

RED

AROUND LOGANSPORT



LOGANSPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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- » **New Partnership Allows High School Students to Work with Special Needs Preschoolers**
- » **Logansport Students Have PRIDE: Work Ethic Program Introduced Across District**
- » **Elementary Students Introduced to STEM through Robotics**

SUPER NOTE

It is so hard to believe that we are entering the holiday season and the end of the first semester is quickly approaching. Time truly does fly when you are having fun! This school year has once again been full of many exciting things for Logansport Community Schools.

The changes in configuration with the Columbia 6th Grade Academy (C6GA) and Logansport Junior High School (LJHS) have been very successful. This re-configuration is better meeting the needs of our students and providing educational opportunities in an environment better suited to their developmental needs. C6GA students are experiencing a wide variety of opportunities both academically and through extra-curricular activities. LJHS students are exposed to a wider variety of academic course offerings where they can earn up to 12 high school credits, while experiencing an astounding number of extracurricular opportunities.

LCSC Robotics teams are gearing up for their competitions to begin. Every school within LCSC will sponsor at least one team, with most schools having two. Landis will sponsor six teams. These teams and their sponsors have been preparing their robots and learning some very valuable lessons while doing so. The LHS Berry Botics team has been assisting with the elementary programs.

The PRIDE and Work Ethic Certification programs are in full swing. This year students in fifth and eighth grades will work to gain the PRIDE certificate, while LHS seniors will work towards the work ethic certification. Students are learning the necessary "soft skills" needed to be successful today and beyond. We truly appreciate the enormous amount of community support we have received from our business partners. Together we can make a difference!

In this edition of "Red Around Logansport" you will learn about the topics that I mentioned above and then some! We continue to find ways to create opportunities for our students to be successful while preparing them for a Berry bright future!

-Michele Starkey, Superintendent

LJSSC LAUNCHES NEW INCLUSIVE PRESCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Young Logansport students with special needs are learning, growing and developing faster than ever thanks to a new preschool partnership launched this year. To give students with disabilities a sunny start, public schools in Indiana are required to provide special education services for children with disabilities — which can range from autism to hearing impairment — starting at the age of 3.

"We've had a goal for a while now to place these students in classrooms without disabilities to make learning more inclusive and to potentially help the students catch up developmentally," said Sharon Pelley, director of Logansport Area Joint Special Services.

There just happened to be a perfect classroom to try a partnership at the Century Career Center. Some Logansport preschoolers attend school there so Century Career Center students can receive hands-on experience working with children to prepare them for future careers in education.

"We realized it could be a really neat partnership to put special education students at the Century Career Center," Pelley said. "Not only can the preschoolers learn from each other, but the high school students

are exposed to students with developmental delays in addition to the students with typical development."

Pelley said the partnership is exciting because there is a desperate need for more special education teachers, and the high school students working in the classroom might be inspired to pursue a career in that field.

"We have had a great success with it so far," Pelley said. "The preschoolers love the high school kids, and the high school students are learning about the other opportunities that are available to them."

The new preschool partnership launched this year in August. About a dozen students with special needs participate in each session. ♦

LOGANSPORT HAS PRIDE: WORK ETHIC PROGRAMS INTRODUCED ACROSS DISTRICT

Students at Logansport schools are being taught how to show their PRIDE: Persistence, Respect, Initiative, Dependability and efficiency. These are all traits that LCSC hopes to instill in students and are also characteristics that employers have indicated they seek in workers.

Beginning in November, the district rolled out the Berry Pride program to fifth graders at both Landis and Columbia schools to show students why PRIDE is important and how they can demonstrate it at school and in their personal lives. Eighth graders at Logansport Junior High School were also introduced to Berry Pride in November to learn about the soft skills they need to be successful at the high school level and beyond.



LOGANSPORT SCHOOLS WELCOME SPECIAL GUESTS FROM CHINA

Students at Logansport High School will be given a chance to show their PRIDE and earn a certificate for it through the Governor's Work Ethic Certificate. The Work Ethic Certificate verifies students have an understanding of the soft skills — those that aren't necessarily taught in the classroom — that make a good employee, such as the ability to work well with others or be on time. To earn the certificate, students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0, an attendance rate of at least 98-percent and complete at least six hours of community service.

More than 85 percent of high school students committed to pursue the Work Ethic Certificate at the beginning of the school year, and about 20 students have already turned in their community service forms.

"The high school continues to develop business partnerships that will not only benefit Logansport High School students, but will also help businesses recruit quality individuals who will help their business thrive for years to come," said JD Dubes, assistant principal at Logansport High School. "With about 20 percent of our students going directly into the workforce (after graduation), we look to the Work Ethic Certificate to provide a leg up for these students." ♦

COLUMBIA SIXTH GRADE ACADEMY OFF TO STRONG START

Academics are taken seriously at the Columbia Sixth Grade Academy, but it is important to develop students in other ways. At the new school, non-academic opportunities have been added for students to practice skills in other areas, like engineering, movement and creativity. Here are a few fun opportunities students have had a chance to try out this year.

MINDS IN MOTION: Based upon exercises originally developed for NASA, the Minds in Motion program uses different movements that stimulate the vestibular system and lead to increased focus. Each day, students spend a few minutes running through a maze that tasks them with performing various jumps, handstands, balancing acts and body maneuvers.

BRAIN BREAK: After lunch each day, students get at least 15 minutes of organized play and exercise. When the weather is nice, they are outside enjoying kickball, four-square, jumprope, drawing with chalk or walking. During cold and rainy days, the fun is taken inside and they participate in gym activities, cards, board games, cup-stacking and, of course, walking.

