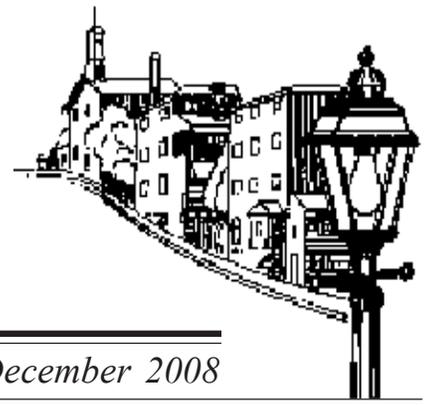


# Community Link



The Newsletter of the School District of Lodi

December 2008



## Perspectives

..... *Michael J. Shimshak*  
*District Administrator*



### Wisconsin School Districts Weather Winter Woes



When the decision is made to alter the school day because of inclement weather, that decision is based on weather predictions, judgment and variables specific to this locale. Local variables include the number of country routes versus other routes, the amount and type of precipitation, the timing predicted for the start of the precipitation, and the order in which the forms of precipitation are predicted to occur. Actual and predicted temperatures are variables as are road conditions and time of day. Weather conditions can vary within the boundaries of the District.

In the process of deciding whether to alter a school day, other local information is gathered. This often includes an actual drive made within the city and on country roads used as bus routes. When the district administrator is contemplating altering a day of school due to inclement weather, First Student, Inc. (bus company), is called. Jeanette Cutsforth, bus terminal manager, and Mike Shimshak compare weather and road condition information. Prior to that conversation, county highway departments have been contacted to inquire as to how long plows have been out or when the plows will be dispatched, whether the main roads are plowed and when it is anticipated the rural or side roads will be plowed. At times, if other individuals associated with the bus company or the school district are known to be out on the roads, they will be called upon to share further developments related to the road conditions. Additionally, District Administrator Shimshak places calls to administrators in surrounding school districts (those sharing district borders with Lodi) to share information and concerns.

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Visit our website at [www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us)

Continued on p. 4

# “District Data”

Information contained in this section will be pertinent to all families and all student grade levels!

## District Phone & Fax Numbers

Primary School .....	592-3855
Primary School Fax .....	592-1015
Elementary School .....	592-3842
Elementary School Fax .....	592-1025
Middle School .....	592-3854
Middle School Fax .....	592-1035
High School .....	592-3853
High School Fax .....	592-1045
District Office .....	592-3851
District Office Fax .....	592-3852



## Board of Education

*Regular meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office, unless posted otherwise.*

Susan Miller .....	<i>President</i>
David Otto .....	<i>Vice-President</i>
Charles E. Brown, II .....	<i>Clerk</i>
Sheila Landsverk .....	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ken Paul .....	<i>Director</i>
Kenneth Treinen .....	<i>Director</i>
William Wipperfurth .....	<i>Director</i>

Board of Education members’ names, contact information, committee assignments, meeting agenda and minutes are included on the School District of Lodi’s website at [www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us), Board of Education link. If you do not have access to the district website, contact Lois Meier at 592-1060 to request this information.

## Winter Break Hours of Operation

All schools and school offices, including the district office, are closed for winter break beginning at the end of the school day on Tuesday, December 23rd through Friday, January 2nd.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, January 5th, when students return to their classes and regular school and office hours resume.

## Public School Choice - Open Enrollment Notice

Wisconsin’s inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. The Department of Public Instruction has developed a comprehensive website to serve parents and school districts which includes application information and timelines, forms and contact information, should you have questions. The web address is: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>.

### *2009-2010 Application Period*

**February 2 to February 20, 2009** - The recommended method of applying for open enrollment is through the on-line application process at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>. The on-line application will be available from midnight February 2, 2009, until 4:00 p.m. on February 20, 2009. Paper applications must be submitted to the nonresident school district no earlier than February 2 and no later than 4:00 p.m on February 20. A postmark does not meet this requirement. Application forms are available at the School District of Lodi District Office, 115 School Street, or by calling Lois Meier at 608-592-1060. You may also email your questions or requests for application forms to [meierlo@lodi.k12.wi.us](mailto:meierlo@lodi.k12.wi.us).

*Extra!*

***Interested in becoming a Lodi School Board Candidate???***

**Board of Education  
Tuesday, April 7, 2009 Spring General Election**

Terms of office for the following board members for the School District of Lodi will expire in April 2009.

Listed in alphabetical order:

Charles E. Brown, II  
Sheila M. Landsverk  
William M. Wipperfurth

**Important Information for School Board Candidates**

Each of the following forms must be completed and filed on time by candidates for school district office in order for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot at the February 17, 2009 Spring Primary and the April 7, 2009 Spring Election.

**The filing officer for school district is the school district clerk.** Candidates should contact their filing officer or designee named below for further information or to obtain any of the necessary forms. **All school district candidates must:**



Complete and submit a **Campaign Registration Statement (Form EB-1)** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.**

- *New candidates* should file a campaign registration statement as soon as intent to seek elective office is known and before funds are collected or spent. Depository information is required. SS. 11.05(2g), 11.10(1), Wis. Stats.
- *Continuing candidates* should file an amended campaign registration statement indicating the office sought and the new primary and election dates. A current form must be filed with the filing officer by January 6, 2009, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. SS. 8.10(5), 8.30(2), 120.06(6)(b), Wis. Stats.



