

BEARS UNLEASHED

Produced by the
L/W Yearbook
Journalism class

DECEMBER 2021

Lake of the Woods High School

FEATURING...



HOMECOMING CORONATION

NHS



VOLLEYBALL
STUDENT SECTION

HOCKEY



BATTLE ROYALE CHAMPS



Also
Inside

★ FALL SPORTS ★ WINTER SPORTS ★ NEW TEACHERS ★ BAND
★ STUDENT COUNCIL ★ S.T.U.D.s ★ NHS ★ STUDENT OF THE MONTH
★ NEW STUDENTS ★ CHOIR ★ HUNTING ★ HOCKEY WIN ★ ONE ACTS

Volleyball Season Ends with Awards *By Paige Haack*

Head coach Jill Olson, assisted by JV coach Karlene Stay returned to the volleyball helm and worked to give the girls a more normal, but awesome season, after limited games and fans last year. This year brought amped fans and competitive games. The atmosphere at the home games brought the team up, with only one home loss all season. Coach Olson said, "This season I had high expectations knowing that a good majority of the players were returning veterans. That, with a combination of the rookies, did not disappoint and far exceeded the level of play I thought we could accomplish! Not only is this a very skilled team, but a group of young ladies with great chemistry."

Aside from all the fun at home games, the girls traveled to tough tournaments playing against AA and AAA teams in Hawley and Burnsville. They played hard all season winning all but one match against BGMR (aside from tournaments). Some season highlights included winning the Battle for the Paddle match for the 5th year in a row, and beating KCC at home in 4 games, the first time volleyball has beat KCC since Olson has coached.

The Bears first game in playoffs was against Grygla. Winning that match, the next day they traveled to KCC for the second round of playoffs. Going into 5 sets, the girls had a very close game, but unfortunately they lost, ending their season.

Senior Captain Madie Draper said, "We put in a lot of effort to put our best forward. I'll definitely miss being close with the girls and the friendships that were made through it all."

Another season highlight was Madie Draper earning her 1,000th varsity dig. Draper led the team with 373 digs for the season. Junior Mackenzie Pieper led the team in kills with 228. Senior Sophia Walton led the team in aces with 50 and also led the team in assists with 385.

Season awards for the team include: All-Conference: Chloe Olson, Mackenzie Pieper, Paige Haack, Madie Draper and Sophia Walton; Academic All-State: Brinna Fish; Rookie of the Year: Kayman Sonstegard; Most Improved: Brinna Fish; Coaches Award: Madie Draper; MVP: Paige Haack. The team was also first in their conference.



▲ Varsity girls celebrate!



▲ Senior varsity volleyball players "cheese" for the camera.

Football Finishes a Fun Fall Season *By Seth Meikle*

Don't decrease the goal, increase the effort. That was the motto of the 2021 football season. While they didn't win a game, the Bears showed they never reduced their goal, fighting until the very last game. The team, coached by Bryan Sathre, consisted of 8 seniors, 8 juniors, 12 sophomores and 6 freshmen. Seniors and juniors made up most of the starting lineup but there were valuable underclassmen, such as sophomore Evan Paschke who became starting quarterback after week two. Paschke said, "Even though we didn't win a game, we still became better as a team and can use that next year."

The closest game was against Stephen-Argyle, a game that was back and forth the whole afternoon. Unfortunately it ended with a close loss for the Bears 30-34. At the end of year the team played their hardest fought game against #1 seeded BGMR in the playoffs. The seniors and the rest of the team gave it their all, but lost with a final score of 22-44.

Coach Sathre said, "We said goodbye to 7 seniors who helped continue building the new foundation of Bears football. From game 1 to game 9 we saw growth in all three areas of the game. With football athletes working harder in the weight room, playing sports this winter and the

▼ The Football boys use the fire hose for strength training and fun.



group of next year's seniors leading the way, there is a lot of excitement surrounding the future of Bears football."

Riley Stromlund was awarded as Best Defensive player and All-District. He led the team defensively with 61 tackles and 10 sacks.

Seth Meikle led the team in touchdowns (7) and points scored, in addition he was awarded as "Game Changer" and All-District Honorable Mention.

Anson Haack finished the year with 453 rushing yards, he was awarded Best Offensive player and All-District Honorable Mention.

Cole Cook played well on both offense and defense and was awarded "Best Two Way Player."

Waylon Johnson finished the season leading the team in tackles for loss (10)

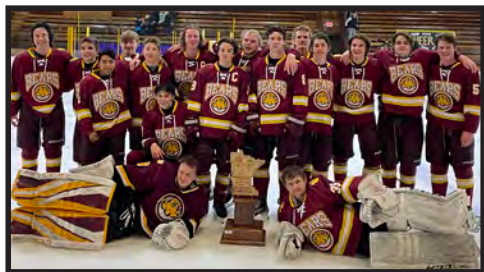
and was awarded as the best lineman. The Bears finished the season with a total of 1754 offensive yards, 406 tackles, 138 points scored, and a new found family.



▲ Senior football boys pose for the group picture.

