

THE JAGS JOURNAL

The latest news and updates from LCCS



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

LCCS RESPONDS

PRESIDENT ZELENSKY

NEW NJ STATE PARK

ST. PETER'S PRIDE

. . . AND MORE.

War in Ukraine

*by Sydney Reynolds and August Passafiume,
Co-Editors-in-Chief*

The war in Ukraine is a travesty, but before we tell you what is happening now, we need to go back in time to show what their relationship was and what led up to the war. Back when Russia was called the Soviet Union (USSR), many countries such as Ukraine were part of the USSR. With the fall of the Soviet Union, the USSR became Russia and countries such as Ukraine became independent from Russia on August 24, 1991. Once that happened Russia was left much weaker and in a very dicey situation. Their population and GDP (gross domestic product - monetary value) dropped by a humongous number. Russia found itself in a very hard spot since they really couldn't build any new cities as most of Russia is too cold to build anything. So if you were in Russia, what would you do?

Well, what Russia is doing is trying to get back what used to be theirs. Since their neighbors Ukraine is significantly smaller and perceived to be weaker,

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Ukraine, continued

Russia invaded Ukraine. Russia is also afraid that Ukraine will join NATO which is an alliance of countries from Europe and North America. These NATO member countries have an agreement that if any one of the countries gets attacked then all of the other countries have to join and help with the war. Although Ukraine is not a member of NATO, Russia said that it is a threat for them to join.

What do Russians think about the war?

Many Russians disagree with the war and many protests are happening right now including in Moscow, the capital. But of course, not all Russians are like that. Many Russians are blinded by all of the propaganda media and fear being arrested because many people who are protesting have been put into jail.

What do the Ukrainians think about the war?

Many Ukrainians think that the Russian invasion is not right and believe that they are their own country and that they are independent. In a study in Ukraine, they found that more than 90% voted to be independent.

What could you do to help?

You can help by donating to Ukraine refugee foundations that will help Ukrainian refugees or by donating to other Ukraine foundations.

LCCS student Tanay Tablane thinks that Ukraine should be an independent nation and not be part of Russia. Leah Rosario said “The Russian invasion is not necessary and should not be happening.”

All Ukrainians are suffering right now and we have to do something about it. Many kids in Ukraine are dying and we should not let that happen. We should fight against this and help the Ukrainian people in their hard times because they probably would do the same thing for us.



The World Responds

by Gavin Perez and the Jags Journal Staff

According to the White House, President Biden spoke with President Zelenskyy on March 11th, the United States continues to defend their country against Russia's unprovoked and unjustified attack. President Biden highlighted how the United States is continuing to surge security, humanitarian, and economic assistance to Ukraine. To date, the US has provided Ukraine with more than 50 billion dollars in aid to help with the refugee crisis, and financial and military needs.

President Biden has also coordinated with NATO, the G7, and the European Union to further pressure Russia economically to raise the costs on Russia in hopes of ending the war.

Meanwhile, more than 14 million Ukrainian people have fled their homes in search of safety. More than 6 million have fled in search of refuge to neighboring countries like Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Hungary, who have all welcomed Ukrainians with open arms.



President Zelenskyy

by Lauryn Bunales, Sixth Grade Guest Contributor

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine has helped his country and has been an inspiration to many around the world.

He was born on January 25, 1978 in Kryvyi Rih, the largest city in Ukraine. As a child, he was interested in theater, which eventually led him to become a famous comedian and actor. He starred in the Ukrainian TV show "Servant of the People" in which he played the president of Ukraine which eventually led to him being elected the real president of Ukraine in 2015.

He is helping his country, fighting for his country, and being a great leader for Ukraine. He is committed to staying with his country no matter what. He has allied himself with other world leaders to gather weapons and other aid for Ukraine to win this war against Russia.. He continues to communicate with the rest of the world to save his world, his country, his people.



Ukrainian Culture

by Gavin Perez, Jeevanshi, Singh, and Emery Dornbos

Culture can be one big part of your personality. It makes you who you are. To understand Ukraine's culture, we learned what they eat and more.

Ukraine is located in eastern Europe and is the second largest country in Europe after Russia. The capital of Ukraine is Kyiv.

In 2019 Ukraine ranked number 51 in the world in terms of total export value, but it is truly a world leader in terms of agricultural exports. Ukraine is called the "breadbasket" of Europe because it is the fifth largest exporter of wheat in the world.

What is Ukraine unique for? It is known for its beautiful landscape and diverse people. A lot of people there are Russian speakers (including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy). Ukraine used to be a part of the Soviet Union (now Russia) for many years so some parts of Russian culture can be found in Ukrainian culture. One of Ukraine's traditional dishes, Okroshka, is originally from Russia. It is a cold soup of potatoes, cucumbers, and dill.

Another favorite, Kutia, a sweet bread pudding, is normally served on Christmas.



Varenyky, commonly known as perogies, is also a favorite. Because of their crescent shape, Ukrainian ancestors equated Varenyky with a young moon and used the dish in pagan and sacrificial rituals. Farmers also believed that Varenyky could bring a plentiful crop so they used to take some to the fields.

How can we support Ukraine and their culture even more? Make some of these Ukrainian dishes for yourself and enjoy! See page 20 for these delicious recipes.