Complete and submit a **Declaration of Candidacy (Form EB-162)** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.** If this form is not filed with the school district clerk, Charles E. Brown, II, (or designee) by January 6, 2009, the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. SS. 8.10(5), 8.21, 8.30(4), 120.06(6)(b), Wis. Stats.



Incumbents not seeking re-election must complete and return the **Notification of Non-Candidacy (Form EB-163)** by no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26, 2008.**

**For additional information, contact:**

Lois Meier (designee) at the School District of Lodi District Office, 115 School Street, Lodi, WI 53555 (592-1060) or ([meierlo@lodi.k12.wi.us](mailto:meierlo@lodi.k12.wi.us)) or The GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (formerly The State Elections Board), 17 West Main Street, Suite 310 P.O. Box 2973, Madison, WI 53701-2973, 608-266-8005 (<http://elections.state.wi.us>)

*Please Note: The district office will be closed December 24th through January 2nd - Individuals wishing to submit candidacy forms should plan accordingly or may leave their notarized paperwork in the drop box located just to the right of the front door. The drop box will be checked regularly throughout winter break and until the deadline to file, which is January 6, 2009. Regularly scheduled office hours resume on Monday, January 5, 2009.*

# **Perspectives** . . . . .Continued from p. 1

As the 2008-09 school year began, 930 students were listed as bus riders which is approximately 55% of student enrollment. Transporting that many young people safely to school and back is crucial. We also consider the large number of high school students driving themselves back and forth each day. When the start of the school day is delayed one or two hours or when the school day must be canceled, conversations between the district administrator and bus company take place between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. When possible, a decision will be made by the district administrator by 6:00 a.m. and communicated immediately to all involved parties.

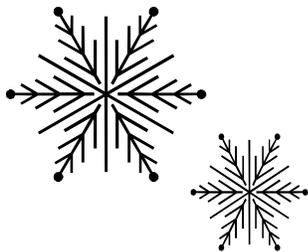
## **Late Start**

If the start of school is delayed, school breakfast will not be served. When the Lodi School District experiences a late start due to weather conditions, St. Michael’s Parochial School in Dane closes for the entire day.

## **Early Release**

If the determination is made to shorten the school day, the district will make every effort to serve the midday meal unless weather conditions have deteriorated to a point where safety dictates imminent dismissal.

When inclement weather threatens, it is important that parents pay close attention to the school district’s website, where school closing information will be posted as soon as information as it becomes available. Additionally, school closing information is shared with local television and radio stations as soon as decisions are made. We encourage parents to sign up to receive email or cell phone alert messages through the local TV stations listed below. There is a link on the district’s website for WISC-TV <http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/sdlweb/DistrictSchoolClosings.htm>. WMTV 15 and WKOW Channel 27 offer similar free services through their respective websites.



## **Emergency School Closing 2008-2009**



The following TV and Radio Stations will receive and broadcast information from the School District of Lodi regarding school closings or delayed start times. Parents and staff should be advised to watch/listen for information when weather is questionable. The same notification process will be used for non-weather related emergency closings.

### **Radio Stations:**

**Clear Channel Radio** ..... 1070 AM  
(Includes: WTSO 1070 AM/ WIBA 1310 AM/WIBA 101.5 FM/WZEE 104.1 FM/ /WMAD 96.3 FM)/WXXM 92.1 FM)

### **Magnum Radio Group:**

..... (Includes: WDLS 900 AM/WNNO 106.9 FM or 95.9 FM/WBKY)

### **Hometown Radio:**

**WPDR-WDDC** ..... 1350 AM/100.1 FM  
**WNWC** ..... Life 102.5 FM  
**WOLX/101.5 Charlie/WMMM Triple M** ..... 94.9 FM/105.1FM/105.5FM



### **TV Stations:**

**WISC-TV Channel 3** ..... Channel 3  
**WMTV Channel 15** ..... Channel 15  
**WKOW TV Channel 27** ..... Channel 27



## YMCA Fitness Opportunities

*There's Something for Everyone!*

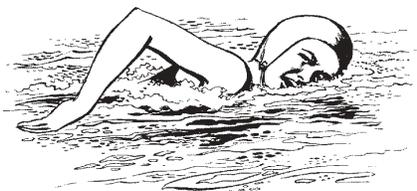
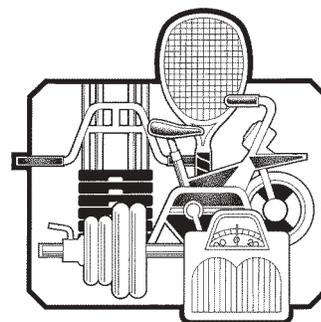
### Let's Get Movin' in 2009!

Come into the YMCA in 09' and try one of our fitness classes, join our walking club, or jump into the pool for a class, lesson, or swim team.

Here is what is offered at the YMCA in winter of 2009:

#### Aquatic Lessons & Activities:

- ~ Private Swim Lessons.
- ~ Swim Lessons for Winter I begin January 5-March 1<sup>st</sup>,
- ~ Swim Lessons for Winter II begin March 2-April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ~ Devil Ray Swim Team - Session begins January 5<sup>th</sup> - March 20<sup>th</sup>. (For any child who can swim 25 yards.) Come and join in on the fun and become a great swimmer!
- ~ Shrimp/Perch Classes - This is a parent and tot swim lesson class starting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday afternoons.
- ~ New and continuing classes for adults and senior citizens.
- ~ Water Yoga starts in February on Thursday evenings.