Hockey Wins First Border Battle in l'Falls *By Jaynie Ferrier*

The Bears first game was Friday, December 3 in International Falls, the third border battle match. The boys came out victorious with an exciting 4-3 win. They were down by 3-1 in the third period, but came back with three amazing shots in the net by Jordan Kvernén, Charlie Eck, and Jack Wood. What a way to start off the season right!



▲ The Hockey team poses proudly with the Border Battle trophy.

Returning Head Coach Don Krause said, "I am really pleased with the energy and enthusiasm during practice. We have ten experienced seniors. Their leadership and role modeling will help tremendously as we face the challenges of being the smallest community in the state to field a hockey team. We are excited for the return of three of our players from Canada too. All in all, I look for us to compete every game and to have a positive, memorable year!"

This season looks promising as 3 Canadians came back after last year's COVID border restrictions. The boys have several more players (19 total). They are excited to get back on the ice and have good chemistry due to years of playing together.

Senior Anson Haack loves playing hockey. Once the season is over, he

explained that he will miss "how bonded as a group we are on the ice and how close we've been since we were young."

Sophomore rookie Jordan Kvernén commented, "I am definitely excited to have the fans back in the arena with a full house to support our team, and hopefully, that can turn into a lot of wins for this season."

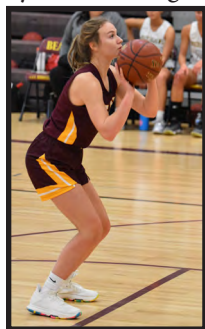
There are no regulations for spectators at the games this year but masks are recommended. The team and the arena are ready for lots of fans and full stands.



▲ Riley Stromlund (12) saves the puck vs l'Falls.

Girls Basketball Starts Season *By Bailey Husbands*

The girls basketball team travelled to Roseau for their first game, losing by a wide margin 23 to 78. Their second match was at home Thursday night vs. Warroad. They lost by 19.



▲ Kenzie Pieper (11) shoots for a Warroad Technical.

The girls only had enough for a varsity this year-no JV. Despite having a young team with no seniors, the girls played in scrimmages together during the summer and are excit-

ed to play again this year. The returning varsity players Paige Haack, Mackenzie Pieper, Rian Aery, and Bailey Husbands. Coach Katie Pieper has returned, assisted by Dale Brune, who both do their best to boost and guide the young team. Coach Pieper said, "We are young and going to have an uphill battle, but the team we have this year is resilient and extremely hard working and talented. They will surprise themselves on how far they will come and their successes will far out way the failures. I'm looking forward to a great season."

Junior captain Paige Haack said, "I think this is going to be a year of

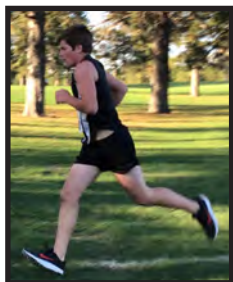
growth. I'm excited to see what we will be able to do. I love the chemistry we have from playing together over the summer, I think this year will be pretty fun."



▲ Varsity girls snap a picture before their first home game against Warroad.

Cross Country Ends Season With Records *By Ashleigh Brown*

Welcoming the new coach Jenny Skoog for the Lake of the Woods 2021 cross country season, the team had a successful year. This year there were nine 7-12 grade students participating. Throughout their season, the boys varsity top 5k runners included junior Seth Meikle earning 3rd place in Roseau, 8th Place in Warroad, and earning a season best of 18:56.



▲ Josh Dorow (10) runs to the finish.

"Being the oldest and top player on the team, it's

nice to see underclassmen grow throughout the season, and watch them become better athletes and keep up with me," Seth explained.

Other top runners this season were Dawson Meikle earning 8th place in Roseau, and having a season best of 20:22. Breaking their personal records this year, Yili Schiro earned a best of 19:29, and Daniel Sopkowiack ran a best of 20:48.

Alyce Lebrasseur was the only one running for Varsity girls. "Being the only girl this season was challenging, but I pushed myself to become better with every practice. I'm really proud of the Bagley meet," she said. In Bagley, she earned a season best of 24:00. Coach Skoog

stated, "As a coach, the most important thing to me is that the runners have fun throughout the season, and I think we've achieved that this year." Next year Jenny plans to coach these athletes again.



▲ Varsity top runners smile for their last meet.

Boys BB Team Prepares for Season with New Coach

by Bailey Husbands

The boys basketball team looks promising this year with a few new kids, enough for a JV and varsity, and 2 new coaches. Head coach Rylan Hendrickson assisted by Monte Gubbels are very excited to start their new journey as Bears basketball coaches.

Hendrickson said, "Practice started last week before Thanksgiving break. We had three days of solid practice, and then we had a four day break. We are getting back in shape this week after a long weekend. We have 14 players from grades 9-12 this year and 12 players in grades 6-8. It helps that we

have a large group of juniors and seniors. We will be playing fast and aggressive this year both offensively and defensively. Our first game is home on Tuesday, December 7th vs. Littlefork-Big Falls. There is a lot to get done with only a few practices left before our first game, but the boys are willing to put in the work. I'm excited to see how we grow as a team throughout the season."

The boys said they are excited to play this year with more kids than they have had in awhile, returning senior Chad Bruyere said his favorite memory during a game when Josh

Dorow (10) said, "Oh, that's our net?" Bruyere is excited for the season and his last first game with the boys.



