



Enjoying the ride over to North Manitou Island to Leland Public School's one-acre parcel.



LPS First Academic Trip to North Manitou

Juniors in Mrs. Vann's English III class ventured to North Manitou Island as a culminating activity of their U.S. National Parks & Recitations unit. Because the Mishe-Mokwa ferry is grounded until the shore can be dredged later in the summer, students boarded *The Bear*, a 12-passenger boat captained by Geoff Niessink and Jimmy Munoz.

While on the island, Leland Public School teacher, Nick Seguin, who orchestrated the field trip, shared his knowledge of the island. Seguin also brought the students to the Leland Public School District's one-acre parcel established on the island. Students rang the historic school bell that was transplanted back to its home, adjacent to a lofty flagpole. Seguin explained the visionary plans for the school property, including a replica of the original schoolhouse that would serve as a bunkhouse or gathering place for students and teachers. Seguin checked on the existing water well in hopes that someday it will again function.



We extend a heartfelt thanks to the Leland Education Foundation for helping to fund a portion of Leland Public School's first academic field trip to North Manitou Island. See the article on page 3 about the preparations leading up to this culminating trip.



Students learned many interesting facts about North Manitou from Dave Hooper, "The Legend." A few nuggets of wisdom:

- North Manitou is a national historic landmark, designated as a US Life Saving Station in 1998.
- The US Life Saving mantra is "You always have to go out; you don't always have to come back."
- Book recommendations for summer reading: 1. *North Manitou Island: Between Sunrise and Sunset* by Rita Rusco and 2. *Tending a 'Comfortable Wilderness'* by Eric McDonald
- The Monte Carlo home has elements of Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architectural design.
- North Manitou is home to over 30 of the 72 pairs of endangered piping plovers. According to an NPS volunteer named Mary, there must be 150+ pairs in order for the piping plovers to be taken off the endangered species list.
- North Manitou is home to a variety of tree species including Norway maples, white walnut, and ash (there is no evidence of the invasive emerald ash borer).

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**Neighborhood
School Values.**

**World-Class
Education.**



Learning from Our Lakes & Land



New Lake-Themed Mural

National Arts Honors Society members created a mural painting for our LPS Main Office. The process included planning, proposing, and creating the artwork, taking into account the location and community. Their idea was to reflect our unique connection to the Manitou islands and Fishtown. A cool color palette elicits a calm feeling, sometimes needed in our office. We are very thankful for our frame, constructed and donated by LPS parent, Mr. Travis Nelson. Thanks for your time and generosity. You helped us finish the project beautifully!



Redwood Sapling Gifted

First/second grade student Charlotte was able to share an incredible gift of a two-year-old redwood sapling. The redwood came from the Old Art Building Earth Day seminar that took place with David Milarch. Scientists have discovered that Leland's unique microclimate may have the ideal ability to house Redwoods and allow them to thrive! Students are now studying how important our trees are in providing us with oxygen and as a filter. David Milarch was also on the national kids news segment CNN10.

Salmon Release Day!

Students let 63 chinook salmon go near the Leland River. Mrs. Zywicki said, "This day makes me so proud of our little community as we go out together to close out this year-long project. The salmon weighed an average of 10 grams and were much larger than last year's. They are also the first group that we have raised all the way up from eggs. So many thanks to Ella who did all the water monitoring and managed the tank expertly and Maycee who is an amazing animal whisperer." We thank Mrs. Zywicki for making the Leland science program totally AWESOME!



Gr. 7 Inland Seas Trip

"On the ship, students were asked to spend two minutes in silence, imagining what it was like to be on a schooner 100 years ago. Nick and I were impressed that our kids did it with focus!" said Mrs. Aldridge.

Thank you to Mrs. Kirt for always going above and beyond for field trips and to all who made this trip possible.

Reaping Great Benefits from our Green Spaces

Counselor Kevin Blohm led student volunteers in planting potatoes, tomatoes, basil, cucumbers, peas, beans, zucchini, and lettuce this spring. One bed is also full of strawberries, a perennial plant. The beds are already producing and will be enjoyed into the fall.

