

connections<sup>mag</sup>.com

A community magazine for Antioch, Lake Villa & Lindenhurst

# CONNECTIONS

*Living and learning in northwestern Lake County*

## Honoring Our Local Veterans

ACHS  
Students  
Honors Local  
Vets with  
American  
Flags

PAGE 7

IN THIS ISSUE

### From the Top

Village of Antioch  
Chief of Police  
Geoffrey Gutschow

PAGE 4

### Legends Finish Unprecedented High School Careers

PAGE 12

### Changes Coming to Palombi Middle School

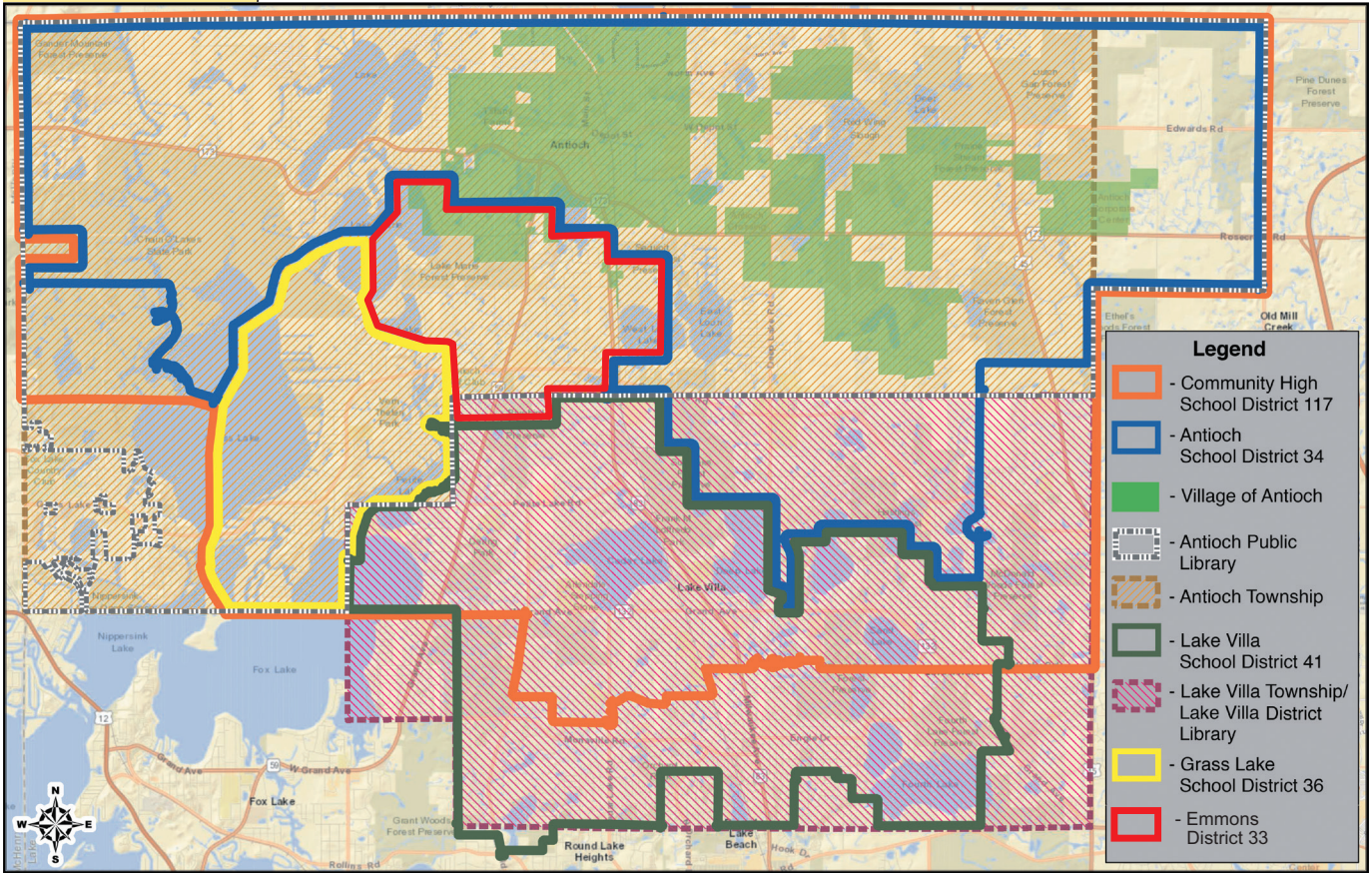
PAGE 19

WINTER 2020





## AREA MAP



**Connections**, a quarterly magazine in publication since 2015, is a collaborative effort among several taxpayer-supported organizations to keep residents informed about news and events in Antioch, Lake Villa, and Lindenhurst. We appreciate your feedback. Please send comments or questions to [connections@chsd117.org](mailto:connections@chsd117.org).

Mary Priller/MJPR Designs is a contributor for the magazine. Connections is printed by KK Stevens Publishing in Astoria, Illinois.

**ANTIOCH: Eat, Shop, Enjoy**

# EAT

**ALLTOGETHER**  
**ANTIOCH**  
AUTHENTIC BY NATURE

**Order Ahead**  
**Call-in**  
**Ordering**  
**Takeout**  
**Get it at**  
**the Curb**  
**Personalized**  
**Attention**

# SHOP LOCAL

**Shop/Dine Interactive Map: [antioch.il.gov](http://antioch.il.gov)**





GRASS LAKE DISTRICT 36

## GLS Conducts Monthly Spirit Weeks to Keep Spirits High

PAGE 25

## CONNECTIONS

# Winter 2020

### departments



- 4 From the Top**  
Village of Antioch Chief of Police & CHSD117 Board of Education member **Geoffrey Guttschow**
- 5 Community Contacts**
- 30 Community Capture**  
Our Starry Night

### chsd117

- 6 Antioch Community High School**  
Learning & Growing Together
- 10 Lakes Community High School**  
Reshaping Our Vision

### people & places

- 14 Village of Antioch**  
Call it a Holiday
- 26 Antioch Township**  
Giving Back to the Community
- 29 Lake Villa Township**  
Helping Residents in Need from COVID
- 32 Antioch Public Library District**

### elementary school districts

- 19 Lake Villa School District 41**  
Changes Coming to Palombi Middle School
- 20 Antioch School District 34**  
Reading to Succeed at Antioch Upper Grade School
- 24 Grass Lake District 36**  
Latino Community Association of Lake County
- 27 Emmons School District 33**  
Our Strategic Plan Journey
- 28 Fox Lake School District 114**  
Planning for the How's and When's





## DETAILS

# Geoffrey Guttschow

## Village of Antioch Chief of Police

Appointed August of 2020, after serving as Interim Chief since March

→ Deputy Chief of Police, 2018-2020

→ Graduate of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, 2019

→ Commander of Police Operations, 2016-2018

Community High School District 117 Board of Education Member, 2014-Current

### In your own words...

Antioch is an amazing community that I have had the honor and privilege of serving in for more than two decades. I began my career with the Antioch Police Department in 1999, as a patrol officer. I served in several capacities before being promoted to sergeant in 2007, when I began the supervisory chapter of my career. I have always believed that community problems are best addressed when we all work together. Because of this, I have strived to expand engagement and partnerships between the men and women of the police department, and the community we are sworn to serve. My policing philosophy is based on balancing a foundation of traditional policing concepts with modern progressive methods. I am committed to listening to the needs of the community and believe in providing the highest level of professional public safety service.

### It might surprise you to know...

I served as a volunteer emergency medical technician in Salem, WI for three years prior to becoming a police officer. It was through this experience I began to understand that I had a servant's heart. Helping people and serving my community provided me an inherent sense of reward. This experience helped lead me toward a career in law enforcement. In furthering my desire to serve my community, I have had the privilege of being an elected member of the Community High School District 117 Board of Education since 2014.

### Favorite memory about the community

I have always enjoyed participating in Antioch's Independence Day Celebration. It is by far, the most popular annual village event which brings the community together in unity. This event provides an opportunity to directly engage community members and as a result I have always enjoyed the deep sense of community the event fosters. It always reminds me that the level of support our community has for their police officers, is second to none.



### Favorite Sports Teams

I am not a diehard sports fan by any means. That said, having been born in Illinois but raised in Wisconsin before settling in Antioch to raise my family, I developed a mixed batch of sports teams I am a fan of.

→ Green Bay Packers

→ Chicago Cubs

→ Chicago Blackhawks

### Favorite Free-time Activity

My family (wife and five children) have enjoyed the "Chain-Life." During the warmer months, if we are not out on the lakes, we are sitting on our deck watching the boats pass by.

### Favorite Food

It's hard to beat a good Chicago style deep dish pizza!

### Favorite Movie

Any of the James Bond movies and Spaceballs.

### Favorite Quote

This quote by Theodore Roosevelt hangs on a large sign in





my office and reminds me each day that it is better to try and fail, rather to not try at all because of the fear of failure.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better; the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; But who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat"

## Greatest Lesson I've Learned

My wife would tell you, the most important lesson I have learned is she is always right.

However, as a law enforcement leader the most important

lesson I have learned is that I must always be willing to embrace change. When I started my law enforcement career, we hand wrote reports, there were not computers in squad cars, and we did not have tools such as patrol rifles, dash-cams, defibrillators, tasers or kinetic energy impact devices. Most officers did not own cell phones and the internet was in its early stages. Today, most police officers could not imagine doing the job without these valuable tools, but when they began to emerge in policing, many officers at the time were reluctant to embrace them.