#### Sports/Fitness/Enrichment:

- ~ Lodi Walking Club - Get your walking exercise in this winter. Join the walking club, chart your miles and join us for exciting challenges, weekly tips and information on healthy living.
- ~ Gym N Swim - Open weight room, cardio room, swimming and also morning adult group exercise.
- ~ Community Weight Lifting - Come in the mornings or evenings to use the weight room. Cardio room is also included.
- ~ Pilates - Strengthen the core muscles of your body, improve your posture - try Pilates! (Mondays from 5:30-6:30PM.)
- ~ Get Fit - A great class emphasizing a workout routine with a different type of fitness balls and equipment. This class is held on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00PM.
- ~ "A Better Me" - Come and work up a good sweat! This class is for all levels of fitness. We will be doing weights, cardio and self improvement, goal setting, motivation & nutrition. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday 6:00-7:00PM.
- ~ Tumbling Mytes - Mom and Toddler, Ages 3, 4, & 5 year old classes. Classes are held on Monday and Tuesday evenings in January.
- ~ Devil Danzers - The Lodi High School Dance Team will teach you a new dance routine and perform with them during half-time of a basketball game. The class is offered in January for students in grades K-6.



# EXPAND YOUR MIND!

## Lodi MATC Adult and Continuing Education Classes Available

It's time to register for MATC classes right here in LODI. Don't wait! Ask a friend! If it's not for you, please give this to someone who might be interested. Let's promote Life-long learning in Lodi! Local Lodi Instructors!

55732	MS Word Intro	\$42.82	T 6:00-8:30 PM	6	1/13	2/17	Abel
60137	Digital Camera Basics	\$17.10	M 6:00-9:00 PM	1	2/9	2/9	Wetzel
56150	Working w/Digital Photos	\$13.71	M 6:30-8:30 PM	2	2/16	2/23	Wetzel
60103	eBay Workshop	\$13.71	T 6:00-9:00 PM	1	3/3	3/3	Wetzel
55660	MS Excel Intermediate	\$42.82	W 6:00-8:30 PM	6	3/4	4/15	Abel
55672	PC Maintenance	\$18.56	M 6:30-8:30 PM	3	3/9	3/30	Wetzel
55736	MS Word - Tables	\$13.71	T 6:00-8:00 PM	2	3/31	4/7	Abel
55742	MS Word Intermediate	\$42.82	R 6:00-8:30 PM	6	4/2	5/7	Abel
59815	Internet Explorer Interm.	\$33.12	M 6:30-8:30 PM	6	4/6	5/11	Wetzel
55738	MS Word: Mail Merge	\$18.56	T 6:00-8:30 PM	2	4/14	4/21	Abel
55740	MS Word: Letters/Labels	\$13.71	T 6:00-8:00 PM	2	5/5	5/12	Abel

**Location of Classes:** Lodi High School, 1100 Sauk St., Lodi

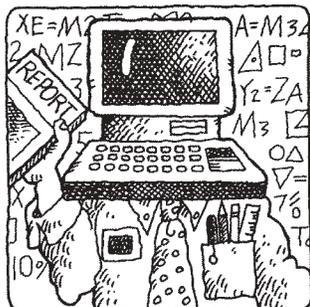
**Note:** Please register right away as some classes have limited openings. You will be billed after you register. Registration is not complete until all fees are paid by due date on bill. A class may be cancelled if minimum enrollment (10) is not met one week prior to the start date so register early to insure classes run. **Seniors age 62 and older pay part of total fee. Computer classes are generally only \$4 for ages 62+.**

**Registration Options:** You may register either with Kay Wetzel, MATC Center Coordinator at 592-5455 or [mkwetzel@matcmadison.edu](mailto:mkwetzel@matcmadison.edu), fax 592-5758 or use the MATC registration options below:

**Online Registration** [www.matcmadison.edu](http://www.matcmadison.edu) To register online, select the Inside MATC link on the MATC Website homepage (lower left corner). If you have not done so already, you will need to activate your network account by following the instructions at **Student First Time Login** located on the initial Inside MATC page. Once you have activated your account, you can register, print a class schedule, add or drop classes and pay your tuition bill all online!

### PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED STUDENTS

If you have your student ID# or PIN, please use our easy Touch Tone telephone service at (608) 246-6220 or 1 (800) 628-6282.



**NEW STUDENTS (or previous students who wish to use this option)—**Call the Enrollment Center at (608) 246-6240 to have your personal information entered into the system for the first time, and register at that time.

*Education that works!*



# **Curriculum & Instruction**

*Tiffany Loken, Curriculum & Instruction Director • 592-3851 ext. 5483*

## **Should Grading Practices Change?**

This question has come to the forefront of educational discussions in Wisconsin and across the nation in recent years. More than 30 teachers in Lodi are grappling with this same question through a course entitled, “Grading & Assessment Practices.” Throughout the course teachers have read books by Ken O’Connor who is a leading researcher in the field of grading and assessment practices. Ken O’Connor’s book *15 Fixes for Broken Grades* lists the following key discussion points that have been addressed during the course.