▲ Varsity basketball boys pose at practice.

Students Enjoy Successful Homecoming Week

by Hannah Fish

Lake of the Woods School held another great Homecoming week and Battle Royale this fall starting off with the dance on Friday night before the week began. The dance was held in the multi purpose gym and was filled instantly with students dressed up and ready to hit the dance floor. Next was the dodgeball tournament held on Sunday, October 3. Many students participated in the tournament, but only two teams prevailed, "Balls to the walls" and "Ridiculous six."

On Monday, October 4, the halls were transformed with different themes. Students walked into school with pajamas on ready for Chicken Cowboy Conquer, Arm Wrestling, and meeting our senior homecoming candidates: Gabe Krause, Kahun Krause, Anson Haack, Riley Stromlund, Madie Draper, Brinna Fish, Katelyn Bendickson and Hailey Stephenson. Seniors Anson Haack and Gabe Krause won Chicken Cowboy Conquer.

Tuesday was Class Color Day. We had a big send off for the cross country team heading to sub sections. During lunch there was a volleyball vs. football match. During 6th hour, Air band and Face off entertained the student body. 1st place was secured by the sophomores. "I was happy, but



▲ Sophomore girls show their school spirit by dressing up in maroon and gold.

not surprised we won because our group was clearly the best," said Devin Friemoth. Winning 1st place for face off were the Juniors Garret Jensen and Jasmine Acevedo.

Wednesday was Tourist Day. Tug of war competition was held plus the dodgeball championship, which the seniors won. A best friend game show entertained kids at lunch. Sophomores won 1st place for game show. Later in the day was coronation of the King and Queen: Riley Stromlund and Madie Draper. "I felt very honored and grateful to be crowned homecoming queen, I try my best to be a role model to others and spread positivity," said Draper.

On Thursday, everyone was decked out in maroon and gold. Circle the wagon, year cheers, coaches speeches



◀ Seth Meikle (11) and Garrett Jensen (11) celebrate getting the ball in Circle the Wagon.

and shoe relay all took place as well as the homecoming football game that started at 1:30 allowing all students to get dismissed early. The Bears lost, but it was a great day and fans were abundant.

Friday was the last day of homecoming week. Crab soccer and revealing the winner were the only things on the agenda for the Student Council. The Seniors won the Battle Royale.

It was a busy, but exciting week, a fun break from the typical school day. "I would say Homecoming week was definitely a success," said Johanna Bircherm, Vice President of Student council. Thank you to advisors Mrs. Moeller and Miss Courtney as well as the entire Student Council for running the event.



▲ Senior girls sing and dance the night away for the homecoming dance.



▲ Halle Holen (8) gives Rylan Anderson (8) a makeover blindfolded.



▲ Alyce Lebrasseur (10) and Bailey Husbands (10) dress up for pajama day.

Bowling Team Leads Conference Again

By Sam Kalk

On October 9, 2021 the bowling season for this year kicked off. All together, the International Falls Broncos have nine members and one coach. Nicholas "Minty" Solar, a senior at Lake of the Woods school, travels all the way over to International Falls multiple times a week for practice.

They have worked hard all season, however it is not ending just yet. "It's been a fun season," Ralph Ruelle, the coach, said. "Especially being able to make it to every postseason tournament and leading the conference once again." Over Thanksgiving break, the team went down to Duluth to an All-Conference Tournament, placing 6th out of 40 teams.

Minty will continue to pursue a bowling career after high school. He said, "I personally am excited for the future after state, when I move onto the Minnesota High School Boys Singles Tournament." There he will have to rely on himself instead of his team. The day after that, he will be heading to a Collegiate Tournament where coaches can scout him for a college team. From there, he will hopefully have practices with his potential college coach.



Nicholas Solar (12) poses with his l'Falls Bowling Team. ▲



▲ The 2021 band and choir soloists proudly pose for a group picture after a stressful but successful



▲ Eva Fladebo (9) plays her saxophone solo.

Students Compete in Solo Contest After a COVID Year Off

By Lily Bossoletti

Band and Choir solo Contests were held on Tuesday, November 16 at Lake of the Woods School who hosted area schools: Warroad, Roseau, Badger, and Grygla.

Ten musicians from Lake of the Woods competed with songs they had practiced diligently. Band had four performers and choir six. A total of 3 *Superiors* were earned in band and 1 in choir. Participants for band were senior Johanna Birchem, *Superior*; junior Lilly Smith, *Excellent*; junior Emily Tange, *Superior*; freshman Eva Fladebo, *Superior*.

Participants for choir were senior Tucker Beito, *Excellent*; senior Christopher Sharfenkamp, *Superior*; junior Garrett Jenson, *Excellent*; sophomore Rebecca Castle, *Excellent*; sophomore Julisa Matthias, *Excellent*; freshman Shea Lein, *Excellent*.

Due to the Pandemic, the 2020 solo contests were not held in person, but were recorded for judges instead. This year, solos were back to being performed in person. Although there was only a one year gap with online performances, performing in person took some getting used to. Chris Sharfenkamp stated, "It was very weird to see all the performers from different schools in one place again."