Also, thanks to Carol Shipley, along with Carmella Valentine and her family, we have a beautiful new green space on the side of the building near the elementary entrance. This sensory garden includes Lavender, Yarrow, and Black-Eyed Susans, to name a few.



Photo by Mark Morton

Leland Community Earth Day Clean Up!

LPS Students of all ages took part in an "all hands on deck" Earth Day clean up. Students raked, swept and picked up trash from the school grounds to Hancock Field to Fishtown and Van's Beach.



NHS Volunteers for the Conservancy

LPS National Honor Society volunteered to help set up for the potted plant sale for the Leelanau Conservancy at the Village Green. Later, NHS members bonded by brainstorming the service and leadership projects they anticipate next school year and learned how to make chocolate zucchini muffins. We hope to see muffins like these at NHS bake sales next year!



U.S. National Parks and Recitations

What do exploration, literary journalism, and recitations have in common? They are all key elements of an English unit for juniors and seniors surrounding the U.S. National Parks and Historical Sites.

Students in Mrs. Vann’s English III-B course started off the unit learning about the writing techniques of literary journalism. Then they learned and practiced new methods of note taking —such as the Cornell Method, outlining, and concept mapping— all while listening to audio episodes of *The American History Tellers* pertaining to the rich history of the U.S. National Parks.

Later in the unit, guest speaker Park Ranger and Education Coordinator Emily Sunblade came to the classroom and shared her rich knowledge of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Students practiced note-taking and interview skills in real time.

Later, with field notes in hand, Mrs. Vann and her students took a field trip to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and explored the Dune Climb, Visitors’ Center, and Maritime Museum to gain firsthand knowledge. This trip was generously made possible through grant money from the U.S. National Parks System.

During Women’s History Month, students closely read and annotated an article about ten influential women who were instrumental and vital to the existence of certain U.S. National Parks, Sites, and Monuments, including Virginia Donaghe McClurg for the establishment of Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado and Susan Priscilla Thew for the establishment of Sequoia National Park in California.

Another essential step of the English unit was for students to research their two favorite U.S. National Parks and/or Historical Sites. Next, students incorporated their research into magazine articles written in the literary journalist style using Microsoft Pages. These two-page spreads were compiled into a professionally copied magazine just in time for the exhibition titled, “U.S. National Parks & Recitations.”

During the exhibition, students practiced their public speaking skills with a wider audience, including elementary and high school students, teachers, and staff. One of the students’ goals was to interact with the audience, rather than simply share information. For example, Senior Ari Rodriguez demonstrated how the Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota “breathes” by using a balloon to explain the difference in low and high air pressure inside and outside the cave. Seniors Maeve Sweeney and Lillie Stevens prepared true and false questions for audience members about their chosen parks: The Great Smoky Mountains, Hot Springs, Katmai, and Sequoia National Parks. Andrew Martini had a Mound® candy bar to represent the natural resource of American Samoa: coconut. There was even a game table of the National Parks version of Monopoly!

Overall, students embraced the adventure of learning about the history, beauty, and ongoing preservation process of the U.S. National Parks System, and they surely have become better communicators in the process.

Mr. Seguin helped orchestrate a half-day field trip to North Manitou Island in May for Mrs. Vann and her students. As explained on the front page of this newsletter, they visited the Leland Public School property and explored the island as a culminating activity to this unit.



National Spelling Bee Contender Lifts Us Up!

Our spelling STAR, Hazel, competed in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. We had a huge send off party for her complete with Taylor Swift vs. Famous Poet Trivia (she is our resident Expert Swiftie), a dance party, and a K-12 student tunnel! Little schools are strong because they operate like a big team. When one teammate struggles we all feel it and are there to support. When one teammate succeeds we all feel it and are there to support. Thank you for sharing your national success with us, Hazel. You have raised the bar and lifted our team!





Excellent Performance in National Spanish Language Competition!

