LION PROUD, LION STRONG...

these are not just words, but it is who we are in the Lockport City School District. As the concept of the Winter 2020 Newsletter was being developed, it was decided that the district should share the many great things happening throughout Lockport schools and departments. In doing so, you will read about the numerous examples of pride relating to programs and people within the Lockport City School District.

Below, you will find the four longstanding goals which guide all that we do in Lockport.

1. More students will achieve at higher academic levels;
2. Provide quality education in a fiscally responsible manner;
3. Achieve meaningful linkages and partnerships between Lockport City School District and business/industry and community; and
4. Create a district culture in which individuals are respected, continuously learning and focused on results.

Related to the goals above, you should know that the four year graduation rate for Lockport continually exceeds the New York State graduation rate, and that of many similar small city school districts in the state. Fiscal responsibility is taken seriously by the Board of Education. This is the time of the year when the Board of Education begins to focus on developing the school budget for the following school year. For updates relating to the 2020-2021 budget, you are encouraged to stay informed throughout the budget development process by visiting the district website. We value the many community partnerships which have been established over the years, and appreciate the support and confidence of the community when budgets and capital improvement projects are passed. Creating a district culture of respect and building positive relationships with all people continues to be based on the mission statement below.

LCSD MISSION STATEMENT

We believe: All people can learn. Schools create conditions for success; academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and aesthetically. Teaching and learning are the shared responsibilities of home, school, and the community. Our mission is to assure comprehensive learning for all so that each person will be a lifelong learner.

Through this mission statement, together we will become PROUDER and STRONGER.

The Winter 2020 Newsletter highlights the many achievements throughout the Lockport City School District this year. Enjoy reading about all that is taking place, and what is yet to come in Lockport!

With Lion Pride,
Michelle T. Bradley
What Makes Your Board of Education Members Lion Proud!

John A. Linderman
Board of Education President

There are many reasons that make me LION PROUD. Above all else is the dedication of our staff, faculty, and the students of the Lockport School District. They make us proud each and every day whether it be academically, athletically, musically, or providing service in the community. Go Lions!

Karen S. Young
Board of Education Vice President

What makes me LION PROUD is seeing how much the students and staff in our district give back to the community! Just a few recent examples are the Lockport Blue events, clothing, toy, and food drives - including the Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive, the United Way Campaign, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, and Christmas Tree auction for the SPCA! So many thoughtful people doing great things for others, and being so involved in the community, makes me #LIONPROUD!

Edward P. Sandell
Board of Education Secretary

As a school board trustee, I am honored to serve with an outstanding group of people on the current Board of Education. They work tirelessly with the superintendent and her staff in a professional and caring manner. Whether issues pertain to contracts, discipline or the management of facilities, this Board accepts the challenge and always tries to balance the quality of education while representing the taxpayers.

Kyle Lambalzer
Trustee

Being LION PROUD for me is very similar to community pride. Lockport is small enough that we collectively share an identity with our school. There are many folks in town whose families go back many generations, all having their own LION PROUD memories of Lockport Schools. Personally, I feel pride when I read about or personally witness an incredible accomplishment, this could be a sports team victory, a magical theatrical production, or a Warlocks championship! All are reasons for feeling LION PROUD. Of course none of this happens on its own. The single biggest source of LION PROUD is seeing our students, families, and staff working together to achieve great things. Our community really knows how to pull together.

Dr. Martha Kershaw
Trustee

I am LION PROUD of all the opportunities available to students both in the classroom and beyond. Students have access to activities, clubs, and sports that fit so many different interests. Our district is lucky to have so many teachers, staff, parents, and other community members who are willing to share their time and talents for our students.

Thomas W. Fieg
Trustee

I am LION PROUD of the accomplishments the district has achieved with our increase in our graduation rate and providing first class playing fields for our athletes and providing STEM class rooms for all our students. The thing I am most LION PROUD of is that the Board of Education has never lost focus on doing the very best it can to ensure students receive a quality education.

Leslie Tobin
Trustee

I am #LIONPROUD of the extracurricular activities that are available to our students, and how many of our students take advantage of them! Starting in our elementary schools and continuing through to the high schools, our students have many opportunities to explore different interests, passions, and skills. These programs enhance the education our children are receiving, and help create people who are well rounded, multi-talented, and community focused.

