

# CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TURTLE LAKE  
205 OAK STREET NORTH  
TURTLE LAKE, WI 54889  
715-986-4470

Jan/Feb/Mar 2024



## Observing Surgeries in AP Biology

On December 11th, students enrolled in the AP Biology course viewed their first surgical procedure at CESA 11 in Turtle Lake.

The Knee Replacement Procedure was live-streamed, allowing students the opportunity to ask questions to all members of the surgical team. It is an exceptional learning experience for students that may inspire them to pursue a career in the Health Field.

Future surgical procedures that will be observed by students include Kidney Transplant, Human Brain, and Heart Bypass Procedure.

The students currently enrolled in the AP Biology class are Alex Brendemuehl, Hailey Duffee, Lane Hegg, Jacky Heller, Cordell Hiemstra, Jenna Hermann, Olivia Hinze, Brady Jobe, Walker Korish, Ella Moen, Brady Peterson, Cami Popenhagen, Kylie Schaber, Ryan Shortess, Haleigh Strenke, MacKenzie Tarman, and Ava Thoen.



**Physical Science:** In Mrs. Leopold's class, students had the opportunity to compare the energy required to break bonds in ionic and covalent compounds..... I think it's done Wyatt.

## Open Gym/Swim Begins

The popular winter Community Education program is back this year with some changes!

The program begins Sunday, January 7 through Sunday, March 31st. Thanks to a sponsorship by HealthPartners (Amery), participants will again enjoy FREE ADMISSION to the Fitness Center, the Lower Gym, Swimming Pool, and Family Games in the Commons. Participants will need to register and sign-in upon arriving.

The program will be closed on February 4 due to a wrestling tournament and again on February 11 for the Superbowl.

For 2024, mark your calendars for the following!

### New Time!

Sunday activities will be from 2pm to 4 pm.

### Arts and Crafts Days!

Three Arts days are planned - one each month - taught by Community Ed Director, Jennifer Raddatz.

### PowerUP Mascot Visit!

CHOMP, the official mascot of the HealthPartners PowerUP program will visit in February and in March.

For specific dates, be sure to view THE TIMES newspaper as well as the district social media accounts and website.





The students in seventh grade English Language Arts are learning about the impact advertising has on the choices they make as consumers. Students are finding credible sources, researching ideas, and writing informational essays.



## A Message from Our Superintendent

-Kent Kindschy

As we pass the midway point of the school year, I want to provide an update on some of the great things happening in our district.

First, I'm pleased to share that our Students Offering Support, SOS, helped 17 families with toys and food for the holidays. Santa's workshop was open in December where elementary students could shop for a gift for someone in their life. I hope all the parents enjoyed the gifts.

Second, the arts have been active at our school. Many talented student's artwork was posted on Facebook and the music departments held great holiday concerts. The band and choir departments were also notified that they received grants from the St. Croix Valley Foundation. Thank you for your support.

Lastly, our school district will be hiring a full-time special education director to further address the needs of our special education population. We are seeing growing needs in this area and want to ensure we are providing all students with a quality education.

As always, thank you for your continued support and engagement. Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns about our district. I wish all of our families an enjoyable rest of the school year!



AP Chemistry students got to show off their advanced lab skills before fall break. Advanced labs take place over several days. These two conducted a gravimetric analysis of a precipitation reaction in order to identify an unknown metal ion in an ionic compound.



## The Counselor's Corner

-Joel Schneider

### Juniors and the ACT

Every Junior in the State of Wisconsin is required by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to take the ACT with Writing on March 12, 2024.

In order to give our students the best preparation for this long exam, we gave them a practice exam on December 14th. A practice exam allows them to understand the grind that a four-hour test can take on them. They learn how to pace themselves and go through the protocols that are set upon them by ACT.

The next day after the practice exam, each student received a detailed booklet of not only their score in each area, but also a break down of each question and whether they got it right or wrong.

Before the actual ACT in March, teachers in their content area will analyze the more difficult questions and discuss the "How and Why" of the correct answers. This has been a huge plus for our students in the past years in preparing for and scoring well in the exam.

