



News & Views

WINTER 2017

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www.lkgeorge.org

10 Questions With Mrs. Rutnik

To get to know our new Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Rutnik, we asked her these 10 random questions:



Please help us welcome Lake George CSD Superintendent Lynne Rutnik.

What was your journey like to get to this position here at Lake George?

I always enjoyed working with children. My work at Parsons Child and Family Center in my early 20s at the childrens' crisis residence and in the school solidified that my calling was to work to positively impact the lives of children. I truly believe that every step on my professional journey led me to and prepared me for the superintendency at Lake George CSD. I started my career in public education as a special education teacher then became a principal for special education programs and a director of special education, k-12. These experiences gave me a broad understanding of the k-12 system and the skills needed to be a successful instructional leader and compassionate, thoughtful decision maker when working with numerous stakeholders in the school community.

What is your first memory of school?

I remember watching my mother, who was a teacher, and my older brother and sister going off to school, and I could not wait to go to school with them. I was so ready for kindergarten! I attended Catholic school, and my kindergarten teacher, Sister Ann-Theresa, would pull out our loose teeth. She would tie one end of string around the tooth and the other around the doorknob. Ouch!

Can you share an embarrassing moment from school?

In sixth grade, I wasn't singing in music class, so my teacher stopped the class and made me stand in the front of the room and sing a song. I sang Back in Black by AC/DC...I attended a k-8 Catholic school...I didn't know at that age that AC/DC was most likely not the best choice at that moment to redeem myself. They called my mother later that night and as you can imagine, I ended up in quite a bit of trouble!

What do you like to do in your free time?

We choose to spend as much time as possible at Glen Lake when we are not cheering our children (Owen and Aiylin, 12 year old twins) on as they play sports or music! My husband, Brian Backus, is a Colonel in the United States Air Force and the Commander of the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in Scotia. With our busy jobs/lives, our free time is focused on enjoying time with our family, our Lhasa Apso dogs, Lady and Finn, and our friends on the lake.

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Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Progress to Date

Throughout the renovation work at the Elementary School this past summer and a comprehensive search for a new superintendent of schools, the focus on academics and student achievement never wavered.

The district's WeLearn initiative is deepening throughout both buildings, faculty members are continuing to analyze data and collaborate to make the curriculum even stronger, our athletic fields and gyms are powerful classrooms for student learning and growth, and our art studios and technology labs are new and improved. Here are some more highlights of the year to date:

- Second Year of Leader in Me (please see page 6)
- Continuation of professional development for teachers in the area of curriculum and assessments
- Five Fall Varsity athletic teams were named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams (please see page 4)
- LGCSD filed its Technology Plan to NYS Department of Education
- Redesigned space:



Jr.-Sr. High School Art Room



Jr.-Sr. High School Technology Learning Space

New Faculty and Staff



Grace Cady
Long-Term Sub Teacher
Elementary School



Darian Chapman
Teaching Assistant
Elementary School



Erin Connolly
Art Teacher
Jr.-Sr. High School



Lisa Fox
Administrative Assistant
Elementary School



Janine Spadafora
Information Technology
Support Tech.



Pio Solimanto
Bus Driver



Erin Higgins
Teaching Assistant
Elementary School



Nicole Seguljic
Clerical Aide/Attendance
Jr.-Sr. High School



Lynsey Whiting
Teaching Assistant
Elementary School



Faith Helms
Elementary School
Nurse



William Parker
Cleaner

Student Reflections: *Mattison Stark*



Mattison loves being in school with her friends and loves learning new things.

“Teachers make everything fun,” Mattison said. “I’m excited to come in and learn every day.”

Some new things she learned recently include ratios, taking notes and thinking deeply, and the seven habits of highly successful people. Those seem like

pretty complex things for a sixth grader, but Mattison explained: “The seven habits help me manage time. And thinking deeply means asking questions when you’re reading. We’re reading *Escape! The Story of the Great*

Houdini, so we ask things like ‘why did he do that?’ and discuss them.”

Escape is one of the books for this year’s Battle of the Books competition, in which Mattison has competed for the past two years: “It’s awesome!”

Outside of school, Mattison hangs out with her dog, Kong, a St. Bernard/Poodle mix who is “ginormous, friendly, and energetic.” She and her friends like to swim in the lake and go ziplining. She also plays shortstop on a travel softball team.

Mattison is in band and chorus and was excited to participate in All County Chorus. “All my friends tried out and we all got in!”

Continued from page 1

Did you always know what you wanted to be when you grew up?