Karen S. Young
Board of Education Vice President

What makes me LION PROUD is seeing how much the students and staff in our district give back to the community! Just a few recent examples are the Lockport Blue events, clothing, toy, and food drives - including the Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive, the United Way Campaign, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, and Christmas Tree auction for the SPCA! So many thoughtful people doing great things for others, and being so involved in the community, makes me #LIONPROUD!

Kevin W. Pratt
Trustee

Always LION PROUD!
The Personnel Department is LION PROUD of welcoming over 50 new administrators, teachers, related service providers, support staff and substitute employees since the start of the school year. Their knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm are a true asset to the students and families of the Lockport community. Take a few moments to view a presentation highlighting new staff at https://www.lockportschools.org/newstaff

Upcoming Activities/Events:

We will continue the work of the Board of Education Policy Committee. The Personnel Office facilitates the creation and maintenance of the District Policy Manual. The Policy Manual contains documents addressing the following areas: internal operations, community relations, administration, by-laws, non-instructional/business operations, personnel, students, and instruction. Within the manual, there are policies, regulations (provide detail on how policy is implemented), and exhibits (forms to comply with the policy). A committee of four board trustees and district administrators meet monthly to discuss new policies and review existing policies in need of revision. The entire Board of Education must participate in first and second readings of all new or revised policies prior to official adoption. The Policy Manual is available on the District website at https://www.lockportschools.org/policymanual.

The district is always accepting applications for all positions. Interested candidates for any role are encouraged to submit a completed application in person, via US mail, or via email to the Personnel Office. Specific information can be found on the district website in the Personnel Office section https://www.lockportschools.org/personnel

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Lisa Schrader

Executive Director of Educational Services Marianne Currie-Hall

The Educational Services Department oversees curriculum, instruction, and professional development. Since the adoption of the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics (NGLS), the NYS Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS), and the Social Studies Framework, each with their own timeline for implementation requirements, administrators, teachers, and staff are building understanding and redefining curriculum that is aligned to the New York State standards. Our instructional vision is that we provide a guaranteed, viable and aligned curriculum to be taught in every subject at every grade level designed to meet the needs of all students.

The Educational Services Department is LION PROUD of administrators, teachers, and staff who continuously strive for excellence and maintain high expectations for themselves and their students while creating engaging student-centered learning environments. A primary goal of professional development is to improve the district’s educational offerings and its instructional activities and practices in order to increase student engagement in the learning process. Through on-going and job-embedded professional development, we hope to advance the knowledge and practice of teaching and learning of our highly qualified teachers and administrators who are continuously learning and growing themselves.

Upcoming Activities/Events:

The New York State grade 3-8 English Language Arts assessments will be administered March 25th and 26th and the Mathematics assessments will be administered April 21st and 22nd. We are confident that students are well prepared and we encourage all students to demonstrate their understanding of NYS Learning Standards by taking these assessments and putting forth their best effort.
The Lockport City School District Business Office processes all financial matters for employees and vendors including but not limited to payroll, benefits, purchasing for departments, accounts payable, accounts receivable and tax collection. The business office is also responsible for preparation of the school district budget on an annual basis, overseeing the annual budget vote, preparing the annual external audit and the filing of all state mandated reports. In addition, the National School Lunch Program and Pupil Transportation programs are managed through this office. Other tasks such as student records requests and FOIL requests are processed through this office.

The Finance and Management Department is LION PROUD to have consistently prepared fiscally responsible and equitable expenditure budgets over the years to support robust academic programs for a diverse population of student career interests. The Business Office is also LION PROUD to have been recognized for energy efficiency by a national energy company and is the recipient of the “Utica National Insurance Group’s “School Safety Excellence Award”.

Upcoming Activities/Events:
The Business Office is applying for an after school meal program for the HS, NP and EB. In addition, the Business Office will once again apply for the CEP program (Community Eligibility Program) for all of our families for another four years. If successful, this will allow all families to take advantage of a free breakfast and lunch daily regardless of family income.

Facilities is responsible for all buildings and grounds including compliance to State regulations and safety requirements, all mechanical systems, and is instrumental in developing capital improvement projects.