Learning Community Charter School Responds

Penny Drive

by Anahita Aggrawal and Illyes Kaddourbey

How did LCCS respond to the news? Some facts about Ukraine and Russia first. Ukraine used to be part of what was called the Soviet Union from 1922 until 1991 when the Soviet Union (today's Russia) broke apart. Ukraine officially declared itself independent in 1991 and has been its own country since. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, has decided he would now like Ukraine back. Ukraine is fighting back to maintain its independence from Russia.

LCCS held a penny drive to help Ukraine as part of our Ukraine Day. A penny drive is when you donate money to someone and then they give all the money to a special organization, Saving the Children, who help families by giving people houses and food. Mr. Hogan, Ms. van der Horn, Ms. Antczak, NJHS, & Student Council were all in charge of this. Kids from all grades brought in cash or coins to donate to Ukraine.

Why did we do this? LCCS did the penny drive because we believe that what Putin is doing is wrong. We think Ukraine deserves to be its own independent country just like the other 195 countries. It's not fair if we just let Russia take Ukraine so the more you donate, the more you can help.



Bake Sale

by Tanay Tabhane and Hans Halgado

LCCS hosted the biggest ever bake sale to help Ukraine as much as they possibly could on March 25, 2020. Families and students helped out with baking and buying snacks. NJHS under the direction of Ms. Vanderhorn and the Student Council under the direction of Ms. Antczak and Ms. Errico helped organize and run the bake sale at three different locations around the perimeter of the school on Ukraine Day. A variety of items like muffins, donuts, cookies, Rice Krispie treats, cake, bread, and meringues were donated for sale! The yummy treats cost only 50 cents to \$2!

Between the Penny Drive and the Bake Sale, LCCS raised \$3069.09 to donate to the Self Reliance Foundation Relief Fund through the Self Reliance Federal Credit Union, which works with the Ukrainian community in Jersey City and is connected with financial institutions in Ukraine. This donation will help those in need in Ukraine.



Walk for Peace in Ukraine

by Emilia Tuazon, Camila Suarez, and Abigail Donath

All grades participated in the Ukraine Peace Walk around Lincoln Park on March 25, 2022. All the grades wore the colors (blue and yellow) to represent Ukraine. We all marched around the statue holding signs, flags, and sunflowers supporting Ukraine. Some signs were printed. Some were customized. Many signs said: WE SUPPORT UKRAINE!!!



In the Classroom

by Emery Dornbos

We asked several teachers what they did in the classroom on Ukraine Day.

Ms. Lebron - Second grade

Im looking forward to teaching my class about support and supporting each other.

We are going to read Jan Brett's *The Mitten* to show warmth and compassion.

Students need to know this because this is important for them to show in all parts of their lives. They can use kindness to show others how much they care for them.

Ms. Yager - Kindergarten

My class is making Ukrainian eggs made out of paper. I am most excited to teach them about the egg tradition. It is important they know this because they need to know about different cultures and traditions. My goal is to make them more well-rounded individuals.

Ms. Silver - Seventh grade

I talked to my students about Ukrainian history. I'm teaching them about how this happened and the power of information. They need to know this so they can be calm and better global citizens. I think the power of free speech and this knowledge makes them kinder people.



St. Peter's Pride

by August Passafiume (Co-Editor-in-Chief)

Briefing

St. Peter's University was all over the news for doing the impossible! We all know about their latest games, but a lot of people don't really know about the games that got St. Peters into the sweet sixteen. St. Peter's played so many games, so I will just talk about the major games, and the lead up to those major games.

Wins and losses

St. Peter's season started off just like any other. In the first game played against NJCU at Yanitelli Center on November 1st, St. Peter's won by a landslide with a score of 90-66. This game really helped kick start their season. After that last game, the Peacocks had a mix of wins and losses. The Peacocks lost against VCU and St. John's before winning against LIU. As you can see, St. Peter's University went through many wins and losses. After this long trail of wins and losses, there were even more! St. Peters lost against Providence, won against Quinnipiac, lost against Siena and St. Francis Brooklyn, and then continued their series of mixed wins and losses.

The MAAC

After a very long streak of wins and losses, St. Peters went into the MAAC. The Peacocks earned the MAAC Tournament auto bid before easily beating Fairfield in the quarterfinals. The Peacocks had a very close game with Quinnipiac, but they came through in the end to win the semifinals. In the championship, the Peacocks beat Monmouth, the 4th best team in the country in a rushing game to win the championship. Saint Peter's only admission ticket into the NCAA Tournament was going to be an automatic bid. The Peacocks secured that entry with wins over the various teams in the MAAC.

The NCAA

In the NCAA, the Peacocks faced the hardest opponent yet, Kentucky, who were the 2nd best team in the country. Everyone thought the Peacocks were doomed, but they actually won with a score of 85-79! After this, EVERYONE was rooting for the Peacocks, who won their next game against Murray State with a score of 70-60! The Peacocks then beat Purdue, the 3rd best team in the country with a very close score of 67-64!

(concluded on pg. 20)

New NJ State Park - Jersey City to Montclair

by Sydney Reynolds, Co-Editor-in-Chief

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy recently announced that he will be creating a new state park - the first since 2006 - on a large plot that extends 9 miles from Jersey City to Montclair. Plans are in the works to make an innovative park called the Essex-Hudson Greenway.