I always knew I wanted to be a mother, which is my favorite and most important role on this earth. I also have a natural ability to connect with children and adults and have been told from an early age that I was a natural born leader, so yes, I guess I always knew I would choose a career that focused on impacting the lives of children. As my professional path was forming, I found myself looking at the “big picture.” This ability to focus on the big picture prompted me to set high expectations for myself, my team, and my students; always questioning the status quo. I am a creative thinker and problem-solver, which allows me to bring people together and support innovation...One of my favorite sayings is “remember, a group of professionals built the Titanic but one man built the Ark.” We can’t move forward standing still...The lives of our students count on us, each and every day in our schools. Our decisions matter! Leadership matters.

What are your favorite teams?

That’s a funny question... I am a Jets fan but my husband is a life-long Buffalo Bills fan. Two years ago, Rex Ryan, the old Jets coach, moved to be the new coach for the Buffalo Bills. This created an interesting opportunity during football season as my husband hoped I would now root for the Bills, but he had competition as my best friends and family members are Patriots fans! I am currently in a tug of war for which team I will choose, but we are having a lot of fun with the competition and I am still secretly rooting for the JETS! Let’s just say I’m not wearing jerseys right now!

Do you have a bucket list?

My childhood was filled with many beautiful elderly relatives that I adored. These folks shaped my attitude and love of life, especially my grandmother, Mary Hart. I remember how much they enjoyed when I would do their hair, make-up and nails, it’s a natural born talent and I enjoyed it! I also sincerely enjoy learning from and assisting our senior adults. They have so much knowledge and wisdom to give us if we only take time to listen... Although my retirement is a long way off, I would love to take classes in the area of cosmetology and volunteer my services at nursing homes to do hair, make-up and nails to pay it forward as my grandmother did for me so many times in my childhood.

My shorter term goal is to spend much more time at Glen Lake making memories with my family and some occasional trips to the USVI and Key West.

What is your favorite color?

It really depends on the season! I like black year-round and pink in the summer.

If you had a magic wand, what would you use it for?

I honestly think I have a magic wand! My family is happy and healthy which is the key to my happiness. I have a loving, supportive husband and live on Glen Lake, my favorite place

in the world. I feel so incredibly blessed to now be joining such a special school district and feel every step in my journey, both personally and professionally, has led me to this amazing opportunity in the Lake George CSD community; to give back and serve the community I love, a community that has given me so many of my happiest memories growing up.

Bonus Question: What are you looking forward to the most here in Lake George?

When I was considering my application to be the Superintendent of LGCS D, every individual I asked was happy to inform me about how special LGCS D is...They used words such as “unique, special, committed, innovative, and student-centered” to describe their district. Now that I am completing my entry plan meetings with the stakeholders in the district and community, my expectations have been exceeded at every turn! As I walk through the halls in both buildings, I feel the energy and excitement in the air.

In all the conversations I have had, there has been a strong commitment to moving our district forward. We are always looking for what is best for our students. I am excited to begin my work with the Board of Education, district staff, and community members to guide us through a thoughtful, meaningful, transparent strategic planning process. This process will help us review and refine our vision to best match the important work of our distinguished staff here at LGCS D and set the course to further prepare our students to be world class citizens. Our collaboration toward a shared vision that clearly articulates our goals is what I am looking forward to because it will sharpen and unify our focus on teaching and learning.

Superintendent Rutnik’s Goals 2016-17

- Successful completion of Entry Plan process to become familiar with the community, district stakeholders, strengths and needs of LGCS D.
- Develop a budget that supports excellence in education and is accepted by district voters.
- Begin and complete the Strategic Planning process for LGCS D.
- Collaborate with BOE and personnel committee on Superintendent Evaluation process and evaluation tool.



Worth Noting

Lake George Athletic Vision/Lifetime Skills

Five of the six Fall Varsity Sports teams have achieved the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Team Award. This is awarded to teams whose combined GPA is 90 or higher. Congratulations to our student athletes, coaches, teachers, fans and community. This is a true testament to the Education Based Athletic Program here at Lake George!

Boys XC
Girls XC
Golf

Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Volleyball

Highlights of the Falls Season:

The Varsity Boys Soccer Team finished the season 15-4 overall (12-1 league), Adirondack League West Division Champions, and Sectional Semi-Finalists.

The Varsity Girls Soccer Team ended the season 19-1 overall and 12-0 league, Adirondack League Champions, and Section II Class C Finalists.

The Varsity Volleyball Team completed the season 23-11-2 overall (13-1 league), Adirondack League Co-Champions, and Section II Class C Finalists. Retired Lake George Coach Cathy Stanilka was inducted into the NYS Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame. She was also named New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Region One Coach of the Year for the 2014-15 volleyball season.

