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Persevering in Challenging Times

Students are enjoying school events and routines while being cautionary of COVID-19.

Compared to one year ago, students in Lake George Central School District are doing more while still practicing COVID prevention protocols, with a full season of sports under their belts, the first Drama Club performance in front of a live audience in almost two years, in-person Book Fairs, the welcome return of the Elementary School Fall Festival and Holiday Craft Fair, and a full slate of co-curricular activities. While the district's COVID prevention protocols are still in place, students have been able to participate in the



Lake George Drama Club presented Mamma Mia! in front of a live audience for the first time in almost two years.

activities they love thanks to creative thinking, planning, and implementation by parents, faculty, and staff working together.

Community Engagement at Lake George Central School District

Indeed, life at Lake George Central School District is in full throttle. During this fall alone, the district has conducted five different community forums,

each with its own process for gathering community input and making shared decisions that are in the best interests of the students. The district is undertaking important work with thoughtfulness and thoroughness in a way that will unite the community.

One community engagement forum was focused on the search for a new superintendent of schools. Another community forum centered on developing a district-wide Code of Conduct, which is a NYS requirement. At this forum, internal and external stakeholders collaborated on the district-wide Code of Conduct that will be the overarching umbrella of the individual building level codes of conduct. Two community forums were held regarding the merger of the Lake George football program with Warrensburg, North Warren, and Bolton. The most recent forum was the Board level Ad Hoc Committee to review sample policies on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This ad hoc committee will provide feedback to assist the Board Policy Committee in developing a policy that will be most meaningful here at Lake George.

These forums have addressed what would be challenging topics in normal times, let alone during a time of transition. Each forum was valuable and productive and focused on the best interests of the community and the children of Lake George Central School District. With an average attendance of 40 people at each forum, community members are sending a strong message to prospective candidates for the next Superintendent of Schools that this is a community that is actively involved in, and deeply committed to, the education of its children. The forums reaffirm that LGCSD values and welcomes community input in order to make shared decisions for the benefit of students.

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We are lifelong learners, leaders, and global citizens.



Students Mean Business at Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School

Members of the Lake George Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) dove into the school year with energy and entrepreneurial visions! They revamped the school store with retail display boards and populated it with items that you didn't know you needed during these COVID-related times. For instance, students can purchase mini facial wipes to use during the day if their masks cause their skin to become greasy or irritated. Business students staff the store on the second floor of the high school and handle everything from inventory and purchasing to marketing and selling.

Proceeds from the school store and other fundraisers throughout the year help FBLA students gain experience and raise money for their Fall and National Leadership Conferences. Lake George FBLA students have achieved great success at both of these conferences in the past, with last year's club sending two teams to the National Leadership Conference (which was virtual due to COVID), reaching the finals, and securing Top 10 honors.



One of the most visible FBLA fundraisers is a true community collaboration. FBLA students reach out to local businesses that will be open during the winter and invite them to display a snowman in front of the business to let tourists know that they are open. Students work with the business owners on contracts, then paint 4' tall wooden snowmen to reflect each establishment. The Village Department of Public Works keeps the snowmen in the off-season, drops them off and picks them up from the businesses, and provides a space for the students to paint the snowmen each fall.

"It's a real collaborative effort between the students and the local business community," said Mrs. Karen Breslin, business education teacher and FBLA co-advisor with Mrs. Brenda Hoffman.

In addition to high school business classes, Mrs. Breslin and Mrs. Hoffman teach courses in personal finance and investing. They teach students to budget, save, pay off debt, and the benefits of investing early.

"Members of the FBLA, and all our business students, are learning invaluable, real-life skills," said Mrs. Breslin.

Student Reflections: Logan Marissal



To say that senior Logan Marissal likes to stay busy is an understatement. He is on the wrestling team, serves as student council and varsity club president, is a member of the national honor society, the vice-president of the French honor society, and joined the anti-bullying committee this year. All of this on top of taking mostly Advanced Placement (AP) classes and spending time with family and friends.

Wrestling is his focus though, especially as he looks to impress college recruiters.

"We didn't have a season last year, so that means I need to work harder this year."

When he isn't training or competing, Logan finds time for another sport he loves – cliff jumping! His favorite place to jump is Dorset Quarry in Vermont. "It's my happy place," he said.

As student council president, Logan sought to help his classmates with the longtime parking problem. He met with Mayor Blais, LGCSD Superintendent, and Principal Cocozza over the summer, and they discussed a plan to help. They came up

with a map that shows students where they can park when they drive to school.