Supporters say the greenway will give visitors and residents a chance to go outside and see New Jersey and see how wonderful it is and not just any old railway. According to the state’s plans, the greenway will connect Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Newark, Kearney, Secaucus, and Jersey City. It will be eco-friendly and “improve access to nature and create new recreational and transportation opportunities.” We, here in Jersey City, and members of these other communities “will have easy access to nature for a range of activities including walking, biking, running, and birding.” It will also provide a pedestrian route for residents.

When people asked why he was making a new park out of the blue, Governor Murphy said, “This project has been years in the making, and I am proud to be the Governor to advance this dream to being a reality.” He then added, “This new park will be a crown jewel of our state park system, providing much-needed recreational space to New Jerseyans and out-of-state visitors, while revitalizing and protecting environmentally-sensitive areas. Residents of our state’s two largest cities and the suburbs beyond and in-between will benefit from access to a multi-use trail, and the natural beauty of the



Meadowlands.”

Some kids have many things to say about the new park being built. Jags Journalist, Gavin Perez, thinks it will attract people to New Jersey and bring the community together. Jeevanshi Singh says that it will help the community and bring people together. People are excited about this park, and once it finally gets finished, every kid will be so excited to be there.



Covid 19: Omicron

by Jeevanshi Singh and Samar Kunja

Omicron is a more infectious version of Covid-19 and the CDC is still focused on it and its new sub-variants.

All of the variants, including Delta and Omicron, cause similar COVID-19 symptoms, including cough, fever, and fatigue. There is some evidence that fewer people with Omicron lost their sense of taste and smell. Omicron is also less likely to cause severe disease such as pneumonia that may require treatment in the hospital. According to an analysis by the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics (ONS), the risk of reinfection is 16 times higher when Omicron was the dominant variant, compared with the period when Delta was dominant. According to the CDC, the immune system responds to COVID-19 infection by stimulating white blood cells called lymphocytes to form antibodies that fight the infection. These antibodies and lymphocytes retain a temporary protective effect against reinfection. But it is only temporary. There have been many confirmed cases of reinfection with COVID-19. In other words, a person got sick with COVID-19, recovered, and then became infected again.

We must still be prepared for whatever new variant of Covid-19 and the difficulties it could bring.

Vaccines and booster shots are available for children five and older, and for children younger than five years, there is good news. According to Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House's COVID-19 response coordinator,



"Every parent who wants to vaccinate their baby (6 months and older), toddler or other child younger than 5 could likely do so within weeks" after the FDA approval later this month.



Drawing by Gavin Perez and Jeevanshi Singh

Touchstones Teacher of the Year

by Anahita Aggarwal

Mr. Hogan won the Touchstones Teacher of the Year Award this fall in Builder's Space.

Touchstones is a program that all students at LCCS do once a week in grades 3-8. It is when we read an excerpt from a story or important piece of writing from around the world and we discuss those ideas in a circle without raising our hands. The students can share their inner thoughts about the story and tell an experience about it that happened to them. Through Touchstones kids can learn to respect others and learn when to talk and listen.

The Touchstones Award of the Year is an award for an educator that is deeply committed to the program and has helped their community through bringing Touchstones to their school or organization. Mr. Hogan received this award for supporting and growing this program over the past seven years as well as his efforts to help other schools and other groups start the program.

He received this award from the head of Touchstones, the program founder and the president of their board of directors in Builders Space. He is so proud of this space as it is a wonderful environment that promotes people working together much like Touchstones does.



Stefani Takacs, Touchstones Discussion Project
Executive Director

Colin Hogan, Head of School – LCCS

Debra Valentine, Touchstones Discussion Project
Board Vice-Chair

Howard Zeiderman, Touchstones Discussion Project
co-founder and Director of Leadership Programs

Mask Mandate

by Parth Vira and Aarav Khurana

On Monday March 7, 2022 Governor Murphy announced the mask mandate had come to an end. We asked Mr. Hogan what he thought of this. He says “I think it was too soon” and “I hope we can stay safe as one big family.” Mr. Hogan continues to work to keep our school safe and healthy by trying to make our school Covid free. He works his hardest every day to make sure we stay safe and have a good time here at LCCS.

In conclusion, we thank Mr. Hogan for giving us this privilege.



Visit with a Survivor of the Holocaust

by Sydney Reynolds, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Sixth graders had a virtual visit with Mr. Daniel Goldsmith, a survivor of the Holocaust. He and people who lived during the Holocaust feel responsible to tell the story about what happened.

The Holocaust was a state-sponsored mass murder that killed over 6 million European Jews during World War II. The word 'holocaust' comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "burnt offering" and was sometimes used to describe the death of large groups of people.

Nazis claimed that Romany (Gypsies), Slavs (Poles, Russians), and physically and mentally disabled people did not deserve to live and thought of them as Untermenschen (sub-human).

Adolph Hitler began a campaign to strip Jews of their rights, property, and their jobs. Many Jewish-owned businesses were shut down or boycotted to put them out of business. The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 denied Jewish people their German citizenship and forbade any Jew from marrying a non-Jew. After that things became worse. The Jews were falsely blamed for anything bad that happened like inflation, economic depression, and the loss of World War I.



