

LIS Family News

December Volume 1 Issue 5

We begin the 4th month of our school year, navigating unfamiliar territory as a staff members, students and parents. This is a time of great upheaval and stress on our school community, with so much that is beyond our control. I believe that it can be a time of unity and growth as we move forward, knowing that we all are doing the best we are able for our children. I look at my own parents and clearly see how adversity built character. My parents were born during the Depression, spent their early school years in the midst of World War II and graduated to enter into the Korean Conflict. They survived and they thrived to give their children a better life, and so shall we.

It is so easy to find ourselves reactive to all the craziness around us, and attempt to control something when everything seems spiraling out of control. Often what triggers a negative response in us is the culmination of many stresses. It's the "straw that breaks the camel's back."

As we approach the coming holiday season, I invite you to join me in taking a deep breath, pausing and opening our minds and hearts to the spirit of this season. Whatever our personal beliefs, this is a time of giving. Maybe what we most need to give is not the material things (although I am not discouraging generosity), but just give each other grace for the moments we have with each other when we are overcome by the realities of this time.

We have ALL experienced the trauma of this pandemic, and our responses to that reality vary. Let's try to not allow discouragement, disappointment, fear and anxiety to swallow us or our children but continue to look forward to a brighter day when this will be a part of our memory. I want to walk through these days without regret as an example to our children of how we walk through adversity. I can continue the lessons that were taught to me.

2020

LaBrae Intermediate School
1001 N. Leavitt Rd.
Leavittsburg, OH 44430
Kay A. Suzelis, Principal



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Literacy Committee Update

On November 20th, our entire staff participated in an all virtual learning staff development day that was designed by our Trumbull County ESC to begin the implementation of our literacy initiative that addresses a redesign of our literacy instruction to follow "The Science of Reading".

While it may seem complicated, what it means for our staff and students moving forward is that we have an evidence-based approach that has been supported by years of brain research. This research supports a systematic approach to the teaching of reading that follows a particular sequential pattern that begins with a focus on sound and not sight.

Teachers spent the day with some very heavy topics in understanding how the parts of the brain process and develop the ability to read.

What does that mean for you as parents? This is a dramatic shift in the way that we teach reading. If a student struggles or has gaps in the development process, those pieces have to be filled in for the student to become a proficient reader.

It will take years for us to see and celebrate the positive impact this will have for our students here at LaBrae.

Schedule Change

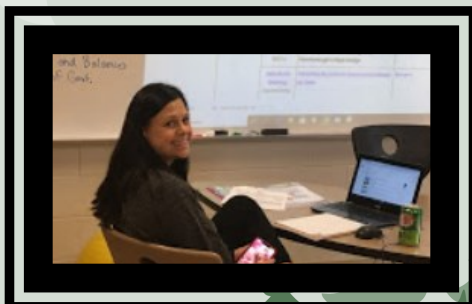
Friday, December 11th

We will have another all day Staff Development Session for Grades K-5 teachers only.

This will be a Gray Remote Day.

All other grade levels (6-12) will still be in the regular session with the gray cohort attending.

This is not a day off for staff or students.



*Mrs. DeCesare at the
Virtual Literacy Day*

Interims for Second Quarter

Progress Reports will be sent home with students on Wednesday, December 2nd for the Scarlet Cohort & Grade 3, and Thursday, December 3rd for the Gray Cohort.

Please sign and return the interim so we know you received the progress report.

Included with the progress report, there may also be an advanced notification of the possibility that your child may be not meeting grade level expectations in preparation for advancement to the next grade level.

We begin analysis of retention considerations beginning in January. If your child is significantly behind and not completing the required work in school or remotely, we are giving you advance notification of this very real possibility.

While we recognize that there have been some obstacles in setting up our remote learning platforms, all students have had proper training, adequate equipment and should be able quite capable of meeting the **minimum** requirements we have established for the remote days.



Dress Code

Reminders

Just a reminder that shorts are no longer permitted as of October, 31st. Even if the weather turns warmer, please follow the calendar guidelines from the LIS handbook.

Please make sure that your children are adequately dressed for the cold weather. For this season, a hoodie or sweatshirt is not warm enough. We do have extra coats, hats, gloves and scarves available for students if there is a need. You simply just need to let us know.

Students will still be going out for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is well below freezing. If classes are going outside for recess and students are not appropriately dressed they will not be permitted to go outdoors.

Masks should be laundered frequently. We remind students often that their masks need to be taken home and washed. There are some LaBrae

masks still available if you could like to purchase an extra one.

Coats should not be worn during the school day inside. It may be a good idea for students to keep an extra zipper hoodie or sweater here at school to put on or take off as needed.

Upcoming Dates

Prep Bowl is scheduled for February 6th, 2021 at Lordstown HS

Spelling Bee is currently scheduled for February 24th at Hubbard HS

All of this is subject to change based on Covid Restrictions.



What would we do without our Millie?

Dental Sealants

On December 2nd, students in 3rd grade will be watching a video on dental sealants. We will be sending home paperwork for you to fill out and return to school should you wish your child to participate in this program.

The actual application of the dental sealants would take place between January 11th and 22nd. It is only for grades 2,3,6 and 7.

The forms will actually accompany the progress reports that will also be sent home on the same date.

If your students are eligible, but 100% remote, we will send you the link to the video and the papers you would need to complete for participation.



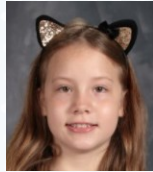
Student of the Month

Student of the Month for OCTOBER!

Ally Magoulick

Armory Dalton

Zachary Delka

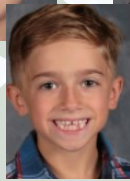
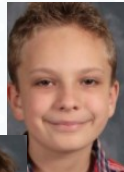


Student of the Month for NOVEMBER!