He also wanted to bring back a renewed sense of school spirit. "Since we couldn't have a pep rally or school spirit week last year, I wanted to really highlight it this year," he said. "We had the most participation I have ever seen." The Pep Rally was held on the field behind the gym, with students from every grade lining the surrounding hills.

While going to school during a pandemic is challenging, Logan tries to look at it with a pragmatic attitude. "These are the cards we were dealt, so we have to make the best of it." He is grateful for remaining in-person and for teachers who make sure they don't fall behind.

Logan credits his parents for his positive outlook. "We have a close connection. They are always there for me and I am so thankful for them."

Future plans: Law school or the sciences

Favorite book: Death Note

Favorite movies: Back to the Future series, Shawshank Redemption, Rambo (the original)

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District Receives Additional Funds Related to Pandemic

School districts in New York State will receive additional funding in the 2021-22 enacted state budget from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 to address learning loss and other items due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below, Lake George Central School District Interim School Business Administrator Lyn Derway explains what this means for the district.

Q1: What do ARP, ESSER, and CRRSA stand for?

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Funding
On March 11, 2021, the President signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. New York State was allocated nearly \$9 billion under the ARP Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act) Funding

An additional Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act provided New York State with just over \$4 billion ESSER 2 Funds, with a minimum of \$3.6 billion (90 percent) allocated to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

Q2: How can these funds be used?

At least 20% of the funds are to be used to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as extended day or extended school year programs. The remainder of the funds may be used for other items including:

- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEAs with state and local agencies to improve responses to coronavirus
- Training and professional development for staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities
- Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-

term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements

- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment
- Providing mental health services and supports
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs
- Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement
- Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff

Q3. How Much Money Will Lake George Central School District Receive, and How Will It Use These Funds?

Lake George CSD will receive a total of \$1,701,452 in ARP/ESSER federal funds.

The school principals will develop remediation plans for 20% of the funds (\$235,504) in conjunction with each building's Shared Decision Making committees. These plans will ensure that students' academic, social, and emotional needs are addressed, with

particular attention paid to COVID's impact on economically disadvantaged students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

The remainder of the funds (\$1,465,948) will be used to improve HVAC systems in both buildings to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities and reduce the risk of virus transmission. The district is working with TetraTech Architects to design the project, which may include the repair/replacement of certain classroom units and roof top units.

Q4. What is the timeline for using the federal dollars?

The remediation plans are currently being developed. The district expects to implement the plan and utilize the funds over this year and the following two school years.

The HVAC project is expected to take place during the summers of 2022 and 2023.

Welcome Back Lyn Derway

Mrs. Derway began her career in school finance at North Warren Central School District and retired four years ago from Brunswick Central School District.



She has been serving local districts as an Interim School Business Administrator ever since. Lake George Central School District is her 9th interim position during this time. She holds a Masters and CAS in Educational Administration from SUNY Plattsburgh. She lives with her husband, Mick, in Hudson Falls and has four children and five grandchildren. She is happy to be back at Lake George Central Schools.



Honor Societies

Congratulations to the new members of the King Hendrick Chapter of the **National Honor Society:**

Emma Atkinson **Daniel Barber** Makena Barber Chelsea Blanco Madeline Burke Antonio Caldaroni Caroline Campbell Jonah Cocozza **Tiffany Cornelius** Darja Coutts **Taylor Davies** Liam Fahey Stack Lila Frazier Samantha Gorey Kayla Grant Maggie Greene Sara Kassal Zachary Lehmann **Brody McCabe Daniel Nichols** Aidan Osborne Alexis Pape Ava Ouirk Annika Schermerhorn Luke Sheldon **Mattison Stark Shannon Starratt** Samantha Tennyson Joseph Tornabene III

Congratulations to the new members of the Saint Sacrament Chapter of the Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School French **Honor Society:**

Kyle Casabonne Samantha Gorey Sara Kassal Molly Martellotta **Daniel Nichols** Annika Schermerhorn Luke Sheldon

Hannah Wilson

Grace York

Fall Sports Wrap-Up

The Lake George Athletic Department is pleased to announce that all Fall Varsity Sports teams achieved the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award. Congratulations to our student athletes, coaches, teachers. and community!

