



# News & Views

FALL 2017

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## LGCS D Celebrates New Mission, Vision, Values

The Lake George Central School District is pleased to share its new Mission, Vision, and Values that emerged from the Strategic Planning Process over the last eight months. Superintendent Lynne Rutnik and the entire Board of Education would like to extend their appreciation for everyone associated with the Strategic Planning and Review Committee (SPARC).

The Mission, Vision, and Values are the culmination of months of research, analysis, evaluation, reflection, and collaboration. They summarize the community's dreams for the school district and its students. They also contain the next steps and targets for the district to take in order to reach its goals.



To coalesce the entire community around the mission, vision, and values of the school district, consultants from the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA) facilitated a six-month process that solicited input through focus groups and surveys. Several common themes rose to the surface, pointing to the fact that Lake George, as a community, values:

- Student achievement
- Educating the whole child
- Student leadership
- Use of instructional technology
- Participative district culture
- Shared purpose and direction
- Coherence between elementary and secondary
- Climate of innovative practices
- Marketing, branding/district enrollment
- Facilities
- External communications
- Trust
- Data inquiry cycle
- Diversity
- Continued focus on personal attention
- Response to students' academic needs/post graduation success

Using shared values as a foundation, CASDA then facilitated discussions with SPARC to identify the district's mission and vision (please see inside this newsletter). To bring the mission, vision, and values to life, CASDA guided SPARC through a series of intensive workshops that reviewed district data regarding enrollment, academic achievement, and finances.

"Looking at the data showed us where we are currently, which helped us set goals regarding where we want to be," said Superintendent Lynne Rutnik. "We had thoughtful, rigorous conversations, and I think SPARC as a whole is really happy with the goals that emerged from those meetings."

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*We are lifelong learners, leaders and global citizens.*

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Each goal has measurable targets and a corresponding work plan that will be developed at the grade/department levels. Detailed questions will be discussed at the building levels and synchronized at the K-12 Data Leadership Team. The Data Leadership Team will report progress/achievements to SPARC quarterly, and SPARC will then report to the Board of Education.

"In addition to using the targets and goals to ensure student success, we will use them to prioritize resources when we go through the budget development process," said Lake George Business Manager Kate DuBois.

"On behalf of the district and Board of Education, I would like to thank CASDA for guiding us through this valuable experience," said Board of Education President Tim Collins. "I was skeptical about starting this process so soon after a

leadership change, but I couldn't be happier about the results."

There were nine focus groups who shared information with CASDA – 74 people total including parents, students, community members, teachers, and administrators. 179 community members responded to our survey, with 500 written comments. 92 faculty members responded to the survey, with 319 written comments; and 12 staff members filled out the survey, with 24 comments. In addition, 30 SPARC members volunteered their time and talents and remained committed and engaged throughout the process.

"Our community came together to solidify a plan for the future, and I want to let everyone know how much we truly appreciate their time, energy, and commitment," said Mr. Collins.

## News and Highlights from the Athletic Department

The Lake George Warriors had a remarkable fall season that included two league titles, a tie for a school record, a league MVP, and numerous athletes named to All-Star Teams. On behalf of all the student-athletes and coaches, we would like to thank the Lake George Booster Club and all the parents and community members for your support.

The Lake George Athletic Department strives to create positive educational experiences through competition for our athletes and fans. We invested in several amenities this year to enhance the program and encourage more fans to come out and support the teams.

### Season Highlights

The Lake George Boys Varsity Soccer Team was the overall Adirondack League Champion.

For the second consecutive year, the Lake George Girls Varsity Soccer Team captured the Adirondack League championship.

**Jude Armstrong** was named to the Adirondack League East Division All-Stars for Golf.

Class C North Football All-Stars: Center **Matthew Burrows** was selected to the First-Team offense, while Linebacker **James Kelleher** and Defensive Back **Clay Moody** were chosen for the First-Team defense.

## Student Reflections: *Rowan Metivier*



Rowan has grown in leadership positions at Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School for the past three years. She served as Student Council secretary in ninth grade, vice president in tenth grade, and president this year in eleventh grade.

"Within the last two years, Student Council made an effort to change the dress code, and we became more involved in Spirit Week," Rowan said. "We also started a new leadership workshop with Mrs. Katie Canale that includes the president and vice president of every class plus the student council members."