- #1 ..... Don’t include behavior in grades; only include achievement.
- #2 ..... Don’t reduce marks on “work” submitted late; provide support for the learner. Instead, record timeliness, assign consequences, make direct parent contact.
- #3 ..... Extra credit should reflect higher levels of learning (not more of the same work).
- #4 ..... Don’t punish academic dishonesty with reduced grades.
- #5 ..... Attendance should not be included in grading. Incompletes should be given for attendance (lack of) in performance courses.
- #6 ..... Don’t include group scores in grades; use only individual achievement evidence.
- #7 ..... Organize grades based on standards or learning goals. Standards-based grading focuses on skills & directly shows more evidence of student learning.
- #8 ..... Don’t assign grades based on unclear performance standards.
- #9: ..... Don’t assign grades by comparing it to other students. Compare each student’s performance based on preset standards.
- #10 .... Rely only on quality assessments.
- #11 .... Don’t rely on the average of scores for individuals.
- #12 .... Don’t include zeroes.
- #13 .... Don’t use information from practice and formative assessments to determine grades.
- #14 .... Learning is developmental. Grades should reflect the most recent achievement, rather than early failures.
- #15 .... Must have clear learning targets.



O’Connor suggests some changes to grading practices that are very controversial from both the teacher’s perspective and the parent’s perspective, but they merit further debate. What is the best way to determine a student’s proficiency in each subject area? Should all homework be graded if it is indeed considered practice? Should behavior impact a grade? Should students receive a separate grade that measures responsibility and timeliness? Should zeroes be issued for late work? All of these questions require further discussion before the district creates an action plan for changing grading and assessment practices.

Lodi Primary School and Lodi Elementary School have been working toward changing grading and assessment practices for the last two years. Both buildings have invited parent input during the process of revising their report cards and changing their reporting periods. It is natural for these conversations about grading and assessment practices to continue in the middle and high schools as well. I visited the Lodi Middle School Parent Advisory Council in November and discussed many of O’Connor’s suggestions for improving grading practices. If you are interested in receiving more information about this topic, please contact Tiffany Loken at [lokenti@lodi.k12.wi.us](mailto:lokenti@lodi.k12.wi.us) or at 608-592-1056.

## **Curriculum & Instruction** (Continued from p. 7)

### **Exciting Changes in Physical Education**

Physical education teachers across the District have been researching new ways to improve student levels of physical fitness. Historically, the physical education curriculum has been very sports oriented, but with the national obesity epidemic occurring in our country a shift must be made to lifelong physical fitness activities.

In researching new ways to approach physical fitness, teachers read *SPARK: The New Science of Exercise and the Brain* by Dr. John Ratey. Dr. Ratey outlines current research that explains the effects daily exercise can have on learning. Not only does exercise improve students’ overall health, it also allows their brain to learn more efficiently, which improves academic performance.

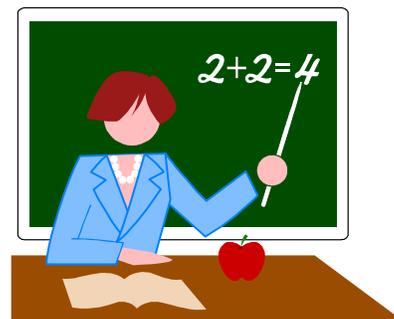
In the past, the District has used the Presidential Physical Fitness testing program to determine student levels of physical fitness, but we are now transitioning away from the Presidential fitness testing program and into a new assessment called the “Fitnessgram,” which measures muscle strength, flexibility, body composition, aerobic capacity, and endurance. The Fitnessgram will be administered several times per year to determine whether or not students are in a “healthy fitness zone” or not. Parents will also receive a report indicating their child’s level of physical fitness and how they have improved over the course of the year.

In order to work toward our goal of transforming our physical education and health programs, we have created a Wellness Committee consisting of students, parents, teachers, administrators, school board members and community members including representatives from the YMCA and the Lodi Sports and Recreation Center. The charge of this committee is to help transform our current physical education and health programs into community-based programs. We know that parents and community members are essential partners in creating stronger healthier kids! If you are passionate about wellness and physical fitness and you would like to serve on our Wellness Committee, please contact Tiffany Loken, Director of Instruction, at 608-592-1056 or at [lokenti@lodi.k12.wi.us](mailto:lokenti@lodi.k12.wi.us).

One of the first changes we plan to make will occur in the Fall of 2009 when students will begin wearing heart rate monitors during physical education classes. Students will no longer be graded on how fast they can run the mile, but by how many minutes of class are spent in their target heart rate zone. We are in the process of applying for local, state and national grants to fund this initiative. Over the next three years we plan to continue to work toward adding new equipment and technology to our physical education and health programs. Stay tuned for further updates!

### **8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Graders Take New Assessments**

All 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in Lodi took a new assessment this year. Eighth graders took the EXPLORE test and 10<sup>th</sup> graders took the PLAN test, which are both tests of college readiness produced by ACT. The District decided to administer these tests for a variety of reasons. First, we believe the EXPLORE/PLAN tests provide a great deal of important information to your child and you in a very timely manner. Results are returned to us and to you typically within 4-5 weeks of students taking the test. (The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) results are returned in May, after students take it in November. This isn’t as helpful to students or to the school with regards to making improvements.) Not only do the EXPLORE/PLAN results give information about how a student is performing in a number of core academic areas, but they also provide recommendations to students about how to make improvements.