Some students experienced performing solos for judges for the first time. Freshman Eva Fladebo said, "The solos went well and were very fun!" She also said, "The judge was intimidating and I was shaking like a leaf! I think that in the future, being judged will be easier because of the experience."

A choir concert was held on



◀ Emily Tange (11), who earned a Superior, performs her Oboe solo at contest.

Tuesday, November 23, in the auditorium for a live audience. Grades 7-12 performed, along with the award winning soloists.

The Lake of the Woods band concert will be held in the auditorium on Tuesday, December 14. The concert will start at 7:00 pm, the band students should be at the school at 6:30 pm to prepare. All are invited.

The band and choir is also planning a trip to New Orleans. The set date is June 6 through June 11, 2022. Band and choir students are still selling chocolate as a fundraiser.



◀ Julisa Matthias (10), performs her Superior earning solo for the choir concert.



Chris Scharfenkamp (12), sings his Superior solo for the crowd. ▶

STUDs Heading to Washington DC *By Rainy Frahm*

The Lake of the Woods STUDs group and prevention coalition has many plans for our students and community. Student President Jessica Acevado, "As president of STUDs, I strive to help educate young individuals on what they can do to steer clear from drug and alcohol use. I want to teach them that substance abuse is never the answer to life's road block."

STUDs is excited to announce they are partnering with the video production class instructed by Bryan Sathre. The students will be creating underage alcohol and drug prevention videos. They will also be organizing a Tik Tok channel to help spread their message and start launching videos by February 2022. The STUDs group and the coalition hope to not only reach our community but reach communities nationwide.

The local members of the STUDs Student Group will be attending the CADCA National Leadership Forum in Washington DC from January 30 to February 4th. Members wish-

ing to attend submitted an essay telling STUDs why they want to participate, in what ways they have been a positive role model to their peers, what they hope to learn at the forum, and how they will give back to their peers when they return.

According to leader Doris Knutson, "I'm excited to have the opportunity to attend CADCA's 32nd Annual Leadership Forum in Washington, DC at the end of January. I'm also looking forward to traveling there with a select number of students, who

will hone their leadership skills there as well. It will be a great opportunity for all of us." They will be returning equipped and inspired to address substance misuse in our community.

STUDs is a group and coalition founded in 2011 at Lake of the Woods High School. The group advisers for STUDs are Tammie Doebler, Sandy Peterson, and Doris Knutson. The STUDs group mission is, "As Students Teaching Uniform Decisions, we will strive towards influencing our peers to make healthy and safe decisions in regards to not using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs."



◀ **Jessica Acevado and Jade Estling** (12) sit at the STUDs booth at the recent Holiday Extravaganza at L/W School, spreading their message.

National Honors Society Helps Out in the Community

By Emily Tange

Last year the NHS group inducted six new students into the program. The new inductees were Mackinley Imes, Cadence Davidson, Rainy Frahm, Emily Tange, Lillian Smith, and Chloe Olson. The newly elected officers include Jade Estling and Johanna Birchem as Co-Presidents, Jessica Acevado as Vice President, Brinna Fish as Secretary, and Emily Tange and Lillian Smith as Co-Reporters.



▲ **Rachel Johnson** (12) speaks to a local resident about giving to students for college.

The NHS group has been very active in the community this year, considering Covid limited many opportunities for community

service last year. The members have helped out by serving at the Legion Membership dinner, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, and helping out at the Holiday Extravaganza. They also hosted the Dollars for Scholars Phone-a-thon at the high school. "I like making an impact and helping the community," says co-president Johanna Birchem. "My favorite community service is bell ringing with Brinna."

The Phone-a-Thon is a fundraiser for graduating seniors and current college students. This fundraiser has been providing scholarships for Lake of the Woods seniors for many years and will continue to help graduates in the future. There are

many donors to Dollars for Scholars but the phone-a-thon raised at least 5,000 dollars in pledges.

The NHS advisors are Mr. Krause and Mrs. Hasbargen. They schedule the monthly meetings and organize community service events. "We have a large senior class represented in NHS," shares Mrs. Hasbargen. "I'm excited to see how each individual steps up to make the community and school a better place." Upcoming events for the NHS group will be unloading food for the food pantry and bell ringing for the Salvation Army.

Emily Tange, Lilly Smith, (11) Johanna Birchem, and Cadence Davidson (12) greet the hundreds and hundreds of people who attended the Holiday Extravaganza for NHS.



Student Profiles: Meet some of our new students!

By Hailey Stephenson

Name: Shannyn Noelle McLoughlin

Birthday: 12/24/2005

Grade: 10

Do you have any pets? Yes, three gerbils: Indica, Sativa, & Hybrid

Favorite TV show or movie: "YOU"

Dream Job: Cosmetologist

Favorite sport: Soccer

Where are you from: Bemidji, Minnesota

Favorite Class: Biology

Favorite thing about LHS: It has a very calm environment

What are your plans after high school? Cosmetology School

If you could travel anywhere, where would it go? Galapagos Islands

Favorite Song: "Grandson for president" by King Von

Random fun fact about yourself? I have 11 pets.