Many people who lived during the Holocaust had to go into hiding like Mr. Goldsmith who survived by going into hiding when he was 10 years old. Millions did not survive. If the Nazis caught a Jewish person, they would be sent to a Nazi concentration camp.

The terrible days of the Holocaust ended after Germany lost World War II. The Nazis could not continue with their rain of terror and had to stop. After that, they were later captured or jailed by other countries.

Sixth grader Zoe Chen shared, "The Nazis were a group of people who wanted to exterminate the Jews at every cost and manipulated the Germans" into turning on their Jewish neighbors "with propaganda."

The Holocaust was one of the most outrageous and heinous events that happened in history. The survivors are very brave to tell their stories and give us a glimpse of what happened.

Happenings at LCCS

Post Office

by Parth Vira, Aarav Khurana, Ilyes Kaddourbey

The First Grade Post Office is a Unit of Study that the first Graders at LCCS partake in. It is an opportunity for students to address and write letters to friends and staff at LCCS. During this unit, students learn about the city, the state, and the country they live in.

The Post Office usually runs between March and April each year. The first grade uses the Post Office to learn about letter writing and where they live. The goal of the Post Office is to have students experience how a real life Post Office runs and what it feels like to be a Postal Worker. First Graders learn writing, addressing, where they live, how to work in a Post Office and responsibility.



by Anahita Aggarwaal

LCCS hosted a school-wide spelling bee and the winner was Nesrine Kaddourbey. She practiced hard to be selected for her classroom spelling bee, but even harder to win the school spelling bee.

Nesrine practiced almost every day and made sure she knew all of the words no matter the level of difficulty. The classroom one was definitely less stressful for her because "You're around people you know," but the school-wide spelling bee was WAY more stressful.

She never knew if she made it to the next round. When the words turned to words she didn't study, it scared her. At one point a word that she didn't know wiped out a lot of people but someone solved it before it came to her. A real experience.

Following the bee Nesrine said, "To be honest, I forgot my winning word like five minutes after winning. I can remember how to spell hundreds of words but not what I won on. Ironic, I know. I felt really grateful. I had been trying really hard to win and to finally do it was fantastic." Her advice to us all: "Try your best. If you don't make it, oh well."

After school.....

by Anahita Aggrawal

LCCS is home to lots of after school clubs. LCCS's clubs are completely free and are for everybody. The clubs offer different activities. In some clubs you also get free snacks.

In our reading clubs teachers who run the clubs decide on a book to read, give students a few weeks to finish to come back to the next meeting and discuss.

In the Adventure Book Club (for 3-5 grades)- Mr. Mulholland and Ms. Smith are the owners of the book club. They both talk about which book to read and when they choose a book we read it and talk about it in a few weeks. Club members enjoy the Adventure Book Club. Fifth grader Tanay Tabhane says, "Adventure book club is fun because I can talk with my friends and do projects." Yoselyn Norwell, a fourth grader, says, "It is fun and cool."

In the Pre-Teen Book Club (for 4-5 grades) - Ms. Stover and Ms. Westley talk about which book to read and when they choose a book we read it and talk about it in a few weeks too. Every time we meet in person they give us snacks to eat while we are at the meeting. Tanay Tabhane enjoys being part of this book club too. He says, "Pre-Teen book club is fun and I like that everytime we come they give us snacks." Fourth grader Camila Suarez says, "It is very fun. I like how they give us snacks."



In the Writing Club (for 3-5 grades) - Ms. Stimac hosts meetings every first and third Wednesday of the month. In the meeting we write about a prompt that we make together. We don't have to write about the prompt, we can write about anything we like. We write while talking to our friends and eating snacks. At the end of our meeting we line up and share what we have written. Ritheesha Jakkannavar of the fourth grade says, "Writing Club is fun and is a way to have fun with your friends. If you are really into writing, Writing Club is for you." Yoselyn Norwell says, "Writing Club is really good for you. You have fun and you can write stories and everyone is kind."

Last but not least - Newspaper Club (for 3-5 grades) - Ms. Paparella is in charge of the newspaper club. We meet every Monday. We get to choose our own articles to write and can have more than one article. We have to write an article like this one. We have to interview people and gather information and write about it in a few weeks. Our co-editors in chief both enjoy being part of *Jags Journal*. Sydney Reynolds says, "I like it. I like expanding my writing here." August Passifiume says, "I like how we can express ourselves through writing."

So, now you know that LCCS has lots of after school clubs and these are just some of them.

Green Team to the Rescue!

by Skylah Sanichara

The LCCS Green Team is a group of sixth to eighth graders who promote the wellbeing of the environment including the three R's - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Ms. Jaffrey and Ms. Bondaruk head up the Green Team.

Ms. Jaffrey says she created the Green Team because middle school kids were complaining about the Styrofoam trays in the cafeteria. Because of the Green Team's perseverance, the trays were switched to paper. Before Covid-19 the Green Team helped students at LCCS learn how to recycle in the cafeteria. Since returning to school, the recycling has stopped and Styrofoam trays have returned. The Green Team doesn't know why this has happened but hopes to restart the recycling program at LCCS.

The Green Team had an eco-friendly fair this month for students to learn important concepts about sustainability through play.

