NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS!

As the new “roaring 20s” surge forward, the Lansing School District names new board leadership, appoints an acting superintendent, and makes third-grade literacy a focus.

We look forward to a decade of innovation and excellence for our schools and community—and, as you’ll see in this issue of The Bright Side, we’re off to a pretty snazzy start.

In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2    | Table of Contents
|      | Upcoming Events |
| 3    | Board of Education Officers Named |
| 4    | Sinicropi Appointed Interim Superintendent |
| 5    | Literacy Takes Center Stage at Willow |
| 6    | Ingham ISD Plans Headlee Vote |
| 7    | Elementary Students Visit State Capitol |
| 8    | Lewton Hosts World Wednesday Celebrations |
| 9    | Candy Canes for Unified Champions |
| 10   | Sexton/Jr. Achievement Job Shadow Day |
| 11   | Forest View Rewards Hardworking Staff |
| 12   | CPR Training Provided by Lansing F.D. |
| 13   | Native American Visits to Cumberland |
| 14   | District Showcase Planned |
| 15   | North School Door Decorating Contest |
| 16   | Bright Spots |

UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 22**
- Half-Day for High Schools (Exams)
- Full Day - No Late Start

**January 23**
- Half-Day for High Schools (Exams)
- Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

**January 24**
- End of First Semester

**January 28**
- PCAC Meeting (Parent Community Advisory Council) 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**January 29**
- Late Start Wednesday

**Everett Critics**: Students at Everett New Tech High School critique their teacher’s work—one of many ways they get to think differently!
The Lansing School District Board of Education Elects New Officers

The Lansing School District Board of Education has elected Gabrielle Lawrence as its new president and Rachel Willis as vice president. Dr. Nathan Burroughs has been elected as treasurer, along with Dr. Nino Rodríguez as secretary. The board officers were elected unanimously as a slate of candidates by the nine-member Board of Education on Thursday, January 9.

“It is an honor to serve as board president, and I sincerely appreciate the support and confidence of my fellow board members,” Lawrence said. “I am looking forward to another great year for the school district. The board will be hiring a new superintendent in 2020, continue working to increase student enrollment (up 200 students this academic year) and focus on increasing student achievement. The board will continue to make sure the district is economically stable by growing our $10 million dollar plus fund balance, and we will always listen to our school community and make the best decisions possible.”

“I have enjoyed serving as president of the Board of Education for the past three years, and the board has led the district to make some really great strides forward,” said vice president Willis. “I am looking forward to continuing to serve in leadership in the vice president role. Our board works really well together, and now is a good time to bring in new ideas and continue moving forward with positive momentum.”

“The Lansing School District is fortunate to have a great leadership team on our Board of Education,” said interim superintendent Sam Sinicropi. “All our school board members donate their talent, time and energy to help make our school community great.”
The Lansing School District Board of Education voted to hire an Interim Superintendent who will begin work on January 1, 2020.

Sam Sinicropi is a veteran administrator within the Lansing School District and served as a superintendent in Michigan. A search for a permanent superintendent in Lansing will continue with a target date for hiring of July 1, 2020.

Sam Sinicropi graduated from Everett High School in 1968, earned an Associates degree (AB) from Lansing Community College and later earned an undergraduate and graduate degree from Michigan State University. Sam began his career with the Lansing School District as a custodian receiving support and encouragement from teachers and principals; he studied elementary education and became a teacher in 1974.

After teaching for several years, Sam moved into administration and held numerous executive positions including principal, assistant director of human resources, director of secondary education in charge of all high schools and middle schools, and area director responsible for all aspects of administration for all eastside Lansing schools.

Sam Sinicropi left the Lansing School District to become the Superintendent of Saline Area Schools; a district located about five miles south of Ann Arbor. Superintendent Sinicropi served for four years until his retirement. He then returned to work for six years as an educational consultant for secondary education for the Michigan Department of Education. Sam later returned to the Lansing School District to serve as Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Chief Financial Officer.

“I have three grandchildren currently in the Lansing School District and I am committed to making Lansing schools successful,” Sinicropi said.

Dr. Delsa Chapman, who has been employed in the Lansing School District for more than 28 years and served as Interim Acting Superintendent during the transition will return to her position as Deputy Superintendent.
Reading proficiency scores at Willow Elementary are up, in fact, they’re WAY up, so much so that even the Governor’s office has taken notice.

The reason: the hard work put in by teachers, students and staff coupled with the help and resources provided by the MEC K-3 Reading Corps—a literacy program that been in place at Willow Elementary since 2015.

It’s a partnership that’s been paying dividends for Willow Elementary students ever since. Since 2015, the MEC Reading Corps program has served 128 Willow students, with all experiencing double digit growth in their reading proficiency scores.

That amazing success was recently highlighted during a MEC K-3 Reading Corps site visit attended by members of the Lansing School District executive team as well staff from Senator Hertel’s office and Representative Sarah Anthony’s office, as well as staff from the Michigan Department of Education and the Governor’s office.