Congratulations to students Nola Fedderman and Emerie Burda from Spanish II and Ignacio Creamer, Lorna Wiesen, Evelyn Martel, Eliza Aldridge, Molly Rousseau, and Addison Waskiewicz from Spanish I who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2023 National Spanish Examinations!

These students earned two silver and one bronze medal along with five honorable mentions. "Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Lisa Greenman, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with nearly 85,000 students participating in 2023."

Students from Leland Public School have a long history of high achievement on these exams.

The National Spanish Examinations are administered annually in grades 6-12, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. For information, visit www.aatsp.org.

IB Primary Years Program Evaluation Extremely Positive!

We have received our final report from our IB Primary Years Program Evaluation Visit that took place last December. After spending three full days meeting with teachers, administrators, parents, students, and board members, and observing lessons being taught in all of our PYP classrooms, we received an extremely positive report from our evaluating team. Our evaluators highlighted many things we are doing well, including "promoting active, lifelong, and compassionate learners," "implementing the program with fidelity and integrity," and creating a "healthy, nurturing environment," among others.

The full report is available on our website. Please contact PYP coordinator, Ellen Keen (eekeen@lelandschool.com), if you would like to learn more about our Primary Years Program.

5th Grade Exhibition

The 5th Grade Exhibition is the culminating event when students are in their final year of the IB Primary Years Program. This project is completely student-driven from the beginning to the end. It is a true culmination of the IB PYP Programme in how students display all of their IB attributes and how they collaborate with each other toward a common goal.

This year's project themes

- Deforestation
- Zero Hunger
- Endangered Animals
- Gender Equality
- Space Exploration
- Climate Change



5th graders Daniel, Drew, Jack, and Christian take action on Climate Change.



5th graders Jillian, Ashlyn, Nels, and James present their research on Endangered Animals.



Kent, Fen, Miller, and Mason convince Leland parents to help stop deforestation.

7th Grade Social Studies Final Projects



The 7th Grade Social Studies final project exhibition included several interesting projects including poverty (left), medical supply shortages in Africa (above) and water pollution (right).

IN HONOR OF STUDENTS AT MSU

Community Crane Project

Community art is usually a group of people coming together to create something for the community. Our class was inspired by The 1000 Crane Project, and decided to dedicate it to the MSU shooting victims. In Japanese culture the crane symbolizes longevity, happiness, and good fortune. Folding cranes also becomes a symbol of hope and healing during challenging times.



Cameron Flees, Shelby Plamondon, Abby Hicks, Landon Allen, Orion Clark, Xander Bardenhagen, James Hill, Lillie Stevens, Hannah Hamelin

We had trouble making enough cranes and figuring out how to hang them. But after awhile most of us really started to enjoy making the cranes. As Cameron said, "I actually was surprised that I enjoyed all the folding of the cranes during this project. I thought it would be repetitive but I enjoyed the process. The biggest problem we ran into was trying to tape up the strings and keep the cranes up with the knots we made. It was helpful to have all the hands we did to hold up, cut, fold, attach, etc. If we didn't, things would have been much more difficult."

In planning a community project, we would recommend doing a lot of planning and preparing before starting. Also, make sure to communicate, cooperate, and be a part of the group. It's important to agree and make sure that everyone is happy with the end product.



Community Art 'Rock River'

High school art students helped create a painted-rock river for the elementary school as part of their community and art unit. They prepared the rocks, the ground, and visited each elementary class to read the book, "Only One You." The painted rocks will be placed by the Gaga Pits.



Secondary & Elementary Join Up on DNA Project!

Students in third and fourth grades worked hard on their ancestry projects. They connected their projects to science class by learning about DNA and extracting DNA from strawberries! We thank Mrs. Zywicki for leading this amazing hour in the secondary science classroom. Our K-12 connections are so special.



High School Trip to MSU

LPS 10th and 11th graders took a field trip to East Lansing for an official Michigan State University college tour. Comets attended an orientation, college student led walking tour, ate at Brody Dining Hall, saw the brand new STEM building, shopped for spirit wear at the student bookstore, and got dairy store ice cream!