Ms. Jaffrey says the team has been working on making the world a better place for four years. Students decide the topics related to environmental sustainability that interest them most, then they work together to create presentations for the LCCS community. The Green Team also goes on monthly outings like nature hikes and river clean up events in the community. They meet about once a month in the school library.



Save Our Oceans

by Skylah Sanichara

Our oceans are getting polluted with plastic bottles, cans, plastic bags, and other trash because people are littering and using too much plastic. By littering the wind can blow the trash into the ocean. Fish and sea turtles are getting tangled up in plastic and they are dying.

You can do the simplest things to prevent the oceans from getting polluted. Instead of plastic, use glass! When you go to a store, bring your own reusable bag instead of using plastic bags. Instead of using the big plastic detergent bottles you can use 'soap sheets' and you can use little tablets instead of toothpaste. Just pop them in your mouth, chew, and brush!

New Jersey's 'Bag Ban' is in effect. Stores and restaurants will not hand out free, single-use plastic bags. This is happening because the government agrees plastic bags have become a threat to life of animals in the sea and on land.

Early Morning Singers

by Sydney Reynolds and Anahita Aggarwal

Have you ever thought about being an Early Morning Singer? Well, this group of talented singers has practiced hard to get a spot in the Early Morning Singers (EMS), and they can tell you how much dedication is needed to remember all of the songs.

Miss Jaffery, the director of EMS, directs 20 to 30 students every Tuesday and Friday. Singers have to wake up early in the morning and get to school between 7:45 and 7:50. They have special performances to attend to help the little kids get ready for their performance and understand the song. Performances vary from Christmas and the holidays to special performances about all people being equal.

People who are in EMS are in 4-5th grade but there are a few 7th-8th grade students as well. To join, you don't have to try out. All you have to do to prove you want to be in EMS is show up to the rehearsal and Mrs. Jeffery would be okay with it.

Current members have many good things to say about EMS:

Abby (4th grade) thinks EMS is amazing. She especially likes to sing "Never Enough." She joined EMS because she likes to sing and singing makes her voice better. It was pretty easy to sing the songs in EMS for the concerts and practices although she doesn't like singing in front of lots of people. When she sings with other people in front of other people she feels relaxed. She thinks it is a lot of fun to practice and perform.



Hannah (4th grade) thinks EMS is spectacular because it is a community that sings together. She heard lots of good things about EMS as a younger student of LCCS and when she could finally join, she was excited to start. She had to practice hard and had to get advice to be better. She feels very happy singing with the community. EMS makes her feel welcome in this school.

Maimouna (4th grade) is happy and excited about EMS because she likes singing. She joined EMS because singing makes her feel relaxed and not stressed about anything. If she is in a sad mood, singing always cheers her up. She can sing from her heart, so she is a natural singer. She feels jubilant whenever she is singing. She likes to practice singing because it is her hobby.

All in all, EMS is a very important and fun thing to do. It makes kids feel the confidence they want to feel to sing out loud and have fun. Go to Ms. Jaffrey's room to go see it for yourself!

LCCS Musical Talent Returns to the Stage

by Skylah Sanichara and Emilia Tuazon

An annual tradition has returned to LCCS - Concerts!

While the 3-5 Winter Concert was still virtual, the 3-5 Spring Concert was live and in-person. Both were led by Meera Jaffrey (Ms. Jaffrey) And Mike Brown (Mr. Brown). The Winter Concert was a fantastic show where the third graders sang *Kokoleoko*. The fourth graders sang *Havana* with a twist called *Havana Mash-up*. And the fifth graders sang *Never Gonna Give You Up*. The Winter Concert was live streamed for the parents by Zach Herchen with Sylvana Joyce on the keyboard on December 15, 2021.

This year the third grade was not allowed to play recorders although it has been an LCCS tradition for 21 years due to Covid restrictions, but they got to play their recorders outside instead! They did *Kokoleoko* for the concert in the auditorium. This year the fourth grade came up with their own dance, sounds, raps, and beat boxes for their song *Havannah Mash-Up*. The fifth graders 'Rickrolled' *Never Gonna Give You Up*. Some people played the keyboard and some played the ukulele. The early morning singers sang *Never Enough* for the concert. It was a beautiful evening.

In the Spring, we had the Encanto themed concert based on a Disney movie which takes place in Colombia. It is about a magical family. The word 'encanto' means 'charm' in Spanish.

The art teachers, Ms. Maddy and Ms. Nina, and many students made the decorations.. The auditorium looked amazing! The art teachers made our projects into butterflies, banners, and other beautiful decorations.

All classes played songs from Encanto. The third grade class played "Surface Pressure" on the recorder. Fourth graders sang "Dos Oraguitas" which is a song in Spanish. Ms. Jaffrey worked so hard to teach both the recorder and the lyrics in Spanish.! The fifth graders sang "All of You". Mr. Brown worked really hard on the positions and music for the fifth grade. The concert was amazing and beautiful.

Our last and final concert was the band concert for the fourth and fifth grades and middle school students. Everything was instrumental. The fourth grade played Queen's "We Will Rock You" and "Another One Bites The Dust." The fifth grade performed "Beethoven's Ninth" and the Middle School played Bruno Mars', "Lazy Song" and "That's What I Like." This concert was awesome! It sounded so good when the instruments blended together. Thanks to Mr. Brown it was another wonderful evening showcasing our musical talents!