Rowan is a member of the Lake George Girls Varsity Soccer Team and Varsity Alpine Ski Team. She has been racing since she was six years old and was on a club team with all of her cousins up to age 13. "I used to play soccer year-round too," she said.

Rowan was recently inducted into the Senior National Honor Society and the French National Honor Society. She is involved in the French club: "I plan the meetings and the chocolate mousse contest and the Eiffel Tower pretzel sculpture activity."

Last year she traveled to Italy and France with her family. She has an older brother who attends SUNY Geneseo and a younger sister who is in eighth grade.

Rowan's favorite class was biology last year. This year, she is taking Algebra 2, Regents Chemistry, US History, English, and band (she plays percussion). "I might take senior year at SUNY Adirondack," she said. "I would still be involved in school here, I have had a lot of great experiences and it has been a lot of fun."

When asked about her plans after high school, Rowan said: "I see myself in the New England area. I would like to pursue creative writing or journalism."

## Resources for Parents and Community Members

### *SchoolMessenger Emergency Alert System*

The district uses SchoolMessenger to send emergency alert messages to parents by phone or email. New this year, parents and guardians can opt-in to receive SMS text messages about events, school closings, safety alerts, and more.

To participate in this free service, make sure you use a cell phone number that is connected to SchoolTool and send a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number: 67587.

You can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of the messages with “Stop”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge, so your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



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## New Look for Website

Over the next few weeks, the Lake George Central School District website will be transitioning to a new look.

SchoolWorld, our current website platform, has become obsolete and is being replaced by its developer with a new platform called Web Community Manager. We are using the replacement product the vendor is providing until we can fully evaluate our current and future website wants and needs. Because we are staying with this vendor, the district is not incurring additional fees for the development of the new website.

Please note, the look of the website will be different, but the site navigation will remain essentially the same. All the information and content parents and community members refer to should be in the same location on the new site.

“As the district fully implements its new mission, vision, and values that were developed as part of the Strategic Planning Process, we are going to take a very thoughtful approach to how we use the website to communicate and represent Lake George CSD,” said Superintendent Lynne Rutnik. “This website ‘facelift’ is a short-term solution to a longer-term initiative surrounding the district’s communications efforts.”



LGES teachers and administrators learned how to add content to the new website.

Please stay tuned for more information surrounding a comprehensive communications/public relations endeavor as we move forward with implementing the Lake George CSD Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we transition to a new website platform.

## Annual Phone-A-Thon

The Lake George Scholarship Association will conduct its 20th Annual Phone-a-Thon on Thursday, January 4, 2018, from 4pm-8pm. The Lake George National Senior Honor Society students will phone community members to ask for donations

for scholarships that are later awarded to deserving seniors. Donors may pay online by credit card or use a pledge card. For more information, please refer to the website at [www.lgscholarship.org](http://www.lgscholarship.org) or call the Guidance Office at 518-668-5452.



## Student Achievement



Lake George Senior **Patrick Dee** recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which you may have noticed if you have walked the LGES trails recently. Patrick designed, built, and installed mile markers on the LGES trails with help from his fellow scouts.

Patrick raised all the money for his Eagle Scout project by collecting and returning recyclable bottles and cans. He placed a receptacle in the parking lot at the Elementary School and soon found that he had to empty it every other day.

"I wanted to be an Eagle Scout from the day I joined Boy Scouts at 12 and-a-half years old," said Patrick, who is very proud of all that he accomplished. "The trails needed help, and I wanted to do something meaningful for my community."



Lake George Senior **Cameron Hood** was named a Commended Student for the National Merit Scholarship Award based on his PSAT scores from 11th grade. Cameron attends the New Visions Health Careers Exploration program through WSWHE BOCES and takes Advanced Placement (AP) calculus, AP biology, and plays trombone in band.

So far this year, he has done clinical rotations in the cardiac catheterization lab, the x-ray center, the infusion center, and interventional radiology. Cameron is interested in pathology and orthopedics and is planning to become a doctor. He is applying to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Boston University, Princeton, University of Rochester,

and George Washington University. Cameron has been on the cross-country team for two years and the nordic ski team for six years. He is also the captain of the Lake George Academic Quiz Bowl Team and president of the Astronomy Club, both of which he has participated in for five years.



