

“Out of all of your students, you helped and cared about me. *I will never forget your kindness and gratitude. I will carry those memories with me for the rest of my life and know that good people do exist.*”
 - Stone Rude

LCS Staff News



Thank you, Cindy Morris

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Sometimes they never see them again, and are left to wonder if they made a difference. This is the life of a teacher.

The daily affirmations, bits of encouragement, and support offered to students each school day by members of our staff are the norm. What’s rare is being able to see the impact of their work many years later; to see the seeds planted years ago in full bloom. *Cindy Morris had one of those rare days last month.*

Far beyond the reading, writing and arithmetic, school is an indispensable part of growing up; it’s the one place every student knows they can find a listening ear, or a sturdy shoulder. School is about stability, routine and, for many, a much-needed respite from challenging times at home.

School is where Stone Rude found Cindy Morris, his 5th grade teacher at Mayfield Elementary, back in 2016. On Jan.11, he found her again, all these years later — in a different school, with different students, but the same open arms.

Read the entire story on page 2.

Thank you, Cindy Morris (continued from page 1)

This time, Stone had flowers; and, more importantly, a story to tell about his life and her role in it. As fate would have it, Kellie Orwig (pictured right), who was with Cindy as a paraprofessional at Mayfield in Stone's 5th grade class, was also there — and also crying.

It was that kind of moment.

'It started with a conversation'

Stone, now a junior at Lapeer Community High School, recently had a conversation with his teacher, Shelly Boyce, about teachers, and specifically those who make an impact far beyond what goes in the backpack. Shelly was taken by what Stone had to say.



"It was so touching," she said. "And it all started with a conversation."

After all these years, and because of one conversation, Stone decided he wanted to share with Ms. Morris the impact she made on his life at a young age. In a letter to his old teacher, he wrote about a dark time in his life and how Ms. Morris was there to reassure him that his life mattered. His mother, who ultimately passed away in February 2019, was in the midst of treatment for stage four cancer.

From the letter: *I could not focus on school or anything else as a matter of fact. You were there to support me and my family. You made me feel special and that I was important to you. You took time out of your own life and day to make time for us. You even brought us a turkey and gave us presents when my mom was struggling to do so. You made life a little easier to deal with. It is people like you that do make a difference. Even the small things, really aren't that small. I could never thank you enough for caring about me. Out of all of your students, you helped and cared about me. I will never forget your kindness and gratitude. I will carry those memories with me for the rest of my life and know that good people do exist.*

Stone went on to share with Ms. Morris that he's had his share of struggles since leaving her class, in school and outside of school. He had a hard time staying focused during the Pandemic, and like so many students, got off track.

Fortunately, he found his way to the District's Community High School program and is now passing all of his classes. Stone is confident he will take his progress all the way to graduation. Stone has been attending classes at Ed Tech, learning about small engine repair. By the end of the year, he will earn his OHV certification and will be able to work as a mechanic after graduation. And while he has renewed his focus on his future, he made sure to take some time to recognize someone from his past who changed the course of his life.

From the letter: *You made a difference and do need to know what impact you have had on my life. I will never forget the care and support you gave me and my family during a tragic time. Your students are blessed to have you as a teacher! You make a difference!*

So here's to Cindy Morris and everyone who heeds the call to this noble profession; Here's to Kellie Orwig and all the paraprofessionals who make our classrooms safe and supported; Here's to Shelly Boyce, who started the conversation, and had the intuition to understand how moments like these can have a far-reaching impact for both student and teacher.

And finally, here's to Stone Rude for inspiring all of us with his commitment to his studies and his willingness to share with us how his life was impacted by a teacher. You make us all proud, young man!

She 'Shore' is a lot of fun!

CFI Head Cook, Laura Shore (pictured on the far right) was recognized with a Cheers Award from Chartwell's for keeping things FUN.