Varsity XC Boys Team completed season 5-2 league, placed 3rd as a team in the Adirondack League Championships. Ten Boys qualified for the Section II meet – Nick Rollo placed 17th and Pat Dee placed 18th in Class D, and the team placed 3rd in the Section II Championships.

Girls Team completed season 4-3 league. Zoe Nadler placed 1st in Adirondack League Championships, and the team placed 4th in the Adirondack League Championships. Ten Girls qualified for Section II meet – Zoe Nadler placed 11th in Class D.

Varsity Golf Team finished the season 9-4 overall runner up in division and league tournament. Harrison Lindman was a Section II Qualifier.

Varsity Football Team finished the season 4-5 overall and 3-2 in league play.

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteer Coaches This Fall and Winter:

- Brian Farenell - Varsity Boys Soccer
- Steve Kohls - Varsity Girls Soccer
- Shelby Jenkins- Varsity Volleyball
- Bonnie Hart - Mod. Volleyball
- Tim Kissane- Varsity Boys Basketball
- Laurie Skellie - Bowling
- Kelly Collins - Nordic Ski
- Ted Prime- Alpine Ski



National Honor Society

Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the King Hendrick Chapter of the Lake George National Honor Society:

Antonio Abrantes	Rachel Layton
Mahogany Akita	Kirsten Martindale
Jude Armstrong	Julia Mastrodomenico
Abigail Baertschi	Lauren Montana
Kira Bieber	Clay Moody
Brandon Bondy	Grace Moody
Richard Conte	Shannon Mulcahy
Sydney Daniger	Zoe Nadler
Patrick Dee	Timothy Powell
Esabelle Elkins	Brooke Reynolds
Julia Dickinson-Frevola	Nicholas Rollo
Charlotte Holding	Daniel Sause
Cameron Hood	Caleb Scrim
Addison Kelly	Victoria Wood
Samantha Kingsley	Morgan Zilm



Coach McLaughlin Named Coach of the Year

Lake George Athletics Vision/Quality Coaching and Instruction.

Varsity Girls Soccer Coach Mike McLaughlin was honored at the All Star Banquet as Section II Girls Soccer Coach of the Year. For McLaughlin, who will retire after coaching at Lake George for 23 years, it was “a swan song.”

“To me, it’s a reflection of the soccer program as a whole, from the youth level all the way up to varsity,” said McLaughlin. “It shows the community is committed to excellence. I share this honor with a lot of people.”

McLaughlin noted the team was comprised of seniors to ninth graders.

“It shows Lake George has a lot of kids involved in soccer and playing at a high level,” he said. “I was blessed to have a deep pool of really nice, coachable kids, whose team grade point average is over 95.”

Even though he described this past year as magical, McLaughlin expects the team to continue to improve. “I’ve already got my seating arrangements lined up for next year,” he said. “I’ll be sitting next to Sherm Parker (former superintendent).”



Congratulations Coach!



Lake Placid All Stars

Eight Lake George musicians participated in the Northeast Instrumental Music Festival that is held each year in Lake Placid. Liam Larsen, Matthew Bureau, Timothy Powell, Trevor Dunsmore, Tarik Eldib, Cameron Hood, Casey Collins and Alydia Meinecke rehearsed with 100 other student musicians Thursday evening through Sunday morning under the direction of Patrick Boureguad. The weekend culminated with a performance at the Lake Placid Arts Center with the student group as well as the Adult All Star Band.



All State Festival

Lake George High School students Liam Larsen, Case Prime, Sydney Daniger, Owen Snyder and Nicholas Rollo participated in the NYSSMA Zone 7 Area All State Festival in Saratoga Springs.

Keeping It In-House

When it comes to professional development for teachers, Lake George relies on in-house experts.

The Jr.-Sr. High School curriculum and assessment team consists of three strong, experienced, hands-on educators:

- Bonnie Hart analyzes data and trends and what they tell us about our students
- Sarah Olson provides support to teachers and models integrated instruction in the classroom
- Megan Coker gets teachers to think about instruction in a very different way

