



News & Views

MARCH 2022

Snapshot of Changes in the Counseling Department

Recent and forthcoming staff changes will result in a 70% turnover in the Counseling and Guidance Department in a four-year period. This represents over 100 years of combined experience in the department. While the counseling department will look different beginning in the Fall of 2022, the district is committed to the strength of its staff and its focus on students.

The district implemented a long-term plan for this transition in 2019 when current Board of Education Member Mrs. Rosemarie Earl retired from the Jr.-Sr. High School Counselor position and it welcomed Miss Jennifer Dell'olio to the department as a School Counselor for grades K-7 with a focus on grades 5-7. Miss Dell'olio will transition to serving grades 7-9 when Mr. James Perrigo retires in June 2022 after over 31 years of service. Mr. Stephen Preuss, the current department chairperson, will serve as the counselor for grades 10-12, and a new counselor will be hired for the Elementary School.

In 2021, the district hired Elementary School Psychologist Mrs. Sarah Dillman after the retirements of Mrs. Katy Price at the Elementary School and Mr. Steve Clark at the Jr.-Sr. High School. Mr. Clark continued at the secondary level to aid the transition, and Mrs. Dillman will transition to K-9 responsibilities next year and expand her role to K-12 for the 2023-24 school year.

LGES School Social Worker Mrs. Ann Moellman will retire in June 2022 after 23 years of service. A new social worker will be hired for the Elementary School as a counterpart for longtime Jr.-Sr. High School Social Worker Mr. Scott Smith.

www.lkgeorge.org

Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Students

Lake George Central School District is committed to supporting students' social and emotional development, academic skills development, and college and career readiness. The Counseling Department plays a large role in the district's mission to personalize opportunities that empower all students to be lifelong learners, leaders, and global citizens.

"We all have experienced stress, anxiety, and loss during the past two years - including our students - but overall, they are doing okay," said Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School Counseling Department Chair Mr. Steve Preuss.

There are a few factors that contribute to this. The biggest one is that Lake George Schools remained in-person throughout the pandemic.

"Students could get services if they needed them, did not fall behind academically, and had the structure and normalcy that is so important," said Lake George Elementary School Social Worker Mrs. Ann Moellman.

Having extracurricular activities available is also a huge part of the equation. Spending time with friends, participating in sports, music, and clubs is invaluable for students' good mental health.

"The fact that our district is small also helped," said Mr. Preuss. "The students are known and most have a connection to a support person, teacher, or other adult."

One thing that Grades 5-7 School Counselor Miss Jennifer Dell'olio has noticed is that seeking help has become more normalized. "I'm glad students and families are asking for help and finding that we are here and ready to assist in any way we can," she said.

Another positive factor is the Lake George Teen Center, where Miss Dell'olio serves as director. The center provides Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School teens with a safe, supportive, after-school environment that cultivates a sense of community and promotes physical, emotional, and social well being. The center has remained open, offering programming four days a week at the Lake George Senior Center.

Miss Dell'olio also provides quick mindfulness sessions to the elementary school classes. "It teaches students to be less reactive to situations, which ties in nicely with the Leader-in-Me initiative at the school," she said.

"Our ultimate goal is to help the whole student - academically, socially, and emotionally," said Mr. Preuss, "and our district has the infrastructure in place to support our students in any way they need."



Miss Dell'olio welcomes students to eat lunch with her at the Jr.-Sr. High School.

We are lifelong learners, leaders, and global citizens.

Student Reflections:

Laurel Sherwood



Laurel is a sixth grader who loves to dance. She has been dancing since she was two years old and has taken jazz, tap, and hip hop, but her focus is on ballet.

"I'm hoping to go to dance camp this summer. I auditioned for the School of American Ballet camp and the Adirondack Dance Camp," she said.

Her favorite subjects in school are art and writing. She especially likes to write fantasy stories.

She used to play piano and will be switching to the baritone from the trombone this year.

She has a golden retriever named Cedar. "We named her Cedar because nature is important to my family," said Laurel.

Laurel relaxed and spent time with her family over the break.

Favorite books - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Favorite movies - Harry Potter (all)

Setting Goals to "Rock Your Reading"

Lake George Elementary School kicked off a school-wide "Rockin' Readers" program. Using the i-Ready® learning system, students work at their own level and pace to improve reading comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar.

