

News Views

Inside this Edition

Superintendent's Message
Page 2

Welcome New Faculty & Staff
Page 2

Readers & Writers Workshop
Page 3

**Board of Education President
Reports on Conference**
Page 3

Worth Noting
Page 4 and 5

21st Century Learning
Page 6

**Student Reflections: Two LGCS
students consider their school
experiences.**
Pages 6 and 7

The Leader in Me
Page 8

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More Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Opportunities Offered

Elementary school principal James Conway said the elementary school began offering STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) opportunities to students three years ago with Camp Invention during the summer. Last year, STEM was integrated into the curriculum for students in grades 3-6 and after-school opportunities were also offered.

This year, Geoffrey Bizan has been hired as the High Potential teacher at the elementary school and Dante Siletti has been hired as the new technology teacher, who splits his time between the elementary and jr.-sr. high schools. With the addition of Mr.

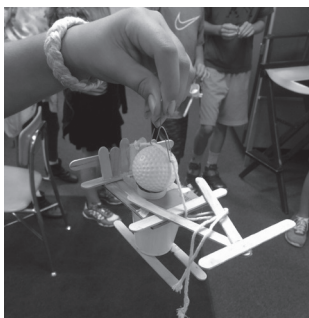
Siletti, the elementary school has enhanced its after-school program and added STEM

to the second grade curriculum. Another benefit of having Mr. Siletti in both schools will be a consistent flow of technology from one level to the next.

Mr. Bizan explained that the three-week STEM units offer activities such as computer coding, robotics, and engineering. For the coding unit, students built a computer



Students in Grades 1 and 2 build a vehicle in Lego Club.



An elementary student shows off her zipline creation.

Continued on Page 7

Lake George School District Ranked #10

Lake George Central School District moved up two places to earn the number 10 spot in the Albany Business Review's newly released 2015 rankings of 84 school districts in the 11-county area with a score of 91.

Lake George School Superintendent Patrick Dee said, "We are pleased to be among the Top 10 school districts in the greater Albany region. I am grateful for the continued dedication and hard work of our teachers and students and our results clearly support our initiatives."

According to the Albany Business Review, its main source of information for the report is the Education Department and its Report Card data for the 2013-14 school year, the most recent available. Additional sources are noted throughout the report and include other data from the Education Department, and information supplied by the Office of the New York State Comptroller. Data in the report are the most recent available as of June 26, 2015.

The overall score, on which the Business Review bases its main rankings, is a weighted tabulation that takes into account the following five categories.

Continued on Page 7

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Superintendent's Message

Dear School Community,

We are off and running for the 2015-16 school year! We look forward to a great year ahead as we continue to strive for educational excellence and prepare our students for college and the 21st century job market.

We are continuing to build on initiatives that were already in place and are beginning some new ones. Over the summer, faculty and staff participated in professional development. Here are a few highlights:

- Our Technology Department got a jump start on its second year of a three-year rollout of computing devices by having eighth, tenth and eleventh grade students pick up their devices prior to the beginning of school. Next year, our district will be completely one-to-one, which means we'll have one computing device for every student K-12. With access to either an iPad or laptop computer, students will be better able to do research, work on group projects and showcase their learning in a variety of ways. This is all part of our ongoing weLearn initiative creating an inquiry-based learning environment with real world applications.
- Curriculum mapping is a process for recording what content and skills are actually taught in a classroom over time. Following the Heidi Hayes Jacobs model the data provides an overview, rather than a daily classroom perspective, of what is actually happening over the course of the school year. Several years ago, the jr.-sr. high teachers began the curriculum mapping process. Over the summer, jr.-sr. high teachers from every academic area continued that process of designing, revising and perfecting their curriculum maps with the guidance of local expert Kathleen Skellie. The work will continue throughout this academic school year as other areas of the curriculum maps are explored.
- Curriculum mapping continued at the elementary school as teachers mapped the math curriculum to ensure that our program is aligned with the standards.
- At the elementary school, faculty and staff participated professional development on a new The Leader in Me training.

The Leader is Me is a transformative process that teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

- The elementary school faculty prepared for a shift at grades K, 4-6 to a reading workshop approach, which completes our shift to a K-6 reading and writing workshop school.
- Second and third grade teachers were involved in weLearn training to prepare them for the 1:1 computing initiative that is now in grades 1-6.
- While the students were enjoying their summer recess, we were busy maintaining our buildings and grounds and performing a few upgrades.