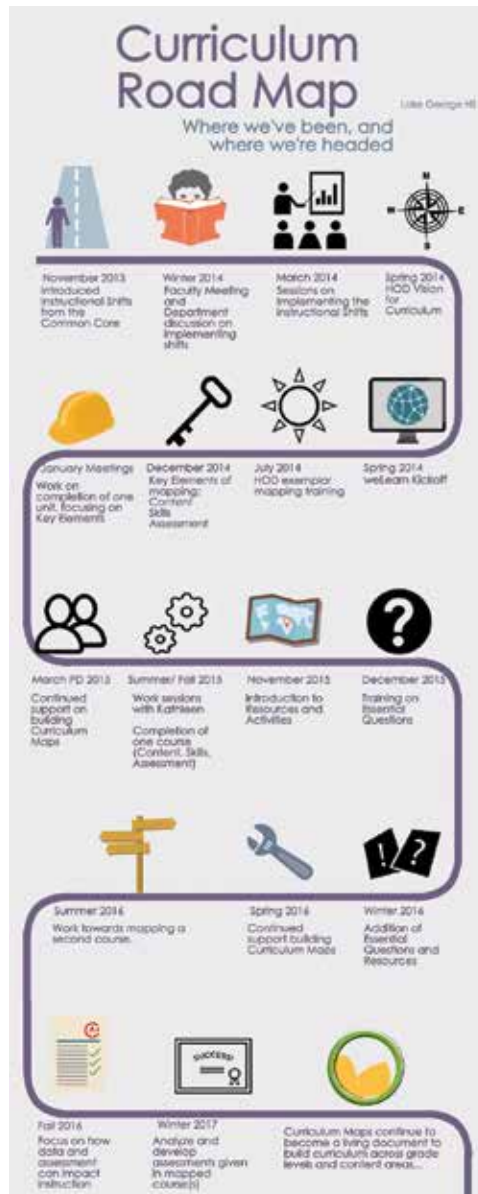
Mr. Coccozza meets weekly with the curriculum team to discuss initiatives and provide focus, support and guidance. This is year three of the Jr.-Sr. High School's continuous curriculum review process. The first year focused on developing common language and expectations in all subject areas.

"When Common Core came into play, all teachers were responsible for literacy shifts, not just reading teachers or English teachers. We focused on that to talk about instruction and how to change things up so we met the standards in a meaningful way," said Megan.

Year two focused on skills. Teachers were able to recognize the level at which they were teaching and see where they could push students to learn higher level skills through analyzing and synthesizing information. Think of the difference between A) doing a Google search for a vehicle and B) justifying the purchase of one make/model over another based on fuel economy, engine performance, and cost of repairs.

"The kids have to think a lot more," said Sarah. "The response to self-directed activities has been very positive among younger students because they are used to bringing ideas to the table."

Now that students have had two years of "different" instruction, teachers have a lot of data that shows the difference in results. As a result, year three of the continuous curriculum review process is focused on how teachers measure students' knowledge of content and level of skills.



"All the teachers received a lot of data from the Regents exams and their own tests," said Bonnie. "We also have data from the past three years. We can look at trends and comparative data to the region and state, we analyze data for what it tells us about our students. That opens the door for looking at formative and summative assessments."

"This is our first look at comparative data," said Bonnie. Together with the teachers, Bonnie unravels the story the data tells them.

Students need more practice analyzing documents. They need a deeper understanding in literacy, which comes from more close reading and analysis of text rather than comprehension. The types of questions students are asked to answer today are different than they were three or four years ago.

Teachers are also finding that students need to exercise higher level thinking muscles in subjects that don't have Regents exams.

The benefit of keeping professional development in-house is the opportunity to build upon prior years toward a common goal. "We have been very deliberate about our professional development. It is thoughtful and purposeful and tailored specifically for our students," said Megan. "This is

about who we are, where we are. And how we can keep growing."

As a result, Bonnie is getting requests for more data and Megan is getting more requests for technology tools. "I've had more conversations in one week than I have had in past years!"

Leader in Me

For the second year, Elementary students are continuing to develop their leadership abilities using Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" as a guide. They developed personal Wildly Ambitious Goals (WIGs) and academic WIGs and are beginning to chart them in their leadership notebooks.

"This helps students take charge of their own learning," said Elementary Social Worker Ann Moellman. "It also gives students the opportunity to find their "great" and live it out in their school community."

Every student has a leadership role, and the roles change throughout the year. For instance, students run the morning announcements and act as greeters. They also organize a monthly celebration in the Little Theater to recognize each other's leadership and accomplishments.

Water Testing and Remediation Update

As you may be aware, on September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that requires public schools in New York State to test all potable water sources for lead. Lake George CSD conducted its first round of testing on September 24, 2016 and obtained lab results on October 13, 2016. All communications regarding water testing can be found online at www.lkgeorge.org/water.

Beginning in late October, remediation was implemented for water sources that had elevated levels of lead (above 15 parts per billion). A total of eight locations were repaired including the High School Family and Consumer Science classroom sink and Elementary School kitchen and classroom sinks and fountains. A second round of testing was completed, and the results were positive for all locations except the bubbler in the

All these messages are sinking in. One fourth grader wanted to do something for the school, so she coordinated a blood drive. "They already do a food drive so I thought of doing a blood drive," said Rebecca Pape. "I wanted to help people."