If you could have lunch with any person, dead or alive, who would it be? Lil Peep



Name: Vincent Demming

Birthday: 01/23/2008

Siblings? Yes, a younger sister, younger brother, and older brother

Grade: 8

BFF: Mitch, from my old school

Do you have any pets? Yes, one cat, her name is Lucy.

Dream Date? Wilbur Soot

Hobbies? I like to draw, listen to music, and sleep.

Where are you from? Lincoln, California

Favorite Class: Earth science, with Mr. Grover

Favorite thing about LHS? There is a psychology class that I can take when I'm older.

What are your plans after high school? Move back to California

If you could travel anywhere, where would it be? Japan, I think it is so pretty there.

Best genre of music? Electronic

Random fun fact about yourself? My hair used to be purple



Name: Natasha Rain McGuire

Birthday: 06/22/2005

Siblings? Yes, older brother & sister and then three younger brothers and one younger sister.

Grade: 11

BFF: Ashleigh Brown

Dream Date? Drew Starkley

Favorite TV show or movie? "One Tree Hill"

Dream Job? Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Favorite sport? Football

Where are you from? International Falls

Favorite thing about LHS? The staff members are all super nice.

What are your plans after high school? Take a gap year and then attend college.

Best genre of music? Country, for sure

If you could have lunch with any person, dead or alive, who would it be? My grandma



Hunters Invade the North Country!

The 2021 Minnesota deer hunting season took place from Saturday, November 6 through Sunday, November 21. Most people in our community hunt in Permit Area 105. According to the DNR website, dnr.state.mn.us, the 2021 deer harvest for Permit Area 105 was 2,833 deer, which is very close to the 2020 harvest of 2,893.

There were many Lake of the Woods students that had successful hunts. Instagram and Facebook sites were filled with smiling hunters and deer ready to be butchered for freezers and dinner tables.

Still, many hunters proclaim successful hunts even if they didn't get a deer. For them, just being outside to enjoy the peacefulness of the deer stand and listening to the exaggerated hunting stories of friends and family is a success in itself.

Mr. Chris Flores, math teacher at Lake of the Woods School, was able to shoot a deer and also enjoyed being with his friends and family. His hunting party scouted about 3,000 acres of woods, fields, and swamps, putting out trail cameras and soybean and wheat food plots with mineral licks on the side. Flores said, "We put up three new, expensive Redneck stands to

be able to cover more ground. It definitely helped!"



He had friends and family come up from the Twin Cities to join him. After hunting during the day, they would get together

for a meal at night. He especially enjoyed fish fry night, and hearing and telling hunting stories.

Freshman Alex Beckel shot an 8 point buck while hunting on our first snow day. He planned his hunt way before the season started. He and his dad planted food plots and placed salt licks near his stands. For several weeks they drove around their property to check the trail camera and scan the fields with binoculars.

Alex said, "When I heard it was going to be a two hour late school day I got

By Gabe Krause

excited because I thought I could use that time to hunt and maybe I would see a big buck!" He was right! As the morning ticked by he was starting to get nervous. Would he have enough time to shoot a deer? All of a sudden, he heard a huge noise and he slowly turned his head toward the window. That's when he saw his trophy buck. Alex slowly pulled his gun out and looked down the scope. He took a breath and bam! Alex had shot a monster buck around 8:05 in the morning.



Tik Tok Trends Capture Lake of the Woods Kids *By Ella Paschke*

Tik Tok trends are always changing, there's always something new to watch, and get into. I asked some Lake of the Woods students what their favorite new trends were. Katelyn Bendickson said her favorite trend right now is the "plate smashing one." Where you write things you want to let go on to the plate, then smash it to the song "ABC-DEFU" by Gayle. Katie stated, "It's my favorite trend because it's a good way to relieve some stress and forget for a minute. Also because Ella and I made it."

Evan Paschke and Paige Haack's favorite trend is

the "Byron" trend. This trend is more about the sound than anything else, this guy walks around Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York and asks people fun questions.

"I think it's very funny and there are a lot of different and cool remakes of it," stated Paige.

Evan said "It's hilarious to watch; I laugh until I can't breathe when I see the videos under that sound."

Taylor Ferguson en-

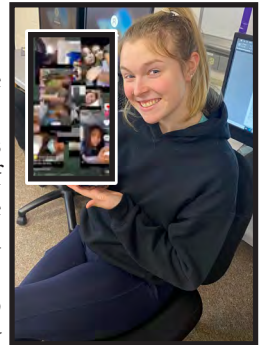
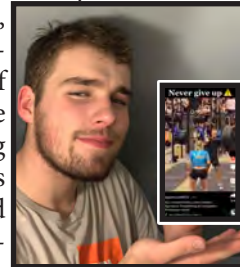
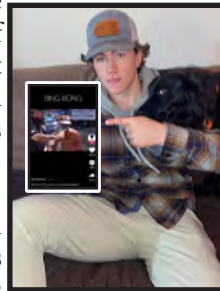
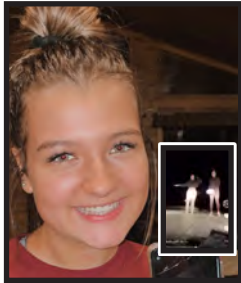
joys watching the California Girls trend, where a boy and a girl, usually a couple, dance to Katy Perry's unforgettable song California girls. "I like this trend but I don't at the same time because all of the girls have boy-friends and I don't,"

explained Taylor.