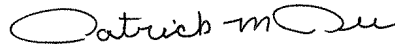
Upgrades included:

- New flooring in the science room and cafeteria in the junior-senior high school.
- A new scoreboard on our athletic field.
- A special thank you to Ellsworth & Son Excavating, Inc. of Lake George for donating their time and materials for our new batting cage and scoreboard.

Remember to follow me on Twitter and tell your friends to sign up for our e-Newsletter. There's an easy sign up form on our website.

Best wishes to everyone in our school community for a happy and fruitful school year.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dee
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome New Faculty and Staff at Lake George



Jeddiah Armstrong
Math Teacher



Kristy Brennan
Special Education



Valerie Campbell
Bus Driver



Charlene Ehmann
Food Service



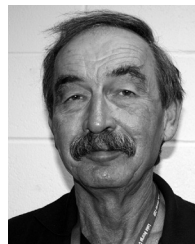
Jill Long
Home & Careers
Teacher



Erich Neuffer
Bus Driver



Randy Ovitt
Microcomputer
Specialist



Daniel Quay
Cleaner



Ryan Seynour
Math Teacher



Dante Siletti
Technology Teacher

Readers and Writers Workshop Expanded in Elementary School

"I don't want to see your stupid tiger!" said Paul Kelly as he read aloud from the book, "The Tiger Rising" by Kate DiCamillo.

His fourth grade students were sitting on the floor in front of him listening to his every word. His co-teacher for reading, Deb Quillinan, would interject questions about what the main character was doing and feeling. The students analyzed the character's every move and the writer's style.

Mr. Kelly commented to his students, "She does an amazing job as an author to write down the details of what's going on. You get a vision of what's going on."

After reading an emotional passage in the novel, Mr. Kelly asked, "Can you believe it? These are just words, but I got choked up. Now, turn and talk to your partner. I know you have something to say." The students turned to their partners and began discussing what they had just heard.

Listening to a fluent adult read aloud and having students talk with peers about reading and writing are two of the six elements in the readers workshop program. The program was piloted in grades one to three last year and this year was introduced to students in kindergarten and grades four to six.

"With readers workshop, we're getting the students to think deeply about the character," explained Mr. Kelly. "There's more of a connection to writing. Before reading and writing were compartmentalized, now, they blend together. Students are reading for understanding. They make the connection that they are reading someone else's writing. Plus, reading is integrated into the content areas of science, social studies and math."

A chart between Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Quillinan showed the internal and external qualities of the character. After discussing the difference between internal and external, the students wrote down a list of qualities under each.

Having every child read something he or she chooses is another of the six elements in the reader workshop program. According to research, students read more, understand more and are more



Fourth grade teacher Paul Kelly reads aloud to his students as Deb Quillinan, his co-teacher for reading, follows along.

likely to continue reading when they have the opportunity to choose what they read.

The final three elements of the reading workshop program include students reading accurately, something they understand and writing about something personally meaningful.

K-6 Curriculum Coordinator, Ginny Mondschein, received training from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Columbia University. She coordinated professional development for the faculty over the summer and works alongside teachers, assisting and coaching. She said that for students in grades 1 to 3 who are in their second year of reading workshop, components have been added.

"Before we initiated reading workshop," said Mrs. Mondschein, "it used to be Basal readers comprised of books, workbooks, assessments and activities at a specific level. But one size does not fit all. Now we coach students into reading more and more complex text, outside of their reading level. They are moving up the ladder of text complexity."

Board of Education President Reports on Conference

Returning from the annual New York State School Board Association's (NYSSBA) conference, your board of education is eagerly and enthusiastically exploring new student and educator opportunities. We each learned much about where education is now and is headed in the future in New York State. Our board is a diverse group, and our experience working cohesively together is proving very rewarding already this term.

Over the next several months, your board will be focused on and participating in developing a long-range strategic plan for our district and we need to incorporate buy-in from our students, parents & guardians, faculty and staff, and taxpayer community. We are working with administration to execute a post-graduate survey of the 2015 graduates, with an end goal of measuring how prepared they were for their life after LGCS. And, we are always focused on student needs and working with our administration to capitalize on school life opportunities.