### Scholarships

As we roll into the New Year, seniors should be getting more and more active with filling out scholarships. The fall and winter seasons can be slow going in scholarship season, but I am receiving many more scholarships and placing them on the senior's scholarship webpage.

Please take a look at this scholarship page with your senior and see which ones apply to them. Some of them are solely intended for TLHS students so they have a great chance of earning some scholarship money.



Chemistry students explored atomic structure and the elements: protons, neutrons and electrons!





## Apples, Grapes & Strawberries – Oh My!

Last year, Jean Pabst applied for a grant from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students; and this year, students have been enjoying the *'fruits of her labor.'*

Now, every Tuesday and Thursday, elementary school students have been enjoying healthy snacks during snack time.

Some of the fruits and vegetables offered include apples, cucumbers with ranch, watermelon, pineapple, grapes, and strawberries.

We are proud to offer this free snack program to our students and consider it a valuable asset to our district.



First graders have finished their first swimming unit. Here are first graders enjoying some free time in the pool on a cold December day!

## Physical Education for PK-5th Grade

-Bryce Meverden

Mr. Meverden's class has had a wonderful start to the school year. The students have completed the basketball unit and are now enjoying their swimming lessons since returning from Thanksgiving break. Swimming is always a favorite activity in gym class.

The students have learned a variety of swimming techniques, including the front stroke, backstroke, breaststroke, diving, gliding, and bobbing. They have put in a lot of hard work to learn these different swimming styles. We appreciate their outstanding effort this year and are proud of each and every one of them. Go Lakers!



First graders wrote thank you notes and delivered a Christmas gift to Mr. Piasecki. Mr. P. volunteers every Tuesday morning with first graders. He reads and talks about books with them, and he facilitates a reading group too! The students love to see Mr. Piasecki come in. He always brings a smile and can make first graders laugh. We appreciate him so much!



## Census for Children 4 Years and Younger

-Troy Wagner, Elementary Principal

Every year, the School District of Turtle Lake conducts a census to collect information about the children in our community. This January, the district is requesting all parents who have children aged 4 years and younger living within the district boundaries to complete a census survey.

The information collected will ensure that all parents are informed of future events and updates, such as Child Development Days and 4K enrollment in April.

To access the census, simply visit the Turtle Lake School District webpage, click on the "Families" tab, and select "Birth-to-4-Year-Old Census." The census will be available until April 30, 2024.

## Santa's Workshop Came to Town!

On Wednesday, December 20, the Middle School Student Council presented their annual Santa's Workshop.

Students in grades PreK-5 were invited to shop for presents for their loved ones. For the cost of \$1.00 per gift, each student was able to find a special gift for parents, grandparents, and siblings.

There was a variety of items including crafts, scarves/mittens, candy, movies, sports items, and much, much more!

This day could not have been possible without the help of our volunteers who stayed throughout the day to wrap over 400 presents for our students. Thank you to Ron & Jean Klein, Monica Koenig, Kris Breault, Diane Bussewitz, Cindy King, Kris Koehler, Teresa Nordell, Jean Pabst, and Brenda Danca.

A special thank you to Steve Bergmann and Tony Ranallo for helping with the event throughout the entire year.



The second grade has adopted a calf this year through the discovery dairy program.

Through his program the students were able to virtually adopt a calf and learn all about a dairy cow's life. The calf the second grade has adopted is a heifer calf on a farm in Humbird, Wisconsin.

Not only has this program taught the second graders all about the life of a cow, they have also discovered many things about the Dairy industry, especially in Wisconsin. The second grade has had a lot of fun watching their cow, Oreo, grow, as well as learn about all of the work and effort that goes into raising a calf and milking cows in our state's dairy industry.



Ron and Jean Klein quietly wrap gifts during the Santa's Workshop event.

### "It's For The Kids "

Ron and Jean Klein (parents of Ms. Korish) have been helping with Santa's Workshop for almost 10 years!