Noah Majersky

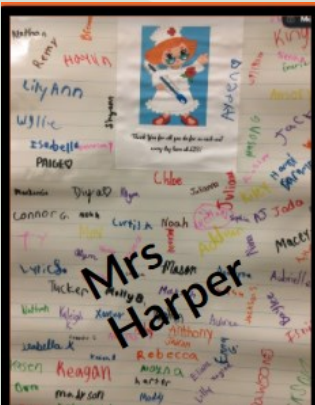
Kaden Bright

Jackson Sullinger



November Theme: *Attitude of Gratitude*

Every morning our students reflected on the many things for which we can be grateful. Near the end of the month, we identified a group of people at school that we would like to recognize and simply tell them, "Thank You". We made simple cards and had the students sign them. These included: our secretary, nurse, guidance counselor, cafeteria ladies, custodians and bus drivers. We laminated them so they could be hung up. We are stressing how important our attitude is in helping us to be positive and happy. Our staff members were thrilled to be recognized and the students learned that a thank you can be simple, yet powerful gesture.



Reminder for Specials Switch

Art, Music, Gym & Technology

Beginning on December 7th

Students will be switching their specials schedule for the second half of the quarter. They should be having the last of the 4 specials .

If they are in attendance every-day, those students will have two alternating specials.

If remote learning becomes necessary, all students would only be required to do ONE special subject remotely.

Books in the Bookbags

You may have noticed the teachers sending home math workbooks or ELA texts daily. This is just a precautionary measure should we need to quickly switch to distance learning. It would eliminate the need for parents to have to pick up anything at school and making the transition seamless. We are just trying to be proactive.



Student Council

This year, like many other things, we have adjusted our Student Council membership to a much smaller group, which I think will be much more effective, especially during this time of restrictive environments.

Election Results:

2020 Officers

President: Diya Patel
Vice President: Adalyn McCullum
Secretary: Emerie McCullum



Representatives:

501: Destiny Hineman-Haak
502: Ally Magoulick & Gavin Gee
503: Aubree Johnson & Ethan Howard
504: Mason Lutz & Maria Bustard

Thank you to Mrs. Christine Wevers for managing the STUCO election and being the council advisor.



Prep Bowl

Team Members

Maria Bustard
Robert Stevens
Liam Stilwell



Students names and pictures were not included if we do not have permission to publish.

Reflex Math:

Our students continue to show progress with math fluency using the Reflex Math. Our school actually achieved:

1, 000,000 solved facts

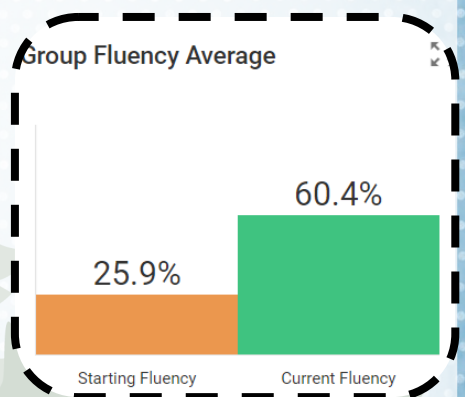
23,000 New Fluent Facts

4,661 Green Light Days

(See Graph)

Starting Fluency 25.95

Current Fluency 60.4%



Lexia

It may take some time to see dramatic progress in Lexia. It is imperative that students meet the minimum time requirements each week. Without consistency in meeting those objectives, we will not see significant progress.

PAX Tools for Parents

A virtual PAX TOOLS training workshop for parents and caregivers is available for our families. PAX Good Behavior Game is being used by our elementary teachers in their classrooms. Pax TOOLS for parents were developed and designed for families to use with their children to create a nurturing environment that ultimately helps kids thrive! When the same strategies are being implemented both at school and home, youth receive consistent skill development to regulate their own behaviors and choices in order to live peaceful, productive, healthy, and happy lives. These tools offer a collection of trauma-informed, evidence-based behavioral strategies. These simple strategies can be weaved into current parenting strategies that will assist to improve cooperation and behaviors. PAX TOOLS strategies works towards creating peace, productivity, health, and happiness within the home and with youth programs.

Please consider signing up for this workshop if you feel it would be beneficial to your parenting situation.



PAX TOOLS
FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING
FOR PARENTS and
CAREGIVERS

LEARN SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE COOPERATION
AND SELF REGULATION WITH YOUTH.

WE BUILD GREAT KIDS!

UPCOMING LUNCH AND LEARN

Part 1	Tuesday	October 20, 2020	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Part 2	Tuesday	October 27, 2020	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Provided by:
Cathy Loomis
COMPASS FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES
cloomis@compassfamily.org
330-393-0598 ext 1721

Marie Economos
OSU Extension Trumbull County
economos.2@osu.edu
330-637-2229

To register go to
<https://go.osu.edu/octoberpaxtools>
You will receive an email prior to the training date with the link for
zoom meeting.

Covid Response: I encourage all families to continue to follow the protocols for reporting that have been established by the school. It is important that we not respond to rumors on social media by rely on the excellent communication our superintendent has established to keep our families safe and informed within the law.

Remote Work: We continue to work on student accountability for Remote Work. Please continue to check Google Classroom and the assignments posted by the classroom teacher.

December Activities:

We will be coordinating some calendar activities for December with the Bascom Calendar to make it easier for families. This also affirms our partnership between the buildings to work cooperatively.

Grinch Day
December 7th & 10th

Pajama Day:
December 15th & 16th

Holiday Spirit Day
December 17th & 18th

Holiday celebrations on December 18th will be in the individual homerooms and will follow all our safety protocols including no visitors, mask wearing and appropriate social distancing