We realize communication is invaluable. Having a presence in News & Views is the first of what we intend to be new ways of communicating with our school community. We want to hear from you as your elected officials. Attending our committee and board meetings is always encouraged and we look forward to seeing you there.

Feel free to reach out to any one of us by leaving a message at school or emailing me at jackoskis@lkgeorge.org and as President, I will make sure to respond or forward your correspondence accordingly. We look forward to hearing from you and it is a pleasure for us to be your board of education. We have a great school and we look forward to making it even greater; from the classroom, to the stage or field.

Steven B. Jackoski

Lake George Board of Education President

Worth Noting

Coach Stanilka Retired After 40 Years



On the right, Cathy "Panic" Stanilka holds the Top Fundraiser of the Year for her team at the Power of Pink Tournament.

After 40 years of coaching volleyball, Cathy "Panic" Stanilka decided it was time to retire.

"When I started seeing the grandkids of the girls I coached, I knew it was time," smiled Coach Stanilka. "It just seems like yesterday when I started. It's unbelievable how time flies."

In 2010, she retired after 35.5 years as a physical education teacher/athletic director for the district.

The Ticonderoga graduate, Class of 1972, said she graduated from high school the year that Title IX was enacted giving girls equal opportunity in athletics. That fact had been a driving force in her coaching career.

This year, Coach Stanilka received the Top Fundraiser of the Year award for her team. They were the top fundraising team for the fourth year in a row, bringing in \$7,287.76 for the Power of Pink Volleyball Tournament held on October 10 at the Queensbury High School.

The tournament, held in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, included 27 teams and was played on seven courts. The final total of money raised came to more than \$40,000, according to Queensbury coach Tyler Carey. On behalf of the Lake George School District, the varsity team made a donation to the American Cancer Society at the tournament.

Coach Stanilka said that her team was extremely active in fundraising efforts that included selling pink ribbons, Finish the Fight t-shirts, playing in the 4 versus 4 Volleyball Tournament, donating cans/bottles for return to one of the team members, and making something for the concession stand for the faculty/staff volleyball game. Money raised from the faculty/staff volleyball game was also part of the fundraising effort.

The volleyball team won seven out of the ten volleyball games they played, finishing the day in the finals of the Silver Division versus Niskayuna. The team also won the trophy for the Best Dressed Pink Team.

Richard Custodio Named Commended Student



Fran Coccozza, jr.-sr. high school principal, watches as Richard Custodio receives a letter of commendation from his high school counselor Rosemarie Earl.

Richard M. Custodio was named a Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented to this scholastically-talented senior by his high guidance counselor Rosemarie Earl.

Congrats to National Honor Society Inductees



On November 2, the King Hendrick Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 12 new members.

These members were chosen because of their outstanding qualities in the four pillars of the National Honor Society: character, leadership, scholarship, and service.

Congratulations to the following students for this outstanding achievement: Margaret Earl, Gideon Jardine, Nicholas King, Olivia King, Madison LaFond, Zachary Layton, Alydia Meinecke, Clark Mularz, Haley Reynolds, Alizah Tariq, Robert Tasker, and Luke Vanderminden.

Harlem Wizards Returning in January

The Harlem Wizards are returning to Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School gymnasium at 7 p.m. Monday, January, 11, 2016. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance and at the door. Advance tickets will go on sale the week of January 4 during lunches at the high school. Tickets will also be sold on Monday, December 21 after school at the elementary building for parents who want tickets for holiday gifts and then again on Thursday, January 7 after school at the elementary building. This event is open to the entire Lake George Community.

Alumni Association Held Annual Banquet



Wall of Honor recipients are from left: David Eagle, Bob Blais, and Todd Earl.

The Lake George High School Alumni Association held its annual banquet on October 11 at the Fort William Henry Conference Center.

The classes represented were from 1947 to 2017 with the Class of 1965 celebrating its 50-year reunion.

Wall of Honor awards were given to the following people: A retired guidance counselor from Hudson Falls, Todd Earl, Class of 1974, received the Community Award presented by Jerry Eichin, Class of 1958; retired Lake George High School principal David Eagle received the Educator Award presented by Sue Mellon, Class of 1962; and Lake George Mayor Bob Blais received the Outstanding Citizen Award presented by Bill Dow.

