again taking part in the Federal Reserve's *Money Smart Week*. From 7:00-9:00 pm on April 20th, we will hold an event entitled Understanding Basic Finance in which students, parents, and community members are invited to discuss with professionals the key ideas in maintaining and building financial success. State Bank of the Lakes is our partner in this endeavor.



Ashley signs her 'full ride' scholarship



Students collect books for our Reach Out and Read program

●Book Clubs continue to thrive at ACHS with twenty seven staff members reading and discussing *The Book Thief*. Many students read and collectively examined the best seller *Twilight*. Stay tuned for our next community book choice.

For more information about ACHS, visit our website at www.sequoits.com.



GO SEQUOITS!

Lakes Community High School



LAKES EAGLES EXCELLENCE



Jim McKay
Principal

It's March Madness time! While this term is typically used to describe the excitement associated with the college basketball playoffs, it can also refer to our busy yet exciting spring schedule. Seniors are dreaming of graduation and are making their final decisions on colleges or post-secondary options, likely realizing their time in high school is quickly coming to an end. Juniors have been prepared to exceed standards on the Prairie State Achievement Test (PSAE) and ACT that is scheduled for this April. Our sophomores and freshmen have had the opportunity to consider classes for next year and are now enrolled. So, while there is much to celebrate, there is still much to accomplish. I hope you can join us for some of our spring events. The following represent some of our most recent accomplishments that contribute to our **Eagle Excellence**.

Academics:

- Approximately 20% (59 students) of the Senior class received the **Prairie State Achievement Award** for exceeding the Illinois State Academic Standards on the **Prairie State Achievement Exam** that was given last spring. The following students achieved this award: Erika Alto, Andrew Amundson, Laura Ban, Matthew Beadle, Jacob Bowen, Mathew Braden, Marcus Brandt, Taylor Breum, Devin Brookover, Amanda Brown, Sarah Brown, William Brown, Melissa Buehler, Brittany Clark, Forrest Clements, Mariah Donner, Michael Donner, Andrew Dooley, Gerard Dziedzic, John Gardiner, Kaitlyn Goth, Rebecca Helgeson, Lauren Hennelly, Ryan Hill, Adam Hoefflich, Justin Hotle, Raven Jackson-Stone, Michael Jarrell, Jeremy Joyce, Suzanne Krajca, Amanda Kramer, Shawn Lebaron, Jesse Lundgren, Mark McGinnis, Hunter McKenzie, Kali Miller, Octavia Morton, Jason Nikkila, Aaron Oliver, Joshua Oppenheim, Stephanie Pease, Kristopher Posedel, Allison Reding, Morgan Robinson, Rebecca Ryan, Benjamin Schnurbusch, Michael Scott, Daniel Seay, David Sewell, Joseph Shannon, Miranda Sherwin, Zachary Stanley, Kaela Talley, Naomie Tesar, Jenna Vanderwall, Paul Vickers, Anthony Ward, George Wilson, Brian Ziolk. Outstanding!!

- Congratulations are in order for both Rebecca Helgeson and Raven Jackson-Stone have earned \$2500 **National Merit Scholarships**. From more than 1.5 million students that entered the 2009 National Merit Program, only 16,000 were named Semifinalists. All winners of about 8,200 National Merit Scholarships are being chosen from the group of approximately 15,000 distinguished Finalists. We are very proud of their academic accomplishments.

- Approximately 77% of our seniors have applied to some form of post-secondary education. We anticipate that over 85% will attend post-secondary education.

- As evidence of our effort to increase academic rigor, we have more than a 40% improvement in students taking **Advanced Placement** exams and the number of total exams scheduled to be taken have increased by 45%. Our students continue to push themselves toward higher achievement!



