



## From Your Superintendent. . .



Sandra Feeley Myrand  
Superintendent

### Prudent Planning Generates Savings

At its January 13, 2007 meeting, the Board of Education received the audit report for the Fiscal Year 2005-06. The audit

firm of Plante Moran presented the Board with good news. The General Fund fund balance (the District's "savings account") grew to \$3.7 million, or approximately 14% of the General Fund, equating to 17 days of school operation.

The District received an unqualified audit opinion. In auditing terms, this means that the financial accounting procedures for the District were appropriate and were completed in accord with federal and state accounting standards. In essence, the District

once again has been judged to be managing the community's resources in a prudent and ethical manner.

This information comes at a time when the State of Michigan is suggesting to school districts that there is potential reduction in revenue of \$224 per student for the current school year (2006-07). The actual amount will probably not be announced until March. During the final four months of the District's fiscal year, the District could lose more than \$600,000 in revenue for this school year. Of course, this is particularly troubling as the District has already been in operation for seven months of the fiscal year.

A brief review of how the District finds itself with an increase in its savings will provide an understanding of how the District is positioned to weather the upcoming financial storm.

As the economy in the State of Michigan began to decline, the Board asked administration to prepare a set of recommendations for how to reduce overall expenses. The administration considered the following factors.

- 1) Health care costs were rising between 10% and 20% per year.
- 2) Costs of transportation, and the contract with Laidlaw (the school district's bus company) were going up 5-10% a year.
- 3) Negotiated salary increases were increasing at an average of 3% a year.
- 4) Retirement costs were increasing 11-15% a year, a cost the District does not control.
- 5) Other costs, such as electricity, natural gas, and supplies, would continue to increase.

After lengthy investigation and analysis, in the spring of 2003, the administration established that the best way to

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### January 2007 ~ School Board Recognition Month *School Boards Make A World of Difference*

January is celebrated as School Board Recognition Month. During the January 16th meeting, Lakeview's Board of Education was recognized with a Proclamation of Appreciation from Mayor Hison and the St. Clair Shores City Council. Following Mayor Hison's presentation, Superintendent Sandra Feeley Myrand extended the thanks of students, staff and parents for the Board's service to the community and Assistant

Superintendent for Business Services & Operations, Karl Paulson, read a Resolution presented by the State of Michigan Board of Education.

In 1989, when the Michigan Association of School Boards launched the School Board Recognition program in Michigan, only five states celebrated this special month. Today, nearly every state and every governor participates.

As citizen leaders, Lakeview's school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. In Lakeview, school board members **President Daniel Dombrowski, Vice President Donald Wheaton, Jr., Secretary Philip Thomas, Treasurer Michael Wenner, and**

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## Teachers Receive Training From *Down Under*

On November 27, Lakeview hosted a full day inservice with two New Zealand educators conducting a workshop for teachers in grades 3 through 5. The New Zealand teachers promoted using background knowledge and experience to compose meaningful text.

“Their workshop enlightened us all and we really enjoyed having a demonstration lesson



using Princeton’s own fourth graders,” stated Reading Specialist Linda Pelloni. The New Zealand team travels throughout the United States and the world conducting teacher workshops. New Zealand has one of the highest literacy rates in the world. “We were lucky to have Lakeview be a part of their itinerary,” states Pelloni.

**(Left) Judy Knott of New Zealand instructs Princeton students while Mary**

**MacDonald, also from New Zealand, looks on.**

**(Below) Knott encourages students to use their Oral Language skills and develop them into a writing piece that tell of experiences they’ve had while Lakeview teachers from grades 3 through 5 observe.**



## Administrators Playing The Part

“I’m all shook up,” was the theme of the day for Lakeview High School Assistant Principal Tom Wozniak, who dressed as “The King” for Halloween. Junior Nico Conti was greeted by Wozniak upon arrival at school on October 30. Students entered the building

listening to Wozniak’s signature music blaring from his “boom box.”

Jefferson Middle School Principal Fred Zielke dressed as “Sylvester” and Assistant Principal David Lavender as “Tweety” supporting a parent fund-raising effort to raise a portion of the money for a new electronic sign that was recently installed on 11 Mile Road and Rockwood.

Students were surveyed to choose their favorite cartoon characters and overwhelmingly wanted to see their leaders as their favorite “Looney Toons” characters on Halloween. They are pictured with (from left to right) 8th graders Brooke Lawler, Luke Trocchio, and Angela Bossenberry.