A silent auction led by Gloria Sweet Gilman, Class of 1952, raised \$1,914 for scholarships. In addition, \$17,000 was raised through the generosity of Rachael Ray, Class of 1986, from her cooking show that she held last school year at the school. All monies raised go to student scholarships, student club activities, computers and equipment, and K- 6 enhanced reading programs, just to name a few.

School Adds More Security Measures

Additional interior and exterior security cameras were added at both the elementary and jr.-sr. high school to provide a more comprehensive coverage of the buildings and parking lots.

Elementary school principal James Conway noted that the cameras provide a record of who is on campus and one of the roles of the greeter is to check the cameras throughout the day.

This fall, the Health and Safety Committee under the direction of Cody Conley, the jr.-sr. high school vice principal, is working with the New York State Troopers to schedule a school safety audit.

Fran Coccozza, the jr.-sr. high school principal, explained that the district performs a safety audit every five years in which a school safety specialist spends a couple of days in the district observing points of entry and looking at safety plans. Then, the specialist will present a report to the school with recommended action plans.

This summer, work will begin on the vestibule area at the elementary school adding another set of glass doors and a glassed in area for the greeter. Mr. Conway said the improvements will provide another layer of safety.

Important Information from the School Nurse

The jr.-sr. high school nurse, Carrie Becker, wants students and parents to know the following:

- Medications to be taken during school hours need to have both parental consent and physician authorization. This applies to both prescription and over-the-counter medication. The medication permission form needs to be submitted to the health office prior to your child receiving any medications. The form is on Mrs. Becker's Health Office webpage on the Lake George School District website www.lkgeorge.org or a hard copy is available in her office.
- Information on caring for students with life-threatening allergies, the school's concussion policy, and helpful tips to prevent ticks have been added to her health office webpage.
- Remember 7th and 10th graders need physicals within this school year.
- All athletes need physicals within a year of the start month of the sport they participate in.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Becker at 668-5452, Ext. 1217 or beckerc@lkgeorge.org.

Scholar Athlete Team Awards Presented



Congratulations to the all the teams that received the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete Team Award. The Scholar Athlete Team award is presented to teams across the state who have a combined team grade point average of 90% or higher.

Teams that received the award were: the tennis team lead by head coach Nora Buck, the girls' varsity track team lead by head coaches Steve Guidetti and Kelly Collins, the boys' varsity baseball team lead by head coach Erik Hoover, and the girls' varsity softball team lead by head coach Kyle Manny.

The boys' basketball team will receive their scholar athlete team award during basketball season.

Jack Varney, A Math Whiz

Jack Varney is a sixth grader at the Lake George Elementary School. What he likes best overall about school is talking to his friends and teachers. "That makes learning fun!" he smiled.

Jack moved from Vermont to the Lake George School District last year. "It's a big change from my old school. I like it a lot," noted Jack.

His favorite subjects are reading and math. "Math is fun. I like how you get to learn about numbers."

When asked what he wanted to be when he grows up, he said, "I've been thinking about it. There are a lot of choices." Some of his choices include becoming an astronaut, a doctor or a soccer player.

He just started playing soccer this year. He practices during the week and plays games on Saturday.

Jack also plays the trumpet in band. He just started playing last year.

After school, he's participates in the Fun Runs and is considering taking lacrosse again in the spring.

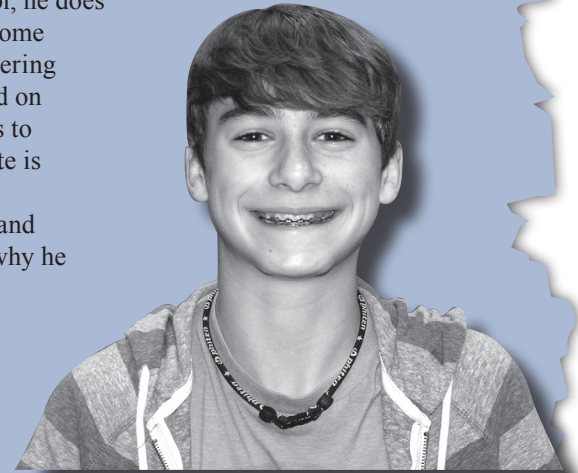
When Jack gets home from school, he does his homework right away so he has some time to do other things. He was mastering the Rubik's cube and now he's moved on to mastering the Yo-Yo. He also likes to play video games. His current favorite is

"Destiny." "Trivia Crack" is another one of his favorites.