Contrast this to the private sector, where companies have always actively sought out change to remain competitive. I believe policing should follow the many examples set by successful, private sector organizations. While change in policing is not always easy, I believe as law enforcement we must recognize the world is constantly evolving around us. **To succeed in our mission, we must be willing to evolve with it. Change makes us better; it helps us ensure we stand ready to provide the highest level of professional service possible to those we took an oath to serve and protect.**

## community contacts

### ANTIOCH

**Chamber of Commerce**  
847-395-2233

[antiochchamber.org](http://antiochchamber.org)

**Fire Department**  
(non-emergency)  
847-395-5511

**Police Department**  
(non-emergency)  
847-395-8585

**Post Office**  
847-395-3482

**Public Works**  
847-395-1881

**Economic Development**  
847-395-1000

**Parks and Recreation**  
847-395-2160

**Senior Center**  
847-395-0139

**Village Hall**  
847-395-1000  
[antioch.il.gov](http://antioch.il.gov)

Permits Coordinator  
Ext. 1302  
Village Clerk  
Ext. 1304

**Antioch Township**  
847-395-3378  
[antiochtownshipil.gov](http://antiochtownshipil.gov)

**Township Assessor's Office**  
847-395-1545

**Township Highway Department**  
847-395-2070

**Antioch Public Library District**  
847-395-0874  
[apl.d.info](http://apl.d.info)

### LINDENHURST

**Village**  
847-356-8252  
[lindenhurstil.org](http://lindenhurstil.org)

**Police Department**  
(non-emergency)  
847-356-5400

**Public Works**  
847-356-8252

**Park District**  
847-356-6011  
[lindenhurstparks.org](http://lindenhurstparks.org)

**Chamber of Commerce**  
847-356-8446  
[lvchamber.com](http://lvchamber.com)

### LAKE VILLA

**Village Hall**  
847-356-6100  
[lake-villa.org](http://lake-villa.org)

**Police Department**  
(non-emergency)  
847-356-6106

**Public Works**  
847-356-6100

**Lake Villa District Library**  
847-356-7711  
[lvdl.org](http://lvdl.org)

**Rescue Squad**  
847-356-2992

**Fire Department**  
847-356-2525

**Township Supervisor**  
847-356-2116  
[lakevillatownship.org](http://lakevillatownship.org)

**Township Assessor**  
847-356-2383  
[lvassessor.org](http://lvassessor.org)

**Township Highway Department**  
847-356-5831  
[lakevillatownship.org](http://lakevillatownship.org)

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**Lake Villa School District 41**  
847-356-2385  
[district41.org](http://district41.org)

Palombi Middle School  
847-356-2118  
Hooper Elementary School  
847-356-2151  
Thompson Elementary School  
847-265-2488

**Martin Elementary School**  
847-245-3400

**Community HS District 117**  
847-395-9001  
[chsd117.org](http://chsd117.org)

**Antioch Community HS**  
847-395-1421  
**Lakes Community HS**  
847-838-7100

**Antioch School District 34**  
847-838-8400  
[antioch34.com](http://antioch34.com)

**Antioch Elementary**  
847-838-8901  
**W.C. Petty Elementary**  
847-838-8101  
**Hillcrest Elementary School**  
847-838-8001  
**Oakland Elementary School**  
847-838-8601  
**Antioch Upper Grade**  
847-838-8301

**Emmons School District 33**  
847-395-1105  
[emmons33.org](http://emmons33.org)

**Grass Lake School District 36**  
847-395-1550  
[gls36.org](http://gls36.org)

**Fox Lake Grade School District 114**  
847-973-4028  
[d114.org](http://d114.org)





letter from Principal Eric Hamilton

# Learning & Growing Together

In my 25 years in education, this has been one of the most challenging. Teachers and administrators were not trained for this. We want to be around our students and help them learn and grow. Education is a calling and we are reinvigorated when we see the light go on in a student's brain and a connection is made: it is powerful to witness. I would liken it to helping my daughters succeed at learning to ride a bike. Holding the bike and running alongside them, letting go and then hoping they could do it, picking them up and comforting them when they could not, and encouraging them to try again was a similar process to what we have the honor of experiencing every day. When they were able to do it on their own, their lives and opportunities opened up beyond what they knew just a day before. However, like learning to ride a bike, there are times of struggle and we fall down. It seems that we are all in the same spot of needing the support of one another and that we are all learning at

the same time. Remember, just like riding a bike, the key is to persist even if it is painful and scary. As a staff, we are aware that there are struggles to learning in a remote environment, which is why we put together the **list of suggestions** below for you and your students. Hopefully this brings about the same growth and advancement of when you learned to ride on your own.



**Eric Hamilton**

Principal  
Antioch Community High School

## REMOTE LEARNING STRESS SUGGESTIONS

### STRUGGLING/STRESSED

**Ask for help.** If you feel you are falling behind, let your teacher know and ask to meet with them during office hours. Set alarms/reminders on your phone to attend office hours.

During passing periods, and lunch/SH breaks, **get up, move around, stretch.** Detach from technology for a bit.

Feeling stressed, **take five minutes and meditate.**

When not in a Google Meet, try different kinds of **background music** such as instrumental or nature sounds.

### LOCATION/ENVIRONMENT

Have a consistent workplace that is **free of clutter and distractions.**

**Let others know** that you will be in a Google Meet.

Make sure to have a **seat that supports your back.**

Your brain makes connections between **locations and purposes**, so separate your work space from your place of rest.

If possible, **turn your camera on** while learning remotely. This reminds you that you are part of a learning community and helps you hold yourself accountable.

### DISTRACTIONS

While in class, **put your phone on silent, turn it off**, or place it in a different location from where you are working. This way, you remove the potential for distraction.

**Make sure to eat breakfast.** During the day, have a light snack so you are not distracted by hunger pains. Also, make sure you are drinking plenty of water. Being dehydrated can cause you to lose focus.

**Take notes using pen/pencil and paper.** Typing while on a Google Meets means you have to open another tab on your Chromebook which can increase distraction.

### ORGANIZATION

**Manage your time wisely.** If you can complete your work immediately, you should.

**Use a to-do list**, like Google Tasks, and set goals.

Use Google Calendar and **mark the time of your class** periods and schedule time for homework along with work, practice or other responsibilities.

Set one school goal for each day and then **celebrate when you accomplish this goal!**

Take the time to **organize your digital files** so you can find things quickly and easily. Create folders for each of your classes and add documents to your own drive.





## ACHS Celebrates & Honors Local Veterans

The Social Studies Department worked on various ways to celebrate and honor local veterans on Veterans Day. Posters were mailed out to veterans and local businesses, a slideshow of veterans' photos and ACHS student performances were compiled, and a special video of interviews with veterans was created in their honor. On Monday, November 9, Social Studies Teachers, Jaycee Ruley and Meghan McDonnell, coordinated with staff and several student organizations, to have small groups of students come in and help plant 800 small American flags in front of the school along Main street. These students worked outside, were socially distanced in small groups, and wore masks at all times.



## Ambassadors to the Board of Education

Zoey Kue, Walker Winkler, and Tessa Wolf were selected to serve as the ACHS Ambassadors to the Board of Education. We greatly appreciate their willingness to share their time. They do an incredible job representing the students and our learning community.



## Blood Drive Saves 267 Lives

The ACHS Fall Blood Drive was held on October 29. PE teacher Gregg Henning, took a different approach with pre-made appointments and donations being taken at Vitalant in Gurnee. Through selflessness of our community members, students, and staff of Antioch Community High School, 267 lives were saved!





## Students Stay Healthy at Home

CTE teacher, Meghan Taugner, had her Food & Fitness classes take advantage of the good weather during face-to-face time in October. She asked students to get out there and MOVE one day each rotation, then COOK healthy options. Both groups had a plethora of great ideas for keeping physically and mentally healthy at home.



## Senior Students Register to Vote

Social Studies teacher, Alex Jarosz, headed up a Voter Registration drive for our senior students ahead of election day, while teacher Meghan McDonnell, coordinated political guest speakers for our Government and AP Government classes. Representative Lauren Underwood and Candidate Jim Oberweiss spoke in October to senior Government students. Our students did a great job of asking questions and engaging with the candidates.



## Fine Arts Dept. Hosts First Ever Virtual Concert

Antioch High School's Fine Arts department had their first-ever Virtual Fall Concert. The concert consisted of band, orchestra, and choir performances. Throughout the semester, students submitted individual recordings. The directors then combined all of these and uploaded them to YouTube for this special event. This took 100's of hours to prepare and we are very proud of our Sequoits for all their hard work.

### CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

The Academic and Math Team have been practicing diligently to prepare to compete against Lakes by the end of the semester.

The Chess Team has been competing virtually in matches almost every Friday. This will continue throughout the semester.

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) had the students make dinner, with a side, at home for their families. They also had cookie kits to decorate and share.

Students for the Fall Play have been using zoom for rehearsals and recordings.

The Civics Club has begun its first virtual simulation. Students used their home computers and interacted with each other from their own environment.

# Sequoia Athletics

Congratulations to the following athletes for their accomplishments this session.



**Donald Barnett**  
qualified for Boys' Golf Sectionals



**Natalie Labicki & Jocelyn Cabuyadao**  
placed 3rd at Girls' Tennis Sectionals



## The Crimson Line Goes the Distance

Pictured left to right, Amber Carson, Juliana Gonzalez and Addison Lane qualified for Sectionals for Girls' Cross Country, and Lucas Baronello for Boys' Cross Country

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION



## Thank You for Being Awesome!

Art Teacher, and Cardinal Crazies sponsor, Stefan Pfautz, has been surprising students and staff, in-school and remotely. Mr. Pfautz presents the weekly recipient with a t-shirt, and as he says, "Thanking them for being Awesome." We would like to thank Mr. Pfautz for the videos, smiles, and energy that this brings to so many.

## Commended Students Honored

ACHS would like to congratulate Katelyn Amodeo, Zachary Leitz, and Alison Weiser, who were recognized as Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students were among 1.5 million students who took the 2019 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test last October. They are recognized for their exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their performance on the test.