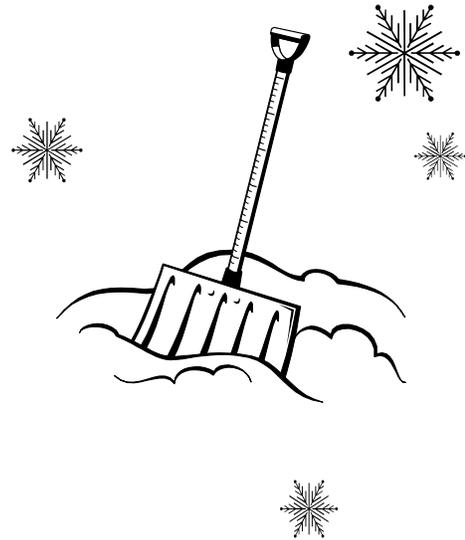


*Continued on p. 9*

**Curriculum & Instruction** (Continued from p.8)

The information provided on the results of the EXPLORE/PLAN tests will help students better prepare for future standardized tests needed for college entrance. ACT is well known for its test required by some 4-year universities, but the company also has a test called COMPASS that is required for many of our students to get into 2-year colleges, like MATC. We strongly believe that the more opportunities students have to experience taking these tests, the better they will do on high-stakes tests like ACT and COMPASS.

Finally, the results of the EXPLORE/PLAN tests will help the District by providing information on student performance. With this information, we can better tailor the education we provide in the classroom to students’ needs. As students move from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade we will be able to measure the academic growth of each individual student.



**PTO - Try It, You'll Like It!**

Is your New Year's Resolution to become more involved in the community?  
PTO is a great place to start!

**Meetings**

- 7:00 p.m. @ ES LMC
- ..... January 5, 2009
- ..... February 2, 2009
- ..... March 2, 2009
- ..... April 6, 2009
- ..... May 4, 2009
- ..... June 8, 2009 (if needed)

**Market Day Pickup**

- 3:30 - 5:00 pm @ MS Cafetorium
- ..... January 15, 2009
- ..... February 12, 2009
- ..... March 12, 2009
- ..... April 9, 2009
- ..... May 14, 2009
- ..... June 11, 2009 (if needed)

**Upcoming Events**

- K-5 Science Fair ..... January 31, 2009 @ ES
- Fun Night ..... February 26, 2009 @ ES
- Middle School Science Fair ..... March 19, 2009 @ MS

**To call or email any of the following 2008-09 PTO Officers:**

- President ..... Theresa Wideman ..... 592-3883 ..... wideman@blackbeltamerica.com
- Vice Pres. .... Lynne Mason ..... 669-1210 ..... lodipto@yahoo.com
- Treasurer .... Mary Koenig Roach ... 592-3894 ..... mkoenigroach@yahoo.com
- Secretary .... Mary Breunig ..... 849-6663 ..... mary.breunig@usbank.com

# Student Services

Vince Breunig, Student Services Director • 592-3851 ext. 5483



## *Thank you, Lodi, for the Warm Welcome!*

I would like to start off by thanking everyone (students, staff, and parents) for making me feel so welcome at the beginning of my tenure here in Lodi. It is amazing to me that it has been four months since I started as the Director of Student Services. I have learned so much about the school and community in this short time, but have realized that I have a lot more to learn to ensure that we are providing the best possible education to all the students in our district.

One of the areas in which we have been working as a staff since my arrival is the preparation of our students with disabilities for life after high school or, what we call, transition. This is an area that we are required to consider for each student with a disability who has reached the age of 14. The importance of this cannot be any clearer; good transition planning helps students achieve their goals, prevents dropouts, increases graduation rates, increases enrollment in postsecondary education, and improves employment rates. To improve our knowledge in this area we are collaborating with the Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative to bring in Ms. Katherine Strong to work closely with our middle and high school special education teachers to ensure that we are providing appropriate transition services to all of our students. This grant-funded opportunity has allowed Ms. Strong to meet with the special education staff of the middle and high school during inservice time this fall. A joint meeting with these staff members is planned for mid-December with additional meetings to be scheduled in the upcoming months. It is my hope that you will see more focus on this area during IEP meetings in the ensuing months.

Another professional development opportunity that we have provided for our staff is in the area of autism. Several of our special education educational assistants came to me and requested additional training and education on autism. In working with CESA #5 in Portage, we were able to bring in Ms. Deb Benish, an autism consultant, on the afternoon of November 7 for a two-hour presentation on this highly complex subject. The information she shared with the group was highly regarded with the only complaint being that our time with Ms. Benish was too short. As the year progresses we will continue to look at bringing experts into our district, which will help us to continue to learn and grow as educators.



### **Child Find**

All school districts in Wisconsin are mandated to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities within their attendance area. The School District of Lodi holds an annual “Child Find Screening” in an effort to help identify children who may have disabilities.

The 2008-2009 Child Find screening was held on October 28-29, 2008. The three and four-year-old children who attended participated in a brief screening of basic skills and a short speech/language screening. Volunteers from the Lions Club also provided a free vision screening for children who wished to participate.

Educational information concerning normal child growth and development was made available for parents, and various community organizations provided displays and/or handouts as well. Seventy-seven children participated in this year’s screening!

If you have a child who will be age three or four before the end of 2008, and you did not attend the screening but have concerns about your child’s development and would like to have your child screened, please call Sarah Grant (Early Childhood teacher) to schedule an appointment. She can be reached at 592-3855 ext. 1301.