Garrett Jensen likes the weight lifting videos, which is exactly what it sounds like, videos of people lifting weights and show-

ing their progress. Garrett said, "I enjoy watching these videos because they inspire me to work on myself."

Hailey Stephenson, a Tik Toker herself, explained that her favorite trend is the "pursuit of happiness." It's where you explain that you have lived a good life, even if you die tomorrow. Your satisfied with the things that you have done. Then show pictures of good memories that you have made. "I like this trend, because it reminds me of the good days, and to stay happy and just live," stated Hailey.



L/W Announces S.O.M for Sept. and Oct. *By Ella Paschke*



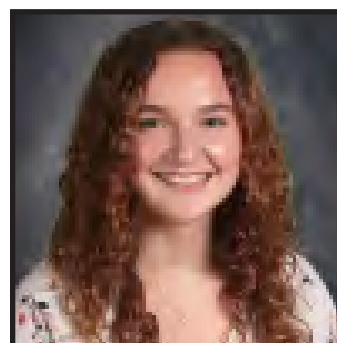
Johanna Birchem was chosen as September Senior High Student of the Month. Johanna's activities include golf for 3 years, basketball 3 years, figure skating 13 years, trap shooting team 4 years, knowledge bowl 7 years, STUDS president 2 years, NHS officer 2 years, Student Council vice president & treasurer, and band ensembles.

Johanna has volunteered as an outdoor club teacher, giving tours at Noris camp, and math tutoring. In her free time she likes to hunt, fish, canoe, hang out with friends and family, and plays guitar.



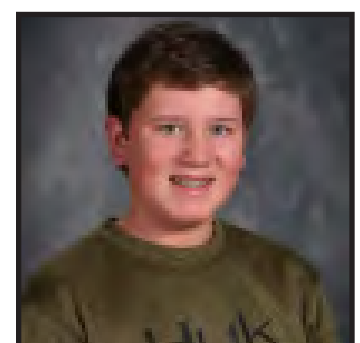
Kendal Bowman was chosen L/W junior high Student of the Month for September. Kendal's activities include basketball, volleyball, softball, band, "A" honor roll, 7th grade grade vice president, & 8th grade homecoming princess.

Kendal has volunteered at CHI Lakewood Health, ECFE, and First Lutheran Church and the depot. In her free time Kendal likes to hunt, fish, play basketball, volleyball, and softball. She also likes four wheeling, snowmobiling, snowboarding, tubing, and walking her dog.



Senior Jade Estling was chosen senior high Student of the Month for October. Jade's activities include NHS 3 years, NHS co-president 1 year, knowledge bowl 2 years, volleyball 3 years, volleyball manager 1 year, and STUDS Vice President 3 years.

After graduation, Jade plans on going to college and majoring in political science. Her favorite class is AP Government because "Mr. Krause is my favorite person ever," stated Jade.



Andrew Higgins was chosen junior high Student of the Month for October. Andrew's activities include football, trap team, and student council.

Andrew is involved in religious education and the Carp Community Club. Outside of school, Andrew likes to fish, hunt, shoot trap, snowmobile, and ride his dirt bike. His favorite class is Health because he likes to learn about nutrition.

New Electives Spark Student Interest in Film *By Brooklyn Hasbargen*

Two new electives were added at the start of this school year for upperclassmen at L/W. Phy ed. teacher Mr. Sathre started a new video production class, and long time social studies teacher Mr. Krause is teaching Real to Reel History.

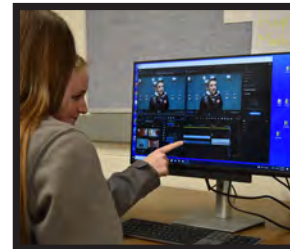
In Real to Reel History 4th hour, Mr. Krause teaches juniors and seniors, and a few sophomores. They have covered slavery, immigration, the Civil War, Native



▲ Students sit and listen intently to Mr. Krause explain the movie.

Americans, World War I, and are currently researching women's suffrage, all while exploring how the topics are depicted on film. Mr. Krause said, "I had always thought it would be interesting to teach history through the use of movies." Other topics coming up in the class are prohibition, the Great Depression, World War II, Vietnam War, the race to the moon, Iran hostage crisis, and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Sathre teaches his new class, which is 7th hour, in the old Spanish classroom, that had to be transformed with lots of wiring and expensive equipment paid for by a grant.



▲ Lexi Hancock helps Rayna Martin edit her video.

Sathre's students learn to shoot, write,

edit, and produce videos. Sathre "wanted to teach this class because of all the social media outlets and demands in college for better technological strong students." He taught a similar class at Cass Lake-Bena for three years, so he had the knowledge, but just needed the equipment.

Junior Mackenzie Peiper, who takes Video Production stated, "I get to learn new things and make videos 10x cool-



▲ Sophia Walton interviews Zaki Dahl for her class.

er than they used to. It's fun to see it work at the end and how amazing it looks." Both classes have been a great addition to the school.