## ISBE Awards Sequoia Honors

The Illinois State Board of Education annually sponsors the 'Those Who Excel' awards to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our state's public and non-public, elementary and secondary schools. Although there was not a banquet to honor these individuals this year, we are very proud to announce the following recipients.

### SCOTT LEVERENTZ

*Assistant Principal*  
**Award of Excellence**

### INTEGRATED MATH 1

**Award of Meritorious Service**

### KYLE BUSH

*Education Technology Specialist*  
**Award of Meritorious Service**

### Rob Hafer

*PE/Health Teacher*  
**Award of Meritorious Service**





letter from Assistant Principal Jori Bowen

# Reshaping Our Vision

Do you believe that achieving success – monetarily, socially, or otherwise – will make you happy? Actually, American psychologist, Martin Seligman, presented a new area of psychology in 1998 that signals the exact reverse - happiness leads to a successful life. And don't we all need some happiness right now?

CTE teacher and head varsity basketball coach, Chris Snyder, and I have been collaborating monthly with the administrative team at Lakes to study positive psychology and its potential impact on the entire Lakes Community. Over the summer, we all read *The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology that Fuel Success and Performance at Work* by Shawn Achor and will spend the school year examining how to bring the principles to our practice. The message is not about ignoring reality and faking happiness but shifting one's perspective to have a more positive mindset.

Mr. Snyder and I have a goal to bring this attitude and the seven principles to the students and staff at Lakes so we can all thrive, inside of just survive. Shawn Achor explains the vision best, "It's not reality that shapes us. Rather, it is the lens through which your brain views the world that shapes your reality. And if we can change the lens, not only can we change your **happiness**, we can change every single educational and business outcome at the same time."



## Jori Bowen

Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction  
Lakes Community High School

## Student Council Brightens Student Life

LCHS Student Council found ways throughout the fall to provide experiences and positively impact staff and students, despite increased safety precautions.

In October, student council members voted to provide a pumpkin to every staff member "to help brighten their day." Students worked independently to research pumpkin prices and arrange delivery of over 200 pumpkins. On the day that the pumpkins were delivered, student council members from each class volunteered their time to distribute the pumpkins throughout the school.

In addition to pumpkin distribution, student council members coordinated a socially-distanced, after school event for students and staff. Eagles were able to paint pumpkins outside in the Commons Courtyard on Thursday, October 22. Students signed up for a 45-minute time slot with a total of 75 Eagles painting during the 3 available shifts. We are immensely thankful to Patch 22 (Wadsworth, IL) for delivering the pumpkins and the LCHS Art Department for supplying the paints and brushes.

On October 14, the class of 2021 took the mandatory, graduation required SAT test. All seniors were required to be in the building for the test and the Lakes Student Council treated over 300 seniors to a tamale from Mijo's Authentic Mexican Food at the conclusion of the test.

For the 2020-21 school year, the LCHS Student Council is dedicated to providing activities in which students can come to school and while socially distanced, enjoy being with their friends. They are open to suggestions for activities that would be engaging for our students and community members while being mindful of not having too many people in one area at a time.





## Congratulations to the 2021 Commended/Semi-Finalist National Merit Scholars

About a year ago, the class of 2021 took the PSAT/National Merit Qualifying Test. The primary function of this assessment is to serve as a practice SAT. At the same time, it serves as the initial screener to enter students into the prestigious National Merit Scholarship competition. Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools took this exam nationwide last October.

LCHS is proud to recognize four seniors that are among the top academic performers in the nation on the NMSQT.

Amber Campbell and Daniel Gfesser were identified as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for each scoring in the top 50,000 highest scores in the nation!

Lucas Holler and Benjamin Schneiderheinze have been announced as Semifinalists and will be advancing in the scholarship program for scoring in the top 16,000 scores which is less than one percent of US high school seniors!

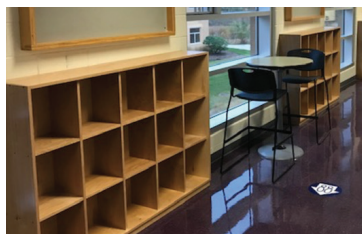
We celebrate with Amber, Benjamin, Daniel, and Lucas for earning these honors. Congratulations, and all the best in the future!



## Lakes Senior Builds New Storage Cases

Lakes senior, James Mroczka designed and built the storage cases now in place in the 2nd floor Fine Arts hallway as his Eagle Scout project. The installation of the storage cases will help students stay organized while they are in class. This will also help prevent any trip hazards from backpacks being on the floor. Mr. Newberry was very impressed with the quality of work and how well they match existing furniture.

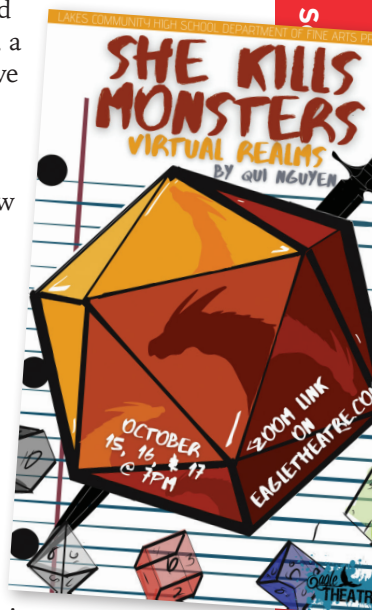
Only 8% of Boy Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle, so congratulations to James for his dedication. In order to achieve this honor, one must earn 21 merit badges including "(a) First Aid, (b) Citizenship in the Community, (c) Citizenship in the Nation, (d) Citizenship in the World, (e) Communication, (f) Cooking, (g) Personal Fitness, (h) Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, (i) Environmental Science OR Sustainability, (j) Personal Management, (k) Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling, (l) Camping, and (m) Family Life." Thank you, James, for this excellent contribution. There is more than one way to be an Eagle!



## Fall Play: She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms

On Oct 15-17, Eagle Theatre presented *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* written by Qui Nguyen - 100% virtually on Zoom. The play revolves around the story of Agnes Evans as she reconnects with her late sister through a Dungeons and Dragons campaign where she meets a humble and incredible Dark Elf, a shady and aggressive demon queen, the Lord of the Underworld and Animal Crossing, and a slew of other monsters. We had over 300 audience members across the three nights and Eagle Theatre loved being able to share our stories with the community!

All aspects of the performance were adjusted to keep students safe. Actors rehearsed the production every day in Google Meet, polishing scene work and choreographing dance battles. Puppeteers designed and engineered monsters that could fit in the Zoom screen. Costume designers made the fantasy world believable through actors' wardrobes. Media designers found a wide variety of backdrops to make each scene dynamic and interesting. Lighting designers worked with what students had in their houses. Sound designers built the ambiance of the world and problem-solved streaming difficulties. Prop designers used a variety of resources to build the world. Between cast and crew, we had over 50 students involved in the production!







# Legends Finish Unprecedented High School Careers

Lakes Community High School has enjoyed tremendous success over the last four years, especially in our fall sports. From conference championships to sectional titles to our school's first ever team state trophy. Our fall ath-

letes have always set a path for continued success through the school year and unified the school culture behind our successes. Megan Heuser and Brooke Stromsland are the catalyst for so much of our success.

## *Megan Heuser*

Megan finished her career with a record of 122 wins and 3 losses, in four years, she was all state 3 times, conference and sectional champion 4 times and won a state title in girls singles in 2019. In that time, she also helped bring 2 team sectional titles to Lakes. Megan finished her career on her home courts and another sectional title. Though she did not get a chance to compete at the state finals due to Covid-19, her legacy is cemented in our state. Very few athletes, anywhere, can point to so much success. This came from her determination, pride and passion to get better. She will be missed but never forgotten. Megan will attend the University of Illinois next fall.



## *Brooke Stromsland*

Brooke Stromsland, a name that is well known in Lake County and across the state of Illinois. A running superstar in the best cross-country state in the country. Brooke was all state 3 times, including a state championship her sophomore year. She was a conference, regional and sectional champion multiple times in her career. A humble and determined athlete that always put her teammates before herself, helped our girl's cross country team accomplish something that had never been done before in the school's history, bring home a state trophy in 2019. In my 16 years as a teacher and coach at Lakes I know first-hand how close we had come before but it took the leadership of Brooke to finally accomplish this elusive goal. The memory of holding the state trophy will always stand as one of the most rewarding moments of my career. Thanks to a legend named Brooke Stromsland. Brooke will attend Belmont University starting next fall.