# Primary Pride

By Lyle Hendrickson , Primary School Principal • 592-3855 • Grades EC/K-2

## Crossing Guard Recognition Week

The Department of Public Instruction has designated the week of January 12-16, 2009 as Wisconsin's Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week. Each day, dedicated adult crossing guards in Lodi show up at their assigned crossings to assist students in their journeys to and from school. We are fortunate to have staff members who take their jobs very seriously and make sure the outstanding level of safety is maintained each day. Please say "thank you" to those people who on a daily basis, brave the weather and help provide an encouraging word or barrier of protection for our students.

*Thank You!*



## Kindergarten Round Up

Kindergarten Round-up dates will be April 8 and 9, 2009. Parents of next year's incoming kindergarteners will receive their registration packets in mid December. Contact Moe Palmer at 592-3855 ext. 1000 if you have a child that will be 5-years-old by September 1, 2009 and if you did not receive a registration packet.

## Summer School

Before you know it summer school registration will be upon us. If you have any ideas for new class offerings or would like to comment on a class that was offered last year that you would like to see continued please contact Moe Palmer at 592-3855 ext. 1000. Summer school is not only a time to reinforce basic skills, but also a time to enrich your child's life with unique experiences not offered during the school year. Please send your ideas by January 30, 2009.

## Spanish Speaking Adults Learning English

A class has begun at the Lodi Primary School offering Spanish-speaking adults an opportunity to learn English. The class meets weekly on Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the health classroom. If you are interested in this class you do not need to call, just come to the Primary School during one of the class sessions. Ms. Jody Beers, a volunteer teacher of the class began the project after attending the Title I Reading Open House in October. Currently there are 13 adults taking the class. The room is filled with excitement and the students are learning basic English communication. The other volunteers working with the class are Bill Beers, Deneen Kickbusch, and Bill Haupt. Thank you to everyone who is making this a great experience for our community.

### ¿Quisiera usted aprender el inglés? ¡Hay clases gratis!

- ¿Cuándo? Cada lunes y miércoles a la una.
- ¿Dónde? La Escuela Primaria de Lodi
- ¿Quién? Cual quier adulto que viva en el distrito de Lodi y quiera aprender el inglés
- Contacto: La Escuela Primaria de Lodi: 592-3855



Todo es gratis: los libros, las lecciones, todo. Ahora hay 13 alumnos como usted. ¡Llama hoy!

Gracias a nuestros maestros voluntarios de la comunidad, Jody Beers, Bill Beers, Deneen Kickbusch, y Bill Haupt!



# Elementary Excerpts

By Trevor Hovde, Elementary School Principal • 592-3855 • Grades 3-5

## Lodi Elementary School After School Activity Clubs

Staff members at Lodi Elementary School, along with community members, provide learning opportunities for students after the school day ends. Since its inception in 2000, the After School Activity Clubs have given teachers, support staff, and parents an opportunity to share their talents and hobbies with our students.

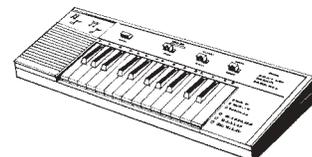
Activity Club sessions run one day a week (always the same day of the week) for seven weeks during second, third, and fourth quarters of the school year. Each activity club has on the average approximately 15 students per club. The activity groups offered this quarter are: Happenin' Holidays, Holiday Cooking, Woodworking, Crafts around the World, Trash or Treasure, Learn to Crochet, and Jewelry Making. We always have more students that are interested in activity clubs than we can accommodate.

If you have a special interest or hobby that you would like to share with our children in grades three, four, or five, please contact Mr. Hovde. The second session will be starting the last week in January.

## Safe Routes to School

The City of Lodi was given a planning grant for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The Lodi Primary, Elementary, and Middle Schools are working with the City of Lodi to look at ways to improve walking, biking, and traffic patterns throughout the city. The planning grant allows us to get support with the application process and enhance our chances of receiving a larger grant to implement changes to our infrastructure and safe travel for all pedestrians. Teachers and parents have received a survey to complete to better assist us in identifying areas in Lodi that are problematic for walkers and bikers. If you are aware of any areas of concern that would improve

pedestrian travel, please feel free to call the school offices and would be happy to pass that information on to the grant planning committee.



## ST Math

After successful implementation of the ST Math at 3rd and 4th grades, we are planning to implement it in 5th grade shortly after winter break. "ST Math," which stands for "Spatial Temporal Math," is a research-based math program from the MIND Institute. The MIND Institute is a non-profit research organization that develops software to improve math achievement. Research has shown that students who practice math skills using the ST Math program in conjunction with piano instruction show great improvements in their standardized test scores in mathematics. Since both the Lodi Primary School and the Lodi Elementary School already have piano labs, this math software is a perfect fit for our district.

Spatial temporal reasoning is defined as the ability to visualize patterns and mentally manipulate them over time. ST Math's visual learning strategy focuses on improving visual thinking skills through a series of math games. Students progress at their own pace. To win the games, students must solve problems and learn the math. Each game is repeated at increasing levels of difficulty until students attain a mastery level of the target concept. ST Math helps students gain confidence, master the concepts and win the games.

Fifth grade students will spend 40 minutes twice a week in the computer lab using the ST Math program. This instruction is in addition to their daily classroom math instruction. Lodi is the first district in the state to implement the ST Math program. Many districts in Illinois, Texas, and California are already using ST Math with documented success.