Rebecca's Blood Drive resulted in donations of 30 pints of blood! According to the Red Cross, this amount has the potential to save the lives of 90 people.

Stay tuned for more great things from these young people!



Rebecca Pape coordinated a highly successful Blood Drive

ES Intermediate II Cluster. The bubbler continues to be out-of-service and will have its pipe and fittings replaced. This source will be re-tested, along with any location that exceeds 15 ppb. It will not be used until test results show levels below 15 ppb.

The Bureau of Water Supply Protection (BWSP) determined that laboratory sinks that exceeded 15 ppb do not necessarily have to be replaced. As long as schools have strict internal control measures in place together with appropriate signage and supervision in these classrooms, these measures can be considered permanent remedies. Lake George District Policy and Procedures will include notification that eating and drinking in laboratory space is not permitted. These precautions bring the district into compliance for the 20 laboratory sinks that tested above 15 ppb.

Student Reflections: *Clark Mularz*



Senior Clark Mularz was last interviewed for News & Views when he was an Intermediate II student. At that age, he loved everything about school, was involved in a lot of extracurricular programs, and was interested in being an engineer...and that has not changed.

"I would like to go into mechanical or aerospace engineering," said Clark, who visited colleges in the fall and applied early decision to several engineering schools. "I would love to work in a Research and Development department."

He is also thinking of minoring in film and media studies. "I watch a lot of movies and made a couple of movies for class," he said.

The Student Council President organizes school community events, plays two varsity sports, has a role in the school play, and spends half of every school day in the New Visions Engineering program.

"I love all the different opportunities here at Lake George," said Clark. "Like the New Visions programs – we have four people going to Engineering this year and three more take Health Careers Exploration. We do site visits to companies and colleges."

Clark still plays the flute and gives back to the community through National Honor Society. He also works at Beach Road Bait and Tackle and Adirondack Scooter Rental.

His secret for staying on top of a busy schedule also remains the same from when he was younger – "plan ahead."

Board of Education:

- Tim Collins- President
- Kim Heunemann - Vice President
- John Kelleher
- James McCabe
- Marc Mularz
- Courtney Richichi
- Linda Smith



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LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

News & Views is published four times during the school year by the Lake George Central School District to encourage interest in education and to keep the district residents informed of the school's activities and programs.

EDITORIAL BOARD

- Lynne Rutnik, Superintendent
- Francis Coccozza, Secondary Principal
- James Conway, Elementary Principal
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RESIDENT

Substitute Bus Drivers Needed

Both of the district's mechanics are certified drivers who have regularly assigned bus runs, which they drive every day. When necessary, the transportation supervisor will take on a special run. Despite these efforts, we are facing a shortage of substitute bus drivers.

Substitute bus drivers must be 21 years old with CDL. The salary is \$16.25/hour, and the district is willing to train the right candidate.

Anyone interested in becoming a Substitute Bus Driver should submit a Non-Instructional application to: Kate DuBois, Business Manager Lake George Central School 381 Canada Street Lake George, New York 12845 518-668-5455

In the short-term we may need to combine routes and/or share services with other districts when drivers are absent and a replacement can not be identified.

Robot Game a Big Hit



First Lego League Team picture.

and-a-half minutes.

High Potential/STEM Teacher Geoff Bizan, who is also the First Lego League Advisor, said: "Team members got to choose which mission(s) they wanted to tackle. During competitions, they will be scored on how many missions they accomplish and how well they work together as a team. In First Lego competitions, the team will also be challenged with a project. They have to identify an existing problem between animals and humans and solve it. Using the inquiry model, students will ask questions, interview experts, and present their findings to a panel."

This is the first year of the First Lego Robotics club, which includes the following students:

Over the summer, STEM Teacher Dante Siletti built a table for the Elementary School specifically for "The Robot Game." Every student in grades 1-6 has explored the table and its 13 missions. Over the course of the year, they will also take three-week sessions in coding, robotics, and engineering, which will help them learn ways to complete the missions.

Family members had the opportunity to see the Robot Game in action when the First Lego League conducted a demonstration. Team members in grades five and six explained how they built and programmed the robot and showed the audience how hard it is to get through all 13 missions in only two-

Grade 5
Anthony Halliday
Sarah Pelchar
Anna Richichi
Nicholas Wagemann
Max Perry

Grade 6
Danny Nichols
Danny Barber
Liam Fahey
Stack
Jonah Coccozza