Covid Cases Remain Stagnant In Minnesota *By Mac Imes*

Minnesota recorded 4,511 new cases of Covid-19 with another 44 deaths over the weekend. The current cases positivity rate is 10.9% down from the recent peak of 11%. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the total number of Covid cases since the start of the pandemic has risen to 889,628. Locally, Lake of the Woods County recorded 5 new cases, and since the beginning of the pandemic the county has had 525 cases with 5 deaths. Despite this recent rate of infection in the area is low and according to Mrs. Merchant the low number of cases have not

only allowed the school to remain open but also allowed pre-pandemic privileges such as fans in the building for games and



▲ Gov. Walz gives a press conference on covid cases in Minnesota.

more chairs at lunch tables.

However, this week is also fraught with alarming news of a new Covid variant known as Omicron. The variant started in South Africa and has now been detected in over 20 countries. Although more testing is needed to know if the variant is more severe, it is cause for concern as it "has an unusual combination of mutations that may enable it to spread faster" according to the CDC. In order to help mitigate the spread of the new variant, the White House has introduced new travel restrictions on South Africa.

Are Our School Libraries Under Threat of Censorship? *By Annie Beyer*

Across the US, schools are dealing with parents and board members who want certain books banned. Historically, this is not uncommon, but those who oppose this censorship, often wonder, where does it end? Is it ever possible to find a perfectly appropriate book? And who should decide what students can read?

On November 8, 2021, Spotsylvania County Public School Board actually called for a book burning. The board ordered the school's libraries to remove books, claiming them to be sexually explicit. The two parents promoting the ban were in opposition to the "sexually explicit" books. The books in question were about same-sex relationships. After a public outcry from dozens of students, parents, and

teachers the board reversed the book ban.

On November 9, 2021 school board member Jill Woolbright in Flagler County, Florida filed a report on a book saying it violated state obscenity laws. The book "All Boys Aren't Blue" is about a man growing up black and gay. Woolbright's main concern was the detailed descriptions of sexual content. On November 14, 2021, Cheryl Massaro, a fellow school board member, replied to Woolbright's report saying "she bypassed district policies and procedures." Cheryl went on to say that Woolbright does not speak for all school board members and was not permitted to speak on behalf of the board.

In many state's parents are objecting to classics like Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Beloved* by Toni Morri-

son, claiming they encourage "white guilt" and the teaching of critical race theory.

Mrs. Schwenzfeier commented, "While I respect a parents view on what his/her child should read, I think that an overall ban on books is a dangerous path to go down. The sophomores have just finished a mini-unit on censorship. Overwhelmingly, students oppose book bans."



▲ Classic books that are challenged throughout the United States.

Knowledge Bowl starting strong *by Awnley Jacobsen*

This year at the L/W school the students and advisor have had a great

start to their knowledge bowl season with the teams being led by Mrs. Tange.



▲ Knowledge Bowl kids practice for their upcoming meet.

Knowledge Bowl is a competition to test your knowledge on complex questions. The goal is to buzz in the fastest with the right answer. The teams practice twice a week in the Home Ec room after school. Knowledge Bowl has a total of 8 meets this year.

This is Mrs. Tange's first year coaching. When asked how the teams will do she said, "I feel like all schools have a clean slate, since last

year was virtual and some schools did not participate. Following a year off and being a new coach, I do not know what to expect. I do know we have a well-balanced group of seniors, juniors, and sophomores, and I feel we will be 'in the hunt' for some top scores."

With the addition of 6 new kids signing up, they are planning on having 3 teams. This is Mac Imes' first year in knowledge bowl. He said, "The thing I am looking forward to the most this year is winning the meets." Their first meet is January 6th in Bemidji, many other schools will also be there competing with them, so competition will be fierce.

L/W Actors prepare for two One-Act plays *by Kayman Sonstegard*

After a healthy turnout at try-outs, director Joyce Washburn decided to put on two one-act plays, just like two years ago. November 1st marked the first day of rehearsal for all of the one-act play actors. The plays include *Game of Tiaras*, which is a comedy, and *Overtones*, a drama. The total number of students involved this year is roughly twenty.

Many of the actors practice after school in the auditorium, while some have double the load of rehearsing, because they are in both plays. Though both plays are rehearsing, only one play can go to the competition. They tentatively plan on performing at our school the last week of January.

Washburn stated, "I love theater and I want everyone else to love it too! I love teaching theater because there are

so many useful skills and qualities for students to develop from theater opportunities, whether it's public speaking, memorizing techniques, self-esteem, teamwork, empathy, learning about history, crafts like set painting, or costume construction, to lighting and sound design and much more."

Ashleigh Brown, one of the leads stated, "One-act is important to the people who are involved because it allows creativity to students who don't get involved with other activities."

All in all, it looks like a strong year for these actors, so don't hesitate to come out and support them in their dramatic efforts at the sub-section competition that's held at our school on Saturday, January 29, 2022. Several local schools will be here to compete and advance to

Section Finals and eventually to the State Competition.



▲ Emily Tange (11), Rachel (12) & Leah Johnson rehearse scenes for one of the one-act plays.