Thank You! We look forward to seeing you at the concerts next year!

Book Fair

by Tanay Tablane and Ritheesha Jakkannavar

The Scholastic Book Fair comes to LCCS every February. This year, it had exclusive books like *The Escape* and paperbacks like *Bound for Home*. They also had a few comic books and books based on real events like things from World War One. They had books like *Pete the Cat* and *the Surprise Teacher* for young readers and *This Is not a Drill* for students who like thrills and chills. They even had *Pokemon* books for fans that love *Pokemon* and posters that you could hang up.

They had books for everybody and sold them for a great price!

Business Project

by Ritheesha Jakkannavar, Illyes Kaddourbey, and Anahita Aggrawal

Fourth graders explored and learned about the world of business during their Business Project earlier this month. Working in small groups of 2-4, they brainstormed ideas, developed ideas of all kinds of things from baked goods to tutoring and presented their plans to sell specific items to parents and students. It was a rewarding experience for all who attended.



Dungeons and Dragons

by Abby Donath, Camila Suarez, and Emilia Tuazon

DND Club is a club where after school, they have a game. It is called *Dungeons and Dragons*, long for DND. It is like a role play game where you fight monsters, roll dice, etc. There are two roles: The *Dungeon Master*, where you take the lead of the game and tell players what to do, what they can do, their score, and what rate is the succeeding chance for dice. The second role is the player, and there can of course be more than one. Players are not in control of the game like the *Dungeon Master*, but they can go on adventures, fight monsters, etc. As players roll the dice, it shows a number, and if it is lower than the best number, they cannot do whatever it is they are doing.

Ms. Silver, the leader of the club, says that she felt like there was a need to make a club like this. Students appear to agree. We interviewed several students to find out what they thought was the best part of the game, the most fun, and which role they like best.

James Dunckley says that he likes to play with his friends, and he thinks it's most fun. His most thrilling part of the game is combat because they always have battles. He likes to be a player the most because he says that the player gets to go on adventures, while on the other hand, *Dungeon Masters* don't get to all the fun things.

Etienne Fialon thinks that the most thrilling part is when he rolls 20. He likes to get into character, and he thinks that he likes *Dungeon Master* the best.

Luke Meagher says the best part of the game would be rolling a 20. The most thrilling part is rolling the die because you don't know what will happen.



Into the Woods, Jr.

by Sydney Reynolds, Co-editor-in-chief

Into the Woods, Jr was an amazing play with amazing acting and beautiful costumes and props. *Into the Woods, Jr* was performed on February 10th and live-streamed on YouTube.

For some background knowledge, *Into the Woods* is a play that debuted on Broadway in 1987 where it won three Tony Awards and later made into a movie released in 2014. It is about many fairy tales mixed together and a baker and his wife trying to have a baby but along the way face problems. *Into the Woods, Jr* is the same and follows the same story. *Into the Woods, Jr* shows the perfect remix of the original *Into the Woods* and shows the talent each person has and highlights it perfectly. *Into the Woods, Jr's* cast was happy that they did their best and that all their hard work paid off. People such as Yoselyn Norwell and Emery Donath said that their favorite part was when the witch first appeared and when Rapunzel was singing. All and all, *Into the Woods, Jr* was an amazing show and if you haven't gotten a chance to watch it, then you are missing out!

Help when you need it

by Anahita Aggarwal

LCCS has welcomed several new staff members this year including Ms. Wright, a new counselor. A counselor helps people in need and also gives them advice. If someone is feeling sad and not happy she can talk to them and see why they are feeling sad or what happened to them. Students can get a card saying “I need to see the counselor now or later.” If a student has a really big problem like someone said really mean stuff that made them feel bad, they would ask their teachers for the ‘see the counselor now card,’ but if there is a small problem like someone said something a little less mean, then they would ask their teacher for a ‘see counselor later card’. When Ms. Wright first came to LCCS everyone welcomed her.

Mr. Carillo is a new nurse to this school. He had to be hospitalized for a medical issue soon after he moved to the United States from Colombia, and the level of care given to him by medical professionals was unparalleled to anything he had ever experienced before. The compassion, the professionalism, the meticulous treatment he received really affected the way he saw healthcare. His initial career path was business administration; however, after his encounter with an amazing healthcare professional team, he changed his mind and decided to enroll into Nursing School. When he came to LCCS, Mr. Carillo walked his best foot in this school. He thought that he made the right decision in becoming part of a great organization. Our school welcomed him with multiple meetings, and a very warm introduction to the team. Mr. Carillo said, “The Nursing Department strives to provide a welcoming and safe environment for everyone coming into the school. By creating a safe space to treat illnesses and other situations, we help our community.”

Welcome to LCCS, Mr. Carillo and Ms. Wright!

Thank you for all you do for us!



The Review Corner: Spiderman: No Way Home (2021)

by Gavin Perez

Rating: PG-13 for language, violence, and intense action

In this new Spider-Man movie, Spider-Man goes through different villains to fight challenges and learn how to overcome them.