Jean starts shopping for deals the day after Christmas while Ron finds places to store the gifts for the next 11 months.

The Klein's live in Nekoosa, WI (a three-hour drive from Turtle Lake), so every time they come to visit, they load their car with their latest treasures.

When asked why they do it, Jean replied, "It's for the kids- watching them leave school with their arms full of presents is very rewarding. I enjoy hearing their stories of who they're shopping for and why they picked the gift they did."

Kris Koehler, who wraps gifts for students at the event, started a collection this year to help the Klein's pay for the gifts. Before this, the Klein's have paid for all of the purchased gifts themselves. Koehler says, "The generosity of time and money has been a great gift to the students of Turtle Lake. Their volunteerism to our school sets a great example for all of us."

## Turtle Lake's Hotel Bar & Grill Gives a \$500 Donation to the School



The Hotel Bar & Grill asked the Turtle Lake Fab Lab to redesign the front door of a vending machine. The Hotel used the machine as a raffle prize during the hunting/Thanksgiving week.

Hunter Robertson is the high school student that made the design and printed it on a large vinyl printer in the Fab Lab.

The raffle was very successful and the Hotel Bar and Grill donated \$500 to the Turtle Lake Fab Lab.

For more information about the Fab Lab, please contact Dale Koehler at [dkoehler@turtlelake.k12.wi.us](mailto:dkoehler@turtlelake.k12.wi.us).



Pictured: (l-r) Principal Jason Hinze, Jack Swenson, owner of the Hotel Bar & Grill and Hunter Robertson.



Mr. Pabst and Ms. Tinman's classes had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Korish's freshman class on poetry. The poem they were studying was "The Bells" by Edgar Allen Poe.

In this activity each 4th grade student were paired up with one or two freshman students working on rhyme, meter, line, and stanza. They had to think of a bell and create a poem about it. They presented their poem as a group in the IMC in front of their classes (photo above).

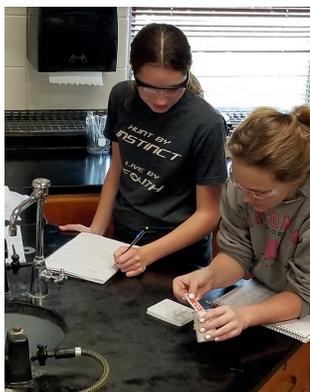
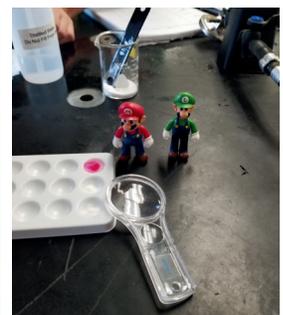
Thank you to Mrs. Korish and her freshman students for giving us the opportunity to work with them, and the cookies!



The sixth grade students are refining their language arts skills in a variety of areas. The students are applying various reading strategies such as previewing, looking for important information, noticing text features, and marking the text.

These reading strategies enable them to be more efficient as they research ideas.

Currently, students are researching the positive impacts pets have on individuals, and they are writing informational paragraphs.



The 7th grade science class learned how to identify the clues that indicate a chemical change has taken place.

## Update for MS and HS

-Neil Bygd

The Physical Education Department is bustling with activity as always. In both middle and high school Physical Education classes, the racquet sports unit – including badminton and pickleball – has just been completed.

Throughout this unit, students learn the proper techniques for serving and volleying, as well as scoring and game strategies to compete in the various in-class tournaments. We play a ladder-style tournament and we also run a round-robin tournament, playing each team once in a game to 11. In past years, we have also held double-elimination tournaments, to determine the best badminton and pickleball teams and players.

In my high school fitness classes, we are currently in the midst of our BFS weight/speed and agility training. The week before Christmas break, we held a “max out” lift day. This was done in the following lift categories: bench press, parallel squat, power clean, and deadlift.

After the max-out, we added up the weight from all four lifts, and the total determines which pound weight club the students achieve. The highest total, at 1400 lbs, is the top club, and there are weight classes for students from 500 lb. down to 100-lb. increments.