# Middle School Maneuvers

By David Dyb, Middle School Principal • 592-3854 ext. 3202 • Grades 6-8



## Lodi Area Students Attend State Environmental Conference on Energy

Lodi High School students learned about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and careers in energy at the 2008 Governor’s High School Conference on the Environment, “Student Power: Conserving Your Future with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.” Hannah Fannee, Katee Kratcha, Ashlen Moody, Quinten Taylor, Nick Soppe, Shannon Grover, and Holly Hargis, along with Mr. Soucie and Ms. Melchior participated in the conference on November 12, 2008 hosted by the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Students attended sessions on bioenergy, energy costs of food production, school energy audits, and renewable energy technologies. Mary Schlaefel, the Executive Director at the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC), and Ben Nusz, a Renewable Energy Technician Instructor at Midstate Technical College were keynote speakers. Participants will use this information to assist the RSVP Green Team in making Lodi High School a Wisconsin Green and Healthy School.

## Attention Area Employers

This spring, the 7th grade students are going to be exploring careers as a continuation of a unit that was started in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The purpose is to help students connect what they will be learning in the classroom to real life situations. We would like to arrange for small groups of students to visit various businesses sometime in April or May. Each group will be comprised of 10-12 students and one teacher and will visit one business for about one hour. When the students get back to school they will share their experiences with classmates so that students will learn about a variety of area businesses.

We are looking for employers within the school district who would be interested in hosting a group. Any type of business or employer would be welcome. You will be provided with a list of possible activities and experiences that will be helpful to the students. All of the visits will need to take place on the morning of the same day, probably from approximately 8:30 – 9:30 AM. (The date is yet to be determined.) If you would be interested in hosting a group of students or if you would like more information, please contact Linda Sanders, School Counselor at Lodi Middle School, by phone: 592-3854 ext. 3227 or by email: sandeli@lodi.k12.wi.us

## Middle School Honored with AWSA Award

In October, the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators recognized Lodi Middle School as an “Exemplary Middle School” in the state of Wisconsin for achieving a top 10% status in the state for math scores. The organization commended the building leadership, faculty, and staff for their hard work and dedication. As a result of being recognized, the Middle School is eligible for the Wisconsin Middle School of Excellence Award which rates schools on activities in collaborative leadership, professional learning communities, personalization, school environment, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.



## Thank You Lodi Area Community

The Middle School would like to once again thank the community for the tremendous support of the annual magazine sale. Students raised over \$15,000 to be used in various school-wide projects. In addition to supplementing the costs of field trips, assemblies, and other school initiatives, The PRIDE Council is actively working on several ideas for a school improvement project. Last spring they used magazine funds to purchase two very nice outdoor tables for use at our school.

# High School Highlights



Laura Love - Principal  
592-3853 ext. 4402

Kim Amidon - Associate Principal  
592-3853 ext. 4403



## Memories to Last Forever

If you've talked to any one of our Thai travelers from LHS, you won't need the proof! While the end of their trip didn't happen as planned, not one of them seems to wish s/he would have stayed back in the U.S. They are all fortunate to live in a community that is open to new and diverse experiences! The students are thankful that their school and district have built into the plan, i.e., the District's Strategic Plan, that it is our intention to utilize innovative practices to help students achieve personally challenging educational goals related to their talents, interests and aspirations.

A study done back in the late '70's and early '80's on AFS students going abroad demonstrated that those who went were changed:

"...adolescents traveling abroad show greater improvement in a number of positive personal characteristics than similarly motivated students who do not have the opportunity to travel abroad. Students learn about another culture and come to have a greater awareness and appreciation of their own culture. They gain skills that enable them to deal more effectively with the demands of adult life. They have an increased concern for spiritual values rather than material things.

The kind of growth and development that typically results from an international home stay experience is difficult to attain by secondary students who remain in their home country. The benefits of travel abroad appear to be great." (Taken from "International Student Exchange Programs - Are the Educational Benefits Real?" By Bettina Hansel and Neal Grove)

Because of what happened near the end of their stay, many more people learned a great deal more about Thailand than they would have otherwise! Other students, parents, community members and even citizens reaching beyond our local area were contacting the families, the school, and others connected to the situation to hear details about their travels.

While we intend to continue to scrutinize global situations before sending students abroad, we will continue with our plan to send students in June of 2009 to our other sister school in Hessen, Germany-Schwalmstadt Gymnasium. We hope they will have as positive an experience as those who traveled last month to Suphan Buri, Thailand (and Phuket, and Singapore, and...).

## Students Work to Make a Difference

It is often amazing what students will do (above and beyond what they're assigned) when given the opportunity to make a difference or to choose their own path. Examples of this can be found all over at Lodi High School.

Many students belong to service groups at LHS. There are students acting as Big Buddies, who make their Lodi Elementary School friends smile every week as they spend lunch time together. Others in S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) want to spend free time ringing bells for the needy. Many students in P.S.R. (Personal and Social Responsibility) have done in-building fund-raisers for worthy causes, planned activities for peers to improve respect for diversity, or worked to welcome many speakers at our International Ed Week Speakers Festival. Another group, the Green Committee, has been informing others of the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling. It is inspiring to see young people taking action to improve their school community and their world.

Project-based Learning class provides other opportunities to be inspired. Students spend nine weeks studying a topic of their own choosing. They research, write, study, shadow and/or interview experts, plan their timelines and finally, present their findings to a panel. Students have studied a wide array of topics from endothermic chemistry to veterinary science to prison systems, along with many others! Through this course, and others

*Continued on pg. 15*

where they present new understandings, students are learning 21st Century skills, including: Creativity and innovation skills, critical thinking and problem solving skills, communication and collaboration skills, information literacy, flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability and leadership and responsibility. What more could we want for our students?!