Team	Average GPA	Boys
Golf	96.80	2021 /
Girls Cross Country	95.78	Leagu
Boys Cross Country	95.14	First To
Girls Soccer	94.97	First To
Boys Soccer	94.10	Secon
Volleyball	92.98	Secon
Football	92.32	 All

Boys Cross-Country

2021 Adirondack League All Stars League Co-MVP: Isaac Herrick First Team: Oliver Herrick Second Team: Liam Fahey Stack

- Adirondack League Cross Country Champions
- Placed second in the Section 2, Class D Championship meet

Girls Cross Country

2021 Adirondack League All Stars First Team: Taylor McLarty First Team: Taylor Syvertsen Second Team: Mattison Stark

 Adirondack League Cross Country Champions

Girls Soccer

2021 Adirondack League All Stars First Team: Lila Frazier First Team: Samantha Gorey

First Team: Tiffany Cornelius Second Team: Anita Preuss

· Adirondack League Champions

s Soccer

Adirondack League All Stars ue MVP: Samuel Knauf Team: Kristian "Yogi" Johnson Team: Poe Tutu nd Team: Kyle Dolan nd Team: Jack Sullivan

- State Small School Selection: Samuel Knauf
- · Adirondack League Champions for 5th consecutive year

Golf

Sophomore Zachary Bruno was named Adirondack League Golfer of the Year, was a Sectional qualifier, and won the Adirondack League Tournament for the third consecutive year.

Volleyball

2021 Adirondack League All Stars League MVP: Ella Fox First Team: Madeline Burke First Team: Shannon Starratt First Team: Olivia Gates Second Team: Evelyn Burke

- · All State Class D: Ella Fox
- Adirondack League Champions
- Section 2 Class D Finalists

Football

.500 overall record in Class D Play

The Athletic Department welcomed many new coaches this year:

John Alecci - Modified Girls Soccer Dean Biancaniello- new Athletic Trainer Chris Brown - Alpine Volunteer Kevin Burrall - Cross County Assistant Mark Dickinson - Baseball Volunteer Phil Gengel - Nordic Christina Howe - Bowling Assistant

Paul Lindsey - Nordic Assistant Pam McCullen - Bowling Assistant

Heidi Montville - Modified Track, Cross Country Volunteer

Duncan Mularz - Varsity Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant

Peter Puricelli - Girls Modified Basketball, Varsity Baseball

Chad Sheldon - Modified Football

Laurie Skellie - Head Varsity Bowling

Cody Stinson - Track Chad York - JV Baseball

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SPARC Update

The Lake George Central School District is guided by a Strategic Plan that was developed through a thoughtful, collaborative, community-wide, evidence-based approach.

The district's mission, vision, values, and goals were first articulated and adopted by the LGCSD Board of Education in 2017. This initial Strategic Plan was developed by the Strategic Planning Committee (SPARC) which consisted of stakeholders from parents, students, staff, community members, Board of Education members, and administrators.

In 2020, as the three-year plan was coming to an end, the Board of Education tasked the district with reviewing and revising the Strategic Plan as necessary, while holding to the original mission, vision, and values.

While the COVID school closure derailed the timeline, the committee continued to consider shifting environmental factors, new state mandates, district priorities, and district trends when making decisions about adjustments to goals and actions to meet the district vision and mission.

The Result

The original five goals were honed to three:

1. CREATE Values

By focusing on the district's core values of Collaboration, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Trust, and Empathy, we will cultivate mindsets and behaviors for success and wellbeing.

2. Raise the Bar

The district will continue to empower students to achieve local, national, and global academic standards at essential proficiency levels.

3. Close the Gap

The district will continue efforts to increase the proficiency rate of target subgroups.

To achieve the goals and objectives, the district will develop an action plan that includes identifying a profile of what success looks like at LGCSD. The action plan will also include strategies to cultivate success and wellbeing for the whole child, including personal and academic growth.

Strategies for Personal Growth:

- Foster a community and culture to support success and wellbeing
- Create a profile of success and wellbeing for a Lake George student targeting skills and competencies of social-emotional learning, leadership, college and career readiness, equity, and inclusion
- Align and integrate existing tools, programs, curricula K-12
- Determine how success will be measured.
 Where are we finding success and where are there gaps?
 - ** Engage more voices in the process.

Strategies for Academic Growth:

- Gather and analyze data, set cut-point/ benchmarks
- · Identify areas of need
- · Create an intervention plan
- Progress monitor
- Analyze data and conduct regular assessments of progress towards goal (i.e. RTI meetings)
- Evaluate and improve existing programs (i.e. Tier 1, 2, and 3 programs or ELA & Math curricular programs)

By recentering on the foundation of strategic planning while being mindful of shifting environmental factors, the district is reenergized to help students develop skills, competencies, and standards that epitomize lifelong learning, leading, and global citizenship.