The Facilities Department is LION PROUD of the upgrades to the District’s facilities and learning environment. With the completion of the 2016 Capital Improvement project in December 2019, as well as several other projects funded through the facilities budget, there have been many exciting upgrades to our facilities. Some of the highlights of the renovations and improvements to our buildings include. Lockport High School - science classrooms, STEM Labs, sports fields, tennis courts, kitchen and cafeteria upgrades. North Park Junior High School - Technology/STEM Labs, Family and Consumer Science classrooms, locker rooms, boilers and HVAC systems, roof. Emmet Belknap Intermediate School - football field, track, music room, and cupola. Anna Merritt/Charles Upson/Roy B.Kelley Elementary Schools - classroom drinking fountains and sinks. George Southard Elementary School - new classroom floors.

Upcoming Activities/Events:
Currently we are in the process of upgrading all district lights to LED as well as other energy efficient upgrades as part of an Energy Performance Contract.
The Student Services Department helps promote school improvement by focusing on social and emotional development and learning through programs, services and activities related, but not limited to: school health, attendance, support for English as a New Language students (ENL), central registration, McKinney-Vento Act, school counseling/guidance program, Response to Intervention (RTI), and residency.

The Student Services Department is LION PROUD of the following initiatives:
The department is pleased to once again have provided an ENL Family Night hosted at George Southard Elementary School and planned by our English Language Learner (ELL) teachers in the district; the event took place on November 20th. The parent meeting topic for this event was Guidelines for Safe Technology and Social Media use in the Home for Children. Games, crafts, and food were provided for the children during the parent meetings. The goal for Family Night is to share with parents resources in the community that they can become familiar with to support the needs of their children both at home and at school.

The Lockport City School District applied and was awarded the McKinney-Vento competitive grant which is a three year grant where the funds are able to be utilized to provide support for students experiencing homelessness. Lockport has been able to add a position for an additional homeless liaison who supports families who lack fixed, adequate, permanent housing. This person provides linkages to community resources and assist in making sure students continue their education. The Liaison networks with community agencies to find services for the families. This addition has benefited the District in helping students to maintain their education and provide hope for families as they are assisted in finding the necessary resources.

Upcoming Activities/Events:
Together Including Every Student (TIES) will be implemented in the spring semester of 2020. TIES is a program affiliated with Starbridge, funded by Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Regional Office and Western New York Developmental Disabilities Regional Office and it promotes the participation of students and young adults in inclusive, organized extracurricular and community activities.
Grants and District/Community Programs (GDCP) serves to identify, develop, and fund programs for students, staff, and families. GDCP combines grants and programs work with an intentional, focused approach to increasing quality parent and community involvement in our schools. GDCP efforts include coordinating District and community resources, through beneficial partnerships, to identify and fill gaps in student services with a special interest in social, emotional, and behavioral health as well as overall wellness.

The Grants and District/Community Department is LION PROUD of the increased enrollment in the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, another classroom was added this year! We are also very proud of the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21stCCLC) after school program. Our Emmet Belknap Intermediate School program has over 100 students enrolled, the highest enrollment since the program started in 2016. Students participate in academic enrichment, physical activity, robotics, art, and the Challenger Learning Center where students get hands on experience exploring STEM concepts. This fall the 21st CCLC students created a unique name for the program - LionKIND – Kids Involved in New Discoveries. We shared their concept with the high school’s CyberLions student group who created the program logo pictured below. Look for the LionKIND logo popping up in schools and in the community this spring.

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- Submitted the federal Farm to School grant in December and are eagerly awaiting the results. If awarded, the Farm to School will allow us to purchase more locally grown foods to include in fresh healthy students meals; provide gardening, food preparation and preservation, and food nutrition education to students and families; and support our local farming community…and more!
- Introducing a new program to school-based staff called School Based Development. Through School Based Development, the Office of Grants and District/Community Programs will support and oversee the grant writing and management efforts of teachers and administrators to increase funding that supports engaging and enriching student programming.
- Have you ever heard the phrase, “It takes a village to raise a child”? We believe that is true. LCSD offers much more than a great education to our students, and part of that is building excellent partnerships with community organizations to provide students and families with support and services beyond the classroom. With the upcoming Community Partners Compendium, all members of the LCSD community will be able to learn about, and take advantage of, the many beneficial community partnerships we engage in.