I am proud to report that almost all of my students this year have qualified for a club. After the max-out, I list the weight improvement from the last round to this one. This number is the most important, since not everyone can belong to the higher weight clubs, but it is important for everyone to show improvement.

Some of the greatest improvements have come from students in the lower clubs, which is just as impressive as the strongest students in the class.



Contest-1:  
Top scorers for the October Contest: Aronne Christenson - 2 points, Cam Davis - 3 points, Ryan Shortess - 2, Olivia Hinze - 2, and McKayla Pittman - 2

Contest-2:  
Top scorer for the November contest: Isaiah Buck - 2 points



Contest-3:  
Top scorers for the December contest: Aronne Christenson - 2 points, Isaiah Buck - 2, Cam Davis - 2, and McKayla Pittman - 2



### Middle School Speech/Forensics

Another exciting Middle Level Speech/Forensics season is underway! Students are busy choosing their selections and practicing their public speaking skills.

## Math Contest Results

Several TLHS students have been participating in a series of monthly math contests sponsored by the Wisconsin Mathematics League. Each contest consists of six challenging problems that require creativity and perseverance in working out the solutions. The level of difficulty is such that only a few students across the state get all six problems correct. It is outstanding to get four or five correct and still very good to get two or three correct. Even getting one problem correct shows good effort.

In October, there were 21 Turtle Lake students participating in the contest. Camden Davis led the Laker team, getting 3 problems correct (and thus scoring 3 points). Olivia Hinze, Ryan Shortess, Aronne Christenson, and McKayla Pittman each had 2 points and 6 other Lakers – Isaiah Buck, Haleigh Strenke, Andrew Buck, Lily Groth, Brandon Wagner, and Jacob Snyder – each had 1 problem correct. 32 TL students took part in the November contest. This proved to be a difficult contest.

Isaiah Buck led the way for the Lakers with 2 points and 9 other Lakers had 1 point each. They were Olivia Hinze, Ryan Shortess, Luke Popenhagen, Jackson Brown, Aaron Christenson, Cam Davis, Aiden Kuehndorf, Brandon Wagner, and Shella Olsvig.

There were 25 TL students who took part in the December contest. Isaiah Buck, Aronne Christenson, Cam Davis, and McKayla Pittman led the way getting 2 problems correct. 6 others – Brandon Wright, Andrew Buck, Lily Groth, Ryanne Nykanen, Evan Austad, and Caleb Tinsley – had 1 point each.

Cam Davis leads the Laker mathletes after 3 contests with 6 points for the season. Isaiah Buck and Aronne Christenson are next with 5 points each. McKayla Pittman has 4 followed by Olivia Hinze and Ryan Shortess with 3 each. There are 3 contests remaining this year.



Cindy King and Diane Bussewitz (pictured with Bridget Bader) representing the Lioness Club, presented a donation to the Turtle Lake School SOS program.

## Open Board Positions

The School Board has two board member positions open for the April election. The positions are currently held by William Muench and Linda Flottum, who will be running again.

If you are interested in running for the School Board please contact the District Office at 715-986-4470 ext. 2010 for an application. Applications can also be found on the district website under District and Board of Education.

All applications are due January 2, 2024. If you have questions or want to discuss what is involved in being a board member, contact a current board member or Superintendent Kent Kindschy at 715-986-4470 ext. 2012.

## Music Department Notes

-Christina Lee/Jill Molls

The Turtle Lake Music Department has been busy with their many holiday concerts. The elementary concerts on December 8th were a great success and everyone had a lot of fun. Middle and high school band and choir students had their concert on December 18th, and everyone sang and played their hearts out. High School Choir students went caroling at Miracle at Big Rock on December 4. It was a great way to ring in the Holiday season. All Choir students went caroling at Monroe Manor in Barron and Austad's Supervalu store. The High School Band also played some holiday carols in the commons on the last day before winter break.