Lakes' Technical Campus students practice performing nursing assistant skills



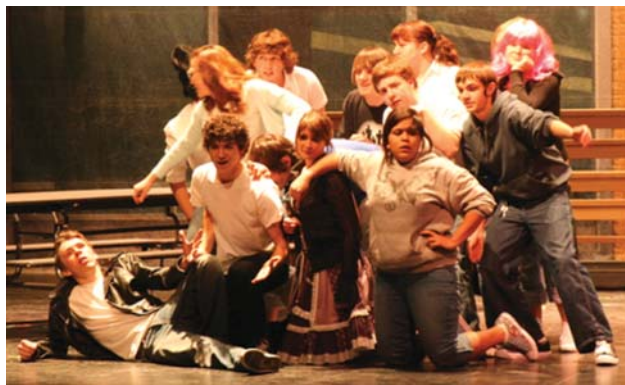
More than 230 elementary students took part in our Math Fair this year which is far greater than previous years

Arts: Visual Arts

• Later this semester top visual art students will be participating in area art shows. The North Suburban Art Show, May 1, at Lake Zurich High School, is a chance to compete against other visual art students from area high schools. The Antioch Women's Club Art Show, May 5 at LCHS, is a District 117 event which also includes artwork from sender schools.

Theater

• *Grease was the word!!* We hope you all had a chance to our winter musical Grease. Both the Friday and Saturday evening performances sold out, which was a first at LCHS. Also, through the excellent casting of Director Bridget Sundin, vocal teacher Tom Vendafreddo and pit band director Matthew Kastor made their LCHS stage debuts!



Grease is the word!
Lakes musical performed to multiple sellout crowds for the first time

• The spring play, *A Lie of the Mind* by Sam Shepard, is a landmark play which, in the words of the New York Times, "...is the unmistakable expression of a major writer nearing the height of his powers." Filled with enormous vitality, the play explores the destinies of two families, linked by marriage but set apart by jealousies and distrust, to probe into the human heart and the destructiveness which it can engender." This play has won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award.

• In coordination with this production, the drama department will be raising money to help **A Safe Place** in Waukegan.

Music

• March is deemed **Music in Our Schools Month** by the Music Educators National Conference. In observance of that LCHS enjoyed music several different ways. Throughout the month music played during passing periods. Each week was a different decade of American popular music. Everything from the Beach Boys to ABBA to Nirvana piped through the school. On Fridays, the Café rang out with live music. A karaoke machine was brought in for two of the days, while the Jazz Band and Jazz Choirs performed during another.



Shawn LeBaron practices his solo ensemble

• The music department also had two performances and a competition during the month of March. The Symphonic Band and selected Solo and Ensemble Contest participants were featured in a March 19 engagement, while the Jazz Band and Jazz Choir swung their way through the LCHS Café for **Jazz Night** on March 26. The department also brought more than 40 solo and ensemble performances to the **Northshore Festival of Music** at Northwestern University on March 21. Twelve of those earned perfect scores; the rest earned first and second place ratings. For solo pieces, perfect score winners included Kaela Talley, Tatianna Forney, Amanda Bay, Rebecca Bowen, Shannon Wibright, and Lachlann Swanson. The perfect score ensembles included Brandon Stanley and Bryan Christopher; Kali Miller and Shannon Miller; Tom Knowles and Robert Nelson; Matt Broniec, Nora Bock and Rob Kerpan; the Chamber Choir; and Laura Gorski, Brittany Evans, Laura Ban, and Candice Workman. A complete list of performers and their scores can be accessed through the LCHS webpage. We are very proud of the great talent!

• On March 22, 2009, our Fine Arts circle got a little smaller. Trusted colleague, friend and educator Jeff Hoke passed away at the age of 42. Jeff had been with LCHS since its inception as the percussion instructor. He also founded the Lindenhurst based L.e.a.P. organization which stands for "Learning Everything about Percussion". Jeff is survived by his wife Beth and daughters Kelly and Sarah. He will truly be missed.

• Stay in touch with the Fine Arts Department through the LCHS webpage. Go to www.lakeseagles.com, then select "Activities" and scroll down to "Art, Band, Choir or Drama."

Athletics:

- Our Dance Team placed 4th and 7th in their categories at the state competition.
- Matt Holmes is District 117 **first state wrestling champion!!** Matt won the state wrestling title at 135 lbs this past month. Congratulations Matt.



Girls Eagle Soccer Team practice their skills

•For the very first time our **Math Team**, coached by Scott Leverentz, will be competing in the State Math Contest finals in Champaign in May. Our Algebra I Team and our Freshman /Soph Team both earned spots down state.

•Spring sports numbers are equivalent to last year's participation. Approximately 370 student athletes are participating in a spring sport.

•Our spring teams are off to a strong start! Come support our teams as they compete for a strong finish.