Lake George Junior **Mattie Williams** has been recognized by USA Swimming as a 2017 Scholastic All-American scholar athlete. In order to be considered, swimmers must maintain a 3.5 grade point average for the complete academic year and swim a time equal to a 2016 Winter Junior National Championship qualifying

time in any event during the qualification period. She has a GPA of 97.52 and achieved qualifying times in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke. Mattie swam the 200-yard backstroke in 2:02.6 in December 2016 and swam the 100-yard backstroke in 56.27 seconds at Speedo Sectionals in the spring of 2017. Last summer, she achieved personal best times

at the Futures meet, which is open only to qualified athletes. At that meet, she earned second place in the 100-meter backstroke with a time of 1:04.03, which qualified her to swim in the Summer Junior National Championship meet. Most recently, she competed in USA Swimming Junior Nationals in Knoxville, TN.

The School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City hosted a Nationwide call for entries for their 2107 America Theme show. Over 2,000 works were submitted from students in over 30 states. We are thrilled to announce that several of Lake George High School Photography Teacher Katie Casey's students had work accepted to this prestigious show!

Congratulations to the following student photographers whose work is now on display at the SVA Gramercy Gallery in New York City:

**Matthew Burrows**  
**Alexander Gambino**  
**Julia Heunemann**

**Grace Hatin**  
**Sean Lamando**  
**Mirissa Schmeelke**



Congratulations to Senior **Jack Kelleher** who signed a national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at St. John Fisher College. There was a signing event at the high school on Monday, November 20, 2017.

Lake George Elementary Student **Elizabeth Fram** competed in her first national wrestling competition and won her weight bracket! Elizabeth trains and competes with the NYWAY team.

## National Honor Society

*Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the King Hendrick Chapter of the Lake George National Honor Society:*

G. Bennett  
C. Collins  
A. Eigo  
A. Gambino  
J. Greene

R. Jaeger  
S. Jeckel  
N. Kingsley  
S. Kohls  
A. Leonelli

C. Leonelli  
M. MacDermid  
J. Mellon  
R. Metivier  
L. Preuss

D. Pushor  
A. Romano  
T. Varney  
G. Weidner  
M. Williams

## The French Honor Society

*Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the Saint Sacrament Chapter of the French National Honor Society:*

C. Collins  
J. Greene  
R. Jaeger  
S. Jeckel

N. Kingsley  
S. Kohls  
R. Metivier  
A. Romano

G. Weidner  
M. Williams

## Leader in Me Lighthouse Teams Cultivate Welcoming Entrance

During Phase I of the Capital Project, which occurred dAs the District building project came to a close a little over a year ago, elementary Principal Jim Conway was asked about the landscaping in front of the Elementary School. He suggested that instead of making this decision himself, that the students had a voice in what was planted.



Mr. Conway asked the student lighthouse team what they thought and they worked with their advisor Mrs. Moellman (Elementary School Social Worker) to brainstorm ideas that went well beyond adding a tree and some flowers.

The students decided that they wanted to add a new sign, trees, flowers, and much more including fountains in front of the school. Mr. Conway told them that they would have to figure out how to make it happen.

The team started by finding an expert in the community to help them – Mr. Fred Pape a parent of one of the students (Alexis) who also happens to be a landscape architect. Mr. Pape volunteered his time to meet with the students and helped them develop a master plan.

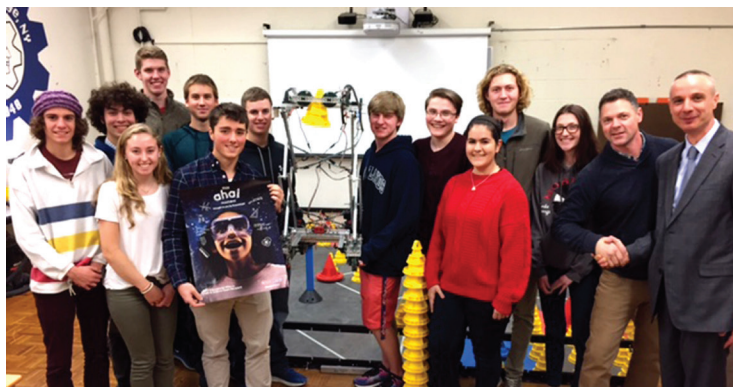
After creating an initial design, the students went to the Board of Education to get their approval to move forward with the project. They also presented their idea to the PTSO. Both presentations were fruitful for the student leaders as the Board

of Education allowed them to move forward and the PTSO provided funding to cover much of the costs.