And the fun doesn't slow down! Some of the middle school band and choir students are gearing up to participate in the Lakeland Conference Solo and Ensemble Contest. This will take place on January 23rd at Shell Lake.

Other upcoming events for the Music department:

- "Souper" Bowl Supper Fundraiser - February 9
- Large Group Festival - March 5 at Clayton
- Pep Band Playoffs - March 15 at Shell Lake
- MS/HS Band and Choir Concerts - March 18
- High School Solo/Ensemble - March 21 at Shell Lake
- MS Lakeland Conference Honors Choir and Band - April 4 at Bruce.

## Open Enrollment

The open enrollment application period for the 2024-2025 school year is February 5 - April 30, 2024.

### What is Open Enrollment?

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

### Who can apply?

Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

### When can parents apply?

The regular open enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 5, 2024, and ends at 4:00 pm on April 30, 2024. The best way to apply is online: <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications> or contact Bridget Bader at 715-986-4470, Ext 2010 or [bbader@turtlelake.k12.wi.us](mailto:bbader@turtlelake.k12.wi.us).

### Do I need to reapply for my children already attending under Open Enrollment?

No. Students already open enrolled based on either a regular application or an alternative application do not need to reapply to attend Turtle Lake Schools.



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## Laker Online Update

-Julie Korish

The School District of Turtle Lake's online school continues to deliver curriculum through an online platform for those who wish to learn in an alternative setting.

Although this method of learning can be challenging, many of our Laker Online students have found success with the program. One of our Seniors has been doing virtual learning for more than five years! She states that online learning "has allowed me more opportunities to grow my passion for horseback riding.

Laker Online has also given me great flexibility so I can do the things I want without being worried about times and dates." In addition to the general coursework, Laker Online students have also taken electives such as Sign Language, Culinary Arts, Equine Science, and Poultry/Beef Production!

If you are interested in becoming part of our Laker Online community, please contact Julie Korish ([jkorish@turtlelake.k12.wi.us](mailto:jkorish@turtlelake.k12.wi.us)) to enroll.



## Moving Forward to 2024!

-Jason Hinze, MS/HS Principal

We have already reached the midpoint of the academic year. I am excited to share with you the incredible accomplishments and progress that our students and faculty at Turtle Lake have achieved thus far.

The last few months have been a testament to our shared commitment to academic excellence, holistic student development, and the commitment from our school community.

Our students continue to shine brightly in academics. This year, we celebrated a significant increase in the number of students achieving academic honors with many students on the A/B Honor Roll. Several of our seniors have already been accepted into prestigious colleges and universities, a validation to their hard work and the quality of education they've received here at Turtle Lake.

Beyond the classrooms, our students have excelled in extracurricular activities. Our sports teams have displayed admirable sportsmanship, perseverance, and skill, achieving notable victories in various competitions. Our football, volleyball, wrestling, cross country, and basketball teams are all very competitive in their respective sports. Our cheerleaders have added so much to our school spirit at the football games. Our athletes continue to represent our school with pride and determination.

Also, our music programs continues to thrive. The Pep Band has played at several sporting events and our Choir has sang carols at many local businesses. Their concerts have displayed the talents of our students and has demonstrated the progress the students have made.

As we move into the second half of the school year, we eagerly anticipate further growth, achievements, and memorable experiences for our students. We are committed to nurturing their talents, fostering a love for learning, and preparing them for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our exceptional educators, the unwavering support of our staff, the commitment of our students, and the continuous encouragement from our community. Creating a nurturing environment remains a top priority. Our counseling and support services have been readily available to students, ensuring their emotional well-being and providing guidance through any challenges they may face.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in shaping the future leaders of tomorrow. Together, we will continue to inspire, empower, and uplift the Turtle Lake School District.



Thank  
you

"Thank You" does not seem adequate to express our gratitude for the generosity of our Turtle Lake businesses, organizations, and community members. Again this year, the support we received for our Backpack and S.O.S. Christmas Project has been fantastic! We appreciate each and every one of you!

*Wishing you a Happy and  
Healthy New Year!*