Student Council plans Holiday Week *by Ella Nordlof*

The Student Council has planned a fun, three day holiday week at Lake of the Woods so everyone can celebrate together before Christmas break. They have planned dress up days like the Grinch day (everyone wear green), silent night day (wear your pajamas), and lastly ugly Christmas sweater day. A Secret Santa event will have giant



candy canes delivered with a note to your special someone.



◀ The senior student council officers planned this event.

Senior Student Council Vice President, Johanna Birchem said, "I am most excited for the Grinch/green day because it will be like homecom-

ing color day but even better."

They are also planning some fun events. A pep fest is planned with our winter sports coaches who will talk about how the seasons have been going so far. They are also planning to have one activity for an hour each of the three days, including bingo and board games.

Senior Student Council President, Brinna Fish, said, "I am most excited to see everyone participating throughout the whole week."

L/W welcomes New Teachers *by Katelyn Bendickson*

Last fall and this fall Lake of the Woods High school welcomed three new teachers. Mr. Jeremy Weiland was the new Social Studies teacher.

He started teaching in 2016 previously working as a Geography and government teacher at Pierz near St. Cloud, MN. Before teaching at L/W Weiland studied at St. Cloud State University. He then worked as Front End Manager at Coborns before coming to work as a teacher here. While Studying at St. Cloud, he was originally going to school to be a police officer. Weiland said "Mr. Cloutier, my social studies teacher inspired me to become a teacher."



Mr. Chris Flores is our newest math teacher. He started his career going to MSUM, and in 2016 he began working as a teacher in a town in Minnesota called Osseo at Prairie Seeds Academy, a charter school. He also taught at Osseo High School before moving back to Baudette. Flores attended L/W High School, a part of the graduating class of 2010. He even holds two track records for discuss and shot put. Flores says "His essential snack/drink is a bubbly sparkling drink." His favorite thing about



Lake of the Woods is the fishing. A person who inspired him to be a teacher was his professor, Dr. Wallace, because through her skilled teaching, "she inspired me to educate others."



Mrs. Nashya Weiland was the new High School Special Education teacher who started last fall. She started

her official teaching career, in December of 2019.

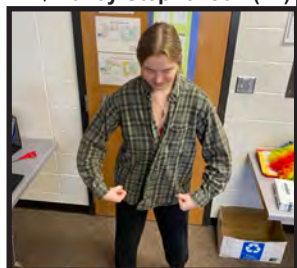
Mrs. Weiland Studied at St. Cloud State University. Before working at L/W she worked at Talahi St. Cloud School as a Special Education teacher. She also used to work at Joann's Fabrics. Mrs. Weiland shared that she was adopted from Russia. She said, "The hardest part about teaching is giving attention to all my students." She is inspired by all of her previous teachers. Her favorite thing about Lake of the Woods is the seclusion we enjoy being so far north.

L/W Students Show off a Fashion Trend: PLAID!



▲ Junior **Val Brosdahl** gives off some very monotone **vintage vibes** in her favorite flannel!

▼ **Hailey Stephenson (12)**



▲ **Freshman Girls** rock the plaid fashion this winter season.



▲ Senior **Tucker Bieto** strikes a sassy pose in his red flannel jacket.

◀ **Garrett Jensen (11)**



▲ **Ella Paschke (12)**



Beckel Awarded 2021 Lake of the Woods Teacher of the Year

Last Thursday, December 2, a party was held in honor of school social worker Joyce Beckel to celebrate her recent award of Lake of the Woods Teacher of the Year. The party was well attended by family, friends, and co-workers of Beckel. Many spoke of her dedication to both students and staff, helping them through some of our most difficult moments speakers included coworker and

friend Nyla O'Connell, her niece and mentee, Jenny Cole, and Kathy Magnussen, who works with Beckel on Social Emotional Learning with our students and staff. Tears were shed before a standing ovation in her honor. After the speeches and plaques being awarded, cake and punch was enjoyed by the party-goers as they socialized and shared memories and laughs.

While Beckel does not have her own classroom, she teaches students how to share their struggles, how to cope, and how to be resilient. She has provided a safe place for kids to go when needed. The MTSS system to support those in need is one of her priorities, as well as working on 504 plans so that students can find success in the classroom.

She has also worked for years with the STAR and Re-

School Social Worker Joyce Beckel poses with last year's teacher of the Year, Kellie Nordlof.



Mrs. Merchant hugs Mrs. Beckel ▲ after awarding her a plaque.

spect Teams, turning students into stronger leaders. Her work with this group out of Bemidji is profound, as was shown by their attendance at the party, and their kind words about Joyce's dedication and work with the students.

Beckel is from Roseau, but has worked Lake of the Woods School for 24 years. She is married to Tom Beckel.



Sophomore Hannah Fish ▲ hugs a puppy that was brought in for the Career Simulation Day event in the multi-purpose gym, put on by the Women of Today Club.



Bradley Wills, Jackson Shelrud, Ian Anderson, Rylan Anderson, and the rest of the Junior High Choir prepare for their fall concert on the 23rd of November.



Mrs. Tange directs the band for Veterans' Day. ▲



Chris S. and Emily T. sing solos. ▲



Local veterans demonstrate flag folding for the audience. ▲