In the spring, many volunteers from the community worked with the students to make the vision a reality! Mr. Conway said “It was an amazing project. From the students pursuing their vision for the front of their school to the donations of materials and time and the volunteers that worked tirelessly to make it happen.”

Mr. Conway also noted that the students have not completed everything yet. They have additional plans for the front of their school and LGES recently received a generous donation from the Lake George Alumni Association to continue the work.

A special thanks goes out to everyone that volunteered their time to work on the project. A special Thank you to Fred Pape, Mike Kassal, Walt Arnold, Tony Abrantes, Jeremy Stone, Rich Bennett, Paul Kelly, Dan Moellman, Jim Conway, Ann Moellman, Kim Bennett, Alyana Lavigne, Heidi Montville, Topher Montville, Courtney Richichi, Kate Pape, The entire student lighthouse team including: Hammad Awan, Isabella Bruno, Oliver Herrick, Ben Montville, Anna Richichi, Jack Sullivan, Braydee Benjamin, Jonah Coccozza, Madalynn Harris, Sara Kassal, Alexis Pape, and Annik Schermerhorn. Also, Aubrey Bennett, McKenna Bennett, Parker Bennett, Sophia Kassal, Becca Pape, Libby Pape, Cayla Stone, Saige Stone.



## Robotics Club Received Grant

Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School was nominated by Mr. Michael Farrell, General Manager of the Exit 20 Jolley Mobil to receive the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance grant. The \$500 grant was used by the technology department to support the VEX robotics club at a recent competition in Fallsburg, at which Team A won the Excellence Award, Team B won the tournament skills challenge, and both teams qualified for the New York State Championship! We appreciate Mr. Farrell for nominating our school for this grant and the opportunities it creates for our students.



## Student Reflections: *Everett McLarty*



Everett is an active sixth grader who likes doing all the work in math, volunteering with the school, and playing hockey with his team. He has been playing hockey since he was five years old and practices two-to-three nights per week with Adirondack Thunder Youth Hockey in Glens Falls.

"I usually play right wing or center," he said. "We have games every weekend and go to tournaments later in the season."

Everett, his parents, his younger brother, Caelan, and older sister, Taylor, take active vacations: "We did a hiking trip this summer, we hiked part of the Long Trail. It's in Vermont. I like the camping, making fires. Every night we put our food up in a bear bag and hooked a rope over a tree."

The family also takes biking excursions.

"We went to Canada and biked around Prince Edward Island," Everett said. "It was hilly on the road, but the trails were usually flat. We camped and swam. We rode about 50km per day. Our first trip was three years ago; we go every summer. The first one we did was the Allegheny Trail, stayed in B&Bs for that one. We went to C&O Canal Trail, we ended up in Washington, D.C. When we do the bike trips, every few miles there is a board with the history of what happened there."

Everett and his family also volunteer with the school: "My mom is part of the PTSO, so we're usually here a lot. I help set up the Fall Festival every year."

They also helped paint the playground new and brighter colors. "I painted the one that's shaped like a cow and the green cheese. Mr. Conway and my mom and dad were up on ladders painting the swing sets."

"I like studying math and social studies, it's fun," Everett said. "I like when we get to work in a group and make projects. So far we did a solar eclipse project."

Everett is looking forward to the end of sixth grade when "we make rockets and fly them in the field." He is looking forward to designing, building, coloring, and testing the rockets.

Book recommendation: "Signal" by Cynthia DeFelice.

## Leadership in Action

The Elementary School Social Studies committee collaborated with several students to create a movie to honor Veterans. Student leaders interviewed Veterans and active-duty members of the military and asked them: "What does Veterans Day mean to you?" The adults edited the videos together in an i-Movie that aired in the cafeteria during lunch and is also available on the Elementary School Library webpage.

Sixth grade leaders helped with the election and brought the younger students to and from lunch so they could vote during their lunch period.

"Thank you to everyone who helped with making today's election a success!" said Elementary School Librarian Bridget Crossman. "It was a great, authentic experience for our students. The sixth grade leaders did an amazing job coordinating the voting polls with little-to-no assistance."

"I was really impressed with these innovative, student-centered, and patriotic activities that engaged the students and staff," said Superintendent Rutnik.