“Our partnership with the MEC K-3 Reading Corps has done wonders for our students,” said Steven Lonzo, principal of Willow Elementary. “We only have these students here at Willow for three short, precious years. It’s important we make the most of that time and the MEC K-3 Reading Corps is making sure that’s the case.”

The program is simple. Students in need of additional help with their reading are provided with daily, one-on-one, 20-minute support sessions from trained MEC Reading Corps interventionist. With that time, the interventionists provide evidenced-based instruction and targeted reading practice to students based on their specific needs and the difficulties they are having.

“The students we serve here at Willow are the future. And through this partnership with MEC K-3 Reading Corps, we’re working to make sure each and every one of them has the literacy skills they need to fulfill their dreams.”
Upcoming Election Important to Lansing School District Families

Lansing voters will soon have the opportunity to support their schools at the ballot box.

The Ingham Intermediate School District (ISD) service area is seeking a Headlee Restoration Millage vote on March 10, 2020.

If approved, the restoration would generate $2,300,000 of special education funds to support special education students, purchase equipment and upgrade facilities for students attending public schools in the Ingham ISD service area, which includes the Lansing School District.

“This millage restoration would do a tremendous amount of good for our students,” said interim superintendent Sam Sinicropi. “And even better, it’s not actually a new tax. All this measure does is restore the millage back to the original rate that was already approved by the voters.”

Just as important to note, property taxes will not go down if the millage is defeated.

The election will be on March 10, 2020 and polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available by January 25, 2020.
An exciting time is being had by the district’s third graders as they visit the Capitol to learn about Michigan’s rich history and different careers in government and public administration.

The hour-long tour is a great enhancement to the third grade social studies curriculum. The students get to see first-hand how Michigan’s representatives tackle local and state issues.

They also get to attach names and faces to our legislative bodies and get a close up view of the fine art and architecture that make the Capitol one of the most stunning structures in the nation.

By May of 2020, over 700 third-graders will be able to say they visited the Capitol!
One of Lewton’s points of pride is its World Wednesday Celebrations. These celebrations include activities, food and performances that highlight Latino culture, global issues and Project-Based Learning (PBL) projects. As we take the time to reflect on 2019, we’d like to thank our community partners. They play an important role in the World Wednesday celebrations and their commitment to our students is remarkable.

In September, Post Oak Academy supported Lewton’s International Peace Day Celebration. Students, teachers and families participated in a Peace Parade, painted peace rocks, created an action plan for climate change and enjoyed desserts from around the world.

In October, MSU CAMP students, Grupo Fiesta, and Lansing’s DJ Rueben showcased their talents during an annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Students enjoyed folkloric and salsa dancing, arts and crafts, and delicious Mexican cuisine.

Lewton also has formed a One World club that creates a space for students to come up with ways to impact our local community and our world. In November, students shared PBL projects at the annual Global Studies Celebration. These projects were related to climate action, poverty, economic sustainability and diversity. The One World club collected canned goods for Lansing’s Food Bank and distributed hats, gloves, scarves for those in need. Lewton collected 1506 pounds of canned goods or 1266 meals!
“Candy Canes of Kindness” at Cumberland Elementary School

Cumberland Elementary in the Lansing school district is participating in the Unified Champions program, which helps build acceptance and respect between students in both general and special educational classrooms. Cumberland has a group of students, called the ‘Cougar Leaders’, that meet monthly to discuss ways to make the school better.

The group is led by special education teachers Sara Wills and Therese Noonan. The Cougar Leaders mission statement is: Be Kind, Help others, Be a Leader and Work together.

This month the Cougar Leaders met and worked on a project called, “candy canes of kindness.” The students found positive, encouraging messages on the internet, printed them off and tied them to candy canes to pass out to the entire school. The group enjoyed working together to make these candy canes for their school. Before winter break the Cougar Leaders visited the classrooms to introduce themselves and to hand out the candy canes.

The Unified Champions program provides many opportunities through Special Olympics and federal funds for students with and without disabilities to participate in sporting events and other positive, team building events and activities.
Sexton H.S. and Junior Achievement Partner for a Reverse Job Shadow Day

Sexton High School recently partnered with Junior Achievement to host a Reverse Job Shadow Day.

While most are familiar with a traditional job shadow where individual students visit the workplace, a reverse job shadow is different in that it brings the workplace to the entire student body. Volunteers from different business sectors are placed in every classroom throughout the building. Students then rotate through their normal schedules and are able to meet a new professional each hour.

The Reverse Job Shadow at Sexton brought in more than 60 local volunteers. Students and staff were able to learn about various career pathways, career opportunities in Lansing and surrounding areas, how classroom content applies in real world settings, and many were even able to complete workplace challenges designed by the volunteers.

Thank you to Junior Achievement and all of the volunteers for helping our students to become future-ready!
After 76 school days of working diligently to help students, parents, and one another, the Forest View staff took some much needed time for themselves.