"The program fits in nicely with our Leader-in-Me initiative, with its emphasis on goal setting and unleashing greatness," said Second Grade Teacher Mrs. Kellie Dudla. "Every student has a goal, the whole class has a goal, and each grade level has a goal. When we reach that goal we can move our boat!" said Mrs. Dudla.

Each grade has a "boat" to show their progress, and an amazing "lake" adorns the windows of the cafeteria, where students can see how each grade's boat is moving across the water. The grade with the most improvement will be rewarded at the end of the year.

Reimagining PARP

LGES teachers also reimagined the traditional March "Parents as Reading Partners," or "Pick a Reading Partner" month. The intention is to give every student an opportunity to further develop and celebrate their reading. Each week will have its own theme, with special activities, Friday dress-up days, and a culminating school-wide barbeque!

Week 1: Partner – The school-wide event will kick-off with a visit from Jeff Mack, author and/or illustrator of more than forty picture books, chapter books, and early readers, including the *Clueless McGee* series and the *Mr. Monkey* series. Students will partner and read with other classmates during the "drop everything and read" time each day.

Week 2: Artwork – Students will design book covers and movie posters of their favorite books.

Week 3: Read and Reflect – Students will write a book review or reflection.

Week 4: Presentation – Older students will perform scenes from a favorite book or of a favorite character while younger students will make puppets and storyboards.

2nd Annual Job Fair to be Held at LGHS

On Wednesday, March 16, 2021, Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School, in conjunction with Lake George Area Businesses, will hold a Job Fair for students in grades 9-12. The Job Fair is a public/private partnership between the LGCS and the Warren County Economic Recovery Task Force to bring student employees into the workforce. Up to 40 area businesses will be on-site including restaurants, hotels, tourist attractions, and others.

"Many of our students found summer jobs last year," said Lake George Business Teacher Brenda Hoffman, who is also coordinating the Job Fair. "There will be jobs available for waiters, lifeguards, ride operators, and more."

The Job Fair will help the business community prepare for a solid summer season and build a year-round economy, while helping our students and community grow.

Lighthouse Team Planning Buddy Benches

Four members of the LGES Student Lighthouse Team are raising money to purchase two special benches for the school playground. "Buddy Benches" serve as a silent signal that a child needs a friend to play with at recess.

"If someone is sitting on a buddy bench, then another person could go over and ask them if they wanted to play," said Buddy Bench Action Team Member Piper Brown.

The team researched benches and estimated the cost for two benches to be approximately \$1,500. The team is in the process of raising enough money to pay for half the cost. A fundraiser was recently held at The Luxury Box in Queensbury, and the team is also planning a classroom penny drive. The team recently presented their idea to the PTSO, which inspired a donation and this comment: "Think of how many new friendships will be created in the years to come!"

The team hopes to be able to purchase the benches and have them installed this spring. If you would like to make a donation to the Buddy Bench team, contact Mrs. Lisa Fox at foxl@lkgeorege.org.



The Buddy Bench Action Team includes top row (l.-r.): Piper Brown and Jessica Dobie. Bottom row (l.-r.): Rylee Johnson and Elle Seelye.

New Team to Take the Field in the Fall

Following two community forums and approval from four school district Boards of Education, we are pleased to announce that the newly formed Lake George/Warrensburg/North Warren football team will take the field beginning in the Fall of 2022. Varsity and junior varsity teams will be made up of students from these schools, while the modified team will be from Lake George, Warrensburg, and Bolton.

"The priority for us is always providing developmentally appropriate football for our student athletes," said Lake George Director of Athletics Kyle Manny. "We will be able to continue to do this within the framework of this merger."

The head coach of the newly formed team will be Warrensburg Varsity Coach Mike Perrone with Zac Kozersky from Lake George as the Associate Head Coach. The varsity and JV teams will be competing in Section II, Class C. The modified team will be part of the Adirondack League.

"One of the biggest challenges early on will be getting everyone to learn the same football terms," said Coach Perrone. "In football, there can be many ways to say the same thing, and getting everyone on the same page will be crucial. While that may be a challenge, I can already tell the players are eager and excited to learn football at a high level, and we hope to run a program that teaches high level football IQ. We also hope to run a program that instills lifelong values. Our goal is to make all of our players better people as well as better football players."

"There is a lot of excitement around the new team," said Mr. Manny. "All the schools are returning players who had success last year, and combining the strengths of all of the athletes is promising. We know as soon as they all step onto the field they will become a team."

Practices and games will be split between Lake George and Warrensburg.