"Hunger Games" is his current favorite movie. He read the books, too, and enjoyed them. "There's lot of action and suspense," said Jack when asked why he liked the series.

Jack has a dog, Addie, which is short for Adirondack, and a cat named Martin. Jack is the son of Thomas and Lauren Varney and big brother to Haven, who is in fourth grade, and has a guinea pig named Morris. Jack has an older brother in ninth grade, Thomas, but they call him Cole because his father's name is Thomas.

Student Reflections



21st Century Learning Opportunities; More Computers Assigned

This is the second year of the three-year rollout of assigning students computing devices. Last year, students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 10 were assigned laptop computers and students in grades 1 and 4 were assigned iPads. This year, in addition to those grade levels, students in grades 8 and 11 were assigned their own laptop computers and students in grades 2 and 3 were assigned iPads. Next school year students in grades 9 and 12 will be assigned their own laptops, completing the technology roll out for students in grades 1 to 12.

"Next year, the Lake George School District will be totally one-to-one," said Technology Coordinator Megan Coker. One-to-one or 1:1 means one computing device for every student.

Mrs. Coker explained that for the 2016-17 school year all students will either have an iPad (grades 1 to 4) or a MacBook Pro or Mac Air laptop computer (grades 5 to 12). At that point the district will have a four-year replacement cycle that will provide for consistent budgeting and ensuring current technologies. Students will receive an iPad in first grade that will travel with them through fourth grade. Then, in fifth grade, student will receive a laptop that will travel with them through eighth grade. In ninth grade students will receive a new laptop that will carry them through the remainder of their high school career.

"Now that the infrastructure plan is in place, the next step is to continue providing meaningful and differentiated professional development," Mrs. Coker said. For this school year, Mrs. Coker along with both Library Media Specialists; Bridget Crossman at the elementary school and Sarah Olson at the jr.-sr. high school, will hold monthly meetings called Bytes and Bites that will offer a taste of new software tools. Plus, the meetings will give teachers an opportunity to share their technology discoveries. In addition, Technology Tidbits, an electronic newsletter, will be emailed to faculty and staff.

Last year, a Google+ Community was piloted in the elementary school. This year's goal is to create a district-wide community where teachers can share information about successful technology integration in their classrooms. Mrs. Crossman and Mrs. Olson will also begin blogging, "Inquiring Instructors," to highlight inquiry tools.

Inquiry is the basis of the 1:1 learning environment of weLearn. WeLearn bolsters communication and collaboration for a meaningful learning environment in the 21st century. It includes one-to-one computing, provides opportunities for students to seek and access information, create and showcase their learning, and work collaboratively in a student-centered environment.

STEM Activities

Continued from Page 1

game using the iPad app (application) Hopscotch, which is a computer programming tool, to create Crossy Road, a new version of the classic computer game Frogger. The engineering unit challenged students to create a 14-foot zipline that carried a golf ball. Later this year, students will tackle the robotics unit where they will build robots using Legos.

Mr. Siletti added that sixth graders used their engineering skills to perform an egg drop. The goal was for students to build a device that would keep the eggs from breaking when they were dropped from 15 feet. Many students used parachutes created from shopping bags. After the exercise, students discussed what worked and what didn't.

Eighth graders are currently working on a robotics challenge in which a wooden robot that the students built will pick up tennis balls and drop them in a container.

Many STEM after-school clubs and activities are offered at both schools. There is a Legos Club for first and second graders and the World of Technology for fifth and sixth graders. Chess Club and Environmental Science Groups are also offered at the elementary school. Students just finished Ecowizards, Lake Rangers, and Explorers in the Environmental Science Groups and will focus on gaming, problem solving and coding next. Robotics Club will start in December for students in grades 7 to 12.

Ranking Categories

Continued from Page 1

1. Language/Reading takes the total of the percentage of elementary and middle school students who met or exceeded state standards on the English assessment tests, and high school students who received a 65 or higher on the English Regents.

2. Social studies takes the percentage of students who received a 65 or higher on the global history and geography, and U.S. history and government Regents exams.

3. Science takes the total of the percentage of fourth- and eighth-grade students who met or exceeded state standards on the science assessment tests, and the percentage of students who scored 65 or higher on all of the science Regents exams.

4. Math takes the total of the percentage of third- through eighth-grade students who met or exceeded state standards on the math assessment tests, and the percentage of students who scored 65 or higher on all of the mathematics Regents exams.