We are a service department supporting all the technology that supports the academics and business of running the school district. We protect student and staff data and privacy, and provide resources for our internal and external communications. In Lockport we have long believed that as a public school preparing students for all kinds of future possibilities, that students should have access to many different kinds of technology throughout their years of schooling.

The Technology, Data Security & Communications Department is LION PROUD to offer students and staff access to some of the most innovative educational and digital technologies available in schools backed by dependable support from skilled professionals. You can be proud knowing that our students have some of the best access to different technologies and we have provided leadership and guidance to many others schools across our state and nation. We believe our technology staff and support team is one of the best in the nation as well!

Upcoming Activities/Events:

Schools have become targets for cyber attacks and phishing schemes where people use electronic communication systems to try to obtain private information. We are monitoring and protecting our systems from some of the most sophisticated threats and working to stay ahead of the problems. Our website is your best tool for finding out anything you need to know about the Lockport City School District and our electronic communications systems can inform our educational community in minutes and our outreach on Social media has the potential of reaching more than 30,000 people in just a few days.
The Athletics Department is LION PROUD of our fall athletic achievements. LCSD was recognized with two NFL Champions. They were the girls cross country team and the boys cross country team. In addition, Sydney Nowicki and Owen White qualified through Section VI to participate in the State meet. Sydney also qualified for the Federation meet which includes all State, Private, and Catholic schools. Other high achieving teams this Fall included boys volleyball team (3rd in NFL), girls volleyball team (2nd in NFL), and girls tennis team (3rd in NFL).

Upcoming Activities/Events:

Cheer on our Winter Sports Teams! We have over 375 student athletes participating in Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Bowling, Boys Hockey, Boys & Girls Indoor Track, Boys Swimming, Boys Diving, and Wrestling. Our sports schedule can be found at http://www.arbiterlive.com/School/Calendar/13107.

Remember to register for Spring Sports at www.lockportschools.org/spring.

Follow us on social media or visit our website for more information www.lockportschools.org/athletics

The Visual and Performing Arts Department is LION PROUD of our High School and Junior High school students who qualified for the All-State Music Festival! It is an honor for students to be selected to represent our music program at these events.

Our third and fourth graders saw the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra live in concert at the Lockport High School Auditorium. The theme for this year’s concert was MOVING & GROOVING. Students listened, conducted, sang, and danced in this interactive program featuring a diverse selection of music that makes us move.

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- Roy B. Kelley Elementary School proudly presents “Disney The Jungle Book KIDS” February 13th and 14th.
- North Park Junior High School proudly presents “Shrek The Musical JR.” March 5th and 6th.
- George Southard Elementary School proudly presents, “Jukebox Time Machine” April 24th.
- Lockport High School musical “Hello, Dolly!” is April 3rd, 4th and 5th. The production of “Hello, Dolly!” is a 2020 Kenney Awards finalist. The Kenney Awards Ceremony is May 16, 2020 at Shea’s Performing Art Center. Tickets can be purchased through Shea’s box office or online.
- Anna Merritt Elementary School proudly presents “Journey Into Outer Space” June 20th

Follow us on social media or visit our website for complete details and ticket information at www.lockportschools.org/vpa
Lockport High School is LION PROUD of our focus on preparing students for their future endeavors.

In an effort to do this, we have embarked on several initiatives to support student achievement in the classroom and also prepare students with soft skills for employment. All high school science classrooms have been renovated to allow teachers and students to truly implement the Next Generation Science Standards which are focused on inquiry and phenomenon.

In addition, Lockport High School has created a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Lab for students and teachers to utilize in a variety of ways: Z-Space computers that allow students to explore content in 3D, Virtual Reality goggles, equipment to create movies as well as robots and coding devices are just a few of the tools students have access to within a class or individually during a study hall. Access to these resources provide more engaging classrooms and other educational environments.