As principal of the school, Ms. Brown tries to keep a pulse on how her staff is feeling. In December, it seemed like most were exhausted. Not only were team members giving their all to students with significant needs, they were facing personal tragedies and poor health. In response, Ms. Brown worked with the REAP Instructional Coach, Ms. Decoster, to create a professional development morning of self-care on December 16.

Ms. Decoster reached out to the community and was pleased with the number of people willing to help.

Ms. Decoster reached out to the community and was pleased with the number of people willing to help.

Ms. Decoster reached out to the community and was pleased with the number of people willing to help.

Aurelia and Alison from Release Fitness brought equipment and taught kickboxing. Jenni from Healing Time Massage gave a chair massage to over 30 staff including lunch staff, teachers, assistants, office staff, and Special Education therapists. Personal development life coach Angelica of A Purpose and Passion led a group in a guided meditation and our own Art Integrationist, Amy Miros, facilitated a yoga class.

All staff had the chance to spend time in a relaxation room with rock painting, play doh, and coloring.

After a delicious breakfast filled with laughter and camaraderie, the staff divided into their chosen activities. There was something for everybody. Movement, silence, conversation, and stillness were all on the menu. The staff at Forest View felt appreciated and were given the great reminder that they are so deserving of a little extra time and good care.
The Lansing Fire Department is providing an amazing opportunity to students at the high schools—certified CPR training. In just two short hours, students learn skills that boost their employability and could potentially save a life.

The training session, which is taught by local firefighters—a few of which are also LSD alumni—focuses on hands-only CPR for both infants and adults and the proper use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

At the completion of the course, students receive certificates from the fire department as well as course completion cards from the American Heart Association. Thank you to the Lansing Fire Department for this generous gift!

P.S. Be on the lookout in the spring for information about how families can tour one of three local fire stations to learn more about fire-science related careers.
Native American Visits Enlighten Cumberland Elementary Students

On Tuesday, November 26th the Native American Program visited the Cumberland first grade classrooms of Amanda Bush, Sarah Renny and Julia Ingraham. The visit was connected to Native American Heritage Month and the Thanksgiving holiday.

Jamie Roy, specialized Native American assistant, had students and staff enthralled with her presentation on the indigenous people of Michigan. Ms. Roy spoke on the traditions of Native Americans, the day in the life back in the 1600s and how Native Americans give thanks on a daily basis.

Student questions provided opportunities for Ms. Roy to discuss issues Native Americans face today. As the original protectors of Mother Earth, the safeguarding of our water systems in Michigan is a priority. Ms. Roy spoke briefly on Enbridge Line 5, Nestle and the water crisis in Flint.

The first graders heard a story about the ‘Creation of Turtle Island’, followed by an activity in which they were able to create their very own turtle island! Storytelling is the traditional way for elders to pass on teachings and wisdom to the youth; especially during the winter months as time is spent mostly indoors.

Special guest Charlene Fox performed some hand drum songs and students were captivated by her powerful singing voice. Ms. Fox sang a fun rendition of the Scooby-Doo cartoon song that delighted the students.

Ms. Roy also provided different articles for the students to view and even touch. Items such as a moose hide dress, a breastplate made of real animal bones and a mini canoe made of birch bark and sweet grass.

Ms. Roy would like to thank the students and staff at Cumberland Elementary for welcoming her and the teachings she shared. Please contact Jamie Roy at 755-4980 or email jamie.roy@lansingschools.net for assistance with educational needs on Native Americans.
DREAM BIG! IT’S YOUR JOURNEY.
THE LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT WE’LL GET YOU THERE.

EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL
Health Services
Human Services

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL
Arts, Communications & Information Technologies

SEXTON HIGH SCHOOL
Engineering, Adv. Manufacturing
Insurance & Finance

DISTRICT SHOWCASE
FEB 9
12 - 4:00 P.M.
DON JOHNSON FIELD HOUSE
North School Students Compete in Door Decorating Contest

Students at North recently participated in a school wide door decorating contest.

The CRBPIS team designed the contest to create a sense of ownership and pride in the school.

Research indicates when students are involved in the decorating and maintenance of the school they are more motivated to keep the school looking good. It also increases students’ desire to attend school and can positively impact learning.

Students earned the opportunity to design and create the door for their learning pod based on positive behavior as part of the CRBPIS program at North. They worked with a staff member to create their final product.

The finished doors were evaluated using a rubric including the inclusion of a positive message, originality, visual presentation, and conventions.

Students from Ms. Walton and Ms. Tisdale’s Pod won with their ‘Caught making Good Choices’ design.

Congratulations to all of the students who invested their time and energy into creating positive school wide messages for everyone to enjoy!
At Averill New Tech Elementary, Ms. Townsend’s kindergarteners learned how to be good listeners by using listening ears, good eye contact and the right smile.

An amazing adventure through history was provided by a student at Mt. Hope STEAM this month!

Ms. Herderich’s class was very lucky that a student stumbled upon her great-grandfather’s briefcase. Inside was memorabilia from his time in the Navy during WWII. There were his uniform, maps, pictures, and even a giant scroll with letters from his family. What a wonderful opportunity to learn about family and world history today from one of our sixth grade students!