This movie builds off the last movies cliffhanger with Peter Parker's identity being revealed by Misterio at the end of the movie. Peter then tries to make everyone forget his identity by going to doctor Strange and having him do a spell that will make the world forget his identity. I won't spoil much, but after making Doctor Strange repeat the spell many times with changes, Doctor Strange loses control of the spell, which leads to some very twisted events!

This movie is one of those Blockbusters that have so much thrill and will make you wonder, "What's going to happen next?"

This movie has gotten the rating 8.8 out of 10 and is also ranked top #1 of 2021. I would definitely recommend this movie. It's a movie that you can watch in theaters and online. Enjoy!



St. Peter's cont'd

(continued from pg. 7)

An end to a great season

Sadly, all things come to an end. When St. Peter's faced North Carolina, they sadly lost badly with a score of 49-69. But St. Peter deserves tons of credit for how hard they worked, and will always be able to remember this truly awesome season. (For a full summary of St. Peter's basketball games, you can search St. Peter's basketball schedule.)

Why do teachers teach?

by Emery Dornbos and Giselle Pena

We asked a few teachers what they like about teaching at LCCS. Not surprisingly, they love it! We started with Ms. Antczak, who said, "I teach because I love it and I love watching children learn to read. The best part of teaching is it is never boring and my kids always make me smile. I like teaching in a charter school because the parents that come to this school care about their children's education. The best lesson I have ever taught was how to make ice cream. The best advice I was ever given was from a man called Dr. Buzz and to find the good in every kid."

Ms. Hitner said, "I teach because I enjoy doing it and my students bring a smile to me every day. I love teaching reading and math because students can learn by playing games. In my opinion the best part of teaching is when students have light bulb moments. The best lesson I've ever taught was probably daily five because students can learn in small groups and the lessons are hands-on. My favorite success story is when I worked with students who needed support to be more social with classmates, so I created a social club for students to build friendships. The best advice I have been given is to make learning fun and show your students how much you care about them."

Ukrainian Recipe: Okroshka - Cold Russian Soup

8 cups cold water
1/3 cup sour cream
3 1/2 Tbsp Vinegar divided
2 1/2 tsp Salt
3 Tbsp chopped dill (fresh or frozen)
1/2 cup green onion, finely chopped
1/2 ham diced
3-4 medium cooked potatoes, peeled and diced
3 hard-boiled eggs, diced
3-4 cucumbers, diced



1. Peel potatoes and dice them into 1/4" cubes. Place diced potatoes in a medium pot and cover with water. Add 1 Tbsp vinegar and bring to a boil then continue boiling for 10 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked, but not falling apart. Drain well and set aside to cool.
2. While potatoes are cooking, boil 3 eggs and cooled them in ice water.
3. Next, dice 3 eggs, 3-4 cucumbers, and 1/2 lb of ham. Also chop 3 Tbsp of dill and 1/2 cup of green onions. Place everything in a large pot.
4. In a separate large bowl, whisk together 8 cups of cold water, 1/3 cup of sour cream, 2 1/2 Tbsp of vinegar, 2 1/2 tsp of salt until combined. Pour the mixture in the pot with the rest of the ingredients. Stir to combine and serve.

Recipe courtesy of NatashasKitchen.com



Ukrainian Recipe: Varenyky - Perogies

DOUGH:

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup water

FILLING:

- 6 medium potatoes, cut into small cubes
- 2 large onions, finely chopped
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- salt and pepper to taste



1. To make the dough, combine the flour and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the center and add the soft butter and evaporated milk; stir gently until all the liquid is absorbed. Add water only as needed, kneading continuously until dough sticks together. Place dough into a greased bowl, turn to coat, and let rest for 30 minutes.

2. To make the potato filling, place potatoes into a saucepan with water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside. Melt 1/2 cup butter in a medium skillet, over medium heat. Saute onions in butter until tender. Mix the onions into the potatoes along with the cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste.

3. To make the sauerkraut and cabbage filling, pour the drained sauerkraut into a large saucepan. In a medium skillet, saute 2 onions in 1/2 cup butter until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir the onions into the sauerkraut along with the cabbage and chicken bouillon cube. Cook over low heat until liquid evaporates. Season with pepper and remove from heat. Allow the mixture to cool, then run through a grinder or food processor.

4. Remove the dough from the bowl onto a lightly floured surface. Roll out to 1/8 inch in thickness. Cut into 3 inch circles. Place one tablespoon of filling onto one side of the circle. Fold the other half over and press the edges to seal. Place finished dumplings onto a floured tray and keep covered.

5. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Drop 10 or so dumplings into the water at a time. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes, then remove to a colander to drain. Place finished dumplings onto a lightly oiled dish and turn them to coat with a thin layer. This will keep them from sticking together. Serve dumplings with fried onions and sour cream. Cooled dumplings also can be fried in oil and butter for a nice crispy surface.☰

Recipe courtesy of AllRecipes.com



We look back over this past year

- Looking back I like how we bonded together by making our first Jags Journal edition and had the strength to make another stronger - Gavin Perez
- I loved the first day of school and seeing all my friends again- Ritheesha Jakkannavar
- I agree with Gavin. We learned many things about the school and many other things. I'm excited to look at our newspapers. Looking back, I remember our first newspaper and the amazing articles. I cannot wait for next year, and I will want to come again. - Emilia Tuazon
- For every goodbye, God gives a new hello. I will miss every single one of you. I still remembered how weak we were. We barely knew each other but days passed by and we are now one big community. - Anahita Aggarwal
- I had fun and made a lot of new friends. - Parth Vira
- Looking back, I loved fourth grade even with some ups and downs. It was the best year of my life. I think I will never forget my amazing teachers.- Skylah Sanichara
- I agree 100% with Skylah, but I would add more detail. I am very happy, - Penelope Pena
- Last year I accomplished reading a whole book series. - Giselle Pena
- I look back to the fun times when we did the World's Fair Project. - Tanay Tabhane
- Looking back, you can see how tough our year was, but even though it was tough, it was fun, happy, rewarding, and much more. My favorite memory is that even though there were tough times, we all passed with flying colors! - Hans Halgado
- I agree with Gavin but like to add on by saying that we also put a lot of effort to make the newspaper a success. - Jeevanshi Singh
- I am one of the people that agree with Gavin 100%. I love to keep my Jags Journals and see all the hard work each of us did! We did so much for people to read, laugh, and enjoy! - Camila Suarez
- I look back on the day where I got to be the assistant in my classroom. - Samar Kunja
- Looking back into the past, we still had school but it was on zoom because of Covid. It was pretty stressful for the students and especially for the teachers. The teachers did the best they could to be the best. - Yoselyn Norwell

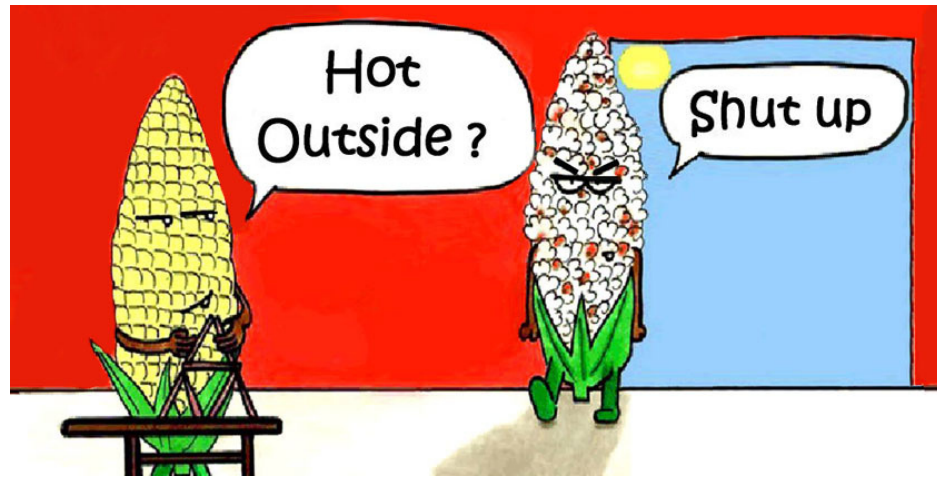


We look forward to next year

- Looking forward I hope we can make more editions and have more newspaper clubs for us -- Gavin Perez
- I am hoping in the future that I can make more friends and have good grades for fifth grade - Ritheesha Jakkannavar
- We learned many things about the school and many other things. I'm excited to look at our newspapers - Emilia Tuazon
- Going to India in the summer and publishing our last edition. Can't wait to see everybody next year. - Anahita Aggarwal
- I hope next year I can also make new friends. - Parth Viva
- I hope to have a bunch of fun in fifth grade and improve some of my skills.-Skylah Sanichara
- I hope I can get into Jags Journal when I'm in fifth grade so I can create more stories. - Giselle Pena
- I can see more fun times ahead. I am look forward to learning more, helping out, and making more new friends. I hope Covid goes away. I hope to get really good grades. Most importantly, I hope to be very successful because sixth grade is very important. - Hans Halgado
- I look forward to going into sixth grade and going to Camp Bernie. - Tanay Tabhane
- I am looking forward to going to India in the summer and publishing our last edition of the Jags Journal.. Can't wait to see everybody next year. - Anahita Aggarwal
- I hope next year I can also make new friends. - Parth Vera
- I hope to have a bunch of fun in 5th grade and improve some of my skills. - Skylah Sanichara
- I hope I can improve my skills in the fourth grade and show it can be a good year from now to later. - Penelope Pena
- I look forward to playing outside and having a birthday party. Samar Kunja
- The school year went by really fast. In the future, I think that I will get more homework than ever and I might have to wait an extra long year for another summer break again which I really don't want to do. - Yoselyn Norwell

Mememes of the Month

by August Passafiume, Co-Editor-in-Chief



Friends: What's your plans for today?



Have a wonderful and safe summer, LCCS!

See you in September!!

Sydney Reynolds and August Passafiume

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Samar Kunja

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Yoselyn Norwell

Giselle Pena

Penelope Pena

Gavin Perez

Skylah Sanichara

Jeevanshi Singh

Camila Suarez

Emilia Tuazon

Parth Vira

your Jags Journalists

and

Mrs. Paparella

advisor

Special thanks to ALL the teachers, staff, and administrators we interviewed over the year. You gave us your time before, during, and after school. Thanks to you, we learned a lot about you, LCCS, our community, and ourselves.