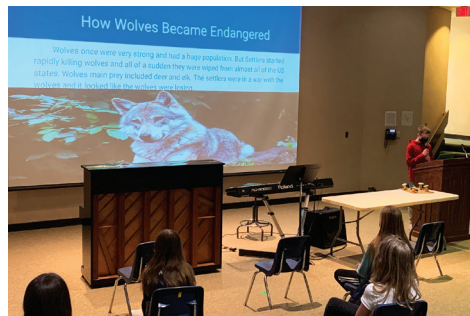
If You Could Learn About Anything, What Would It Be?

Recently the students in Mr. Geoff Bizan's Young Scholars class were presented with the question, "if you could learn about anything you want, what would it be?" The answers were as unique as each student. One was interested in the correlation between music and sleep; another wanted to learn about the eye. There was interest in endangered wolves, race cars, and more. Each student learned about his/her topic, created slides and artwork, then presented to the class during the "Genius Hour."

Mr. Bizan is passionate about giving students a learning experience they won't get anywhere else: "The experiences in the class can lead to an interest in things that students wouldn't have learned about otherwise."

Young Scholars include fifth and sixth graders who meet certain criteria and are recommended for the class by their teacher. The project-based curriculum is created by Mr. Bizan and is different each year: "We want to grow and evolve, so we try not to do the same thing each year."

Mr. Bizan's students have worked with the Lake George Association to pilot underwater drones, visited the clean room at the University at Albany to see how chips are made, and role-played as Challenger Astronauts at the MiSci Museum in Schenectady. Next up - entering the NPR Student Podcast challenge!



Student Reflections:

Sakina Tariq

Sakina is a senior who plays soccer, is the secretary of the National Honor Society and a member of the Business Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Student Council,



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club, Art Club, Tennis Club, and Forum. She likes to be busy!

"The way I see it, I want to do things now, because I may not have the opportunity in the future."

For instance, she wanted to take a guitar/ukulele class. She had never taken guitar lessons before but found that she really liked it. In fact, in addition to math, it is her favorite school subject.

Sakina earned the Russell Sage Scholarship and the American Citizenship Award. She has lived in Lake George her whole life, but her parents are originally from Pakistan. "My parents inspire and encourage me."

In addition to her parents, she has two older sisters, a brother-in-law, a younger brother, a niece, and a brand new nephew. She and her family traveled to Pakistan for her cousin's wedding, and she hopes to travel to Iran and Iraq this year with her sister.

Her plans for next year include college - she's applied to four. She'd like to open a cafe or work with holograms.

"Whatever I do, I want to bring new ideas and make a difference."

Career goal: Business/Computer Science

Favorite book: The Kite Runner

Favorite movie: Summer Wars

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Superintendent Search Process

The Board of Education is very pleased with the level of stakeholder involvement in the superintendent search. Listening sessions were held with community members, school professionals, and students to assist in developing a candidate profile that is custom crafted for the needs of Lake George.

The Board designed a thoughtful, comprehensive interview process in partnership with Jim Dexter, WSWHE BOCES district superintendent. The Board received 21 applications for the position and completed the paper review process and first round interviews early-mid February. Second interviews took place at the end of February. In the last stage, finalists will tour buildings, meet faculty, staff, and students, and participate in a community engagement session.

The Board is staying true to the timeline and hopes to hire a new superintendent by the end of the school year.

Greene Named Post-Star Teen Excellence Award Winner

Maggie Greene, a senior at Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School was one of 28 area high school students named as a recipient of the Post-Star Teen Excellence Award.

Teen Excellence Award winners demonstrate individual growth, leadership, and serve as exceptional role models in their communities and beyond. They embody a significant level of innovation, leadership, and achievement that goes beyond academics and athletics.

"I was very surprised to be nominated and to win - it's a big honor!" said Greene.

She was nominated by Lake George Jr.-Sr High School Counselor Steve Preuss, who said: "Maggie possesses a personality that is energetic, engaging, and seeks to positively impact those around her. She loves the stage, and she loves to entertain. She is an extremely valuable and positive member of our student body, serves as a remarkable role model, and adds tremendously to our classroom spaces, stage, and community."

Maggie is involved with theater, both in the school and in the community. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Art Honor Society. She is team manager for the soccer team and the engineering notebook manager of the VEX Robotics team, which involves drawing, data gathering and explaining any problems and their solutions. She plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian.