5. Graduation is a weighted score that takes into account the percentage of students who graduated with a Regents diploma with an advanced designation, the percentage of high school completers and the percentage of seniors who plan to attend college or some form of post-secondary school.

For a full report, visit the Albany Business Review's website (<http://www.bizjournals.com/albany>) and look for Schools Report 2015.

Rebecca Jaeger Striking Out Batters One at a Time

Ninth grade student Rebecca Jaeger enjoys a good challenge. The daughter of Lynn and Kurt Jaeger, Rebecca said that math and science are her two favorite subjects in school. "I like solving problems," she said. "I enjoy the challenge."

Turns out that Rebecca also likes the challenge of pitching softball. This year, she's playing with a traveling softball team, Avalanche. Her love of the sport keeps her busy most nights pitching in the basement with her dad. When asked how she

handles the pressure of pitching, she replied, "One batter at a time. I love the pressure, I love being the one to strike out the batter."

Beyond softball, Rebecca squeezes in time for soccer, Future Business Leaders of America, National Junior Honor Society,

skiing, snowmobiling and traveling with her family during school vacations. They also have a boat and she spends a lot of time on the lake in the summer. Rebecca also likes the Design and Drawing for Production course she's taking. She designed a magazine cover and has worked with the Computer Aided Design program. "Technology is a lot of fun!" added Rebecca.

As far as her favorite foods, she loves sushi and chocolate ice cream.

Rebecca also loves giving, that's why Ellen DeGeneres is one of the people she'd most like to meet. "Ellen gives so much," she said. Not surprisingly, the other person Rebecca would like to meet is Jennie Finch, an All-American softball pitcher.

If she's not playing softball, she's reading about it. The last book Rebecca read for pleasure was "Mo'ne Davis: Remember My Name: My Story from First Pitch to Game Changer."

When asked what makes her laugh, Rebecca said her younger sister Rachel, who is in seventh grade, makes her laugh.

With a passion for helping children, Rebecca hopes to one day work in the medical or education field. She'd like to be a teacher, a nurse practitioner or perhaps a physician.



Student Reflections

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News & Views is published three times during the school year 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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Finding the Leader in Everyone

"Every single child has the potential for greatness," said Michael Swenson at a workshop on The Leader in Me for the elementary school faculty and staff during staff development prior to the start of school.

A FranklinCovey program designed to transform a whole school, The Leader in Me (TLIM) teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

The Leader in Me program started last year as a pilot program with several educators who were interested in developing a leadership program. The program is aligned with Common Core Learning Standards, is focused on developing student leaders and creates an environment that fosters leadership attributes in every member of the school community.

Now implemented across the building, the goal of the program is to fill the school with students who are responsible, creative, show initiative, and who know how to set goals and meet them. Our students will get along with people of various backgrounds and cultures, and have the tools necessary to resolve conflicts and solve problems.

Ann Moellman, the elementary school social worker, brought TLIM to the elementary school where she piloted it in second grade during the 2013-14 school year. By 2015, the whole school was woven into the process with a Vision Day in March. More professional development followed this past summer as TLIM moves into each classroom. "The school is being transformed, but it's a process," explained Mrs. Moellman. "As our coach says, 'It's

a crock pot approach, not a microwave one.' We will make the process ours and mold it in a way that makes sense for the Lake George Elementary School. The Leader in Me is the operating system of our school that emphasizes an inside out approach."

TLIM is for both adults and students. "A study was done on the measurement of a school's effectiveness," said Mrs. Moellman. "It linked the school's effectiveness to how well adults relate to each other."

With the new operating system comes a transition to a new growth mindset and leadership culture.

Mrs. Moellman added, "It's a paradigm shift from the old 'leadership of the few' philosophy to looking for greatness in all adults and children. The leadership culture is ubiquitous."

Elementary School Principal James Conway said that the school was chosen to receive a grant from The Leader in Me Foundation to continue their efforts in integrating the process into the school. "It's a common sense approach that looks at how we treat each other," said Mr. Conway. "It's not a program to fix anything. It's an opportunity to take a big step with leadership that involves goal setting. It's an opportunity for kids to discover how they can be leaders. It's powerful!"



Ann Moellman, the elementary school social worker, holds up the "Leader in Me" books.