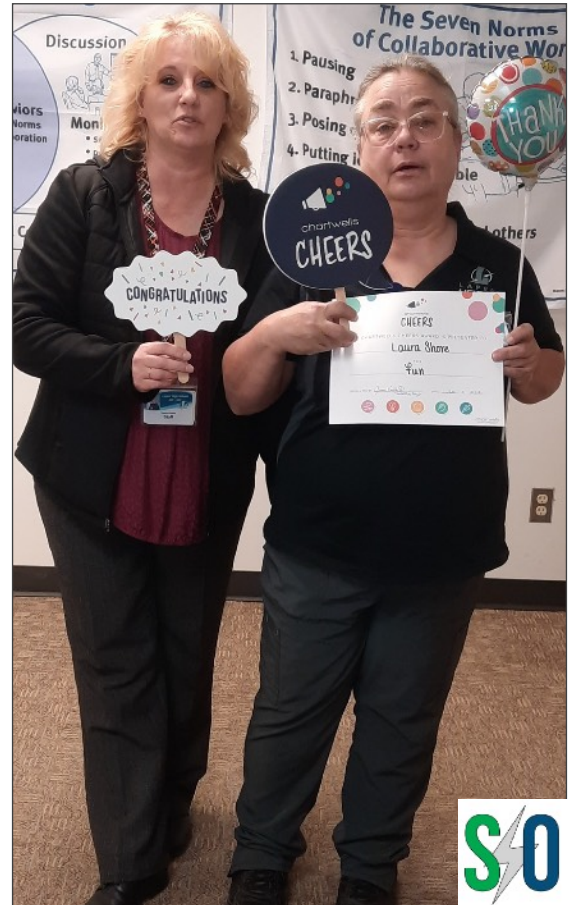
Laura loves to make the students at the Center for Innovation laugh. When you visit the kitchen you can always hear her laughter and see her great smile.

Thanks for always keeping it fun, Laura!

Kristen Jeans

"I want to give a big THANK YOU to Kristen for all of her hard work during open enrollment and ensuring that employees health benefits were set up properly for 2023. She sacrificed her time and worked extra long hours over the holiday break.

I know many of our staff don't see all the work that happens behind the scenes, but she is a big reason why everything was successful and employees saw a smooth transition with their benefits. We had over 220 employee changes for 2023 (Phew). She has a great attitude, is a joy to work with and truly wants the best for all of our employees. Thank you Kristen for all you do and for listening to my dad jokes too."



Do you know of someone on our staff 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. When you send a submission, please name the employee, share specific info about what they did and why it was important to you. If possible, please send a photo.

Please submit your own staff shoutout to [Jared Field](#) prior to the 20th of each month.



Welcome New Board Trustee, Jaime Hofert!

At the January 2023 LCS Board of Education Regular Meeting, Jaime Hofert was appointed as the Board's newest trustee. She was officially sworn in by Board Secretary Lisa Novak. Jaime will complete the remainder of former trustee Brad Haggadone's term, which ends December 31, 2024. Brad was recently elected to the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners and officially resigned his position in December. Many of you will remember Jaime, as she was a science teacher in the District for many years and most recently served as the District's STEM Coordinator. Welcome aboard, Jaime!

LHS Performing Arts Presents:



Performances:

Thursday, Feb. 16 (7 pm)
Friday, Feb. 17 (7 pm)
Saturday, Feb. 18 (2 & 7 pm)
Sunday, Feb. 19 (2 pm)

[Click here](#) for tickets!

Notes from Central Office

Feb. 6: Deadline for 2FA for Email

On February 6, we will be modifying the login process for Google Workspace. In preparation for this change, it is imperative that all staff that use email in Lapeer enroll in Duo two-factor authentication (2FA) before February 6. Two-Factor Authentication is a means by which you take an additional step after you enter your password to verify it is you logging in. By enabling Duo, we are creating one more layer of protection for our network and students' data.

What you need to do prior to February 6:

- Visit: <https://duo.oakland.k12.mi.us/> to create your DUO account
- Once at the Duo Enrollment Verification login page, you'll enter your district email address and password.
- Follow the instructions to set up your DUO account (User Guide)



Duo Mobile

Alternatively, when setting up your account, you will have the option to be notified by push notification using an app (most convenient and preferred method), text message, or phone call. To receive the push notification, you will need to download the DUO app on your smartphone (Apple App Store, Google Play Store). Please make sure to select allow notifications from DUO.

Certified Staff Reminders

Teaching and Administrative certification with a June 30, 2023 expiration date can begin to be renewed anytime after January 1. Even if you renew early, your new expiration date will remain June 30. Early renewals are generally processed sooner and if questions arise, staff at MDE are more readily available to help. Staff are encouraged to renew early and avoid the end of the year rush.