Alexander Bardenhagen, Grade 11

A Day at the Dennos

A colorful, thoughtful, and beautiful day at the Dennos Art Museum. Both high school art students and the NAHS members met with artist Teresa Dunn, experienced her paintings, and saw the NMC 2023 High School Juried Art Show. Two students, Orion Clark and Lexi Luce, had artwork in the show and on display at the museum. The experience ended with creating self-portraits.

A big thank you to chaperones Matt Peschel, Heather Bardenhagen, Zane Schwaiger, and Jill Katelus. An equally big thank you to LEF for funding our field trip. It was more than worth it!



The artwork of both Orion Clark and Lexi Luce were selected for inclusion in the high school juried show at the museum.

LPS Students Published in Exposures

Nine students from Leland were published in EXPOSURES 2023, the 35th annual issue of the Leelanau County student journal. Each student received a free copy of the publication and their work was honored at a public show at LIFT (Leelanau Investing For Teens) at the Friendship Center in Suttons Bay in May.

Thank you to Lani Hoenscheid-Smith and Jennifer Walter, who are our school coordinators, and the Leland Educational Foundation, which supports our students' participation in EXPOSURES.

This year's issue may be seen online at www.leelanau.com/Exposures. Copies are available for \$5 in the school office.



Students had the opportunity to try their hand at making self-portraits.



Artist Teresa Dunn spoke about her narrative painting series.

LPS PUBLISHED STUDENTS

Bardenhagen, Alexander, Grade 11
 Clark, Orion, Grade 12
 Eggert, Christine, Grade 12
 Flees, Cameron, Grade 11
 Lowe, Mallory, Grade 11
 Luce, Alexis, Grade 12
 Plamondon, Shelby, Grade 11
 Resendiz-Nunez, Daniel, Grade 12
 Vann, Elise, Grade 8



At Regionals, Leland Track and Fielders Showed Up!

The 4x800 team qualified for states and came in first place for the 2nd straight year. Anchor woman Ella Knudsen pulled off the win for the Comets. The team did their job, thanks to the other three also—Ariana Rodriguez, Bridgette Duncan, and Amabel Schwaiger!

Ella Knudsen also qualified in the 800, 1600, and 3200. In addition, our first male qualifier ever at Leland in a running event, Agustin Creamer, pulled off an exciting second place finish in the 3200 meters, qualifying him for State. Medal winners and outstanding performances came from Bridgette Duncan and Jimmy Alpi too. It takes the whole team.

- States started with the 4x800 relay for the ladies at 10:30 AM. It was only in the high 70s and low 80s at this time in the morning. Our seeded time was 16 out of 27 teams and we were in the first heat, which is the slower of the two heats. We won this heat with outstanding performances from Ariana Rodriguez, Bridgette Duncan, Amabel Schwaiger and Ella Knudsen. These ladies broke the school record again and shaved off 19 seconds from their best time to finish with a 10:24. After the second heat ran we ended up being 9th place overall with the top 8 claiming all-state honors.
- Ella Knudsen ran in the 1600 m (1 mile) and the 3200 m (2 miles) also in the sweltering 90 plus degree day. Agustin Creamer, the first male runner to ever qualify at Leland, ran in the 3200 m run as well. It was so hot they allowed coaches to hand out water, towels, ice, etc to the runners as they ran 8 times around the track.



The whole school had a Leland Fire Department send off before they headed to States in Hudsonville!



Our team broke school records and claimed all-state honors with 9th place overall.