## Progress continues on the D117 Field House



## Cross Country Teams Finished Strong in the 2020 Postseason

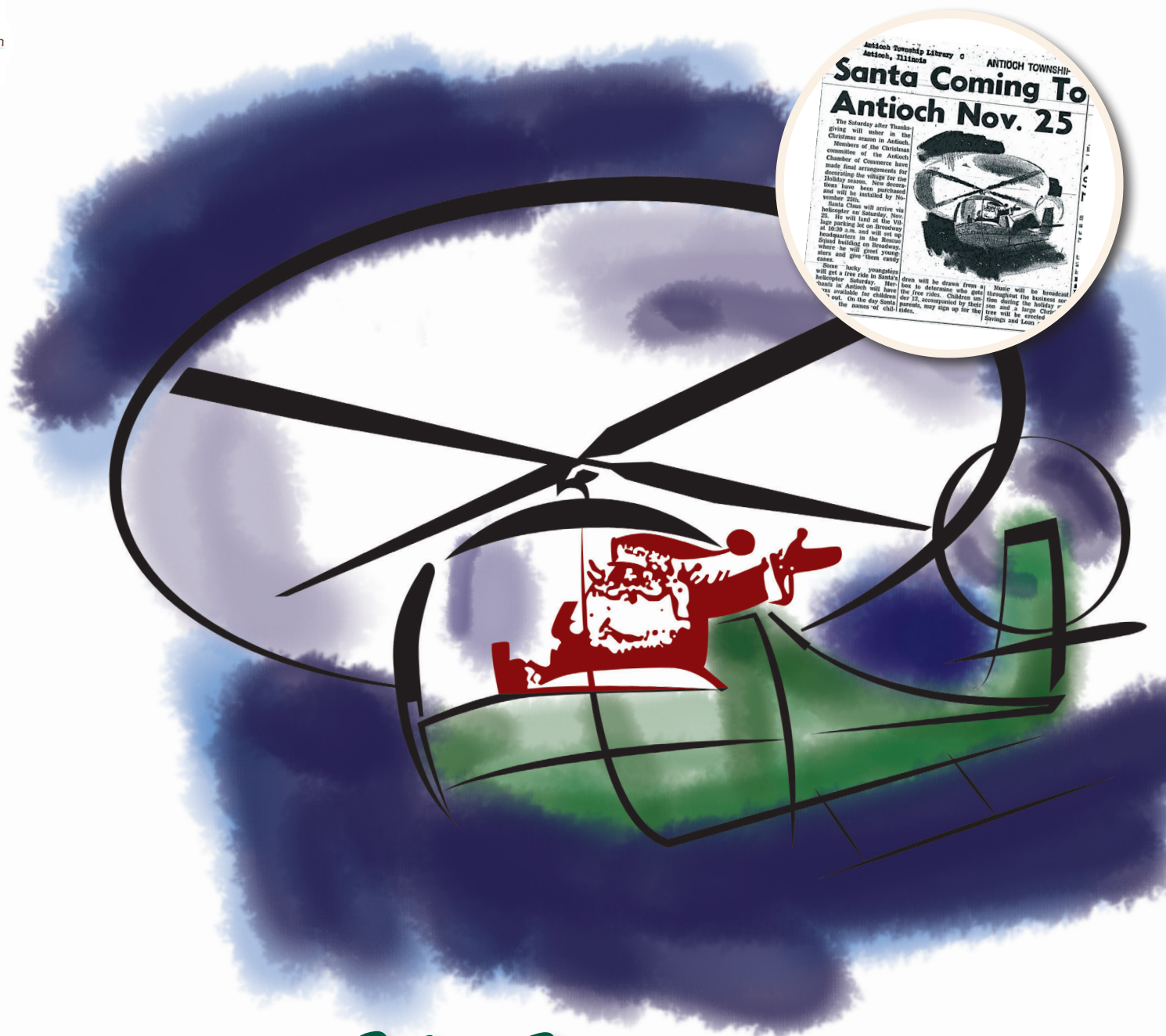
On October 17, the girls' team won their 2nd consecutive NLCC title. Brooke Stromsland won her 2nd NLCC Title. Brooke Stromsland, Paige Caruth, Madison Twarling, Alex Bryant, Becca Runyan, and Maddie Perez all earned All-Conference honors. The boys' team finished 4th. Micah Lind finished 10th to earn All-Conference honors.

On October 24, the girls won their 2nd consecutive Regional Title. Brooke Stromsland won her 3rd Regional Title. Paige Caruth (8), Madison Twarling (11), Alex Bryant

(13), Becca Runyan (17), and Maddie Perez (19) finished in the top 20. The boys finished 3rd with their best race of the year. Payton Whitehead (8), Gavin Murrie (10), Jack Engel (13), and Micah Lind (18) finished in the top 20.

On October 31, the girls finished 5th and boys 12th at a very competitive Sectional meet. Brooke Stromsland won her 3rd Sectional title. Madison Twarling (14) and Alex Bryant (16) both finished in the top 20. Congratulations Eagles!



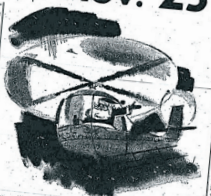


# Santa Coming To Antioch Nov. 25

The Saturday after Thanksgiving will usher in the Christmas season in Antioch. Members of the Christian Chamber of Commerce have decided the village for the holiday season. New decorations have been purchased and will be installed by November 20th.

Santa Claus will arrive via helicopter on Saturday, Nov. 25. He will land at the Village at 10:30 a.m. and will set up his headquarters in the Bannock building on Broadway, where he will greet youngsters and give them candy canes.

Children, lucky youngsters will get a free ride in Santa's sleigh. Santa Claus will be drawn from a hat to determine who gets the free ride. Children are out. On the day Santa Claus arrives, parents may sign up for the names of children.



Music will be broadcast throughout the business center during the holiday season and a large Christmas tree will be erected in Springs and Loom.

# call it a Holiday

Tree lightings & tidbits



# When many of us think about Christmas, we think large celebrations and countless holiday traditions.

In actuality, Christmas in Illinois, historically, was rather low key.

According to journals from those living in the French town of Kaskaskia in the 1700s, a town along the Mississippi River in southern Illinois, residents would head home after Christmas Eve services to their fireplaces and use bed warmers (pots with coal) to take the chill out of their beds.

A rather simple and everyday routine with not much fanfare for the eve of a holiday. Goods sold in shops showed many things imported from France along with a mix of locally-made items. Holiday gifts for boys were thought to be silver knee buckles, which would fasten pants at the sides, and for girls, hair ribbons from Paris. Otherwise, most of the merriment was saved for New Year's and the twelfth day of Christmas (known as Epiphany Eve) instead.<sup>1</sup> As towns grew and others were formed, with more residents, industry and resources, so too, did bigger and grander celebrations come.

Christmas trees and other traditions date far back, with each country and culture lending its own displays and features. For example, in the 15th century European country of Latvia, young men and women would dance and sing around trees during winter celebrations, then set the largest tree on fire during the last night of gatherings to light the sky. The 1600s brought about the first decorated tree, and in 1816, the first American tree. In 1883, Illinois' own **Sears Roebuck & Company** was the first to introduce an artificial Christmas tree. Their trees would sell from 50 cents to a dollar, small to large in size.<sup>2</sup>



## A.T.H.S. Gift Concert At 3 P. M. Sunday To Include Carol Singing

**Santa Claus to Bring Candy to Children—Free Event Is Family Affair**

Antioch Township High School will present its "Christmas Gift to the Community" on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18th at 3:00 p. m. The "gift concert" will be held in the high school auditorium. Following the concert a brief reception for students, parents and friends will be held in the boys' gym.

The Christmas concert promises to appeal to all. Charles Watson, of Camp Lake, director of one of the Antioch Church choirs, will lead the audience in singing of carols. Santa Claus will attend with a big pack of candy canes for the children.

Selections by the band include "Noel," an arrangement of Christmas favorites which is scored in an unusual way. Other selections will be "Toytown U. S. A.," "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring," and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

The Girls Glee Club will blend their voices on the favorites "Christmas Candles" and "White Christmas." The a cappella choir will interpret Fred Waring's arrangement of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Concluding the program will be a thought provoking series of songs by the choruses telling the "When," "Where," "Who," and "Why" of Christmas. Finale will be the magnificent "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah."

Committee chairmen are Donald Wertz, decorating committee; and Barbara Smith, reception committee. Presidents of the participating groups are: Judy Pyle, Girls Glee Club; Don Wertz; A Cappella Choir; and John Kelly, Band.

Come and bring the family to the Christmas Gift Concert!



**BEST CHRISTMAS FLOAT** — The State Bank's float was chosen the best float in the first Christmas parade that Antioch has had in a long time, held on Nov. 24. Float went right along with Chamber's "Old Fashioned Christmas" promotion. — Photo by Gloria Davis

<sup>1</sup> Dave Heun, Tidbits about Christmas throughout history in Illinois, Daily Herald, Dec. 23, 2018, <https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20181223/tidbits-about-christmas-throughout-history-in-illinois>

<sup>2</sup> Visual history of the Christmas tree, image, <https://timeslipsblog.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/christmas-tree-history>





We can thank President Ulysses S. Grant for helping us all to have an official holiday to celebrate and elevating the season. This one-time Galena, Illinois resident signed a proclamation making Christmas a national holiday in 1870. Early community celebrations here in Antioch date back to 1887, with the earliest tree lighting documented as being held on Christmas Eve of that year.

## Notable Firsts

The notable-first holiday tree was documented in the journal of Frank Simmons, an Antioch resident and farmer, who came to the area in 1841 with his parents. Prior to a formal newspaper being published (which came about in 1888), Frank would journal and keep records of mostly things on the farm, but also things going on in town.<sup>3</sup> For one night only, Frank wrote, on Christmas Eve, candles would be lit on the tree for everyone to come and see. He goes on to write on December 25, 1890, about how the celebration expanded, “A Christmas tree at both churches last night.” The churches he refers to would have been the **Disciples of Christ Church**, now the **Lakes Region Historical Society** on Main Street, and the Baptist church which stood approximately where the Wesley Hall addition to the later **Antioch United Methodist Church** now stands. It is presumed that this annual, single-night tree lighting continued well into the 20th century. Later, a formalized tree ceremony came into place, and other activities, such as visits from Santa and the parade were added. Over time, the parade and tree lighting have grown to one of the most popular events for residents.

For many, a very recognizable tree of the grandest scale is the one that appears in Rockefeller Center in New York City. The tradition of the large tree came about in 1931 after one was placed on a construction site by demolition workers that pooled their money to purchase a 20-foot balsam fir and decorated it with handmade garlands. From there, the tradition grew, literally, with trees vying for the once-a-year selection and to be displayed at this popular destination for visitors and travelers. The tree tradition and lighting continue today.