Boys Track Team prepares for the spring season

Community Outreach:

•The gift of Life! **The Lakes Eagles Blood Drive** produced over 330 units of blood breaking the previous record which WE held! As a result of our blood donation, Lakes will receive approximately \$7000 in scholarship money.

•More than 1,000 pounds of food collected during spring drive. Two first period classes won a doughnut or ice cream party for bringing in the most items during Student Council's Spring into Action Food Drive, which ended March 26.

Luke Mertens' Senior Composition class and Tina Kupsco's Spanish II Honors class collected the most food donations throughout the week-long drive.

The school's efforts resulted in more than 1,015 pounds of food being donated to the Open Arms Mission in Antioch. The school community also helped out the Open Arms Mission this month by creating hundreds of Easter bunny baskets for local families. Many sports teams and clubs were involved in the second annual effort to give back to the community during Easter.

•Please consider supporting Lakes Community High School by joining us on Saturday, April 25th at the Antioch Golf Club for our Third Annual Lakes Eagles Booster Bash. All proceeds go back to enriching the programs and experiences of our students.



Student Council members load food donations

For more information on Lakes Community High School, please visit our website at www.lakeseagles.com.



Janet Frichtl
Director of Special Education

CHSD 117 Announces New Special Education Programming for 2009-2010 School Year

Community High School District 117 is committed to providing its special education students with the services and accommodations necessary to meet their educational needs as developed by IEP team members. To ensure that District 117 offers all students a continuum of services, we will be opening a new self-contained program at Lakes Community High School in the fall of 2009 and will restructure the existing program at Antioch Community High School.

This highly structured class is being established to help students who require a small group environment along with more individualized attention. These students will benefit from specially trained teachers implementing the curriculum that aligns with the district's general education curriculum. The class is designed to promote the development of students' academic and social skills through goal setting and behavioral intervention strategies. Additional components to the self-contained program are the therapeutic interventions and counseling services. For these reasons, a psychologist will be working directly with the students. By offering this class, District 117 will be able to educate more of its special needs students in their home schools.

Along with the benefits that accrue to students through this type of setting, there are also financial benefits that accrue to the district. Since our teachers are better acquainted with what our community and our schools offer to students, we believe we will be able to provide a better educational experience to our students through this program and recover some of the financial resources which would have been sent off site. While we recognized that placements like these are always dependent on the IEP meetings, we generally see students and parents wanting to be part of the local school in which they reside. We believe this program is a positive step in the right direction.

Technology Department



Gregg Henning
Director of Technology

If you want to keep informed about what is happening in District 117, how could you do it? You can visit our websites, serviced daily by English teachers Kellie Doyle and Mark Thompson.

These two teachers post new stories on a regular basis for both schools for anyone to read, and parents of D117 students can access their children's grades, attendance, meal plan balance, schedule all online.

Calendars are posted, current sports scores are posted, and upcoming events are posted. If you'd like to contact any faculty member, you can access their e-mail all from our websites.

Please visit www.D117.org, www.sequoits.com, or www.lakeseagles.com to see what is happening.



Bulletin: As you may remember, last year District 117 held a public sale of the computers that had been used in district for the previous four years. Typically, we replace computers every four years because the warranties have run out. These machines still work well and are great purchases for anyone looking to spend a minimal amount on a computer. This year, we are selling approximately 200 computers for \$150 each. The specifications for these computers are as follows: the CPU = 2.8 GHZ Pentium 4, Memory =512 MB RAM, Hard Drive = 40 GB, and the Monitor =19in LCD Panel. If you would like to purchase one, please send a check to District 117, 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa, IL 60046, along with your name and contact number. Computers will be sold based on when we receive your check, and you will be able to pick up your computer around the third week in June. Any computer not sold in this manner will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis to the general public toward the end of June. If you have a question about this, please contact Mark Roe at mroe@d117.org. For easy recognition, Mark's picture is included on this page.



Mark Roe

Headlines

Community High School District 117
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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 60
ANTIOCH, IL

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| April 10 | No School Non-Attendance Day |
| April 22 & 23 | PSAE Testing |
| April 29 | Late start schedule |
| May 25 | No School - Memorial Day |
| May 27 | LCHS Graduation |
| May 28 | ACHS Graduation |
| May 29, June 1 & 2 | Semester Exams |
| June 2 | Last Day of School <i>(if no additional emergency days are used)</i> |

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