## *Music Notes* by Shelly Pare

On Jan 8 @ 1:45 p.m. and Jan 9 @ 2:00 p.m., the HS Jazz Ensemble (JE) and Special Effect Show Choir (SE) and band will be performing for the elementary and middle schools. The same groups, along with soloist competition students, will be performing a concert from 4 - 5 p.m. on Jan 11 for the public.

### **Solo and Ensemble:**

Lodi will be hosting Solo and Ensemble on Feb 28 and will be giving music parents the opportunity to help in several areas. Watch for more information in the future.

### **March Music Tour:**

Students involved in any of the 4 bands and choirs have the opportunity to participate in a Florida Music Festival and Disneyland from March 19 - 25. The students will perform a pre-tour concert on March 17.

### **Upcoming Dates of Note**

Jan 8 .....	Concert: JE and SE for Elementary School - 1:45 PM
Jan 9 .....	Concert: JE and SE for Middle School
Jan 11 .....	Concert: JE, SE and Vocal Competition Soloists - 4:00 PM
Jan 17 .....	SE @ Monona Grove Invitational
Jan 24 .....	SE @ Milton Choralation
Feb 13 .....	Concert: JE and SE for High School, 11:10 and 11:40 AM
Feb 14 .....	SE @ Ft. Atkinson Invitational
Feb 28 .....	District SE @ Lodi



## **Gibraltar Charter School**

**School District of Lodi**

**Rock Solid.**

I am so proud of this year's class of freshmen; Gibraltar students have really decided to make the leap into young adulthood by taking charge of their learning. Some of our classroom highlights from this year are: reading the graphic novel of Macbeth and then making iMovies of different scenes, conducting research with primary sources from the Wisconsin Historical Society and Kenosha Civil War Museum, and planning monthly activities with our 1st grade little buddies. Students are looking forward to a well-deserved semester reward day at Kalahari.

As I check in with older Gibraltar alumni, two distinct patterns are beginning emerge. One, there are more Gibraltar students than ever making honor roll, and

two, there are ever-increasing numbers of students participating in co-curricular activities. It is very gratifying to see many students successful and happy at LHS.

**Community Members and Parents:** If you ever have questions about Gibraltar's programming, would like an application for enrollment, or have an opportunity for which we could provide volunteer service, please contact:

Paula Tonn, Gibraltar Director  
592-3853 (ext. 4411)  
tonnpa@lodi.k12.wi.us

Enrollment applications, field day photos, daily lessons, and lots of other info is available on our website [www.lodi.k12.wi.us/schools/cs/cs\\_home.htm](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us/schools/cs/cs_home.htm)

**School District of Lodi**  
**2009 – 2010 School Year Calendar**

Thursday .....	August 13 .....	All School Student Registration - 1-7pm @ High School
Tuesday .....	September 1 .....	<b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
Monday .....	September 7 .....	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Holiday
Monday .....	September 21 .....	2-Hour Late Start for Students
Friday .....	October 9 .....	NO SCHOOL – 1/2 In-service • 1/2 PT Conferences
Thursday-Friday .....	October 29-30 .....	NO SCHOOL – WEAC Convention – Non-Contract Days for Staff
Friday .....	November 6 .....	End of First Quarter
Monday .....	November 9 .....	NO SCHOOL – 1/2 In-service • 1/2 Workday
Thursday .....	November 26 .....	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving
Friday .....	November 27 .....	NO SCHOOL – Non-Contract Day for Staff
Monday .....	December 7 .....	2-Hour Late Start for Students
Thursday-Friday .....	December 24 -January 1 .....	NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK
Monday .....	January 4 .....	SCHOOL RESUMES AFTER WINTER BREAK
Monday .....	January 18 .....	NO SCHOOL – Non-Contract Day for Staff (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)
Friday .....	January 22 .....	End of Second Quarter/First Semester
Monday .....	January 25 .....	NO SCHOOL – 1/2 In-service • 1/2 Workday
Thursday .....	February 25 .....	NO SCHOOL – 1/2 Parent-Teacher Conferences • 1/2 In-service
Friday .....	February 26 .....	NO SCHOOL – SWEIO Convention – Non-Contract Day
Monday .....	March 15 .....	2-Hour Late Start for Students
Monday – Friday .....	March 22-26 .....	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK
Monday .....	March 29 .....	SCHOOL RESUMES AFTER SPRING BREAK
Friday .....	April 2 .....	NO SCHOOL – Good Friday – Non-Contract Day
Sunday .....	April 4 .....	Easter Sunday
Wednesday .....	April 8 .....	End of Third Quarter
Monday .....	May 10 .....	2-Hour Late Start for Students
Monday .....	May 31 .....	NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
<b>Thursday .....</b>	<b>June 10 .....</b>	<b>Last Day of School for Students</b>
Friday .....	June 11 .....	AM Teacher Work Day (1/2 Day); Staff released PM

*No optional inclement weather make-up days have been added to the 2008-09 calendar. The first two days missed due to inclement weather do not require make-up. All succeeding make up days will be added to the end of the school year.*

## Community Link

School District of Lodi  
 115 School Street  
 Lodi, WI 53555