In comparison, today’s Village of Antioch Christmas tree is relatively new and more demure in stature than the Rockefeller one. However, it is truly grand in its spirit and symbolism. The Norway spruce was planted at Village Hall as a replacement for the one that became in poor health. It displays about 1,600 lights and is ceremoniously lit each year with a “flipping” of the oversized switch. The lighting, along with accented strung lights along Main and Lake Streets, create a beautiful picture of holiday cheer and a sense of community. Lights are displayed from Thanksgiving to after Christmas.

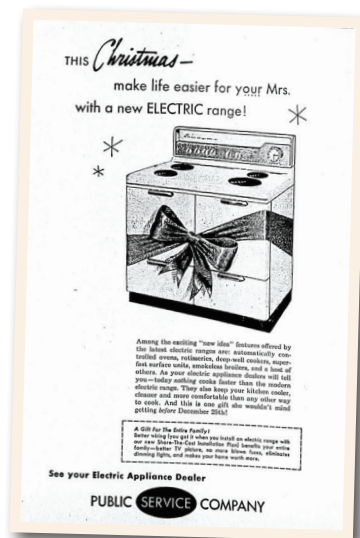
In 1984, what was known as the new “Santa’s Enchanted Castle” came about, a creatively-designed por-



table North Pole-esque structure. The “ho, ho, ho” holiday go-to served the Village of Antioch community over the years with countless toy lists and visits to Santa. Mayor Hanson, in his early years, dedicated his time and talents to the Village and Antioch Chamber of Commerce by helping with the construction and design. The structure was retired in recent years with the growth of other options, including **Santa’s Frozen Village**, which is hosted by the **Antioch Chamber of Commerce** and this year’s Antioch Parks Department’s very special **Holly Jolly Drive-Thru** (get details at [antioch.il.gov](http://antioch.il.gov)).

When asked to share some insight on Christmas and the holiday season in Antioch, with a look back in history, local historian, **Ainsley Brook Wonderling**, had some interesting thoughts. Ainsley serves as the manager and operator of the **Lakes Region Historical Society**, charged with preserving the rich history of Antioch, the Chain O’Lakes, and surrounding areas.

“One of the things I remember growing up was that Santa came in on a helicopter. It was quite exciting; even just the helicopter itself, the noise and the flying overhead,” said Ainsley.



Going further back, she recalls stories that her family would share of residents gathering near the church, for a tree lighting. “It was always about the feeling of togetherness.”

She mentions how many communities would always have men from the town standing by with water buckets (like an informal fire department) during festivities, as a “just in case” should a problem from lighted candle decorations develop. It seems likely the fire department’s introduction to the holiday festivities was more out of necessity (from stopping the town from burning) than the present-day ridesharing of Santa.

The Lakes Region Historical Society (museum, meeting house and archive locations on Main Street) are free and open to the public. They are all currently closed for winter and will reopen in the spring with expanded hours. Hours also available by appointment. For more about this local gem, reopening dates, special events and stories of old Antioch, follow them on Facebook. Consider a donation to this valuable non-profit with your year-end giving plans.

**Wishing you all a joyous, safe and healthy holiday season.**

*Dickens Holiday Village*

**ANTIOCH**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sponsored by  
**KIA Raymond CHEVROLET**  
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**Now through New Year's**  
**Free Fun for the**  
**Whole Family**  
**In the Village of Antioch**

*Enjoy!*

**10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
*Kringle's Christmas Village*

Enjoy Charles Dickens' famous scenes displayed outdoors throughout Main and Lake Streets.

Take a self-guided tour: oversized holiday shadow boxes displayed indoors (Orchard Street at Piggly Wiggly Plaza)



from the mayor's office

# Antioch, Our Community that Cares

As this very unusual year nears its end, I find myself again thinking how thankful and blessed I am to live in and lead a community like the **Village of Antioch**, where the values of service, working all together, supporting one another, are held. Throughout the years, sharing so many experiences with all of you, watching our town grow, helping it to become a sought-after place to make a home, and where businesses open doors, I know that the Village of Antioch is a community that cares.

That sense of caring is evident in so many ways. From the faces of gratitude of those receiving donations at our **Antioch Senior Center** which serves as a convenient distribution site for the **Antioch Traveling Closet**, a tireless non-profit which provides basic necessities to area families in need, to the **Open Arms Mission**, with its food pantry a fixture of our community throughout the years, to the tons of smiling faces that come to enjoy and participate in the parades and activities hosted by our **Village of Antioch Parks Department**.

That care is also evident in our classrooms, in the hearts and creative thinking of our educators—and also in our students—whose excitement, enthusiasm for learning, and flexibility to adapt during these unprecedented times, is amazing.

Caring also carries over to things like meetings that can last into the night, or emails from residents in my inbox, knowing that their questions or concerns help us shape the Village and look to the future and provide for the well-being of all who live and visit here.

Thank you for a wonderful year as your mayor. I've included a **few things ahead for 2021 that I'd like to share as well.**

Wishing you a happy, safe and joyous holiday season.



## Mayor Lawrence "Larry" Hanson

lhanson@antioch.il.gov  
847-395-1000

## 2021 VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

### Downtown Beautification Initiative

The Village of Antioch is excited to be in the process of interviewing design consultants on a "Downtown Beautification Initiative" that will provide a plan to proceed with a number of public improvements along Main, Lake, and Toft Streets. In addition, this new beautification effort is designed to improve the hardscape, landscape, and lighting of the Toft Street and Skidmore Avenue parking lots. As part of the Village's Downtown Business District, new investments are planned to continue with the long-term revitalization.

### Restaurant Expansion

As part of the Village's continued downtown revitalization efforts, we are excited about the opportunity of working with a new potential restaurant expansion. **Station 51** on Main Street will provide the newest chapter in the growing interest of restaurants in downtown locations. Discussions are currently ongoing with the owner of Barbecue Productions from Third Lake and Lake Zurich on the creation of a new restaurant at the former David Bistro's (Main Street) location. Plans look for an opening in 2021 with an innovative dining experience that celebrates the legacy of the fire-fighting community.

### Pittman Property Purchase

Another exciting project is the Village's recent purchase of the Pittman property at the corner of Main Street and Orchard. This vacant parcel provides the Village with the opportunity to create a new vision for a critically important parcel in our downtown. Located in the Village's Downtown Business District, this parcel provides a number of urban design and economic development opportunities. In addition, the site contains additional opportunities to create a more naturalistic stormwater solution and a long-term replacement of a damaged culvert that was installed a generation ago. The Village will soon be starting a visioning process for the future use of this parcel. **Keep your eyes open for a website link/social media post highlighting this important future project.**

### Rivalry Alehouse Opening

In 2021, we look forward to the opening of the **Rivalry Alehouse**, a commercial gateway into the downtown landscape at the former Flo's location. It will bring tastes and brews that are sure to "rival" many with German and Irish cuisine and a multi-season beer garden. This new two-story restaurant at Main and Park Streets, an important corner, will also celebrate the historical legacy of the downtown and provide a second-floor outdoor dining experience with great views.

# Changes Coming to Palombi Middle School

It has been a number of years since sixth grade has been housed at Lake Villa School District 41's middle school. Due to increased enrollment at the middle school in the early 2000s, sixth grade was moved to the elementary buildings in 2002. Fast forward to the year 2020 and the middle school enrollment has decreased from 691 five years ago to 586 students today. At the same time, some of our elementary schools have limited space.

The Lake Villa School District 41 Facility Committee began looking at a comprehensive building plan in 2018 to address these challenges, as well as a referendum to address space, HVAC systems, and general maintenance of the buildings. Soon after, the District held meetings, sent surveys and worked with parents, community members, staff, and students to discuss different 6th grade programming options. Overwhelmingly, all stakeholders chose the current middle school model, in which students move to different classes. In November of 2019, the School Board voted to transition sixth graders to Palombi beginning the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Vic Wight, Principal of Palombi Middle School, stated, "The feedback provided to us over the past year and a half has culminated in an exciting plan for the sixth grade with slight modifications to courses for current students as well."

The plan for sixth grade has been presented to staff, parents, and the School Board. The next six months will consist of filling positions for the new schedule, communicating with students and parents about the new opportunity in a variety of ways, and working with staff to be part of a new team. The Palombi Staff is excited to be able to develop further relationships with all students and provide them with dynamic middle school aged opportunities.



## Palombi Raises Cancer Awareness

Each October, Palombi students and staff raise awareness for cancer by holding a parade in the neighborhood. In the past, this was always a "Pink-Out" to raise awareness about breast cancer. Sadly this year, Palombi lost one of its own, Mr. Griffiths, to this deadly disease. This year students and staff participated in a car parade and virtual walk that recognized all people battling all forms of cancer.

## Preparing for a Return to On-site Learning

For the past 8 months the District 41 Administration has been preparing for a transition from Remote Learning and Teaching to In-person Instruction in the classroom as we are all so accustomed. With the pandemic seemingly experiencing another spike in the curve with an increase in daily positivity rates and hospitalizations, it is imperative that all stakeholders in the district work cooperatively for a successful transition to a Hybrid model of teaching and learning.

During the summer and early fall, the administration has taken a number of steps to help ensure the safety of our students and staff when the doors are re-opened for in-person instruction again. The board has authorized the purchase of items such as PPE/ face masks for the benefit of staff and students; hand sanitizer to be readily available throughout the buildings; temperature scanners for ensuring everyone is not experiencing fever symptoms upon their entry into school every day; the hiring of an additional cleaning service solely for disinfecting high traffic/contact areas throughout the school day; and the authorization to purchase up to 112 air purifiers to be utilized in various areas of need throughout all of the buildings.

These mitigation efforts as well as others are all very important steps to protect the safety of anyone entering our buildings, however we still need the full cooperation of our parents and guardians to help protect the health and safety of all of our students and staff. When In-person or Hybrid Instruction resumes, it is imperative that everyone district-wide is working together for the safety of our community.

Please continue to diligently follow CDC and IDPH guidelines by routinely washing hands with soap for 20 seconds, wearing a face mask when in public, and abiding by physical distancing. The community as a whole should be well aware of the benefits of PPE and the importance of following protocols and the unfortunate circumstances that result when those protective efforts are not utilized. It would be extremely disappointing if we have to return to full Remote Learning once we reach the point of being able to start the Hybrid model.



from desk of Superintendent Hubbard

# You'll Never Walk Alone

Personally and professionally, individually and collectively, we have all been significantly impacted by the persistent, unrelenting, and unforgiving pandemic. As we have all worked to navigate our own realities in a world where unpredictably, uncertainty, and the unknown seem to have become the norm, finding the good can sometimes be a challenge. Without minimizing the incredible toll this year has taken on our community, state, nation, and world, I want to simply say that I am proud of and thankful for each and every one of you.

In putting together our section for this issue of Connections, our district wanted to have a theme. It quickly became obvious that we wanted to share, celebrate, and highlight stories that embodied the gratitude we feel and the service we have witnessed. In the last too many months, we have heard about, participated in, been involved with, and played observer to countless instances of individuals in our community stepping up and in to help, lift up, and serve those around them. At the same time, we have worked to intentionally take stock in and be explicit about what we are thankful and grateful for. In turn, many have shared their stories of the gratitude they hold for and the service they appreciate of our Antioch CCSD 34 team.

This has been a year like no other. We feel deeply for those impacted by this pandemic and we are so sorry for the loss that so many have experienced. The loss of so much and

so many. With that said, we have a saying around here (one we borrowed), "You'll Never Walk Alone." In the times that try us most, it is important that we are here for you. It is important that we are here for each other. As a school district, we exist to serve and we take particular stock in seeing all the ways others do, as well. We are in a unique position of being able to see so much good through the fog of the bad. We are grateful for the opportunity to lead, serve, teach, connect, and learn, together. Additionally, we are grateful for your partnership, trust, support, and resolve. Finally, we are thankful for you. In the face of loss, sacrifice, confusion, new norms, and significant change, you have inspired those of us around you.

Thank you to our Board, our staff, our students, our families, and this amazing community. During this holiday season, please stay well, healthy, and safe. And, know that we love you.

## Dr. Bradford Hubbard

Superintendent  
Antioch CCSD 34



## AUGS Assistant Principals Deliver Student of the Month Awards

AUGS has continued the tradition of honoring "Student of the Month" for Core and Encore classes. Each grade level nominates one boy and one girl each month and the Encore teachers nominate one student per grade level team. The school hosts a monthly Celebration Assembly to build school spirit through honoring our twenty-seven Student of the Month winners. During the assembly, The Spirit of the Warrior (teacher award) winner is announced and a team of teachers lead an activity/game for all of the students and staff to watch. It is important for our students and staff to feel connected to the school, especially during remote learning. During remote learning, AUGS celebrates the Student of the Month winners and Spirit of the Warrior winner each month by creating a presentation that is shared with the students during their Success class. The presentation is shared with students and families in the AUGS Student and Family bi-weekly newsletter. Assistant Principals, Ms. Salata, Mr. Coon and Dr. Dohrmann, plan a day to deliver Student of the Month certificates and AUGS water bottles to the students' homes. The students are excited to receive their award, their water bottle, and to see the assistant principals.



# Hillcrest's 'Small Great Things'

As Hillcrest Elementary School embarked on the journey that is the 2020-2021 school year, we recognized that school would feel noticeably different and that we would need to focus on maintaining our connection to each other and strengthening our sense of community. To paraphrase the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we decided to concentrate our efforts on doing "small great things." Guided by the ideas of gratitude and service, Hillcrest staff and students have been busy cleaning, collecting, donating, honoring, serving, and paying tribute to those that "lift us."

This year Hillcrest created The Beautification Committee, dedicated to "prettying up" our school, both inside and out. This voluntary committee of staff members decorated the staff lounge, brightened up the building with fresh and inspirational bulletin boards (like "What Brings You Joy,") and adorned the hallways and bathrooms with messages of appreciation and encouragement. Inspired by the Beautification Committee, additional staff volunteers and family members, dubbed the "Clean-up Crew," came to school one chilly October Saturday and spent several hours weeding and tidying up our outdoor classroom space in order to be able to plant again in the spring, hopefully alongside our Hurricane students.

Despite the challenges that this school year has thrust upon us, Hillcrest team members have continued to show grace and gratitude. As part of our PBIS program this year, we have begun to formally recognize and support each other with our "You Deserve a Trophy" initiative. Each month, staff members are invited to nominate each other to receive a trophy for being exceptional. With sixteen different reasons to be recognized, including the Hillcrest Humanitarian Award, the Got Your Back Award, and the Outside-the-box Thinker Award, in Octo-

ber alone, 23 staff members received trophies and personalized certificates.

Hurricane students, in addition, continue to be recognized for their excellence as well. Each month Hillcrest awards Student of the Month certificates, and celebrates these students at our monthly virtual community meetings. To kick off our focus word for November, Gratitude, Hillcrest 4th graders worked behind the scenes to create a video presentation sharing what they are grateful for. Spearheaded by new staff member Addison Gerdes, the 4th grade teacher team created a school wide Gratitude Turkey project, encouraging all of our Hurricanes to learn about and show gratitude though this hands-on creative SEL activity. The Gratitude Turkey Project, along with Dr. Amy Pieniazkiewicz-Grude's amazing "What Lifts You"

feather project, are tangible reminders that we have much to be thankful for at Hillcrest. The next time you are in the building, please check out our students' beautiful feathers that are on display in the main hallway. You'll feel grateful and inspired. You'll feel like you "have wings."

To encourage our Hurricanes to embrace our tenants of gratitude and service, we've created Bucket-Filler Bingo, a school-wide challenge to celebrate and spread kindness. Inspired by the book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* by Carol McCloud, our students will be filling other people's buckets in many ways, including helping with chores, sending cards to seniors, sharing silly jokes, and writing thank you notes. We hope that our bucket-filling deeds will spread throughout Antioch D34 and through our beloved community, and we invite you to participate and cheer us on as we continue to do "small great things" at Hillcrest Elementary School.





# Actions Speak Louder than Words

The not-for-profit Antioch Traveling Closet (ATC) has a mission to make sure no child, adult, or senior citizen is without basic items. They collect donated items from the community, such as new or gently used clothing, shoes, winter jackets, boots, hats, gloves, books, toiletries, school supplies, cleaning supplies, and food!

Some of our very own W.C. Petty students decided to throw in a helping hand and sell homemade items to raise money. The money they raised went to the Antioch Traveling Closet to put toward basic needs for others. Nathaniel Balaban, Lillian Johnson, Gemma Bock, Natalie Balaban, and Taylor Bock set up a table at the end of a driveway and sold key chains to our community. They were able to raise a total of \$60.00. Way to go Bobcats and thank you Antioch Traveling Closet!

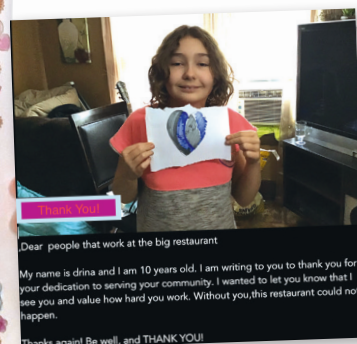
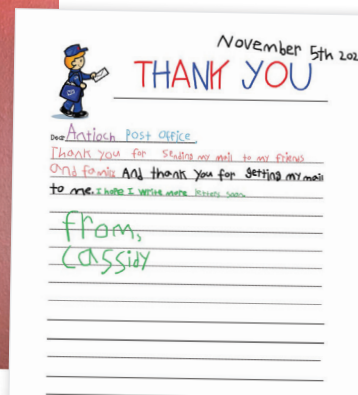
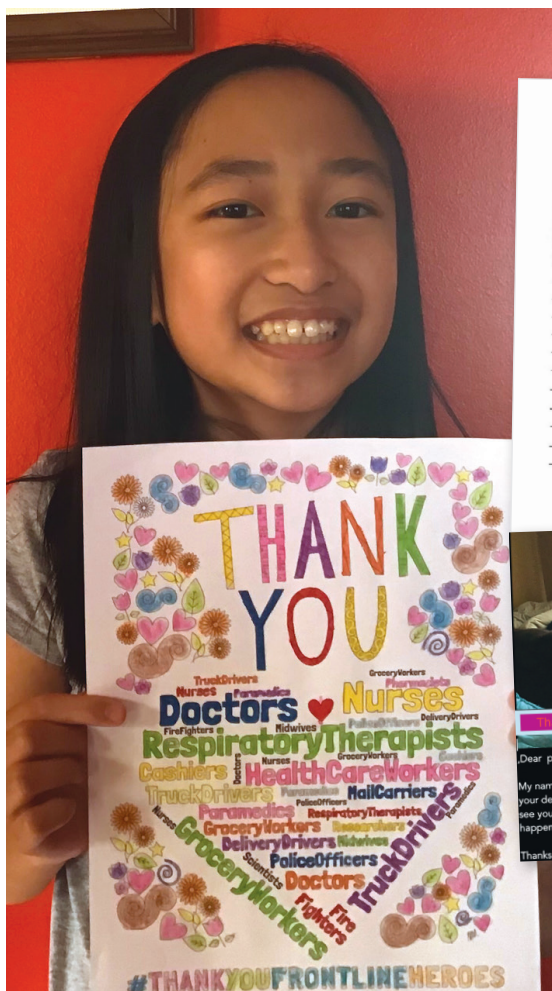


## W.C. Petty Students Appreciate Antioch's Essential Workers

The COVID-19 pandemic has vividly highlighted how much our society depends upon essential workers. Essential workers continue their jobs each and every day, putting themselves at risk as more businesses open and people get back out in the community.

Our Antioch essential workers have continued to go above and beyond in keeping our town bustling, safe, and healthy. In an effort to show our appreciation, Grades K-5 at W.C. Petty each chose an Antioch essential worker profession they wanted to make a connection with by coloring and writing a Thank You Note. Locations chosen by our students included, Jewel, Walmart, Piggly Wiggly, Antioch Fire Department, Antioch Police Department, PromptMed Urgent Care, Antioch USPS, and the following Antioch restaurants: Latte Café, Mr. G's, Vegas, and Antioch Pizza. Thank you pictures and letters were delivered to each location for a Bobcat Boost in appreciation for their hard work and dedication. We cannot thank everyone enough for their continued service and dedication to the health and safety of our community.

All W.C. Petty students appreciate and applaud each and every one of you!







## District 34 Lifts & Soars

Antioch District 34 art teachers, Cheryl Jerik and Amy Pieniaz-Kiewicz-Grude worked to make the students feel connected to the school community with their inspirational feathers. This art lesson was inspired by street artist Kelsey Montague and her #whatliftsyou social media movement. Kelsey Montague is known all over the world for creating interactive drawings where passersby are able to engage with and take photos within her work.

Students at Hillcrest, Oakland, and W.C. Petty each designed a feather that the teachers later put together into giant wings. Students were asked to fill the wings with images or symbols of things that inspired them. The feathers/wings were displayed at the Antioch Piggly Wiggly where anyone could interact with them and photograph themselves.

The response from the community has been incredible! Students loved seeing their work up in a public space; their families and friends were able to also get in on the art action by taking photos within the displayed wings and posting on social media using the hashtags: #whatliftsyou and #SoarWithD34.

## Socktober Drive

This year marked the 6th Annual Socktober Drive sponsored by Ms. Cambell's Class. An estimated 600,000 people are homeless in the United States. Last year, over 2,000,000 pairs of socks and other needed items were donated across the nation. At Oakland, we collected items from students, families, and staff members during our October materials pick-up. A big thank you to all that contributed and helped to make a big difference in someone else's life. We are so grateful for your generosity! Everything collected will go to Open Arms Mission and Antioch Traveling Closet.



## Be Happier By Giving Thanks

By Michele Barkley,  
Coordinator of Early Learning

The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or grateful and is a thankful appreciation for what we receive. Gratitude provides us the opportunity to acknowledge the goodness in our lives that often lies outside ourselves.

The Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center has much to be thankful for, and we would like to share the gratitude we have for our students, their families, and for each other.

### Our Students

Educating the youngest students in our district is a privilege. Watching them grow and develop the skills that they will need to be successful in school and in life, is an experience that each of us holds dear to our hearts. We are grateful for the resilience of our students and their ability to adapt and persevere through challenges that have been placed before them. At a young age, our students have proven that they are capable of overcoming these challenges all the while continuing to smile and laugh along the way.

### Our Parents and Families

Our parents and families have had to accept the role of teacher during remote learning. The support, encouragement, and dedication to their child's education is invaluable. We are grateful for our parents and families because they ensure that learning continues at home and our work would not be possible without them.

### Each other

Our staff expresses an immense amount of gratitude given the opportunity to be part of a small, but mighty team. Our ability to adapt and adjust has required a considerable amount of collaboration and teamwork. We are thankful to have one another to lean on for support as well as to celebrate our successes.

Gratitude is strongly associated with greater happiness and helps people feel more positive emotions, improve health, overcome adversity, and build strong relationships. Be happier by giving thanks and sharing what makes you grateful.



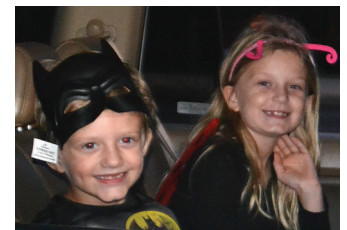


# Latino Community Association of Lake County

Thank you to **Mrs. Heischberg**, GLS Parent, and the Latino Community Association of Lake County for the donation of 100 face masks. These masks have been extremely helpful and utilized by staff and students! We are grateful for the generous and thoughtful donation.

## PTO Boo Drive-Thru

Grass Lake School PTO sponsored a spin on "Trunk or Treat." Rather than having people walk and collect candy, families were able to enjoy it all from the comfort of their vehicles. The "Boo Thru" was AWESOME! Cars were decorated and children were in costumes. As GLS Families exited the parking lot, they were given bags of quarantined candy. Thank you to the Grass Lake PTO, GLS Families and staff members that made this thrilling event possible.







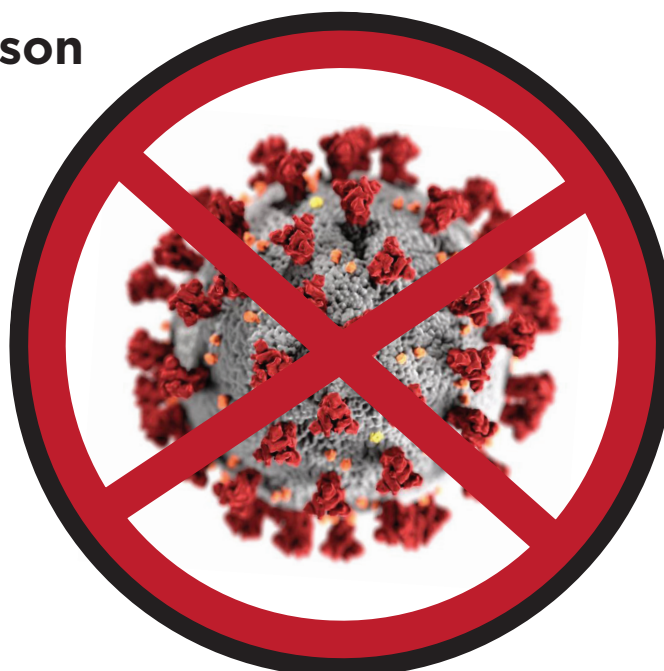
## GLS Conducts Monthly Spirit Weeks to Keep Spirits High

GLS October Spirit Week was a SUCCESS! The students had the opportunity to participate with crazy hair, dress for success, black and white day, PJs and Brave Day! With some students attending in-person and some students attending remotely, we love showing off our GLS Pride!



## GLS provides in-person instruction for nine weeks without any COVID cases

Grass Lake School is indebted to our teachers, parents and students that worked collaboratively with our school and community to allow for in-person instruction to be conducted. Students followed new guidelines and abided by new classroom expectations to allow for social distancing and safety measures to be followed in a variety of settings. In-person instruction was conducted for nine weeks without any active COVID cases.







## DETAILS



**Tom Shaughnessy**  
Supervisor  
(847) 395-3378

## Antioch Township

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## TRUSTEES

**Judith Davis**  
**Steve Turner**  
**Peter Grant**  
**Kris Shepard**

**Heather Kufalk-Marotta**  
Assessor  
(847) 395-1545

**Eric Ring**  
Highway Commissioner  
(847) 395-2070

**Meghan Dyer Dawe**  
Town Clerk  
(847) 395-3378

# A Season of Giving & Thanks

Throughout the past several months, I've witnessed firsthand the goodness of our community. As we move into the Holiday season, there will be opportunities to get involved, make a difference, and continue to impact Antioch residents in a positive way.

I'm proud of the efforts of every citizen to lift each other

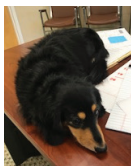
up through these times. Let's keep going. Let's keep doing good. May God bless you and your family this Holiday season.

**Tom Shaughnessy**  
Supervisor

### Drop A Card..

#### And Say, "Hi" To Dr. Sheela (The Township Dog)

Visitors to Antioch Township are greeted by Sheela, our "office manager." She's a miniature short-haired dachshund and a certified therapy dog and has made many people smile! Come say "Hi" and drop off a card in our Cards for Seniors box. All cards are delivered and distributed to senior living facilities in Antioch.



### Get a Seat...

#### For The December Monthly Movie Series (For Seniors 55+)

The Antioch Township is proud to partner with the Antioch Movie Theatre to offer FREE Monthly Movies. Enjoy FREE popcorn, a raffle with prizes, and a show for seniors 55 or older. Movies start at 10a.m., doors open at 9:30am. Please wear a mask and socially distance. "White Christmas" will be shown on Saturday, December 12th, 2020.

## ANTIOCH THEATRE

### Donate...

#### Non-Perishables To Our Pantry

Please help fill the Antioch Township pantry. We accept donations year round and a number of our residents utilize the pantry to support their needs. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. Thank you for your contribution!

### Pick Up...

#### Pasta At Corniciones (For Seniors 55+)

*Tom Shaughnessy (Township Supervisor) says, "Antioch Township is accepting non-perishable food donations!"*

Thank you Kaliakmanis family! Antioch Township has partnered with family-owned Corniciones (1200 Main St. Antioch) to bring a Wednesday Pasta Day to seniors. This is a FREE drive-through service with a two meals per car

limit offering Pasta with Sauce and/or Pasta with Meatball for anyone who is 55 or older.

There is a suggested donation of \$5. The senior drive through is 11am-1pm on the following days, November 18th and December 16th. With more dates to be added in 2021. Call the Antioch Township to be added to the list for either or both dates at (847) 395-3378.



### Take a Walk...

#### Adding Beauty to Our Community

Antioch Township has made tremendous strides in improving the facilities and grounds at Osmond Park. Clearing brush, adding a walking trail, sledding hill, and improving our Disc Golf course, are a few of the additions residents can enjoy. As we plan for spring, Antioch Township is proud to partner with The Antioch Garden Club for their insights on planting certain species to create an interpretive trail that will give visitors information about local plants, birds and animals.



*The Webb family enjoyed their photo shoot at Osmond Park. The new pathway and upgrades to the grounds have lots of residents out and enjoying this amenity. Photo by Larry Darling*



# Our Strategic Plan Journey

The strategic planning process began during the 2019-2020 school year led by a new superintendent and the development of five key questions meant to engage the participants in reflecting on Emmons' strengths, accomplishments, and opportunities for growth. All interviews were conducted individually or in focus group discussions. After each subgroup's qualitative data was collected, the information was analyzed to discover recurring themes. These recurring themes grew as more voices were added, reflecting the diverse views of the Emmons' community. Based on the collected themes and review of student achievement data, priorities and goals emerged, with the hope of creating an improved learning experience for all Emmons students.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING PARTICIPANTS



## FOCUS AREAS

### PRIORITY ONE CURRICULUM

- Develop continuity and vertical alignment of curriculum through a systematic adoption
- Develop differentiation instruction for all levels of learners

### PRIORITY TWO CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

- Provide a comprehensive character development program which promotes inclusivity of all students
- Promote social emotional learning for all students

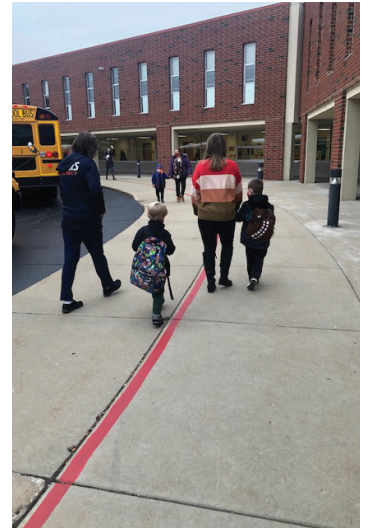
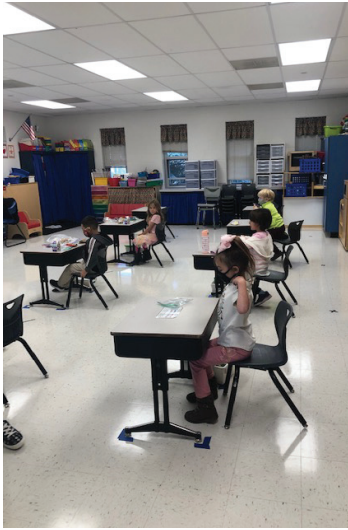
### PRIORITY THREE GROWTH

- Increase extra-curricular offerings beyond the sports program
- Include instruction in life skills that students will need beyond their career at Emmons

## OUR STRENGTHS







# Planning for the How's and When's

Moving Fall to Winter, we continue to face times that none of us would have ever expected. We opened the year with a few targeted students onsite, and then launched our Hybrid model in October. However, given rising COVID data, we then needed to shift back to full remote. As I write this, we prepare to bring back some of our youngest and most complex onsite for in-person learning and also continue to plan for HOW and WHEN we can safely welcome back the rest of our amazing students.



As the holiday season approaches, we do have so many things to be **THANKFUL** for in District 114.

- ▶ Our students continue to work so hard to learn at high levels while working virtually. They simply amaze us each and every day.
- ▶ The staff in D114 is giving 110% every single day to support students and their families in this journey. They continue to collaborate and learn together to provide the BEST for our students. Every single person contributes to this effort, and we are so proud of our team.
- ▶ Families in the D114 community are simply amazing. Time and time again, they find ways to support learning, stay connected, and partner with us to do all we can together.
- ▶ D114 once again received COMMENDABLE status from the state of Illinois based on our efforts during the 2019-20 school year.
- ▶ Lotus' Preschool for All program once again received

GOLD status from the state of Illinois for providing quality early childhood programming for our students.

- ▶ Stanton's National Junior Honor Society and Student Council both have service projects underway to serve our community.
- ▶ The D114 Equity Core Team continues its work to learn more about how to support equity for ALL in our system. This includes honest dialogue, a shared book study, and connections with other community partners.
- ▶ D114 has had NO gaps since the March 2019 closure in providing meals for our families, including making sure meals were available to anyone who needed them all summer long. Since August, we have provided over 32,000 meals using our buses to deliver them to bus stops, Grab and Go at our sites, and even door to door deliveries for families in the greatest need.

As we head into winter and into the holidays, we remain committed to our students and community. We remain One Team...All In...Always!

*With commitment to our students, families, and community,*

**Heather Friziellie**

Superintendent of Schools  
Fox Lake School District 114

# Helping Residents in Need from COVID

Lake Villa Township is helping residents who have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to pay rent or utilities. So far this year Lake Villa Township has been able to help with over \$41,000.00 of rent and other expenses for our residents that have suffered financial hardship resulting from the pandemic.

The funding in large part is from a grant Lake Villa Township received through the COVID Housing Relief Program CARES act (CHRP) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).

The Lake Villa Township Office can continue the pandemic aid program through December 31, 2020. Please Contact Lake Villa Township if you have lost income resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic and are facing a housing crisis.



**Daniel Venturi**  
*Supervisor*

**Jean Smuda**  
*Clerk*

**Jeffery Lee**  
*Assessor*

**Jim Jorgensen**  
*Highway Commissioner*

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Paul Berker**  
**Joy Johnson**  
**Glenn McCollum**  
**Barbara Stout**

TOYS FOR  
TOWNSHIP  
TOTS



## Toys for Township Tots

The Lake Villa Township Food Pantry will be hosting our annual Toys for Township Tots program. We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children ages 12 and under. Drop off bins will be placed at the State Bank of the Lakes in Lake Villa and Lindenhurst, First American Bank in Lake Villa and Lindenhurst, the Lake Villa Library and the Lake Villa Township Office through December 14th.



## Movie in the Park

The Lake Villa Township hosted its first free Movie in the Park this fall. Over 30 carloads of residents enjoyed The Addams Family from the comfort and safety of their vehicles. We hope to do more outdoor events in the future!







our community

PHOTO BY  
**Sam  
Worden**

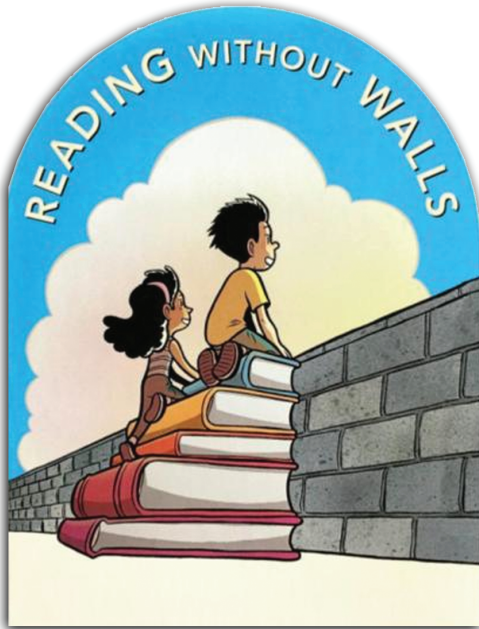
# Our Starry Night

Clear skies over our community this October provided wonderful views of the heavens above.

**Have a great photo from our community?**

Send us your high-res image to [connections@chsd117.org](mailto:connections@chsd117.org) and we will select the best image to be featured here on *Community Capture*!





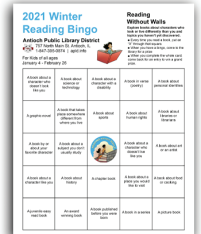
# Reading Without Walls

**2021 Winter Reading Program**  
January 4 - February 26



Explore books about characters who look or live differently than you and topics you haven't yet discovered.

- 1 Visit the Children's Department at the Antioch Library to get your Bingo sheet. You can also register and log your reading at [apld.beanstack.org](http://apld.beanstack.org)
- 2 When you complete a bingo square, put an "X" through that square. When you have a bingo, come to the Library for a prize & an entry for a grand prize.
- 3 Receive an extra grand prize entry for each additional bingo completed. Complete the whole card to receive 5 additional entries.



This program is for kids grades 5 and under. Registration and logging begins January 24 and ends February 26. If you participated in the Summer Reading Program, your Beanstack log-in can be used for this program as well.

**Want to borrow books & movies from home?**  
**Check out these apps!**

## Hoopla

Instantly borrow eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music, TV shows & more.

## Libby by Overdrive

Browse and borrow popular eBooks & audiobooks.

## Tumblebook Library

Explore hundreds of digital storybooks & chapter books for kids.

## Kanopy

Access over 30,000 documentaries, film festival favorites & classic cinema.



## Virtual Book Clubs For All Ages

Call or visit our online calendar to register

Download the apps from your device's app store and login using your library card.

### Kids

#### Spine Crakers (Grades 3-5)

Each Month kids grades 3-5 will read the same book. They can pick up their copy of the book from the Library to keep, then they can participate in fun activities and a discussion on Padlet.com.

#### Myth a Month Club (Grades 3-5)

Read about a different myth from around the world each month. Pick up a myth and craft from the library then join the online discussion via Zoom.

### Teens

#### Panels & Pages (Grades 6-8)

A middle school book club featuring a new graphic novel each month. Meetings are held via Zoom.

#### Teen Podcast (Grades 9-12)

Every month there will be a bookish topic that we will discuss. Bring your opinions and your creativity to create something everyone can listen to.

### Adults

#### Book Chat

A monthly book club that meets via Zoom on the second Monday of each month in the evening.

#### Novel Pleasures

A monthly book club that meets via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month in the morning.



## Antioch Public Library District

757 N. Main St., Antioch | 847-395-0874 | [apld.info](http://apld.info)  
Providing for the Community Since 1921



# CONNECTIONS

1625 Eagle Way  
Lake Villa, IL 60046

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