## How much does the lottery contribute to public schools?

As districts work to inform parents, neighbors, business leaders and community members about how their district is dealing with the state’s budget crunch, the question, “What about the lottery?” is bound to come up. How much does the Michigan Lottery contribute to the state’s public schools each year? Many people believe the lottery is the main source of state funding for schools, but that’s not the case. While a portion of the money generated from lottery ticket sales goes to schools, it is a fairly small contribution when compared with other state sources of school funding.

Consider the following:

- Each year the Michigan Lottery dedicates 35 percent of its total revenues to schools. Those funds make up about six percent of the School Aid Fund, the state’s main source of funding for public schools.
- The majority of state funding for schools - roughly 94 percent -

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## STATE MOVES FORWARD ON MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM High School Juniors to Receive Free ACT Test

The Michigan Department of Education announced that it will administer the new Michigan Merit Exam (MME) March 2007, which will include a free ACT test for high school juniors.

This new state assessment was signed into law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm last year to replace the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assessments at the high school level.

Implementing the MME means that all 11th graders will take the new state assessment next March. It will provide students with a regular ACT score report that they can use to apply to a college or a university. Students also will be able to use the MME to qualify for a Michigan Merit Award scholarship to help pay for the cost of attending a state university, community college, technical or trade school.

The MME is made up of the national ACT and WorkKeys tests in mathematics and reading, plus additional tests created here in Michigan in the areas of mathematics, science, and social studies.

MME testing is divided into three parts. The ACT will be administered on March 13, 2007, while the WorkKeys and Michigan Mathematics tests will be administered on March 14, 2007. The Michigan Science and Social Studies tests will be given in one session on March 14, 15, or 16. Make-ups for these tests are scheduled for exactly two weeks later.

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**T**here will be an informational ACT meeting for high school parents on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, 6 PM in Schaublin Auditorium, 21100 Eleven Mile Road.

## School Readiness Preschool Program



Lake Shore Public Schools **School**

**Readiness Preschool Program** is designed to prepare a special population of four-year-olds for Kindergarten and to pave the way for school success.

**Who may attend?** Children turning four-years-old by December

1, 2006; and children living in the Lakeview Public Schools District. The program is FREE to children who qualify. To see if your child qualifies or for more information, please contact Doreen at the Lake Shore Public Schools Preschool office (586) 285-8619.

The School Readiness Preschool is funded by a grant from the Michigan State Department of Education.

## Princeton Students Celebrate Veterans Day ~ Honoring All Who Served

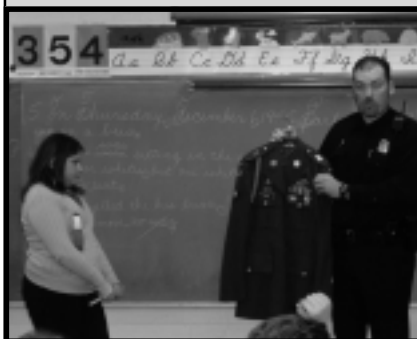
Princeton Elementary students in Sherry Michalowicz's 5th grade class hosted guest speakers during this year's Veterans Day Celebration.

**Among the guests were (below) Donald Owen - former Army paratrooper, who presently is a**

**Detroit Police Officer and family friend of Alexis Grzebinski.**

**(Middle) Kayla Kilgore shares her grandfather's uniform and artifacts.**

**(Bottom) Donald McCain, former Army paratrooper and retired Detroit Policeman and his son, Michael McCain former army serviceman and Lakeview School Board Trustee, were the guests of student Alexis Herbon.**



Posters, pictures, and artifacts featuring veterans from World War II, Korean Crisis and Vietnam Conflict were on display in Princeton's front hall during November and December.

## Superintendent - Continued from page 1

approach cost savings was to reaffirm the District's mission and focus on a quality education for students. With that in mind, the administration selected areas of the budget for reduction that had the least impact on students.

Since 80-85% of the District's budget is spent on employee costs, the greatest saving occurs by reducing employee expenses. Privatizing custodial services, eliminating transportation, and negotiating a contract with the teachers and all other employee groups that had the school district as the policy holder for health care would generate substantial savings. Four years later, the District now sees evidence of that savings.

Not only has the Board been able to realize a savings in the General Fund budget, but has accomplished those reductions **while** making improvements to the classroom instructional budget. Nearly a million dollars worth of textbooks and instructional supplies have been purchased during the past 18 months. Two additional teachers have been hired, with no teacher lay offs, in stark contrast to districts that surround us. Teachers, and other employees, have multiple year contracts, with raises and with an outstanding health care package.