Beyond these classroom improvements, teachers from all curricular areas are working in teams to audit their curriculum and create lessons that appeal to all learning styles. More than 20% of our students received an Academic L award in November having earned a 90% overall average in all four quarters of the previous year demonstrating that our students are achieving at high academic levels. 54% of our students are achieving at the merit roll and honor roll levels. The 2019 graduation rate for Lockport High School is 89%.

We are also proud of the large number of students participating in athletics and clubs at the high school. In a study done by the U.S. Department of Education it was revealed that, “students who participate in extracurricular activities are three times more likely to have a grade point average of a 3.0 or higher.”

Upcoming Activities/Events:

Lockport High School has received New York State Education Department approval for our very first Career Pathway: Business Administration. Students involved in this program take a prescribed set of courses in the area of Business Administration within the graduation requirements. Students have the opportunity to intern with a local company in an area of interest during one of their senior year semesters. By earning this endorsement, students can enter the military, college, or the workforce with this additional focused set of documented skills and experiences.

In addition to the career pathway work, we continue our commitment to preparing students for their future careers by offering workshops on soft skills. These skills include, but are not limited to, communication, self-branding, and interviewing. The next career pathway being implemented in Fall 2020 is in the area of technology focused on pre-engineering and manufacturing. Students will be meeting with their counselors in February and March to discuss the 2020-2021 course schedule.

Beginning this month, students needing assistance with their homework have an opportunity to be linked with a peer tutor through our Teachers of Tomorrow (TOTS) program. Students can find a list of tutors on the bulletin board outside of the guidance office. Students may see Mrs. Schmitt in the main office with any questions.

Spring will also bring several events such as our musical, “Hello, Dolly!”, Quality Student Awards recognition and Junior College Night. Please see our website and Peachjar flyers for more information in the upcoming weeks!
Lockport High School West is LION PROUD of our graduating seniors!

As the Director of Alternative Education, I am so very proud to represent the Lockport City School District. The Alternative Education Department provides oversight of Lockport High School West at Charlotte Cross, high school digital learning, home/hospital bound instruction, Twilight Program, and Incarcerated Youth. The word “alternative” by its very definition is something unconventional; something that challenges traditional norms and offers other possibilities. At Lockport High School West, we challenge those norms everyday and constantly seek ways to find success through other possibilities. The program is housed at the former Charlotte Cross Elementary School on West Avenue on the city’s west side and has been in existence for twenty-five years.

Our number one goal at LHS West is to provide an alternative educational environment and experience. How is that accomplished? LHS West is a different approach, a different pathway in which to achieve educational goals and earn a high school diploma. The program maximizes the use of teachers who are highly skilled in and dedicated to educating “at-risk” students and addressing the many challenges associated with achieving the goal of graduation.

LHS West provides a nurturing environment, often compared to a family, where struggling students can find success in attaining their educational goals. Those goals may include the pursuit of employment, military enlistment, or enrollment in college. We prepare students for success in life, socially, emotionally and aesthetically and we have the numbers to prove it.

In June 2019, we celebrated 36 high school graduates! Since 2009, LHS West has successfully graduated 240 students! The impact of this achievement on the LCSD overall graduation rate is obvious, but more importantly, the impact on students’ lives and our community is remarkable.

Upcoming Activities/Events:

• Valentine’s Day Spaghetti Luncheon and Second Quarter Awards assembly - Friday, February 14th
• Field trip to the Eastern Niagara Hospital - Tuesday, February 25th
• The LHS West Board of Education mission statement reader - Wednesday, April, 8th
• The American Red Cross Blood drive, which is open to the public, is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th
North Park Junior High School is LION PROUD of our students and their academic success! The 8th grade students increased their proficiency rate on the New York State Mathematics assessment by 22% from 2018 to 2019. This represents one of the highest increases in the state.

In addition, 8th grade students increased their proficiency rate on the New York State English Language Arts assessment by 6% from 2018 to 2019. North Park Junior High School performance on the 8th Grade Mathematics Assessment was 7% higher than the New York State average.

Lastly, we are proud to announce that 419 North Park Junior High School students met the criteria for 1st Quarter Merit or Honor Roll!