WHAT I NEED (WIN): At Columbia Sixth Grade Academy, students are given what they need to WIN. This program, taught by Focus teachers, devotes time to spend on whatever the diverse group of students needs at the time. Each day has a different focus, ranging from leadership to sustained silent reading and clubs.

MAKERSPACE: Inside the school is a collaborative work space in the Learning Commons for making, learning, exploring and sharing. Called the Makerspace, the space has a variety of high-tech to no-tech tools including a 3D printer, a green screen, audio and video equipment, cardboard, Legos and art supplies. It exists to inspire the maker mindset of creating something out of nothing. The space is also helping prepare students who need the critical 21st century skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The Makerspace provides hands-on learning, helps with critical thinking skills and even boosts self-confidence.



Exposing students to a global perspective can open their worlds and change their lives. That is why LCSC is so proud of its Sister Schools program. This September, the elementary schools were visited by their sister schools from China. Here is a recap of the visits from the principals.

MICHAEL MILLER, PRINCIPAL AT FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY: In September, it was with great joy that we welcomed 23 students and three adults from our sister school, Hengdian Elementary in China. Each child was assigned an American student ambassador who spent the week with them, helping them experience America and learn about Chinese culture. It was exciting to see the global connections our students made with these Chinese students. While our friends were visiting, we enjoyed a celebration at the Cass County Dentzel Carousel with pizza and had the opportunity to explore a firetruck and the smokehouse from the Logansport Fire Department. Later in the week, we took our Chinese friends and Franklin student ambassadors to Camp Tecumseh YMCA and enjoyed a beautiful day outdoors laughing, working together, and learning from each other. It was an honor to facilitate activities which helped promote international friendships for our Franklin students!

ANGELA CROOK, PRINCIPAL AT COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Columbia Elementary School has had a wonderful sister school relationship nearing five years with Dongyang Experimental Primary School. Each year in September, we match our students with "buddies" to provide a close relationship for the week in which they can communicate and learn

from one another in school classrooms. Our Chinese Sister School relationship has been a tremendous benefit to the students at Columbia Elementary School. The students can see the world in a more global view now, rather than just in their city, state or country. When students leave LCSC, we want them to have a wide range of experiences that help them be successful after they graduate. The Chinese sister school relationship provides one more opportunity to do just that!

RITA MCLOCHLIN, PRINCIPAL AT LANDIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: In September, Landis was visited by our sister school, Jiangbei Elementary School in Zhejiang Province, China, to extend the opportunity to learn about our different cultures between the two schools and countries. There were 21 Chinese students who attended classes every day with our students and lived with our host families here in Logansport. They experienced the local culture, food, history, and living in Midwest America. The highlight for the Landis students was to listen to a wonderful music program presented to us. The Chinese children really enjoyed the Cass County Carousel. It is a wonderful opportunity for both of our students to learn about each other and our customs. ♦

"As a staff member, I've really liked the transition. Administration and staff who were here previously have been accommodating and welcoming and made it as smooth as possible... It's been a really good thing and I'm enjoying it."

– Edward Gibson, English Language Arts

You're Invited!

The Logansport Community School Corporation Board of Education conducts regular meetings the second Monday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Administration Building. You are invited to attend these meetings.

Board of Education:

Scott Kraud President
Bill Cuppy Vice President
Milt Hess Secretary
Dave McClure Board Member
Mike McCord Board Member

Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critiques. Write to us at Editor, Red Around Logansport, Logansport Community School Corporation, 2829 George St, Logansport, IN 46947 or call (574) 722-2911.

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Columbia Elementary.....(574) 753-3432
Fairview Elementary.....(574) 722-5288
Franklin Elementary(574) 722-3200
Landis Elementary.....(574) 722-5466
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Our Website

www.lcsc.k12.in.us

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ROBOTICS PROGRAMS POPULAR IN LOGANSPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Robots are fun to play with, but that is not the only reason students at LCSC are encouraged to participate in robotics programming. In today's world, it is more important than ever to prepare students for a future full of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Robotics are a great way to introduce students to programming — an excellent skill that could help them land jobs and earn more money in the future — and practice their creativity.

This year, all four elementary schools are participating in robotics competitions. Coaches have put together several teams of students to build, practice and compete in VEX IQ Robotics competitions that will continue throughout the spring. Thanks to a grant, each school was able to purchase one robotics kit and a playing field. Several schools have seen so much interest that they have pursued additional grants to purchase more robots, allowing even more students to participate.

"Bringing robotics into the elementary schools exposes students to STEM curriculum that they may not normally see in the classroom on a regular basis," said Christine Hess, STEM coordinator. "Robotics also helps students with problem-solving, collaboration, making decisions, and higher-order thinking skills, all things needed to be successful in real-world settings, especially in future careers."

Each elementary will be hosting a day-long competition with up to 30 teams. These all-day events require a large number of volunteers and countless hours of planning. Franklin hosted a successful event on Nov. 11, and future competitions will be on Dec. 16 at Landis Elementary, Jan. 20 at Fairview and Feb. 3 at Columbia Elementary. Please come out to see what students have created! ♦

"I think the transition has been good for the kids because they are all together. I think it has overall been a positive experience for them, and a positive experience for me to have all the kids at once in one place."

– Kelli McGregor, Logansport Junior High School Engineering Technology

ALL-SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2017-18

Dec. 20-Jan. 2 Christmas Vacation
Jan. 3 Teacher Records Day
Jan. 4 Students Return
Feb. 16 No School
Feb. 19 President's Day (no school)
March 26-30 Spring Break
May 24 Last Student Day
May 25 Last Teacher Day
June 3 Commencement