Tax Season is Here: Access W-2 Information

- W-2 information is available in electronic format through the [Employee Access Center](#).
- Access the "What If" Paycheck Calculator. This tool allows you to calculate a "what if" scenario — changing taxes, withholdings, retirement percentages, etc.
- You can also access payroll vouchers/check stubs

Employee Tasks

Employee Information
Payroll Checks
My Calendar
w2
Print 1095s
"What If" Paycheck Calculator
Contracts
Impersonate User

Links

FFCRA IRS Statement

Opportunities to Fund Teaching Certification

In response to ongoing shortages in the teaching profession, governmental agencies and private organizations have begun to fund various scholarship opportunities to financially support individuals seeking to become certified in some type of field of education. If you are interested in becoming a teacher or if you are already a teacher and interested in obtaining additional certifications in other areas of teaching, you are encouraged to research opportunities to financially support your education. Below are just a few of the resources you may want to begin to explore.

Not already a teacher but want to become one?

If you are interested in become a teacher and are not already certified, the State of Michigan has two different programs that provide financial support to Future Michigan Educators:

- [MI Future Educator Fellowship](#)
 - A \$10,000 scholarship program to create low-cost tuition pathways for 2,500 future Michigan educators every year.
 - \$10,000 annual maximum award, or the cost of tuition.
- [MI Future Educator Stipend](#)
 - \$9,600 stipend per semester to support Michigan's hardworking student teachers continue their journey to being in the classroom full-time.

Take a look at the [Michigan Department of Education's resources](#) for future educators.

Summary of College Scholarship Opportunities

[Click this link](#) to visit a great site that summarizes a variety of college scholarship opportunities from across the country addressing a variety of academic programs, not just education: <http://www.collegescholarships.org>.



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](#)

Recipes of the Month

Chicken and Dumplings Crockpot

Compliments of Melissa Deierlein, Special Education

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
 1 medium onion diced
 4 Tbsp butter
 2 cups water, or as needed to cover
 1 (10 ounce) package of refrigerated biscuit dough (Pillsbury Grands)
 4 Tbsp Flour
 2 Chicken Bouillon Cubes
 2 cups skim milk
 Salt, Pepper, Nutmeg

Directions

On the stove, melt 4 Tbsp butter and then mix with flour. Once mixed, add two cups of skim milk. Season with salt, pepper, and nutmeg to taste. Add 2 chicken bouillon cubes. Cook on medium heat until thickened (you can use two 10.5 ounce cans of condensed cream of chicken soup instead if preferable). Once it is thickened, remove it from the stove and place in a crockpot. Add chicken, onion, and enough water to cover.

Cover and cook for 5 to 6 hours on high. Approximately 30 minutes prior to serving, tear the refrigerated biscuit dough into pieces, and place them in the crockpot. Cook them until the dough is no longer raw. For more biscuits, use two 10 ounce packages of refrigerated biscuit dough instead of one.

Skinny Soup

Compliments of Marcella Williams, Transportation

8 cups vegetable broth	½ tsp dried oregano
1 yellow onion	½ tsp dried basil
3 cloves of garlic	28 oz canned diced tomatoes
4 cups of cabbage	Mix – bring all ingredients to a boil then
3 carrots	reduce heat to low. Cook until cabbage
3 stalks of celery	& carrots tender
½ tsp kosher salt	Optional – broccoli, cauliflower or zucchini

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LapeerCommunitySchools on Insta



Ovia Webinar: Parenting with Purpose from Messa

Unfortunately for parents, kids don't come with an instruction manual. Every age comes with its own parenting challenges and its triumphs.

Fortunately for MESSA members, you have free access to the Ovia Parenting app, which provides parents with the advice, support and insight they need from time to time.

In the app, parents can access a library of informational articles on various topics. Parents can also contact Ovia's health coaching team to ask questions about anything from soothing a diaper rash to navigating puberty.

To further support parents, Ovia is offering a free webinar on Feb. 21: *Parenting with Purpose*. During the webinar, Ovia health coaches will answer questions and discuss parenting techniques for ages 0-17.