UPDATE:

Admission Tickets, Concessions, Pay to Participate

We are excited to announce that starting with the 2023-2024 school year we are making improvements to the structure of both the athletic ticket admissions and concessions. With this restructuring and the financial support of the Leland Comets Legacy Fund, we will be introducing a cost neutral plan for free admission to all spectators at athletic events at Leland Public School. This update is designed to encourage more attendance at athletic events for our school community by removing the financial barriers for attendance. We also hope to encourage more student participation to help us move towards one of our strategic goals of **Improving school pride to enhance our sense of community.**

This restructuring plan will also provide an opportunity for all of our school athletic teams, student organizations, and classes to fundraise by running the concession stand during home games. Advisors and students will sign up for home events which will eliminate the need for parents to commit to volunteering to work the concession stand multiple times a year. This model not only provides much needed fundraising opportunities for student groups, but it will also be more cost efficient for the school district, and it will reduce the number of times students will need to sell items or solicit funds to support their activities throughout the year. This will also help us move forward with another one of our strategic goals which is to Strengthen all stakeholders' sense of belonging and inclusivity to foster a stronger school community.

The cost of tickets to attend games will now be built into the pay-to-participate fee. The high school fee will move from \$150 to \$250, and the middle school fee moves from \$100 to \$200 with student scholarships still available for those who need financial assistance. Parents, family members, and the community will no longer need to pay an entry fee at the door. The pay-to-participate fee remains a one time annual fee regardless of the number of sports in which a student participates.

We are excited that this update will help to reduce financial barriers and encourage more attendance and participation from our school community at Leland athletic events. More spectators means more exciting games and encourages everyone to support their school community and our student-athletes! If you have any questions, please contact Leland Athletic Director Ryan Knudsen at 231-256-3812.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MISSION:

The mission of Leland Public School is to sustain an environment where thoughtful interactions and exchanges between students, teachers, and the community, both locally and globally, encourages the development of independently-minded citizens, focusing on exceptional research, critical thinking, and communication skills, and supported by readily accessible, world-class technology. LPS fosters social connection and personal responsibility, providing students with essential tools to pursue fulfilling lives.

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 **Welcoming New Staff!**

NEW PRINCIPAL

KILE CHARNES has extensive experience in all aspects of K-12 administration that will support our small community school’s vision and mission. He has served his community and schools in diverse roles from coaching Little League baseball, football, and basketball to serving as his district’s Homeland Security Coordinator and overseeing curriculum development. Kile and his wife, Samantha, are the proud parents of Ellie, 15, and Miles, 13. Welcome, Mr. Charnes!



Mr. Charnes said, “I am excited for the opportunity to work with the students, staff, and community of Leland Public Schools. Leland School has a strong tradition of excellence in academics, the fine arts, and athletics, to name a few, and I can’t wait to get started in helping to grow these programs even more. I look forward to meeting everyone, building positive relationships, and continuing to make Leland Public School a leader in education. Go Comets!”

FOUR NEW TEACHERS!

MICHELLE LAZAR comes to us from Grand Traverse Academy where she has been teaching elementary school since 2007. Michelle has also served as an instructional coach, and will be teaching on the 1st/2nd grade team next year. Michelle has a BS in Elementary Education from CMU and a Masters in Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum from Marygrove College. Michelle’s two children will also be joining us next year!

SARAH RIVERS SMITH will be joining us from Suttons Bay where has been serving as a special education teacher since 2019. Sarah started her career in 2008 and has worked overseas and downstate. She will be teaching special education for us and is a Leland grad! Sarah has a BS in Education and Master of Education from GVSU.

ASHLEY HEYBOER, another Leland alum and LPS parent, will be joining us as a special education teacher. Ashley has spent the last seven of her 16 year teaching career at Creekside as a center-based teacher. Ashley holds a Bachelors of Education from Aquinas College and a Masters of Special Education from UM Dearborn. She is also part of the Leland Family tree - daughter of MaryLynn Bouckaert, niece of Laurie Glass, step-daughter of Paul Peschel, and step-sister to Matt!

And our very own **BAILEY DUPERON**, long-term sub extraordinaire, will be joining us as full-time teacher on the 1st/2nd grade team! Bailey’s kids attend LPS, her husband Bill is on our board and an LPS alum, and she is an integral member of our school and local community. Bailey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from UM and a Master of Arts in Social work from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration.