

## LCS Staff News



*Students and staff at Murphy Elementary celebrate Veterans Day*

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### School Bond Passes with Overwhelming Support!

On Tuesday, November 8, nearly 12,000 residents came out in support of the 2022 LCS School Improvement Bond, by far the largest turnout in district history. We are overwhelmed by the generous support of our community and we look forward to tackling the bond project list in the near future.

A special thanks is owed to the Say Yes for LCS Kids Committee volunteers, who worked tirelessly get this incredibly important proposal across the finish line. We are forever grateful. Thanks also to the County Press for all the coverage of the proposal.

Finally, we have to give a shoutout to Ben Warren and Warren Systems. We know many folks felt like the tide turned in this election as soon as the “Say Yes” billboard went up on M-24. Moving forward, we will continue to use [LapeerBond.com](http://LapeerBond.com) to update you as we put together timelines to begin bond project work.

**Onward and upward!**



## LCS Staff and Students Honor Memory of Lives Lost at Oxford High School

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, staff and students in Lapeer Community schools honored the memories of the four lives lost one year ago at Oxford High School by wearing blue and gold. This was a simple gesture of affirmation to our neighbors, who have suffered so much in the aftermath of an unthinkable tragedy.

This is a somber anniversary for the Oxford community and for everyone who experienced the trauma of that day. It is also an important reminder of how we, as neighbors, support one through good times and bad. May the memories of the four precious lives lost that day be with us forever.

## Reminder: Please Register with Duo for Two-Factor Email Authorization

If you haven't already, please check your district email for instructions, including a tutorial video, for setting up two-factor authorization for email. Two-factor authentication is an additional layer of protection that requires you to use additional login credentials beyond just your username and password.

Please pay close attention to any emails you receive from the Oakland Schools Service Desk, as this will be the primary means of communication as we work towards implementing this very important security measure.

We are  
hiring!

Do you know someone looking for a new gig? LCS has numerous openings for coaches, bus drivers, custodians, paraprofessionals, teachers, support staff and more!

If you know someone who is interested, please send them to Applitrack via this link:

[LCS Job Openings](#)



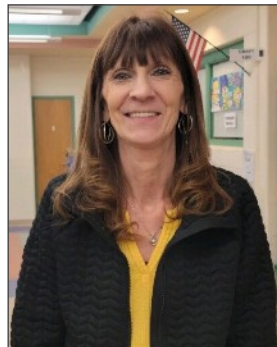
## Give Dave a Hand! (Or Perhaps, Two!)

Dave Sweeney (pictured above), who suffered through a broken wrist on one hand and a surgery on a finger on his other, didn't let that stop him from being with his students in Washington D.C. last month. Dave is a social studies teacher at the Rolland-Warner 6-7 Campus. His surgery was just a few days prior to the start of the annual trek to the nation's capital. You rock, Mr. Sweeney!

## Sherry Howey 'Does it All'

Sherry Howey is a paraprofessional at Turrill Elementary and Kids & Company Childcare as well as the District's Intercession Coordinator.

"In addition to taking on multiple roles beyond her basic job, Sherry has spent countless hours before and after her regular workday making sure things are prepared and ready for Turrill students and staff. Even in the face of so many responsibilities, she does it all with a smile on her face." Great job, Sherry!



## Do you know of someone on our staff who is deserving of recognition?

Recognition isn't just about noticing the big events, it is about recognizing the small things along the way that have a big impact.

Name the employee, share specific info about what they did and why it was important to you.

Please submit your own staff shoutout to Jared Field at [Jared.Field@LapeerSchools.org](mailto:Jared.Field@LapeerSchools.org) prior to the 20th of each month.

**Welcome to the Newest Members of the LCS Family!**  
*The following employees have been hired since September 1, 2022*

First Name	Last Name	Role
MATTHEW	MOORE	MURPHY TEACHER
CHRISTI	MORTELL	PARAPROFESSIONALS
DAVID	ROCK	DEAN OF STUDENTS
LESLIE	SHERRY	SPECIAL EDUCATION
SHELBY	HILL	MURPHY TEACHER
LISA	PITTENGER	CHILDCARE
ROBYN	CARLSON	COACHES AND SPONSORS
SAMANTHA	LANGE	SUBSTITUTES
SHANNON	PUNG	PARAPROFESSIONALS
ERICA	ARAGONES	PARAPROFESSIONALS
DANIELLE	BAILEY	STUDENT WORKER
CRAIG	NOVAK	STUDENT WORKER
MCKAYLA	THOMPSON	BUS DRIVERS AND AIDES
ANGEL	THOMAS	SUBSTITUTES
KRISTEN	BEHNKE	TEACHER
MEGAN	HENLEY	LYNCH TEACHER
LAURA	MIHM	AUX SPECIAL ED SECRETARY
KELSEY	MOORE	SUBSTITUTES
BRIAN	MOORE	CUSTODIANS

## Lapeer Gear Now Available!

If you are looking to get some new Lapeer Lightning gear for Christmas, now is your chance! [Follow this link.](#) The store closes on December 11, so get your order in today! Once the orders arrive, they will go in the school mail.



## Notes from Central Office

### Contact Information Changes

With the end of the calendar year right around the corner, if you have experienced a change in address or phone number, please be sure to update that information online in the Employee Access Center in order to ensure you receive your tax documents. All employees may enter the Employee Access Center from the "Staff Access" tab of the LCS district website at [LapeerSchools.org](http://LapeerSchools.org).

#### Login using the following:

User ID: Enter your District email address or employee number

Password: Last four of your SSN# or if you change your password it would be whatever you changed it to. If you changed it and can't remember, click the "Forget your Password?" link.



*Please submit these changes prior to January 1, 2022.*

### Reminder for Teachers - Salary Lane Change Paperwork

If you have completed college coursework and will be requesting a lane change at the end of the semester, completed Change in Salary Status Form and official transcripts need to be submitted to the HR office no later than January 15, 2023.

### Winter Recess - Office Closed Dates

The District is celebrating Christmas and New Year's on Dec 26, 27, 29, 30 and will be closed on those dates. Buildings will not be open to the public the entire week December 26 - December 30. Enjoy the holidays!

**Reminder:** If you will not be checking your email over winter recess, please set up an out-of-office notice on Gmail using these steps:

1. While Gmail is open, click the settings icon (on top right side of page).
2. Select "See All Settings" at top of page.
3. Scroll to bottom of page to "Vacation Responder" and turn on.
4. Follow instructions under Vacation Responder to set message and length of time for message. Provide an alternate to contact in your absence.



## Upcoming Pension Seminars

The Lapeer County ISD will be hosting a pair of MARSP (Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel) pension seminars in 2023.

The first is scheduled for Thursday, January 26 and is targeted to employees who were hired on or after July 1, 2010 (i.e., employees with Pension Plus or Defined Contribution (DC) plans). It contains both defined benefit and defined contribution components and focuses on creating the habits necessary to help create a successful retirement plan.

The second is scheduled for Thursday, February 2 and is targeted to employees who were hired before July 1, 2010 (i.e., employees with Basic, MIP or DC-Converted plans).

The seminars will cover specific details of what lies ahead as a public-school retiree, including healthcare, pension benefits and managing lifetime income.

Both will be held at the Education and Technology Center and will start at 4:30 p.m.

[Click here](#) for the MARSP flyer.

For additional information on MARSP, click here: [marsp.org](https://marsp.org).



## Holiday Travel: Did you know?

Did you know that any employee who is enrolled in district benefits has access to 24-hour Travel Assistance from Reliance? For more information on this awesome benefit, [follow this link](#).

## Elective Retirement Savings Plan Information (403b/457b)

Lapeer Community Schools continually strives to offer and educate staff about our unique and advantageous benefits. One such benefit is our elective retirement savings plan(s) that employees can utilize to help provide financial security at retirement. In order to ensure you receive information about this benefit, [we are pleased to provide you with a newsletter](#) that has been prepared by the compliance administrator for our plan(s), U.S. OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services (OMNI/TSACG).

### Thank You from the Business Office

Thank you to all staff who completed open enrollment for 2023. As a reminder, benefits run from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2023.

In addition to providing information about our plan(s), OMNI/TSACG also offers a Financial Wellness website that covers areas such as managing personal finances, college funding options, and how to navigate Social Security when the time comes. You will find calculators, videos, and informative content on various topics to help guide you in your planning process. If you have questions about what plans and vendors are offered, please [click here](#).

## Recipe of the Month: No Chill Sugar Cookies

*Compliments of Nikki Patridge, LCS Special Education and Student Services Secretary*

### Ingredients:

1 cup (2 sticks) Unsalted Butter, Softened  
 1 cup Granulated Sugar  
 1 Egg  
 2 teaspoons Vanilla Extract  
 1/2 teaspoon Almond Extract  
 3 1/4 cups All-Purpose flour  
 1 teaspoon Baking Powder  
 1/2 teaspoon Salt

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar with an electric stand mixer or hand mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, and vanilla and almond extracts.

Mix together flour, baking powder, and salt. Add dry ingredients to butter mixture 1 cup at a time,

mixing after each addition. Once the dough mixes into a ball, you're done mixing. Test that the dough is sticky and holds a shape but doesn't stick to your fingers. Do not chill dough. Divide the dough into 2 balls.

On a floured surface, roll each ball into a circle approximately 12 inches in diameter and 1/8 inch thick.

Dip the cookie cutter in flour before each use and cut out shapes.

Bake the cookies on an ungreased baking sheet(s) with parchment paper (optional). Bake for 8-11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Move the cookies to a cooling rack to cool completely.

**Servings:** 3 Dozen 3-inch Cookies

## Follow LCS Online

Facebook.com/LapeerSchools

Youtube.com/LapeerSchools

LapeerSchools on Flickr

@LapeerSchools on Twitter

LCSblog.com



## How to Enjoy a Stress-Free Holiday

Through the endless parties, cooking, shopping and cleaning, try taking one of 9 steps to ensure you have a stress-free holiday:

### 1. Plan ahead.

Between co-workers, friends and family, it's inevitable that some commitments will end up on the same day. Make sure to plan on what you can attend in person or virtually. If you're hosting the holidays, create a menu to help you stay organized and make grocery shopping easier.

### 2. Say no.

With holiday commitments, it is OK to say no to a few or all of them. It also will help relieve some stress. Try sharing your to-do list with other family members.

### 3. Plan spending.

The holidays mean spending money. Make a budget and stick to it. Spending money on your loved ones is important, but it's also important to pay your energy bill. Don't buy gifts that you'll be paying off for the rest of the year.

### 4. Create relaxing surroundings.

Turn on some music, light some candles or open the windows on a sunny day. Research has found that listening to music and the scent of citrus can boost feelings of well-being, and vitamin D is always a happiness booster.

### 5. Maintain healthy habits.

The holidays are notorious for ruining healthy habits. A short workout each morning will help your decision-making throughout the day. Encourage your family to try snowshoeing or sledding to get in extra exercise. Eat healthy snacks like fresh fruit or vegetables throughout the season and to fill up before a dinner party or celebration with tempting, but unhealthy, foods.

### 6. Share feelings.

Spending a holiday after a loss in the family can be difficult. Accept your feelings and open up about them to others. It may make you feel better to share. Try to switch up old traditions to ease the loss.

### 7. Respect differences.

Family members will have different viewpoints than your own. Try your best to forgive and forget this holiday season. Focus on your similarities, and replace tension with something productive.

### 8. Be realistic.

You are only one person, and you can only do so much. Be realistic with how much you can handle this season. Forget about perfection, and relax and enjoy the company surrounding you.

### 9. Take a break.

Don't forget about your own needs. Take a nap, go for a short walk, read a book or watch a funny movie. Laughing relaxes the whole body, and can relieve physical tension and stress. Holidays are meant to be a fun, enjoyable time with friends and family. These tips can help ensure you truly enjoy your holidays when stress starts to set in.



Source: [www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org](http://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org) - Peter Reisner, M.D.



## Staff Birthdays - December 2022

Name	Birthday
Autumn Bean	12-2
Shellie Forgione	12-3
Jayne Grego	12-4
Carolyn Shuwaloff	12-4
Laura Novak	12-5
Joseph Armor	12-6
Amanda Lucas	12-6
Michael McCleese	12-6
Janice Young	12-6
Kristen Wilcox	12-6
Kandace Barry	12-7
Crystal Freeland	12-7
Linda Kriewall	12-8
Michael Patten	12-9
Anne Brownrigg	12-9
Brian Badder	12-10
Holly Darling	12-11
Amy Farrington	12-12
James Lane	12-13
Rachel Worthing	12-18
Jill Kosko	12-19
Melissa Sanders	12-19
Rejean Wolski-Bull	12-19
Robin Hoeffel	12-21

Name	Birthday
Sanya Johnson	12-21
Rafeal McDaniels	12-21
Michele McKendry	12-22
Cathy Craig	12-23
Holly Grzyb	12-23
John Wilson	12-23
Laurie Bruce	12-25
Patty Sills	12-25
Lori Thiell	12-25
Mary Williams	12-25
Roderick Wentworth	12-26
Rachael Fisher	12-27
Cathy Orr	12-27
Elizabeth Schuett	12-27
David Orser	12-28
Beth Rupprecht	12-28
David Sweeney	12-28
Stephanie Giroux-Phillips	12-29
Kevin Becker	12-30
Holly Peralta	12-30
Shawn Short	12-30
Nicole Schons	12-31
Julie Warden	12-31