Within the operational budget, expenditures for instructional services have increased with a companion decline for support services of 10%. This is one demonstration of Lakeview's Board of Education's commitment to quality education, even during difficult times.

Lest the impression is given that the District is without challenges, Lakeview's Board is faced with the following decisions for the upcoming year.

- Approximately \$7-8 million of facility needs still exist.
- Additionally, the school buildings are more than 50 years old. Facility needs beyond those already identified must be addressed.

- Pension and retirement costs, over which the District has no control, are estimated to increase to 20% for next year, an increase of 13%.
- School districts are being told that there will be no revenue increases for the 2007-08 school year, and that districts may experience a decrease in funding.

It is impressive that the District has \$3.7 million dollars in reserve. But such a reserve is needed to meet District obligations during a time when reduced or no revenue increases are expected.

The Board of Education for Lakeview Public Schools has made some very difficult decisions in the past few years. However, it is evident that those difficult decisions have positioned the District to weather the current financial storms. The focus of the District remains advocating for children.

## Lottery - Continued from page 2

comes from taxes specially earmarked for schools. These taxes include portions of the sales tax, property tax, income tax and other taxes.

- In 2005, the Michigan Lottery generated about \$667 million in net revenue for the state's public schools. Roughly translated, that's about \$392 for every student in the state attending a public school in reality, \$667 million is only enough money to operate Michigan's public schools for about nine days.

There's no question that the lottery's contribution to schools helps, but it's not enough to pay for all the services and programs needed to prepare young people for the future. Despite the lottery's contribution to education, the state's current budget crisis continues to leave schools struggling with how to make dollars stretch to pay the bills.

For more information on the Michigan Lottery's contribution to education, visit: [www.michigan.gov/lottery](http://www.michigan.gov/lottery).

## Board Recognition ~ Continued from page 1

**Trustees Timothy Houlihan, Anne McDaid, and Michael McCain** develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$27 million, 3,000 students, 268 employees and 6 buildings.

"The time spent in monthly board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours Lakeview's school board members spend leading the District," states Superintendent Myrand. "They also work diligently in Board Workshops and Sub Committees and are deeply involved in community activities and spending time in the schools and at extracurricular events. Their love for learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and community drives

their desire to lead so students can achieve," added Myrand.

The students, staff, and community of Lakeview Public Schools recognize the vital roles and contributions of our seven dedicated board members and extend their thanks and appreciation.

**“There is a place in America to take a stand; it is public education. It is the underpinning of our cultural and political system. It is the great common ground. Public education, after all is the engine that moves us as a society toward a common destiny. . .It is in public education that the American dream begins to take shape.”**

**~Tom Brokaw**  
Retired NBC Nightly News" Anchor

## Mark your calendar **KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP**

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in September 2007, please mark your calendar for **Kindergarten Round-Up scheduled for March 21, 2007, 6:30 PM at Jefferson Middle School, 27900 Rockwood.** It is very important that parents/guardians attend this informative meeting which will begin in the cafeteria for a brief introduction followed by break-out sessions.

Following the Round-Up, parents/guardians will have an opportunity to visit their child's building on the following dates: Ardmore Elementary on Thursday, March 29; Greenwood Elementary on Wednesday, March 28, Harmon Elementary on Friday, March 23; and Princeton Elementary on Tuesday, March 27.

**Pre-registration: Please contact Christine Templeton at 445-4000, Ext. 2504 or [ctempleton@scslakeview-k12.com](mailto:ctempleton@scslakeview-k12.com) to pre-register for the Round-Up.**

To enroll a student in kindergarten for the 2007/2008 school year, the child must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2007.



## **Macomb County's 12th Annual Parenting Conference House of Hearts Saturday, March 3, 2007 8 AM - 4 PM**

**Macomb Intermediate School District  
Conference Center, 44001 Garfield,  
Clinton Township**

**Cost is \$30 per person  
(includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch)**

For more information on breakout sessions or to register call (586) 541-0033 or go to: [www.careofmacomb.com](http://www.careofmacomb.com). Seating is limited. Registration deadline is 2/26/07.

### **Featuring Keynote Speakers:**

Pat Crum, Nationally Recognized Trainer/Consultant, - *Top Ten Ways to Help Your Child Succeed* & Jenifer Strauss, Professional Storyteller & Educator

## **Head Start Registration**

**Head Start is a FREE PRE-SCHOOL** (funded by our federal government) for three and four year old children, designed to cover the following areas: Early Childhood Education, Health Services, Family and Community Partnerships and Children with Disabilities.

Opportunities for parent involvement include, but are not limited to, classroom volunteers, substitute aides which may lead to permanent employment, shared governance through

involvement in Policy Council and participation in Parent Committee Meetings.

Traditional classrooms run 3 1/2 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Full day classrooms run approximately 6 hours per day, Monday through Friday, and are offered to parents working and/or going to school full time (minimum of 30 hours).

For more information and to find out if you qualify, please call **(586) 469-5215**.



## **Lakeview Celebrates the Season of Giving**

Students and staff throughout the District celebrated the holiday season by giving generously throughout the year to those in need. Among the projects were high school teacher Tina Guastella's Directed Studies class collecting blankets for the Red Cross "Blanket Days" and the LHS Student Council raking leaves for five hours at the Lake Shore Presbyterian Church. The LHS Student Council hosted their first Blood Drive this fall collecting 75 units of blood for the Red Cross.

Throughout December, elementary through high school students and staff collected over \$5,000 in cash that was

used to provide needy families with gift cards for the holidays. Toys were donated for the SCS Cops for Kids and high school students assisted with shopping for the annual program. Students also collected over 2,900 can goods for the Goodfellows. Many individual high school marching band members participated in a Walk-A-Thon for Juvenile Diabetes for Julia Bayer or Julia's Jems. The high school Concert Band performed for the Jewish Vocational Services Holiday Party in Southfield, which services mentally disabled adults.

Jefferson Middle School student groups aided or assisted the following charities and service organizations:

Relay for Life (raising more than \$1,100), Children's Hospital of Detroit, Ronald McDonald House, GoodFellows, Care House, Gleaners, Lions Club, Warren Elks—Aluminum Tabs for Kids, Printer Cartridges for Kids, Wigs for Kids, Red Cross, Lighthouse Organization, Leukemia Lymphoma Society, and Muscular Dystrophy Association. Also, JMS staff have contributed to the welfare of two families who recently lost possessions through house fires.

In the spirit of the season, all schools and Central Office employees adopted families for the holidays providing presents and food certificates.



**Letter of Intent**

Lakeview High School senior Katelyn Ciminelli prepares to sign her letter of intent for Cleveland State University for a softball scholarship while Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Tom Wozniak, head coach, Shane Smith, and her mother, Suzette Ciminelli, proudly look on.

**Ardmore Students Incorporate Visit With New Textbook Lesson Plan**

City Manager and former Fire Chief Ken Podolski volunteered to speak to students in Christie McIntosh's 3rd grade class at Ardmore on November 17. One of the activities in the new Social Studies textbooks has students writing to members of city government to find out more about their jobs. The students sent letters to Podolski and many others. Instead of writing a response back describing his job, Podolski made time to visit with the class.

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**District Dateline**

**2006/2007 Board of Education Meeting Dates**

Meetings will be held in the Community Meeting Room in the Ian Smith, Sr., Administration Building, 20300 Statler, unless otherwise posted.

February 13	Regular Meeting .....	7:30 PM
March 20	Regular Meeting .....	7:30 PM
April 17	Regular Meeting .....	7:30 PM
May 15	Regular Meeting .....	7:30 PM
June 19	Budget Hearing .....	7 PM
	Regular Meeting .....	7:30 PM
July 10	Regular Meeting .....	7:30 PM

**DISTRICT**

March 23, 24		
30, 31	"The Wizard of Oz" Community Musical - Schaublin Auditorium ..	7 PM

**The Wizard of Oz**

The Lakeview teachers' union (MEA/NEA Local 1, Lakeview) and Lakeview Public Schools are proud to announce the 2007 Lakeview Community Musical, "The Wizard of Oz."

**Performance dates** for "The Wizard of Oz" will be **March 23, 24, 30 and 31, 2007** on the Lakeview High School Schaublin Auditorium stage. Ticket sale information will be posted on the District website as it becomes available at [www.lakeview.misd.net](http://www.lakeview.misd.net).

**Lakeview Public Schools**  
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**Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity**

It is the policy of the Board that no student in this District shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, height, weight, and/or any other legally protected characteristic, be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in its programs and/or activities.