Merit Roll criteria- 85.00-89.99 average
Grade 7 Merit Roll- 68 students
Grade 8 Merit Roll- 74 students

Honor Roll criteria- 90.00-100.00 average
Grade 7 Honor Roll- 176 students
Grade 8 Honor Roll- 171 students

Upcoming Activities/Events:
We will be proudly celebrating North Park Junior High School’s 80th birthday on March 11, 2020. There will be activities both during the school day for students and during the evening for all interested community members. A special invitation is extended, for our evening event, to all former North Park Junior High School students and teachers.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and see our webpage for the upcoming celebration agenda
www.lockportschools.org/np80
Emmet Belknap Intermediate School is LION PROUD of hosting our third annual law enforcement recognition ceremony to kickoff the annual Lockport Blue campaign. Officers from the Lockport Police Department, Niagara County Sheriff’s Department and the New York State Police joined our entire school community in saluting both fallen officers and current members of law enforcement. Following the ceremony, students had the opportunity to have breakfast with members of law enforcement.

Emmet Belknap Intermediate School students participated in the 6th Annual Turkey Trot race. Students ran a 2k course that helped students to celebrate Thanksgiving and healthy lifestyles. One hundred forty students participated in this year’s event.

As part of the National Football League’s Fuel Up to Play 60 campaign, Emmet Belknap Intermediate School students and Aramark Food Service staff participated in the first ever “Say Cheese” photo day. Breakfast, which included cheese sticks and milk, was delivered by a special cow that reminded us of the importance of including dairy in our daily diets. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a leading national in-school health and wellness program launched by the National Football League and National Dairy Council. This event was the latest in a series of Fuel Up to Play 60 themes and events that our students have participated in. #FuelGreatness #FUTP60

Emmet Belknap students performed three holiday concerts at Lockport High School. Both 5th and 6th Grade Chorus and Band performed along with Vocal Jazz. Our Jazz Band performed at the District Jazz Concert. The performances were enjoyed by all! Additionally, our 6th Grade Chorus students visited Roy B. Kelley Elementary School to sing carols and spread holiday cheer to our neighbors leading up to the winter break.

Emmet Belknap’s Drama Club performed “Annie JR.” at Lockport High School in January. In addition to acting and singing, students also worked to design the set and produce the show. Student work on the show began with auditions, held just after the start of the school year in September. Work continued with multiple rehearsals each week leading up to the dress rehearsals and two community performances on stage at Lockport High School.

**Upcoming Activities/Events:**

**March Madness!** Homerooms will compete with each other in our second annual “March Math Madness” math-facts tournament during the month of March. Students will practice and strengthen their math facts by completing a brief math-facts activity once a week during homeroom. Homerooms will compete with each other in a “bracket-style” tournament to determine each grade level’s winner. The top 5th grade homeroom will face the top 6th grade homeroom in the championship round for bragging rights and a special breakfast treat. Also in March, The Emmet Belknap-North Park PTSA will sponsor our second annual March Madness activity and event night on Friday, March 20. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports and activities with their classmates, including basketball. The event is scheduled to coincide with the beginning of the annual NCAA “March Madness” college basketball tournament.

In addition to traditional Spring concerts, Emmet Belknap Intermediate School will host its 4th Annual “Music on the Loop” event on Wednesday, June 3. Families and community members are invited to bring their lawn chair to our building’s bus loop or front lawn for an evening of outdoor music performances and family fun. Admission is FREE with food and refreshments available for purchase. We hope that you will be able to join us!

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**

Ninety-two 5th grade students and 96 6th grade students were recognized for Perfect Attendance during the first marking period!
Anna Merritt Elementary School is LION PROUD of many things this school year!

As a new administrator in the Lockport City School District, I have been able to witness and become part of a community that values teaching and learning. Lockport is a community that takes responsibility for the shared partnership in education. This is evident when we had parent conferences and the participation from families exceeded expectations. Open House, Native American Day and Writers Workshop presented by students for families were well attended. When we asked families to participate in a Penny Drive to raise money for our Lockport Blue, it was a clear demonstration of community support for our law enforcement.

Anna Merritt is promoting the district’s health and wellness initiative with “Wellness Wednesday”. Each Wednesday the wellness tip of the week is promoted during the announcements, displayed on the digital TV in the building foyer, and featured on our website and on social media. Topics include the benefits of eating a good breakfast, kindness, exercise and sleep; dealing with stress; limiting screen time; and seasonal tips for cold and flu weather.