Welcome New Staff



Kelsey Cox 5th Grade Teacher



Katherine Gibbons LGES Teaching Assistant



Sarah Dillman LGES School Psychologist



Matthew Petteys Groundskeeper



Jessica Egan 6th Grade Teacher



Kristine Lufkin HS Greeter



Kathleen Kelly HS Special Education



Lorrie Wolf LGES Custodian



Natalie Valla HS Math Teacher



Michaela White Payroll Clerk



Student Reflections: Jessica Dobie



Fourth grader Jessica likes to read, make slime and play with her cousins.

"My grandparents and cousins came to visit this summer. We got a pool put in so, we spent a lot of time swimming. My birthday is in the summer too, so we celebrated that."

She also loves to snuggle her cat, Sissy.

Her favorite subject in school is math. "It's really fun because I like to solve

problems," said Jessica. She also plays soccer and softball, sings in the chorus, and plays the flute.

Recently, Jessica donated 8 inches of hair to Locks of Love. "My mom and I went together to donate our hair."

Jessica is looking forward to Band starting in January. She also wants to try basketball and maybe ice skating.

Favorite book - "The Babysitters Club Series

Favorite movie - Descendants

Student Reflections: Lauren Wildey



Lauren is a fourth grader who likes to FaceTime friends, swim, and play outside with her dog.

"My dog Ramsey is a St. Bernard. He is taller than my dad when he stands on two legs! I also have two cats, Simba and Tux."

Last summer, Lauren and her family went on an overnight trip to Old Forge. She also spent lots of time with her grandparents.

Her favorite subjects in school are math and reading. She loves to find new books to read, especially nonfiction books. "Fourth grade has been easier than last year," remarked Lauren.

She plays soccer and the trumpet and is looking forward to Band starting next year.

Inspired by her aunt and mom, Lauren recently donated 12 inches of hair to Locks of Love.

Lauren has taken the changes from COVID in stride. "I don't mind the masks because they keep me warm in the winter," she said.

Favorite books - Graphic Novel: "Baloney and Friends," "Miss Daisy is Crazy," and "I Survived" Series

Favorite movie - Elf

Co-Curriculars Help Develop Leaders at Elementary School

"Personalizing opportunities that empower all students to be lifelong learners, leaders and global citizens" is the mission of Lake George Central School District, and the plethora of afterschool activities at the Lake George Elementary School help do just that.

"All students have passions outside of the classroom, and we want to help foster those," said Lake George Elementary School Principal Jim Conway, "We have developed a large variety of afterschool programs so there is something for everyone."

The school provides opportunities for all students from kindergarten through sixth grade. The goal is for each student to participate in at least one afterschool activity during the year.

Students can choose from activities including band and chorus, mountain biking, coding/robotics, mixed media and drawing, world languages, and more! Students are also encouraged to develop new clubs and programs.

"We love when students bring ideas forward and create new programs," remarked Mr. Conway. Recently, students created a graphic design club, a ropes course, and are working on a Gaga Ball pit (which was delayed due to COVID).

Co-Curricular programs give students opportunities to develop their leadership skills, which is a hallmark of LGES. The Lighthouse Team and the conservation crew are two examples of groups that foster student leadership, vision, and innovation. Tangible results of these clubs can be seen throughout the school and in the main entrance way and courtyard.

Afterschool programs are excellent opportunities for community collaboration. Recently, World Languages Teacher Nathalie Martineau applied for and received a grant from the Adirondack Foundation to offer an afterschool "Read to Paint" program. Students in grades 5-7 read a description of Pablo Picasso's "Seated Arlequin" in Spanish and/or French and painted their own interpretations of the work of art. The students' artwork was on display at Caldwell Public Library through December 31, 2021.



Charolet Pickering (7th grade), Kaelynne Crisler (5th grade), and Addison Reinhold (6th grade) pose with their first place prizes in Caldwell Public Library during the grand opening of the "Read to Paint" exhibit.

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Facilities Update

The \$5.2 million Capital Improvement Project that residents approved in May 2018 is nearly complete. Thanks to COVID, the majority of the project was finished over a year ahead of schedule, however, COVID did cause some delays in obtaining materials.

Items in this Capital Project were identified in the district's 2016 Building Condition Survey. The goals were to increase safety and security, replace aging infrastructure, improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and enhance learning environments in both schools.