Don't forget, as a MESSA member, you have free access to all of the content in any of the Ovia Health apps — Ovia Parenting, Ovia Pregnancy and the newly expanded Ovia app. Formerly Ovia Fertility, the Ovia app provides more comprehensive support for all stages of life, including reproductive health, fertility and menopause.

[Click here to register](#)

Seeking Nominations for Employee Recognition

Employee Recognition nomination forms can be accessed through the Google Share Drive, LCS HR Resources, Employee Recognition. In case you'd like to see if someone previously has received an award, you also will find alphabetical listings of previous recipients of the Distinguished Educator, Distinguished Service, and Outstanding Contributor awards. Awards will be presented during the Employee Recognition Program in May.

A brief description of each award is as follows:

- **The Distinguished Educator Award** recognizes teaching staff for exemplary, long-term service both in and out of the classroom;
- **The Distinguished Service Award** recognizes non-teaching staff for exemplary, long-term service both in performance of regular position duties and for service to the District and community outside the position assignment;
- **The Outstanding Contributor Award** recognizes employees who have demonstrated creativity, innovation, and/or outstanding contributions to the District through a special project or program occurring in a particular school year or have demonstrated exemplary, long-term performance of regular position duties;
- **The Pam Markgraf Memorial E.H.A.P. Award** recognizes employees who have developed or initiated a program or project that has enhanced the health and welfare of District employees or has otherwise generally supported E.H.A.P.

All nominations are due in the Human Resources Office by 3 p.m. Friday, March 17.

Random Acts of Kindness Ideas

1. Post **positive** notes around your community.
2. Randomly pick a small business/lesser known author to leave a **review** for.
3. Choose a friend and **celebrate** them.
4. Give **compliments** to the people you interact with.
5. Tip extra or put your loose change in **tip jars**.
6. Use sidewalk chalk to **write** out positive messages.
7. Send **letters** with tons of stickers to the kids in your life.
8. Buy a **gift** for a child in foster care.
9. Leave **change** in vending machines.
10. Connect a **charity** to your Amazon account.
11. See if your local **shelters** have Amazon wishlists so you can send essentials.
12. Pay for the person in line **behind** you.
13. Collect **litter** that you see on the ground when you're out.
14. Leave **food** out for the birds or wildlife in your area.
15. Make a **meal** for someone who might need one.

BlessingManifesting



MOM 2 MOM SALE

WHAT IS A M2M SALE?

A Mom 2 Mom Sale is a sale geared towards parents with children from newborns to teens! Typically clothing, toys, shoes, cribs, highchairs, games, etc., can be sold!

IF INTERESTED IN SELLING:
CONTACT LAUREN AT 810-728-6623 OR
SCAN THE QR CODE



\$20 FOR YOUR FIRST
TABLE, \$10 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL
TABLE AFTER
BIG ITEM ROOM!

WHEN AND WHERE?

Date: March 11, 2023

Where:

Lapeer High School
933 South Saginaw Street
Lapeer, MI 48446

Times:

Early Bird Special: 8:30 AM, \$3
admission
Regular Time: 9:00 AM, \$2
admission, strollers welcomed
Sale Ends: 1:00 PM



LINKS PROGRAM

All proceeds will be
donated to the LINKS
Program! We appreciate
your support!



Free Training – Be the Difference

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The training helps you identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses.

Support staff will receive their hourly rate and teaching staff will receive a \$35 per hour stipend, for attending the course outside school hours.

4 Reasons to Become a Mental Health First Aider



Be prepared
When a mental health crisis happens, know what to do



You can help
People with mental illnesses often suffer alone



Mental illnesses are common
1 in 5 adults in any given year



You care
Be there for a friend, family member, or colleague

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

How to apply the ALGEE action plan: ● Assess for risk of suicide or harm ● Listen nonjudgmentally ● Give reassurance and information ● Encourage appropriate professional help ● Encourage self-help and other support strategies

Date(s)	Time	Location
February 20, 2022	9 AM - 1:30 PM	Zoom

The course requires 2 hours of online pre-work, completed by February 17th, and 1 virtual session.

REGISTER: Rebecca Ellis (rebecca.ellis@lapeerschools.org)

QUESTIONS: Jennifer Tindall (jennifer.tindall@lapeerschools.org)