First graders completed their bullying unit by buddy reading with North Park 7th graders. The Second Step Program is a social emotional learning program that the students participate in all school year.

**Upcoming Activities/Events:**

Anna Merritt Elementary School has many different and exciting educational experiences happening from now through June. The STEAM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) works with all grade levels teaching students to Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create and Improve. Kindness Club will be starting a campaign to raise money to help the Wildlife in Australia. The Student Council is working with the entire student population creating Valentine’s Day cards for Oshei Children’s Hospital. This only highlights a few of the wonderful opportunities offered at Anna Merritt Elementary School.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month also known as African American History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Students at Anna Merritt Elementary School will learn about the histories, stories, and voices of African American people. We acknowledge the importance, relevance and origins of Black History Month.

On April 27, Anna Merritt Elementary School will be hosting a family literacy night. Graduate literacy students from Niagara University will be helping us create a magical night for parents and students alike. Students will dive into the exciting world of reading while parents participate in make and take reading activities that they can use with their children at home and in the car. Having access to literacy tools at home is the goal of the night. Having parents as our educational partners teaching and learning together. What an exciting night this will be for our Anna Merritt Community.
Charles A. Upson Elementary School is LION PROUD of promoting our district’s attendance awareness initiative. Daily attendance supports students’ academic, social and emotional growth. In recognition of this, students with perfect monthly attendance are entered into a random drawing for prizes or rewards such as backpacks, shirts and school supplies. Students are recognized on social media, featured in the principal’s newsletter and photos are displayed on the digital TV in the Main Office. Attend today, achieve tomorrow! #schooleveryday

As a culminating project that supports curriculum, we are growing our own vegetation! Vertical aeroponic growing systems provide hands-on opportunities for students to learn about the plant-life process without the use of soil. Students plant, maintain, grow, and harvest vegetation right in the classroom. Others can share in this learning experience, as the garden is mobile and can easily be transported throughout the school. As vegetables grow, students are able to sample their harvest.

Students tapped into their vocal and acting skills when they participated in the 2nd annual school musical, “We Are Monsters”, in November 2019. Students auditioned for various parts, rehearsed for several weeks and performed a “sneak peek” for their classmates before their “main stage” performance to a full crowd of family, friends and community members.

Unique to Charles A. Upson Elementary School, community members serve as “Grandparent Volunteers” and “Senior Readers”. Through our collaboration with HANCI and the Dale Association, seniors have the opportunity to support our students, teachers and classroom environments by assisting with various tasks throughout the week. Some prepare materials for holiday activities, while others read one-on-one with a student. The time these individuals provide to our learning community is invaluable!

Upcoming Activities/Events:

Students will rotate through a variety of stations including candle-making, tinsmithing, and writing with a quill pen as part of Colonial Days. Students will also make butter, grind corn, and play with wooden Colonial toys. Students will use critical thinking skills to identify some Colonial artifacts. Our presenter will be dressed in costume and speak to the entire group about life as a Colonist.

Lockport High School students who are interested in pursuing a career in education have an opportunity to shadow and assist in one of our classrooms. The “Teachers of Tomorrow” (TOTs) Program allows high school students to experience the various components of being a teacher through shadowing, assisting and working with small student groups under the direct supervision of the classroom teacher.

Through our collaboration with the Buffalo Bandits, students will have an opportunity to interact with the players to learn the basic skills of the game of lacrosse. They will also learn about the dedication and commitment required to be a professional athlete, and what constitutes good sportsmanship.

During the spring, Walking Club will be offered to both 3rd and 4th students and their families. This outdoor one-mile walk through the community promotes good health, wellness and fitness throughout the year. Additionally, Yoga Club will be offered this spring. Students in grade 3 are introduced to basic poses through age appropriate yoga videos. Students express thoughts, ideas and feelings through a gratitude journal and whole group discussions about intentions happen. Students develop breathing techniques and mental discipline while engaging in healthy exercise.