Jr.-Sr. High School

- The vestibule at the main entrance was made more secure while maintaining its historic transom window and vaulted ceilings
- The sidewalk was raised at main entrance for handicap accessibility
- The bridge connecting the Jr.-Sr. High School to the second floor weight room in the gym was extended for handicap accessibility
- Two vintage boilers were replaced
- Fire alarm and smoke detection systems were replaced
- Window balances were repaired so they stay open 12"
- Security improvements were made to windows and doors

- · The technology rooms were modified
- The stage floor was replaced
- The copy room and staff room were reconfigured, and an ADA compliant restroom was created
- The tennis courts were reconfigured and increased to four courts
- Storm piping near the tennis courts were relocated, new storm manholes and waste systems were installed
- The area surrounding the tennis courts was regraded, a retaining wall was installed, and handicap access to the upper field was improved

Elementary School

- Cluster entry doors and frames were replaced for safety purposes
- The track was reconstructed and resurfaced
- Power circuit/outlets were added in cluster classrooms
- Select windows have window film installed for safety purposes

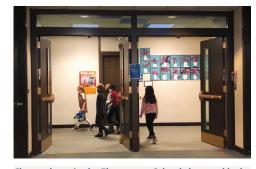
Funding for the local share of this capital project came from a Capital Reserve Fund that was established in 2016 and a 15-year bond that replaced retiring debt. 10% of the cost of the capital project is being returned to the district over 15 years in the form of revenue from NYS Building Aid. There was no additional tax burden.



Technology classrooms have new floors; ceilings; walls; and movable furniture for collaboration.



The newly refurbished tennis courts get lots of use from classes, clubs, teams, and the community.



Cluster doors in the Elementary School close and lock automatically in the event of a lockdown.

Lake George Alumni Make Connections

A reinvigorated Lake George Alumni Association (LGAA) held its first social event since 2016! Alumni from the classes of 1964 through 2010 joined teachers, staff, and school administrators including Interim Superintendent Doug Huntley, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal Fran Cocozza, and Elementary School Principal Jim Conway at the Lake George Holiday Inn. Over 90 people attended, and they were able to make some great connections with alumni outside of their graduation year.

"We had such a positive response to the event, we may think about doing it on an annual basis," according to Sally Hawley, President of the Board of Directors of the LGAA.

In addition to membership events, the LGAA has a long tradition of awarding scholarships to graduating seniors. Thanks to the

generosity of its members, the association was able to award two \$2,500 scholarships last spring to Jasmine Burke and Lia Cardone.

The Alumni Association also held a fundraiser with daily, cash prizes donated by local businesses. Proceeds will be used to fund scholarships, social events, and designated school projects. One such project is the rehabilitation of the brick sign on the front lawn of the Jr.-Sr. High School. LGAA is partnering with the Classes of 1970 and 1980 to provide financial support. Work on the sign is scheduled for the spring.

For more information about the LGAA, class reunion events, and more, please visit Igalumni.com.

Board of Education:

Tricia Connor Biles - President Maryanne MacKenzie - Vice President Jeannine Bieber Katie Bruening Rosemarie Earl Lin King Melissa Seale



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

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LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent Search Process

The Lake George Central School District Board of Education is in the process of searching for a new superintendent of schools. As part of the search process, the Board sought community input regarding qualities the new LGCSD superintendent should have.

The Board conducted an online survey in November and held forums in December in order to collect information and thoughts from as many of the district's stakeholders as possible. The information collected through these methods will be used by the Board to develop a candidate profile.

The Board is collaborating with the WSWHE BOCES District Superintendent of Schools to advertise the position. Applications are due by February 4, 2022 and will be followed by a series of interviews. The Board is expected to appoint the new superintendent in the Spring of 2022, and the new superintendent is expected to take office on July 1, 2022.

Parker Honored with Lifetime **Achievement Award**

Congratulations to Sherman Parker, retired superintendent of the Lake George Central School District, who was presented with the Lake George Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Parker was recognized for his significant contributions to the local, district, and international Rotary, as well as the local community. He is only the second person in the club's history to receive this award.



Mr. Parker served as Lake George Central School District Superintendent from 1985 until his retirement in 2002. He provided a sense of community in the district and was a role model to students and teachers alike.

"He gave everything and fully immersed himself in our district as the loudest cheerleader for whatever was needed," said Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School Principal Francis Cocozza. "He positioned Lake George Central School District well for the new century. We are eternally grateful for all that he did for the Lake George Schools."

Because of Mr. Parker's desire to make a difference in the lives of students through the Rotary, the Rotary continues to support LGCSD in many ways. These include its sponsorship of the Interact Club at the Jr.-Sr. High School, annual scholarships, the Rotary Exchange Student Program, the annual Dictionary and Thesaurus Projects at the Elementary School, and the club sponsored Christmas Shopping Program for the Elementary School.