## Students Host Veterans

Lake George Jr./Sr. High School students recently hosted members of the Korean War Veterans Association Adirondack Chapter #60. The veterans gave a presentation about the history of the Korean War and share their personal experiences through the "Tell America Program."

One of the goals of the organization is to provide a heightened awareness and knowledge of the "forgotten war," for a better understanding of the North Korean regime and concerns that have been front and center of current news.

"I want to give a big thank you to these veterans for sharing their first-hand accounts, as well as thank the teachers who coordinated the visit. It is not every day students have the opportunity to learn about history from the people who were actually there," said Superintendent Rutnik.



Principal Francis Coccozza (left), English teacher Mrs. Michelle Elder (middle, dark suit), social studies teacher Mr. Robert Teft with members of the Korean War Veterans Association Adirondack Chapter #60

## Faculty and Staff

*Please help us welcome the following new staff members to the Lake George Central School District community.*



Carol Bodette is a teaching assistant with third and fourth grade at Lake George Elementary School. Mrs. Bodette earned a bachelor's degree from Lesley

College. She and her husband live on Glen Lake with their three daughters.



William Brown is teaching chemistry. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Rochester and then earned his master's in

Chemistry from Union College. Bill resides in Queensbury with his family.



Diane Fowler is a teaching assistant at the Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School. She is working with eighth and tenth grade students. Mrs. Fowler and her

husband reside in Lake George.



David Grey is an alumnus of Lake George High School. He retired from a government position in Colorado, moved back to the area, and is now a bus driver with the district.



Nicole "Nikki" Borie, Lake George High School Class of 2003, is a teaching assistant in the Elementary School Reading Center. Mrs. Borie

earned a bachelor's degree from Siena College and a master's degree from Sage Graduate School. She and her husband live in Queensbury with their two children.



Katie Chapman is teaching tenth grade students with disabilities. Mrs. Chapman earned her undergraduate degree from SUNY Plattsburgh and her master's

degree from the College of St. Joseph. Mrs. Chapman resides in South Glens Falls with her husband and their three sons.



Sherry Galkiewicz is a library aide at the Elementary School. Mrs. Galkiewicz earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Rose. She and

her husband, live in Lake George with their two children.



Gabrielle Kolar is teaching sixth grade special education at the Elementary School. Ms. Kolar earned a double bachelor's degree from the

College of Saint Rose. She received a master's degree from the University at Albany.



Kevin Burrall is teaching eighth grade science this year. Kevin earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in education from

St. Lawrence University. He and his fiancée reside in Queensbury.



Antonio "Tony" Chiaravalle is a new bus driver. He is a Lake George alumnus and resides in Lake George with his family.



Talia Gereau is a long-term substitute teacher in fifth grade. Ms. Gereau completed her undergraduate degree at SUNY Plattsburgh and earned

a master's degree from Walden University. She also completed a certificate program in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Ms. Gereau lives in Queensbury.



Alexandra "Alex" Poetzsch is a long-term substitute teacher with third grade at LGES. She earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY

Plattsburgh and a master's degree from the University at Albany. Ms. Poetzsch resides in Saratoga Springs.



## Board of Education:

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**News & Views** is published four 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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## MUSIC NOTES

### Open Mic Night



Lake George students showcased their talents at the annual Open Mic Night, a tradition that was started by Mrs. Pam Barker. "We had 10 acts and well over 60 friends and family in the audience. It was a fantastic night," said Lake George Band Director Mrs. Amy Baker.

### All-State Music Festival

Lake George Senior Seth Jardine was chosen to participate in the Area All-State Music Festival at Saratoga Springs High School. Seth was chosen because of his level VI NYSSMA score. Cooper Collins was also chosen but was unable to attend.

### All-County Chorus



LGES All-County Chorus with Mr. Shenk.

Congratulations to the students who were selected as members of the 2017 WCAMTA All-County Chorus. These students represented Lake George and sang with the finest singers from 10 area school districts at Whitehall Central School District on November 3 and 4, 2017.

### Lake Placid All Stars



Ten Lake George student musicians participated in the Northeast Instrumental Music Festival that is held each year in Lake Placid. They rehearsed with 100 other student musicians Thursday evening through Sunday morning, and four Warriors earning first chairs! The weekend culminated with a performance at the Lake Placid Arts Center.