This June, fourth grade students will learn about different career paths from speakers around our community while all students will dress up to show others “what they want to be when they grow up”. Presenters identify and explain their career, share the education, training and/or skill set necessary to obtain and maintain this position, and provide a visual and/or demonstration of what they do each day. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and complete a reflection form that will drive a future career pathways conversation with teachers and/or counselor.
George Southard Elementary School is LION PROUD of our excellent academic programs and instructional staff, and a wealth of social-emotional learning and supports for our students.

Like all of our schools in the Lockport City School District, we are well staffed with professionals who help meet our students’ social-emotional needs and promote their social-emotional growth. Our school psychologist, school counselor and Lions Den teaching assistant provide crisis interventions and counseling to students who need support to function at their best.

Classroom instruction to promote positive social-emotional growth and behaviors is provided to all students. Skills such as problem solving, calming, mindfulness and focusing are intentionally taught. Positive character traits such as kindness, empathy, friendship, helpfulness and persistence are intentionally modeled and encouraged.

Groups such as Kindness Club, Student Council and Coach K’s Leadership Group allow students to take active roles in helping others and giving back to their community. Through the “Winning Smiles” program, our students donated hundreds of pounds of their Halloween candy to be sent to our servicemen overseas. They collected many boxes of sandwich spreads as part of the Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive in support of local families in need. They collected hundreds of items to include in care packages to show appreciation to our local law enforcement officers as part of the Lockport Blue program.

We also encourage responsibility and commitment. One indicator of those traits is regular school attendance. We are proud that our average daily attendance rate is close to 95% (which means that, on average, almost 95% of our students are present in school each day). We are especially proud that nearly 20% of our students have perfect attendance thus far in the 2019-2020 school year. That is over 70 students who have been in attendance every day thus far! In the words of Woody Allen, “80% of success is showing up”.

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- **Craft Night: February 7** - A PTSA-sponsored event for parents and students to work together to make Valentines-themed creations.

- **100th Day celebration: on/about February 11** - A day for our primary students to celebrate the numeral 100, a milestone numeral in their math education.

- **HISTOP: March/April** - Our fourth graders will spend quality time with senior volunteers from the Dale Association as part of their “History Sharing Through Our Photos” program.

- **Grade 4 Spelling Bee: April 6** - Following class competitions, ten of our fourth graders will compete in our PTSA Spelling Bee, and the winners will advance to the regional competition.

- **Musical: April 24** - Rehearsals are underway for the upcoming presentation of “Jukebox Time Machine”.
Roy B. Kelley Elementary School is LION PROUD of our Student Council! They organized a canned food drive to benefit All Saint’s Pantry here in Lockport. The goal of this community outreach initiative was to stack as many cans as possible and fill Mrs. Walton’s office. Our families were so generous with the amount of food donated and the people at the pantry greatly appreciated the donations!

Upcoming Activities/Events:

• Disney’s, “The Jungle Book KIDS”! The 3rd and 4th grade students are practicing very hard for their upcoming performance on Feb. 13th and 14th at The Palace. Over 80 students will participate in this production. We are so proud of this event! It is a community effort with all stakeholders invested in creating a magical experience. Please come and join us at the historical Palace, you will not be disappointed.

• PTA Reflections Contest - Each year, over 300,000 students in grades pre-k-12 create original works of art in response to a student selected theme. The theme for the 2019-20 program year is “Look Within”. Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Roy B. Kelley had a total of 22 entries for Reflections.

The following students were recognized in the area of Visual Arts:

Adysen Chase
Richard Cirillo
Maggie Frischholz
Ella Herrington
Cecelia Kolling
Riley Lee
Ella Luke
Aurora Stoltz
Morgan Stull

The following students earned an Award of Merit:

Claire Haley
Isadora Kolling
Julia Stegman

The following students earned the Award of Excellence:

Josephine Bacon
McKenna Drake
Makayla Klumpp
Cecelia Kolling
Gina Mitchell
Nora Regan-Greiner
Evelyn Welton
Lillian Wheeler

Thank you to all who participated!
Mission Statement

We believe: All people can learn. Schools create conditions for success: academically, socially, emotionally, physically and aesthetically.

Teaching and learning are the shared responsibilities of home, school, and the community.

Our mission is to assure comprehensive learning for all so that each person will be a lifelong learner.